

Tarkanian Middle School Band



Handbook 2019-2020



Tarkanian Middle School Band
Brad Bradley, Director
Handbook 2019-2020

This handbook is designed to acquaint the band and their parents with the rules and regulations that are to be expected of them during the school year as well as defining the grading procedure used at Tarkanian Middle School. It also presents the organizational procedures that are involved in the band program.

I would suggest that both the student and the parent take time to read and become familiar with following rules, regulations and procedures 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 Mr. Bradley by *Friday, August 16th, 2019* indicating an understanding of the material that is presented in this handbook.**

Here in the Tarkanian Middle School Band program, we have 3 objectives in making our program a quality organization. They are:

Educational – To continue the development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of some of the best musical literature available.

Service – To add color and atmosphere to selected events while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of the school through various performances.

Recreational – To provide all students with an opportunity for a worthwhile use of their leisure time and social interaction.

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 all will be proud to be a part of.

If you ever have a question or concern, please feel free to contact me at any time either through email: bradlbb@nv.ccsd.net, or call me at 799-6801 ext.4040. Thank you for choosing to be a member of the Tarkanian Middle School Band program and we look forward to all the fun and excitement that making music together will bring.

Musically yours,

Brad Bradley, Band Director

How to get ALL information about the band?

We will be utilizing an online website to distribute all of our information. The address is www.charmsoffice.com. Through this site, you can see all rehearsal/performance dates and times, letters from the director, your child's fees, instrument information, etc. Most questions can be answered through this site. We will be asking you to register on the website very soon.

I use this site as a basis for communication on a regular basis! Please make sure you register as soon as possible! 😊

The Bands

BEGINNING BAND is offered to sixth and seventh graders who want to learn a wind 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. These are loaned at the discretion of the director and include the tuba, baritone horn, French horn, bass clarinet, and oboe. There are a limited number of the other instruments (not including flutes, alto saxophones, and percussion kits) available. Students using school instruments should be prepared to take any available instrument. 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 Advanced Band. These skills include reliability, cooperation, good rehearsal and practice habits, plus playing technique. Through these will come a greater appreciation for music. This is a very large group so it is important that students are well behaved. Performances may include the Southern Nevada Band Association Intermediate Band Festival as well as Winter and Spring concerts, basketball games and various other playing opportunities.

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

JAZZ BAND is a before-school class designed to instruct students in the musical aspects of jazz as well as other genres. Students in this band are individually selected by the director after an audition process. Students are selected based upon ability, reliability, citizenship, and needs in terms of instrumentation. The band has many performances throughout the year both on and off campus.

HOW DO I GET A GRADE IN BAND?

Your grade will be given according to the following percentages:

30% - Formative (daily participation, small quizzes)

70% - Summative (weekly tests and performances, and extra rehearsals)

HOW DO I EARN POINTS IN BAND?

1. PARTICIPATION POINTS: 30% of your grade will be based on your daily participation in class on the assigned task for the day. Students will receive 10pts. each day. **You must be in class and participating to earn points.** **A note must be sent in by the parent or guardian if an instrument is in need of repair in order for the student to make up points lost.**

2. TESTING: Any tests that you take, whether they are written or performed, will be worth a part of 70% of your total grade. There will be weekly playing tests. Each major exam may differ in weight according to the content. Grades are pass/fail, however, students have until the end of the quarter to pass all tests. Any tests not passed will result in a 0%/F. **Students will not be successful without home practice. Please work that in to your schedule.**

3. EXTRA REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES: It is expected that by being in the band you must give up some of your out-of-school time (afternoons, evenings, and/or Saturdays) to participate in various musical programs. **Since every member of a band is a key performer and has a vital role, the success of the entire organization depends upon everyone attending each rehearsal and concert.** These will be worth a part of 70% of your total grade.

4. EXTRA CREDIT: Students can earn extra credit in the following ways:

- Attending any non-mandatory musical performance
- Completing practice logs (Which will be provided in the band room)

PERFORMANCES

Due to the nature of a concert or performance, they cannot be made up if you are absent. Therefore, students will be expected to be at all concerts unless cleared by the director ahead of time.

WHAT IF I CANNOT OR DO NOT ATTEND A CONCERT?

If you are absent from a concert, no points will be earned regardless of the reason for the absence (excluding true emergencies). However, if the absence has been excused with the director ahead of time, then the points can be made up. Absences for a concert **MUST** be cleared with Mr. Bradley by way of a note and/or phone call as soon as an absence is anticipated so that arrangements can be made with the group to cover the part being missed. **However, this communication will NOT automatically excuse you from a concert** nor allow you to make up the points missed. Mr. Bradley must approve the absence before any make up assignment will be allowed.

Excuses such as not having a ride, having to baby-sit, having to work or not having the correct uniform WILL NOT be considered acceptable excuses for missing a concert and points will not be allowed to be made up for excuses of these types.

Advanced Band only: Because the band program here at Tarkanian Middle School is so large, membership in the Advanced Band is all the more special. This is one of the major performing groups at Tarkanian Middle School. **Therefore, any unexcused absence from a performance (excluding emergencies) may mean automatic removal from the Advanced Band and the student will be placed in the Intermediate Band.** This is an *elite* organization and you have worked very hard to get where you are. Every member is crucial to the band's success.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

When everyone follows the rules, the group will make good progress, so this will be very simple:

- Always display good manners.
- Students are expected to respect all areas of practice and performance. Any students who destroy property will be dealt with on the administrative level.
- No food, drink, or gum of any kind is allowed during rehearsals, lessons and concerts, and at any time in the school.
- Take care of your instrument and keep it in good working condition.
- Keep rehearsal area neat.
- Come prepared to all rehearsals and lessons with instrument, music accessories, and a pencil.
- Make-up all missed work.
- Off-limit areas include the directors' desk, file cabinets and dry-erase boards, as well as any equipment and instruments that do not belong to you.
- There is no horseplay at any time.

Failure to follow the classroom rules will result in a low citizenship grade, detentions, or even being dropped from the class. The directors will make every attempt to keep parents informed if there is a behavior concern.

WHAT IF I DON'T FOLLOW THE RULES?

Each time that you must be reminded of one of the classroom rules, 2 points will be deducted from your daily point total. The following will also take place:

1. **Warning**
2. **Second warning and conference with the director after class**
3. **Instrument is put away** and you will sit away from the students and will be assigned written work to be completed and handed in. A discipline essay will be assigned and it must be signed by the parent and returned the following day. Parent will be notified of the discipline essay. Points will be lost for each day it is not returned.
4. **Parent Involvement**
 - a. If a student gets to the 3rd warning **twice**, a phone call will be made to the parent and the problem discussed.
 - b. When the student reaches the 3rd warning for the **third** time, a parent conference will be required as stronger methods may be required.

SEVERITY CLAUSE: If a student disrupts the class to the extent that the educational process is stopped, the student will be immediately sent to the Dean regardless of previous warnings or actions.

CELL PHONE USAGE

Although cell phones/tablets are not to be used during class, there are a few apps the students must have in order for practice. Students will be expected to have daily access to 1) a METRONOME and 2) a TUNER on their phone/tablet/computer etc. These can also be purchased at any music store. The apps are free. (All tests will be performed with a metronome, so access is vital to your students' success.)

INSTRUMENT SECURITY

Due to the large number of students in the band classes, band lockers may be shared. For your protection, **please keep a copy of the make, model, and serial number of your instrument at home.** We will strive to keep records here at school as well. Instrument cases should be labeled with your name because we often have cases that look the same.

TARDY RULES AND CONSEQUENCES

Promptness and being ready to perform are important signs of musical maturity and are goals that students should strive towards. Everything to get ready for class (i.e. drinks of water, talking, sharpening pencils, getting music, etc.) should be done before the bell rings so that valuable class time is not wasted. Tardies will result in loss of daily participation points.

BAND FEE

A \$30 band fee will be assessed to ALL Tarkanian Band students. With that fee your child will receive:

BEGINNING/INTERMEDIATE BAND: Band T-Shirt, Band Book, Black Binder.

ADVANCED BANDS: Band T-Shirt, Tuxedo Shirt, Black Binder

All school instrument fees are separate and will be addressed for those students using those instruments.

UNIFORMS

As a member of the Tarkanian 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.

BEGINNING BAND:

“Tarkanian Band” T-Shirt

Students must also wear Black Pants (or skirts), Black socks, Black Shoes (black tennis shoes okay)

CONCERT BAND:

“Tarkanian Band” T-Shirt

Students must also wear Black Pants (or skirts), Black socks, Black Shoes (black tennis shoes okay)

SYMPHONIC BAND

Black Tuxedo Shirt***

“Tarkanian Band” T-Shirt

*****Students must also wear Black Dress Pants or Skirts (Shorts, warm-ups, sweats or jeans are not permitted). Black socks and Black Dress Shoes are a part of this uniform. (No tennis shoes).** Anyone out of proper uniform will lose 30% of their performance grade and may be asked not to perform. *We want to look as professional as possible.*

This uniform is mandatory and adds to the camaraderie so essential to the success of our band program.

*****VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION *****

It is strongly recommended that students clearly label the outside of their cases with an identification tag or other appropriate material. The Clark County School District and Tarkanian Middle School will not be responsible for loss or damage of a privately owned instrument. Privately owned instruments can be inexpensively insured through a homeowners or renters insurance policy.

Tarkanian MS Band 2019-2020 Calendar

Event	Date	Start / Call Time	Location
Fall Concert (S, J)	10/9/19	6:00pm/5:30pm	Tarkanian MS
Winter Concert ***	12/16/19	6:00pm/5:20pm	Tarkanian MS
Pre-Festival (S)	TBD February	6:00pm/5:30pm	Desert Oasis HS
CCSD Advanced Band Festival (S)	TBD (3/4-3/6/20)	TBD	UNLV Ham Hall
SNBA Intermediate Band Festival (C)	TBD (3/24- 3/25/20)	TBD	Rancho HS
CCSD Jazz Band Festival (J)	TBD (4/22- 4/23/20)	TBD	Chaparral HS
Spring Concert ***	5/12/20	6:00pm/5:30pm	Tarkanian MS
Spring Trip	TBD	TBD	TBD

(B) = Mandatory for **Beginning Band ONLY**

(C) = Mandatory for **Intermediate Band ONLY**

(S) = Mandatory for **Advanced Band ONLY**

(J) = Mandatory for **Jazz Band ONLY**

******* = Mandatory for **ALL BANDS**

Additional performances may be added throughout the school year. Details will be sent home with students well in advance of all events. Please remember to contact Mr. Bradley ASAP at bradlbb@nv.ccsd.net if you know your student will be unable to attend any of these mandatory events.