

SEVEN SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK 2011-2012

Congratulations on your decision to become a member of the Seven Springs Middle School band program. As a member, you will learn to play a musical instrument, meet new friends, participate in fun activities and develop a greater appreciation of the arts.

To be a successful band member you must make the commitment to always strive to do your best. It is important to conduct yourself with the best possible behavior, have pride, and respect others and their property. As a band member you not only represent yourself you represent the entire band program and the school. Only band members who demonstrate qualities of good character will represent Seven Springs Middle School. The pleasure of performing good music for an appreciative audience is matched only by the personal satisfaction of playing for ones own enjoyment.

It has been our experience that much of the information given to students never makes it home. It is with this in mind that we have a band web page. You can access the band web page by clicking on the music link at the following address: <ssms.pasco.k12.fl.us> If you ever need to reach one of us you can call the band room directly at (727) 774-6843 or leave a message at the office (727) 774-6700. We generally do not answer the phone during class so calling before or after school is usually best. You can also e-mail one of us at the following addresses.

Mr. Viking <tviking@pasco.k12.fl.us> Mr. Jautze <rjautze@pasco.k12.fl.us>

PRACTICE/PRIVATE LESSONS

Practice is an integral part of learning how to play a musical instrument. Students should practice at least 30 minutes a day outside of band class. Students excel quickly when they establish a practice routine. You may have to start with 10 minutes a day and gradually work up to 30 minutes. Practicing daily develops tone, technique and endurance. You will progress much slower if you skip days then try to make up time by practicing longer. The band room will be open before and after school so students can practice, seek extra help or retake playing tests. We encourage students to take advantage of the extra time that the band room is available. The music facility will be open most mornings from 7:45 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Students that choose to stay after school must to have a ride home at 3:30 p.m.

It is not a requirement for students to take private lessons. However, private instruction and practice makes a tremendous improvement in student playing ability. See one of the directors if you are interested in private instruction.

REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE

(during, before and/or after school)

To have a truly successful program it is imperative that every band member attend and participate in **ALL** the scheduled rehearsals and performances of their respective class. The District School Board of Pasco County lists Band as a co-curricular class which means attendance, before, during, or after school, is a required component of the course. To help facilitate scheduling concerns, all students and parents will have access to our band calendar. The calendar and other important information can be viewed by clicking on the music link of the school web site <ssms.pasco.k12.fl.us>. Remember, **performances and rehearsals are considered grades and cannot be made up. An absence from any performance or rehearsal will directly effect a student's grade.** Please contact the director if there is an extreme circumstance that needs to be considered. It is also important to know that if you are absent from school due to illness Pasco County guidelines state that you may **NOT** participate in any after school activity. Water will be provided during outside rehearsals or performances and it is important that students take time to hydrate.

UNIFORM/DRESS CODE

Uniform:

Advanced Band and Advanced/Intermediate Percussion students who perform with the Advanced Band will be issued uniforms. These uniforms are supplied free of charge; however, each student who is issued a uniform will be responsible for the annual cleaning fee of (\$30.00). All uniforms will be sent out at the same time for cleaning. When wearing the uniform, students must wear **BLACK SOCKS** and **ALL BLACK CLOSED TOE FLAT OR LOW HEAL SHOES** suitable for marching and concert. You may acquire shoes anywhere you like. In addition, **ALL** Advanced Band and Percussion Class students are required to have a Band T-shirt (\$10.00). In an effort to keep costs down we will be using the same T-shirt as last year so you do not need to buy a new T-shirt if you have one from last year that is in good condition. All payments can be made in the form of cash or check. Checks should be made payable to "Seven Springs Middle School."

Dress Code:

It is the responsibility of each student to dress appropriately while representing the school. The band will wear Band T-shirts during informal events such as pep assemblies. The full band uniform, including black socks and black shoes, will be worn during formal events such as concerts, football games, parades etc. Intermediate Band and Beginning Band will need to provide their own concert attire. Please review the following concert attire information.

Acceptable formal concert attire for Beginning and Intermediate Bands: (black & white)

Girls - dress black or dark colored slacks, white dress blouse or shirt, and black dress shoes with black socks. It is also recommended that girls wear closed toe shoes. **No spaghetti straps, dresses or skirts allowed.** You may wear a bow tie if you like. Jackets or vests are not required.

Boys - dress black or dark colored slacks, white short or long sleeve dress shirt with collar and black dress shoes with black socks. **Boys must wear a tie or bow tie.** Jackets are not required.

Students dressed inappropriately will not perform.

POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

- * Students will show respect at all times toward the directors, parents, chaperones, school officials and other students. They will also be respectful of school property and the property of others.
- * **Gum, candy, food or drinks** are **NOT** allowed in the music suite, on busses, during rehearsals or performances without director permission.
- * **Gum chewing, smoking or use of tobacco products** is prohibited by **anyone** entering the SSMS campus. This policy also applies to anyone representing SSMS Band during off campus activities.
- * **Plan to ride the bus when it is provided for scheduled activities.** **Prior arrangements MUST be made IN WRITING** if a parent plans to transport a student to or from an activity where bus transportation is provided. This policy assures the safety and accountability of all students.
- * **Always be on time!** Every effort will be made to start and end rehearsals or performances on time. If a rehearsal is scheduled to end at 5:00 p.m. you should plan to pick up your child at that time. You are always welcome at any rehearsal or performance. The ending times for some performances are more difficult to estimate. Your flexibility on this issue is greatly appreciated.
- * For sanitary and liability reasons, students should only play their own instrument.
- * Demonstrate positive behavior at all times. Disruptive, irresponsible or inappropriate conduct will not be tolerated while representing the Seven Springs Middle School Band.

GRADES

Grades are based on class participation, performance tests (both playing and written), music preparation, performance objectives, notebook, special projects, rehearsal and performance attendance, and following the policies and procedures of the class. Students are required to bring their instrument, music, and a pencil to class everyday. Failure to do so will result in a loss of participation points. Refer to your syllabus for specific playing requirements. All students enrolled in band are expected to participate and perform in all the required activities of their class. Again, Band is a “co-curricular” course which means attendance at any required activity before, during, or after school is part of a students grade.

NORMAL DISCIPLINE POLICY

1. a student reminder
 2. time-out from the activity and deduction in participation points
 3. a parent conference, note home, telephone call, etc.
 4. exclusion from a performance or activity
 5. discipline referral, detention, removal from activity or class
- * Severe discipline issues will result in a direct administrative referral

INSTRUMENTS LEFT AT HOME OR IN NEED OF REPAIR

Instruments left at home:

If a student forgets to bring their instrument to class they will lose participation points. It is important to remember that Band is a performance and participation class and when a student is unable to play because they left their instrument at home they are not fully participating in class.

Instruments in need of repair:

Instruments need to be kept in good working condition. A student will NOT be penalized if their instrument needs repair. When a student comes to class without an instrument because it is being repaired they will be given an alternative assignment. Please remember that the only way for us to distinguish the difference between an instrument left at home and one in the repair shop is if we receive a note or phone call from a parent. This policy prevents a student that left their instrument at home from saying “It’s in the repair shop.”

Often the problem with an instrument is minor. You might want to see one of us before you bring the instrument to a repair shop. If the instrument needs to go to the repair shop, it is generally a good idea to take it back to where it was rented or purchased. ***Always ask for a loaner.*** This will ensure the student does not fall behind. Some music stores service our school on a weekly basis, arrangements can be made for one of them to pick the instrument up at school and return it the following week. They usually have loaners available but you will need to ask before they come out.

BAND ROOM INSTRUMENT LOCKERS

Seven Springs Middle School band students are fortunate to have a beautiful facility. The music suite contains two large rehearsal rooms, six practice rooms, two large ensemble rooms, two uniform rooms, and an instrument storage facility. The instrument storage room has a sink for washing instrument parts and lockers for storage. The lockers are for instrument use only. Lockers may need to be shared by two or more students. Even though lockers are issued, students are responsible for their own instrument, equipment, and personal belongings.

LOCKER INFORMATION: *Each student will have a designated place in the band room to store their instrument. Only SSMS Band locks may be placed on the lockers. Lockers and locks are issued free of charge however, there is a \$5.00 replacement fee for any lost or damaged lock. Using the locker room storage area is a privilege and students must exercise good behavior.*

BAND REQUIREMENTS

In order to begin to learn how to play an instrument you must acquire a certain amount of equipment and supplies. Obtaining the following list of items is the responsibility of each student and/or parent. We strongly suggest that Beginning Band students rent an instrument their first year of playing. Most music stores will rent on a rent-to-own basis. Buying an instrument is a personal investment one should only consider after playing a year or so. We highly recommend that you avoid purchasing your first instrument off the internet or from a store that sells flutes and groceries. Unless you have a great deal of instrument knowledge and the ability to play, be wary of pawn shops. It is recommended that you do business with a store that specializes in school band instruments. SSMS Band has a limited number of instruments available to issue to students free of charge.

Beginning Band Wind Instrument Requirements: (period 5 & 6)

- * pencil
- * instrument and supplies (supplies are specific to each instrument such as reeds, valve oil etc.)
- * book: "Essential Elements 2000" book ONE Note: Each book is instrument specific.
- * band t-shirt (\$10.00) optional

Beginning Band Percussion Requirements: (period 5 & 6)

- * pencil
- * percussion kit - includes a pair of light weight concert snare drum sticks, practice pad and small mallet instrument with mallets. You will need the mallet instrument first.
- * book: "Essential Elements 2000" book ONE Note: Each book is instrument specific.
- * band t-shirt (\$10.00) optional

Intermediate Band Wind Instrument Requirements: (period 3)

- * notebook & pencil
- * instrument and supplies (supplies are specific to each instrument such as reeds, valve oil etc.)
- * book: "Essential Elements 2000" book TWO Note: Each book is instrument specific.
- * band t-shirt (\$10.00) optional

Advanced Band Wind Instrument Requirements: (period 4)

- * notebook & pencil
- * instrument and supplies (supplies are specific to each instrument such as reeds, valve oil etc.)
- * book: "Foundations for Superior Performance" by Richard Williams & Jeff King
Note: Each book is instrument specific.
- * all black concert/marching type band shoes and black socks
- * SSMS band uniform (issued free of charge)
- * uniform cleaning fee \$30.00
- * band t-shirt (\$10.00)
- * music lyre and flip folder (issued free of charge)

Intermediate & Advanced Percussion Requirements: (period 1)

- * notebook & pencil
- * practice pad and stick bag
- * book: "Alfred's Drum Method" Book 1 by Sandy Feldstein and Dave Black
- * all black concert/marching type band shoes and black socks
- * SSMS band uniform (issued free of charge)
- * uniform cleaning fee \$30.00
- * band t-shirt (\$10.00)

ISSUED ITEMS

Students are responsible for issued items. This may include but not limited to: instrument, supplies, uniform, lock, music, flip folder, music folder etc. Replacement or repair fees will be assessed if items are damaged or not returned.

MUSIC STORE INFORMATION

We have included a list of music stores which rent and sell new and used, equipment, music and supplies. We are not endorsing any particular vender; however, we can tell you that most of our students have done business with one or more of the following stores. Call and shop around for the best deal. A word of caution though, avoid doing business with a store that is not music specific just because they're close. Also, we recommend that you do business with a store that specializes in new and used brass & woodwind instruments and has an on site repair shop. You should also know that you will probably only visit a particular store once or twice a year and that the larger stores often carry a greater selection and newer instruments. Remember, your child will be playing the instrument every day so it may be worth the drive. Most music stores will require that you have a major credit card in order to rent an instrument. The first store services our school on a weekly basis so if you need anything just call them and they will deliver it to the school.

<i>* <u>Bringe Music</u></i>	<i><u>St. Petersburg</u></i>	<i><u>(727) 822-3460</u></i>
A Allegro Music Co.	Largo/Seminole	(727) 251-9439
Dynamic Music Center	Palm Harbor	(727) 772-5555
Encore Music Emporium (a satellite store for Bringe Music)	New Port Richey	(727) 862-2882
Happy Tunes	Lutz	(813) 948-1419
Jam Music	Wesley Chapel	(813) 973-8430
Music Matters	New Port Richey	(727) 834-8856
Music Showcase, Inc. Tampa	(813) 932-9008	Brandon (813) 685-5998
Paragon Music	Tampa	(813) 876-3459
Ramblin' Rhodes Music	Trinity	(727) 375-0123
Sam Ash	Clearwater (727) 725-8062	Tampa (813) 908-5556
The Brass & Woodwind Shop	Wesley Chapel	(813) 971-2120

** This stores visits our school on a weekly basis*

The following questions should prove helpful when looking for a music store.

1. How long have you been in business?
2. Do you carry several different brands and models?
3. Do you rent and sell both new and used instruments?
4. Are you a satellite store for a larger store?
5. What is your repair policy and do you offer a loaner instrument?
6. Do you repair at this facility or do you send instruments out?
7. Do you offer different rental prices for new and used instruments?
8. Will you be sending a representative regularly to Seven Springs Middle School?
9. In what country are the instruments you rent or sell manufactured?
10. Will you apply the paid rental toward a purchase if I choose to buy at a later date?

I encourage all parents to get involved in their child's musical exploration. Many of you probably played an instrument while you were in school. If so, you know that the time spent in band was one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. It can be equally rewarding for your child. All it takes is commitment and a love for music.

I have read and understand the information included in the Band Handbook.

Date: _____ Period: _____

Student Name: _____ Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____