



2022-2023  
**SARALAND  
SPARTAN  
SOUND**

# Student Handbook

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Director

**Andrew Ellis**  
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Guard Instructor

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Middle School Director

## **Foreword**

The purpose of this handbook is to provide valuable information about the band program. To consistently achieve and maintain the high standard of excellence desired by this organization, members should familiarize themselves with the regulations, and procedures of the band.

The answers to many student and parent questions are contained within this handbook, so it is important that all persons affiliated with the Spartan Sound read this document. If a problem or question not covered in this handbook should arise, the Director should be consulted for an explanation.

# Spartan Sound Program Philosophy

The philosophy of the Saraland Spartan Sound is to provide a quality music and visual performance art education for the students of Saraland High School. The Spartan Sound will provide opportunities for its students to learn valuable life skills, citizenship, ambassadorship, leadership, teamwork, dedication, selflessness, and perseverance.

## Attendance Policy

### Performance Attendance

Each performance by any of our groups is equivalent to a major exam for the period of preparation leading up to the event. Therefore, ***attendance is mandatory to all events***. Excused absences from a performance will be granted for the following reasons only:

1. Family emergency; communication and documentation required
2. Student illness; doctor's excuse and prior communication required
3. Religious holiday observation; evidence of religious affiliation and prior communication required

Any unexcused absence will automatically result in a **ZERO** grade for that performance. In the event of an emergency, contact a **member of staff** as quickly as possible – any required documentation can be provided once the emergency has been resolved. **ABSENCES ARE ONLY EXCUSED AHEAD OF TIME AND WITH PROPER DOCUMENTATION**. Of course, extenuating circumstances occur. The final decision to excuse a student, for whatever reason, lies with Mr. Davidson.

**\*\*Unexcused absences from a performance may result in removal from the program. More than three (3) unexcused absences from rehearsals, per semester, may result in removal from the program. Unexcused absences from rehearsals may result in a student being disallowed from participation in the halftime show at that week's game or competition (attendance to the game or competition is still mandatory and subject to the policy outlined above).**

**\*\*\*Work, parties, rock/country/hip-hop concerts, family trips, and other non-school functions are NOT excused absences.\*\*\***

**IT IS VITAL THAT ALL MEMBERS BE PRESENT AT ALL REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES – TO INCLUDE CONCERT BAND, JAZZ BAND, PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE, WINTER GUARD, AND SECTION REHEARSALS. WHEN POSSIBLE, SCHEDULING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED MONTHS IN ADVANCE AT MULTIPLE INFORMATION OUTLETS (DEFINED BELOW). PARENTS, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE TEACH THESE STUDENTS TO HONOR THEIR COMMITMENTS AND COMMUNICATE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE FIGURES.**

# Communication

We know how important it is that our students and their parents stay informed on the goings on of the Spartan Sound. To that end, we do our very best to provide information as early as possible through convenient sources. Below you will find the sources that we use to transmit information to students and parents. **\*\*PLEASE NOTE, IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THESE OUTLETS, YOU WILL BE RELYING ON YOUR CHILD'S WORD OF MOUTH –** we absolutely have the best students in the Spartan Sound, but it is still difficult for them to remember everything to tell you.

## Facebook

We maintain a Facebook GROUP called “Saraland Spartan Sound.” Please join this group, as information is distributed here via posts. We also maintain a frequently-updated text schedule to help you keep your calendar updated. Photos and videos of performances and other events are also uploaded here by the directors and other parents. All documents and forms are uploaded to the group under the “Files” tab. This is the only place to get digital copies of check-out forms and the like.

“I don’t have Facebook.” >> Facebook is a free-to-use platform. If you are anti-social media (which we understand!), please start a Facebook profile for the sole purpose of joining this group; no one can see your profile without your permission.

\*Side note: The GROUP is called the “Saraland Spartan Sound.” The “Saraland Sound” is a public PAGE (these two things are different) that all can see and follow. Scheduling information, large amount of photos, documents, etc. will not be shared to the PAGE; so, make sure you join the GROUP. ☺

**\*\*When you ask to join the Saraland Spartan Sound group, you MUST answer the membership questions. We must do this to ensure the safety of our students. We do not want people who have no business seeing what we are doing in our Facebook group.**

## Remind101

Remind101 is a service that allows the directors to send messages directly to your phone (and your student’s phone), via an app or text message. We encourage you to download and sign up for the Remind101 app, although this is not necessary if you prefer not to do so. Remind is our short-notice messaging system, so it is important that all students and parents participate.

