

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

Welcome to the 2024-2025 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 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 Wednesday, September 11th. This is the students' first formative assignment. We will go through highlights of the handbook in class, but students and parents/caregivers should look on their band class page on Schoology and read/download/save this handbook. Students will be given a printed copy of the last two pages (the assignment) in class for all to complete, or if misplaced, the last two pages can be printed off from each band class Schoology page.**

I am excited for another great school year at St. Louis Park High School! I attended the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and earned my degree in music education in spring of 2023. I was involved in the Wind Ensemble, University Symphony Orchestra, Percussion Ensemble, and the New Music Ensemble. In my free time, I like to read, listen to music and podcasts, volunteer, go to concerts, and spend time with friends and family members. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you, and I know that together we will have an awesome year!

Sincerely,

Annaliese Heim
SLPHS Bands and Digital Beat Making
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PHILOSOPHY

Music is an important and intrinsically-valuable aspect of a well-rounded education and of being human. 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. The goal of the St. Louis Park Music Department is 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 excellence in musical performance.*

COURSE GOALS

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

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

1. Students will show up to class every day, on time (unless properly excused). Be ready to play three minutes after the class's starting bell.
2. Students are to have their instrument, accompanying equipment, music, and a pencil.
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).**
4. Students will have a cooperative attitude and give their best effort at all times. This includes having good playing posture.

NEW - CELL PHONE POLICY

SLPHS Students may possess or use personal electronic devices on school property, on school buses, or at school-sponsored events according to the following guidelines:

- Cell phones/electronic devices/earbuds may be used:
 - Before school until the beginning of the school day at 8:25 a.m.
 - During a student's passing time
 - During a student's assigned lunch period
 - After school, beginning at 3:15 p.m.
- Personal electronics should be put away during instructional time. During class time electronics should be kept in your backpack, purse, or pocket and completely silenced.
- Students whose electronics are seen or heard during instructional time may have their devices confiscated.

All classrooms are equipped with a landline. There is no reason that a student should need to use a cell phone during the regular school day instructional time. We do

recognize that cell phones can be a safety or security tool. In any instance requiring an emergency communication with a student, our school will immediately assist the student, a parent, or other responsible adult with that situation.

- Tier 1 (Classroom): Reminders will be given daily by the classroom teacher to put away all personal devices and communicate how Chromebook devices will be utilized for the class period.
- Tier 2 (Classroom): The cell phone/personal electronic device will be taken and placed in a secure area and returned at the end of the period.
- Tier 3 (ASC): An ASC will be called to collect the cell phone/personal electronic device and to be placed in a secured locker in the main office, to be returned at the end of the day.
- Tier 4 (Administration): The student may be given an after school detention, dismissal, or a parent/guardian will need to pick up the cell phone/personal electronic device from the main office. It may also be determined that the student may no longer bring their cell phone/personal electronic device to school for a period of time or the student be assigned a daily check-in/out system in the main office.

Chronic misuse of cell phone/personal electronic devices may lead to a meeting with the student's parent/guardian to make a plan for supporting the student.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Please make sure that your instrument is always in working order. Ms. Heim can try to repair minor issues, but most need to be taken or sent to Eckroth Music (pick-up and drop-off are weekly on Mondays) 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, sticks, mallets, mutes, and other equipment are **generally NOT sold at SLPHS***. **Exception—we often have pep band lyres (small music holders that attach to most instruments for pep band).* These will be available to buy in September, most for \$5 each. An Eckroth Music representative stops by the school weekly on Mondays to pick up/drop off orders and instruments. You can also order supplies with a credit card from Eckroth at 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 recommended that you initial all sticks, mallets and equipment with a permanent marker. An order form will be handed to percussionists new to SLPHS (or any who do not have all the equipment). Ms. Heim will make a group order so all students have a stick bag with standard high school snare sticks, bell mallets, marimba/suspended cymbal mallets, and timpani mallets. *Percussionists at SLPHS 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 since they are not cheap and only one person plays timpani at a time in a band.*

GRADING

20% - Formative Assignments

- This includes exit tickets, concert reflections, and playing assessments.

80% - Summative Assignments

- This includes playing assessments, concerts, and other required performances.

Grading Scale

93-100%:	A
90-92%:	A-
87-89%:	B+
83-86%:	B
80-82%:	B-
77-79%:	C+
73-76%:	C
70-72%:	C-
67-69%:	D+
63-66%:	D
60-62%:	D-
50-59%:	F

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY

Please review the [academic dishonesty policy](#) in the student and parent handbook.

