



2018-2019 Band Handbook

197 South Davie Drive
Mocksville, NC 27028
Phone: 336-751-5941
mccraryj@davie.k12.nc.us
www.southdavieband.weebly.com
Justin McCrary, Band Director

“Striving for Excellence.”

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1 GUIDING PRINCIPLES 1

Welcome

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. I trust that your students association with our band will give them and you great pride.

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. As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Here's to a fantastic year!

Justin McCrary

My Philosophy

As a band director, it is my belief that all students should have the right to a well-rounded music education. Our students should feel safe and feel as though they are in an environment where they are able to shape their own personal identity. I hope to inspire your student, and that we are able to share the beauty, power, and importance of music. 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 hope 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 (be successful).
- To have fun.
- To instill a life-long love and appreciation for music.

WHAT I EXPECT

It is our wish that students have an enjoyable time and be successful in making music. Overall, if students exercise common sense and moral decency, behavior concerns should not be an issue. The expectations that follow are more than just a set of rules, and if all students do their part in modeling these, it should 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.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

Just as I have expectations for students, there are things that you should expect from me:

Firm and consistent in my expectations for each student and for the bands. I will expect your best effort and behavior at all times.

Fair in establishing and enforcing policies and procedures.

Committed to helping each student grow and become their personal best.

Worthy of your trust. I will continually work to become a better teacher by listening to and learning from other directors.

Honest when commenting on your actions, attitudes, behavior, and performances. I will never tell you that it is good when in reality it is bad, and I will never tell you it is bad, when in reality it is good.

and wherever they perform in public. Any misconduct, however slight, reflects on the conduct of the band as a whole and one incident can undo the work of hundreds of loyal students and parents. Therefore, any infraction of established rules will not be tolerated.

DISCIPLINE CONSEQUENCES

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.

IMPORTANCE OF PROCEDURE

Policies and procedures are outlined in this handbook to ensure that all aspects of the band program run smoothly, and to ensure that each student has a safe and successful experience. *Please do not ask for exceptions to rules.* At times, unforeseen circumstances may warrant the modification of a policy. When these situations occur, modifications will be made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the band director.

IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLINE

Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must be strict. The class contains two to three times the number of students found in most other classes; therefore, it is imperative that parents and students be willing to accept the goals, ideals, rules and procedures of the program. Band students are constantly on display and each member should be aware of the importance of good behavior. Students should never forget that they represent their school, community, and families whenever

Students' attitude, ability to follow procedures, and being prepared daily with their instrument and all materials will be factors that determine the rehearsal etiquette 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 demonstrate this 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.**

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

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

Write what you need on a piece of paper with your name and give to Mr. McCrary.

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

Grades are assigned for the band class and performances, which are co-curricular. Further, grades are not given, but rather, are earned by the student. 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/Concerts: 50%

Pass-Offs/Theory Quizzes/Other Assignments: 50%

SICKNESS AND PLAYING IN CLASS

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

BROKEN INSTRUMENT VERSUS FORGOTTEN INSTRUMENT POLICY

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 parent note stating the repair shop name and an estimated time of repair should be sent to the director. 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.

The first time a student just forgets their instrument, they will have an alternative assignment to be completed in class. Upon the second time and any future occurrence, they will be sent directly to processing to complete this assignment. Processing is an automatic level drop. 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.

CONCERT/EVENT EXPECTATION

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

Ladies

White and/or black top, black dress pants, black dress shoes or sandals. No sleeveless/thin strapped tops, leggings, jeggings, yoga pants, tights, etc.!

We are trying to promote a professional performance environment. 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! Again, all students are to wear DRESS PANTS. If your student needs to wear a dress or skirt for religious reasons, please let the band director know.

MATERIALS GRADE

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.

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.

In this program, one should not be afraid to ask for any assistance in obtaining the necessary concert dress items. 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. We **EXPECT** each student to meet the concert dress requirements!

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 that you do the following during a performance:

Refrain from talking.

