



# 2017-2018 Band Handbook

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Justin McCrary, Band Director

*"Striving for Excellence."*

## **STUDENT HANDBOOK 2017-2018**

Greetings all!

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer, and that everyone is ready to embark on another year of great music making. If you are a new member, welcome to the South Davie Band, and if you are a returning member, welcome back! Being in the band is truly a unique and special experience. The memories made and the opportunities that students have the potential to encounter are unparalleled. Music is powerful, and no other thing to which students can belong can offer what music delivers.

As a band director, it is my belief that all students should have the right to a well-rounded music education. Students in band should feel safe, and feel as though they are in an environment where they are able to shape their own personal identity. Being involved with an activity, such as band, is not always easy as it takes work and isn't always instantly gratifying, but it is always worth it. I hope to inspire your student, and that we are able to share the beauty, power, and importance of music. While the journey to our destination can be full of ups, downs, twists, and turns, the destination itself is well worth the journey. Students and parents must always think long term, and be willing to always give effort. If we all believe in what the band offers, truly buy into what it offers and what each child is able to accomplish, then each student will have a rewarding experience.

In band, it is our hope and desire to help shape students into caring, responsible, hard-working, respectful, and independent leaders of tomorrow. It is my desire to guide a band program at South Davie Middle School that will have the same positive impact upon my students that it has had on me. Our three main goals for students are:

- To learn (success)
- To have fun
- To instill a life-long love and appreciation for music.

We do what we do because we believe in and care for these kids and their future, and decisions made are always done so in the best interest of the band. We hope that membership in our band program will give all a sense of accomplishment as well as pride and respect as the students develop musical and personal skills that will enrich their lives.

This handbook is very important as it contains nearly every detail of what goes into making our band program function. Please take the time to read over this document, and keep it handy when questions arise. Many questions could be answered by simply referring to this document. From the grading policy to information about summer band camps, it can most likely be found here. We look forward to working with you and your student, and cannot wait to see what our students are able to accomplish. Here's to a fantastic year!

Justin McCrary

### **HOW TO STAY INFORMED**

Communication is vital for the success of any organization, and keeping you informed is a top priority. The majority of our communication to families will be via email. If questions relating to band arise, please contact Mr. McCrary directly. We ask that you do not call the office staff for information about band concerts, fundraisers, trips, or other functions of the band unless it is an emergency. Band is one of the busiest activities at our school, and as a result we can flood the office staff with phone calls very quickly without meaning to. The most up to date information is often available through the band director and on the website rather than through the general office staff in the school.

#### Ways to Find Information

1. Read letters sent via students
2. Check email (letter sent home usually included in these)
3. Check band website (a live Google calendar, emailed documents, and other things are posted here)
4. Sign up to receive band text messages
5. "Like" our band Facebook page and follow us on Instagram: southdaviebandofficial

You are always welcome to email Mr. McCrary, or call the school and leave a message for Mr. McCrary. If you are not at least receiving emails, checking the website, and checking calendars, then you will not be informed! You will be in the loop if you are using the resources in place to distribute information.

## **ENSEMBLES OFFERED**

We strive for a very well rounded music program, and the following ensembles are available for student participation:

### **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE “BEGINNING” BAND**

Sixth grade band is the ensemble that provides students the initial chance of learning and performance on wind and percussion instruments. The primary focus is on the introduction of the basic fundamentals necessary for effective musicianship. Generally, this is the only time the majority of students are able to start band.

Topics/skills covered include:

- Embouchure and Tone Development
- Counting, timing, and rhythmic development
- Reading and notation skills, including sight-reading
- Introduction of Scales
- Simple Music Theory
- Development of an extensive vocabulary of musical terms and symbols
- Ear training and listening skills
- Equipment care and maintenance
- Effective practice habits

Students in the sixth grade band perform in two mandatory concerts a year: one in December and one in May.

### **7<sup>th</sup> GRADE “INTERMEDIATE” BAND**

Seventh Grade Band is an ensemble that provides students with the continuation of learning and performance opportunities on wind and percussion instruments. The primary focus is on the development, continuation, and expansion of basic skills begun the previous year that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble contests, honor bands, and private lessons.

Students in seventh grade band perform 2-3 mandatory concerts a year: one in December, and one-two in May.

### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE “ADVANCED” BAND**

Eighth grade band is the middle school’s most advanced performing ensemble for wind and percussion instrumentalists. This year long course introduces “comprehensive musicianship” through music performance of challenging and varied literature. Skills and concepts from the previous year are developed and expanded upon. In addition to continued refinement of individual performance skills, greater emphasis is placed on ensemble performance skills. Students will continue to develop their knowledge of music theory, begin to analyze and evaluate music, and use critical thinking skills to make refinements in their performance. Individual and ensemble performance skills will be expanded through musical expression and technical accuracy.

Students in eighth grade band will perform at least 3-4 concerts a year. Individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated ensemble assessment, solo and ensemble contests, honor bands, and private lessons. This is BY FAR the MOST fun year of middle school band!!!

### **JAZZ BAND**

This group will be studying the jazz style and may have performance opportunities arise. They will perform at the winter and spring concerts, Jazz MPA, and possibly other events as they arise. Participation is held during Paw Pride, and students are to be at every jazz rehearsal held on the assigned Paw Pride days. NO EXCEPTIONS.

### **PEP BAND**

Traditionally, we have a volunteer group of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders perform for a 1-2 South Davie football games. This is a fun way to support our team!

### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE BRASS ENSEMBLE**

This group will perform carols around the Christmas season throughout the school, most notably prior to the school-wide holiday assembly.

We are also able to offer other ensembles as student, school, and community needs may require.

## **BAND STUDENT CHARACTER TRAITS**

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It is our wish that students have an enjoyable time and to be successful in making music. Overall, if students exercise common sense and moral decency, behavior concerns should not be an issue. We will follow the schools PBIS expectations, and if all demonstrate the traits below, it would prevent most any issue from arising:

**Disciplined:** Understand the need for practice and make time for it on a daily basis. Punctual. Always be on time (early) for class, rehearsals and performances.

**Persistent:** Understand that becoming a good musician is a process. It takes time. Work to improve on a daily basis.

**Positive:** Attitudes are contagious. Be sure yours is worth catching! Smile and be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

**Honest:** Admit your limitations and mistakes. Take full responsibility for your actions. Do not lie, cheat, or steal.

**Responsible:** You are young adults. Please do not wait to be told the obvious.

**Well-Behaved:** Follow instructions the first time they are given. Be quiet, attentive, and in control of yourself.

**Prepared:** Bring all materials to class, rehearsals, and performances.

**Committed:** Realize the impact that your actions, attitudes, and performances will have on the group. Think of the band first.

**Polite:** Talk to one another, teachers, parents, and administrators with kindness, respect, and courtesy.

**Mature:** Think before acting.

**Proud:** Remember who you are and where you are from. Take pride in yourself, your band, and your school.

## **DISCIPLINE CONSEQUENCES**

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We do not enjoy enforcing negative consequences; however, consequences, both negative and positive, are part of life. Parents are investing in this opportunity, so we cannot let someone engage in actions that will interrupt the learning experience of others. Any student who makes the decision not to adhere to school (PBIS) or the above band expectations outlined above is subject to the following actions:

1. Warning: Infraction & **5** points off of rehearsal etiquette grade.
2. Student/Teacher Conference: Possible phone call to parent during our class time and their work time with infraction & **10** points deducted from class participation grade.
3. Alternative assignment: Completed in processing & rehearsal etiquette lowered by **25** points
4. Office Referral/AID/Face-to-Face parent conference/Possible removal from class

## **BAND LOCKERS**

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Each student will be assigned a locker (NEW TO US SUMMER 2017) in the band room to use for instrument and band notebook storage DURING THE SCHOOL DAY (take instruments home at end of day and practice). These lockers have doors, however, we will not be using locks. Depending on our numbers, there may be some students that will have to share one locker with another student.

## **CLASSROOM PROCEDURES**

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In order for our class to run efficiently, we must follow procedures. Procedures are how we do things; they are not rules, and often times, do not have consequences...they should be understood and done.

**Entering the Classroom:** Orderly. Gather materials. Go directly to your seat to prepare for class. 2 minutes!

**Beginning Class:** Starts when director steps on the podium. Students are to be silent when this happens.

**Bathroom Use:** Before or after but not during class unless it's an emergency or a doctor's note is on file with director.