CONCERTS

Since music evaluation is largely group-oriented and performance-based, it is **required** that each student gives 100% effort at all concerts, wears the required uniform, and is punctual to call times. **A concert is like a public unit test where every band member relies on each other to do their best.** Obvious musical progress, proper uniform and good concert etiquette are crucial. Call times are almost always ONE HOUR before the concert's starting time.

MWC refers to Metro West Conference. WE refers to Wind Ensemble.

Wed., Sep. 25, 2024	All Day	MWC All-Conference Band (select WE kids)
Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024	7:00pm	Band 9 and Jazz Ensemble Winter Concert
Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024	7:00pm	Wind Ensemble Winter Concert
Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025	All Day	MWC Jazz Festival @ Jefferson (Jazz only)
Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025	All Day	MWC Band Festival @ Chaska (WE only)
Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025	6:00pm	POPS Concert (All bands)
Thursday, March 6, 2025	7:00pm	District Band Showcase (WE only , HS Main Gym)
Tuesday, April 15, 2025	after school	Regional Solo/Ens. Contest (Edina, voluntary)
Tuesday, April 29, 2025	7:00pm	Jazz Band & Band 9 Spring Concert
Thursday, May 1, 2025	7:00pm	Wind Ensemble Spring Concert, Senior Awards
Tuesday, May 13, 2025	7:00 pm	Jazz Concert @ Hopkins High School (jazz only)
Tuesday, June 3, 2025	7:00pm	Graduation (grades 9-11 only) (Stadium)

WE to Band 8 Recruitment Trip will be in early February, exact date TBD.

CONCERT DRESS:

OPTION 1: Black dress that comes to knees or below when seated, black tights/black socks, formal black dress shoes (no sneakers/tennis shoes).

OPTION 2: Long black pants/skirt, long-sleeved black dress shirt or formal top (buttoned appropriately), black tights/black socks, formal black dress shoes (no sneakers/tennis shoes).

If you or your student have questions about an item of clothing or need help paying for it, please ask Ms. Heim **EARLY** so it does not become an emergency for anyone. **PLEASE** find/try on clothing well before the concert because rapid growth changes are typical at this age.

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 **600** 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 as 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 Ms. Heim anytime from **April 7th to April 21st**. Lettering points **CARRY OVER** from year to year. Letters and certificates for bars are only awarded at the end of the year at the band banquet. To view/print off the lettering packet, click [here](#). (Also in important documents on Schoology).

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. If done with focus and effort, they are one of the fastest ways to improve confidence and skill. If your student is interested in private lessons, please email Ms. Heim for a list of recommended instructors.

PEP BAND POLICY

Every band member (minus football players) at SLPHS is **expected to perform at the Homecoming football game PLUS THREE other games of their choosing**. Students play a few tunes before the game and at halftime and then one tune at the end of quarters 1, 2, and 4. They may sit by their friends, with permission, for the 80% of the time they are not playing. A grade is earned for these **FOUR** games and students are expected to perform their best every time the band plays, the entire game. SLP spiritwear is the required uniform to get in the game. Please see #2 under “Common Pep Band Questions

Answered” for information about conflicts.

BLEACHER BLASTER PEP BAND INFORMATION/SCHEDULE

***All students pick four games from this schedule to attend for a grade, but Bleacher Blasters attend eight.**

****BLEACHER BLASTERS IS A VOLUNTARY PEP BAND THAT COMMITS TO PLAYING AT 8+ GAMES, EARNING 100 LETTER POINTS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR.**

** Due to liability and SLPHS rules, ALL students must ride the bus to and from hockey/lacrosse games, unless they turn in an Alternative Transportation form (found in the Athletic Office). We will walk to football, soccer, lacrosse, and basketball games.*

Friday, 9-20-24: HOMECOMING GAME: REQUIRED: Football @ 7 pm at SLP Stadium vs Robbinsdale Cooper, 6 pm call time

Tuesday, 9-24-24: Womens AND Mens Soccer vs Hopkins @ 5:00 pm at SLP stadium. 4:00 pm call time.

Hopkins LMPM and SLP Band Social Night!

Friday, 10-4-24: Football @ 7:45 pm at SLP Stadium vs Tartan, 6:30 pm call time.

Tuesday, 10-7-24: Volleyball @ 7 pm at SLP vs Mahtomedi. 6 pm call time.

Tuesday, 11-26-24: Girls Hockey @ 7 pm at Minnetonka Ice Arena. 6 pm call time. Bus leaves at 6:15.

Thursday, 12-19-24: Boys Hockey @ 7 pm at SLP Rec Center. 6 pm call time. Bus leaves at 6:15.

Thursday, 1-16-25: Boys Basketball @ 7 pm at SLP vs Waconia. 6 pm call time.

Tuesday, 2-11-25: Girls Basketball @ 7 pm at SLP vs Orono. 6 pm call time.
SLPMS Community Night!

