

ACMS Band Handbook

Contact Information

Miss Tomasello, Band Director
Alder Creek Middle School
10931 Alder Drive
Truckee, CA. 96961
ntomasello@ttusd.org (530)582-2750 ex. 28343

ACMS Band Communication Information

Miss T will send out weekly updates on the band calendar and any upcoming events. Miss T uses the TTUSD-sanctioned website, TTUSD blackboard to send out emails. All parents must update their AERIES emails with the front office so that you receive emails I send out. If you need to contact Miss T, please email her at ntomasello@ttusd.org

Alder Creek Middle School Band Calendar 2024- 2025

All dates depend on the weather and confirmation of the hosting organization. More performance dates and trips may be added to our calendar. Any additions or changes will be emailed out!

[ACMS Music Department Calendar](#)

Required Band Class Materials:

Please send your student to school everyday with the following:

- Music Book (provided by the ACMS Band) or you may purchase your own on amazon.com
- Band Folder (provided by ACMS, this is a borrowed material and must be returned at the end of the school year)
- Pencil (everyday on your music stand)
- Instructional Materials and Music (provided by ACMS)
- Instrument: Students are required to put their **name on the instrument** for easy return if instruments are misplaced.

Instrument Contract:

At the beginning of the school year, your child will be sent home with an Instrument Loan Contract. We ask that all parents and students who are borrowing an instrument please read the form, sign the form, and return it to Miss Tomasello by her indicated due date. We ask that all parents and students with a school instrument make a **\$100.00 band donation** to the band program to cover all costs for repairs/cleaning at the end of the school year. You may write checks out to T.E.M.P.O. (memo:ACMS).

If your child's instrument breaks please have Miss Tomasello examine and try to fix it, first. Parents, please **do not** use any regular tools, glue or string on the instrument at any time. Using regular tools can severely damage the instrument and may cost hundreds to thousands of dollars to fix. It is an expectation that students keep their instruments and mouthpieces clean and polished. Please remind your students to have clean hands and a washed mouth before practicing at home.

If you have any other questions regarding school instruments, please contact Ms. Tomasello at ntomasello@ttusd.org

The form will need to be reviewed, signed, and turned in by Wednesday, September 11th for 7th and 8th grade during class time.

6th grade students will have a *different timeline* for instruments due to a slower start.

Grading Policy for Band

Students will receive a 1, 2, 3, or 4 for their progress and trimester grades. Students will receive points for their rehearsal progress, playing tasks, concert and festival evaluations and performances. Students will receive a score based on the standard being graded. Students will earn their marks through Standards-based evaluation and Proficiency Scales. Please check **Jump Rope** to review the standards students will be evaluated on. Grading Categories include: Performances/Projects, Playing Tasks/Class Work, and Work Habits/Citizenship

Performances

Performances are usually held outside of the school day; performances are **mandatory**. **In the event a student needs to miss a concert, please email Miss T in writing (email) at least 4 weeks prior to the performance.** If the parent notifies Miss T promptly about missing the performance, Miss T will provide a make-up assignment for that specific student. A concert experience can not be made up after the fact, one will have to wait until the next concert opportunity to experience that part of the educational process. All students play an important role in the overall sound of the performance, when a student misses the concert with short notice or no notice, it has a negative impact on the group being their part cannot be replaced. Giving Miss T 4 weeks notice gives her time to find a substitute for that part.

Required Performance Attire/Concert Black Attire (updated 24/25)

- **All students must wear black dress pants, a black button up shirt or blouse with a cardigan or blazer, all black dress shoes or flats, and black socks.**
- Please do not wear:
 - Jeans
 - Sweats,

- Tennis Shoes, Vans, Converse, Sandals, Nikes
- Spaghetti Straps
- Tight or short dresses

Jazz Band

All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students will **audition** to join the Jazz Band. This class is held in the morning from 6:54 - 7:40 a.m. every day of the week. Students in this class learn to play various genres of music including: jazz, blues, rock and some pop. It is expected that all students in the jazz band attend the class every morning. Attendance will be taken every morning. Standards-based grades are also issued in this class.

Instruments played in jazz include: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, bass, drums, vibraphone and auxiliary percussion.

Commitment: Jazz band will run for the entire length of the school year from 6:54 - 7:40 a.m. every morning. Please make sure that you are communicating with me when you will not be at rehearsal or if you are running late. Students who do not come to rehearsal for any reason may be pulled from or not included in the group or a performance depending upon the circumstances. Jazz Band is an *ensemble*. When one person is missing it affects everyone. Rehearsals and performances are expected to be a priority.

Trips and Performances: Jazz bands will have several performances throughout the school year, both in and outside of school. Members are expected to be available for all performances. If there is a conflict, you must notify Miss T at least 4 weeks prior to the concert to ensure the parts will be covered.

Jazz Band Tardy Policy: Students can be excused for a late arrival due to family reasons if Miss T is notified by email in advance. We understand that mornings can be hectic, but consistent expectations are important. Students who arrive late without prior notification will be marked tardy. This policy ensures fairness while honoring everyone's commitment to the Jazz Band.

Jazz Band Club

We will start Jazz Band Club rehearsals on Tuesday, October 1st at 2:30 after school.

The ACMS Jazz Club will be held after school on Tuesdays from 2:30 - 3:15 p.m. for students who have interest in jazz band but did not make it into the jazz band or who have interest in getting started in jazz. If there is good attendance for the club in the first month of school, we will extend the jazz club to Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students in the jazz club will perform for the winter concert and end of the year concert. Members of the Jazz Band are welcome to join the jazz club as well.

Jazz Combo + Practice Room Days

On select Mondays, Miss T will be staying at school until 3:15 p.m. to offer practice room time for students who want extra time in a safe and quiet environment. Students will need to schedule with Miss T ahead of time if they plan to stay after school. Miss T will provide sign up sheets for practice rooms.

To find out if we are having a practice room Monday, please check the weekly email update that Miss T sends out.

Miss T will be holding Jazz Combo rehearsals on Mondays during 'practice room days'. Jazz Combo will be a specific set of students from Jazz Band that are ready to dive deep into improvisation and performance.

Educational Enhancement (Extra Credit Concerts)

Students are encouraged to see musical performances outside of what they experience at ACMS. This helps them grow as musicians. If a student attends an approved concert, to receive extra credit they must turn in the concert program with a one-paragraph review of the event (in full sentences). This assignment will raise a student's lowest score by half (ex: 1 to 1.5). If you would like to attend a concert that is not listed below, please contact Miss T for approval. See the concert list below and ask Miss T to see about approval for a concert not listed.

Concert List

Any concert by the Truckee High School Band. See their website for their concert schedule:

<http://www.thsbands.com/>

Anything from the UNR Music Department. [Click here](#) to see the UNR Music Calendar.

**There are so many more organizations that hold concerts, those count, too!*

Local Music Stores

- Blue Note B's Horn Shop: Reno, NV (775) 453 - 9219
- Absolute Music: Reno, NV (775) 852 - 2637
- Tim's Music: Sacramento, CA (916) 925 - 9160
- Silver and Brass (775) 691-9737 (brass instruments only)

Band Class Norms

*We respect our band members, we are a family

*We are silent and calm when Miss T is speaking

*Play your instrument at a respectable volume, no blasting!

*When we walk in, we set up our chair, stand, music, pencil and instrument (everyday)

*We walk in the classroom with respect, no yelling, no food, no gum

*We participate, we actively listen, we pay attention

*We handle our instruments with care

*We respect other students' instruments by not touching them or playing them.

*We finish our snacks and lunch and rinse our mouths before playing our instruments.

*We show up on time, ready to learn.

*We respect the percussion instruments by not playing, touching or placing our instruments on them.

* We keep our instruments and mouthpieces clean (once a week).

*We understand that everyone is learning, we lift each other up.

*We understand if there is an issue, we talk to Miss T about it.

*We have fun!

Honor Band Information

Honor band is an opportunity for students to audition for a high-level performing ensemble. There are several honor bands held in the state of California. As the school year begins, and your child has interest in doing Honor Band, please contact Mrs. Tomasello for more information. Mrs. Tomasello will send out information regarding honor band as the school year continues. The top Honor Band Ensemble that Junior High Students can audition for is CBDA All State <https://cbda.org/auditioning/>. Mrs. Tomasello encourages all dedicated and well practiced students to audition.

All State Auditions for 2024/25 are Due November 2nd, 2024.

Dropping Band Procedure

If your child decides that band is not a good fit for them, they must follow these steps in order to be considered for a different class. Students may drop the class in the first trimester only.

1. Email or Phone call from parent to Mrs. Tomasello and student's counselor
2. Letter from student signed by parent giving reason as to why they want to quit.
3. Conference with Counselor
4. Conference with Mrs. Tomasello
5. Confirmation of removal from class (counselor → parent)

Band FAQ's

When will we get our instruments?

7th and 8th Grade band students will receive their instruments and materials in the second week of school. All students will check out an instrument (if they need one), and they will also pick up their music materials (music, worksheets, etc.) Sixth grade students will receive their instruments in the 4th week of school.

If I don't want to use a school instrument, where can I rent one?

You can rent from any music store that's in close proximity to Truckee. Renting an instrument will give your child the opportunity to begin in band with only a small initial investment. Your child can have the advantages of a brand new instrument, such as pride of ownership, freedom from error due to poor equipment, and the opportunity to be the best player they can be by having the best available instrument for their age level. Your child will have the instrument and mouthpiece recommended by the band directors.

Can my student be provided with reeds?

At the beginning of the year, I will provide one new reed for each player. After that, the student can donate \$3.00 per reed, or you may purchase your own reeds. I recommend purchasing reeds off of www.wwbw.com

What type and size of reeds should my clarinet/saxophone player use?

I highly recommend the Vandoren blue box for any reed player in a regular band. **Reed Sizes:** For sixth grade reeds, I recommend size 2 - 2.5. Seventh and eighth grade reeds I recommend size 2.5 - 3.

Where can I purchase reeds/mouthpieces/mutes/accessories for my student?

I recommend that you purchase any instrument accessory on WoodwindBrasswind.com (www.wwbw.com)
OR you may purchase accessories at any music store.

I would like my child to take additional lessons outside of school, who can I contact for lessons?

If you are in need of lessons, shoot me an email and I can give you recommendations! ntomasello@ttusd.org
Lessons outside of school are highly encouraged!

Is any previous musical training necessary to be in ACMS Band?

No. The method books used in beginning band are for the musically untrained student. We teach the fundamentals of reading music as well as the fundamentals of playing an instrument. As students progress, you will be able to recognize familiar tunes. Their progress culminates in a Spring Concert at the end of the year. If your child wants to join band in their 7th or 8th grade year, that is acceptable. However, extra time outside of school to advance their playing technique is encouraged.

Are certain instruments for girls and others for boys?

No. Instrument choices are not based on a student's gender, but rather their desire to play that instrument. Instrument selection is based primarily upon the facial characteristics of the student, and, most importantly, their personal choice.

What about buying used instruments?

Some used instruments are good bargains. However, you could possibly end up spending more money on repairs than the instrument is worth. For this reason, we ask that you purchase a used instrument. Email me prior to purchase so we can discuss the brand and quality of the instrument. Local music stores and former band students are excellent sources of used instruments. You might see if the music companies have used instruments available. We have found most pawn shop instruments to be of dubious quality. I recommend that you RENT an instrument the first year from a reputable music company.

Are there any school owned instruments available?

Yes. Instruments available to check out are Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone (alto, tenor, bari), trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba and drum pads/kits. The school also provides specialty instruments: tuba, baritone, French horn, oboe, and bassoon. These are assigned on the basis of aptitude, suitability, and availability - NOT financial need. Parents will still be required to purchase necessary accessories such as a mouthpiece, books, reeds/valve oil. Due to the unique nature and difficulty of the oboe, bassoon, and the french horn, instruments it is encouraged that they take weekly private lessons. These instruments are so challenging if you don't take lessons. Private lessons for all instruments are strongly encouraged.

Are there any extra rehearsals required? Concerts?

We will hold two to three concerts a year. Jazz Band may have additional concerts for local events. Extra rehearsals will take place. I will communicate dates and times for extra rehearsals at least four weeks in advance. These performances are part of the students' grades and are mandatory.

We will also hold instrument specific sectionals during lunch time or after school. These will be communicated in advance.

Will my child be required to practice at home?

It is highly encouraged that all band students practice 20-30 minutes every day outside of class. This weekly time (not daily) increases over the first trimester as their facial muscles develop and strengthen and they can practice up to 30-60 minutes, several days per week (not every day). For home practice, students are to purchase a folding music stand, metronome (electronic time-keeper). Parents are encouraged to give positive support to the student as he/she/they progress.

Are private lessons required?

Private lessons are strongly encouraged for all students, but are not required. If your child takes private lessons, he/she/they will receive one-on-one instruction from a professional musician (many of which have graduate degrees). Private lessons help challenge faster-paced students and strengthen slower paced students.

Can my child check out their school-owned instrument over the summer?

Yes! Miss T will provide a summer instrument loan contract to any band student that would like to practice their instrument over the summer.

How can I keep my child musically engaged over the summer months?

Donner Mine Music Camp
Moody's Jazz Camp
Cazadero Music Camp

ACMS Band Handbook Contract 2024/25

****Please write clearly!!!**

Student Grade Level (please circle) 6 7 8

Student Name (First and Last): _____

Parent Name (First and Last): _____

We agree to:

- Uphold the traditions of excellence in music at Alder Creek Middle School, both musically and personally.
- Follow the procedures and guidelines of this Handbook.
- Attend rehearsals with all required class materials
- Attend all performances.
- Give Mrs. Tomasello at least 4 weeks notice if you cannot attend a concert.**
- Be on time and prepared for events, rehearsals, and performances.
- Set aside weekly practice time required to improve musicianship (30-60 minutes per day recommended).
- Maintain the instrument, music, books, uniform, keeping them clean, and serviceable.
- Keep open lines of communication with Mrs. Tomasello. ntomasello@ttusd.org

We have read this Band Handbook and agree to follow the stated guidelines and to assist our child with successful participation in the ACMS Band Program. (Parent and student signatures below.)

Parent Signature (Please Sign)

Student Signature (Please Sign)

ACMS Instrument Loan Agreement 2024/25

Student Name (First and Last): _____ Grade: 6 7 8

Parent Name (First and Last): _____

Type of Instrument: _____

Instrument Serial #: _____

We ask that all parents and students that are borrowing an instrument please read the form, sign the form and return it to Miss Tomasello by her indicated due date. We ask that all parents and students with a school instrument make a **\$100.00 band instrument donation** to the band program to cover all costs for repairs/cleaning at the end of the school year. You may write checks out to ACMS (memo:Band).

- The student and parents/guardians are responsible for returning the instrument and all of its parts and accessories to the school in the **same condition** that it was received.
- The instrument is **not** to be played by anyone other than the student who has borrowed it.
- The student may only play the instrument that they have been assigned and have been learning to play in class.
- It is expected that all students and parents handle the instrument with respect and with care. **No other family members are allowed to handle or fix the instrument at any time.**
- The student is responsible for cleaning the instrument once a week, to avoid internal damage and mold.
- To pay for the repair of the instrument if it is damaged by pupil negligence.
- If the instrument is stolen, or if the student has lost the instrument or parts of it, the student and family are fully responsible for reimbursing the school for its loss.
- We understand that we will not get our school owned instrument until this form is completed and turned in.

We understand and agree to the terms above in order to borrow an instrument from ACMS.

- Yes, we understand and agree to adhere to the terms.
- No, we will not be using a school owned instrument.

Student Signature

Parent Signature