

## Dear St. Louis Park Band Members and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! Each of you is an important part of our band program. This handbook is designed to give you answers to virtually any questions you have about band. This information pertains to all three concert bands and the jazz ensemble. The following pages must be read completely by both the band member and a parent/guardian. After you have read the handbook and understand the expectations for the year, both students and parent/guardian must fill out the student and parent information page and turn it in by **Friday, September 18th. This is the students' first assignment and is worth 20 points. Students should either scan or take a picture of the last page and turn attach and turn it in on Schoology. Optional: scan or take a photo and email Mr. Schmitz the BPN (Band Parent Network/Volunteer Form) at the same time.**

I am proud to say this is my 18<sup>th</sup> year teaching. Before coming to St. Louis Park in 2011, I taught five years of junior high school band in Shakopee and Prior Lake. I also taught middle school band and elementary music in Newport News, Virginia for three years. I also have co-directed the Shakopee Marching Sabers, directed honor bands, adjudicated contests, worked with various marching bands, and taken a volunteer post teaching music in South Africa. In my free time, I play in my church's rock band and an adult community band, explore new restaurants, go to movies, attend concerts, bike, travel and spend time with my friends and family.

Since we know this will be a unique school year, any aspects of the handbook in GREEN represent a change/addition/note/uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Welcome to a new year and the St. Louis Park Band family. I have spent 50+ hours in staff development on COVID-19 and band and building a racially just program. With the help of recent scientific studies and epidemiologists, I am prepared to offer safe, exciting and new band opportunities this year!

Sincerely,

Mr. Steve Schmitz  
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## **PHILOSOPHY**

Music is an important and intrinsically-valuable aspect of a well-rounded education. Music has existed in every culture since the dawn of time as a communication and expressive tool. It is a vehicle for creativity and critical thinking. It is goal of the St. Louis Park Music Department to provide all students with a quality, comprehensive and varied musical experience that eliminates racial opportunity gaps and energizes the spirit. Our goal is also to achieve excellence in all music studied and performed. Every student graduating from the St. Louis Park High School band program will have had the opportunity to intelligently perform, consume, create and appreciate music of many different genres, cultures and time periods. *Students will become better and more well-rounded people through music.*

## **COURSE GOALS**

1. To build individual and ensemble musicianship
2. To master basic music theory and aural skills
3. To enhance music literacy and appreciation through the study of classical and contemporary/popular repertoire from many cultures
4. To discuss and manipulate ways to make meaning and emotion in music
5. To transfer skills learned in band to life

## **EXPECTATIONS**

1. Students must show up to class (or online meetings) every day, on time. Be ready to play three minutes after the tardy bell (or start of the class hour).
2. Students are to have their instrument, accompanying equipment, music and a pencil. Failure to have one or more of these items will result in the loss of daily points. *A pencil is crucial to mark our music so we do not repeat errors.*
3. Students are to respect themselves, others, and all school property. **This means NO food, drink or gum are allowed in the band room (except plain water). Food and gum are choking hazards while playing!**
4. Students are to have a cooperative attitude and give full effort at all times. This includes having good playing posture.

## **MATERIALS NEEDED**

Please make sure that your instrument is always in working order. Mr. Schmitz can try to repair minor issues, but most need to be taken or sent to Eckroth Music (pick-up and drop-off are once weekly) or another repair shop as soon as possible. The repair shop should offer a loaner instrument, but if they do not, SLPHS will try to provide one.

Reeds, oils, slide grease/oil/cream, cork grease, neck straps, swabs, mutes and other equipment are **generally not sold at the high school**. *Exception-we often have pep band lyres (small music holders that attach to the instrument) for instruments that use one. These will possibly be for sale in late fall, once schedules and regulations for pep bands are finalized, most for \$5 each.* An Eckroth Music representative stops by the school most weeks to pick up/drop off orders and instruments. You can order supplies online from Eckroth at [www.eckroth.com](http://www.eckroth.com) and they usually arrive at school within a week.

Students need to have at least three working reeds at all times as well as other oils, greases and equipment.

**Percussionists:** You will need a stick bag to store your equipment. It is strongly suggested that you initial all sticks, mallets and equipment with a permanent marker. An order form will be likely emailed home to caregivers and Mr. Schmitz will make a large order so all students have a stick bag with standard high school snare sticks, bell mallets, marimba mallets and timpani mallets. *Percussionists at SLPSH are well-rounded and WILL play every type of percussion instrument, so all this equipment is needed. Some students choose to share timpani mallets with a friend or two since they are not cheap and only one person plays timpani at a time in band.*  
Since we do not know yet when we will be in hybrid and in-person modes, this order will happen later in this school year.

**Warm-Up Books:** To save you money, students will be NOT be asked to buy band warm-up books this year. There are enough donated ones from past seniors that we can use those this year. We also may use warm-ups books that come as a part of an online music practice tool called SmartMusic at no cost to families.

## **GRADING**

25% Rehearsal (and online meetings) participation (see expectations on page 2, each rehearsal/meeting is worth 5 points)

25% Required Performances (Concert Band, Football Pep Band) (Jazz Band-if students auditions successfully into the group) There are many uncertainties regarding pep band at the time of publication

25% Playing Tests/Playing Quizzes

25% Assignments, Projects, Written Quizzes

Grading Scale (in accordance with SLPHS policy)

100-90%: A

89-80%: B

79-70%: C

69-60%: D

Below 60%: F

## UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES REGARDING COVID-19

The 2020-21 school year will likely be partially in “hybrid format” due to the threat of COVID-19. In addition to the school capacity being reduced by 50%, there are several other precautions and considerations that must be made unique to band. The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) conducted a thorough scientific study on identifying the risks of aerosol release from band instruments. The study was conducted by Dr. Shelly Miller at the University of Colorado-Boulder and Dr. Jelena Srebric at Clemson University. St. Louis Park High School Bands take the recommendations of this study very seriously, and will enforce safety measures and required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the band room. As long as COVID-19 continues to be a threat we will follow the following protocols to keep ALL members of our team as safe as possible in the band room:

- Students will be required to wear a face mask at all times in the band room. The NFHS study recommends that students have a surgical-style mask that is unique to band that has a slot to insert their mouthpiece through the mask. Please have your child wait to cut their band mask as we will cut the slit together to make sure it is at the safest and most efficient place. MERV-13 material is the strongest air filter outside hospitals that blocks over 90% of impurities, including viruses). It is recommended by the study as a liner on the inside of your mask. We will cut out the correct sized filter from a roll of MERV-13 material in person at no cost to students or families.

\*Students should ONLY speak when using a face covering in the classroom.

- All BRASS and WOODWIND musicians will be required to use a bell cover\*. In the scientific study, over 80% of aerosols come out of the bell (end) even with woodwind instruments with many holes for air to escape. When combined with a band mask, risk is mitigated to a safe level. The school or band program will provide this important safety item at no charge. \*They do not make a bell cover for the end of flutes and piccolos because there is a special “flute shield” for them, but a homemade one (2-3 layers of non-stretchy material) would be a great added precaution.

- All FLUTE players will be required to have PPE. A flute shield, to catch air/aerosols going over the tone hole, will be provided for each player by the school or band program at no cost.

- PERCUSSION students are strongly urged to NOT share any equipment this year. If they must, they will be required to wear disposable rubber gloves when using any sticks or mallets that ARE NOT their own. Latex gloves are NOT allowed in SLPHS due to students with life-threatening latex allergies. They DO NOT need to wear gloves if they are using their own sticks that no other student uses. We are hopeful the school and/or band program can provide rubber gloves if needed.

- If a student does not have PPE for their instrument and themselves, they will not be allowed to play in class that day. Consider it being similar to a student forgetting their entire instrument at home. Students will lose all daily participation points unless they make up the missed rehearsal by talking to Mr. Schmitz.

- Brass players must NOT empty their water/spit valves directly on the floor. ONE AT A TIME (for social distancing), they need to empty spit/condensation into a garbage can that is emptied daily.

- The NFHS study requires that all students maintain a 6’ distance from other musicians at all times. It is recommended that trombone players keep a 9’ distance due to the length of the slide when extended. Also, students should be in lines and not in arcs or curves, so even with curved, terraced room, we will follow all these guidelines.

- The NFHS study recommends that wind players play for a MAXIMUM of 20-30 minutes at a time. After this 20-30 minutewindow, aerosol concentrations are higher and it is recommended that students clear the room for one “air refresh cycle” of the HVAC system. I have been told by the Buildings and Grounds/Facilities Department that SLPHS ventilation has been upgraded to fully exchange air 6-10 times per hour, which is within guidelines of the NFHS study.

- If a student is sick, or experiencing any symptoms identified to be associated with COVID-19, they should not come to school that day. Students will be allowed to complete all playing assignments from home, if necessary.

## **CONCERTS**

Since music evaluation is largely group-oriented and performance-based, it is **required** that each student gives 100% effort at all of the following concerts and is punctual to call times (usually one hour before the concert). **A concert is like a public unit test where every band member relies on each other do their best.** Obvious musical progress, proper uniform and good concert etiquette are crucial. WMC refers to West Metro Conference. Call times are almost always ONE HOUR before the concert’s starting time. **At this point, all events are ON in some format (indoors, outdoors, virtual, pre-recorded, streamed) on the following dates/times.**

Tues., Sep. 22, 2020	All Day	WMC All-Conference Band ( <b>select WE kids</b> )
Monday, Dec. 7, 2020	7:00pm	Band 9 and Jazz Ensemble (SH Aud.)
Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020	7:00pm	Symphonic Band/Wind Ensemble (SH Aud.)
Thursday, Jan. 28, 2021	All Day	WMC Jazz Festival @ Jefferson ( <b>Jazz only</b> )
Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021	All Day	Young Band Fest @ Woodbury ( <b>Band 9 only</b> )
Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021	All Day	WMC Band Festival @ Chaska ( <b>WE only</b> )
Thursday, Mar. 4, 2021	6:00pm	Pops Concert ( <b>All bands</b> , SH Cafeteria/Aud.)
Thursday, March 11, 2021	7:00pm	District Band Showcase ( <b>WE only</b> , SH Gym)
Monday, April 12, 2021	after school	Regional Solo/Ens. Contest (Edina, <b>voluntary</b> )
Monday, April 26, 2021	evening	Region 6AA Large Group Contest (Edina, <b>WE</b> )
Monday, May 3, 2021	7:00pm	Jazz Band & Band 9 (SH Aud.)
Tuesday, May 4, 2021	7:00pm	Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble (SH Aud.)
Tuesday, June 8, 2021	7:00pm	Graduation ( <b>FB/SB/WE--no seniors</b> ) (Stadium)

Performing arts classes are unique, team-oriented classes and concerts are a mandatory and public evaluation of learning. Band is a musical team and no team plays well when members are absent, tardy, or out of uniform. **Absence from a performance will ONLY be excused due to illness, family emergency, or a special case communicated to Mr. Schmitz by a parent or guardian in advance. A make-up assignment will be given. Unexcused absences can NOT be made up and receive no credit.**

Unlisted concert/field trip information will be communicated later.

**CONCERT DRESS:** This is NOT a time to show individuality. Our first impression is visual and a portion of the concert grade depends on **perfect uniform**. Please inform Mr. Schmitz *AS SOON AS POSSIBLE* if you cannot get these items due to finances. **Any concerts performed virtually/pre-recorded/streaming will not require this uniform and will use casual clothing.**

Uniform Option 1: Black skirt/dress or black dress pants. Black belt. Black dress shoes. White dress top (NO t-shirts or casual shirts). Skirt/dress must come below your knees when seated. Jeans and casual/athletic shoes are NOT allowed.