Friday, 5-16-25: Girls Lacrosse @ 7 pm at SLP vs Hopkins. 6 pm call time.

Schedules Forthcoming:

1. Girls Hockey
2. Track
3. Boys Lacrosse

Common Pep Band Questions Answered

- 1) **How many pep bands must my student play at?** ALL students will be graded on one mandatory football pep band game in the fall plus THREE other games of their choosing. Football players must make up the games by playing at other sporting events (with the Bleacher Blasters) later in the year.
- 2) **What if my student has a conflict with an assigned game?**

For Homecoming Pep Band: In the event that a student cannot attend an assigned pep band for a valid reason, **the student must fill out a conflict form BEFORE the Homecoming Game.** This is an online form located in “Important Documents” on Schoology. All valid conflicts are treated equally. Invalid conflicts include: forgetting to come, not planning ahead, sleeping through it, not having the game on a calendar.

For Bleacher Blasters members: Students may miss up to four of the games, but it is very important that you still communicate the absence as early as possible to Ms. Heim. 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 Homecoming Pep Band: 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/emergency, or is ill for a football game, they simply turn in the form and tell Ms. Heim they are joining the Bleacher Blasters for a later game that fits their schedule. Once they make up the game, the “exempt” in the grade book turns into a grade. *Note there is a double-header soccer event on September 20th that takes care of TWO of these in one evening!*

For Bleacher Blaster Members: The conflict form helps Ms. Heim keep track of who earns the 100 letter points (by attending 8+ games), helps her choose tunes that make us sound good, and helps deal with holes in instrumentation.

- 4) **What if my student has conflicts with all non-football make-up games?**

If a student has tried but cannot get the required number of pep bands, ***they must make a plan with Ms. Heim.*** As long as the student has a conversation and makes a plan to make up a pep band next semester, the Semester 1 grade will stay “exempt” and not turn to “zero”. 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 “Pep Band Make-Up” must be on the front of the program.

LEADERSHIP IN BAND: BAND COUNCIL In the fall, students can apply to be on the Band Council ballot. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Librarian, and 9th Grade Ambassador all help advise, grow, 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 and fold programs on concert days. They are required to be part

of the POPS Council in January. The council often plans a holiday party in December. The President and Vice President must be a junior or senior.

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. The first rehearsal is 7:30am on Monday, September 23rd. Audition materials will be available in the band room and likely also on all band Schoology pages by Friday, September 6th.** The audition is an excerpt of a jazz band piece for the year. No sight reading or improvisation is included. *Ninth graders: this is a 9-12 group and though it may feel intimidating, you very well MAY be ready and make it. Jazz Band is a year-long class taken for one credit.*

SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST

This Minnesota State High School League sponsored event takes place on Tuesday, April 15th, 2025 at Edina High School. Students may perform a solo with piano accompaniment or as part of an ensemble with their peers. Students may only do one event in each category (like saxophone solo) but can do events in 2+ categories (like flute solo and flute duet). Unfortunately, piano, guitar and bass are not included. A judge will score each performance and assign students a rating. Students earn letter points for this activity. 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. Ms. Heim 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. 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. [Here](#) is a database of some regional college/conference honor bands.

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 9th and 10th graders. This event usually occurs in April.

Exact details are not available at this time, but they are likely to be fairly similar to other year's details. Registration materials, money and audition mp3s are usually due to Ms. Heim between the end of November/early December. Students must schedule a recording session (2 hours) with Ms. Heim or with a private teacher. Please schedule it early! Please visit www.mbda.org and pull-down State Honor Band Information from the Events menu for more information. As an MBDA (Minnesota Band Directors' Association) member, I can access audition materials for interested students in early fall.

MBDA 9-10 Jazz Band:

This is the All-State Band for 9th and 10th grade jazz students. Exact details are not available at this time, but they are likely to be fairly similar to other year's details. Registration materials, money and audition mp3s are likely to be due to Ms. Heim between the end of **October/early November**. Students must schedule a recording session (2 hours) with Ms. Heim or with a private teacher, but please schedule it early! Please visit www.mbda.org and pull down State Jazz Honor Band Information from the Events menu for more information. As an MBDA member, I can access audition materials for interested students early in the fall. There is usually 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 MN All-State Jazz Ensemble comprised of the finest junior and senior musicians in the state. Membership, based on recorded auditions, is one of the most prestigious honors available to a high school musician. Auditions consist of scales and required audition excerpts. Students should tell Ms. Heim of their interest and start preparing as soon as possible with their private teacher. Visit <https://mmea.org/events/all-state/auditions/> in November to get exactly what is needed. All-State Band and All-State Jazz Band have a week-long camp at a Minnesota college in early August and then they reconvene in mid-February to prepare to play a concert at Orchestra Hall.

