



BAND COURSE HANDBOOK
Stockbridge Middle School
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STOCKBRIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL



Stockbridge Middle School Band Handbook 25-26



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Stockbridge Middle School



**“Setting a Superior Standard”
Band Handbook 2025–2026**

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Section I

Welcome Letter

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Stockbridge Middle School Band! This program is about more than just music. It is about setting a superior standard of discipline, dedication, and performance.

This handbook provides everything you need to succeed in our band program — from grading policies to uniform requirements and performance expectations.

Together, we will raise the bar with diligence, respect, and pride.

Jordan Sorrell
Director of Bands

School Vision & Band Mission

SMS Vision

Stockbridge Middle School will be a culturally responsive, community-engaged environment that provides rigorous instruction which advances learning opportunities, equitable access, and positive outcomes for all scholars.

Band Mission

To inspire and equip students with lifelong skills in music, teamwork, and leadership while upholding the highest standards in performance and character.

Band Program Philosophy



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The Stockbridge Middle School Band teaches more than music:

- **Discipline:** practicing daily to build skill
- **Responsibility:** showing up prepared and on time
- **Leadership:** setting an example for peers
- **Teamwork:** contributing to a unified sound

We believe music is a vehicle for shaping strong students and future leaders.

Course Syllabus: 6th Grade

Focus Areas

- Basic tone production & breath support
- Articulation & rhythm reading
- Ensemble balance and blend
- Daily home practice of at least 30 minutes

Required Materials

- Foundations for Superior Performance book
 - Instrument Cleaning Kit
 - Instrument Rental (\$80 fee if using school inventory)
-

Course Syllabus: 7th & 8th Grade

Focus Areas

- Advanced scale work & rhythm mastery
- Improvisation and jazz foundations
- Leadership in ensemble settings
- Daily practice: 30–45 minutes



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Required Materials

- Foundations for Superior Performance
 - Instrument Rental (\$80 fee if using school inventory)
 - Instrument accessories (reeds, valve oil, sticks)
 - Bell Kit for percussionists
-

Technology & Communication

- Remind 101
 - 6th Grade: Text 81010 @cook148
 - 7th/8th Grade: Text 81010 @boogie487
- Google Classroom Code: nqdi63d
- Contact Info: jordan.sorrell@henry.k12.ga.us | (404) 850-1012

Remind 101 is the primary tool for schedule updates, assignment reminders, and announcements.



Section II

General Class Rules

- No running in the classroom.
 - Ask permission before leaving.
 - 🖐️ = Bathroom signal.
 - Bags on the brown shelf, not the floor.
 - No cell phones during class.
 - Only talk during Talk Time.
 - Pick up trash and leave no trace.
-

Practice vs. Rehearsal

- Practice: Daily individual preparation (30 minutes).
- Rehearsal: Ensemble playing in class.

Students who don't practice at home hinder the entire ensemble.

Instrument Care & Storage

- Large instruments stored in assigned lockers.
 - Handle school instruments responsibly.
 - Never touch another student's instrument.
 - No food, drinks, or gum allowed.
-

Classroom Etiquette & Responsibility



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- **Always arrive on time and prepared.**
 - **Keep a pencil in your folder for marking music.**
 - **Respect the conductor and classmates.**
 - **Treat the band room as a performance space.**
-

Participation Expectations

- **Bring instruments every day.**
 - **Sit with correct posture.**
 - **Follow conductor directions the first time.**
 - **Full participation earns 25 points per week.**
-

Behavior Rewards & Consequences

Rewards:

- **Verbal praise**
- **Tiger Bucks**
- **Homework passes**
- **Special recognition**

Consequences:

- **Warning & teacher conference**
 - **Parent contact**
 - **Silent lunch / detention**
 - **Team conference / counselor referral**
 - **Office referral for repeat offenses**
-



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Section III

Grading Policy Overview

- **Workbook/Written Tests: 15%**
- **Playing Tests: 15%**
- **Listening Logs: 10%**
- **Improvisation: 15%**
- **Performances: 25%**
- **Rehearsals: 12%**
- **Participation: 8%**

Scale:

A = 90–100 | B = 80–89 | C = 74–79 | D = 70–73 | F = <69

Workbook & Written Tests

- **Workbook = reinforcement of theory & reading skills.**
 - **Written Tests = assess comprehension of terms, rhythms, and notation.**
-

Playing Tests

- **Demonstrate tone, rhythm accuracy, and technique.**
 - **Scheduled regularly and graded individually.**
 - **Non-participation lowers grades.**
-



Section IV

Performance Expectations

Performances are major grades and required.

- Concerts
- Football games
- Parades
- Competitions

Failure to attend without an approved excuse = zero.

Rehearsal Policies

- Be on time; tardiness impacts grades.
 - Bring instruments, music, and pencil.
 - Dress code matters — infractions = deductions.
 - Rehearsals prepare for success in performances.
-

Band Ensembles Overview

- Marching Band: 8th grade with SHS; includes football games and competitions.
 - Concert Band: grade 1–3 literature, skill-building.
 - Beginner Band: for new students; grade 1–2½ literature.
 - Solo & Ensemble: independent preparation and performance.
-



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Section V

Non-Acceptable Excuses

I had to work

I had no ride

I have the assignment to do

I was not feeling good (without proper excuse)

I do not know



Absences & Tardies



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Excused:

- **Illness (doctor's note required)**
- **Family emergencies**
- **Accidents**

Unexcused:

- **Work conflicts**
- **Lack of transportation**
- **Non-documented "not feeling well"**

Repeated tardies = possible program removal.

Uniform Policy

- **Parades/Pep Band: Band shirt, black shorts/pants, black socks**
 - **Football Games: Full SHS uniform, hat, spats**
 - **Concerts/LGPE: White dress shirt/blouse or all-black dress. No jeans, sneakers, or shorts.**
-

Georgia LGPE Overview

Purpose:

- **Expert evaluation of performance**
- **Motivation for excellence**
- **Growth in musical skill**

Attendance at all rehearsals leading up to LGPE is mandatory.



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Band Calendar & Parent Support Tips

Calendar Overview:

- **Fall:** Football games, pep rallies, parades
- **Winter:** Holiday concert
- **Spring:** LGPE, Spring Concert, Solo & Ensemble

Parent Tips:

- **Ensure daily practice**
 - **Monitor assignment deadlines via Remind 101**
 - **Encourage attendance at all performances**
 - **Support fundraising & volunteer opportunities**
-



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INSTRUMENT USAGE FORM
2025–2026 School Year

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

School/Organization: _____

This form grants permission for the above-named student to use a school-provided instrument for the 2025–2026 academic year.

Usage Terms:

- A **\$75 non-refundable usage fee** is required.
- Payment must be submitted no later than **November 11, 2025**.
- Instruments remain property of the school and must be returned in good condition at the end of the school year.
- **Damage & Replacement Liability:** Parents/guardians are financially responsible for repair or replacement in case of loss, theft, or damage beyond normal wear.
- **Late Fee:** Failure to return the instrument by the deadline may result in a **\$25 late return fee**.
- **Non-Refundable Policy:** All fees (usage, accessories, or insurance) are non-refundable, even if the student stops participating.
- **Optional Insurance:** For \$15, parents may purchase instrument insurance covering accidental damage (does not cover loss or theft).
- **Replacement Value:** Instrument cost may vary depending on model and condition. Parents may be charged the full replacement cost if lost or irreparably damaged.

Additional Fees (Optional):

- Mouthpiece rental: \$15
- Cleaning kit: \$15
- Reeds/Strings package: \$15
- Instrument insurance (accidental damage only): \$15

Parent/Guardian Consent:

I acknowledge responsibility for the instrument issued to my child and agree to the terms above. I further agree to submit the required \$75 fee, plus any selected accessory or insurance fees, by the cutoff date of November 11, 2025.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Contact Information: _____



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Stockbridge Middle School will be a culturally responsive, community engaged environment that provides rigorous instruction which advances learning opportunities, equitable access and positive outcomes for all scholars.

Your efforts are greatly appreciated for the time dedicated to reading and discussing the information printed above. I look forward to working with each of you this year. Please complete the information on this form, and then sign below and return it. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email.

Parent Name:	Student Name:
Parent's Phone:	Parent's Email:

I have read and discussed all expectations and policies with my child.	
	Date:
Student Signature	Date:

I have signed up for Remind 101.	
Parent Signature	Date:

PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED PAGE.



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STUDENT RECORDING PERMISSION FORM
2025–2026 School Year

School/Organization Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Purpose of Recording:

Your child may be recorded (audio, video, and/or photography) for the following purpose(s):

- Educational projects
- Classroom instruction
- School events and performances
- Yearbook/School publications
- Other: _____

Details:

- Recordings may be used for **educational, training, or promotional purposes** approved by the school.
- Recordings may appear on **school-approved platforms** (e.g., newsletters, websites, social media, or presentations).
- Recordings will **not** be sold or used for commercial profit without additional written consent.
- Student names will not be published alongside images or recordings without express permission.
- Consent applies for the **2025–2026 school year** and may be revoked at any time in writing.

Parent/Guardian Consent:

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understood this form. I grant permission for my child to be recorded as described above. I understand that I may revoke this consent in writing at any time.

Check one:

- I GIVE permission for my child to be recorded.
- I DO NOT GIVE permission for my child to be recorded.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Contact Information (Optional): _____