

Sunset Ridge Band

2025 – 2026 Handbook

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Course Summary

6th Grade Band

This *year-long class* focuses on the introductory level of instrumental performance, set forth by DVUSD. This group performs at 2 concerts per year. Topics touched on include: instrument assembly and maintenance, music literacy at a beginning level, and beginning performances.

Middle School Bands

This *year-long class* focuses on the mastery of Band I and Band II standards set forth by DVUSD. This group will perform at 3 concerts per year, selected recruiting events, assemblies at school, DVUSD Pre and Post Assessment, Honor band (selected students), All-State Band (selected students), Solo and Ensemble. This is made up of both 7th and 8th grade students.

Materials Needed

<u>All Students</u>		
Brass Musicians <small>Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba</small>	Woodwind Musicians <small>Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone</small>	Percussion Musicians
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Instrument ● Valve Oil - <i>Al Cass Fast</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Horn: <i>Hetman</i> rotor oil ● Tuning Slide Grease - <i>Superslick brand</i> ● Superslick Slick-It Trombone Kit (<i>includes trombone cream, slide treatment oil, and pocket sized sprayer</i>) -- <u>Trombones only!</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Instrument ● Reeds – <i>Rico Royals or Vandoren ONLY</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2.5 strength (5th/6th) - 3.0 strength (7th/8th) ● Oboe Reeds – <i>must be</i> Obonik or Singin’ Dog Double Reeds (Classic, Medium, or medium soft) Guitar Center, Amazon, etc., are <i>not acceptable</i> for best sounds. ● <u>Silk</u> Instrument Swab for their instrument ● Mouthpiece Cap (<i>Saxes/Clarinets</i>) ● Neck Strap (<i>Saxes/Clarinets</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Instrument (<i>practice pad and bell kit</i>) ● Snare Sticks (<i>comes with rentals</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vic Firth SD1 General ● Bells mallets (<i>comes with rentals</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vic Firth M14
		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Middle School Only:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rubber Xylophone Mallets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CB by Mike Balter 704 ● Yarn Marimba Mallets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mike Balter 13BB or 213B ● Timpani Mallets ● Stick Bag with name on it

<u>Materials by Grade Level</u>	
<i>6th Grade Band</i>	<i>7th & 8th Grade Bands</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Measures of Success Book 1-</u> for their instrument 2. Pencil 3. ½-1” Binder 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pencil 2. 1” Binder with 5 Dividers 3. 10 Sheet Protectors

Classroom Policies and Rehearsal Etiquette

All instruments and music must be brought to the band room upon arrival at school (regardless of time). It is to be stored in the band room and be ready for them upon entry to the classroom.

Classroom Flow

1. Arrival in class
 - a. Students have 3-5 minutes to get “set”.
 - b. This includes all materials necessary for class (chairs, stands, instrument, pencil, etc.)
 - i. “SET”
 1. Instrument is assembled and ready to be played
 2. Music and pencil on the music stand
 3. Student in their assigned seat.
 - c. Students not “set” within the 3-5 minute allotted time on a consistent basis risk lowering their score for DVUSD Outcome 17, tied to curriculum standard (MU.PR.6.PE.5a).
2. During class
 - a. Students are to be quiet, attentive, and actively participating in rehearsal.
 - b. Rehearsal will end at the director’s discretion.
 - i. The director will ensure that students have enough time to reach their next class.
 - ii. Students will not pack up early without the director’s permission.
 - c. At some point, the director may allow students to use class time for individual practice; students are expected to use their time wisely.
 - i. Those who do not use class time as directed will follow discipline procedures.
3. Conclusion of class
 - a. Students are responsible for packing up all materials
 - i. Swab instruments, empty spit, pack up
 - ii. This may include chairs/stands!
4. A list of ‘DO NOTS’
 - a. No running or horseplay is permitted at any time.
 - b. No food, drinks, or gum in the band room (water is allowed).
 - i. Food will only be allowed on days designated by the director (celebrations).
 - ii. **Gum is never allowed and will be met with appropriate discipline procedures.** This is a safety hazard for the wind player and the sugars in the gum can ruin instruments. This is also a campus policy and will not be tolerated in the band room.

Behavior

1. Behavior
 - c. The band program closely follows all DVUSD and Sunset Ridge student rights and responsibilities, with most issues being handled in the classroom and with parent communication.
 - i. Actions can include: verbal warnings, communication with classroom teacher, communication with parent/guardian, reflection sheets, lunch detentions, after school detentions.
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Attendance

Attendance and participation during in school rehearsals is required unless a student is absent from school and/or testing with notification from the classroom teacher. There are often extra events for band that require outside of the day attendance. All events are listed in our online calendar, in this handbook, emailed out as reminders, and on the overall school calendar. Please see descriptions of such events below:

1. Concerts and Festivals

- a. Students are *required* to attend concerts and festivals for their respective band. Some may be during the day, some may be after school hours.
- b. Students are expected to arrive at the given call time in the proper attire.
- c. Students are required to attend the concert in its entirety. This includes watching the performance from the designated arrival time to the conclusion of the final piece. ***Students who fail to attend will risk a deduction from their concert etiquette grade. This meets curriculum requirements to stay and listen!***

2. Extra Rehearsals

- a. Out-of-School rehearsals may be required on occasion. Attendance is mandatory in order to participate in the upcoming performance.
- b. Out-of-school rehearsals may be scheduled closer to major events. The teacher will be understanding of attendance if scheduled with LESS THAN 2 weeks notice.

3. Absences

- a. Please know that absences in band affect the large group. One person missing alters the overall sound production. A percussionist or student who is the only one on their instrument missing an event means a part is not covered and missing.
- b. Absence Communication
 - i. Any student planning to miss a required event or required rehearsal must have the parent/guardian contact the director at least *2 weeks prior to the event*. A reason is required. This helps the teacher understand circumstances so as to know if this is excused or unexcused. No reason provided could result in a failing score.
 - ii. Any student who misses a required event due to family emergency or illness must communicate that to the director as soon as possible (immediately following return to school is asked). The director understands that may not be prior to the event, hence, emergency.
 - iii. Alternate assignments are provided to any student unable to attend the performance, deemed excused, and have followed the proper communication timeline.
- c. Unexcused Absences
 - i. Any student who does not communicate an absence on time, following guidelines above, or get their absences approved from the director will result in an unexcused absence.
 - ii. Unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the event.
 - iii. Too many unexcused absences from performances could result in the student's removal from the band program.
 1. This includes any assembly performances held during the school day.
- d. 5th Grade Pull-Out Class
 - i. Students are "pulled" from one 45-minute special area class (PE, Art, Music) and one 30-minute RTI time per week.
 1. Students are responsible for any and all work missed in their homeroom/RTI from which they are pulled.
 2. ***Students are NOT pulled from a core class!*** Band does not interfere with math, science, social studies, science, nor sage classes. If a student is missing work in that class, it is not because of band rehearsal.
 3. Special Area classes rotate following a 6-day rotation. Students assigned to Day 1 band during specials will miss that ONE contact per rotation. The director is happy to adjust the schedule at semester to change what course may be pulled from.

- ii. It is the student's responsibility to know when to come to class.
 - 1. Any class not attended while the student is at school will result in a lowered score for DVUSD Outcome 17.
 - 2. Any assessment or work missed due to absence from class, but presence at school, needs to be made up either on or before their next scheduled class.
 - 3. Absences from school result in an absence from band class. Missed assignments should be made up in a timely manner.
 - e. 6th Grade Pull-out Class
 - i. Students are "pulled" from two to three 45-minute special area classes per week. Specials operate on a 6-day rotation, so when not in band, they will be in their other scheduled special (Art, PE, STEM).
 - ii. 6th grade scheduling gets tricky, as band and choir are held within the school day and there are only 5 sections of special areas per week. Students are able to do all the things, but with band being a muscular based activity that takes constant reinforcement, it does have set minutes per district.
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Instrument Storage

- a. ***Instruments MUST be labeled with the student's name at all times.*** Many instruments look alike!
 - i. Luggage tags
 - ii. Painters tape
 - b. Students are expected to bring instruments to the band room/band hallway each morning upon arrival to school.
 - i. Students should never leave their instrument in their regular classroom, as that room does lock from time to time during the day and can result in your child not having their instrument for lessons.
 - ii. Again, please ensure all instruments are labeled with the student's name!
 - c. Storage room is for band instruments only!
 - i. Please keep all other materials out.
 - ii. Pick up scraps and garbage to keep the shared space clean.
 - d. Instruments are expected to go home
 - i. 5th and 6th grade instruments should go home after each rehearsal day for reinforcement of skills.
 - ii. Middle school instruments should go home 2-3x per week. It is required that they go home on each weekend and holiday from school.
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Concert and Festival Attire

- 1. Concert at Sunset Ridge Attire (informal)
 - a. 5th and 6th grade
 - i. Sunset Ridge Band t-shirt, jeans or black pants, sneakers.
 - 1. T-shirt to be ordered at beginning of school year – typically \$15
 - b. 7th and 8th grade
 - i. Sunset Ridge Band polo, jeans or black pants, sneakers.
 - 1. Shirt to be ordered at beginning of school year – typically \$20-25

2. Festival or performance outside of Sunset Ridge (formal)
 - a. 6th Grade
 - i. Sunset Ridge Band t-shirt, black dress pants/capris, black dress shoes.
 - b. 7th and 8th Grade
 - i. Formal black attire
 1. NICE black shirt or polo with NO markings on it at all.
 2. NICE black dress pants/capris/skirts,
 3. Black belt (if needed), black dress shoes, black socks.
 - ii. Black dress shoes for ladies includes wedges, sandals, or flats.
 - iii. Gentlemen, your shirts MUST be tucked in!
 - c. **Not Permitted**
 - i. Leggings, *skirts shorter than knee length when seated*, high heels, spaghetti straps or tank tops. The shoulders must be covered.
 - ii. Be aware that leggings are not permitted per DVUSD fine arts guidelines. Stage lighting can make leggings see-through/sheer!
 - iii. Do take time to check skirt lengths. Many instruments require certain posture that dictate a longer skirt length.
3. Failure to comply with these guidelines could result in the lowering of performance grade, as this is an ensemble expectation, and possible removal from the performance.
 - a. Uniforms for band mirror uniforms for sports teams, military groups, etc. They are important for all performances.

Grading

1. The band director will follow all DVUSD grading practices as laid out in the PRAG handbook:
 - a. DVUSD Grading Scale for grades 3-12

A 100-90%	B 89-80%	C 79-70%	D 69-60%	F 59-0%
Highly Proficient	Proficient		Partially Proficient	Minimally Proficient

- b. Three categories of Grades
 - i. Assessment - 80% of grade
 - ii. Coursework - 20% of grade
 - iii. Practice - 0% of grade
2. Playing Tests
 - a. Testing will be either live in class, and/or submitted via Canvas or Music First
 - i. Oftentimes (not always), the director will offer assignments to be completed via Canvas or Music First. Those not completing the assignment will have to play live in class to complete the assignment by the given due date.
 - b. Assignments are due at the deadline given. Students will have 1-2 weeks notice of any playing assignments. Any assignments not submitted by the deadline risk a zero (middle school) or 49% (5th/6th). Students will have one additional week to submit any missing assignment (grace period) to change the failing grade. This equates to about 2-3 weeks from the time of assignment being given to the absolute last chance. The extra time is given to account for: illness, travel, injury, etc.

