

# Carlos F. Vigil Middle School Band Handbook

U. 2020-2021

Changes are Highlighted



**Vigil Middle School  
Bands**



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## Introduction

Welcome to the Española Band Program! My name is Mr. Steve Iliff and I am thrilled to be directing the band program at Carlos Vigil Middle School and Española Valley High School! I believe music is an incredibly powerful art form where musicians can learn a craft to express emotion and ideas and that being a part of a great band program will help our students better understand art, teamwork, empathy and self expression. By learning and practicing instruments, 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 a 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

1129 -Beginning Woodwinds (1129 individual technique-woodwinds)

Students learn music by developing technique on a woodwind instrument. The starter woodwind instruments are Flute and Clarinet. Second semester, some students may switch to saxophone, bass clarinet, oboe or bassoon. This is the first course for students wanting to join the band program and focuses on building musical vocabulary and individual technique.

1129- Beginning Brass and Percussion\* (1129 individual technique-Brass)

Students Learn music by developing technique on a Brass or percussion instrument. The Brass starter instruments are Trumpet, and Trombone. Percussionists will start on Bells and eventually progress to Snare drum, Bass Drum and other percussion instruments. Students must have had at least one year of piano experience to play percussion\*. This is the first course for students wanting to join the band program and focuses on building musical vocabulary and individual technique.

1122 -Advanced Band/Cardinal Band

Advanced band is for students who are in their second 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 continue on the instrument that they have learned previously so that the group can play more advanced music. Students

will learn to read, audiate, sing, and perform music as well as learn instrumental techniques, fundamentals and styles. The Band instruments are: Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone, Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba and Percussion.\* The Band will perform four band concerts this year as well as NCNMMEA Honor Clinic, Solo and ensemble festival, and music performance assessment. This class will require some extra sectional rehearsals and concerts that might happen before or after school.

## 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 etc.) need to have a piano background

-Beginning students will be evaluated the first two 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 middle schoolers practice at least 30 minutes a day 4 days a week outside of class.** This is the minimum students need to be working in order to keep up with our curriculum. Practicing 5 or 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 screens<sup>1</sup>, so two hours practicing an instrument shouldn't be too much to ask!** Students can also come in after 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/03/080312172614.htm) (accessed July 26, 2019).

- 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 Carlos Vigil Bands will perform several concerts this school year. All concert dates and locations are on the attached callender. 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 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 CFVMS band will be purchasing polos for concerts this year. Concerts (even the virtual performance are formal events and we must try to look as uniform as possible. Every student is expected to have a band polo shirt to perform in. 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** (\$9)

- **Cleaning supplies and accessories** (\$15-20\$) These are different based on the 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). **Woodwind students should have 3 usable reeds in their case at all times for backup!**

-Percussionists will need snare drum sticks, yarn marimba mallets and a stick bag. Most of these are a one-time purchase.

-**Portable Music Stand** (\$10-30\$) Students will need their own music stand for at home practice.

These can be purchased online, through Mr. Iliff or at most music stores. (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 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. I 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 at the school 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** with a few sheet protectors to keep music. This binder must be just for band and small enough to fit on a music stand.

**-Smartmusic subscription (paid for by district)**

**-Noteflight learn subscription (paid for by district)**

**-Flipgrid account (free)**

**-Chromebook or Laptop (provided by district)**

**\*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](mailto: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:

**20% 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 have their camera on, participate and interact in Google meet and Google Classroom groups 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.

This includes attendance at all of our Googlemeet classes! Students must be on-time, prepared, behave in accordance with Mr. Iliff's Googlemeet expectations as well as our social contract.

**30% Concert Performances and Projects (Assessment).** For SY 2020-2021, students will have a series of both performance projects and written/digital projects. These are usually multi-week activities. 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](mailto:Espanolabands@gmail.com). Performances only happen once, and only in extreme circumstances will make up work be issued for a student missing.

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p>100% -Student arrives before the call time completely prepared and in concert dress, etiquette is professional and represents the program well.</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> |
|--|--|---|

**30% Playing tests and written assignments (extended learning).** Students will have one or two music performance assignments or music theory assignments each week that they will need to practice for and be graded on. These will take place on Smartmusic, Noteflight Learn or Google Classroom. Quizzes or assignments are generally due every Friday. Some class (google meet) time will be given to students to work through assignments. 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:

|   | <b>2</b>   | <b>1</b>   | <b>0</b>  |
|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Tone</b>                                   | 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.                            |
| <b>Technique</b>                              | 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.   |
| <b>Articulation<br/>Phrasing<br/>Dynamics</b> | 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.  |
| <b>Rhythm/Tempo</b>                           | 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. |
| <b>Pitch</b>                                  | 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.   |

## **Chair Tests**

Some of our playing quizzes will be used as chair test material. Students in each section will be ranked in chair order to determine where they will sit and which part they will play for upcoming performances. Chair placement should be seen as a factor for who is best prepared on a given excerpt and as a way to reward students for hard work, not whether or not a student is 'good' at a given instrument or as a putdown. This is meant to encourage outside practice and reward student achievement, it is also reflective of what students will experience in more advanced bands in high school and college. There will be no challenges, but new chair tests will happen every few weeks, so students will have many opportunities to succeed. Students must understand that they are responsible for their own success, and even though the band is a family who support each other, some internal competition encourages higher achievement.

## **Rehearsal Expectations**

### **Mr. I's Non-negotiables:**

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

### **EVHS School Code of Conduct (non-negotiable):**

- 1. Follow Dress Code,**
- 2. Cell phones/headphones in back packs during class, not in your pocket.**
- 3. Drug and Tobacco Policy**
- 4. No Foul Language/Bullying**
- 5. No passes for the first five or last five minutes of class.**
- 6. 10 Absence Limit- attendance review board (state requirement)**

**WE WILL ESTABLISH OUR EXPECTATIONS OF HOW TO RESPECT EACH OTHER, WHAT TO DO IN CONFLICT, AND WHAT THAT LOOKS LIKE TOGETHER IN CLASS.**

### **Bathroom/Water/Locker Policy**

Students will be issued an agenda. This must be filled out and brought with you. Mr. Iliff will sign it at the end of class. There is no need to interrupt rehearsal to ask to leave. Students must not leave the first five or the last five minutes of class.

### **Truancy/Behavior Policy**

If students have a habitual behavior or truancy problems that are affecting them and the rest of the group Mr. Iliff will call parents/guardian and notify administration and the student will go on a contract. Mr. Iliff will give a weekly report to parents and admin about the students behavior/truancy and additional consequences will occur if improvement is not made.

### **Reeds/Books/Supplies**

Mr. Iliff has purchased additional books/reeds and supplies from Candyman in Santa Fe. These will be available for students to purchase from him as availability lasts. Every student must have their own book and at least 4 reeds in their case at all times.

Prices: Book=\$9 Clarinet Reed=\$3 Alto Sax Reed =\$5 Tenor Sax Reed=\$7

Cleaning supplies=Available upon request.

**Students must be prepared every day. Mr. I may accept IOU's for reeds but not for books. After the first few weeks, Mr. I will no longer make copies out of the book for students.**

## **Contact**

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

**Visit the district website for information and an updated schedule.**

**Remind alerts: If you have texting on your cell phone and would like to receive band updates, please text @miliff to 81010**

## CVMS Band Contract

This contract MUST be completed, signed and returned before the student will be admitted to the CFVMS Band Program. It is due by 4:00pm on Friday August, 21st 2009 for all CVMS 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 Carlos Vigil 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 [espanolabands@gmail.com](mailto:espanolabands@gmail.com). Please ask any questions **BEFORE** signing this document. The CVMS Band Handbook is available on the district website.

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STUDENT FULL PRINTED NAME

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STUDENT SIGNATURE

DATE

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PARENT SIGNATURE

DATE