Uniform Option 2: Black dress pants with black belt, white long-sleeved dress shirt (button-down, with collar), black socks, black dress shoes, **long black tie (Only required for Wind Ensemble)** Jeans and casual/athletic shoes are NOT allowed

Jazz Ensemble: Identical to concert band attire EXCEPT that any white items of clothing are replaced by black ones. Dress clothes (**not casual**) are still required. No tie is needed for jazz concerts.

## **LETTERING**

Points toward band letters are obtained through extra-curricular activities and additional in-school musical efforts. To earn a letter in band, a student must accumulate at least 400 points based on the scale below. **It is the responsibility of the student to keep track of points earned and to hold onto pieces of evidence until the “lettering window” opens. Students should not hand me evidence as they collect it-part of this honor is the responsibility of organizing evidence and meeting deadlines.** This means the student must obtain and keep documented proof of attendance or participation. These documents must be turned in to Mr. Schmitz anytime from **April 5<sup>th</sup> to April 26<sup>th</sup>**. Attendance is taken at all pep band games. Lettering points do not carry over from year to year. **However, points earned the summer before the school year DO count for the current school year.** Letters and certificates for bars are only awarded at the end of the year at the band banquet. **Instead of lowering the points required to letter, some activities will be worth more points than other years and there will be additional ways to earn letter points.**

Pts Each	Event/Activity
20	Completion of a quiz with score of 90%+ on musictheory.net (limit of 5/year)
20	Each pep band game or pep band event performed (if NOT in Bleacher Blasters!)
30	Each QUALITY Practice Reflection turned in (limit of 5 per year, found on band Schoology page)
30	Each high-quality recording turned in (limit of 5 per year, guide found on band Schoology pages)
30	Performing with SLPSH Orchestra/Chorus or another High School+ level group (religious ensemble, Harm., Bridge) in one performance
30	POPS Concert Committee (attend both meetings) (15 pts for one meeting)
30	POPS "Work Day" Participation (for most/all of the event)
30	Participation (acting/technical crew/costumes) in any school play/musical
40	Each concert attended <i>that you DID NOT perform in!</i> Includes virtual concerts (Any level and any genre are acceptable)
40	All-State Band/MBDA 9-10 State Honor Band Audition
60	Participation in at 2 or more fundraisers this year ( <b>60 points total, NOT 60 for each one!!</b> )
60	Transcription of a jazz solo/Classical cadenza
60	Participation (singing role) in a school/outside musical
60	MBDA Regional Honor Band/College Honor Band/All-Conference Band Participation
60	Summer music camp participation (from summer before this school year)
70	Solo/Ensemble contest "Good" rating
75	All-State Band/Orchestra/Jazz Band: selection as an alternate
80	GTCYS/MYS/MJW/MYJ/Community Band/Church or Synagogue Band ( <b>FOR FULL SCHOOL YEAR!</b> )
80	Solo/Ensemble contest "Excellent" rating
80	One Semester of Private Piano or Guitar Lessons (must have 7+ per semester and the form from the band Schoology page must be filled out and attached)
90	Solo/Ensemble contest "Superior" rating
120	Participation in school/outside pit orchestra (80% or better attendance at rehearsals, at all shows)
120	One Semester of Private Lessons on your <b>main concert band instrument</b> (must have 7+ per semester; One form from the band Schoology page must be filled out per semester)
120	Be a band student aide for one semester with 80%+ attendance and a grade of an A/A+
120	Jazz Band participation all year *with a grade of A- or better
120	Solo/Ensemble contest "Best of Site" award
120	<b>All-State Band/MBDA 9-10 State Honor Band Participation</b>
120	Elected member of the SLPSH Band Council, involved ALL YEAR
200	Member of Bleacher Blasters Pep Band (missed no more than 2 games* this year!)

\*Hockey, LAX, soccer and basketball count, NOT football (since ALL do football)

## **PRIVATE LESSONS**

Although private lessons are not required, they are strongly encouraged since we cannot offer them in the curriculum. Private lessons for a musician at any level will greatly aid in many aspects of musical development. A list of recommended private teachers is included later in this handbook.

## **FOOTBALL PEP BAND PHILOSOPHY**

Pep band is an important part of the overall band experience! Football pep band is our biggest audience and our best public relations vehicle. It teaches musical skills, community service, builds school pride and supports our student athletes. ***Football pep band IS part of the band grade and everyone in band is in football pep band.*** (The make-up policy is extremely flexible and most students find the events fun and low-stress).

## **FOOTBALL PEP BAND**

Every band member (minus football players) at SLPSH is expected to perform at all assigned home football games. A grade is earned and students are expected to perform their best every time the band plays, the entire game. The SLPSH Pep Band shirt (or any official SLPSH Band apparel bought through the BPN) are the required uniform to get in the game. Any orange, black or Oriole attire works for the first game before the shirt order has arrived. Please see #2 under “Common Pep Band Questions Answered” for information about conflicts. **Due to uncertainty about schedules and pep band regulations this year, we may delay the shirt order.**

## **FALL FOOTBALL PEP BAND SCHEDULE 2020-2021 GRADED/REQUIRED FOR ALL**

**At the time of publication, no football schedule is available. We know football would take place in the spring this year, starting in March. I expect the full band program will play all HOME GAMES and I will get dates to families as soon as possible.**

### **BLEACHER BLASTER BAND SCHEDULE**

**\*\*THIS IS A VOLUNTARY PEP BAND THAT COMMITS TO 6+ GAMES, EARNING 200 LETTER POINTS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR\*\***

**Due to uncertainty around the regulations and schedule of athletics and pep band, there is no schedule ready at this time. As safety and rehearsals permit, I will get information to students and families as soon as possible.**

**\* FOR HOCKEY GAMES ONLY: *Due to liability, ALL students must ride the bus to and from hockey games, unless they turn in an Alternative Transportation form (found in the Athletic Office) or I have an e-mail from a parent/guardian giving permission for another mode of transport.*** We will walk to football, soccer, lacrosse and basketball games.



