

Harney Middle School Band

Course Expectations and Band Handbook



2024-2025

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Harney Middle School
1580 S. Hollywood Blvd
Las Vegas, Nevada 89142

Dear Student and Parent/Guardian,

Welcome! This handbook is designed to acquaint students and parent(s)/guardian(s) with the policies and expectations that ensure a fulfilling experience throughout the year.

I would suggest that the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s) take time to read and become familiar with this handbook so that they will know what to expect and what is expected of them. As soon as the handbook has been read, the form in the back should be signed and returned to the director by **Friday, August 23, 2024**, indicating an understanding of the material that is presented in this handbook.

It will be through our hard work and dedication that we will reach each objective successfully. By doing this, we will build our band organization into one that reaches the highest musical heights as well as one that we will all be proud to be a part of.

If you ever have a question or concern, please feel free to contact me at any time through email: skoglcd@nv.ccsd.net. Thank you for choosing to be a member of the Harney Middle School Band program and we look forward to all the fun and excitement that making music together will bring. 😊

Sincerely,

Ms. Carina D. Skoglund, B.M.E.
Band Director

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Students will receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to band instruments and the techniques for producing and evaluating pitch, tone, rhythmic patterns, and dynamic levels. Emphasis will be placed on providing each student with a variety of performing experiences. This is an elective course for students grades 6-8.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To review correct embouchure, hand positions, posture, tonguing, and breathing techniques.
 - To further develop technical facility.
 - To develop a characteristic tone quality throughout the appropriate playing range of the instrument.
 - To develop an awareness of proper unison and chordal intonation needed to produce harmonic balance.
 - To play rhythm patterns and phrases with dynamic control.
 - To identify and respond appropriately to musical terms, tempo markings, dynamics, and expression markings.
 - To demonstrate the fingerings and slide positions of all notes within the appropriate playing range of the instrument.
 - To utilize acquired musical skills in a public performance.
 - To develop an awareness of various career opportunities.
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THE BANDS

BEGINNING BAND is offered to students who want to learn a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. It is the students' responsibility to have access to their own instrument. There are a few large instruments, which the school may supply and are loaned at the discretion of the director. This band is a training group and will only have 2 performances: a Winter and Spring Concert.

CONCERT BAND is for students who have successfully completed at least one year of band. The main goal of this band is to develop the skills necessary for Symphonic Band. These skills include reliability, cooperation, good rehearsal and practice habits,

plus playing technique. Through these will come a greater appreciation for music. Performances include the Winter and Spring concerts.

SYMPHONIC BAND is the main performing group in the band at Harney. The director individually selects students in this band. Students are selected based upon ability, reliability, citizenship and needs in terms of instrumentation. Every member must maintain a high standard of citizenship and musician ability. The band has many performances throughout the year and each performance is required (see grading procedures).

ADVANCED PERCUSSION is a class for seventh and eighth grade students. This individualized class allows for instruction specifically geared towards the needs and uniqueness of the world of percussion. We have the ability here to learn all facets of percussion that would not be available if combined with other instruments. Advanced percussionists will play with the beginning, concert, and symphonic band, as well as performance opportunities unique to just them.

JAZZ BAND is a late bird class that is available for students in the concert, symphonic, and percussion classes. Students in this band play specialized repertoire and a wider variety of instruments typical to jazz bands, such as the guitar, bass guitar, piano, and drum set. Members of the group are held to the same standards and expectations as all of the other bands. The jazz band has a wide variety of performance opportunities that include (but are not limited to) performances during the school day and during extracurricular activities.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Unlike the other classes, band requires students to act as a team. If a student fails a math test, it does not affect the students around them. In a band setting, if a student is unable to play the correct notes, it hurts the overall quality of the performance. When everyone follows the rules, the group will make good progress.

Classroom rules and expectations are simple:

1. No eating/drinking
2. Stay in your seat
3. Be respectful

SEQUENCE OF BEHAVIORAL INFRACTIONS

1ST INFRACTION: Verbal warning

2ND INFRACTION: Second verbal warning and meeting with teacher after class

3RD INFRACTION: Student dismissed from activities, parent will be contacted

4TH INFRACTION: Student Success Center referral for disciplinary action

SEVERITY CLAUSE: If a student disrupts the class to the extent that the educational process is stopped, the student will be immediately removed from the class and taken to the office regardless of previous warnings or actions.