Refrain from unwrapping noisy candy wrappers during the performance.

Turn off pagers, cell phones, and watch alarms.

Do not wave to your child during the concert.

Do not take flash photography during the music.

Please do not video record with your phones.

Do not leave as soon as your child's portion of the concert is over.

Applaud at appropriate times.

Do not leave the gym during the music.

Go to the concert expecting the best.

PRACTICE EXPECTATION – TAKE YOUR INSTRUMENTS HOME

To ensure all 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!**

SDMS BAND CURRICULUM GOALS

6th Grade

Minimum of 180 Full Days of 40-Minute Class Instruction

Major Scale Requirements: F, Bb, Ab, and Eb Major – 1 Octave

- Chromatic Range Development: Concert F to F (1 Octave)
- Rhythmic Development: Sueta Rhythm Charts 1-15 (perform and notate)
- Reading Ability: Complete Level 1 Book
- 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.

7th Grade

Minimum of 180 Full Days of 40-Minute Class Instruction

Major Scales: F, Bb, Ab, Eb, C, & G with Scale Sheet & District Required Range

- Chromatic Range Development: Concert F-F (2 Octaves)
- Rhythmic Development: Sueta Rhythm Charts 16-32 (perform and notate)
- Method Book Reading Ability: Complete Level 2 Book
- 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.

8th Grade

Minimum of 180 Full Days of 40-Minute Class Instruction

Major Scales: 7th Grade Requirements Memorized plus G & C (1 Octave)

- Chromatic Range Development: All-State Requirements
- Rhythmic Development: Sueta Rhythm Charts 33-56 (perform and notate)
- Method Book Reading Ability: Sight Read from Level 3 Ensemble Book
- Ear Training: Play and Identify Major and Minor Intervals in Key of F
- Concert Music: Will sight read and perform music in Grade Levels I, II, III and IV at a several public concerts including fall, winter, spring, & MPA.

PASS-OFFS

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 it is expected that students prepare the material to get it "performance ready." 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 dates 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. Completion will be marked on pass-off charts and entered in PowerSchool. Students are responsible for keeping track of what they have and have not completed.

ENSEMBLES OFFERED

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

6th 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 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.

7th 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.

8th 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 7th and 8th graders perform for a 1-2 South Davie football games. This is a fun way to support our team!

8th GRADE BRASS ENSEMBLE

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

SWITCHING INSTRUMENTS

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

It should be expected and understood that band be at least a 6th through 8th grade commitment unless the director determines otherwise. Registration for the next year's encore classes occurs in the spring, and 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.

3 FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT 3

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. Percussion students are responsible for keeping this area clean and organized and should alert the director when any instrument needs maintenance or repair.

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.

The piano is for use by the Band Director and select students. Do not play the piano unless you have permission.

Chairs and Stands are very expensive and hard to replace. Please do not abuse these pieces. Remember, if you break it, you buy it!

BAND LOCKERS

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.

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

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.**

CLEANING & SERVICING INSTRUMENTS

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.

INSTRUMENT CARE SUPPLIES NEEDED

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.

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

PURCHASING INSTRUMENT-SPECIFIC MATERIALS

You are free to shop where you like, but in our opinion, Counterpoint Music on the town square in downtown Mocksville best meets our program's needs. Feel free to contact Mr. McCrary if you have any questions.

4 PERFORMANCE & TRAVEL OPPORTUNITES 4

FALL CONCERT

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

WINTER & SPRING CONCERTS

All students will be performing in a winter concert in December, and a spring concert in May.

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 expect a large number of participants. The clinic, which consists of rehearsals and a concert, is usually a Friday and Saturday in November. These events are open to 7th and 8th grade students. We **strongly urge** all 7th and 8th graders audition for this event.

8th GRADE BAND NIGHT

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

ALL-DISTRICT BAND

This opportunity is also open to 7th and 8th 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 and expect** all 7th and 8th 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.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT & CAROWINDS

Traditionally, our 7th grade band travels to Carowinds and may participate in a music festival. 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 fall & spring band concerts, they WILL NOT be allowed to travel to Carowinds.

MPA RETREAT, PREVIEW CONCERT, & PERFORMANCE

8th grade students will have the opportunity to perform at the Northwest District Music Performance Assessment. 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. It is our band's goal to earn a Superior rating. Groups attending MPA prepare and perform three pieces for a panel of 3 judges and complete a sight-reading with a 4th 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 that are on level 1 or 2 at the time of the trip will not be able to travel with us to MPA. Flawless student behavior is imperative!

SPRING TRIP – 8th

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. 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 anyone to not attend the trip due to lack of finances. 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.

JAZZ MPA

Just as an ensemble may go to band festival, our jazz band does the same. This event is in May, and we will also receive a rating for this performance. This is usually a school-day trip but could be on a Saturday depending on how certain dates align. Again, it is our goal for our band to receive a Superior rating.

CITY OF THE ARTS JAZZ FESTIVAL

In preparation for Jazz MPA, our jazz band traditionally attends and performs at the COTA Jazz Festival held in conjunction with Solo/Ensemble MPA.

SOLO/ENSEMBLE MPA & CHAMBER MUSIC & DESSERT SOCIAL NIGHT

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 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. Students that perform for this event will be our featured performers at our annual Chamber Music & Dessert Social Night.

5

MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT NEEDS

5

BAND FEE

There is a \$10 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.

BOW TIES

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 6th and 7th graders will be able to wear these ties for band performances over the next 2-3 years. Since our 8th 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.

TEE-SHIRTS & HOODIES

All 6th grade students will need to buy a band tee shirt, and it is expected that all current students should have a band tee shirt that fits. These will be worn for various events throughout the year. All students and families have the option to buy an SDMS Band hoodie. These items are also open for purchase by anyone that would like to support the band! 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. Unpaid fees will be submitted to the office for collection.

BAND BOOKS

6th 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.

7th grade will also use their 6th grade book, and will use Band Fundamentals, book 2. This book is included in the \$10 band fee, and will be purchased and distributed through the band director.

8th 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.

NEEDED STEP-UP EQUIPMENT

Students in 7th & 8th grade bands will need to purchase the following items to allow for continued progression:

Clarinet & Bass Clarinet: Fobes Debut mouthpiece & Rovener ligature

Alto/Tenor Saxophone: Yamaha mouthpiece, Selmer S90 or Selmer C-Star, Bois Classique or Rovener ligature

Bari Sax: Yamaha mouthpiece & Rovener ligature

French horn: Holton Farkas MDC (Medium Deep Cup)

Trumpet: Yamaha TR14C4/Bach or Blessing or Jupiter 5C

Trombone: Yamaha 48/Bach or Blessing or Jupiter 6.5 AL (check shank size)

Euphonium: Bach/Blessing/Jupiter 6.5 AL (check shank size)

Tuba: Conn Helleburg

OTHER USEFUL ITEMS

Tuners & Metronomes: Snark, Korg, or another brand. Certain models have both tools. There are many free or cheap apps for digital devices. The Tonal Energy app for i-devices or Android is the best one I have found and is highly recommended. Students can use tuners during rehearsal, and both should be utilized during home practice.

HOW TO PRACTICE

Daily practice time is essential for student success in band. All band students should spend a minimum of twenty minutes each day in individual practice. Daily practice time is homework for band. The guidelines below will help to organize your practice time. Remember, practice time is to be spent practicing, not watching the clock!

- Practice in the same place each day. Be sure there are no distractions.
- Begin with long tones. Concentrate on producing a pleasing sound. Think about your breathing. Produce a steady and controlled air stream. Use a mirror to check your embouchure, hand position, and posture.
- Spend time on scales. Play them slowly at first and then work for speed.
- Work out of your method book each day. Try to stay several lines ahead of the class. Work for accuracy and be sure to play everything on the page.
- Practice your music. Work on the parts that you cannot play. Practice them slowly at first and then increase the speed. Work one measure at a time. Once you are able to play a measure five times without mistakes then you can increase the tempo.
- Pay careful attention to details: correct notes and fingerings, rhythms, key signatures and accidentals, signs and symbols, dynamics, and articulations.
- Finally play something just for fun.

PRACTICE TIMELINE

Practice does not make perfect; practice makes permanent! So be sure to practice wisely! Use these times to help guide and structure your practice. Strive for excellence!

<u>30 Minutes</u>	<u>45 Minutes</u>	<u>60 Minutes</u>
5 Minutes – Long Tones	7 Minutes – Long Tones	9 Minutes – Long Tones
5 Minutes – Scales	7 Minutes – Scales	9 Minutes – Scales
7 Minutes – Method Book	9 Minutes – Method Book	12 Minutes – Method Book
10 Minutes – Music	15 Minutes – Music	20 Minutes – Music
3 Minutes – For Fun	7 Minutes – For Fun	10 Minutes – For Fun

SUMMER BAND CAMPS

It is highly encouraged that our students attend summer band camps. These camps are vital in helping students continue their growth over the summer months. Summer music camps are fun and also give students social interaction with peer musicians. UNC-G, Mars Hill, and Lenoir-Rhyne offer excellent 1 week camps. Cannon Music Camp (Appalachian State) is a phenomenal, 3 week camp for those entering 9th grade through graduating seniors. Information on these camps can be obtained on their websites or through the band director.

Thank you for allowing your student the chance to be a part of our program! Regardless of your musical background, a parent's support and encouragement will have a tremendous impact on your child's progress in band. To assist in the musical growth of your child:

Support the goals, policies, procedures, and decisions of your child's band director. Your child succeeds when the program succeeds.

Require practicing at home on a daily basis. Provide a regular time and place where your child can practice every day.

Ask your child to play for you. Encourage performance.

Teach your child to be punctual by helping them be on time for rehearsals and performances.

Enthusiastically attend all band functions to show your support. Get involved.

Help keep your child's instrument in good, playing condition.

Know that we aim for all students to enjoy making music, and we appreciate your support and patience during this journey! This journey can be quite amazing if students do their part.

FUNDRAISERS

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.

WHO TO CONTACT

It cannot be stressed enough that your main contact for band-related questions is the band director!

If you have questions about band concerts, fundraisers, trips, contact the band director.

If you have question about scheduling, contact the band director.

Band is literally one of the busiest activities at our school. Front office staff has to manage the whole school, and do not always know our details and nor should they. Your calls/emails/concerns will be forwarded to the band director, so just save a step and contact him directly. #takebandstufftothebanddirector

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

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

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.

IN CLOSING

Young people in today's society need positive direction in their lives. We see band as an opportunity to shape young lives and to positively influence young people. Students must understand that their lives will have a tremendous impact on the lives of others, and the nature of that impact (good or bad) is up to the individual.

Remind your child when the challenge becomes tough, that teachers, just like parents, set high standards because we care. We believe that all students that join our program have the ability to experience success. With enough practice, persistence, and can-do attitude, anyone can be successful. Below, you can find a few quotes that I hope our students will appreciate and remember throughout the year. Many thanks for your support of our program and best wishes for a safe, happy, and successful school year.

"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."

"Strive for excellence."

**South Davie MS Band Handbook Contract
2018-2019**

Read and sign front, fill out the back, and return by Friday, August 31st as this will be the students 1st 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 have reviewed the calendar and am aware of the dates that pertain to me. 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.

Student Signature

Student Name, Printed

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 have reviewed the calendar and am aware of the dates that pertain to my student. 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.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Name, Printed

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.

Director Signature

Date

Please continue on reverse!

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

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: _____

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

TO RECEIVE BAND TEXT MESSAGES

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.