## **BLEACHER BLASTER PEP BAND**

The information below pertains to a normal year. It is unknown at this time what pep band will look like this year.

Each fall, Mr. Schmitz will ask students if they want to commit to being part of a committed pep band of 35-50 students that proudly represents SLPHS. There are 8 non-football pep band performances (not counting possible play-off games) and **students must commit to playing at least 6 of the games**. They play for women's and men's soccer, basketball, hockey and lacrosse. In exchange, they get to play the more challenging, more enjoyable pep band pieces and they get priority when pep band is invited to play at special events. **They also earn 200 letter points (halfway to a band letter)**. *Non-members of Bleacher Blasters may join this band whenever they'd like, but they only earn 20 points per game.*

### **Common Pep Band Questions Answered**

The information below pertains to a normal year. It is unknown at this time what pep band will look like this year.

- 1) **How many pep bands must my student play at?** ALL students will be graded on their performance at all assigned HOME football pep band games. Football players must make up the games by playing at three other sporting events (with the Bleacher Blasters) later in the year. (See #4 below for other ways to make up a game, if needed)
- 2) **What if my student has a conflict with as assigned game?**

For Football Pep Bands: In the event that a student cannot attend an assigned pep band for a valid reason, **the student must fill out a conflict form COMPLETELY and hand it to Mr. Schmitz BEFORE the game. Conflict forms are located in the band room in a yellow folder or on band class Schoology pages.** Conflict forms help teach responsibility, confirm instrumentation, and help dictate which tunes we will sound best on. **Therefore, conflict forms are not valid after the game is over** (except in case of illness/family emergency). All valid conflicts (sports, family event, illness/injury, vacation, etc.) are treated equally. Invalid conflicts include: forgetting to come, not planning ahead, sleeping through it, not having the game on the calendar. With an excused absence, an "exempt" will show up in the grade book, but this does turn into a **zero** if it is not made up during the school year.

For Bleacher Blasters members: Students may miss up to two of the games, but it is very important that they still fill out a conflict form. It is extremely helpful to find a sub that plays your same (or a similar instrument) so the band stays strong.

- 3) **What happens after a conflict form is turned in?**  
For Football Pep Bands: Turning in a conflict form allows the student to make up the game by attending another pep band event later in the year. For example: if a student is in football, out of town, has a family commitment or is ill for a football game, they simply turn in the form and tell Mr. Schmitz they are joining the Bleacher Blasters for a later game that fits their schedule. There are other ways to accomplish

this make-up (See #4 below). Once they make up the game, the “exempt” in the grade book turns into a grade.

For Bleacher Blaster Members: The conflict form helps Mr. Schmitz keep track of who earns the 200 letter points (by attending 6+ games), helps him choose tunes that make us sound good and helps deal with holes in instrumentation.

- 4) **What if my student tried to make up missed football games but had conflicts with those too?** Each student is graded on all HOME football pep band performances. If a make-up pep band is not an option, due to schedule, the student can attend a concert/musical show later in the year and turn in the program. Their name and “Football Pep Band Make-Up” must be on the front of the program.
  
- 5) **Why do football players have to make up football games?** We all appreciate what athletes do and bring to the school. To be fair, all valid excuses are treated equally (illness, injury, family event/issue, travel conflict, homework conflict, vacation, sports conflict). ALL students are expected to carry their weight and do their fair share. This is a minor challenge for athletes every year, but **zero** students have ever lost an “A” in band due to pep band conflicts. Football players should attend as many make-up games as possible and make up the rest with alternative assignments (see #4 above).

**LEADERSHIP IN BAND: BAND COUNCIL** In fall, students can apply to be a part of the Band Council. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Librarian and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Ambassador all help run and promote the HS band program by being ambassadors at middle school band concerts, sorting/packing up music after concerts and helping set up the stage on concert days. They are required to be part of the POPS Council in January. The BC often plans a holiday party and facilitates birthday/sympathy card signing. The President and Vice President must be a junior or senior and may be asked to make short speeches at high school and/or middle school concerts.

### **JAZZ BAND**

This fine group has been historically strong and requires an audition. This ensemble consists of the following instruments: alto/tenor/baritone saxophones, trumpets, trombones, and a rhythm section (drum set, bass, guitar, and piano). **Any band member, playing the included instruments, in grades 9-12 may audition. Jazz Band will meet Monday and Friday mornings from 7:30-8:15AM whether virtually or in person. Audition materials will be available on every band’s Schoology page by the third day of school. Audition recordings in mp3 format must be emailed to Mr. Schmitz by Wednesday, 9/23 at 11:59pm. Results will be posted on Schoology, likely by student number for data privacy, and students will be added to the class by 9/25. The first rehearsal is 7:30am on Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Jazz Band is a year-long class taken for one credit (except in rare cases with some IB diploma candidates.)**

## **SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST**

This Minnesota State High School League sponsored event takes place on Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at Edina High School. **This date/time have not been solidified yet.** Students may perform a solo with piano accompaniment or as part of an ensemble with their peers. A judge will score each performance and assign students a rating. Students earn letter points for this activity; more points the better they do. This activity is **highly encouraged**. It is a great way to work on individual skills and musicianship. Awards are given in May at the band banquet. Mr. Schmitz and/or private lesson teachers can help students prepare for this. Sign-ups and preparations begin in early January.

## **COLLEGE AND CONFERENCE HONOR BANDS**

Several colleges around the Twin Cities and region offer honor bands for high school students throughout the year. Our conference (WMC: West Metro Conference) also puts together an elite honor band. **It is unclear at this time what format this band might take, but the projected date is 9/22/20.** Many honor bands do not even require an audition and rely on director nomination. **I will contact you/your child if they may be a good fit for one of these bands, but students and caregivers can also talk to me if interested!** These are great opportunities to get to know the conductors at colleges around the area and play with outstanding student musicians from other high schools in Minnesota. These advanced groups are memorable experiences that boost personal musicianship and leadership and gain letter points.

## **STATE-LEVEL ELITE HONOR BANDS**

The MN Band Directors' Association (MBDA) and MMEA (MN Music Educators' Association) honor bands, jazz bands and all-state bands are elite auditioned groups for top musicians throughout Minnesota. The 9-10 MBDA groups are akin to All-State for younger students.

### **MBDA 9-10 Honor Band:**

This is the All-State Band for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders. This year's MBDA Honor Band event will be held at (TBA) High School. **Due to uncertainties this year, I can get materials to your child NOW (several weeks early) if desired. Though not finalized, rehearsals are projected to run from 8:30am to 8pm on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Rehearsals likely to start early on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and a concert at (TBA) likely begins at 2pm. Registration materials, money and audition mp3s are likely due to Mr. Schmitz between 11-23-20 and 11-27-20.** Students must schedule a recording session (2 hours) with Mr. Schmitz or with a private teacher. Please schedule it early! Please visit [www.mbda.org](http://www.mbda.org) and pull-down State Honor Band Information from the Upcoming Events menu for more information. As an MBDA member, I can access audition materials for interested students early in the fall.

### **MBDA 9-10 Jazz Band:**

This is All-State Band for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders. **Due to uncertainties this year, I can get materials to your child NOW (several weeks early) if desired. Though not finalized, students are projected to rehearse from 10am to 5pm on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at (TBA).** There is usually an informal performance to showcase the day's work at 5pm.

The band reconvenes for a performance at the MMEA (MN Music Educators' Association) Midwinter Clinic. **This is projected to be on the morning of Friday, February 12th, 2021 in Minneapolis. Registration materials, money and audition mp3s are projected to be due to Mr. Schmitz between October 26th, 2020 and November 5th, 2020.** Students must schedule a recording session (2 hours) with Mr. Schmitz or with a private teacher, but please schedule it early! Please visit [www.mbdia.org](http://www.mbdia.org) and pull down State Jazz Honor Band Information from the Upcoming Events menu for more information. As an MBDA member, I can access audition materials for interested students early in the fall. There is a \$10 audition fee and a \$65 fee if accepted. Acceptance is communicated in early December.

#### All-State Band and Jazz Band:

The MN Music Educators' Association (MMEA) annually sponsors the MN All-State Band and Jazz Ensemble comprised of the finest musicians in the state. Membership, based on recorded auditions due in mid-March, is one of the most prestigious honors available to a high school musician. Auditions consist of scales and required audition excerpts. Updated information and audition materials are usually available at [www.mmea.org](http://www.mmea.org) (click on All State under Student Programs and Events on the left side menu) by early November and students should start preparing as soon as possible. Visit [www.mmea.org/students/allstate/auditions/band](http://www.mmea.org/students/allstate/auditions/band) to get exactly what is needed. Students in grades 10 and 11 may audition this school year! All-State Band and All-State Jazz Band have a week-long camp at a Minnesota college in early August (TBA) and then they reconvene in mid-February to prepare to play at the MN Music Educators' Convention in Minneapolis.

#### **RENTING/USING SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS (INCLUDES PERCUSSION)**

School instruments are available for rental, depending on availability. **The cost is usually \$45 for the year, but due to COVID family income loss and possibly less playing time this year, I have reduced the fee to \$25. The form and payment will be likely put on Schoology and emailed to caregivers. Percussionists must pay a rental fee of \$25 as well for use and upkeep of the school's concert and pep band percussion equipment. Checks should be made out to "St. Louis Park High School." A rental form must be filled out completely along with payment. Payment can be dropped off at the HS main office, but please scan/photograph and email the completed rental forms to Mr. Schmitz. The form and money are due by 9/30.** Please contact Mr. Schmitz regarding financial concerns or a payment plan.

#### **FUNDRAISERS**

We will have at several *voluntary* fundraisers this school year. These help students gain money in their band accounts for a large trip (TBA) in the spring of 2021. Students in grades 10-12 may travel with the SLPSH Band Program. Fundraisers also help the band program overall with bussing costs as well as repair and music costs beyond our budget. Please plan ahead and fundraise early! You will be getting information soon about our first fundraiser.

Individual Fundraisers (benefit individual student trip/band account):

\*Band Discount Cards: We are unlikely to do this annual fundraiser in 2020. Businesses and families have lost much income due to the pandemic, so this fundraiser would not be a success.

\*The Mattress Sale (10-31-20) is both an individual AND a group fundraiser. *Individuals make money toward their trip accounts by passing out referral forms and having people buy mattresses based on that referral.* Group bonuses (put in the general band fundraising account to help all) are given based upon meeting volume targets. Mattresses are new, national name brands, made to order in the Midwest and are 30-50% off retail prices. This sale has always taken place in the SLPHS Main/Old Gym. In case that is not safe or approved, I believe the company is holding the sale safely in their warehouse in Maple Grove, but details have not been finalized

\*Students will have an opportunity to sell cookie dough and other items at 45% profit! The cookies are delicious and preservative-free and have Kosher, gluten-free and allergy-sensitive options. Dough must be refrigerated at all times since it is free of chemicals. This sale is not finalized but is projected to start on 11-2-20 and end on 11-18-20. This sale has traditionally had a strong online component, so it is likely to work for us no matter the situation with the pandemic. Delivery is planned to be in person (with masks, distancing) and is projected for 12-16-20 at the SLPSH Loading Dock.

Group Fundraisers: (reduce trip cost for all, provide scholarships, help with repair/music/bussing costs)

\*Mattress Sale

\*Parkway Pizza Dining for Dollars: Parkway (SLP location) is kind enough to donate 5% of all profits the first Tuesday of each month to SLPHS Bands! You don't need a coupon or to even mention the fundraiser. Just enjoy pizza there in person, via takeout or via delivery. If you'd like a reminder each time our fundraising night comes around, text "SLPBAND" to this number: 22452

\*These are not finalized for this year: Pizza Discount Card Fundraiser and Carwash Discount Card Fundraiser

\*\*Minimal student participation in at least TWO fundraisers this year earns the students 60 letter points (TOTAL of 60 for both, not 60 each).

### **E-MAIL/NETWORK BLOG UPDATES**

Mr. Schmitz will send email updates (1-2 per month) and reminders concerning various activities, opportunities and events happening in the band program. If you do not have

access to email, please let me know on the band handbook signature form (last page) and I will provide paper copies to your child or by mail.

### **TEXT/TWITTER UPDATES**

\*Students (and caregivers) are encouraged to sign up to get occasional text messages from SLPBands to get brief updates, news and reminders. Simply text: **Follow SLPBands** to 40404 and you will get the messages. If you have a Twitter account, you can also follow @SLPBands for the same information.

### **BAND PARENT NETWORK (BPN)**

The BPN helps make a quality, equitable experience for all SLPHA band students by organizing volunteers, promoting the program, and raising funds beyond those the school can provide. We worked throughout summer to give this group more independence on collecting and spending money by making it a 501c3 non-profit. You will receive information about fundraising plans for the year and any meeting times. There are opportunities to serve on a committee, help out at a one-time-event or serve as an ongoing leader. For now, please fill out and return the BPN/Volunteering page toward the back of this booklet. Also, please “like” our page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SLPBPN>. We could always use a few new recruits who want to be on the BPN leadership team. We are especially in need of new leaders and support in this unusual year and with many of last year’s leaders “graduating out”. We are likely to have our first BPN meeting virtually. This is for ALL band parents interested in helping and networking this year. (Proposed date/time: Thursday 9-24-20, 7pm, Google Meets or Zoom).

### **SLP BAND SCHOOLOGY PAGE:**

The SLP Band Schoology site has all the updated information you need to know about band. During distance learning and hybrid learning, it is the center of all information and education. It will contain a copy of the handbook, calendars, forms, as well as student assignments and music. Please contact Mr. Schmitz if you cannot find how to get to this page. **There is a band website, but the district updates it and it can be behind.** <https://www.slpschools.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=464>

### **INTERNET “DO NOT PUBLISH”:**

The BPN Facebook page, SLPHS Newsletter and the SLP Band Twitter account may occasionally share photos or news from events and concerts. For internet safety, only first names and last initial are used if there is a picture. However, if you do not want your child’s image on school social media and have a “DO NOT PUBLISH” form on file at the school, it is very important that Mr. Schmitz knows this.

### **MUSIC TECHNOLOGY IN BAND CLASS**

During distance learning, Schoology will be vital. SmartMusic will be provided to help with distance learning challenges. Other platforms may be used, but will work with Schoology and be linked there.

In the band room, we have four student computers and music technology that is fun and educational. Finale is a music composition program that students may choose to use for independent projects and for a final project involving composition.

### **CONTACTING MR. SCHMITZ**

My preferred mode of contact is e-mail. My e-mail address is [schmitz.steven@slpschools.org](mailto:schmitz.steven@slpschools.org). Please check the band Schoology page for basic band information. There is a website managed by the school, but it is often out of date. My phone number at the senior high is 952-928-6159, but I will not often be by the phone. **Email is the only reliable way to reach me during distance learning as teachers may not be allowed in the building.**

### **RECOMMENDED TEACHER LIST (PRIVATE LESSONS)**

**\*If it is required or preferred, most private lesson teachers now offer virtual lessons!**

**The following people teach multiple band instruments with their specialties listed:**

Lara Dietrich: Trombone and low brass specialty, but teaches all band instruments and piano. Teacher/Owner at Maestoso Music in St. Louis Park. [ldietrich.music@gmail.com](mailto:ldietrich.music@gmail.com) (612) 423-2530

Sten Johnson: Brass, with trumpet specialty. [Sten.johnson@yahoo.com](mailto:Sten.johnson@yahoo.com) or (651)-276-4177  
Teaches at Maestoso Music in St. Louis Park. (952) 201-4547

Thomas Solac: Flute/piccolo/oboe specialty, but teaches all band instruments. Over 30 years experience. Teaches at Maestoso Music in St. Louis Park. [tomsolac@usfamily.net](mailto:tomsolac@usfamily.net). (612)-245-9052

Bill Lang: Saxophone, Flute, Clarinet. Teaches at Maestoso Music in St. Louis Park. [billreddog@yahoo.com](mailto:billreddog@yahoo.com) (612) 232-4050

Becky Caldwell-Tautges: Bassoon, Clarinet, Saxophones, Flute. Teaches at Maestoso Music in St. Louis Park. [beckyannect@gmail.com](mailto:beckyannect@gmail.com)  
(952) 649-2164

Edith Bohardt: Flute. Teaches at Maestoso Music in St. Louis Park. [flute.gal@hotmail.com](mailto:flute.gal@hotmail.com)  
612-701-7778

Ken Ross: Trumpet, brass. Teaches at Maestoso Music in St. Louis Park. [ken.ross@live.com](mailto:ken.ross@live.com)

Mark Luger: Teaches saxophones, clarinet, flute, trumpet and trombone. Teaches at Schmitt Music Minnetonka. (612) 501-1590 [markluger@live.com](mailto:markluger@live.com)

Jim Hann: Trombone and low brass. Teaches at Maestoso Music in St. Louis Park. [Jhann01@gmail.com](mailto:Jhann01@gmail.com). (612) 802-0784.

Melissa Stoudt: Flute and Saxophones. Teaches at Maestoso Music in St. Louis Park.  
[stoudtstudio@gmail.com](mailto:stoudtstudio@gmail.com)

Jim Hann: Trombone and low brass. Teaches at Maestoso Music in St. Louis Park.  
Jhann01@gmail.com. (612) 802-0784.

