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## 2024-2025 BOBCAT BAND HANDBOOK



Bobcat Band Student and Family,

Welcome to the Sonoran Foothills band program. I am excited to have you as a part of the program this year!

Please take time to carefully and thoroughly read the Handbook. There is a LOT of very important information provided about every aspect of Band. This will prepare you and your child for the responsibilities they hold as a member of the Band. **If a question about Band should arise, review this handbook first.** If you still cannot find the answer, please contact me.

Students that take part in the Band program at Sonoran Foothills are challenged to grow musically and encouraged to achieve their highest potential. In order for this to occur, students must respect their director, their fellow musicians, their instruments and equipment, the music they perform, any guests, and all the effort that each person puts into the Band. I tell my students very often that **BAND IS A TEAM!** Every student contributes, every student matters, and we lift each other up so we can all grow as musicians and people. Individual commitment = collective greatness!

Please also check out our Band website on the Sonoran Foothills webpage. Find "Band" under the "Activities" menu. There, you can find many different resources related to Band!

My number one priority is to support our students' success and fulfillment while in Band. I strive to have an open line of communication with my students and their families. Therefore, **please reach out to me with any questions, celebrations, concerns, or other comments. Together, we can greatly encourage and support these young musicians from both school and home.** Thank you for the opportunity to work with you!

In band, you will feel a sense of fulfillment, accomplishment, self-satisfaction, and have FUN doing it!!! I can't wait to work and grow with you. Let's have a fantastic year!

Musically yours,

*Mrs. Lily Brooksby* 🎵

## What are the benefits of being in Band?

*Playing a musical instrument in Band takes hard work – but the more you work at something, the more exciting and rewarding it can become!  
Which of these benefits do you feel matter to you the most?*

**Belonging:** Band provides community and a place where kids can feel confident, safe, and a part of something bigger than themselves.

**Creativity & Expression:** Band enhances creative thinking and is an enriching creative outlet, and gives us the chance to create beauty, elicit emotion, create a work of art through music.

**Life Skills:** Band allows students a chance to practice emotions, fine motor skills, critical thinking, team skills, discipline, rigor, persistence, collaboration, grit, respect, concentration, and responsibility.

**Balance:** Band matters because it gives students balance at school where importance is placed so heavily on academic performance. Band is an activity that involves all students at all levels of interest and ability.

**Team Work:** Band matters because every kid plays and contributes to the team. Every kid is engaged and participating and can enjoy the final product. Students become part of a group and learn to think beyond themselves.

**The Whole Child:** Music is a foundational discipline that aids in the learning of all other subjects. Band addresses the social, emotional, and musical needs of students around the world. Band provides so many important attributes for students to have a well-rounded education.

**Academic Achievement:** Research has shown for decades that students involved in the performing arts score higher on achievement tests, have higher rates of graduating high school and college, higher rates of earning scholarships, and are even less at risk for future substance abuse.

**Cultural Awareness:** Music is also important because it helps us learn about and appreciate many aspects of local and global culture and history. Music provides an outlet for creativity, self-expression, and individual uniqueness. Music helps us express ourselves and connect with others.

You will build connections with other musicians and have many exciting and memorable experiences when you are a member of the Band at Sonoran Foothills School!

## Course Description/Alignment with Standards

**Band is an academic course where students are assessed and graded.** Students complete written and instrumental performance tests, and receive a grade for the quality of their work. Students are responsible for completing assigned work and fully participating in all assignments, tests, rehearsals, performances, and all other activities related to their learning and growth in Band.

Participation in Band will provide students with the opportunity to expand and refine their knowledge of music performance skills relative to concert Band activities. Students will study music appropriate for their skill level, with emphasis on developing both music literacy and technical ability.

This course is designed to advance students' musicianship, musical knowledge, and performance skills. This will happen through in class instruction, instrumental methods, group rehearsals, individual practice in class and at home, formal and informal assessment and feedback, and participation in performances for a live and/or virtual audience.

This course is aligned with the Arizona Common Core Standards and national standards for performing ensembles, and supports school wide efforts to increase student academic achievement.

## Band Schedule

Band takes place during the school day.

FOR 5TH AND 6TH GRADE: Band rehearsal takes place three times a week during "specials" period.

FOR 7TH AND 8TH GRADE: Jazz Band is first period, Wind Ensemble is second period, every day.

**There are also concerts and other events which take place in the evening.  
Participation in performances is mandatory.**

## **Commitment to Band**

**Band is a year-long commitment and is expected to be taken seriously.** Mrs. Brooksby will make every effort to help in any way possible to ensure the retention of all Band students. The success of the Band ensemble relies on each and every student doing their part. Quitting makes success difficult for everyone. Students may not quit Band in the middle of a semester before our December or May concerts. Exceptional cases require a conference with the student's parent/guardian and our school principal Mrs. Baumgartner and/or vice principal, Mr. Meigh.

***Students must participate in any performance obligations while enrolled in Band, or risk receiving a failing grade in Band for that performance.***

## **Concerts and Performances**

Performing in the winter and spring concerts is mandatory. These concerts are the student's final exam for Band, and are graded as an assessment. Other performances throughout the school year are equally important. Failure to participate in any major concert/performance AND failure to complete alternative assignments (see below) will result in an 49% ("F" letter grade) for the concert grade, resulting in a substantially lowered grade for Band that quarter.

### ***What if the student misses the concert for any reason?***

Should the student miss the concert for any reason, **alternative assignments** are provided. Vacations, conflicting sports games, dance recitals, competitions, etc. do not excuse the student from the concert. This allows them to "make up" for the missed performance. *Both* assignments must be completed to receive credit for the missed performance.

- 1) Submitted via video recording, student will give a performance of concert music, played along with digital recording of each piece to simulate "live" performance. Grade dependent on quality of performance (notes, rhythms, dynamics, style, etc)
- 2) Detailed written response and reflection to recording of the concert performance.

**Exceptions** can be made for emergencies/medical reasons (sudden illness, surgery, etc). Parent/guardian must make direct contact with Mrs. Brooksby as soon as possible, and must provide any applicable doctor's note or other official documentation to justify absence.

## **"Concert Black" Dress Code**

Concerts are a special and exciting event for all Band students and their families, where students get to showcase all of their hard work throughout the semester! At our concerts, students dress in a semi-formal, modest style known as "concert black". This dress code makes sure we appear professional and uniform on stage.

We have a limited number of backup clothing (black dress shirts and pants) available to families in need. Please email [lily.brooksby@dvusd.org](mailto:lily.brooksby@dvusd.org) for details and to request clothing in advance. (Reserved only for students who truly need it - do not rely on it being available the day of the concert - it is a small selection)

### **General guidelines for "concert black" clothing are as follows:**

- MUST ADHERE TO SCHOOL DRESS CODE
- Black collared shirt or black blouse (cardigan is worn over strapless or spaghetti strap tops)
- Tie okay with collared shirt
- Black pants - dress pants or solid black jeans.
- Black suit with white shirt under + dress pants
- Skirts or dresses must reach the knee when seated.
- Black dress shoes, SOLID BLACK Vans/Converse/Nikes/sneakers (no white!!!), boots, sandals, or flats
- small accents of color (ties, jewelry, hair accessories, small color design on clothing etc) are okay as long as they don't detract from the overall "concert black" look
- For the winter concert, winter/holiday wear such as Santa hats, reindeer ears, etc are okay to wear during our holiday-specific songs (not for the entirety of the concert). Again, must not severely detract from the "concert black" style.



### **Not permitted:**

- colorful/white clothing
- casual clothing such as T shirts, shorts, leggings/yoga pants, sportswear, hoodies
- flip flops, Crocs, sneakers/tennis shoes that are not primarily black
- heels taller than 2 inches - for safety reasons entering and exiting stage
- ripped jeans
- Anything violating the school dress code is also unacceptable.

***I (Mrs. Brooksby) reserve the right to deny any clothing or accessory that violates these expectations or our school dress code.***

***Should the student arrive wearing clothing that doesn't meet these expectations, appropriate clothing from SF's backup wardrobe will be provided for them to wear for the concert.***

## Event/Performance Dates for 24-25 school year

Please add these events to your family calendar so you can plan accordingly!

All dates are subject to change.

Costs associated with trips will be paid for ONLINE. No cash or check accepted.

**Performing is what Band is all about! ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY.**

See "Grading and Make Up Policy" for details regarding missed performances.

## SF BAND EVENT CALENDAR: AT A GLANCE

EVENT	DATE/TIME	LOCATION	ENSEMBLES ATTENDING
<b>WINTER Band Concert</b>	<b>Dec 11, 2024</b> 6:30pm	Sonoran Foothills School	ALL Band Students
<b>SPRING Band Concert</b>	<b>May 14, 2025</b> 6:30pm	Sonoran Foothills School	ALL Band Students

### OTHER EVENTS

<b>Barry Goldwater Feeder Football/Marching Band Night</b>	TBA	Barry Goldwater HS Phoenix, AZ	All 7th/8th students
<b>DVUSD North Region Pre-Assessment Middle School BAND</b>	Nov 14, 2024 During school day	Boulder Creek HS Anthem, AZ	7th/8th Wind Ensemble REQUIRED PARTICIPATION
<b>SF Luminary Arts Fundraiser Night</b>	Dec 6, 2024	Sonoran Foothills School	6th grade concert band, 7th/8th bands
<b>DVUSD Honor Band</b>	Feb 12, 2025 During school day 6:30 pm concert	Sandra Day O' Connor HS	6th Concert Band - select members 7th/8th Wind Ensemble - select members <b>Students will audition for this event</b>
<b>Barry Goldwater Feeder Band Concert</b>	1/29/25	Barry Goldwater HS Phoenix, AZ	7th/8th Wind Ensemble
<b>Forum Music Festivals</b>	April 25-27, 2025	Anaheim, California	7th/8th Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band
<b>DVUSD North Region Post-Assessment Middle School BAND</b>	Mar 11, 2025 during school day	Boulder Creek HS Anthem, AZ	7th/8th Wind Ensemble REQUIRED PARTICIPATION

**Stay tuned for other field trips, events,  
and performances this year  
for all ensembles!**

## **Academic Commitment:** **Grading, Makeup/Missing Work, Retake Policy**

**Band is an academic course where students are assessed and graded. The Sonoran Foothills Band Program aligns and adheres to DVUSD policies regarding Grading Practices.**

In Band, students regularly complete written and instrumental performance assignments, and receive a grade for the quality of their work. Students are committed to completing all assigned work and fully participating in and completing all coursework, assessments, practice, tests, rehearsals, performances, and all other activities related to their learning and growth in Band.

Rubrics are provided with coursework and assessments, either on paper or electronically in Canvas and/or PowerSchool. This so students and parents may understand what is required of the student to earn the grade desired. Rubrics also provide an explanation for the received grade regarding an assignment.

To complete performance assignments, the student will either use the online platform Canvas, or perform them live in class.

### **Assignment grade weighting:**

Assessments receive 80% weight of grade. Coursework receives 20% of grade.

**Any late assignment will receive a 50% ("F") and will remain at that grade until work is submitted and graded.**

### **Missing Work Policy:**

- The assignment will be marked with the "Missing" code in the PowerSchools gradebook
- A 50% ("F") will be entered as the score for the assignment in the gradebook
- No Evidence (NE) will be entered for any standards attached to the assignment
- If the work is submitted as Late Work, the 50% ("F") assignment score will be changed to reflect the student's actual score with no deductions or late penalties.

### **Retake Policy:**

To retake any assignment, the student will complete another assessment of the same learning targets. The assessment to be retaken may be in the same format or a different format. For any retakes, the original score is replaced, if the new score is higher. A retake plan must be scheduled within 10 school days after receiving the original assessment score.

To earn a retake opportunity, the student must complete all of the following:

- Complete all missing coursework related to the content/skill assessed
- Contact the teacher and create a reassessment plan
- Parent/guardian may be contacted to collaborate in this process

**All missing work needs to be turned in 3 days before the end of the grading period. Students are responsible for keeping track of when items are due.**

**The student should talk to Mrs. Brooksby if they are facing challenges completing assigned work - I will work with you to help you succeed!**

# **Individual student commitment to practicing**

## ***Individual practice is required***

Band is just like every other class at school: students learn a new concept at school during class. Then they complete homework that helps reinforce the new knowledge. Students in Band are taught how to use different practice techniques to help them get the most out of their individual practice, so they can retain new concepts and develop their musical abilities.

## ***Importance of individual practice***

Students practice outside of Band rehearsal time to reinforce the new concepts and instrumental techniques they learn during rehearsals at school. This helps them progress toward mastering more advanced skills and growing as a musician. Without this continual growth, students will fall behind.

## ***The chain is only as strong as the weakest link. Individual commitment = collective greatness!!***

When a student can “play their part”, band rehearsals run smoother, are more productive, and we have more fun. Learning notes and rhythms should be done primarily outside of class, so when in class, we can make MUSIC. You may need to practice 15 minutes or an hour to achieve this; every student’s progress is their own and cannot be compared. What *is* unacceptable is coming to Band and continually failing to demonstrate understanding of the music. You will be taught what you need to know to learn the music, but no one else can practice for you.

If you repeatedly demonstrate unpreparedness in class rehearsals and activities, contact home will be made with your parent(s)/guardian(s) to address the issue and develop a plan of action to help you have more success in band. **Continual failure to show improvement and commitment will result in disciplinary action up to and including removal from the band program.**

## ***How will students keep track of their weekly practice?***

Your child will receive a new practice chart at the beginning of each month. Having a physical method to track weekly practice time helps the student build the habit of consistently playing their instrument outside of class, which is important for long-term success. An adult signs the chart to provide evidence of practice. One signature is signed for every 15 minutes of practice. 30 minutes required = two signatures. One stamp is given per 30 minutes (two signatures).

## ***Incentive:***

In past years, many students have enjoyed receiving rewards for their practice. To motivate students to practice, they can “spend” their stamps at the **Band Treasure Box**, filled with treats, fidget toys, Band swag/accessories, musician’s earplugs, school supplies, stickers and more! More practice = more rewards!

