



# Fern Bacon Middle School

## *Our Vision*

*As a result of rigorous, high quality first instruction, evidence-based practices, and authentic relationships, students will achieve tremendous academic growth and demonstrate preparedness for college/career pathways.*

**The Fern Bacon Music Department will provide learning opportunities for students to learn how to read music, perform on a musical instrument, and share their talents with the world.**

*“Without music, life would be a mistake.” – Friedrich Nietzsche*

## ***Band Course Outline***

Dear Fern Bacon Band Families and Students,

Welcome to Band! My name is Jennifer Nakayama and I’m the Band Director here at Fern Bacon Middle School. It’s a pleasure having you join our class and I’m excited for our year together! Our class is a year-long program which is designed to introduce our students to instrumental music and share an opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument. We will learn how to read music, how to assemble and care for a musical instrument, and learn how to play and rehearse together. It is a challenging but very rewarding class!

Included here in our course syllabus is some basic information about our class, including our goals for the year, grading policies, and expectations for students to achieve success. You will also find my contact information – please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions or concerns.

I look forward to an outstanding year!

***Jennifer A. Nakayama***



## ***Course Outline and Goals***

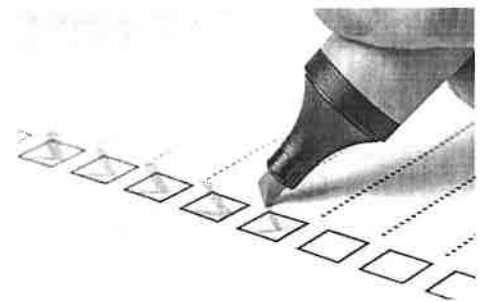
Our class is designed for students who are just beginning to learn about music and musical instruments - no experience playing an instrument is required whatsoever! We will begin our year by learning how to read music and how to play a musical instrument called a "recorder." As we become more comfortable reading music and playing recorder, we will transition to more traditional band instruments like the flute, saxophone, trumpet and drums. (And many more!) Students will learn about all of the available instruments they can learn to play in our class, then will be given the opportunity to choose which instrument they would like to learn to play during the rest of the year.

Throughout the year, we also learn about the history of music and about music traditions found around the world. Students will learn about the instruments and music of many different cultures and how music from Bach to Beyonce to BTS has evolved and continues to evolve around us. We will complete a few short individual and group projects throughout the year focusing on the history of music and musical culture.

During a normal school year, we would also look forward to school performances, or concerts, to share all we've learned with our family and friends. At this time, we are not able to gather together to perform - but Covid-19 policies are constantly changing! If we are able to perform together, information will be shared with band families as soon as it's available.

Some of the main goals for all of our students for the year are:

- To learn how to read music
- To learn how to play the recorder
- To learn about all of the instruments and instrument families
- To learn how to play a traditional band instrument
- To learn about the history of music
- To learn about music from diverse cultures
- To perform together (if Covid-19 policies allow us to)



## ***Grading Policies***

Band is a performing arts class, which means playing a musical instrument is the main focus of our class. This means our grades will primarily be based on each student's individual performance on their instrument and the progress made throughout the year. Grades also include a student's daily participation in class, homework, and performance on tests and quizzes.

Student grades are documented on our attendance and grading platform called "Infinite Campus." This platform will always have the most up-to-date information about grades, and I encourage students and families to check out Infinite Campus and check on grades regularly. For more information about how to login to Infinite Campus, please reach out to our front office and they can help you with sign-on information!

Here are the different categories of our class grades:

### *❖ Daily Participation – 10 points per week*

Students should be prepared for class every day and need their Chromebook, musical instrument, music book and sheet music, a pencil, and a good attitude to achieve success. Participation grades are based on a student's preparedness and willingness to work during rehearsals, group work, and on individual assignments.

Students will be given five (5) days for the school year as "free pass" days once we receive our band instruments, where they can take a day off of class rehearsal if they are not feeling well or are not prepared for class (i.e., have forgotten their instrument). Grades will not be affected by using the "free pass" days. Students who do not use a "free pass" must complete a Rehearsal Detective worksheet documenting all of the information learned in class that day to earn participation points for the day.