**Leaving Your Seat:** Raise your hand and ask permission unless it's an actual emergency.

**Asking Questions:** Raise your hand. Questions shouldn't be asked when the directors' hands are up.

**Responding to Questions:** Raise your hand and wait to be called upon.

**Lockers:** Keep the doors closed and latched, and the inside neat and orderly.

**Moving Chairs, Stands, or Other Equipment:** Put everything back when you are done.

**Passing in Papers/Music:** Pass to the left and the end person organizes.

**Intercom Announcements & Phone Calls:** Everyone is silent until announcements or calls are completed.

**Requesting Music Copies:** Complete a music request ticket found in the organizer behind the main entrance door.

**Getting Additional Help:** Ask me before or after class and a time will be set up.

**Fire/Tornado Drill:** Secure your instrument properly, and proceed quietly to assigned location in line.

**Turning in Money:** In a sealed envelope with your child's name on the front and placed in the metal box.

**Leaving Class:** Make sure your area is clear of trash, and make sure your materials are stored. Even if it isn't yours, place it in Lost and Found or the trash. Pack materials. Right side, single file, and quiet in the halls.

**Dismissal:** Leave class only when the director gives the OK to do so. (Do not ask if you can go!)

## **GRADING POLICY**

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Grades are assigned for the band class and performances, which are co-curricular. It is our goal for every student to earn an A; however, an A is not a guarantee but can happen if students simply do their part. Grades will be based on the following criteria:

Rehearsal Etiquette (Participation)/Concerts: 50%  
Pass-Offs/Theory Quizzes/Other Assignments: 50%

## **REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE**

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Students' attitude, ability to follow procedures, and being prepared daily with their instrument and all materials will be factors that determine this grade. In addition, all students are to be respectful of all students and the directors during class and all rehearsals. Students should also be aware that our rehearsal time is very valuable, and any disturbance of class interrupts instructional time. Students are in band to learn and to have fun, but that can only happen when everyone is demonstrating the desired rehearsal etiquette listed below:

- Inside the room at class time and in seat with all materials and instrument 2 minutes after class starts.
- When the conductor steps onto the podium, everyone instantly becomes silent.
- Oiling of valves and slides should be done before class starts or at home and not during warm-up.
- Pencils only; no pens! Once in class, students are not able to your locker to get materials.
- Neither playing nor holding another student's instruments. This includes percussion and school-owned instruments.
- Sitting with great posture/holds instruments correctly. Great bands play with great posture. Students have been taught the how and the why of good posture, and are expected to sit with proper posture while playing their instrument.
- Materials should not be left out in the band room. Misplaced items will be placed in the band Lost and Found, and will remain there till the end of the month. Then, they make their way to the office lost and found.
- Instruments are stored in CLOSED, LATCHED cases on designated shelves, no music left on stands, no trash on the floor.
- Young adults shall not damage property or equipment. Any mistreatment of school facilities or equipment will result in a monetary fine and **a short band career**.

## **BROKEN INSTRUMENT VERSUS FORGOTTEN INSTRUMENT POLICY**

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Students are expected to have an instrument present for every class and rehearsal. Mr. McCrary should be notified of instrument issue, as he may be able to fix without sending off for repair work. If it needs repair, it will be sent to the repair shop. They will fix it and will return it to the school. The band will be billed, and parents can pay the band directly. If you prefer to send it elsewhere, a note stating the repair shop name and an estimated time of repair should be sent to the director. No note equals alternate assignment. Brass and clarinet players should also keep their mouthpiece, as a school owned loaner could be issued if available. These students will be allowed to participate and not have their daily grade deducted.

If a student just forgets their instrument, they have until the class time to get their instrument to school. Once their class starts, and they have no instrument, they will be sent directly to processing. This is the fairest way to have a repercussion for those students who are not responsible and forgot their instrument and still remain fair to those that have a legitimate instrument issue. This reminder serves as the students warning.

## **SICKNESS AND PLAYING IN CLASS**

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If students are well enough to be at school, then they are well enough to play in class. Students can still participate if they have a headache or other small ailments. A parent or doctor note will be needed to excuse students from playing.

