Southard Middle School



Band Handbook

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Welcome!

Welcome to the Southard Middle School Band Program! It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that we introduce our band program to you in a more detailed manner. The SMS band program has established a wonderful tradition of excellence and we are glad you have chosen to be a part of it.

Your child's participation in our band program is beneficial in many ways. Band students are engaged daily in a highly creative performing art that stimulates growth in areas of the human brain that no other discipline can. This growth effortlessly transfers into your student's academic life. In addition, our band students will develop traits such as teamwork, responsibility, dedication, self-discipline, social skills, confidence, leadership, and dependability. Membership in our band program will give all a sense of accomplishment, pride, and respect as the students develop musical and personal skills that will enrich their lives.

The purpose of this handbook is to serve as a guide and source of information for students and parents involved in the Southard Middle School Band program. Both students and their guardians should take the time to thoroughly read this handbook. Upon completion, please fill out the google form linked at the end of the handbook indicating your understanding of these guidelines and expectations.

Goals and Objectives

- Organizational skills
- Cultural growth
- Life lessons
- Creative self-expression
- Performance skills
- Practice techniques
- Value judgments
- Responsibility
- Ethics
- Music appreciation
- Mental and physical discipline
- Music theory/Aural Skills
- Proper instrumental technique
- Teamwork/social skills
- Citizenship

Accountability Student Conduct Expectations

- The student is expected to be on time, to have all materials daily, and to participate in the class in a positive manner.
- The student is to be seated in their assigned seat, with all materials for class, at the time specified by the director.
- Students will follow directors' instructions.
- The student will demonstrate good citizenship, be courteous, and will respect teachers, guests, and other students and their property.
- <u>The student is expected to not play or touch any instrument except their own</u>. Students will be held responsible for any damage they do to another's instrument or school instruments.
- The student is expected to ask for and to make up all missed work in a timely manner.
- The student is expected to practice 100 minutes per week outside of class.
- The student is expected to participate in all required band functions. These include concerts, rehearsals, contests, pep rallies, etc. You will always be informed well in advance of these events so that conflicts can be avoided.

Failure to comply with these expectations will result in implementation of disciplinary action as laid out by Princeton ISD.

Daily Procedures & Expectations

- Please take any restroom and water breaks before entering the band hall.
- Backpacks should be placed in designated areas in the band hall.
- Students should not have their cell phones out during class time.
- Students are expected to quietly make their way to their seats with all materials for class to assemble instruments and prepare for rehearsal. Students will not play their instruments before class - directors will designate individual warm-up time.
- Students are not permitted to leave their seats during class time unless they have raised their hand and been given permission to do so. Our room is full of expensive instruments and movement needs to be limited to the beginning and end of class in an orderly fashion.
- Students are required to remain on the band hall carpet until the dismissal bell rings.

Materials

All band students must have the following items every day as part of their participation grade:

- Working instrument and all necessary equipment (reeds, mouthpiece, swab, valve oil, stick bag, etc)
- Organized 3 ring binder (provided by band program)
- Pencil and pencil pouch (provided by band program)

Students who do not have the necessary materials for band class will be given an alternate assignment and lose participation points for that day. If a persistent problem occurs, the teacher will make parent/guardian contact.

Student Practice

Students are expected to practice a minimum of 100 minutes per week. This can take place in the mornings before school or after school Monday-Thursday, or at home.

Daily practice outside of class is the BEST way to create an enjoyable learning environment for yourself and those around you. We want band class to be a fun, positive experience! :)

Additional Practices

Additional practices may be held outside of the school day in preparation for concerts, competitions, and other activities. These practices will be scheduled in advance and notice will be sent home prior to any scheduled events. Attendance at these practices are required as band is a group activity! If a student is unable to attend any of these practices, parent contact is required prior to the rehearsal for grading exemptions to be considered.

Private Lessons

This program provides a high-quality enhancement to classroom instruction. Lessons are extremely valuable to the individual student and will be taught by professional musicians that play the same instrument as the student.

. • ALL students (grades 6-8) are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to take individualized private instruction.
• Lessons will be given weekly during band class or before/after school.
• If there is a need for before/after school lessons, every effort will be made to schedule private lessons at times that do not conflict with sectionals or other activities.
• Detailed information on the private lesson program will be distributed to the band students.

Grading Guidelines

Daily Participation - Each student is responsible for being engaged during daily rehearsal, playing their best, and having all required materials. Students will receive 20 points per day towards their weekly participation grade.