### *❖ Homework: Instrument Practice Logs – 10 points each; Worksheets - 10 points each*

A majority of the "homework" in our class is to practice, and I encourage my students to practice for a minimum of one hour per week. They can take home blank practice records or "logs" (which are always available in the band room) to keep track of the number of minutes practiced each week. Parents/Guardians must sign practice logs to verify that practice time occurred, and credit will not be given for logs that do not have a signature.

There will be sixteen practice logs during the school year (four per quarter), and four extra credit opportunities for missed logs (one per quarter). Students will be given a practice log calendar

at the start of each quarter documenting when logs are to be started and when they are due. **Please note, late work is not accepted unless a student was absent from school.**

On occasion, we will also have short worksheets or assignments which we will work on during class. If these assignments are not completed during class, they may be completed as homework.

#### ❖ *Quizzes and Tests – 10-50 points each*

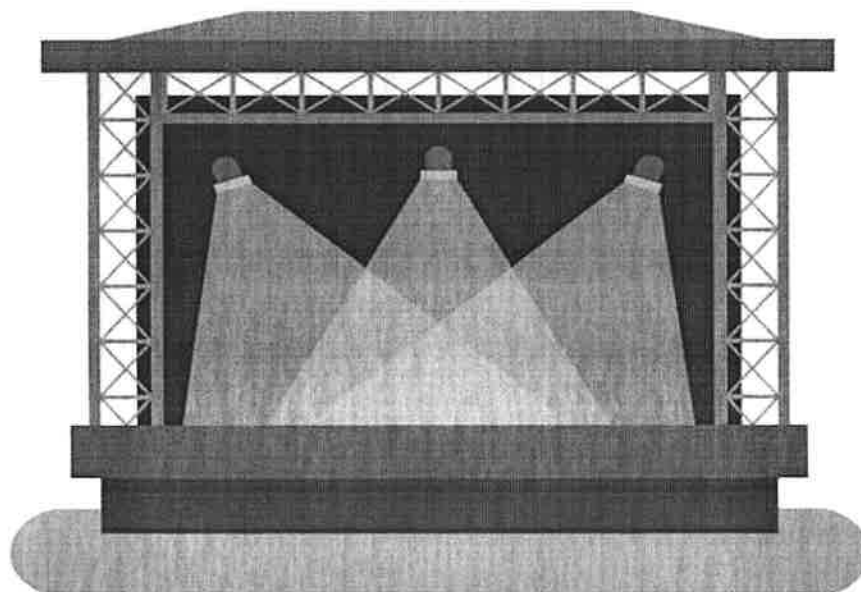
As we become more comfortable reading music and playing our recorders and band instruments, students will have short weekly “playing tests,” and more in-depth performance and a few written tests throughout the year. Weekly playing tests (10 points each) are labeled in our student music books: students will individually perform a short song or melody during class each week. Each student is graded on their individual performance and their personal progress. Written tests will check for student understanding of musical notation, such as note reading or rhythm reading. Most written tests will be announced at least one week in advance, but “pop” quizzes can happen!



#### ❖ *Performances (Concerts) – Currently not occurring*

At this time, we are not able to gather for class performances or concerts due to the Covid-19 pandemic. While performances are a very important aspect of a performing arts class, we understand the need to put performances on hold until it is safe to do so.

If we have an opportunity to safely perform in the future, information will be shared as it becomes available.



## ***Class Materials***

- ***Instruments and Music Books***



We are very fortunate that our school district provides both instruments and all related instrumental supplies necessary for our class! This year, in addition to instruments and supplies, we will also be provided with a specialized “musician” face mask which allows for instruments to be played while wearing a face mask to protect each other from Covid-19. At the start of the year, each student will be provided a recorder that they may keep. Once it’s time to transition to our traditional band instruments, each student will have the opportunity to check-out a school-owned musical instrument. More information about how instruments are checked out will be shared when it is time for students to choose their instrument.

Students will have access to a digital copy of their music books through our Google Classroom, and will also be given a hard (paper) copy of their music books that can be used in our classroom and at home. I recommend each student bring a ½” or 1” binder to hold their music book copies - it does not need to be only for band class and can be shared with other subjects.

