

Student Name:

Band:

ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY



2025-2026

BAND HANDBOOK

WELCOME TO THE ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY BAND!

I am so excited that you have chosen to be a part of this incredible group this year. Playing an instrument in the school band is a great opportunity! You get to experience being a part of a team, learn how to read music and play an instrument, and develop self-confidence. Being in band opens up so many other great opportunities and allows you to meet a ton of interesting people. Most incredibly, though, you get to be a MUSICIAN! You will create and experience amazing things in this class!

This handbook contains important information about participating in band at ATA. Since band is much different than any other class, it is important that you understand what is expected from you and what you can expect as a member of the band. **Students and parents must both read the handbook and then sign and return the applicable forms at the end.**

If you have any questions or need to contact me for any reason, below is my contact information. Email is the best way to reach me, but you are also welcome to call me on my work phone and leave a message.

MJ Faris - Director of Bands & Choir

Email: faris_mj@4j.lane.edu

Call: 541-790-5764

I hope that you enjoy this year and feel the rewards of participating in band at ATA!

*****Students: Keep this handbook in your band folder!*****

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Required Supplies	3
Instrument	4
Cleaning Kit and Accessories	7
“Measures of Success” Book	8
Optional Accessories	8
Concert Uniform	9
Grading	11
Concerts	11
Concert Make-ups	12
Ensemble Skills	13
“Record Yourself” Project	14
At-Home Practice	15
Private Lessons	15
Handbook Acknowledgement Form	16
School Instrument Check-Out Form	17
Assistance Request and Scholarship Donation Form	18

REQUIRED SUPPLIES

Since band is a performance-oriented class, students will need to come prepared with some extra items. Students need the following for class:

- An instrument (in working order)
- Cleaning supplies and accessories (instrument-specific details below)
- A “Measures of Success” technique book (book 1 for Beginning Band, book 2 for Intermediate & Advanced Bands)
- Sharpened pencil with eraser (no pens, highlighters, or markers)
- Concert uniform (details below)

No student will be denied participation in the ATA Band due to financial need. If you are unable to obtain any of the required supplies due to financial hardship, please turn in the Assistance Request Form at the end of this handbook and/or email the band director to discuss how we may assist you. If you would like to donate to the ATA Band & Choir Scholarship fund to enable students with financial need to access band and choir, please indicate so on the form on the last page of this handbook.

The easiest way to rent or purchase an instrument, cleaning supplies, and the technique book is by coming to our **Back to Band Night**. Representatives from Beacock Music will be present. Students are welcome to find their required instrument and supplies elsewhere, if they choose.

Here is a list of instrument-specific supplies that band students need:

Flute: cleaning kit, Measures of Success

Clarinet: cleaning kit, Measures of Success, cork grease, box of B flat clarinet reeds 2.5 strength (or bass clarinet reeds if playing bass clarinet)

Saxophone: cleaning kit, Measures of Success, cork grease, box of alto, tenor, or bari sax reeds 2.5 strength, neck strap

Oboe: cleaning kit, Measures of Success, cork grease, oboe reeds (at least two), a small cup to soak reeds in

Bassoon: cleaning kit, Measures of Success, cork grease, bassoon reeds (at least two), a small cup to soak reeds in

Trumpet: cleaning kit, Measures of Success, valve oil

Trombone: cleaning kit, Measures of Success, slide grease

Euphonium and Tuba: cleaning kit, Measures of Success, valve oil (if your student is sharing a school instrument I would suggest thinking about purchasing a mouthpiece so they don't have to clean it before and after every rehearsal)

Percussion: Measures of Success, practice pad, drumsticks

Other helpful supplies that are recommended but not required: Music stand for home, metronome, tuner, reed holder/case

All of the above supplies can be found at most music stores or ordered online.

Cleaning kits, band folders (with method books inside), valve oil, reeds, slide grease, and instruments can travel between home and the band room. Things to leave at home: purchased folding music stands, practice pads/drum sticks/mallets/percussion kits (percussion only), metronome, tuner

INSTRUMENT

Most students' first question when joining band is "Can I play the saxophone/drums??" One thing is for sure, playing instruments is fun—not just the ones most folks are familiar with! Most students have never had the opportunity to experience all the band instruments. We will decide which instruments each student will play based on ensemble size, student preference, and instrumentation needs. This usually takes place within the first few weeks of the school year. I ask that students and families be open to trying out new or unfamiliar instruments—you may just find your dream instrument!

Please wait to acquire an instrument until we have decided as a band who is playing what instrument. If you have further questions about the instrumentation process, don't hesitate to reach out! Typical Band instruments include:

- Flute
- Oboe (experience on clarinet required)
- Clarinet
- Bass clarinet (experience on clarinet required)
- Alto saxophone
- Tenor saxophone
- Baritone saxophone (experience on alto or tenor saxophone required)
- Bassoon (experience on oboe, clarinet, or saxophone required)
- French Horn (experience on trumpet required)
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Euphonium
- Tuba
- Percussion (mallets, snare, bass drum, and other percussion instruments. A secondary wind instrument may be assigned in addition to percussion)

There are two quality music stores in the area that specialize in selling and renting good quality instruments. They also sell accessories and repair damaged instruments:

Beacock Music
791 W. 8th Ave.
beacockmusic.com

Eugene Music
1840 Willamette St. #100
euenemusiconline.com

Percussion students may also be asked to play a secondary wind instrument which can be rented from a local music shop or borrowed from the school.

When providing your child with an instrument, you have the option of renting from a local music shop, buying, or renting a school instrument. The cost of renting an instrument from a music store is generally about \$150-\$300 for a year, depending on the instrument. The cost of buying an instrument is much more, but the instrument should last for many years, and can potentially be resold or traded in for a different instrument in the future. Please wait to purchase your own instrument until class instrumentation has been established by the band director. ATA does have a limited amount of school-owned instruments that can be used if renting or buying does not work for your family. There is a \$50 instrument use fee for school-owned instruments. Please consider renting from a local music store before requesting a school-owned instrument—this helps ensure that those who need school instruments the most will be able to do so.

When looking for an instrument to rent or purchase, please remember that a poor quality instrument can be very difficult to play and can really discourage a student from continuing. They also tend to break more easily and many repair shops will often not work on them. If you see a deal on an instrument that seems too good to be true, it usually is. If you have any questions about the quality of an instrument, please don't hesitate to ask the band director or a local music store for advice.

If you decide to purchase a new instrument, avoid buying from discount stores like Wal-Mart or Target. Their instruments are poorly constructed and many repair shops will refuse to work on them. There are a few reputable internet stores that specialize in music instruments and carry excellent products (such as www.wwwbw.com or www.interstatemusic.com), but some of their cheapest instruments are poor quality, so you will still want to be cautious. Poorly made/damaged/cheap instruments can cause significant challenges for a young musician. You might consider purchasing from Beacock Music; their instruments are good quality and come with the care and support of a local music store.

You can find excellent deals (especially at the beginning of the year) on used instruments, but you should be aware that an instrument can look great and still require costly repairs. Older woodwind instruments, especially, will often need to have all of their pads replaced before they are even playable. If you find a used instrument that you are considering purchasing, I would suggest having a repair shop check out the instrument first. They can give an honest assessment as to the condition of the instrument.

There are a limited number of school instruments available with priority given to students who cannot afford an instrument otherwise. If you have financial difficulties that prevent you from being able to rent or purchase an instrument or other required supplies, *please detach and return the Assistance Request Form at the end of this handbook.*

In order for a student to rent a school instrument, they must 1) fill out and return the Instrument Check-Out Form (attached at the end of this handbook) and 2) submit a rental fee of \$50 to the front office. This fee ensures that we have the funds to repair instruments.

CLEANING KIT AND ACCESSORIES

In addition to the instrument, it is very important that each student has their own cleaning kit and other accessories. These are relatively inexpensive and are essential for keeping an instrument in good working order. Different instruments have their own unique accessories, so make sure that you are getting the correct items. Students will not be able to play their instruments until they have a cleaning kit. Please detach and return the Assistance Request Form at the end of this handbook if there are financial difficulties that prevent you from purchasing the required supplies.

Below is a list of items that each instrument should have. Music stores will often have a cleaning supply kit that will include all of these items:

Flute: Cleaning rod; cotton handkerchief (torn piece of a cotton sheet works great)

Clarinet & Saxophone: Cleaning swab; cork grease; mouthpiece brush; reeds (**students should have at least 3 functional reeds at all times** - ideally Juno or Rico Royal brand - size 2.5 for beginning band and size 2.5 or 3 for intermediate and Advanced Band). Please avoid the long fuzzy cleaning rods—they can get caught in pads and damage the instrument.

Trumpet, Baritone/Euphonium, French Horn, & Tuba: Valve oil; tuning slide grease; mouthpiece brush; cleaning snake; cotton handkerchief

Trombone: Yamaha slide lube; tuning slide grease; mouthpiece brush; cleaning snake; cotton handkerchief

Percussion: Practice pad and drum sticks, mallet/percussion kit (bells and mallets) if student doesn't have access to a piano at home

“MEASURES OF SUCCESS” BOOK

“Measures of Success” is the book that we will use all year. All Beginning Band students will need book 1 for their specific instrument, and Intermediate/Advanced Band students will need book 1 and book 2. It is important that students have their own book so that they can write in it and take it home. Students may purchase a book at our Instrument Rental Night, at a local music store, or online. Students will not be able to play their instrument until they have their own book. Please detach and return the Assistance Request

Form at the end of this handbook if there are financial difficulties that prevent you from purchasing the book.

OPTIONAL, BUT HIGHLY RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

It is highly recommended for band students to own a music stand and a firm stool or chair without arms for at-home practice. Correct posture is essential for playing an instrument. It is very difficult to achieve good posture when the music is laying on a bed or table. A [wire folding stand](#) can be as cheap as \$10. [Manhasset](#) makes excellent quality stands if you want something a little more sturdy.

A metronome and a tuner are necessary tools for musicians. A metronome keeps a steady beat for you so that you keep a constant speed while playing. A tuner helps you to make sure your pitch is accurate. You can find free metronome and tuning apps online, but many students choose to purchase a device that has a dedicated microphone and is easily portable. The [Korg tm-60](#) is one excellent and affordable device that includes both a metronome and tuner.

CONCERT UNIFORM

A concert is a special occasion and students' clothing should reflect that—look great, sound great! Wearing the same clothes as other students enhances the whole event, creates fewer distractions for the audience, and is expected from students in the ATA Band.

Concert clothing does not need to be expensive. Many students will purchase their clothing at a secondhand store. Please detach and return the Assistance

Request Form at the end of this handbook if there are financial difficulties that prevent you from purchasing a concert uniform.

The following explains how students should dress for performances.

Sounding our best is always our number one goal in a concert, but looking formal and uniform helps create a fantastic experience for both musicians and the audience. Our dress code is meant to be easy to shop for, inexpensive, and useful for functions outside of school, as well. Band students should wear **concert black**:

- A Black collared shirt (long or short sleeve, no logos) *and* black slacks (no jeans please)
- OR-
- A black dress
- OR-
- A black skirt with nice black shirt/blouse
- Black close toed dress shoes
- Black socks or black leggings

Please do not wear jeans, t-shirt, hoodies, or sneakers. Get dressed up! Wear your nicest clothes! All clothes must be school appropriate.

Band uniform attire will be strictly enforced. Students will be required to wear the band uniform at all public appearances of the ATA Band unless otherwise specified. The following is not acceptable and may result in the student not performing with the ensemble and receiving no credit for attending the concert:

- T-shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, or shirts with logos.
- Black jeans, wind pants, track pants, sweat pants, stretch pants, leggings, jeggings, yoga pants, or shorts.
- Shoes which are not black, sneakers of any kind, sandals, flip-flops, or any other shoes other than black close toed dress style shoes.

All attire must be school appropriate. Students should be especially mindful that they may be seated and elevated on a stage during a performance, so consideration should be given to dress/skirt length while sitting. You should feel fancy and confident in your concert attire.

GRADING

While band is not necessarily an “easy A” class, it is certainly not hard to earn an A. There is some amount of dedication and work required, but it is fun and the rewards are totally worth it! Students will receive a letter grade in their report card based on the following scale:

A=90-100% B=80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% NP=less than 60%

Grades will be given based on the following:

- Concert participation
- In-class assignments and assessments
- “Record Yourself” projects
- Winter/spring break practice logs

CONCERTS

Performances are one of the most fun parts of playing in band! They are a great opportunity to celebrate all of the hard work and learning that has taken place. This is when students get to shine as a MUSICIAN.

Please allow plenty of time when attending concerts. Students will lose points on their performance grade if they show up later than the required arrival time. Students will be required to arrive well before the concert and are expected to stay for the entire concert as a sign of unity and support of the entire music

program. More details regarding expectations will be given out as the dates approach.

Please put these dates below on your calendar and plan on attending. There may be additional performances scheduled throughout the year. Any changes will be communicated as soon as possible:

September

- Monday, September 15th 5:30-6:30pm –Back to Band Night @ATA Band Room

October

- Sunday, October 5th – All-state audition window closes
- Wednesday, October 29th 6:30pm – Papa's Pizza Band Fundraiser: Spooky Edition! (Intermediate & Advanced Band) W. 11th Location
- Friday, October 31st -- Perform with the Churchill Pep Band! (Intermediate and Advanced Bands, extra credit)

November

- Thursday, November 20th 7pm -- Churchill Band Concert @Churchill Auditorium (extra credit)

December

- Tuesday, December 16th 7pm -- Churchill Winter Spectacular (Band and Choir concert) @Churchill Auditorium (extra credit)
- Wednesday, December 17th 6pm -- Holiday Caroling (Choir and select students)

January

- January 15th-18th – OMEA All-State Festival (select students) @The Hult Center
- Tuesday, January 27th 7pm - 1st Semester Band & Choir Concert (All Bands and Choir)

February

- February or March TBD – Sing at the Hult Center with the Eugene Concert Choir (TBD)

March

- Thursday, March 19th 7pm -- Churchill Band Concert @Churchill Auditorium (extra credit)

April

- Thursday, April 9th – Shasta Band Festival at Shasta Middle School (Advanced Band)

May

- May TBD – Walking field trips to Adams and Cesar Chavez Elementaries
- Thursday, May 28th -- Churchill Band Concert @Churchill Auditorium (extra credit)

June

- Tuesday, June 2nd – 2nd Semester Band & Choir Concert (All Bands and Choir)
- Thursday, June 4th 7pm -- Churchill Jazz Cafe Night @Churchill (extra credit)
- Thursday, June 11th 1:30-3:30 – Play for 8th Grade Promotion (Intermediate and Advanced Band 7th graders and select Beginning Band members)

CONCERT MAKE-UPS

A concert is a very special interaction between performer and listener that cannot be duplicated or re-created in any other setting. Sometimes things happen that make it impossible for a student to attend a concert. Missed concerts significantly affect a students' grade, but students may make up for a concert that was missed only for emergency reasons (such as the student's own illness or a death in the family).

Because each individual has an important part in a performance, **it is very important that a parent contact the director immediately if a student will not be able to be at a performance.**

In order to restore the student's grade for a missed performance, make-ups must be completed prior to the end of the term. A missed performance may be made by performing a solo or with a small ensemble. The band director will work with the student to choose the piece(s) to perform and select the audience (it may be for a group of friends, a different class, or just the band director).

ENSEMBLE SKILLS

Students will be expected to demonstrate proficient Ensemble Skills. This includes coming to class prepared with an instrument and all required supplies, participation in class activities, and proper etiquette during class.

ATA band students are excellent musicians. Part of being a great musician includes knowing how to behave in different settings.

Classroom Etiquette – How to behave in the classroom

1. Show respect for yourself, your peers, and the teacher
2. Be prepared on time with everything required for the class
3. Take care of the school's music, instruments, equipment, and facilities, and the belongings of others
4. Food, drinks, and gum are not allowed in the band room and practice/storage rooms

Rehearsal Etiquette – How to behave during band practice

1. Be in your assigned seat with instrument, music, and pencil before class begins
2. Always use correct posture
3. Be the first one to stop when the conductor cuts off and the first one ready to play
4. Listen when the director stops the group or is working with another section
5. Look to the front of the room and listen to the back

Performance Etiquette – How to behave during a band performance

1. Concentrate your attention fully on the music
2. Do not talk or listen to audience members while music is being played
3. Turn off cell phones or leave them at home
4. Applaud courteously at the end of the selection; whistling and yelling are not appropriate at formal concerts, but a standing ovation is an appropriate acknowledgment for a particularly exceptional performance
5. Avoid making motions or noises that will distract other audience members or the performers; do not enter or exit the auditorium while music is being played or allow little children to run around close to the performers
6. Listen for the beauty in the music, not the mistakes; tell the performers what you enjoyed about their performance

“RECORD YOURSELF” PROJECT

Students will choose a tune that we are currently playing in band and record themselves playing it. This recording will be uploaded to canvas as a “checkpoint” for both the student and for the director to assess progress and be able to set goals for the rest of the semester. This assignment makes up the majority of students' mid-term grade.

AT-HOME PRACTICE

Good musicians learn how to play individually on a regular basis. Playing at home is a fundamental and irreplaceable factor of progress and success in band. You can help by establishing a set time and place to play so that it becomes routine. **Student musicians are expected to practice a minimum of 80 minutes per week, or four (4) twenty-minute practice sessions per week.** This includes practicing over winter and spring breaks!

Instrumental practice is a skill. A high-quality practice session typically consists of:

- Warming up

- Embouchure, articulation, and rhythmic exercises
- Scales
- Listening to assigned music
- Practicing specific, challenging passages of music from assigned music
- Playing for fun

Some students have unique circumstances that make it challenging to play at home. One option for these students is to play in the band room before or after school. Some students who have difficulty transporting a large instrument to and from school borrow an additional instrument that they can leave at home. Talk to the director if your circumstances will make it difficult to play at home, and the director can help come up with a solution.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are an extremely valuable experience and a key factor in a band student's success on their instrument. They are highly recommended! If you are interested in lessons, please contact the band director. Local music stores such as Beacock and Eugene Music also tend to offer private lessons.

Cost can be a prohibitive factor for many families in obtaining private lessons. Be sure to ask around for instructors who offer sliding payment scales or income-based scholarships.

HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Both the students and parents must read, understand, and sign the ATA Band Handbook. After doing so, return THIS PAGE ONLY. Include comments or questions to Faris on the bottom of this page.

I certify that I have read the Arts and Technology Academy Band Handbook in full and agree to abide by its policies.

Student Name (please print) _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Name (please print) _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Student T-Shirt Size (check one):

- ☐ Adult S
- ☐ Adult M
- ☐ Adult L
- ☐ Adult XL
- ☐ Adult XXL
- ☐ Adult XXXL

Instrument plans (check one):

- ☐ Renting from a local music store
- ☐ Renting a school instrument
- ☐ We own our own instrument

Please mark the volunteer box if you are interested in helping out with ATA Band events:

- ☐ **I am interested in volunteering to support ATA Band concerts, fundraisers, and/or field trips. The best email address to contact me is** _____

INSTRUMENT CHECK-OUT FORM

Dear ATA Band Families,

Please fill out and return the following form and review the information regarding your student's use of a school-owned instrument. Note that families are responsible for any damage done to school instruments or materials, including sheet music and Band Method Book. A check for \$50 is required to ensure there are adequate funds for all instrument maintenance and repairs. **Instruments will not be sent home until this form is completed and returned with a check for the \$50 instrument fee.** Instrument number can be found written on the instrument case (if you do not have the instrument available, please leave blank). **Please turn in your fee to the front office.** Checks can be made payable to: Arts and Technology Academy Band Program

For questions or concerns feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,

MJ Faris - Director of Bands | Arts and Technology Academy
faris_mj@4j.lane.edu

Instrument Use Agreement

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ Instrument #: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____

****I have read and do acknowledge the maintenance and care guidelines and policies regarding the use of a school owned instrument.***

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

School-Owned Instrument Policies

- It is the student's responsibility to maintain and care for their checked-out instrument.
- The teacher will update and maintain a record of the instrument's condition and serial number upon checking out the instrument.
- Any repairs needed at check out must be brought to the teacher's attention ASAP. It is assumed that all instruments being checked out are in good working order.
- Any damage that is incurred to the instrument after check out must be brought to the teacher's attention ASAP. Some repairs can be done at school but most will be handled off campus.
- Only the student who is entrusted with the instrument should be playing or performing with it.

Instrument Maintenance and Care Guidelines

- Instruments are expensive and precious pieces of equipment and should be treated as such.
- Always exhibit proper carriage when carrying the instrument case.
- The instrument must be stored in its case when it is not in use.
- Instruments should be kept in a dry and secure area of the home or building.
- Never leave or store the instrument outside.
- Never leave an instrument in the backseat or trunk of a car.
- Do not place excessive weight on the case or instrument.
- Do not expose the instrument or case to extreme temperatures or moisture.
- Use a dry cloth or polish rag to keep the finish of the instrument clean.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORM

Arts and Technology Academy Band

Participation in Band will never be denied due to family financial barriers. This form is to request school assistance for financial reasons or to donate money to the ATA Band & Choir Scholarship fund for families with financial need.

There is a limited number of school owned instruments with priority given to students whose family cannot afford to rent or buy an instrument. There will be a \$50 maintenance fee for using a school instrument. Books, cleaning supplies, and concert uniforms may also be available for students who cannot afford otherwise.

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Check all that apply:

- ☐ We would like to request a school-owned instrument for our child to use this year.
 - ☐ We are financially unable to pay the \$50 maintenance fee.
 - ☐ We are financially unable to provide _____ (technique book, cleaning supplies, concert uniform, etc.)
 - ☐ I would like to contribute to the ATA Band & Choir Scholarship fund for other families with financial need. I would like to donate \$_____
- ☐ Cash
 - ☐ Check

Name of student _____ Grade _____

Parent signature _____ Date _____