GRADING POLICY

Starting with the 2023-2024 school year, CCSD has revised the application of the equitable grading scale at secondary schools, removing it from the assignment level, and instead applying the scale at the quarter grades. This adjustment provides students with opportunities to continue to demonstrate improvement in their achievement.

GRADING SCALE:

A	90-100%	Excellent	4.0
B	80-89%	Above Average	3.0
C	70-79%	Average	2.0
D	60-69%	Below Average	1.0
F	50-59%	Emergent	0

STANDARDS-BASED GRADING SCALE:

4 = Exceeds

3 = Meets

2 = Approaches

1 = Emergent

0 = No Evidence

BAND FEES

Band fees are common across CCSD instrumental ensembles to ensure a quality experience for students in the program. We try to keep these fees as low as possible while ensuring the extensive operational costs are supported by student investment and accountability. The total band fee for the school year is **\$30**. This covers sheet music, methods books, instrument cleaning, supplies, and many other needed supplies. If a student is in more than one band class, the student only needs to pay the course fee once.

CONDITIONS:

- At least \$15 must be paid by the Winter Concert, December 11 (subject to change), in order to perform at the concert.
- The full \$30 must be paid by the Spring Concert (Date TBD), in order to perform at the concert.
- Unpaid band fees will remain in a student's account which may delay their graduation.
- Fees must be paid to the banker and the receipt **MUST** be given to me for verification and student records.

Fundraising is something that we implement throughout the school year, which can be used to cover band fees as well. Information on fundraising opportunities will be given in class as soon as they arrive. As the director, it is my goal to give every student a fair opportunity to participate in the band program. **If there are any questions or concerns regarding this policy, please contact me at skoglcd@nv.ccsd.net.**

REGARDING INSTRUMENTS

Organization and determination of instruments for students is the single-most important factor in program and student success. Numerous factors may determine the instrument a student receives for their musical studies at Harney Middle School. These factors include, but are not limited to:

- Instrument availability in our inventory
- Student proficiency or aptness for a particular instrument, as determined by faculty (see INSTRUMENT ASSIGNMENTS)
- Ensemble instrumentation needs (e.g., having 47 flutes will not be practical)

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

Harney Middle School is equipped to supply students with a school-owned instrument to begin their studies, as purchasing instruments is very costly. However, the school has a finite inventory, so the student may not receive their desired instrument. There is no charge for school instrument rental barring loss or damage (see INSTRUMENT CARE).

To rent a HMS instrument, the student and their parent/guardian must complete an Instrument Rental Agreement form.

INSTRUMENT ACCESSORIES

Many instruments require small accessories for functionality such as reeds, valve oil, and/or cleaning supplies. Students will receive some of these items for free to begin the year. If they need to be replaced, we sell them at the school. Such materials are also available at local music retailers.

INSTRUMENT ASSIGNMENTS

Over the first few days for students new to instrumental music, faculty will determine the instrument best suited for students based on many factors. While every effort will be made to ensure a student is matched with their preferred instrument, faculty are trained to identify appropriate instruments for students to ensure their long-term musical success and fulfillment.

INSTRUMENT CARE

It is imperative that HMS instruments are taken care of to ensure current and future student success.

Students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for any damage to the assigned instrument, its accessories, and case. Instances of damage will be dealt with on an individual basis and **will result in financial accountability for the necessary repairs.**

Mistakes happen, damage should be reported immediately. The ramifications of instrument damage only increase as the school year draws to a close. The sooner an instrument can be repaired, the better.

RENTING/PURCHASING, STORES/ONLINE

Most of Harney Middle School's instruments have been used over many years and are no longer in perfect condition. Renting an instrument from a local music shop will provide the student with a higher quality instrument. Music stores often charge around \$15-\$25 per month; however, rates may vary. This is **not** required.

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT RENTING:

Please ensure you have read the "REGARDING INSTRUMENTS" and "INSTRUMENT ASSIGNMENTS" sections before renting, as students may not be assigned the instrument they originally chose.

Renting an instrument not assigned by faculty to circumvent the student's assignment will not be tolerated. Students with an incorrect instrument will not be allowed to participate in class until rectified. All financial implications of renting the incorrect instrument are the responsibility of the student's parent/guardian.