Students will also eventually be given sheet music and a folder to keep their music sheets in. **Students are not to write in their books unless it is part of a written exercise.** Replacement cost for printed text books is \$8, and replacement cost for sheet music is \$0.50/sheet.

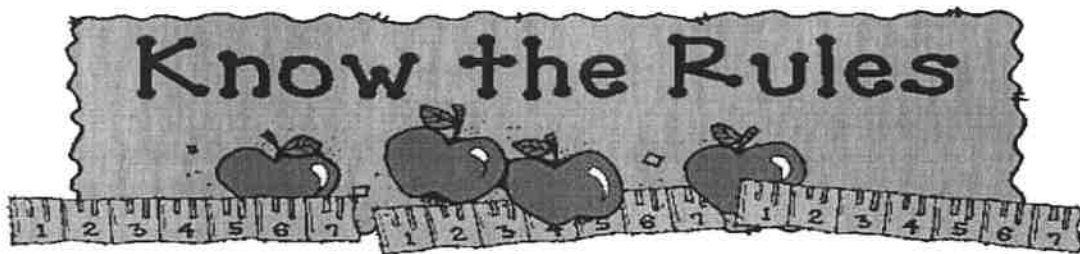
- ***Google Classroom***

Students and parents/guardians are invited to join our class Google Classroom page to help keep track of assignments and materials. Please note - grades shown on Google Classroom are NOT always accurate! Always check Infinite Campus for the most up-to-date grades.



## Classroom Standards

In addition to being prepared for class on a daily basis, students should be prepared to follow our classroom rules and help maintain a safe learning environment.



### Classroom Rules

- Have your instrument, music, and a pencil with you everyday.
- Listen when your teacher or another student is speaking, and raise your hand if you would like to speak or ask a question.
- Be respectful of each other and each other's property.
- 4. Follow directions and try your best!

### ❖ Behavior

Disrespectful or disruptive behavior is not tolerated. A student who chooses to break a rule will be assigned detention, required to call home, and/or asked to leave class if the behavior continues. Continuing problems may result in a parent/teacher/student conference, behavior contract, or class expulsion. **Any student who causes damage to a musical instrument as a result of "horseplay" or inappropriate behavior will be held financially responsible for the damages and will be expelled from the class.**

### CONSEQUENCES FOR NOT MEETING CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Since inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated, one or more of the following will occur.

- Warning
- Change of seat or given a time-out
- Phone call home
- Detention-Conference with the teacher
- Referrals to other teachers and/or staff
- Class suspension

## ***And...the fun stuff!*** 😊

Learning how to play an instrument and read music is a big undertaking...so we try to have some fun time set-aside during class from time to time. Each quarter, for example, we have a small celebration where students can exchange tickets they earn for correctly playing exercises and songs on their instruments for treats and small toys. I think it's important to reward my students for their efforts and give them a chance to celebrate their achievements!

During non-Covid years, our class also usually has some optional fun trips to Bowling/Lazer Tag in the winter and SunSplash in the Spring. At this time, all extracurricular activities are suspended - but if policies change information will be sent home.



I'm looking forward to an outstanding year, and I hope you are too! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me:

My teaching schedule (I am a traveling teacher):

Leonardo da Vinci K-8 School: 8:00am – 10:00am, Room 1

Fern Bacon Middle School: 12:30pm – 2:30pm, Room 28

Phone: Leonardo da Vinci K-8 School: (916) 395-4635

Fern Bacon Middle School: (916) 395-5340

E-Mail: [Jennifer-Nakayama@scusd.edu](mailto:Jennifer-Nakayama@scusd.edu)

You can also reach me using Remind on your phone or computer! The Remind platform allows me to share information with you and you to be able to send messages back to me without ever having to share your personal phone number or email address.

- To join Remind on your phone using the Remind app, download the Remind app in the Google Play Store or Apple Store and enter the code for our class below.
- To join Remind on your phone without installing the app, text our class code below to 81010.
- To join Remind using your computer, go to [www.remind.com/join](http://www.remind.com/join) and enter our class code below.

**Remind Class Codes:** 5th Period Beginning Band - @aeeg2f

6th Period Intermediate Band - @6d6kck



*"Music was my refuge. I could crawl into the space between the notes and curl my back to loneliness."*

— Maya Angelou