

2016-2017 Pearson 6th Grade Center Band Handbook

Welcome to the Pearson 6th Grade Center, and welcome to Band!!! I look forward to all of the experiences that we'll have together this year, and all of the great music that we'll make.

Please review the information contained in this handbook, as it will likely answer many of your questions. If any residual concerns remain, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Nasiatka at Pearson during the day at (952) 496-6802 or via email at tnasiatka@shakopee.k12.mn.us.

Each student received a paper copy of a Parent/Student Confirmation Form, which needs to be filled out and returned to Mr. Nasiatka by Friday, September 2, 2016. This is extremely important, because it serves as your way of letting me know that all of the points outlined here are understood and accepted. If you need another copy of the sign-off sheet, you may access an electronic copy [here](#). Simply print it off, sign it, and return.

Class Rules

There are FOUR class rules that are extremely important to follow at all times whenever you're in the Music Room for Band class. They will be posted in the room, are easy to remember, and are good points that you should always think about whenever you're doing anything throughout life!

1. Be Here
2. Be On time
3. Do Your Best
4. Treat Others Right

Band Rehearsals

Band classes (or, as we'll call them, rehearsals) meet on every "A" day at Pearson (every other day beginning with the first day of school). Each 6th grade band student will be assigned to one of five Pearson Bands (periods 1, 2, 4, 6, or 7). Therefore, it's extremely important to quickly get into the routine of bringing your instrument to school on "A" days.

Instrument Lessons

In addition to Band rehearsals on "A" days, each student will receive a 15-minute, small-group instrument lesson in a like-instrument group several times each quarter. The schedule for these lessons will be published on the Band website; and, each student will be expected to have their instrument with them on these days, as well as their rehearsal days. It's important to note that, for MANY students, lessons will occur on "B" days. Generally speaking, Mr. Nasiatka will teach woodwind and percussion lessons, and Mr. Evett will teach brass lessons.

And, on the subject of bringing instruments to school...

Locker Space & Instrument Safety

Storage lockers, located in the Pearson Music Room, are available to students during the school day. Students should bring their instrument to their locker upon arrival at school. Lockers and locks will be assigned to students for the safe storage of instruments and band-related supplies. Although these security measures are put into place and provided by Pearson, **the Shakopee Public School District is not liable for theft of personal property, nor does it carry insurance for any personally-owned items**. We highly recommend speaking to your insurance agent if you are interested in covering the loss of an instrument. Locker space is sometimes shared at school, so personal locks are not an option.

School-Owned Instruments & Rentals

School-owned instruments are available for rental to those students who play the French horn, euphonium (baritone), tuba, larger saxophones, bass clarinet, and bassoon. A one-time rental fee of \$60.00 for the year covers the cost of rental. Please see Mr. Nasiatka for more information and paperwork.

As of the time that this handbook is being typed, we are in need of students who are willing to play bassoon, bass clarinet, French horn, tenor sax, and baritone sax. (We could also use more oboe players)! If a student is interested in trying out one of these FUN and important instruments, please see Mr. Nasiatka as soon as possible. We are able to provide school-owned instruments in these situations (except for oboe), and the above-mentioned rental costs would prevail.

Materials

A list of materials needed for Band, listed by instrument, can be accessed [here](#).

Reed and Supply Sales

Reeds, supplies, and lesson books are always available for purchase from the band director, usually at significant discount. Any checks should be made out to *Pearson 6th Grade Center*. These items should be purchased before or after school and are not available during class time.

Concert Dates

Concerts are an important aspect of any performance group. Aside from providing an experience for students to showcase the wonderful work that they've undertaken, musical performances provide an educational venue for students to participate in an important cultural ritual – that of public music-making. When students take part in the important exchange of performer-audience, they gain important knowledge about an important societal function.

To that end, the Shakopee Band Program holds concert performances in high regard, and assumes that through the intention to participate in Band at Pearson, each student and family indicates that students will attend and participate in their appropriately assigned concert performances.

All concerts will take place at **West Junior High School**. Students should plan to arrive at West JHS approximately 45 minutes before their performance time. Please note that there are five bands at Pearson, and each band has its own concert time. **Students are only required to attend and participate in their own band's concert.** Concert dates and times are listed in the chart below. Please add these dates to your family's calendar as soon as possible in order to avoid a schedule conflict. Should one occur, please let Mr. Nasiatka know by the time that you/your student submits the Parent/Student Confirmation Form on September 2nd.

	<u>Concert Date</u>	<u>Concert Time</u>
Late Fall Concert	Thurs., October 27, 2016	6:00 pm – Period 1 Band 7:00 pm – Period 2 Band 8:00 pm – Period 4 Band
	Tues., November 1, 2016	6:00 pm – Period 6 Band 7:00 pm – Period 7 Band
Winter Concert	Monday, March 6, 2017	6:00 pm – Period 4 Band 7:00 pm – Period 6 Band 8:00 pm – Period 7 Band
	Thursday, March 9, 2017	6:00 pm – Period 1 Band 7:00 pm – Period 2 Band
Spring Concert	Tuesday, May 2, 2017	6:00 pm – Period 7 Band 7:00 pm – Period 1 Band 8:00 pm – Period 2 Band
	Thursday, May 4, 2017	6:00 pm – Period 4 Band 7:00 pm – Period 6 Band

Concert Dress

An important part of any performance experience is being as professional as possible. To that end, we require a uniform concert dress. As in the past, concert dress will be a white top (no t-shirts/shirts with logos), black pants (no jeans), black socks, and black shoes (no tennis shoes).

Grading & Expectations

Assessment and evaluation in band is divided into three categories:

Performances – While band is an academic class, it is also a performance ensemble. An unexcused absence from a concert will automatically have a major effect on the final grade for a quarter. In the event of an extenuating circumstance that is deemed as “excused,” students will be provided with a make-up assignment so there will not be a loss of credit. Students will only be excused from a concert for emergencies. Please refer to the performance dates provided in the “Concert Dates” section above. If there is no prior commitment, we expect students to honor the commitment to the band. We do not accept excuses like, “I didn’t know I had to be somewhere else that night . . .” or “I didn’t ask for work off in time . . .” or “I bought tickets to . . .” Each performance is worth 100 points.

Rehearsals – Rehearsals are the class time when we come together and become a unified “team” of musicians. They are the time in which each band will experience the highest amount of development. To that end, each rehearsal’s goal is twofold, the musical development of each person individually, and the musical development of the ensemble. Attendance at rehearsals is crucial. We need each person to be there to cover their part of the music and balance the group. Rehearsals contain two graded portions:

Attendance – being present, on time, with your instrument, music & pencil

Approach – a focused attitude, with excellent posture

I will do all that I can to make rehearsals as enjoyable, pleasant, and fun as possible; but, I also expect everyone to concentrate and do their best to be as productive as possible. A total of 90 points can be earned each quarter.

Instrument Lessons – Lessons are vital experiences that provide the opportunity for individual growth and improvement. Technique and musicality are the primary focuses in these lessons. As such, practicing is absolutely necessary in order for success to occur. Throughout each quarter, there will be an opportunity for make-up lessons. Each student is responsible for scheduling his/her own make-up lesson with either Mr. Nasiatka or Mr. Evett. You will be assessed during each lesson, based on the rubric below.

Points	Description
50-47	Demonstration of thorough proficiency in all aspects of the assignment for the lesson. Strong evidence of a daily commitment towards preparing the lesson material. The student is meeting his/her potential as an independent music-maker.
46-43	Demonstration of thorough proficiency in most aspects of the assignment for the lesson. Moderately strong evidence of a daily commitment towards preparing the lesson material. The student is close to meeting his/her potential as an independent music-maker.
42-39	Demonstration of thorough proficiency in some aspects of the assignment for this lesson. Evidence of a several- day effort towards preparing the lesson material. The student is demonstrating progress, however, not necessarily to meeting his/her potential as an independent music-maker.
38-35	Demonstration of some proficiency in multiple aspects of the assignment for this lesson. Evidence of a few-day commitment towards preparing the lesson material. While the student is capable of working towards his/her potential as an independent music-maker, this lesson reflects only some effort towards that goal.
34-30	Demonstration of little or no proficiency of the assignment for this lesson. Evidence of minimal or last-minute practice towards preparing the lesson material. While the student is capable of working towards his/her potential as an independent music-maker, this lesson reflects only some effort towards that goal.
0	Failed to attend lesson

Practice Goals – Additionally, students will be required to keep a practice goal journal each quarter. Truly effective practice can only happen when a musician has specific goals in mind. Accordingly, goals and goal-setting will be a part of the lesson grading procedure. In order to earn the points for the lesson goal journal, it must be submitted by the due date.

Recommended Music Stores

The Shakopee Band Program does business with a variety of music stores in the Twin Cities metro and surrounding areas. Feel free to use any music store you wish.

Eckroth Music 3065 Centre Pointe Dr Roseville, MN 55113 800-220-6849 www.eckroth.com store representative: Daryk Narum (darykn@eckrothmusic.com)	Groth Music 8056 Nicollet Ave S Bloomington, MN 55420 800-969-4772 www.grothmusic.com store representative: Jordan Warefield (jwarfield@grothmusic.com)
Music Mart 1014 N Riverfront Dr Mankato, MN 56001 800-882-2896 www.musicmart.bz store representative: Joe Meidl (joe@musicmart.bz)	Schmitt Music Southdale Square 2906 W 66th St (Corner of 66th and York) Edina, MN 55432 952-920-5080 www.schmittmusic.com store representative: Chris Judd (christopher.judd@schmittmusic.com)

Jazz Band

Jazz Band is an extra-curricular activity open to students by audition. The Shakopee Band Program has adopted the philosophy that jazz ensemble at 6th grade will consist of an “open instrumentation,” meaning that we will include all concert band instruments in the Jazz Band. In all cases, jazz ensemble will be limited in size through auditions. This opportunity is meant to be enrichment for those students who are willing to put in extra time and effort to succeed. Rehearsals will be before school once or twice each week. When the Jazz Band rosters have been configured, I’ll produce a schedule that we’ll follow throughout the year. Please note that the Pearson Jazz Band has a separate performance schedule than the school-day concert band does.

I occasionally send mass email to all students and their families to update everyone on current events in the department and to help keep everyone informed of concert details. Please make sure your contact information is up to date in Infinite Campus and with the main office at school to ensure proper delivery.

Handbook Sign-off

The first assignment of the year is to read this handbook, complete the Parent and Student Confirmation Form, and turn it in by **Friday, September 2, 2016 AT BAND CLASS TIME**. By reviewing the handbook and signing the checklist you are indicating that you have read and understand the contents found within it. If any aspect of this handbook requires further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Nasiatka.

In closing

I recognize that there's a lot of information in this handbook to sift through, and it's all important stuff. However, I don't want to detract from the truly rewarding aspects of participating in Band, of which there are too many to name. The opportunity to participate in a music-making experience, to problem-solve, and to be part of a music group that creates meaningful product that are larger than oneself are truly human experiences that cannot be replicated. PLUS, it's just a LOT of fun!!! I'm delighted and filled with joy that each student in the Pearson Band program has chosen to be here. I look forward to getting to know all of you, and watching you grow as musicians, students, and people over the next year and beyond.

You may access the handbook sign-off form by clicking [here](#).