

STATION CAMP MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND



**2015-2016
Student Handbook**

Station Camp Middle School Band

281 Big Station Camp Blvd.

Gallatin, TN 37066

http://scm.sumnerschools.org/band/SCMS_Band/

Dear Band Students and Parents/Guardians,

I would like to welcome you to the Station Camp Middle School Band Program! Congratulations on your interest (or your child's interest!) in playing a musical instrument. The SCMS Band Program has set high standards during its history and will continue to do so with your musical contribution.

With the efforts of hard-working students, involved parents, and a supportive community, the Station Camp Middle School Band Program will continue to offer you the best in music education. Expectations of the SCMS Band students are quite high and the rewards of meeting those standards are endless.

Classroom expectations, grading and attendance policies are outlined in the handbook. What materials your child needs to participate and be successful are listed in the following pages. Be looking for important band notices to come home with your student all year, but especially so during these first few weeks of school!

Parents/Guardians and students please read through this SCMS band handbook of rules, guidelines, and expectations together. All performance dates are listed in the handbook. These events are required and a part of the students grade. **Once you have gone over this handbook together, please return the "signature form" at the back of this handbook.** Should you have any further questions that are not addressed in this handbook, please feel free to contact me at school and your call or email will be returned.

Sincerely,

Adam Featherston
Band Director, Station Camp Middle School
615-206-0116, ext. 21017 SCMS Band Room
adam.featherston@sumnerschools.org

Rules, Guidelines, and Expectations

Classroom Expectations:

1. Students are to behave in a polite, courteous, and respectful manner towards the teacher, other students, classroom property, and guests to our class.
2. There is no food, drink, gum, or candy allowed in the band classroom.
3. Students are required to bring all necessary materials to class daily.
4. All of the rules governing Station Camp Middle School are in effect at all times in the band classroom.

Classroom Consequences (not necessarily in this order):

1. Verbal warning
2. Written assignment and/or isolation from full band rehearsal
3. Communication (i.e. phone call/email/etc.) home
4. Incident referral added to student record
5. Before or after school detention assigned
6. Classroom exclusion
7. All of the consequences governing Station Camp Middle School are in effect at all times in the band classroom.

Rehearsal Expectations:

1. Students should arrive to band class on time and be ready to play promptly (3 minutes after tardy bell). Students who arrive late to class must bring a tardy pass to class. The SCMS school-wide tardy policy is strictly enforced in this classroom (detention immediately assigned for the 3rd and subsequent unexcused tardy to class).
2. If a student is present at school, he/she should participate during the entire rehearsal. The only valid excuses for non-participation during the rehearsal are:
⇒ Student is physically unable to play. Unless it is obvious (ex. broken arm) student must have a note from home explaining the situation.
⇒ Having a broken instrument. Please show it to the director and if it is a minor problem the director will correct, otherwise, you will need to take it to an instrument repairman. When the instrument first goes into the repair shop, bring a note from home explaining when the repair will be completed. Most repairs take only a day or two.
⇒ A special circumstance. Talk to the director.
3. If a student forgets to bring his/her instrument class, his/her grade will be reduced 10 points from the weekly participation grade. A written consequence to be completed during the class period may also be assigned for repeated infractions. Students not bringing music/books, pencil/binder will have 3 to 6 points deducted for each occasion.
4. Coughs, colds, headaches, or stomachaches are not valid reasons for not participating in band rehearsal. If a student is too sick to participate in band class, then he/she should be at home.

Performance Expectations:

1. Band members are expected to dress as specified in either their band shirt* or “concert attire” for all performances. “Concert Attire” is defined as:
Ladies: white top and black or dark blue dress pants/skirt. Ladies may wear a full black dress. Due to the nature of the event, skirt/dress lengths need to be lower than the knee.
Gentlemen: white shirt (button-up preferred) and black or dark blue dress pants
Jeans, shorts, and tennis shoes are not allowed as part of “concert attire.”
*Attire for football games, pep rallies, 6th grade first concert, and elementary tours will be SCMS 2015-2016 Band T-Shirt (\$7.00), blue jeans, and tennis shoes.
Parents, please indicate on the last page if you plan on purchasing a shirt for yourself (include size). The shirts will be the same as 2014-2015 shirt, if your child’s shirt still fits, then they do not need to purchase a new one.
2. Band members are expected to arrive at the band room at the time designated by the director.
3. Arrive early to performances, leaving enough time to pick up your materials, warm-up, and be in your chair ready to play when directed.
4. All classroom rules apply when in a performance situation.
5. Concert attendance, promptness, and dress are a part of the concert grade.



Guidelines to Proper Instrument Care:

Students are expected to maintain the top playing condition for their instruments. Beginning band students will be taught the appropriate daily maintenance routines of their instruments. If an instrument were to become damaged, ALWAYS show the director immediately. Some repairs can be done at school; others will require the work of a professional repair shop. NEVER try to repair a damaged instrument yourself! This could result in causing more unwanted damage to the instrument. REMEMBER: “horsing around” risks damage to the instruments. Be careful with your instrument and NEVER play on anyone else’s instrument. School-owned instruments: Normal wear on school-owned instruments is expected; any repair needed beyond this normal wear will be the responsibility of the student.

SCMS Band Grading Procedures:

Band is a unique offering at Station Camp Middle School. It has many curricular requirements, just as any other academic discipline. It may also have some extracurricular requirements.

Band is a learning activity. We look upon rehearsals (both during and after school) as the vehicle through which learning takes place. Rehearsals are not optional.

Performances are viewed as major tests. The reason for this is twofold: first and foremost, a performance is a learning experience that cannot be duplicated in a practice room. The level of concentration required in a public performance gives each student a deeper insight into his/her own level of performance. Second, a performance is an evaluative tool, useful in comparing a student's performance with classroom objectives presented and with the individual's past performances.

The grading scale for Station Camp Middle School is as follows:

A	=	93-100
B	=	85-92
C	=	75-84
D	=	70-74
F	=	0-69
L	=	Loss of credit due to absences

9-week grades in band are calculated in the following manner:

- ⇒ 30% Class Participation/Materials
(Weekly grades will be given to each student based on their preparedness and participation level during class time, including the levels of Musicianship).
- ⇒ 20% Practice Records/Homework
(Written assignments will be given and topics will be related to what is being taught in class. Practice records are bi-weekly grades).
- ⇒ 25% Playing Tests/Written Tests
(Playing tests will be announced well in advance and will many will utilize the SmartMusic software).
- ⇒ 25% Performance Grade (Concerts)
(Students will receive an "A" for participating in concerts by arriving on time, being dressed in the appropriate clothing and performing in the concert).

Class Participation/Materials: Students are expected to arrive to class on time and be prepared. Each student must have his/her instrument, band method book, all appropriate music (a music folder will be provided), their music binder (3 ring binder) and a pencil every day for class. All students are expected to follow the instructions of any teacher. Students are expected to treat each other with respect and courtesy.

Playing Tests/Written Tests: Playing tests and/or written tests will be given multiple times during each nine-week grading period. All tests will be announced in advance and will occasionally utilize the SmartMusic software. The software will record and grade student performances. SmartMusic subscriptions are available at smartmusic.com for a yearly subscription of \$40. See website for product requirements.

Performance Grade (Concerts): In order to achieve the utmost from our musical capabilities, some after-school rehearsals *may* be necessary. These rehearsals will be announced ahead of time and are required of all band members. Rehearsal attendance is not optional. Concerts are counted as major final exam grades and reflect upon students' final grades.

Excused absences from an after-school rehearsal or concert are limited to:

- ⇒ Hospitalization of the student
- ⇒ Death in the family
- ⇒ Religious holiday
- ⇒ Other reasons as deemed excusable by the band director/administration

Band classes are a full year course at SCMS. The director must approve any schedule changes and will require communication with parents and guardians. Exceptions are made during the first nine weeks of the sixth grade year as many discover they would like to pursue other interest. This also leaves the possibility open for students to join band during the first nine weeks of the sixth grade year.

Practice Record Grading

(Weekly minutes: 1 practice record)

(Practicing includes physically playing instrument or “active” listening to music)

<u>7th and 8th Grade</u>		<u>6th Grade</u>	
120 + Minutes	100% (A)	100 + Minutes	100% (A)
110-119 Min.	95% (A)	90-99 Min.	95% (A)
100-109 Min.	90% (B)	84-89 Min.	90% (B)
95-99 Min.	85% (B)	80-83 Min.	85% (B)
90-94 Min.	80% (C)	75-80 Min.	80% (C)
85-89 Min.	75% (C)	70-71 Min.	75% (C)
80-84 Min.	70% (D)	60-69 Min.	70% (D)
70-79 Min.	65% (F)	50-59 Min.	65% (F)
60-69 Min.	60% (F)	40-49 Min.	60% (F)
50-59 Min.	50% (F)	30-39 Min.	50% (F)

(All practice minutes below these marks will receive 1 point per minute practiced)

Extra-Curricular Musical Opportunities

All Mid-State Honor Bands: Students in the 7th and 8th grades are eligible to audition for these honor bands. Auditions are held on December 6th, 2014 in Nashville and students who are selected to participate (via a successful audition) perform in an honor band in January. Music for these auditions is available now, please see the band director if you plan to audition to get started on audition preparation now!

All-County Honor Band: Students in the 7th and 8th grades are eligible to audition for this honor band. Auditions are held in advance of the event and students who are selected to participate (via a successful audition) perform in an honor band in late February.

Solo/Ensemble Festival: All SCMS band students are encouraged to participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival held at Gallatin High School. Students receive either a rating of I (Superior), II (Excellent), or III (Good) from a qualified musician on their performance as a solo artist or in a variety of small ensembles (duets, trios, quartets, etc.). Students create their own ensembles and I can suggest a wide variety of music they could choose to perform at this event. This event will likely be Saturday, April 11th, 2015.

Private Lessons: The Station Camp Middle School Band has built a tradition of excellence in music over the years. One area that has consistently helped students build and maintain that level of musicianship through the years has been private lessons. Students who study their instruments privately on a weekly basis with a professional show rapid improvement in their individual musicianship. Private instruction has had a great impact on the individual student and on the band program as a whole. Contact information for local, qualified teachers for your child's instrument if available.

Fundraising: Monies from the school board to help fund the band are limited and therefore additional monies must be raised through fundraising. The first major fundraising opportunity will occur in late August or early September. All monies raised are applied toward a general band account that supports the purchase of equipment and class materials making student and parent involvement critical. If you are averse to fundraising, donations are gratefully accepted and can be used as a tax-deduction (please see Mr. Featherston for details of how to properly do this).

SCMS Band Student Materials List:

6th Grade Band:

Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 for your instrument
(Hal Leonard Publications, black, white, yellow on cover)
3 Ring Binder with notebook paper and staff paper (printable from band website)
Pencil and instrument

7th Grade Band:

Sound Innovations *for Concert Band* Book 2 for your instrument
(Alfred publications, red/white on cover)
Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 (from 6th grade year)
Electronic metronome
Music lyre (for your instrument)
3 Ring Binder with notebook paper and staff paper (printable from band website)
Pencil and instrument

8th Grade Band:

Superior Band in Sixteen Weeks for your instrument
(FJH Music Publications, white cover with multi-color lettering)
Sound Innovations *for Concert Band* Book 2 (from 7th Grade year)
Electronic tuner
Music lyre (for your instrument)
3 Ring Binder with notebook paper and staff paper (printable from band website)
Pencil and instrument

Each of these items should be available at local music stores including:

Music & Arts Centers
Glenbrook Center
1050 Glenbrook Way
Hendersonville, TN 37075
615-264-8686

Books may also be purchased online directly from publisher or Amazon (or similar)

SCMS Band Wish List:

These are just a few optional items that help us with our daily classroom needs in the band room. Students are not required to bring in items from this list, but any donations are greatly appreciated and will be used throughout the school year.

**paper towels, tissues, hand sanitizer gel, Colored Copy paper for programs,
Gray card stock (ask Mr. Featherston for details), instrument sanitizer (ask Mr.
Featherston for details).**

Obtaining New Instruments

- The rental process is HIGHLY encouraged for several reasons:
 1. Students are able to use instruments of good quality that will help them achieve success.
 2. You are not obligated to a purchase if the student chooses to play another instrument later on. For instance, a student decides they want to move to another instrument not suited for all beginners (French Horn, Tuba, Oboe, Bassoon just to name a few).
 3. Rent does apply toward purchase.
- Instrument/mouthpiece and auditory testing are completed!
- If you already own your instrument, please bring it to school as soon as possible.
- Some instruments such as French horns, euphoniums, and tubas are checked out through the school due to their extreme cost and size.
- We have a limited number of school-owned flutes, clarinets, trumpets, and trombones that can be used for students who qualify for this type of assistance.
- If/when you decide to purchase, contact the director for a list of high quality, reputable band instrument manufactures. Good deals can be found elsewhere (for example online). Please ask Mr. Featherston, I am here to help find a good quality/fairly priced instrument for your student. If it looks like a deal too good to be true, then there are certainly questions surrounding the instrument.
- Instruments should be purchased from a highly reputable instrument retailer.
- Please contact the band director if you would like some help deciding what to purchase.
- Please refer to the Music and Arts flyer for further rental information. It should be noted that Saxophone and Percussion Rental Rate (not listed on the flyer) is \$39.99.
- Music and Arts also offers a “Starter Pack” for your child’s instrument. This pack will include a folding music stand and other materials necessary accessories (including a trial subscription to smartmusic.com). This pack costs \$29.99

Music and Arts Hendersonville, TN
Glenbrook Center: 1050 Glenbrook Way, Suite 460
(615) 264-8686
MusicArts.com

SCMS Band Calendar of Events (subject to change)
Bolded Events are required

Thursday, August 27th 2015 10:00 AM.....Band Fundraiser
Tuesday, September 15th 2015.....SCMS Football Game vs. Hawkins
(7th and 8th Grade Band)
Tuesday, September 22nd 2015.....SCMS Football Game vs. Hunter
(7th and 8th Grade Band)
Tuesday, October 27, 2015.....6th Grade Beginning Band Concert at
SCMS Assembly Center (Gym)
Monday, November 9th, 2015.....Austin Peay Middle School Honor Band
(Register by Wednesday, October 7th)
Saturday, November 21st 2015....Mid-State Auditions for Band & Jazz Band
(Register by Tuesday, November 3rd)

Tuesday, December 8th 2015.....Band Concerts at SCHS Auditorium
(All Grades and Ensembles)

2016

January 7th-9th 2016.....Mid-State Clinic Weekend at MTSU, Murfreesboro
January 14th -16th 2016.....Mid-State Jazz Clinic Weekend at MTSU
Monday, January 18th.....6th Grade Day Camp with KDDC at SCHS
January 26th or 28th 2016.....All-County Band Auditions at SCHS
Monday, February 15th..7th & 8th Grade Day Camp with KDDC at SCHS
February 18th -20th 2016.....All-County Band Weekend (Beech and SCHS)
(Concerts are Saturday at SCHS)

Thursday, February 25th 2016.....7th and 8th Grade Concert at
SCHS Auditorium w/SCHS Band

Thursday, March 3rd 2016.....SCMS Fine Arts Night and Chili Sampler
6th, 7th, 8th Grade Bands to perform
March 15th -18th 2016.....Concert Performance Assessment with
7th and 8th Grade White House Heritage High School
Saturday, April 23rd 2016.....Gallatin Solo and Ensemble Festival
(Register by Tuesday, March 22nd)

Monday, May 9th 2016.....SCMS Band Concerts at SCHS Auditorium
(All Grades and Ensembles)

Late April/Early May 2016.....Performances at Jack Anderson
and Station Camp Elementary by 7th/8th Grade Band

2015-2016 SCMS BAND HANDBOOK SIGNATURE FORM

*******PLEASE RETURN BY NO LATER THAN
Friday, August 21st!*******

We have read and thoroughly understand the Station Camp Middle School Band Student Handbook and the rules, guidelines, and expectations covered within. We also understand that after school concerts are required and a part of the band grade. Also, we have kept for our records and will abide by this handbook.

Band Member's Name (please P-R-I-N-T):

Band Member's T-shirt Size (sizes youth M, L, XL & adult S, M, L, XL, XXL): _____

Parent/Guardian T-Shirt size and number (optional)_____

Parent/Guardian's Name (please P-R-I-N-T): _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Today's Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number(s) and Email Address(es): *Please include an email address – this is the quickest means of general communication about band events and activities! (If information is same as provided to school during registration, write “same”).*

I put photos from our recent concerts/events on the SCMS Band website from time to time. I will not put students' names unless they are being recognized on the “Congratulations” part of the site. Do I have your permission for your student's photo to be on our website? (Photos will never be listed with full names) Yes_____ No_____

Parents/Guardians: Please list any way you may be of assistance during the year to our program (i.e.—emergency transportation, chaperones, concert help, classroom helper, serving as a band “roadie,” etc.). Please also list any special skills or equipment you may have (covered trailer and large truck, carpentry, sewing, computer data input, electronics installation, etc.)

Parents/Guardians: Please also list on back any additional information (i.e. health concerns, etc.) that you think is pertinent to your child's music education in the Station Camp Middle School Band (if same as information provided to school write "same").