- i. Assessments will not be graded after the grace period and will stay a failing grade in the gradebook.
 - ii. Skills in band build upon prior knowledge. It is important students are showing the skill and receiving feedback before moving to the next skill.
 - 3. Performances
 - a. Concerts, Festivals, Assessments
 - b. Concerts are one-time events that cannot be recreated. As such, attendance at all performances is critical to meet classroom curriculum and expectations. Alternate assignments will only be available IF an absence request form is approved. The alternate assignment is to be typed, 2 pages, and research based (to be assigned by the director).
 - i. Alternate assignments are only worth up to 75% of the points possible for the concert performance. The performance is a curriculum requirement and cannot be recreated.
 - c. Assessed items include:
 - i. Audience Etiquette – behavior as an audience member
 - ii. Stage Etiquette – behavior as a performer
 - iii. Timeliness – at venue at (or before) the designated call time
 - iv. Dress Code – in proper dress code (see “attire”)
 - v. Performance – their rating of their personal performance during the concert
 - 4. Dropping/Leaving Band
 - a. Due to the nature of this class students **WILL NOT** be allowed to drop or leave band class before the end of the semester. This class is a **year long commitment and requires maximum participation** from students. Students that would leave mid-semester or before a concert will change the characteristics of the band and impact the sound.
 - b. There **MUST** be communication with Mrs. Lievre if the student needs to drop band at the end of a semester.
 - c. If there are any issues or concerns please contact Mrs. Lievre to set up a meeting in person or over the phone.
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Practice

- 1. Students are expected to take instruments home on a daily basis.
 - a. Students playing tuba, euphonium, or baritone saxophone may come in on their recess for individual practice to supplement taking the instrument home due to its size.
 - b. Instruments are not to be taken from the band room and stored in a general classroom.
 - i. Room sweeps to check for forgotten instruments done at director’s discretion for a grade.
 - 2. Students should be prepared for class and playing assessments.
 - 3. Students are encouraged to practice *at least 6 days a week!*
 - a. Students in 5-6th grade are recommended 15-20 minutes per day.
 - b. Students in 7-8th grade are recommended 30-35 minutes per day.
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Instruments (For Class)

1. **It is expected that all students provide their own instrument, accessories, and materials for participation in band at Sunset Ridge.**
2. If there are any issues regarding instrument rental or acquiring materials, please contact Mrs. Lievre immediately to find solutions.
3. There are limited school-owned instruments available for student use. This includes the bigger, more expensive instruments (tuba, baritone saxophone, euphonium, etc.), as well as beginner instruments (clarinet, flute, trumpet, etc.)
 - a. Rentals are subject to the completion of a rental contract.
 - b. Instruments must be returned at the end of the school year cleaned and in working condition.
 - i. Any instrument damaged beyond normal wear and tear is to be paid for by the person renting. This includes pad replacement, broken cork, dents in any brass.
 - ii. Brass cleaning fee may be charged to family for brass needing it at the end of the year
 1. Trumpet - \$80; Horn - \$160; Trombone - \$160; Euphonium - \$160; Tuba - \$200
 - c. Rental contracts may be revoked at the discretion of the band director based on treatment of the instrument, its case, and/or other band property.
 - i. This does not release the student from the band program!
4. Percussion Equipment -- these are school owned percussion instruments that must remain at school to be used by multiple students. They include, but are not limited to: snare drums, bells, xylophone, marimba, timpani, cymbals, all tripod stands, all auxiliary equipment.
 - a. It is expected all students will treat this equipment with care.
 - b. Non-percussion students are NOT permitted to touch any percussion instruments unless the teacher asks for assistance moving the instrument.
 - c. Damages to these instruments can be costly!
 - i. Students who break an instrument through neglect or incorrect handling will be held responsible for the costs of the damages.
 - ii. In the event that multiple students cause damages, the cost of repairs will be divided equally among those involved.
 - d. Accidental damages will be treated at the teacher's discretion. Circumstances surrounding the incident, age of the instrument, and more will be taken into account.

