

STORM GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND



Band Handbook
2023-2024

Ambika Ramdehal
Director of Bands

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Storm Grove Middle School Band Program! This handbook has been written to familiarize you with the many aspects our program and to ensure an enjoyable and educationally rewarding musical experience. I realize you have a lot of reading material from school at the beginning of the year, but please take the time to READ ALL OF THE HANDBOOK! After you have read the handbook, sign and return the band agreement on the last page. From that point on, band students and parents will be held accountable for the information contained in this handbook. Therefore, please keep this handbook for future reference.

Band is an elective and selective course. In the band class, we seek to develop and put to use the skill of playing a musical instrument. Through the process of developing that skill, students will learn math concepts that are applied to rhythm, music history, and a new system of notation. Students will also develop fine motor skills, their ability to hear more critically, and musicianship. The skill of playing a musical instrument in an ensemble requires the cooperation of a large team of musicians working together towards a common goal. It also requires practice at home, occasional after school rehearsals and performances, and an investment into a band instrument. Band also teaches responsibility to a group or team. The sound each student makes changes the sound of the entire ensemble. Therefore, the students' presence directly affects the success of all the students unlike any other class. Finally, each student possesses the musical and mental skills necessary to be good musicians. The success of each student is most likely if the student has a desire to learn to play, and the parents share responsibility for the music education of their child. I hope this handbook will lead you to a successful and memorable experience in the band program, and I am looking forward to meeting all of the parents and students in the SGMS band.

Sincerely,

Ambika Ramdehal
Director of Bands

Ensemble Descriptions

Beginning Band

Beginning Band is open to all 6th grade students who are recommended by their elementary music teacher. Previous musical training is helpful; however, it is not necessary. The students start the year by learning how to read music and that knowledge is then applied to learning to play their instrument. The Beginning Band will perform throughout the year on the Winter and Spring Concerts. There are minimal or no after school rehearsals in preparation for their concerts.

Concert Band

Concert Band is open to 7th and 8th grade band students at an intermediate level of development based on auditions. The Concert Band performs on the Winter, and Spring Concerts. There are minimal or no after school rehearsals in preparation for their concerts.

Symphonic Band

Symphonic Band is open to 7th and 8th grade band students at an advanced level of development based on auditions. The Symphonic Band performs on the Winter, and Spring Concerts, and at the Florida Bandmasters Association Music Performance Assessment. There are required after school rehearsals.

Jazz Band

Jazz Band is open to advanced 7th and 8th grade band students based on auditions only. Also, students must be concurrently enrolled in the Symphonic Band class to be eligible for participation in Jazz Band. The Jazz Band performs on the Winter, and Spring Concerts, and various local community concerts.

What You Will Need for Band Class

Beginning Band

- Students will need to rent the instrument that he or she has selected with Ms. Ramdehal. Please make sure that it is an approved instrument and mouthpiece. A list can be found on page 4-5 of this handbook.
- In addition to the instrument, each student will need to buy his or her own copy of “Essential Elements Book 1” through a local music store.
- Each student will need a black, 1/2” or 1” binder, and 4 dividers

Concert Band

- Students will need a working instrument.
- Each student will need a black, 1/2” or 1” binder, and 4 dividers

Symphonic Band

- Students will need a working instrument.
- Each student will need a black, 1/2” or 1” binder, and 4 dividers

School Owned Instruments and Instrument Maintenance Fee

The school owns the following instruments: baritone saxophones, baritones/euphoniums, bass clarinets, bassoons, horns, oboes, and tubas. These instruments may be checked out from SGMS and require a \$50.00 maintenance fee per year. This fee helps to offset but does not cover the cost of maintaining our school instruments.

Any student responsible for instrument abuse or neglect will be responsible for restitution of that instrument.

Instruments, Mouthpieces, and Accessories

It is important for each student to play on a good instrument so he or she can have the best chance at succeeding. A good instrument is one that can be played in tune without reasonable effort and is capable of producing a good and characteristic tone quality. Instruments that are not capable of the above requirements will only cause the student to become frustrated and could limit the student's progress. Next, each student will need some type of mouthpiece that is also capable of producing sounds that are in tune and characteristic. The mouthpiece is where the sound begins, and therefore, is the most important component of any instrument. The following instruments and mouthpieces are recommended for their quality and value. CHECK WITH THE DIRECTOR BEFORE BUYING AN INSTRUMENT OR MOUTHPIECE THAT IS NOT ON THIS LIST!

Approved Instruments, Mouthpieces, and Reeds

Flutes	Brand Buffet, Gemeinhardt, or Yamaha Mouthpiece: the better flutes have solid silver head joints
Oboes	Reeds: Stellar Oboe reeds
Bassoons	Reeds: Miller Bassoon reeds
Clarinets	Brand: Buffet E-1 I, Leblanc 7812, Selmer CL200, or Yamaha YCL 34 Mouthpiece: Vandoren B-45 with Rovner ligature Reeds: 8th Graders: Vandoren 3 ½ 7th Graders: Vandoren 3 or 3 ½ 6th Graders: Vandoren 2 ½
Saxophones	Brand: Selmer, or Yamaha YAS23 Mouthpiece: Selmer C-Star with Rovner ligature Reeds: 8th Graders: Vandoren 3 ½ 7th Graders: Vandoren 3 or 3 ½ 6th Graders: Vandoren 2 ½
Trumpets	Brand: Bach, Holton, or Yamaha Mouthpiece: Bach 5C
French Horns	Brand: Holton, Conn, or Yamaha Mouthpieces: Holton Farkas MDC or Girardinelli C8
Trombones	Brand: Conn, Bach, or Holton Mouthpieces: Bach 6 1/2 AL
Baritones	Mouthpieces: Bach 6 1/2 AL or Bach 5G
Tuba	Mouthpieces: Bach 18, 24AW, or Helleberg

Instrument Accessories

Metronome and Tuners: highly recommended for home practice! You can find free apps for these on your Apple or Android devices.

Instrument Care Kit: Students need to have an Instrument Care Kit, which contains cleaning supplies specific to each instrument.

Percussion Equipment

Beginning Band Percussion

Beginning students need a percussion kit with a practice pad and bells, Mike Balter green rubber mallets, 2B drum sticks, and a stick bag.

Concert and Symphonic Band Percussion

Students need a stick bag with 2B drum sticks, 1 pair of general tympani mallets, 1 pair of yarn mallets, and 1 pair of Mike Balter green rubber mallets.

Band Uniforms

Beginning Band

- Guys and girls will need khaki pants.
- Guys will need black dress shoes and black socks. Girls will need a pair of plain black flat shoes.
- Absolutely no Jeggings or denim material pants are allowed!
- SGMS Band T-shirt purchased from www.stormgrovevb.com (paper order form available upon request)

Concert Band

- Guys and girls will need khaki pants.
- Guys will need black dress shoes and black socks. Girls will need a pair of plain black flat shoes.
- Absolutely no Jeggings or denim material pants are allowed!
- SGMS Band T-shirt purchased from www.stormgrovevb.com (paper order form available upon request)

Symphonic Band

- Guys will need black dress shoes and black socks. Guys will be issued a pair of black tuxedo pants and black button-down shirts.
- Girls will need a pair of plain black flat shoes. Girls will be issued a formal dress for concerts.
- Absolutely no Jeggings or denim material pants are allowed!
- SGMS Band T-shirt (www.stormgrovevb.com or paper order form available upon request) & khaki pants.

Jazz Band

- Students will either wear their formal concert uniform or the SGMS Band T-shirt for Jazz Band performances depending on the venue. Each student will need their own pair of khaki pants to go with the SGMS Band T-shirt.

Use of Band Facilities

The use of band facilities before, during, and after school is a privilege. Students, therefore, should treat the band room and everything in the band room with respect. Those students who abuse the facilities and its contents will be disciplined accordingly.

Ensemble Room

The Ensemble Room is not a lounge area. Students in the Ensemble Room must keep the room neat and orderly. Also, any director or adult that enters the Ensemble Room deserves the utmost respect.

Percussion Equipment

ALL percussion equipment including the drum set is off limits to all students except for percussion students.

Instrument Room

This room is off limits to students except when getting out or returning an instrument to its proper place. Students' belongings such as books and clothes are not to be stored in the instrument room. The instrument is also not a place for social gatherings or conversations.

Band Office

This area is private and should not be entered unless the director is present. Students must keep in mind that this office is a place of business. Students are welcomed, but only with the band director present.

Telephone

The telephone is strictly for band business or phone calls to parents with the director's permission.

Band Grading Procedures

Middle School Grading Scale

The county wide grading scale is as follows:

A=100—90

B=89—80

C=79—70

D=69—60

F =59 and below

SGMS Band Grading Policy

Each student earns their grade by completing assignments and assessments. Those assignments and assessments satisfy a specific percentage of the student's grade for the grading period. There are two policies listed below based on grading periods with and without performances:

Grading Periods with Performances

50%- Performances & Rehearsals

15%- In Class Playing Assessments

15%- In Class Assignments

20%- Practice

Grading Periods without Performances

30%- In Class Playing Assessments

30%- In Class Assignments

40%- Practice

A Few Words on Practicing

In band class, the equivalent to homework is practice at home. Learning to play an instrument is just like learning any new skill in that it requires diligent practice. I encourage parents to work with their son or daughter and set up a practice routine at home. Ideally, students should practice 30 minutes every day.

After School Rehearsal/Performance Attendance

Band members are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. Due to the fact that band is a performance-based class, rehearsals and concerts are an integral part of the curriculum and naturally part of the grading process. The concert is similar to a semester exam in Math or English class in that we will work the entire semester towards that goal.

Concert Participation Policy

If a student has 2 unexcused absences from after school rehearsals in preparation for a concert, that student may be prohibited from participating in the concert. Due to the fact that the director will be prohibiting the student from attending the concert, the student's grade will not be lowered due to the performance. However, the student's grade will be reduced as part of the "Rehearsal" component of the grade. The student will be required to complete an alternate assignment in place of the performance.

If a student has not had their instrument in class 5 days or more during the nine weeks of the performance, that student may be prohibited from participating in the concert. Due to the fact that the director will be prohibiting the student from attending the concert, the student's grade will not be lowered due to the performance. However, the student's grade will be reduced as part of the "Rehearsal" component of the grade. The student will be required to complete an alternate assignment in place of the performance.

After School Rehearsal Absence Forms

Band members must submit a Rehearsal Absence Form within 48 hours following a rehearsal in order to be excused. The form must have the student's and parent's signatures validating the reason for being absent from a rehearsal. The following is a list of acceptable excuses for being absent from a rehearsal:

- Family emergency
- Student is too ill to come to school
- Storm Grove Middle School Game or Performance

Make Up Assignments

Students may complete make-up assignments for rehearsals and performance for full or partial credit. If a student has an excused absence from a rehearsal or performance, they may complete a make-up assignment for full credit if completed by the assigned due date. If a student has an unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance, students may complete a make-up assignment for 65% of the grade if completed by the assigned due date.

Rehearsal and Performance Conflicts

Together, we can usually work to a compromise when dealing with events that conflict with rehearsals and performances. Normally, Storm Grove Middle School events occur at different times allowing students to participate in several activities. Students must notify the band director and coach/sponsor as soon as a conflict in schedules is found. This will allow both activities time to work a solution and/or plan for any loss of time.

How to deal with activity conflicts?

There are specific guidelines that all SGMS activities adhere to when dealing with activity conflicts. It is important to remember that band is not considered an extra-curricular activity, rather it is a co-curricular activity, which means that band is a part of the student's academic schedule and may receive grades for scheduled performances not during the school day.

The following list of guidelines applies only to conflicts with other SGMS related activities. The band schedule must take precedence over any activities that are not associated with Storm Grove Middle School. Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the reduction of the student's grade.

Band Rehearsal at the same time as an Athletic Practice:

Students are required to attend both activities for an equitable amount of time.

Band Concert at the same time as an Athletic Practice:

Students are required to attend the concert as it carries more weight than a practice.

Band Rehearsal at the same time as an Athletic Game:

Students are required to attend the athletic game as it carries more weight than the rehearsal.

Band Concert at the same time as an Athletic Game:

This conflict will be decided by the administration.

Secrets to Success in Band

Students and parents must set a routine student practice. Practicing is how the band improves and is our form of homework.

Practicing for a consistent, shorter period of time is much more productive than practicing for 2 hours on a Sunday night! A practice routine is essential!

STAY INFORMED!!! Students will receive band calendars in class and the calendar is posted on our website. Please plan in advance so that there are no problems when rehearsals or concerts arrive. All conflicts can be resolved if there is advance planning.

STAY INFORMED AGAIN!!! Students will receive information in class that they should bring home. Please check your son or daughter's backpack for band information. Also, we will try to post information on email and our website.

Students need their instrument every day in band class. If you are not sure if you need your instrument, BRING IT!!! At least you will be prepared.

Become involved with your students' band experience. These students are doing a great thing and it means a lot when their parents are there supporting them.

Band Awards

Band Award Policy

Awards are earned on the basis of participation and outstanding performance. Awards are presented at the discretion of the director. In order to be eligible to receive an award, the following criteria must be met:

A student must have been actively participating in the band for the entire school year and must be a current member of the band in good standing at the time of the award presentation.

A student must have at least a “C” average in band and must not have a grade in band lower than “C” for any grading period.

Any student who has not cleared their band record by returning items checked out or who have not paid for lost or damaged items will have their awards held until the records are clear.

Students must attend the Band Awards Ceremony or have a written notice as to why they are not in attendance in order to receive their award.

Awards

Green Stingray Award: Presented to students completing their first year in the SGMS Band.

Blue Stingray Award: Presented to students completing their second year in the SGMS Band.

Silver Stingray Award: Presented to students completing their third year in the SGMS Band.

Most Improved Award: Presented to one 6th, one 7th, and one 8th grade musician who has demonstrated exceptional improvement and dedicated effort on their instrument.

Outstanding Musician Award: Presented to one 6th and 7th grade musician who has demonstrated exceptional musicianship.

Woody Herman Jazz Award: Presented to an 8th grade student who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and musicianship in the jazz program.

Director’s Award: Presented to an 8th grade student who has demonstrated exceptional musicianship and outstanding musical leadership.

SGMS Band Parent Association

The parents of the Storm Grove Middle School Band members have organized the Storm Grove Middle School Band Parent Association. The success of the Boosters is due, in part, to the active participation of both the parent and the student. Some objectives of the Band Parent Association are:

- To stimulate and maintain an enthusiastic interest in all phases of the band program.
- To cooperate with the band director to see that the band's goals are met efficiently.
- To develop a closer relationship between parents, students, and the director and to stimulate the knowledge, performance, and appreciation of good music.
- To assist in fundraising to help finance certain extras not regularly provided for in the school budget.
- To aid in chaperoning band trips and activities and help pass out uniforms.
- To augment or encourage educational trips that are sanctioned by the school.

Please make a point to attend the Band Parent Association meetings & stay involved with your child's musical endeavors.

Please print this page only and return to Ms. Ramdehal by Friday, August 18th, 2023

STORM GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

2023-2024 PARENT-STUDENT AGREEMENT

There is a high level of expectation in the SGMS Band program regarding performance and behavior. Our students are ambassadors for our school and must represent the values of Storm Grove at all times. Our students WILL BE role models for other students.

Conduct Expectations

- I will set a personal example of excellent conduct
- I will attend classes and follow the attendance rules of SGMS and SDIRC
- I will follow the SGMS and SDIRC dress code expectations, use appropriate language, display a positive attitude, be respectful to teachers, administrators, and fellow students, and adhere to the district's Code of Student Conduct.
- I will follow the school rules and the specific rules and procedures of the Storm Grove Middle School Band as outlined in this handbook.

Community Role

- I will display a positive attitude, use appropriate language, and be respectful throughout the community. I understand my actions represent the Band and our School.

Personal Health

- I will refrain from the use of alcohol, tobacco (including chewing tobacco, juuling, e-cigs, vape, etc.) or drugs; nor shall I be in possession of such substances during or away from school.

Unacceptable Behaviors

- Use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol. This would include being present at any social engagement where minors appear to be in possession of alcohol, or anyone is in possession of illegal drugs.
- Bullying, Harassment, Hazing, Assault or Battery (including both verbal or physical)
- Possession of a weapon
- Use of tobacco products including chewing tobacco, juuling, e-cigs, vape, etc.
- Use of profanity
- Disrespect to people or property including fighting
- Disrespect to any adults including chaperones, volunteers, band staff, teachers, or school staff.
- Violation of other school regulations which lead to out of school suspension
- Any act committed by a band student that would, in the opinion of the band director and administration, harm the reputation of the school or the band program.
- Inappropriate electronic/social media interaction or posting to include but not limited to TikTok, Facebook, Twitter, SnapChat, YouTube, Instagram, texting, etc.

Scope of Consequences

Appropriate sanctions may include but not be limited to the following:

- Probation which includes removal of band privileges such as leadership positions, special trips, or any "extra-curricular" activities outside of the band class.
- Suspension from one or more performances or events
- Removal from the Band program

***All infractions receiving consequences may be appealed to the Storm Grove Middle School Administration.

By signing this I am showing that I am committed to the Storm Grove Band, School, community, and fellow students of this organization. I am responsible for my behavior, and I have pride in my personal conduct. I will be a role model and ambassador of our Band and School.

Please Print

Student Name: _____

2023-2024 Grade Level: _____

Please Sign

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____