LOCKERS

Each school-owned instrument will be assigned to a locker for storage. Lockers are ***not assigned to students for their personal use.*** All instruments and their respective lockers are kept on record to ensure organization and instrument safety. Students will **NOT** store any personal belongings in these lockers at any time—even during class time.

Students with personal instruments (or instruments rented from a retailer) will be assigned a locker **and provided a school-owned lock.** Students will not replace or tamper with this lock, as the locker must remain accessible by faculty and staff for security purposes. Applicable students will not store anything other than their instrument as per the policy above.

PERFORMANCES & CONCERT ATTENDANCE

Performance is a unique and important part of music education. Because this experience cannot be recreated or taught in the classroom, attendance is crucial. As each member of the band is essential to our success, it is imperative that every band member attend every performance. Points are credited for attendance, punctuality, behavior/concert etiquette, proper uniform, and clean-up following the performance. **No points will be awarded to students who cannot attend performances.**

Absences from any performance must be cleared with the director as soon as the absence is anticipated so that arrangements can be made in order to cover the part. In addition, a parent/guardian note stating the reason for the absence needs to be given to the director as soon as the conflict is known. If the reason for absence is a legitimate emergency, the excuse may be given to the director upon return to school.

Please keep in mind that notes do not automatically approve performance absences. The director must approve the absence for make-up work to be assigned. If there is a problem with an excuse, the director will make every effort to make contact with parents to discuss the problem prior to the concert. **Excuses such as no ride, sports, having to baby-sit, having to work, or not having the proper uniform will not be considered acceptable.** An unexcused absence will result in a failing grade for the quarter. Performing is such a big part of this class so please encourage the student to be prepared.

UNIFORMS

As a member of the Harney Middle School Band, each member is expected to wear a specific uniform. These uniforms are to be worn at all functions where we participate as a unit. The following is a list of the uniforms according to the band the student participates in.

Beginning Band

- Harney Middle School Band polo (provided by the school at performances)
- Completely black shoes and socks
- Black slacks/pants

Concert (Intermediate) Band

- White, long-sleeve dress shirt
- Completely black shoes and socks
- Black slacks
- Students will be issued a bowtie for performances at no cost

Symphonic (Advanced) Band

- White, long-sleeve dress shirt
- Completely black shoes and socks
- Black slacks
- Students will be issued a vest for performances at no cost

Jazz Band

- Black, long-sleeve dress shirt
 - Completely black shoes and socks
 - Black slacks
 - Students will be issued a vest for performances at no cost
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IMPORTANT DATES

Winter Band Concert - December 11, 2024

- Harney MS Gym
- 6:00pm start time
- 5:00pm student arrival time

Symphonic Band Festival - TBD

- UNLV Ham Hall

Spring Band Concert - May 8, 2025

- Harney MS Gym
- 6:00pm start time
- 5:00pm student arrival time

Fine Arts Trip - May 9, 2025

- Knotts Berry Farm
- Details TBD

Possible additions/changes may occur throughout the year. Communication with parents will be immediate as soon as information is received.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

District Honor Band

Membership in the CCSD Honor Band is a great distinction. This group will be composed of the top musicians in the district. Auditions for the CCSD Honor Band will be held in January. Students who earn a chair in the group will rehearse weekly leading to a concert at UNLV Ham Hall in February. Additional information and audition music will be available as soon as possible.

Fundraising

In order to expand our limited music library and instrument stores, and to help fund field trips, fundraising will be an important part of ensuring our future success. Students will be notified of any fundraising activities/opportunities as soon as they arise.

CHANGES TO THIS HANDBOOK

The Director and/or Administration of Harney Middle School reserves the right to revise this handbook and the policies contained herein at any time. Students and Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be notified of any such revisions with adequate notice.

BAND HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM



To view the handbook, scan the QR code on the right OR view on canvas. After reading this handbook, please print, sign, and return this entire page no later than **Friday, August 16, 2024**. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding these policies and regulations, please contact the director (see first page).

By signing this form, the student and parent/guardian have read and understand all aforementioned policies and guidelines within this Handbook.

Any questions or concerns must be addressed in writing to the director (skoglcd@nv.ccsd.net) prior to signing.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Please complete the following information:

Student Printed Name _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name _____

Primary Phone _____

Secondary Phone _____

Parent/Guardian Email _____