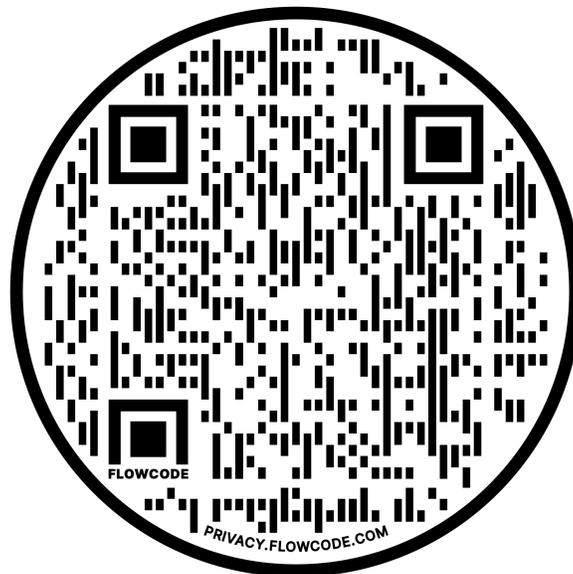
Please use the below columns to sign up for the appropriate Remind group(s). You simply send a text message with the @ code to the phone # 81010. **\*NOTE: All prior-year Remind101 groups will be deleted during band camp. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU JOIN THE NEW ONES SO YOU CONTINUE RECEIVING MESSAGES.**

<u>Woodwind and Brass</u>	<u>Percussion</u>	<u>Color Guard</u>	<u>Dance Team</u>	<u>Parents</u>
Text	Text	Text	Text	Text
@2022soundw	@2022soundp	@2022soundg	@2022soundd	@2022sounda
To	To	To	To	To
81010	81010	81010	81010	81010

## Other important information outlets

- Email – With this bundle of forms, you should have received a Contact Information form. It is important that we have a good email (that you will check, we understand!) for you. Please put this email on the form and monitor it for frequent emails from Mr. Davidson. Scheduling and clerical information will be provided, as well as pdf versions of important forms/documents. He also frequently creates graphics intended to help parents know where to go, what building to enter, etc. for off-campus performances.
- Phone – Sometimes, the staff need to contact you directly about various topics (both good things and opportunities for your child to improve him/herself). Again, please make sure to include a good, working phone number on your parent contact information form.
- Google Calendar – We maintain a Google Calendar with all Spartan Sound events. If you use Google Calendar and would like to add ours, please go to <https://sites.google.com/view/saralandsound> and click “Calendar>Calendar Sync” at the top of the page.
- Verbal – sometimes we distribute information in class or at rehearsal only to our students. We want to give these young people the opportunity to learn to listen for retention and recall later. Please, ask your child, “what did they say at band practice/in class today?” We want to work with you to develop responsible young adults.

## 2022-2023 Spartan Sound Information Form



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## Uniforms

Each of our groups will have a designated uniform. Uniforms and costumes are meant to provide a clean-cut, professional, and uniform appearance for each group that adds to the visual aspect of the performance. While uniforms may be different for each event, we have outlined the primary uniform of each ensemble below. Any changes to uniforms will be communicated via the various outlets described above. ***HAVING THE PROPER UNIFORM IS PART OF THE ATTENDANCE POLICY OUTLINED ABOVE.*** A student may not be allowed to perform if the uniform – or any of its parts – is missing. In this event, the student’s grade for that performance will reflect his/her lack of participation.

## Marching Band – Winds and Percussion

All instrumentalists will wear military-style uniforms to all football games, parades, band competitions, and other events (as determined by the directors). The band uniform consists of:

Spartan Sound Coat	Bibbers	Shako (with plume)
Black Velocity Band Shoes	Black Gloves	Black socks (calf length, no logos)
Band Shirt	Black Gym Shorts or leggings	
Black thermals* Black or white long-sleeve shirt (under band shirt)*		*Cold Weather Only

Instrumentalists will receive a “band shirt,” which is a T-shirt with a design pertaining to the year’s halftime production. Students will wear these shirts at a variety of events. Most notably, they will wear these shirts on Fridays to school for “spirit days” and pep rallies.

Jewelry: Jewelry may be worn if it does not detract from any member’s mobility, airstream, or other general performance ability and is easily hidden. Earrings must be stud-type earrings, as earrings that dangle can get caught in things.

## Concert Band

All instrumentalists will wear “Concert Black,” which will consist of black front-buttoned dress shirts (no polos), black dress pants/slacks, and black DRESS shoes (no sneakers/vans). Girls may wear the equivalent. Anyone wearing skirts/dresses less than floor length will wear black tights/stockings under their skirt/dress.

## Marching Band – Color Guard

The Color Guard uniform is a themed uniform that is meant to visually represent the aesthetic of the halftime show. This uniform will vary from year to year, but will comprise of *at least* the below pieces:

Primary uniform piece (tunic or unitard, will vary)	Nude (or black, depending) jazz shoes
Hair items	Makeup
Other accessories	**Hair, makeup, and accessories will change year over year and will be defined by the Color Guard instructor.

Color Guard members will receive a “band shirt” with the year’s halftime production design on the front.

Color Guard members will also receive a “Spirit Uniform” to be worn on Fridays and prior to changing into performance uniforms at larger events.

## Winter Guard

The Winter Color Guard uniform may be comprised of the same items as the marching Color Guard uniform, or it may be different. This will depend on various aspects of the years’ program considerations. The Winter Guard instructor will clearly outline the uniform expectations. Members should be prepared for various pieces to change from show to show, as WGI/GCGPC judging is based in part on uniform theming.

## Dance Team

Please see the dance team fee schedule for a complete list of available uniform items. Items required for halftime performances will be the primary uniform and jazz shoes. Other important uniform options will be the Red Saraland Dance Team dress, the White Saraland dance team dress, White Spartan boots, and Nike tennis shoes (specific model to be indicated by the Dance Team instructor, yearly).

## Jazz Band

The jazz band uniform will vary, but will generally revolve around the “jazz band polo,” order by the band directors. However, ALL jazz band members must obtain Black Pants to be worn with their jazz band polo. We WILL wear Black Pants and jazz band shirts for at least one (probably more) performance. On occasion, the uniform may call for School Uniform Shorts, should a performance opportunity occur during warm weather.

## Percussion Ensemble

Percussion ensemble members will wear percussion ensemble polos and black pants. Percussion ensemble members must wear BLACK, closed-toed shoes.

## Rehearsal Attire

It is vital that students show up to rehearsals dressed appropriately for the task at-hand. Band camp and marching band rehearsals are frequently in the elements, and it is important that the students are dressed in such a way that will set them up for success and maintain their health.

### Clothing

Students' clothing must adhere to traditional modesty standards. No midriffs, excessively short bottoms, etc. During band camp and summer rehearsals, students will wear light colored (short-sleeved) shirts and SHORTS. **PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO COME TO SUMMER REHEARSAL IN PANTS.** Heat injuries due to improper attire are ridiculous and unacceptable, and can affect you/your child for rest of your/his/her life!

In cold weather, jackets and other overclothes should be worn.

\*\*The directors WILL expect your child to add/remove clothing, based on the weather. Any student who chooses not to comply will not be allowed to participate in rehearsal due to liability reasons. See above attendance policies for subsequent consequences.

### Footwear

At marching rehearsals, students will wear TENNIS SHOES or other, similar, athletic shoes that do not hinder movement in anyway. Flip flops, sandals, “chacos”, Birkenstocks, slippers, “slides”, “Crocs”, “Toms”, flats, heels, pumps, loafers, boat shoes, “HeyDudes”, and any other shoe without a textured rubber sole and binding system (shoelaces, Velcro, etc.) are PROHIBITED. Our shoes affect our marching and body movements, and it is vital that every repetition of the components of our show are in the proper style shoes. School uniform shoes are acceptable.

# Instruments and Equipment

## Wind Instruments

All wind instrumentalists are expected to provide their own instruments. Instruments are available from Andy's Music or Art's Music. Please do not purchase instruments from eBay or Amazon. These instruments are not of quality and will break very quickly, causing greater expense than instruments from reputable music shops.

### School-Owned Instruments

Some instrumentalists will have access to school-owned instruments. These instruments include:

Tuba/Sousaphone

Bari/Tenor Saxophone

Bass Clarinet

Baritone/Euphonium

Mellophone/French Horn

Bass Trombone

Students who utilize these instruments will be required to "check-out" their instrument. A check-out form, with parent signature, will be required. All necessary repairs that are the result of damage caused while an instrument is checked out by a student will be the responsibility of the student. We will organize the repairs and charge the repair cost back to the student's account. This includes school-owned mouthpieces. Loss of an instrument or mouthpiece will result in the replacement cost of the instrument being charged back to the student's account.

### Maintenance

All students are required to maintain their instruments. Frequent servicing, and occasional repairs, are required – and are the responsibility of – the owner of the instrument. Students are responsible for cleaning and lubricating their instruments, as well. *If your child does not clean and maintain his/her instrument, you will wind up having to pay more in repairs.*

**\*\*Showing up to rehearsal or class without a working instrument will be considered the same as an absence to rehearsal, and will be graded and traded as such.**

The Spartan Sound will organize and pay for annual cleaning and maintenance on school-owned instruments. However, it is the responsibility of the student who uses the instrument to do all monthly/weekly cleaning and lubrication of these instruments. REPAIRS THAT MUST BE DONE AS A RESULT OF A LACK OF CLEANING (STUCK SLIDES/VALVES/ETC) WILL BE CONSIDERED DAMAGE AND THE COST OF REPAIR WILL BE CHARGED BACK TO YOUR CHILD'S ACCOUNT.

## Percussion Instruments

All percussion instruments will be provided by the Spartan Sound. Due to the nature of percussion part assignments, there is no check-out process for these instruments. However, ALL percussionists are responsible for participating in the maintenance and upkeep of their personal and school owned instruments/mallets/sticks.

# 2020-2021 Spartan Sound

## Member Commitment

I understand that as a member of the 2021-2022 Saraland Spartan Sound I will be expected to uphold and adhere to the following

- **Attendance** to all scheduled rehearsals and performances; absences due to conflicts with other extra-curricular activities or jobs are unacceptable; absences may result in removal from performances or from the Saraland Spartan Sound.
- Fulfillment of all financial obligations in a timely manner including program fees, uniforms, designated fundraisers, and other expenses incurred during seasons: late or delinquent pay or failure to meet fundraising requirements may result in removal from the Saraland Spartan Sound.
- Maintenance of passing grades in all academic classes: repeated failing grades may result in removal from the Saraland Spartan Sound.
- Compliance with all auxiliary, band, and school rules and instructions.
- Respectful representation of my school, family, community, and band at all times.
- Efforts to maintain a constructive attitude.
- Efforts to support the team as an individual and ensemble member.
- Members are expected to put forth the time and effort needed to raise their standards when it comes to technique and performance ability. Every day is a day to improve and become a better performer.

*Failure to meet any of these commitments may result in temporary or permanent removal from performances or the program. No financial refunds will be given if students are removed from the program for failing to comply with these standards.*

## Fall Schedule

### **After School Rehearsals: REQUIRED**

- Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45-4:30pm at Saraland High School (we will cancel all Monday rehearsals as we get the show on the field).
- Fridays from 2:45 until Game completion. Students will need to have all game day necessities on Friday Game Days. (Band shoes, band shirt, bib pants, long black socks, instrument, music, other uniform parts as needed for armer weather games) Students will rehearse after school and then be fed by the booster organization before the game. You may view the Spartan Sound Calendar on Google Calendars in order to know what the students exact plan and food options are for each week.

### **Football Game Performances: REQUIRED**

- Aug. 19 @ Daphne (Away)
- Aug. 26 vs Murphy (Home)
- Sep. 2 @ St. Paul's (Away)
- Sep. 9 vs Spanish Fort (Home)
- Sep. 16 @ Robertsdale (Away)
- Sep. 23 @ Foley (Away)
- Sep. 30 vs Blount (Home)
- Oct. 7 @ Baldwin County (Away)
- Oct. 14 BYE WEEK
- Oct. 21 @ Theodore (Away)
- Oct. 28 vs McGill-Toolen (Home)
- November 4-December 2 (Possible play-off games)

### **Possible Contest Performances: REQUIRED**

- September 24
- October 1
- October 8
- October 15
- October 22
- October 29

## Financial Commitment

The following is a schedule of membership fees payments for the Saraland Spartan Sound Band & Auxiliary. This is a payment plan that will assist in dividing fees into easy monthly payments. **Members are responsible for all fees, in full, regardless of the date they join. It is very important that the payment dates below are met on time!**

### Fundraising

Fundraising will be ongoing throughout the marching and indoor seasons. Students are expected to participate in all fundraising and meet **minimum fundraising amounts** for each fundraiser. Those who do not participate will have to pay the minimum fundraising amount **out of pocket in addition to the fees listed below.**

<u>Due</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Who:</u>
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Uniform Payment #1	\$100	Guard/Dance
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Booster Installment	\$100	All Members
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Uniform Payment #2	\$75	Guard/Dance
July 14 <sup>th</sup>	Gloves, Shoes, Poms	\$80 (\$25 + \$35 + \$20)	Guard
August 12 <sup>th</sup>	Jacket & Pants	\$80 (\$45 + \$35)	Guard
August 9 <sup>th</sup>	Remaining Booster Fee	\$100	All Members
August 9 <sup>th</sup>	Fall Class Fee (PayPams)	\$50	All Members
January 15 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Class Fee (payPams)	\$50	All Members

\*PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO SARALAND HIGH SCHOOL BAND.

\*Additional Dance Team Fees list is attached and should be paid to SHS through Lisa Kelly.

**\*Please note that if you are unable to pay a fee on time, please keep Mr. Davidson informed so that we can work out a payment plan that fits your needs. Thank you!**

## FUNDRAISING

**Band Sponsorships..... Student Profits 85% on each sponsorship**

**Band T-Shirt Sales (Aug)..... Student Profits 40%-50%**

**Band Winter Apparel Sales (Sept).... Student Profits 40%-50%**

**Alabama Candle Sale (Nov)..... Student Profits 50%**

**King Cake Sale (Feb)..... Student Profits 40%-50%**

**\*Students will be given a balance sheet prior to each of the payment deadlines.**

# SPARTAN SOUND MARCHING BAND 2022-2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
07/10	07/11	07/12 <u>Leadership Camp</u> 1-5PM	07/13 <u>Guard, Dance, Rookies &amp; Percussion Camp</u> 8-5PM Lunch 11:30-1PM	07/14 <u>Guard, Dance, Rookies &amp; Percussion Camp</u> 8-5PM Lunch 11:30-1PM	07/15	07/16
07/17	07/18 <u>Full Band Camp</u> 8-5PM Lunch 11:30-1PM	07/19 <u>Full Band Camp</u> 8-5PM Lunch 11:30-1PM	07/20 <u>Full Band Camp</u> 8-5PM Lunch 11:30-1PM	07/21 <u>Full Band Camp</u> 8-5PM Lunch 11:30-1PM	07/22 <u>Full Band Camp</u> 8-5PM Lunch 11:30-1PM	07/23
07/24	07/25 <u>Full Band Camp</u> 8-5PM Lunch 11:30-1PM	07/26 <u>Full Band Camp</u> 8-5PM Lunch 11:30-1PM	07/27 <u>Full Band Camp</u> 8-5PM Lunch 11:30-1PM	07/28 <u>Full Band Camp</u> 8-5PM Lunch 11:30-1PM	07/29 <u>Full Band Camp</u> 8-5PM Lunch 11:30-1PM Dinner 5-6PM Comunnity Preview Performance 7:00	07/30
07/31	08/01	08/02 <u>Rehearsal</u> 8-12 Noon	08/03 Teacher Work Day	08/04 <u>Rehearsal</u> 8-12 Noon	08/05 Teacher Work Day	08/06
08/07	08/08 Students 1 <sup>st</sup> Day	08/09 <u>Rehearsal</u> 2:45-4:15PM	08/10	08/11 <u>Rehearsal</u> 2:45-4:15PM	08/12	08/13

*Attendance to all scheduled events and rehearsals is mandatory for all members of the auxiliary. Failure to attend or fully participate may result in removal from performances or the auxiliary program.*

## Fees

Due	Fee	Amount	Who:
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Uniform Payment #1	\$100	Guard
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Booster Installment	\$100	All Members
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Uniform Payment #2	\$75	Guard
July 14 <sup>th</sup>	Gloves, Shoes, Poms	\$80 (\$25 + \$35 + \$20)	Guard
August 12 <sup>th</sup>	Jacket & Pants	\$80 (\$45 + \$35)	Guard
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January 15 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Class Fee (PayPams)	\$50	All Members

\*PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO SARALAND HIGH SCHOOL BAND.

\*Additional Dance Team Fees list is attached and should be paid to SHS through Lisa Kelly.