Instrument Purchases

If a student is looking into buying a new or used instrument, it is highly recommended that parents talk with Mr. Lievre or a private instructor prior to that purchase. There are many “knock-off” brands on the market. These brands are going to cost more in maintenance in the long run. They are typically made with less expensive materials, resulting in many breaks, bends, and maintenance. Avoid EBay, Craigslist, Facebook Marketplace unless you know exactly what you are looking for. The best place to check first is the local instrument repair shop. We have 3 in the area: Milano Music, Music & Arts, and Allegro Music. These places will be honest with what they have in stock and the quality you will be getting. Please remember... “If a deal is ‘too good to be true,’ then it probably is...”

Please stick to traditional colors: black clarinets, brass saxophones, silver flutes, silver/brass trumpets, etc. Make sure the instrument you are buying is music educator approved! This will save you a headache down the road!

Flute: Jupiter, Pearl, Yamaha

Oboe: Fox Renard, Loree, Yamaha

Clarinet: Backun, Buffet, Jupiter, Selmer

Saxophone: Cannonball, Yamaha, Eastman

Trumpet: Bach, Eastman, Yamaha

Euphonium: Eastman, Yamaha

Trombone: Yamaha, Conn, Eastman

French Horn: Conn-Selmer, Yamaha, Eastman

Instrument Rental/Repairs

Students must have instruments in good, working order for them to be the most successful in the class. This section of our handbook will discuss Rentals and Repairs.

1. Instrument Rentals

- a. You may rent from whomever you choose – Milano Music, Music & Arts, Allegro Music, Boogie Music, Rhapsody Music...
- b. Milano Music is our preferred vendor
 - i. Regular, weekly visits
 - ii. May purchase supplies and have them added to your rental account.
 - iii. Need something? E-mail me what you need, send in the cash or check, and I'll give that to Milano Music for you! No leaving the house required.
- c. Why should you rent?
 - i. Instrument insurance covers breaks and loss.
 1. The companies do offer you insurance that will cover any breaks to the instrument. They will provide a loaner or trade out the instrument for a working one should any issues arise.
 2. Instruments are able to be switched for different instruments (i.e. a student changing from clarinet to saxophone). There may be a change in price, but the swap can be done at Sunset Ridge with no inconvenience to you.
 3. Equity is earned through monthly purchases.
 - a. It is a small percentage of each monthly payment, but by the end of 8th grade, parents typically have over \$500 in equity that can go toward the purchase of a new instrument.
 - b. Don't need an instrument for yourself? You can use your equity and then donate an instrument to Norterra Canyon for students to use in the future. Please talk with Mrs. Lievre should you need help with this.
 4. Loss is covered.
 - a. On the very rare occasion, instruments get lost. Should something happen to the instrument, a rental is covered by insurance. We simply need to file a police report for the lost item and we can get a replacement!
 5. Should your child lose interest, you are not "stuck" with a purchased instrument.
 - d. Upgrade your instrument
 - i. Around the 7th grade year, students should begin moving into "step-up" instruments and mouthpieces. These instruments are designed for an intermediate player to put more air through and produce better tone quality. Please consider making that change to help your child sound even better on their instruments!

2. Instrument Repairs

- a. It is imperative your child's instrument is in working condition for them to be successful.
- b. There are minute repairs that I may be able to adjust at the conclusion of class. If your child knows of an issue, please have them ask at the beginning of a class period or at the end, as those are the most feasible times for me to inspect the instrument.
- c. Personally Owned Instruments
 - i. Must be brought into a shop on your own. There may be no back up instrument available for student use.
- d. School Owned Instruments