RENTING/USING SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS (INCLUDES PERCUSSION)

School instruments are available for rental, depending on availability. The form and payment will be likely put on Schoology in the "Important Band Docs" green folder and will be attached to this email. Percussionists must also pay a rental fee of \$45 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. Students should hand the money and form (in a labeled envelope) to Ms. Heim. It also can be dropped off at the HS main office or mailed to Ms. Heim at the HS address. **The form and money are due by 9/20. Please contact Ms. Heim regarding financial concerns and we will create a payment plan or waive the fee for your family.**

FUNDRAISERS

We will have several **voluntary** fundraisers this school year. These help students gain money in their band accounts for future band travel and other band expenses. Students in

grades 10-12 may travel with the SLPHS Band Program. Fundraisers also help the band program overall with bussing costs as well as repair and music costs beyond our small budget. Please plan ahead and fundraise early! You will be getting information soon about our first fundraiser.

CURRENT BAND TRAVEL POLICY:

Philosophy: Travel is meant to be a life-affirming experience where students improve musically, learn new things, bond socially, and represent Park Bands in other areas of the country and world. Financial barriers, if a student does their best to fundraise, will not bar any student from travel.

Schedule/Rationale: The pandemic disrupted everything, including preventing one group of band students from ever having a band trip. It allowed us to reflect and rebuild smarter. Due to financial, equity, and teacher balance/health reasons, we will offer a trip every three years. Past trips have been to Hawai'i, Puerto Rico, Southern California, Florida, New York, etc. Every student will have a chance to travel once in their HS band career (in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade). Cost and locations will be voted on by students and caregivers and a variety of price points will be offered. This plan will increase trip participation, decrease teacher burnout and "fundraising fatigue", and decrease trip cost since there will be 1-3 years for fundraising. With this three year cycle, the next trip will be in Spring Break of 2025. This mirrors the SLPHS Orchestra travel schedule, with travel in different years for those in both programs.

E-MAIL/SCHOOLGY/REMIND UPDATES

Ms. Heim will send email updates (max 1-2/month) and reminders concerning various activities, opportunities and events happening in the band program. As per district policy, Schoology will continue to be an important learning tool for students. Remind (a double-blind texting service between teachers and students) will be used for occasional student reminders.

BAND PARENT NETWORK (BPN)

The BPN helps make a quality, equitable experience for all SLPHS 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 a kick-off meeting.. There are opportunities to serve on a committee, help out at a one-time-event or serve as an ongoing leader. Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/SLPBPN>.

Parent Meeting: This is for ALL band parents interested in helping our program this year (not just those wanting to be leaders). Our first meeting will be **virtual, on Tuesday, September 17th at 7 pm. Ms. Heim will email a Google meet link. The session will be recorded and sent out for any parents who are interested but cannot attend.**

SLP BAND SCHOOLGY PAGE:

The SLP Band Schoology site has all the updated information you need to know about band. It will contain a copy of the handbook, calendars, forms, as well as student assignments and possibly band music. Please contact Ms. Heim if you cannot find how to get to this page. Administration and Counselors will offer help to parents new to Schoology many times throughout the year.

INTERNET “DO NOT PUBLISH”:

The BPN Facebook page, SLPHS Email Updates, SLPHS Bands Instagram, and the SLP Band Twitter account may occasionally share photos or news from events and concerts. For internet safety, only first names are used if there is a picture. However, ***if you do not want your child’s image on school social media, please file a “DO NOT PUBLISH” in the main office and make sure Ms. Heim knows about it.***

CONTACTING MS. HEIM

My preferred mode of contact is e-mail. My e-mail address is heim.annaliese@slpschools.org. Please check the band Schoology page for basic band information. My work phone number at SLPHS is 952-928-6165, but I will not often be by the phone.

STUDENT PARENT INFORMATION SHEET (DUE 9-11-24!)

By signing below, you agree that you have received, read and understood the information in this handbook for participation in the St. Louis Park High School Band. You agree to abide by all rules and regulations and attend all performances.

Student Preferred Name (Printed) _____ Student preferred pronouns _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Caregiver Name(s) _____

Parent/Caregiver 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 play percussion or rent an instrument from the school as I have this information):

Instrument type (e.g., trumpet): _____

Instrument serial number (usually 5+ letters/numbers; Google its location or ask): _____

Instrument model name/number (e.g., Yamaha): _____

*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 renter's/homeowner's insurance to include a personal articles policy on your instrument.**

Parent(s) e-mail: _____@_____

Student(s) e-mail: _____@_____

Parent/Caregiver cell phone number(s): _____

Student cell phone number*: _____

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