## **MATERIALS GRADE**

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There will be random material checks, and each student should have the following items in class every day:

- A sharpened pencil
- Instrument, mallets, sticks
- Organized, black, 1 inch three-ring binder with music, band books, handouts, sheet protectors
- Woodwinds: ligatures, at least three working Vandoren reeds at all times, double reed water canisters
- Brass: mouthpieces, valve oil (Blue Juice), Slide-o-Mix, water bottle, tuning slide grease, and mutes if required
- Percussion: Percussion bags including all necessary sticks and mallets.

For each missing item, **5** points will be deducted from the participation grade, and an infraction will be issued. Also, random notebook checks may be completed throughout the year. These will be separate quiz grades, and will be pass or fail. Students know material and notebook expectations, and have been taught how to organize their material. Students are responsible in keeping up with music, papers, etc.

## **CONCERTS**

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Since band is a graded, performance-based class, all members of the band are required to be at scheduled band events and concerts. Dates are most always given out weeks or months in advance, announced multiple ways, and it is the expectation that every member be present to perform and watch their peers. Students will be evaluated on attendance, dress, and behavior. Remember, if you're early, you're on time. If you're on time, you're late. It is also our policy that students stay for the entire concert. Points will be deducted for issues in any of those areas.

Due to the nature of a live performance, it is impossible to make up a missed rehearsal or concert. Other students must carry extra burden when students are not in attendance. Band is a collaborative learning activity, so 100% participation is essential and expected. Students that miss concerts due to an unexcused absence will receive a 0 for that performance grade, and performances count as three test grades. Excused absences include illness with a doctor's note, religious beliefs, death in immediate family, or medical emergency.

In order for a concert absence to be excused, the following procedure must be followed by the student and parent:

- Director must be notified **in advance (two weeks minimum).**
- For religious holiday or beliefs, a parent note or doctor's excuse must be submitted to the director via paper or email in advance.
- For illness, documentation from doctor must be presented to the director the first day the student is able to attend school.

We do understand that emergencies arise, and we will work with folks if those arise. With 180+ students in the band, no ride is not an extreme or excused case! Communication is key!

## **CONCERT DRESS REQUIREMENTS**

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Ladies: White and/or black top, black dress pants, black dress shoes or sandals. No sleeveless/thin strapped tops!

Gentlemen: White, long or short sleeved, button-up collard dress shirt. Black dress pants, black socks, black belt, black dress shoes (no tennis shoes!).

School tie (outlined on page 7).

Again, we are trying to promote a more professional performance environment. Girls should only wear dress pants or capris. If your daughter needs to wear a dress or skirt for religious reasons, please let Mr. McCrary know.

Those wearing denim, short length skirts or low-cut tops, flip-flops, tennis shoes, boots, etc. at school performances will have their concert grade lowered! Those violating dress code at MPA will not perform unless changed before departure.

Remember, the point of a uniform is so that the whole group looks the same. We don't want anyone to stick out and draw the audience's attention away from the music. Concerts are formal occasions and the performers should be dressed up! If you need help in obtaining any item required for concert dress, please let us know IN ADVANCE (at least 2 weeks prior to the concert) so arrangements can be made in a timely manner.

## **PASS-OFFS**

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All students will be evaluated on various materials throughout each quarter through pass-offs ("playing tests"). These are great tools that allow us to evaluate student learning and progress. Material will be assigned in advance, and we may have pop playing tests. If students have been diligent in preparing, then this will be reflected through the playing test.

In order to pass-off assigned material, the player must successfully demonstrate to the director his/her ability to perform it. Playing tests are Pass/Fail, and must be completed by the date indicated on the pass-off sheet. Students are able to attempt tests until they have passed-off the material, but must do so by the due date. All assignments for that quarter will be entered into PowerSchool at the beginning of each quarter. Everyone starts with a grade of a 0 entered for each assignment, and once successfully performed and passed-off, students will receive the full amounts of points possible. As they pass-off, their grade will build up as each item is completed.

Pass-offs may also be completed before, during designated class times, or after school. We do accept video recordings via email. Completion will be marked on our pass-off charts, and entered in PowerSchool. Students are responsible for keeping track of what they have and have not completed.