Schmitt Music Richfield/Edina, Schmitt Music Minnetonka, Groth Music (Bloomington) and MacPhail Center (Minneapolis) have many fine teachers as well

## **RECOMMENDED TEACHER LIST (PRIVATE LESSONS) Continued**

### **Flute:**

Erica Bennett, 612-396-2009, [ahtalynne@hotmail.com](mailto:ahtalynne@hotmail.com)  
Catherine Besonen, Apple Valley, 952-953-0277  
Marian Clay, Edina, 952-920-6952  
Donna Hryniewicki, [www.flute101.com](http://www.flute101.com)  
Vanamali Medina, 612-812-2715  
Betty Olson, Bloomington, 952-831-3854  
Minsun Song, Minneapolis, 1-360-600-6865, [song0215@umn.edu](mailto:song0215@umn.edu)  
Wendy Williams, South Minneapolis, 612-824-7557 (plays with MN Orchestra)  
Mark Yannie, St. Louis Park, 952-933-0350, [mjyannie@hotmail.com](mailto:mjyannie@hotmail.com)

### **Oboe:**

Angela Anderson, St. Louis Park or Edina, [angelar@angelar.com](mailto:angelar@angelar.com), (612) 209-1822  
Brandon Bushman, St. Louis Park @ Maestoso Music Studio, 678.644.2686  
Sarah Carmack, St. Paul, 651-295-0107  
Crystal Hall, St. Paul, (708) 263-3944, [oboecrystal@gmail.com](mailto:oboecrystal@gmail.com)  
Dagan Hanson, Prior Lake, [dhanson@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us](mailto:dhanson@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us)  
Erin Heilman, Shakopee, look her up through Pearson Elementary (Shakopee)  
Mia Lundgren, Metro, [lundgren.mia@gmail.com](mailto:lundgren.mia@gmail.com), 763-607-7338  
David Merz, St. Louis Park @ Maestoso Music Studio, [Merzx055@umn.edu](mailto:Merzx055@umn.edu), (618) 741-7360  
Justin Schwartz, (715) 216-0206, [schwa905@umn.edu](mailto:schwa905@umn.edu)

### **Bassoon:**

Becky Caldwell-Tautges, St. Louis Park @ Maestoso Music Studio, 952-649-2154 or 952-920-4395 or [beckyct@earthlink.net](mailto:beckyct@earthlink.net)  
Kris Pichelman, Burnsville, 952-882-0730  
Coreen Nordling, Edina, 952-925-0620

### **Clarinet:**

Becky Caldwell-Tautges, St. Louis Park @ Maestoso Music Studio, 952-649-2154 or 952-920-4395 or [beckyct@earthlink.net](mailto:beckyct@earthlink.net)  
Brian Grivna, Edina, 952-929-5127  
Mark Luger, Minnetonka Schmitt Music, 612-501-1590  
Ed Melichar, Edina, 952-941-4674  
Karrin Meffert-Nelson, Edina, 612-840-5340, [Kmeffer2@gustavus.edu](mailto:Kmeffer2@gustavus.edu)  
Patricia Morgan, Apple Valley, 612-501-9072  
Claire Nalven, St. Paul, 516-754-2774, [clairenalven@gmail.com](mailto:clairenalven@gmail.com)  
Nina Olson, Minneapolis, [www.macphail.org](http://www.macphail.org)



Weily Shay, St. Louis Park @ Maestoso Music, 571-276-4288, weily.clarinet@gmail.com  
Mark Yannie, St. Louis Park, 952-933-0350, m jyannie@hotmail.com

**Saxophone (ask if they teach jazz if interested):**

Becky Caldwell-Tautges, 952-649-2154 or 952-920-4395 or beckyct@earthlink.net  
Brian Grivna, Edina, 952-929-5127  
Kathy Jensen, St. Louis Park, 952-925-3017  
Chuck Keane, Bloomington, 952-240-2058  
Greg Keel, Minneapolis, www.macphail.org

**RECOMMENDED TEACHER LIST (PRIVATE LESSONS) Continued**

Mark Luger, Minnetonka Schmitt Music, 612-501-1590  
Joe Mayo, mayojazz@gmail.com  
Nancy Truchinski, Bloomington, 952-435-1855  
Mark Yannie, St. Louis Park, 952-933-0350, m jyannie@hotmail.com

**Trumpet (ask if they teach jazz if interested):**

William Eisenberg, william.eisenberg@gmail.com, 952-457-5799  
Dan Fretland, Bloomington, 651-365-7642  
Ron Hasselmann, St. Louis Park, 952-933-5559  
Diana Hawley, Edina, 952-922-0797  
Riley Helgeson, St. Louis Park @ Maestoso Music. Riley.h.helgeson@gmail.com. (507) 581-1784.  
Dean Heller, St. Louis Park, 952-546-6913  
Dr. Del Lyren, Golden Valley, (218) 766-8512  
William Muñoz, wmunozaponte@gmail.com OR www.william-munoz.com  
Takako Seimiya, Minneapolis, www.macphail.org  
Ben Parke: Parke Music Studios : minneapolisbrass.com , Edina/SLP

**Horn:**

Annie Ausen, St. Louis Park @ Maestoso Music. Ausen.annie@gmail.com, (651) 332-9607.  
Neal Bolter, St. Louis Park, 952-922-2468  
Mary Brindle, Edina, 952-941-7746  
William Eisenberg, william.eisenberg@gmail.com, 952-457-5799  
Dr. Del Lyren, Golden Valley, (218) 766-8512  
Dr. Jenna McBride-Harris, jennamchorn@gmail.com, 503-537-4330  
Ellen Smith, Edina, 952-829-5381  
Ben Parke: Parke Music Studios : minneapolisbrass.com Edina/SLP

**Trombone/Baritone/Euphonium (ask if they teach jazz if interested):**

John England, Edina, 952-941-1926  
Lauren Husting, Edina or NE Mpls, 858-776-0409  
Patrick Stauffer, Western suburbs, 972-821-2798, [pvstauffer@yahoo.com](mailto:pvstauffer@yahoo.com)  
Jason Tanksley, [jason tanksley@gmail.com](mailto:jason tanksley@gmail.com), travels to your home for lessons!  
Sean Vanderveen, Shakopee, 763-213-5594  
Ben Parke: Parke Music Studios : minneapolisbrass.com, Edina/SLP

**Tuba:**

Lauren Husting, Edina or NE Mpls, 858-776-0409  
Patrick Stauffer, Western suburbs, 972-821-2798, [pvstauffer@yahoo.com](mailto:pvstauffer@yahoo.com)

Jason Tanksley, [jasantanksley@gmail.com](mailto:jasantanksley@gmail.com), travels to your home for lessons!  
Sean Vanderveen, Shakopee, 763-213-5594  
Ben Parke: Parke Music Studios : [minneapolisbrass.com](http://minneapolisbrass.com), Edina/SLP

## **RECOMMENDED TEACHER LIST (PRIVATE LESSONS) Continued**

### **Percussion/Drumset:**

Eric Christenson, Shakopee, 952-496-5116  
Jack Donovan, St. Louis Park, [Donovajm@gmail.com](mailto:Donovajm@gmail.com) or (763) 218-8774  
Kevin Fuhrman, Coon Rapids and on Skype, [kfuhrman@fuhrmanmusic.com](mailto:kfuhrman@fuhrmanmusic.com), 763-427-5604  
Derrick Raiter, South Minneapolis, 612-388-1850 or [www.urbanpercussion.com](http://www.urbanpercussion.com)  
David Thomas, St. Louis Park @ Maestoso Music, [dtgroove@comcast.net](mailto:dtgroove@comcast.net)  
Shannon van der Reck, St. Louis Park @ Maestoso Music, [marsymarsy@gmail.com](mailto:marsymarsy@gmail.com)

### **Drum Set ONLY:**

Zach Eyl, Hopkins @ Taylor Sound, [ZachEylMusic@gmail.com](mailto:ZachEylMusic@gmail.com), 952-607-5859

### **Piano/Jazz Piano:**

Sean Crego, St. Louis Park, [www.seanregomusic.com/lessons.html](http://www.seanregomusic.com/lessons.html)  
Tom Weeklund, Richfield, 612-861-2033

### **Jazz Guitar/Bass:**

Rob Hahn, Prior Lake, [rhahn@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us](mailto:rhahn@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us)  
Travis Freudenberg, Burnsville, 952-898-9679

### **Guitar:**

Ben Noble, St. Louis Park, c: (303)-565-9595, [bennobleguitar@gmail.com](mailto:bennobleguitar@gmail.com)  
Mike Wolter, (608)-445-8853, [michaeljwolter1@gmail.com](mailto:michaeljwolter1@gmail.com)

### **Bass (upright string bass and electric bass):**

Kellie Nitz (Classical and Jazz); [kellie.rae.nitz@gmail.com](mailto:kellie.rae.nitz@gmail.com); (612-849-0194)

# St. Louis Park High School Band Parent Network

The Band Parent Network (BPN) is a group of parents who work together to support the SLPHS Bands by helping to organize fundraisers, coordinating volunteers, and promoting the band within our community. We spread out the work, so that no one has to spend a lot of time – and we encourage people to volunteer for things that they are good at and enjoy doing. There are many opportunities to be involved as a parent. You can be as involved as you want – from being an event coordinator, serving pizza at our POPS concert, or simply “liking” our BPN Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SLPBPN>. **Please turn this in by 9-18-20.**

## 2020-2021 School Year Volunteer Opportunities

(Some may be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic)

- Band spirit wear order (organization, delivery)
- Mattress sale (advertising, transportation)
- Cookie dough sale (delivery organization)
- POPS concert (Serving pizza/soda, ticket-taking, decoration, clean-up, coordinating pizza etc.)
- Support and spread the word for our fundraisers
- Band Banquet (bring a dish/ decorate/help clean up)
- Chaperone a local field trip
- Play with the band as a model (on your instrument)
- Help to sort and organize music
- Coach or give a clinic on music

All of these events need coordinators and volunteers. If you are interested in coordinating or volunteering for a specific event please circle that event or those events above.

**If you want more information about something or want to help another way, please write that below:**

We communicate via email and Sign Up Genius to organize volunteers. Please indicate your level of interest:

- When volunteers are needed  
 With Band Parent Network e-mail updates  
 I'll get what I need from Mr. Schmitz's communications

Parent/Guardian Name(s)	Preferred Phone Number	Email Address

Student Name	Graduation Year	Email Address

**STUDENT PARENT INFORMATION SHEET (DUE 9-18-20 for 20 points!)**

I have received, read and understand the information in this handbook for participation in the St. Louis Park High School Band. I agree to abide by all rules and regulations and attend all performances. *This form is the first assignment of the year and is due to Mr. Schmitz by Friday, September 18th. Please photograph/scan the form and have your student turn it in via Schoology (it will be an assignment).*

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Student *Preferred* Name (Printed)

Student preferred *pronouns*

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Student Signature

Date

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Parent/Guardian Name(s)

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Parent/Guardian Signature(s)

Date

**To guard against instrument loss or theft, please fill out the following information if you own an instrument that will be used at school (skip it if you rent an instrument from the school as I have this information):**

Instrument type: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument serial number: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument model name/number: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Though the instrument storage area and band room are locked when not in use and students are supervised, theft and damage could occur. Check with your homeowner's insurance to include a personal articles policy on your instrument.

Parent(s) e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

Student(s) e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian cell phone number(s):

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Student cell phone number\*:

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(\*Please include this. It is used for only emergencies (student is late to a report time on a field trip, cancelled jazz/pep band due to weather, etc). Student numbers are kept in a locked cabinet in my office and are not shared)