- i. Sunset Ridge will cover normal wear and tear, per the DVUSD rental agreement.
 - ii. Dents, breaks, bends, etc. are to be covered by the parent. You may pay via cash, check, or credit card.
 - iii. School instruments are sent to either Milano Music or Allegro Music for all repairs.
- e. Rentals
 - i. Will be swapped with another instrument upon Milano Music weekly visits (only Milano Music)
 - ii. All other companies require you to take the damaged instrument to their location and do the swap on your own.
- f. Companies for repairs
 - i. Milano Music – www.milanomusic.com – 38 W Main St, Mesa, AZ 85201
 - ii. Allegro Music – www.allegromusicaz.com – 8385 W Deer Valley Rd, Suite 106, Peoria, AZ 85382
 - iii. Music and Arts – www.musicarts.com – 5350 W Bell Rd, Suite 132, Glendale, AZ 85308

Communication

It is very important to stay informed and up to date with all the various activities going on in the band program. E-mail is the most efficient way to get in touch with me regarding our students, events, or activities.

Email: vivian.lievre@dvusd.org

Website:

Donations and Help

1. Donations
 - a. Classroom materials
 - i. Tissues, Hand Sanitizer, Lysol Wipes, Pencils
 - b. New or Used Instruments
 - c. Tax Credit
 - i. Funds after school lessons, festival fees, clinician fees, transportation, etc.
 - ii. Up to \$400 per family (married/file jointly) or \$200 (single/file separately).
2. Help - when applicable
 - a. Chaperone Trips – Must be DVUSD Volunteer Trained
 - i. Overnight trips must have fingerprint clearance (i.e. Camp Surf, Disneyland)
 - b. Fundraiser help
 - i. Participate!
 - ii. Encourage others to participate.
 - iii. Get involved... Do you have a new idea? I'd love to hear it!
3. Fundraisers
 - a. Donors Choose - In an effort to better show you where your funds are going, we will be using more Donors Choose. This site offers you the chance to donate directly to our band for specific items needed.
 - b. Profit Share Nights - These will be open to the entire school and will be ways for the community to come together while assisting the band program.
 - c. Selected events throughout the year.

Sunset Ridge School

2025 – 2026 Band Calendar

The following events are PROPOSED for the 2025-2026 school year. All events are required. There are no make-up assignments for missed performances. If an event will be missed, an Absence Request Form must be filled out 2 weeks prior to the event, though this does not guarantee the student will be excused from the event. Absence Request Forms can be found on the band website or in the band room.

Please note that the dates below are subject to change. Additional performance opportunities may be added. All changes will be updated on the band website calendar as well as communicated via newsletter.

<p><u>August</u> <u>07/31</u> - First Day of School! <u>08/01</u> - Full Friday <u>08/15</u>- Band Handbook Acknowledgement Due</p>	<p><u>January</u> <u>01/01 - 01/02</u> - Winter Break <u>01/05</u> - No School <u>01/19</u> - MLK Day - No School</p>
<p><u>September</u> <u>9/01</u> - Labor Day, No School <u>9/29- 9/30</u> Fall Break, No School</p>	<p><u>February</u> <u>02/18</u> - Honor Band at BGHS</p>
<p><u>October</u> <u>10/01 - 10/03</u> Fall Break, No School</p>	<p><u>March</u> <u>03/16 - 03/20</u> - Spring Break, No School <u>03/??</u> - Middle School Post-Assessment (<u>TIME & PLACE TBD</u>)</p>
<p><u>November</u> <u>11/??</u> - Veterans Day Assembly, Middle School Performance (<u>TDB</u>) <u>11/11</u>- Veterans Day, No School <u>11/??</u>- Middle School Pre-Assessment (<u>TIME AND PLACE TBD</u>) <u>11/13</u> - Middle School Band Concert, 5:30pm Start Time <u>11/24 - 11/28</u> - Thanksgiving Break</p>	<p><u>April</u> <u>All Month</u> - State Testing</p>
<p><u>December</u> <u>12/17</u> - 6th Grade Band Concert, 5:30pm Start Time <u>12/22 - 12/31</u> - Winter Break</p>	<p><u>May</u> <u>05/14</u>- ALL Bands Concert, 5:30pm Start Time</p>