## **SDMS BAND CURRICULUM GOALS**

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<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>
Minimum of 180 Full Days of 40-Minute Class Instruction  Major Scale Requirements: F, Bb, Ab, and Eb Major – 1 Octave  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chromatic Range Development: Concert F to F (1 Octave)</li><li>• Rhythmic Development: Sueta Rhythm Charts 1-15 (perform and notate)</li><li>• Reading Ability: Complete Level 1 Book</li><li>• Concert Music: Will sight read and perform music at the Grade .5 and Grade I Level at a minimum of 2 public concerts including Winter and Spring concerts.</li></ul>	Minimum of 180 Full Days of 40-Minute Class Instruction  Major Scales: F, Bb, Ab, Eb, C, & G – With Scale Sheet & District Required Range  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chromatic Range Development: Concert F-F (2 Octaves)</li><li>• Rhythmic Development: Sueta Rhythm Charts 16-32 (perform and notate)</li><li>• Method Book Reading Ability: Complete Level 2 Book</li><li>• Concert Music: Will sight-read and perform music in Grade Levels I and II at a minimum of 2-3 public concerts including Winter and Spring concerts.</li></ul>	Minimum of 180 Full Days of 40-Minute Class Instruction  Major Scales: 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Requirements Memorized plus G & C (1 Octave)  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chromatic Range Development: All-State Requirements</li><li>• Rhythmic Development: Sueta Rhythm Charts 33-56 (perform and notate)</li><li>• Method Book Reading Ability: Sight Read from Level 3 Ensemble Book</li><li>• Ear Training: Play and Identify Major and Minor Intervals in Key of F</li><li>• Concert Music: Will sight read and perform music in Grade Levels I, II, III and IV at a minimum of 3 public concerts including Fall, Winter, Pre-MPA, and Spring Concerts.</li></ul>

## **PRACTICE EXPECTATION**

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To ensure students progress to their fullest potential, it is expected that students practice a minimum of 20 minutes a day or at least 140 minutes per week. Small chunks of practice spread over several days are better than one large practice session. The use of counting and clapping rhythms, saying note names and fingering them, and use of online theory sites are just some of the methods students should be utilizing. If they are practicing correctly, it will not always initially sound good but there should be improvement noticed over time. Encouragement and support will allow students to better build their confidence. **Those that do not practice at home will not see growth; you get out of it what you put into it! Plus, our room does not benefit from instruments being left behind.**

## **BAND ROOM**

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The use of band facilities before, after, and during school is a privilege. Students who abuse the facility will be disciplined accordingly. Any abuse or damage will be considered vandalism. **NO OUTSIDE STUDENTS ARE PERMITTED IN THE BANDROOM** except for business with the director. There will be no horseplay, i.e. throwing of things, in or around the band room. If students are in the room before and after school, and they cannot act accordingly, they will be sent to their assigned area in the AM or sent to the office to call home in the afternoon.

All percussion is off limits to anyone not specifically designated to use them. No storing of personal items – THE BANDROOM IS NOT A LOCKER! All students have been assigned a school and PE locker with a lock, and they need to make use of them for those items.

## **FUNDRAISERS**

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In order to continue the tradition of a successful band program, we must keep our students well equipped and provided for. It is our philosophy that our students are the best and they deserve the best that we can provide in terms of instruments and educational experiences. It is our desire to make sure we are continually investing in the needs of the band so that we are able to provide only the best experiences possible. It is our job to raise money if we want to provide these experiences. It is IMPERATIVE that everyone participates in fundraising opportunities. Students will be given an amount set as an attainable fundraiser goal. Also, we will accept donations from anyone of any amount at any time throughout the year!

## **SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS**

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Each student who uses a school-owned instrument is completely responsible for the care of the instrument, and must turn in a completed School-Owned Instrument Form before the instrument is given for use. This form states if any damage or abuse occurs which warrants repairs, the student and parent will be financially responsible for the said repair. Also, students are responsible for obtaining the necessary cleaning materials (valve oil, swabs, etc.) and their own mouthpiece and/or ligatures. **It should be understood that those students sharing instruments are to notify Mr. McCrary immediately if they notice that any damage to the instrument has occurred.**

## **Band Fee, Tee-Shirts, Hoodies, & Other Merchandise**

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There is a \$10 dollar countywide band fee that we charge for every child in the band. This should have been paid at open house, or as soon as possible. This fee helps to cover items we need such as new music, materials, and repairs.

