

Shivela Middle School Band Program 2024–2025 Handbook

<u>MANDATORY Evening Concerts:</u> ALL Bands	November 6, 2024 March 18, 2025 May 14, 2025	at Shivela MS at Shivela MS at Shivela MS	<u>Band Picture Day (all bands)</u> Oct. 18 - during school in full concert dress clothes
<u>MANDATORY Concerts:</u> Symphonic & Intermediate Bands ONLY	Temecula Parade: Dec. 6, 2024, late afternoon/evening Festival: Mar. 19, 2025 - probably during school, at Vista Murrieta HS District Concert: Apr. 15, 2025, late afternoon/evening at MMHS (Symphonic Band only) Pre-Festival: Mar. 5, 2025 - late afternoon/evening at Vista Murrieta HS (Intermediate Band only) Pre-Festival: Mar 7, 2025 – during school, location TBD		
<u>MANDATORY Event:</u>	High School Band Night for 8th Graders ONLY: Oct. 4, 2024 at VMHS or Oct. 11, 2024 at MMHS - late afternoon/evening		
Optional (but cool!) Events:	MVUSD Honor Band (by invitation) – Jan. 25, 2025, plus rehearsals before Solo Festival – Feb. 1, 2025 at Vista Murrieta HS, times TBD Jazz Band at RCC Jazz Festival – May 10, 2025		

COMMUNICATION

Weekly Communication – Mr. Davidson sends out a summary of band events every Friday of the school year. Please make sure your email address and cell number are current in Aeries to keep informed.

www.ShivelaBand.org – This website has our calendar, details about every event and forms you may require.

Canvas – Current grades and make-up assignments can be found here.

GRADING POLICIES

Tests & Concerts

Students will play selected passages or scales for a grade. Playing tests can be re-taken for a higher grade up until a week before the end of the semester and may be submitted on video. See Canvas for instructions.

BEGINNING and CADET BANDS:

Fall Semester, tests 60% and concerts 10% of final grade – Spring Semester, tests 50% and concerts 20%.

INTERMEDIATE and SYMPHONIC BANDS:

Fall Semester, tests 60% and concerts 15% of final grade – Spring Semester, tests 50% and concerts 25%.

Attendance at Performances

Attendance at all performances, except the Storm game, is **mandatory**. A note from a parent explaining special circumstances is required **prior** to the performance for that student to be excused. If a serious illness (colds or sore throats don't count) or emergency happens at the last minute, please inform Mr. Davidson as soon as possible, even if it is after the performance. Concerts will be graded as follows:

On time, prepared and on task – 100%

Late – subtract 1 to 100 percentage points, depending on how late.

Inappropriate dress – subtract 10 to 100 percentage points with possible denial of stage access.

Unprepared or off task – subtract 10 to 100 percentage points, depending how unprepared or off task.

Unexcused or unacceptable absence – subtract 100 percentage points, with no opportunity to make them up.

Unacceptable absences include vacations and scheduling conflicts that should have been avoided. Notify your outside-school coaches well in advance of performance dates. Do NOT miss scholastic commitments for activities! You will receive more detailed instructions about performances at least two weeks prior to each. Students with an approved absence will be given an opportunity to make up the points. Details will be given when needed.

Rehearsal Points

Rehearsal points are 15% of a student's final grade. Each student may earn 5 rehearsal points daily (10 on block days) for exhibiting effective rehearsal skills, e.g. being prepared, not causing disruptions, having necessary materials, listening and following instructions. A disruption is defined as anything that detracts from the rehearsal. Poor rehearsal skills equate to unrecoverable rehearsal time for the entire group, so *lost rehearsal points cannot be earned back*. There may be opportunities to earn extra credit rehearsal points by attending after school rehearsals/sectionals when offered.

Homework & Classwork

BEGINNING and CADET BANDS:

Students' written homework and classwork make up 15% of their final grade. No extra credit is offered.

INTERMEDIATE and SYMPHONIC BANDS:

Students' written homework and classwork make up 10% of their final grade. No extra credit is offered.

Late Work Policy

Practice Reports may be turned in up to one school week late. Any other written assignment may be turned in late or multiple times for up to 90% credit up until one week before the end of the semester.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Any Shivela Middle School or Shivela Band rule applies to band members at ANY school function, including concerts and field trips. Follow this guideline: Be respectful of other people and their property.

There will be no talking or playing of instruments unless requested by the instructor. For disruptions, the consequences are as follows: 1) Verbal warning; 2) Lost rehearsal points, 3) Break/lunch detention; 4) Parent contact; 5) After-school detention; 6) Referral to Administration; 7) Class change or removal from the program. One or more of these can be skipped based on the severity of the disruption. *Students lose up to 10 rehearsal points for being sent out of class.*

WORK HABITS

Classroom Participation

Students are expected to give their best effort at all times. This includes proper preparation for class by having the following on their person or their music stands at the beginning of every class:

INSTRUMENT AND RELATED EQUIPMENT (reeds, oil, mouthpiece, etc.)

METHOD BOOK(S) AND MUSIC BINDER (black ½-inch binder with at least 10 plastic page holders)

A SHARPENED PENCIL (mechanical pencils with lead are okay. No pens, even erasable ones)

If a student suspects an instrument is not working properly, the student must show it to Mr. Davidson *immediately*. If he cannot fix the instrument, it must be taken to a qualified repair shop as soon as possible. Please inform Mr. Davidson if an instrument is in the shop. *Students who do not bring required materials to class will lose up to 10 rehearsal points.*

The school does not provide reeds. Students who play reed instruments are expected to plan in advance to have enough reeds to participate each day. Cracked, chipped, discolored or old (more than a month) reeds are unacceptable and may not be used. Woodwind students should have at least 4 acceptable reeds with them every day.

Practicing at Home

Every student who joins the Shivela Bands is making a commitment to learn to play a musical instrument in a group setting. This is a team activity in which every member participates at every performance. If one student is not prepared, the whole group suffers. Students are assigned music to practice EVERY school day. Students are expected to be prepared for successful performances of tests and at concerts. Any score lower than an "A-" on a test represents serious flaws in the student's performance. Students should practice 20-30 minutes on each of five days per week. Students may NOT leave instruments at school on days they do not have school (weekends, holidays, block days they don't have Band). Students who repeatedly break this rule may earn detentions.

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Instruments

If you wish to borrow an instrument from Shivela, we request a \$100 annual donation. When you check it back in for the last time, it must be PROFESSIONALLY cleaned & serviced from an approved music store. Cost for this procedure varies by instrument. Students not using school instruments must provide their own by other means.

As funds allow, Shivela will pay for wear-and-tear repairs of school instruments, but not damage caused by negligence. For example, if a part is bent or breaks off, it is the parents'/guardians' responsibility to pay for that repair.

Percussionists need only bring drumsticks to school, but must have a keyboard instrument with at least 30 keys and drum or practice pad on which to practice at home. A donation will be requested for any percussion instruments borrowed from Shivela.

Instruments are not to be left unattended anywhere! The Band Room opens at least 5 minutes before the first bell and stays open for at least 10 minutes after the last bell. If someone else finds an instrument outside, the student will not have it for rehearsal, so *leaving an instrument unattended will result in a loss of up to 10 rehearsal points.*

It is unacceptable for students to touch an instrument in class that does not belong to them. *Students who do so will lose up to 10 rehearsal points.*

Instrument Storage Policy

1. All cases must have a unique mark on the end that shows when the case is on the shelf. Use a paint pen or stickers.
 - a. If you are renting an instrument from a music store and cannot mark the case, please see Mr. Davidson.
 - b. If you are borrowing a Shivela instrument, you MAY NOT put any more marks/stickers on the case.
2. All cases must have a name tag on the outside of the case with the student's name and phone number.
3. Students do not have assigned spaces on the shelves. Students who move a case that is not their own may lose instrument storage room privileges.
4. While Shivela M.S. does make space available for students to store their personal instruments during the day, we cannot guarantee the safety and security of same, and as such MVUSD accepts no liability for the loss or damage of instruments so stored.

Students should keep their instrument's manufacturer, model and serial number copied in a secure place. This will help you identify it if ownership is ever questioned and help the police find it if it is ever stolen.

Books and Music

Each student is expected to provide his/her own method book(s) that corresponds to his/her class level. These books are available at local music stores and online. Sheet music will be issued and collected at school.

Concert Dress Code

The code is conservative because having a visual distraction on stage takes away from the audio performance. Students are responsible for providing their own clothes that are not provided by the Shivela Bands. If you have a question or concern about the dress code, please contact Mr. Davidson at Shivela. Proper attire is as follows:

BEGINNING, CADET, INTERMEDIATE AND JAZZ BANDS:

- SHIVELA BAND POLO SHIRT, tucked in.
- BLACK PANTS or LONG SKIRT (Dress pants preferred. No faded jeans. Skirt hem must be below knee-level while seated. Belts, if worn, need to have a regular-sized buckle and no studs. Gauchos, Dickies and capris are okay. Leggings/yoga pants are okay, but not preferred.
- ALL-BLACK SHOES (Wedges/platforms/heels not recommended)
- SOCKS – If you wear pants, wear crew-length or longer BLACK SOCKS. No leg skin showing when seated. If you wear a long skirt, socks are optional, but if you wear them, they must be black.
- CONSERVATIVE HAIRSTYLE

SYMPHONIC BAND:

- CLOTHING PROVIDED BY SHIVELA BANDS
- BLACK DRESS SHOES (Wedges/platforms/heels not recommended)
- SOCKS – If you wear pants, wear crew-length or longer BLACK SOCKS. No leg skin showing. If you wear a dress, socks are optional, but if you wear them, they must be black.
- CONSERVATIVE HAIRSTYLE

Please remember that membership in the Shivela Bands is not a right, but a privilege. If students prove unable to follow the rules of this organization, they will be subject to removal from it. If you have questions about this document, or anything else throughout the year, please call me at (951) 696-1406 or email bdavidson@murrieta.k12.ca.us.

-- CUT HERE, SIGN AND RETURN or SIGN DIGITALLY AT: <https://forms.office.com/r/tKmHCM7JwG> --

I have read and understand the Shivela MS Band Handbook.

Student's Name (please print) Student's Signature Date

Parent's Name(s) (please print) Parent's Signature Date

() _____ () _____ () _____
Home Phone Number Work or Cell Phone Number Work or Cell Phone Number

Parent/Guardian's Email Address (please print) Parent/Guardian's Email address (please print)

Mr. Davidson sends out weekly messages with general school and Shivela Band information. Please include yourself on our mailing list.