## ***What happens if the Band student is unable to practice due to illness or travel?***

Parent/Guardian must contact Mrs. Brooksby by email or written note. The student is excused from practice until they return.

***What are the consequences for not completing practice?*** Practicing itself is not graded. However, relying only on in-class rehearsal time to practice their music WILL result in poor performance on graded assignments. **Continual failure to show improvement and commitment will result in disciplinary action up to and including removal from the band program.**

If something comes up in your life that makes it challenging for you to learn your music, please speak with Mrs. Brooksby so a solution can be found.

I am here to help you succeed!!

## **Behavior in Band: SF TRACKS**

The Sonoran Foothills Band Program operates in accordance with the school-wide **TRACKS** character guidance. Students strive to demonstrate the qualities in our classroom and school wide community by meeting the school Bobcat **TRACKS** behavior expectations, which are:

**T**rustworthy, **R**espectful, **A**ccountable, **C**reative, **K**ind, and **S**afe.

In order to demonstrate **TRACKS**, students will follow these class expectations:

- *Arrive to class on time*
- *Come to class prepared with all materials including instrument, music, and all necessary maintenance and accessory supplies*
- *Complete all assignments and meet all deadlines*
- *Obey school rules*
- *Cooperate with and respect staff and peers*
- *Actively participate in and contribute to the learning and rehearsal process*
- *Give their best effort to grow as a musician*
- *Have a good attitude*

Infractions of TRACKS and of above expectations will result in progressive disciplinary action, **up to and including permanent removal from the Sonoran Foothills Band program.**

Incidents that endanger the health and safety of self or others will include an office referral and further disciplinary action. Consult the *DVUSD Student Rights & Responsibilities 2023-2024 Handbook* for more information.

## **Supplies**

Students are highly encouraged to have their own supplies. These supplies are necessary to be a successful musician. It's hard to be productive in band if you forgot your music, instrument or pencil!

Students also need supplies to clean and maintain their instruments. Dirty instrument = illness and costly repairs. Protect your health and your pocket. Make sure you have the right supplies!

Supplies can be found at music retailer stores or online sites.

**Check out the supplies list on the SF Band webpage for links to items.**  
**<https://www.dvusd.org/sonoranfoothills> -> Activities -> Band -> Band Supply Lists**

### **Every day, each band student needs:**

- Their musical instrument, clean and in working condition
- 1.5" inch 3 ring binder to contain all music and exercises
- An erasable pencil (no pens) and a highlighter
- Water bottle (hydration is very important when playing instruments!)
- **HIGHLY ENCOURAGED:** reusable musician's earplugs (not the foam type!) - hearing protection is important during unstructured practice time - the room can get REALLY loud! Percussionists especially should have earplugs!



### **Flutes:**

- Plastic or wooden Cleaning Rod, Silk swab (for daily inside cleaning), Cotton cleaning cloth (for daily outside cleaning)

### **Clarinets and Saxophones:**

- Weighted cleaning swab, Cork grease, Bristled Mouthpiece cleaning brush, cotton cleaning cloth (for daily outside cleaning)
- Minimum of 3 reeds in cases. *High quality and affordable brands: Vandoren (classic blue box, or V12 silver box), D'Addario by Rico (orange box), Rico Royal (blue box), Mitchell Lurie. **BE SURE TO GET THE RIGHT REED FOR YOUR INSTRUMENT. Reeds are not interchangeable between instruments.***
- Be sure to get the correct STRENGTH of reed. Generally speaking:
  - Year 1 of playing: 2.0-2.5 hardness
  - Year 2 of playing: 2.5-3.0 hardness
  - Year 3 and 4 of playing: 2.5-3.5 hardness

### **Brass (trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba):**

- *ALL:* Valve oil, Slide grease, Mouthpiece cleaning brush and interior cleaning snake, Cotton cleaning cloth (for daily outside cleaning)
- *Trombone only:* Trombone Slide Cream
- *French Horn only:* Key Oil

### **Percussion:**

Percussion kit (contains all items you need as listed below):

- Wood Sticks (type 2B), Pair of yarn or rubber mallets
- Practice pad and stand for at home practice
- Bell kit or piano/keyboard for at home practice

### **Electric guitar/bass guitar:**

- Electric guitar only: Picks
- Adjustable guitar shoulder strap
- Guitar/Bass guitar amp (with 1/4" cable) for at home practice (can find new or used at music stores or online)

## **Band Handbook Acknowledgement**

Thank you so much for being PART OF THE BAND! 😊 🎵

Once you have completely reviewed all information in this Handbook, complete the [\*Band Handbook Acknowledgment Form.\*](#)

PLEASE COMPLETE BY FRIDAY AUGUST 9, 2024.

QR Code for form:

