

Espanola Valley High School Band Handbook

U. 2022-2023

Changes are Highlighted



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<https://sites.google.com/k12espanola.org/espanolabands>

C (505)-226-3267

Introduction

Welcome to the Española Band Program! My name is Mr. Steve Iliff and I am thrilled to be directing the band program at Española Valley High School! I believe music is an incredibly powerful art form and that being part of a great band program will help our students better understand art, teamwork, empathy and self expression. By practicing and playing in our ensembles students will learn music literacy, technique, history and also teamwork and ensemble skills. With the hard work and dedication of our students and families, we can bring back 'The Sound of Northern New Mexico' and perform at a level of excellence that will put the Española Bands back on the map!

Students and Parents, please take the time to read this handbook carefully because it has all of our expectations and procedures and sign and return the back page to Mr. Iliff for a quiz grade.

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Mission Statement

We will work together to provide high quality music education for students in Española.

Vision

We will support quality ensembles and classes where students are inspired to develop their musical vocabulary, skills, and craft as well as a greater appreciation for the musical artform.

We will constantly strive for higher levels of musical excellence.

We will work hard to use music as a way to teach students to be more hard-working, creative, compassionate and kind.

Course Descriptions

1120 Cadet Band

This is the beginning band for the high school students. Students learn music by developing technique on a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. Note-Students will be required to purchase or rent a band instrument. EVHS has limited, high quality, rental instruments. A limited number of scholarships may be available to families experiencing financial hardship and can't afford the rental fee. Please speak with Mr. Iliff steven.iliff@k12espanola.org or 505-226-3267 for more info.

1122 Sundevil Band (By Instructor Approval)

Advanced band is for students who are in their third or fourth year playing a band instrument or have passed an audition with Mr. Iliff. Students learn music by performing together in a concert band on woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. Students will learn to read, audiate, sing, and perform music as well as learn instrumental techniques, fundamentals and styles. The band will prepare four live performances, and participate in the NCNMMEA Solo and ensemble festival, Honor Clinic and music performance assessment. This class will require some extra rehearsals and concerts that might happen or after school.

Honors Distinction: Beginning 2022-2023 Junior or Senior students have the option of taking band for honors distinction. Honors band students must prepare an audition for All-region band in the fall and participate in Regional Solo and Ensemble in

the spring. Honors band students will carry the extra .5 weight in their GPA and fulfill their honors/dual credit/AP graduation requirement.

Extra-Curricular Ensembles

Beginning 2022-2023, we will have The EVHS Jazz band as well as the EVHS Drumline/percussion ensemble. Jazz Ensemble will be by audition and meets Fridays during lunch. All percussion students should be in the EVHS Drumline/percussion ensemble which will meet from 3:45-5:00 on Wednesdays. Both groups will perform on our concerts and extra community performances throughout the year.

Instrument Selection

-The instruments in band are: Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone, Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone/Euphonium, Tuba and Percussion
-(Students wishing to play percussion (drums, xylophone, marimba etc.) need to have a piano background and approval by Mr. Iliff

-Beginning students will be evaluated the first three weeks of school for instrument suitability and interviewed about their instrument preferences. Mr. Iliff will make the final recommendation about instrument placement and send home a final consent form with a list of supplies. **Please do not rent or purchase an instrument until Mr. Iliff has sent home the recommendation.**

Considerations: Physical characteristics, ability to produce a sound on a given instrument, instrument availability, and Band instrument vacancies for a balanced program. Students may not get to play their first choice of instrument.

Practicing and Instrument Care

Students primary homework for band is to take their instruments home and practice the skills learned in class. **It is recommended that high schoolers practice at least 30 minutes a day 5 days a week outside of class.** This is the minimum students need to be working in order to keep up with our curriculum. Practicing 6 days a week is recommended. At home practice will be evaluated by our weekly playing quizzes and chair tests. If students are not practicing at home, they will likely find that scoring well on the quizzes is very difficult. **Most teens spend**

30-60 hours a week on screentime¹, so three hours practicing an instrument shouldn't be too much to ask! Students can also come in before school to practice if needed, just let Mr. Iliff know. A good practice session should be:

- 5-10 minutes warm-ups, fundamentals, long tones and scales,
- 10-15 minutes concert music or material for upcoming playing tests
- 10-15 minutes on fun things like jamming out, learning new songs or playing along with recordings.
- Use a metronome, tuner, and recording device whenever possible. Listen to yourself!

Students also must learn responsibility by caring for their instrument and cleaning it out every time after practicing. Deep cleaning brass instruments in a bathtub or sink with dish soap should happen every one or two months. Instruments should be with the student or locked in a band locker or secure place at all times! They should only come out of the cases during band rehearsal or when at home practicing in a safe place. **If instruments are broken or stolen, the student and family will be responsible for all repair and replacement costs!**

Concerts and Performances

The Sundevil Bands will perform several concerts this school year. All concert dates and locations are on the calendar on our band website. This will be updated throughout the year. Unless otherwise noted, concerts are **REQUIRED** of all band members. For the band to sound their best we NEED every performer there, prepared, well behaved and ready to play their best. If an emergency arises, Mr. Iliff must be contacted IMMEDIATELY. (505) 226-3267. If Mr. Iliff decides the absence is excused (death/hospitalization of an immediate family member, debilitating illness of the student) AND documentation is presented, The student will be given an alternate homework assignment equal to the amount of time put in by the concert performers to turn in in place of their concert grade.

Mr. Iliff makes a significant effort to schedule band concerts around sporting events, but avoiding everything is impossible. Sports practices, having to work, or babysitting are not excusable situations. Larger events (games, tournaments, religious events) might be excused on a case by case basis. Keep in mind we only ask for 3-4 performances a year, and a student may have 50-60 sports practices. The initial calendar is sent home in August, and reminders will be sent home each semester, so

¹ American Heart Association. "Many Teens Spend 30 Hours A Week On 'Screen Time' During High School." ScienceDaily. www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/03/080312172614.htm (accessed July 26, 2019).

families and students will have plenty of time to arrange for a sitter, a sub at their job or transportation to/from the concert.

Concert Dress

The EVHS band will be purchasing polos for concerts this year. The cost of these will be approximately \$20 and can be re-used from year to year. Students will also need to wear black dress pants (without holes or tears, no leggings), black socks, and black shoes. If your family is having trouble affording a band polo please let Mr. Iliff know and one can be loaned out.

Supplies Needed

- **Accent on Achievement book** (\$10) Cadet Band only
 - **Cleaning supplies and accessories** (\$15-20\$) These are different based on the instrument. Some supplies may be included in your rental instrument.
 - Brass instruments need valve oil, slide grease, mouthpiece brush, a cleaning snake and rag.
 - Woodwinds will need a swab, mouthpiece brush and plenty of reeds (small pieces of cane used to play Clarinet and Saxophone). Reeds should be Vandoren Blue box 2, 2.5 or 3 strength. I would recommend purchasing a box of 10 reeds on Amazon or Candyman for around \$25-30. You can even split the cost with a friend. **Woodwind students should have 3 usable reeds in their case at all times for backup!**
 - Percussionists will need snare drum sticks (Vic Firth SD1 or similar), yarn marimba mallets, and a stick bag. Juniors and Seniors should purchase medium felt timpani mallets.
- Most of these are a one-time purchase.
- These can be purchased online or at most music stores. Mr. I may have some reeds for sale, but students should plan on getting their own. (Candyman in Santa Fe or Los Alamos, Baums in Albuquerque or online.)
- **Instrument rental (\$50/year) or purchase.** There is a \$50 fee to rent the school equipment. This covers cleaning and basic maintenance. It does not cover theft, or damage beyond regular wear and tear*. All school instruments must be cleaned twice a

year and returned at the end of the year, or if a student leaves the band program for any reason. We finally received a new high-quality instrument inventory! Let's take very good care of them so that we have them for years to come!

Students are encouraged to own their own instruments, however, buyer beware there are many inexpensive "knock off" brand instruments online that will sound poor, break easily, and may not be repairable. Please consult Mr. Iliff before you buy an instrument for your student. A used instrument of a good brand (Yamaha, Conn Selmer, Bundy) may need repair, but is usually better than a knock off brand from amazon)

-Instrument lockers are available for students to store their instruments. Students may bring their own locks but MUST give Mr. Iliff a key or copy of the combo in case security needs to get in the locker.

-1" band binder (Provided) with a few sheet protectors to keep music. This binder must be just for band and small enough to fit on a music stand.

-Soundtrap subscription (paid for by district)

-Chromebook or Laptop (provided by district) -We will use these rarely.

***The Espanola Public School Band Programs will not exclude students because of their inability to afford an instrument or other supplies. Please contact Mr. Iliff if you feel you may have difficulty securing an instrument or supplies.**
steven.iliff@k12espanola.org.

Grading

Students will be assessed on several factors relating to the New Mexico Music Standards and the NAfME national music standards: **Creating, Performing, Responding, and Connecting** to music. Assessing this in this class will look like this:

30% Daily Equipment, Preparation and Rehearsal Grade. Students must be prepared with all of their equipment so that they can create and perform music. This is a daily grade for performing as a group and meeting the **rehearsal expectations**.

10 points per week. Students must be on time, with all their materials, and participate for full credit. Unexcused absence/forgotten instrument/behavior issues -2 points per

day. Forgotten music/pencil/Student is tardy or not ready by the time the timer rings -1 point per occurrence. More than 3 unexcused absences or behavior issues will result in a behavior or truancy contract.

Students must be on-time, prepared, and behave in accordance with Mr. Iliff's expectations as well as our social contract.

10% Weekly Sectional Attendance. Since Band is a co-curricular activity, beginning Fall 2022 Sundevil Band will require weekly out-of-class sectionals. Each section must come up with a 45 minute time during lunch or after school on Mondays or Wednesdays to rehearse with Mr. I as a section. I understand many students have a lot going on outside of school.

40% Concert Performances (Assessment). Since band is a team activity, every student's actions affect the success of the group. Everyone must perform at the concerts to achieve this grade. All students are required to perform at the concert and to schedule other events around the performance. Please let Mr. Iliff know if you have any issues. Espanolabands@gmail.com. Performances only happen once, and only in extreme circumstances will make up work be issued for a student missing.

100% -Student arrives before the call time completely prepared and in concert dress, etiquette is professional and represents the program well.	70% -Student is late to the call time or is not in complete concert dress or forgets something or is in some other way unprepared, but still performs adequately and represents the program well.	0%- Student misses the concert for an unexcused reason or is a no call/no show or behaves in a way that does not represent the program well and is not permitted to perform.
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20% Chair tests and quizzes. Students will have several music performance assignments or music theory assignments each quarter that they will need to practice for and be graded on. These will take place in class. Quizzes or assignments are done .

All of assignment grades are out of 10 and they can be made up before or after school for a 20% discount. For playing tests students are assessed in 5 areas:

	2	1	0
Tone	Student plays with characteristic sound and has excellent breath support.	Student achieves close to a characteristic sound with definite room for improvement	Student does not get the proper sound out of their instrument.
Technique	Excellent hand position, posture and movement from note to note.	Stiff or contorted hands, improper posture or difficulty moving from note to note.	Incorrect instrument carriage or hand position.
Articulation Phrasing Dynamics	Student articulates each note properly and holds it for the correct length with proper phrasing and support.	Student articulates some notes but is inconsistent	Student has improper or no articulation.
Rhythm/Tempo	Student keeps a steady beat and plays each note for the correct duration	Student plays some rhythms correctly but slows down or speeds up	Student does not play with a steady beat and doesn't hold notes for the correct duration.
Pitch	Student plays all of the correct notes or misses only one or two.	Student misses a few notes, but plays many correct and knows which ones they missed.	Student is unprepared and plays many wrong notes.

Rehearsal Expectations

Mr. I's Non-negotiables:

1. Be here, on time, prepared, and ready to learn Everyday!
2. Eye contact, Listen, Affirm when anyone is speaking.
3. Respect classroom procedures, organization, seating charts etc. (respect seating charts and flow)
4. Minimize Interruptions to rehearsal
5. Come with an attitude to try! (You are responsible for your own success)

EVHS School Code of Conduct (non-negotiable):

1. No passes for the first 15 or last 10 minutes of class.
2. Food and Drink in designated areas only.
3. Phones and electronic devices stay in backpack and should not be out during instructional time.
4. If you're more than 15 minutes late unexcused, it counts as an absence.
5. Truancy Maximum 10 absences (for any reason), 15 for activities.

EACH CLASS WILL ESTABLISH A SEPARATE SOCIAL CONTRACT AND SIGN IT IN THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASS!

Bathroom/Water/Locker Policy

If a student needs to leave during a class for any reason, they must sign out. Only one person may be out at a time and Mr. I reserves the right to ask students to wait 5 minutes until a better time except in the case of a serious medical issue in which case the student will be sent to the nurse etc. There is no need to interrupt rehearsal to ask to leave, just point to the door and Mr. I will give you a thumbs up or a wait sign.

Truancy/Behavior Policy

If students have habitual behavior or truancy problems that are affecting them and the rest of the group Mr. Iliff will call parents/guardians and notify administration and the student will go on a contract. Mr. Iliff will give reports to parents and admin about the

students behavior/truancy and additional consequences will occur if improvement is not made.

Masks

Masks and bell covers in rehearsals are optional. EVHS has some masks and bell covers left if students would like one, just let Mr. I know.

Let's have a GREAT Year!!!



Contact information

-Please contact Mr. Iliff if you have any questions: steven.iliff@k12espanola.org
(505)-226-3267

Visit the district website for information and an updated schedule.

EVHS Band Contract

This contract **MUST** be completed, signed and returned before the student will be admitted to the EVHS Band Program. It is due by 4:00pm on Friday August, 19th 2020 for all band students.

By signing this document you, the student and parent hereby understand and agree to ALL of the policies, terms, conditions, requirements, procedures and other information contained within the Española Valley High Band Handbook.

This includes the section about costs, concerts and rehearsal expectations! - READ THEM

If you have any questions about the handbook or the program please call or email Mr. Iliff at (505)-226-3267 or steven.iliff@k12espanola.org. Please ask any questions **BEFORE** signing this document. The EVHS Band Handbook is available on the district website.

STUDENT FULL PRINTED NAME

STUDENT SIGNATURE

DATE

PARENT SIGNATURE

DATE

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone (best number)_____

Do you prefer calls or text? _____(I will only use this rarely for essential communication about your student)

Parent Email (for band and booster info)_____