

Forward

As members of a SMS Band, you should constantly strive to improve upon the reputation of the groups that have gone before you. The band's combined UNITY and PRIDE along with each individual's DESIRE, DEDICATION, and DISCIPLINE will bring to the group the recognition that it deserves.

Calendar of Events

Each handbook contains a list of all performances that students will be involved in this year. Students and parents are requested to check these dates **in advance**.

Attendance

Since the band is a performance group, **CONCERT PARTICIPATION IS MANDATORY!** Band members will receive a list of all performances for the school year and are expected to discuss their commitments with parents and work around conflicts. Concert participation constitutes a significant portion of the students' overall grade when a concert falls within a grading period. Failure to participate in a concert will most likely result in a failing grade for the period. If an absence is unavoidable, it must be excused by the teacher **in advance** and the teacher must be notified by **a parent or guardian**. Only in extreme cases will an absence be excused.

Schedule Changes

It is the policy of SMS that students wishing to drop or add band may do so only during the first two weeks of school and the 1st week of the second semester. This policy is made as a matter of fairness and commitment for the individual students as well as the groups involved.

Concert Dress Policy

It is the policy of every performing ensemble in the Music Department at Simmons Middle School that appropriate attire for concerts be dress clothes and dress shoes. Students should not dress for concerts as they would for a "normal" day of school. Students who show up for concerts in casual shirts or jeans will not be allowed to perform. If financial concerns cause a student to be unable to meet these requirements, the parent/guardian must contact the director prior to the concert. **Concerts are special events and need to be treated as such.**

Use of School Equipment

If you are using a school horn or any school equipment, please use the proper care and maintenance. In the case of misuse or neglect, the student will be responsible for any expenses incurred in repair costs. Drummers are responsible for supplying their own drum sticks. The school will provide timpani and bell mallets.

Practice Record Policy

Practice records will be collected roughly once a month depending on how the weeks fall during the quarter. Practice records need to be filled out completely and signed by a parent/guardian. Unsigned practice cards will not be recorded. Averaging 10-15 minutes at least 5 days a week is a good number to shoot for.

The grading scale for a **week** of practicing is as follows:

85 minutes and up.....A	30 - 49 minutes.....D
60 - 84 minutes.....B	29 minutes and below.....F
50 - 59 minutes.....C	

The quality of any performance group is directly related to the amount of time spent by individuals practicing. **Reaching your potential in band requires consistent practice. DON'T SELL YOURSELF AND OTHERS SHORT!**

Extra Credit

Students may earn extra credit by:

- Attending concerts in which they are not a participant and turning in a 1 page summary within 1 week of the performance.
- Performing in a small group or as a soloist in a function not affiliated with school.
- Participation in private lessons above what is required.

Grading Policy

Grades received by band members will be averaged from the following areas:

Performance Attendance (25%) - This area includes all performances during grading period. Unexcused absences will result in a zero for this portion of the grade.

Practice Records (25%) - All band students are required to turn in a record of their practice time on a monthly basis. Practice time will be averaged each quarter and students will receive a grade.

Lesson Evaluations (25%) - All band students will be required to take 3 lessons during the day and/or before and after school. These lessons will provide the instructors an opportunity to give students guidance and evaluate student progress through the book. Each lesson will be evaluated using the following rubric:

Remembering lesson and book	10 pts.
Plays none of lesson correctly	0 pts.
Plays some of lesson correctly	4 – 5 pts.
Plays half of lesson correctly	6 – 7 pts.
Plays most of lesson correctly	8 pts.
Plays almost all of lesson correctly	9 – 10 pts.
20 pts. ... A+	16 pts. ... C
19 pts. ... A	15 pts. ... C-
18 pts. ... B	14 pts. ... D
17 pts. ... B-	13 pts. or less ... F

Students are responsible for signing up for their lessons. Sign-up sheets are posted on the band office window.

Daily Participation and Playing Tests (25%) – All students will receive a daily participation grade. Deductions will be made for excessive talking, disruption, tardiness, or forgotten books or instruments. At least once a quarter, students will be required to upload a recording of themselves playing a short etude, method book exercise, or excerpt from one of the pieces we are working on in class using the Seesaw app. Students who are unable to do this at home will be able to do it at school on one of the music department computers.

Rehearsal Procedures

- Students have two extra minutes to get their horns and music out and be in their assigned seat ready to play. Students not in their seat at this time will be counted tardy.
- Keep horn cases out of the aisles as much as possible.
- If you need a reed, valve oil, etc., please take care of this BEFORE the rehearsal starts.
- Gum, pop, food, etc. are not allowed in the music rooms PERIOD.
- Class periods are extremely short. Please get drinks and go to the bathroom before class starts.
- During the rehearsal, sit without playing or talking when the directors are talking or rehearsing a section. Students failing to sit quietly lose daily points and may be assigned detention. If you wish to speak, raise your hand first.
- After rehearsal, put horns and music away and return to your seat to be dismissed.
- Percussionists are to return all mallets, equipment, and music to its assigned spot.
- There is a direct relationship between the amount of effort put into rehearsing and how good the band will be. **Quiet efficient rehearsals will produce a successful and enjoyable year.**

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PLEASE RETURN TO THE BAND OFFICE BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7.

I affirm by my signature below that I have read the Band handbook issued to my child and that I understand its contents.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature