



Sunset Ridge School

35707 N. 33rd Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85086 - (623) 445-7800
Dr. Caryn Kunz - www.ssrhawkbands.weebly.com

Sunset Ridge 7th and 8th Grade Hawk Bands Handbook 2013-2014

Dear Band Parents and Students,

Welcome to a new school year and a new band season. I am so excited to have all of you in band and cannot wait to have an excellent year together. During this school year, we will work together to further your musical development. After all, choosing to develop these skills is proven to yield better grades, higher test scores, better math comprehension, and fosters a sense of teamwork.

As I am new to Sunset Ridge, I'd like to tell you a little bit about myself. This is my fourth year in the Deer Valley Unified School District. I come to Sunset Ridge from Village Meadows as the music, band, and choir director. Prior to Village Meadows Elementary, I was split between Mountain Shadows and Bellair Elementaries as the general music and choir director. I am extremely excited to move into the band director position at Sunset Ridge, as my doctorate is in instrumental performance (oboe specifically). During the fall season, I will be on staff with the Boulder Creek High School Marching Band, working with the woodwind sections. I am looking forward to a fun year with many new experiences as we learn together.

The following is a handbook that holds information deemed important to the band program. We will go over these pages briefly in class, but it is important that both parent and student know the guidelines. The last page must be completed, signed, detached, and returned by _____. This will be the first graded assignment in band! Please keep the rest of the handbook for your personal reference. A copy will also be made available on our band website: www.ssrhawkbands.weebly.com. This website will be a great resource as the year progresses. On our site, you can find calendars, interactive websites, handouts/important materials, AZ State Standards, tax credit information, and so much more!

I will be on campus on **Tuesday, August 13 from 5-5:45pm for an informal meet the teacher**. This is the same night as 7th and 8th grade meet the teacher night (which is 6-7:30pm). Should you want to stop in and ask any questions or simply say "hi," please swing by between 5-5:45pm. If you have any questions, please e-mail me at caryn.kunz@dvusd.org.

Looking forward to a fabulous year,

Dr. Caryn Kunz
Director of Bands
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Course Description

7th/8th Grade Hawk Band:

These courses are specifically designed for students that have played preferably for more than one school year. The main goal is to learn more advanced instrumental techniques and theory on their instruments. This course will include guidance in proper playing and practicing techniques, musical styles, and music theory. These courses also require more performances than the younger ensembles. At this level, students have developed into higher-level literature and will have more performance opportunities to showcase their accomplishments. Some traveling will be required for performances. This course aligns with state and district standards.

Course Objectives

Performance Skills:

Students will be able to:

- Describe/demonstrate areas such as (including instrument specifics): embouchure, assembly and care, hand position, posture, alternate fingerings, proper tone production, technique, intonation, articulation, breath control/support.
- Correctly play music learned in class.
- Correctly play music on sight (sight reading).
- Follow Proper warm-up and practice procedures.
- Follow all school and classroom rules and procedures.

Musical Knowledge and Organization:

Students will:

- Continue to develop and maintain knowledge of harmony, melody, rhythm, timbre, styles, form, phrasing, dynamics, terms and symbols used in music.
- Be prepared for class daily with all necessary materials; Participate actively in class.

Expectations and Procedures

Enter the room quietly, set up quickly, begin individual warm-up. This process should not take more than 5 minutes!
Check out the daily objective/goal upon entering.

Do's:

Respect all people and equipment in room
Play your best all of the time
Bring all materials to class
-Includes instrument, music, supplies, pencil, eraser,
3 ring binder with sheet protectors/notebook paper
Give 110%!
Have a positive attitude
Label everything with name
Practice (the more, the better!)

Do Not's:

Candy, Gum, Food, Drinks
(water bottles allowed)
Yell, shout, scream.
Touch items that are not yours
Leave seat or room without permission
Wear hats inside the building

Consequences:

Praise
Recognition

Warning
Detention
Referral or more...

Attendance and Performances

Attendance is required at ALL performances and scheduled rehearsals (calendar available online). Concerts are an essential part of the band learning process. These performances highlight what has been learned in the classroom and a missed performance cannot be made up. As a result, attendance is required. Excused absences include: personal illness, family emergency (let teacher know ASAP via e-mail or telephone). Students who miss a performance or scheduled rehearsal will be assigned an essay of 2-3 pages in length on a given topic and will



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present their findings to the class. Topics could include instrument history, performers on their instrument, or a selected composer. Essays are to be double spaced, font size 12.

There will be additional performances and festivals for selected students throughout the school year (All-State, Honor Band, Solo & Ensemble). I will bring those to your attention as soon as I get the information. I will post on our website as well as send information home as needed.

Performance Attire

Both ladies and gentleman will wear:

- White dress shirt - Pressed/ironed please! NO t-shirts, sleeveless, tank, or spaghetti strap tops allowed.
- Black dress pants/skirts - Skirts must be longer than knee length. NO jeans, cargo type pants.
- Black dress shoes - NO tennis shoes, sneakers, or flip flops
- Black socks/belt - Shirts should be tucked in and socks/belt should match (many ladies shirts are tailored to not be tucked in... use your best judgment)
- ALL performance attire must fit within the Sunset Ridge School dress code!
- Band Polo - I will be looking into ordering band polos for more casual performances and/or field trips. More info to follow only if we go this route.

Grades

Grades are given on a point system. This system is meant to encourage improvement and foster responsibility. Please check Power Schools for your child's most current grade. Allow up to 2 weeks for writing assignments to be inputted. Report cards are issued each quarter.

<u>Grading Category</u>	<u>Approximate # of Points (subject to change)</u>
Rehearsals (daily grade)	90-100 points per quarter - Students must attend band, be prepared, participate fully to get total points possible. <u>2 points per class</u> 2 points - Meets/Exceeds Objective 1 point - Approaches/Meets Objective 0 - Falls Far Below Objective
Playing Exams	15-20 points each (5-10 per quarter)
Assignments	20 points per quarter (approx. 5 each) Most are done in class.
Concert Attendance	40 points per concert Each student plays an important role in a performance. One missing student can detract from a performance for all.

Failing Grades

If a student maintains a failing grade for at least 2 consecutive grading periods (progress report or report card), it will be recommended the student be dropped from the band program. Given the effort, all students should be able to receive a passing grade.

Extra Credit/Make-Up Work/Retakes

Extra credit may be earned (up to 15 points per quarter) through the following activities:

- Private Lesson Study - 10 points for weekly lessons. Form made available and must be signed by the private lesson teacher 2 weeks prior to the end of a grading quarter.
- Attend Outside Concert - 5 points each. Prompt found on our band website. Student must write 1-2 page reflection of a concert they attended (instrumental only).
- Participation in Extra Music Activity - 5 points each. This includes other instrumental ensembles and performances outside of the Sunset Ridge community. These experiences are extremely rewarding and worthy of extra points.
- Coaching a beginner - 5 points per session. This requires finding a like instrument beginner (5th grade) and agreeing to stay after school at a scheduled time to help coach them on their instrument.

Make-up work

- This is the student's responsibility to seek out missing assignments from the teacher. If the student does not obtain missed work, the assignment will be turned into a zero at the end of the quarter.



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- Student has up until 2 weeks prior to the end of a grading quarter to return missed work due to an absence.

Retakes

- Any student that does not display mastery (grade of A-/E- or higher) and would like to retake a test, either written or playing, they must schedule a time with the teacher. During the fall quarter, I will be available most Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from 3:30-4:30 for scheduled retakes.

Homework

Students are expected to practice their instruments at their homes at least 120 minutes per week (30 minutes/4 times per week). This properly prepares them for class and helps them improve on their instruments. Practice logs may be used to track their practice sessions (more information to follow if used).

Instrument Rental/Repair

There are many companies in town from which you may rent your instrument. We will be having an instrument rental night hosted by Allegro Music on Tuesday, August 20 at 5:30pm. We will begin in the band room at 5:30pm for a short meet the teacher/curriculum introduction. We will then move to the multi-purpose room for the actual rental presentation, which begins at 6pm. Rental Companies:

- [Allegro Music](http://www.allegromusicaz.com) - www.allegromusicaz.com - 8385 W Deer Valley Rd, Suite 106, Peoria, AZ 85382 - (623)215-2214
- [Music & Arts](http://www.musicarts.com) - www.musicarts.com - 5350 W Bell Road Suite 132, Glendale, AZ 85308 - (602)504-0206
- [Milano Music](http://www.milanomusic.com) - www.milanomusic.com - 38 W Main St, Mesa, AZ 85201 - (480)827-1111
- [Boogie Music](http://www.boogiemusic.com) - www.boogiemusic.com - 3562 W Cactus Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85029 - (602)978-6688

Proper instrument care and maintenance will keep repairs minimal. If your instrument does need repair and is a rental, please take it to the shop from which you rent. Many times you'll find they have an interim instrument that they will loan you during repairs. Check with your rental company! If your instrument is owned, check with Dr. Kunz to see if there is an extra school instrument that may be borrowed while yours is being fixed. Recommended repair shops:

- [Allegro Music](http://www.allegromusicaz.com) - www.allegromusicaz.com - 8385 W Deer Valley Rd, Suite 106, Peoria, AZ 85382 - (623)215-2214
- [Plumb Perfect Repair](http://www.plumbperfectrepair.com) - www.plumbperfectrepair.com - 14633 N 32nd Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85053 - (623)375-3920

Trips/Travel

There will be times that we travel as a group. During these trips, students are expected to follow all school and class rules. Permission slips, itinerary, and any pertinent information will be sent home well before any even that requires travel.

Contact

I am at Sunset Ridge daily. The best, and fastest, way to reach me is through e-mail: caryn.kunz@dvusd.org. I am happy to schedule any meetings, if necessary. I will be communicating with parents predominantly through e-mails and our website as the year progresses. Do not hesitate to contact me with any comments, concerns, or questions. I am here for you and your students and am quite amiable with communication.



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Complete and return ONLY this page! To be returned to Dr. Kunz by _____.
Contact Information

Name of Student: _____ Band Class (grade)/Instrument: _____

Name(s) of Parent/Guardian(s): _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail(s): _____

Additional Ways of Contact (secondary e-mail/work phone): _____

Photo/Internet Waiver

Photos and videos are periodically taken at concerts and events throughout the year. Only with your permission will pictures and/or videos be shared on our school or band webpage. I will not post full names with any photo or video (typically I do not use names at all). This is at your discretion. If you DO NOT want your child's photo to be used in any way, please indicate by writing the following sentence on the line provided and then sign your name:

"I **do not** want photographs of my child to be featured on the Sunset Ridge School /Band websites."

Signed: _____

Student/Parent Agreement

I, (student's name printed) _____, have read and fully understand the band handbook. I agree to follow all rules and guidelines.

Student Signature

I have read the band handbook with my child and will do my best to encourage and support my child in their musical endeavors.

Parent Signature