All male band students will need to buy a school-colored tie to wear for our concerts. Once purchased and if kept up with, our 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders will be able to wear these ties for band performances over the next 2-3 years. Since our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will represent South Davie at Music Performance Adjudication, it is another way we can promote pride in our school and community. These ties are multipurpose for all students and they can be worn for any event where one is needed. If your son still has theirs from last year, then another one doesn't need to be purchased.

All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will need to buy a band tee shirt, and all current students should have a band tee shirt. These will be worn for various events throughout the year. These are also open for purchase by anyone that would like to support the band! All students and families have the option to buy an SDMS Band hoodie. Complete the merchandise form to order. Again, let us know if you need help obtaining materials or are in need of a payment plan. We are a family and we do not want any member of our group going without any of the items above. Any and all payment plans must be paid in full by year's end.

## **SWITCHING INSTRUMENTS**

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Throughout the year, some of our students will have the chance to audition to change to various color instruments including bass clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophones, French horn, euphonium, and tuba. At no point in time will any student be allowed to change to another instrument without prior director approval.

## **BAND PARTICIPATION & COMMITMENT**

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The SDB is one of three feeder bands for the band program at DCHS. It should be expected and understood that band be at least a 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade commitment unless the director determines otherwise. Registration for the next year's encore classes occurs in the spring. Band students are automatically enrolled into the next year's band class. Please see Mr. McCrary with any questions.

When students complete high school registration, they have the chance to determine if they plan to continue onto the next level of band. Our high school band is flourishing, and students in Davie County are very fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in such a fine program as that is not always the case at many other schools across the state.

## **BAND BOOKS**

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6<sup>th</sup> grade will use Standard of Excellence, book 1. These are instrument specific, meaning each instrument will have its own version of the book. These should be purchased by the parent or through the school if any are on hand. 7<sup>th</sup> grade will also use this book, and will use Band Fundamentals, book 2. This book is included in the \$10 band fee. 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be using Habits of a Successful Middle School Band. These are owned by the band, and will be checked out to each student. At the end of the year, these are to be returned, and students will be charged for damaged or lost books.

## **PURCHASING INSTRUMENT-SPECIFIC MATERIALS**

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You are free to shop where you like, but in our opinion, The Music Center in Statesville or Counterpoint Music in Mocksville best meet our program's needs. Feel free to contact Mr. McCrary if you have any questions.

## **CARE SUPPLIES NEEDED**

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Flutes need a soft cloth and a cleaning rod. Handkerchiefs work well.

Clarinets need a soft cloth, cork grease, swab, reed guard, and at least 3 good reeds.

Saxophones need a soft cloth, cork grease, swab, neck strap, reed guard, and at least 3 good reeds.

Trumpets, euphoniums, and tubas need a soft cloth, valve oil, slide grease.

French horns need a soft cloth, rotor oil, slide grease.

Trombones need a soft cloth, slide oil, slide grease.

## **CLEANING & SERVICING INSTRUMENTS**

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Instrument inspections will take place periodically throughout the year. Please be sure that your student cleans their instrument, and that the instrument gets serviced by a professional instrument repair technician yearly. Students will be taught in class how to take care of their instruments, and to keep them healthy and the instrument in good, working order, it is important that this happens regularly.

### **Brass**

Empty spit valves after each use. Be sure to move tuning slides and keep them greased with tuning slide grease. If your instrument has valves, be sure to move the valve caps frequently to keep from freezing. Keep trombone slides lubricated, and keep piston and rotors oiled. Brass mouthpieces can be fully submerged in water. Use a mouthpiece brush, warm water, and soap to clean out every few weeks. Rubbing alcohol can be used to sterilize the mouthpiece. This is very important, as the mouthpiece comes into direct contact with your mouth. If you have been sick, be sure to do this!

### **Woodwinds**

These instruments CANNOT be washed; however, they should be swabbed out after each use with the correct swab for that instrument. Not swabbing means all moisture remains in the instrument, and this could lead to mold and sticky pads. Flutes should be swabbed after each use with a handkerchief and a flute-cleaning rod. CLARINET MOUTHPIECES CANNOT BE FULLY SUBMIRGED IN WATER!! There is cork on them, and if it gets wet, it will expand. A mouthpiece brush, warm water, and soap can be used very carefully to clean these mouthpieces.

All cases should have an attached nametag with contact information at all times.

## **SDMS BAND PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITES**

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### **FALL CONCERT**

This concert is for our 8<sup>th</sup> grade band. For this event, performing students play music related to the Halloween season, and dress in costume!

### **ALL-COUNTY BAND**

Davie County has a middle school All-County Band. Band students from North, South, and Ellis audition for placement into the all-county band. We take pride in sending kids to these auditions and having a good number earn placement into the groups each year. The clinic, which consists of rehearsals and a concert, is usually a Friday and Saturday in November. These events are open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. We **strongly urge** all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders audition for this event.

### **ALL-DISTRICT BAND**

This opportunity is also open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. To audition for All-District, students should have at least auditioned for All-County Band. Auditions take place in January, and students earning placement will participate in a clinic much like the All-County Clinic in February. This includes an over-night trip to Boone. We **strongly urge** all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders audition for this event.

### **ALL-STATE BAND**

Those placing high enough at All-District are eligible to audition for the All-State Band in March. If selected by audition, the overnight clinic is in early May either at UNC-Greensboro or UNC-Chapel Hill.

### **MPA RETREAT, PREVIEW CONCERT, & PERFORMANCE**

8<sup>th</sup> grade students will have the opportunity to perform at the Northwest District Music Performance Assessment. This is one of the most important performance opportunities. This performance is one of the most important performances that bands can attend, and one we hope showcases the student's growth and hard work over the past three years!

Groups attending MPA prepare and perform three pieces for a panel of 3 judges, and complete a sight-reading with a 4<sup>th</sup> judge. The panel of adjudicators rates the band's performance using a five level scale:

I = Superior    II = Excellent    III = Average    IV = Below Average    V = Poor

Both the MPA preview concert and the retreat are required events. Students must also pass-off their music in order to attend. If students have not passed material off, or cannot play their music, they have not earned the chance to attend the trip. Students that have found themselves in OSS at any time during the year or on level 1 or 2 during third quarter will not travel with us to MPA. Parents and family are invited and encouraged to attend the performance.

## **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE BAND NIGHT**

8<sup>th</sup> grade band students from across Davie County are invited to perform with the War Eagle Regiment. This event is required for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

## **SPRING TRIP – 8<sup>th</sup>**

Provided that it is approved by the administration, school system, and student behavior and work ethic is evident, we may be looking to do another spring trip! If we are approved to plan a trip, parents and students will be responsible for funding the trip, but we will have several fundraisers help throughout the year to help pay for that. If financial concern is prohibiting students from attending the trip, please let us know. Trip costs are broken down into several smaller payments to make it easier to complete payment. We do not want to deny the trip to anyone that wants to go if financial concerns arise.

Students will have to have a record of great behavior both in band and in their other classes to attend. Any student with a grade below a C in band, anyone that has been in OSS, and those on level 1 or 2 at the time of the trip will not be eligible to attend. This trip is a privilege for our students and not a right and serves as a reward to those that have worked hard and have earned it.

## **PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT & CAROWINDS**

Our 7<sup>th</sup> graders will perform for the Carowinds Music Festival, which is a required event. Students must earn this opportunity by demonstrating great work ethic and behavior, and participation in this is not a guarantee if students have not met behavior requirements. Also, if students do not attend the spring band concert, they WILL NOT be allowed to travel to Carowinds.

## **SOLO/ENSEMBLE MPA**

Just as an ensemble may go to band festival, soloists and small ensembles (duets, trios, quartets, etc.) **of all grade levels** in middle school are **strongly urged** to go to Solo and Ensemble MPA, which will be held at Ronald Reagan HS in April. Ratings and constructive feedback like those given to bands at MPA are given to each member of a small ensemble and to each soloist.

## **WINTER & SPRING CONCERTS**

All students will be performing in a winter concert in December, and a spring concert in May. These are our time to display what we have learned to parents, family, and friends. Concerts are free and open to the public. Students are only required to come to the concert night on which they perform, and are invited to come to any and all performances throughout the year.

## **CONCERT ETIQUETTE**

Concerts are our most important events as they display our students' progress made throughout the semester and year. It is our goal for everyone to enjoy our concerts, and in order for that to happen, we ask for your assistance by doing the following:

Refrain from talking. *This puts the attention on the performers, respects them, and those around you.*

Refrain from unwrapping noisy candy wrappers during the performance. *We audio and video record each concert.*

Turn off pagers, cell phones, and watch alarms. *Helps keep sounds not intended by the composer from happening.*

Do not wave to your child during the concert. *They know you're there; a smile also works!*

Do not take flash photography during the music. *This distracts the musicians.*

Please do not video record with your phones. *We audio and video record each concert.*

Do not leave as soon as your child's portion of the concert is over. *This ensures all students play for an audience.*

Applaud at appropriate times.

Do not leave the gym during the music. *Do so between selections when the band is not playing.*

Go to the concert expecting the best. *The kids have worked hard! Sit back and enjoy their presentation.*

## **FINAL THOUGHTS**

"Making music with family of lifelong friends. Understanding how commitment and dedication lead to success. Sharing the joy and rewards of working together. Individuals who develop self-confidence. Creativity – expressing yourself in a universal language. BAND is...MUSIC! Strike up the band!" Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser

"A band is not proud because it performs well; it performs well because it is proud." George Parks

"Don't practice until you get it right; practice until you can't get it wrong."

## **South Davie MS Band Handbook Contract 2017-2018**

**Read and sign front, fill out the back, and return by Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup> as this will be the students 1<sup>st</sup> major test grade.**

The purpose of this contract is to guarantee that the members of the SDMS Band Program, students, parents, and director, understand and accept the basic plan that will allow us to succeed. As members of a team, we each have to commit time, patience, and dedication to all we do. I ask each student to read the following statement and sign below:

*By signing this contract, I acknowledge that I have completely read the South Davie Middle School Band Handbook. I understand that I am expected to follow each rule and procedure outlined in the handbook, including those on classroom and rehearsal behavior, and concerts. I understand that my contribution to the band is an important part of the ensemble's success. I understand that if I miss a band concert that my grade and participation in the ensemble will be affected unless that absence has been deemed excused. Furthermore, I understand the expectation that I am to practice nightly for at least 140 minutes per week.*

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Student Signature

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Student Name, Printed

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Date

We ask each parent or guardian to read the following statement and sign below:

*By signing this contract, I acknowledge that I have completely read the South Davie Middle School Band Handbook. I understand that my child is expected to follow each rule and procedure outlined in the handbook, including those on classroom and rehearsal behavior and concerts. I understand that my child's contribution to the band is an important part of the ensemble's success. I understand that if my child misses a band concert that his or her grade and participation in the ensemble will be affected unless that absence has been deemed excused. Furthermore, I understand the expectation that my child practice nightly for at least 140 minutes per week. I understand the need for my volunteerism and help in fundraising as a vital part of the success of the South Davie Middle School Band.*

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Parent/Guardian Name, Printed

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Date

*As the director, I pledge to uphold the rules and procedures outlined in the SDMS band handbook, and to do my absolute best to assist each and every student in attaining the highest level of musicianship possible.*

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Director Signature

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Date

**\*Please continue on reverse!\***

## **PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION** *(Please write neatly!)*

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Guardian 1 (First/Last): \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (VERY IMPORTANT!)

Guardian 2 (First/Last): \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Other email addresses to have added to receive emails: \_\_\_\_\_

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Is there any information that can be useful to better serve your student and family (custody situations, medical, student learning styles, behavior traits, etc.)?

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### **TO RECEIVE BAND TEXT MESSAGES**

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Remind is a free, safe, and simple messaging tool that helps teachers share important updates and reminders with students & parents. Subscribe by text, email or using the Remind app. All personal information is kept private. Teachers will never see your phone number, nor will you see theirs.

To receive messages via text, text the code @sdmsband to 81010. Reply back with ONLY your first and last name. You can opt out of messages at anytime by replying, 'unsubscribe @sdmsband'. If you already receive these, you do not have to do this again. Subscribing to receive these is something that each person that wishes to receive them must complete.