

SPRINGTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK 2020-2021

Introduction

This handbook is provided to all SMS band students and parents so they will be better informed of the expectations for all students enrolled in the band program. The band program at SMS is an important part of school life and participation at pep rallies, concerts and other events add excitement to our community. Maintaining well-trained, organized and highly musical groups requires organization from the students, parents and directors. You are encouraged to read through the handbook in order to have a greater understanding of the SMS band program.

Contact Information

BAND STAFF

The staff is committed to developing the highest level of excellence in all bands at all levels. If you have any questions regarding the band program or your child's participation, please contact one of the directors.

Alexis Wells, SMS Head Director	817-220-7455	awells@springtownisd.net
David Dolkos, SMS Assistant	817-220-7455	ddolkos@springtownisd.net
Rachel Garza, SISD Percussion Director		rgarza@springtownisd.net
Chris McLellan, SHS Director	817-220-2263	cmclellan@springtownisd.net
Scot McPhetridge, SHS Assistant	817-220-2263	scmcphetridge@springtownisd.net
Cheyenne Rodriguez, SIS Director	817-220-1219	crodriguez@springtownisd.net

Don't forget to check out our district's band website! ***soundofspringtown.org***



Middle School Band Classes

Membership is open to any student upon approval of the band director. These bands are grouped by and grade and/or ability. Membership is determined by audition, interview, conduct and grade eligibility from the previous school year. All or some of the aforementioned requirements may or may not be used for new or returning students to the district.

Honors Band Symphonic Band Concert Band
Beginning Band Jazz Band

Class Rules

 <p>1. Be On Time!</p>	 <p>2. Do not keep others from learning!</p>
 <p>3. Learn in the moment! (Focus and pay attention)</p>	 <p>4. Be Band Hall Friendly (keep the band hall clean)</p>

Safety in the Band Hall – COVID

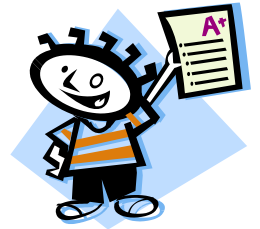
Procedures will be in place according to best practice information from district, state, and federal guidelines and are therefore subject to change. Students must follow the safety procedures in the band hall at all times. This is of utmost importance to the safety and health of our students, directors, and campus staff. Any student not following these procedures will face disciplinary action and potential dismissal from the program. Yes...it's that serious!

General Policies

1. Safety is most important: Please follow all rules set forth by band and campus staff. **All students will refrain from horseplay of any sort in the band hall.**
2. Playing other students' instruments is forbidden, this includes percussion.
3. Band lockers: All band students are required to keep their instrument in their locker with the exception of tubas. Lockers should contain only band related items and stay clean (no trash). You cannot share lockers! Failure to comply will result in loss of locker and/or disciplinary action. Combination locks are available from the director on request. There is a \$15 replacement fee if the school-issued lock is lost.
4. You are expected to be at all sectional rehearsals, extra rehearsals and concerts required of your band.
5. There will be no food or drink in the band hall (only water with a lid is allowed.)

Grading Procedure

Grades in band will be based on the following:



50% Daily Grade

- Active participation in class with all required supplies
- Attendance at all required rehearsals. This includes rehearsals outside of the school day. Extra rehearsals may be scheduled as needed in preparation for a concert/competition. These will be considered as part of the student's daily grade.
- Practice Records/Objective Sheets

50% Test Grade

- Written tests, playing tests, worksheets, etc.
- Concerts and all public performances

Absences

When dealing with a scheduled absence from school or a band event, please refer to the following policies.

Guidelines for performances and extra rehearsals are taken from the Texas Education Agency and University Interscholastic League. In particular, the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) that state all performances, both formal and informal, are an essential part of the class.



1. Send a note (Always a good idea)

If you are going to be absent from an outside school rehearsal or performance, you are expected to notify one of the directors. A note/email from a parent or guardian is the best way to provide notice. (Please give at least 24 hours notice).

2. Talk to your teacher

If you are going to be absent from an academic class because of a band activity, you are responsible for informing your teacher and getting your assignments before the absence occurs.

I have an excused absence, what do I do?

The following procedure is to be followed:

- Student must bring a note and turn it in to the front office. The attendance office will determine if the absence is excused.
- Student will schedule a make-up time with the director. The make-up test may be written, performing, etc., at the discretion of the teacher.
- The make-up test must be done within 3 school days. If after 3 days the student has failed to make up the work, the grade will be recorded as a zero.
- **All unexcused absences will result in a 30% grade reduction for any missed work per Student Handbook grading policy.**

IMPORTANT NOTE ON ABSENCES

A calendar of band activities for the year is given to students the first week of school and is subject to change. Conflicts with outside, non-school related activities will result in a zero for that performance grade. It is the student and parent's responsibility to work out conflicts. Communication is important between teachers, parents and coaches. **The directors make every effort to avoid conflicts with other school scheduled activities. Personal or family emergencies are excused without penalty, but the student will need to make up any missed work.**



Band Calendar

Please mark the band dates on your calendar.

A calendar of events is available the first week of school.



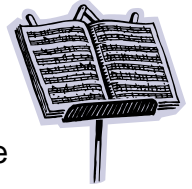
Participation in all band concerts and competitions is required and a grade will be issued.

All changes to the schedule will be announced as soon as possible.

Discipline Policy

1. Springtown Middle School Student Code of Conduct will be followed at all times.
2. If a student misbehaves during class, a verbal warning will be issued. Further misbehavior will be dealt with according to the Springtown Middle School Discipline plan.
3. If poor behavior persists, the student may be referred to an assistant principal for further disciplinary action.

Rehearsal Guidelines



The key to an excellent band is excellent rehearsal. The following guidelines are important to have a productive learning environment each day. Please go over the following guidelines with your child:

1. Enter the band hall quietly and in an orderly manner.
2. Be in your seat before the tardy bell rings. Keep your mask on!
3. DO NOT warm-up on your own. We will begin together.
4. When the director is on the podium, it is time to work. No talking.
5. Class is over when the director dismisses you.
6. All music and equipment must be put away after each rehearsal and performance.
7. It is each student's job to clean their equipment used in the band hall (chair, stand)
8. You are responsible for all music and equipment issued to you.
9. DO NOT use any school equipment without permission.

Failure to follow the rehearsal guidelines will result in a less than productive rehearsal. Disciplinary actions will be taken when a student chooses to not follow the guidelines or keeps another from following them. Please help to ensure that every member of the band is allowed to learn.



School-Owned Instrumental Rental

Students who will be using a school owned instrument will be charged a rental fee for the school year. In addition, parents will be asked to fill out an instrument rental agreement once an instrument is assigned to their child. The decision to allow a student to use a school instrument is left to the discretion of the directors regarding availability, financial need and other extenuating circumstances. We want every child to be able to participate.

- **Students are responsible for the purchase of his/her mouthpiece and cleaning/maintenance supplies. The directors will help you with information about this purchase.**

Any damage to the instrument that is considered beyond normal wear and tear will have to be repaired and paid for by the student's family. The directors will determine what is considered excessive.

- Percussion students will be charged a \$50 rental fee for the use of school owned percussion. This fee will be used to replace drum heads and other maintenance matters as well as keep the cost down for the student in regards to the many accessories available/needed for the school year.

The directors have the right to refuse rental to any student who has a history of excessive damage to instruments. That student then has the option of renting or purchasing their instrument from one of the local music companies.

Band Fees and Fundraisers



The SMS Band charges every member a band activity fee at the start of the school year. This fee covers most of the necessities that our students will require for the year including their band t-shirt, binder, pencils, etc.

The deadline for payment is September 11th. Students who are classified as economically disadvantaged, (free or reduced lunch, etc.), will be able to receive some financial assistance with this fee (please see directors for more information).

The fees for the 2020-2021 school year are as follows:

- a) New students to SMS Band - (7th grade/Beginning Band/new to district) - **\$30**
- b) Returning 8th graders who still have their binder from last year - **\$25**

All monies earned by fundraisers will go directly to the band student activity account. 100% of this money will be used on the students of the SMS Band. If you choose for your child not to fundraise, you may be asked to pay for the activities that your child wants to participate in. No student is required to participate in a fundraiser.

Travel Policies

There will be times during the school year that we will be using school transportation. We will follow and enforce all district bus conduct rules. School sponsored trips are an extension of the classroom and district discipline policy applies when/if necessary.

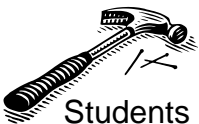


- Bus riding requirements – When a bus is provided, all students will ride the bus both ways. Students may be released to a parent or guardian on the return trip of a contest after written consent has been approved by the director and principal before the contest date. Then, the parent will be allowed to sign out the child with a director at the contest.

Cell Phone Policies

Students will follow the student handbook's cell phone policy in the band hall:

- Cell phones should be powered off once students enter the band hall for class.
- No cell phones out (visible) during class in the band hall. Seeing them in the rehearsal space is grounds for a teacher to collect it. Leave it in your band locker for the duration of the class period.



Instrument Repairs

Students are required to have an instrument that is in working (playing) condition at all times. If an instrument gets broken, it is the responsibility of that family to take the instrument to a repair facility to be fixed. A note needs to be sent to school to explain that the instrument is in the shop.

Bandwagon Music & Repair will be visiting our campus each week to pick-up and drop off instruments that need repair or have been repaired. Directors will make every attempt to provide a loaner instrument when an instrument must go to the shop. The cost of repairs will be the responsibility of the student and their family. **If your child is renting a school owned instrument, any repairs that exceed the \$50 rental fee are the responsibility of the parent.**

We recommend:

Bandwagon Music & Repair

817-583-0001 www.thebandwagonmusicstore.com

100 E. Felix St. S, Suite 102 Fort Worth, TX 76115

Other options: Music & Arts – Fort Worth, TX Brook Mays – Arlington, TX