Playing Evaluations - Students will be assigned playing tests that will evaluate any new concepts that the group is working on. Many of these will be recorded assignments that take place outside of class. Students will be evaluated on:

• Posture
• Hand Position
• Tempo (staying w/metronome)
• Tone
• Phrasing (Musical Line /Breathing)
• Articulations
• Accuracy of notes and rhythms

Performances - All performances are mandatory requirements of the class and excused absences for illness or family emergencies are only permitted if communicated prior to the concert. If a performance is missed for an approved absence, students can receive up to a 70 by performing their concert repertoire for the class. Unexcused absences can be made up to a 50 by performing their concert repertoire for the class. All performances will be worth 3 test grades in the gradebook.

Late Work

Students who fail to turn in their work on time will face a reduced grade. We want students to learn to be responsible for managing deadlines and completing work on time. For a missing assignment, students have until the last Thursday of the 9 weeks to submit. Any assignment turned in after the deadline may receive no grade higher than a 50.

Eligibility

Most of the work that our students do is either curricular or co-curricular and not subject to eligibility. Curricular and co-curricular activities are free concerts, section rehearsals, concert rehearsals, and private lessons.

Students who participate in extracurricular activities must meet TEA (Texas Education Association) and U.I.L. (University Interscholastic League) eligibility requirements. Students who fail any single class at the end of a nine-week period will become ineligible seven days later. Ineligible students do not regain eligibility immediately. They must wait seven calendar days after the end of the grading period. Students may regain eligibility seven calendar days after the end of the three-week grade evaluation period provided the principal and teachers have determined the student is passing all courses. Semester grades are never used for eligibility. Activities that are classified as extracurricular for which TEA, UIL, and PISD eligibility requirements apply include:

1. Any event for which admission is charged.
2. Any event that is inter-school competitive.
3. Any event where ratings are awarded.

Should a band student become ineligible for an extracurricular function, he or she will still be eligible for curricular or co-curricular functions. Ineligible students will be given alternate assignments during contest preparation time. Students who have chronic eligibility problems could be assigned to a non-performing class where performances will not be affected.

Please note that students that are ineligible at the time of the Spring Band Trips will not be able to attend.

Instrument Storage & Identification

Lockers are located in the band hall where students need to leave their instruments during the school day. Students are expected to keep their instruments in their assigned lockers. Band lockers are for band items ONLY.

Every student must have their name displayed on their instrument case. Tags will be provided to assist in labeling. Percussionists are to have their name on all of their equipment, including sticks and mallets. Students are not allowed to leave their instrument unattended at any time.

Band Fee

All students will be responsible for a band fee that will be due the first week in October. This band fee includes:

Beginning Band Fee: $50
This includes: band t-shirt, classroom supplies: binder, dividers, pencil pouch and pencils

Advanced Bands Fee: $50
This includes: classroom supplies: binder, dividers, pencil pouch, pencils, clinicians and meals for UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Assessment.

Uniforms

All students will need to purchase a SMS Band T-shirt as it will be used as part of our informal uniform for the school year. Cost for the initial shirt is included in the $50 band fee - any additional shirts will cost $10. T-shirts will be passed out during the Fall semester.

Beginning Band Students:

Uniform: SMS Band T-Shirt, blue jeans, tennis shoes.

Advanced Bands

Honor, Symphonic & Concert Band Students:

Informal Uniform: SMS Band T-Shirt, blue jeans, tennis shoes.
Formal Uniform: "Concert Black"

- Students will wear solid black pants and a black top that are within the school dress code. Dresses or skirts must also be black and may be worn only if they are knee length or longer when the student is sitting down. All shoes should be black, close-toed, dress shoes. If the shoes require socks, they must be solid black and rise above the ankle.
- Jeans, even if they are black, are not considered appropriate concert black attire.
- Sneakers or tennis shoes are not considered appropriate concert black attire.

Fundraising

We have several fundraisers planned for the school year. Participation in fundraisers is encouraged, but not required as it will be used to pay for the students' spring band trip. If the money is not fundraised, then any expenses will be paid to the band department from the family's own financial resources. Students that leave the band program will forfeit use of fundraising money as it cannot be transferred to another elective or another school.

Student Travel

Behavior Requirements: During the course of the year, band students have the opportunity to participate in a spring trip. These trips are designed to be a reward for students that participate well, behave well, and earn passing grades. Any students that are assigned to DAEP during the school year become ineligible for the trip. Any student assigned ISS for assault of any kind will become ineligible for the trip. Behavior ineligibility will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Grade Requirements: Students and parents should understand that grades below 70 on the report card prior to the event, will prevent a band member from participating on trip activities. All "no-pass, no-play" rules will be followed.

Performance Requirement: In order to attend the Spring Trip, students must have no unexcused absences for our concerts.

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