

# Sammy McClure Middle School Band Handbook

2020-2021



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## Purpose

This handbook is written as a guideline for students of the band program. This handbook is an effort to explain to every band student and parent what is expected of them in the band program and to outline many of the procedures and practices that govern the operation of the band. These guidelines have evolved over several successful years in some of the model middle school band programs in the state.

The band has a unique place in the school curriculum. While it is an academic class in the sense that it has a definite curriculum and expected competencies, there are some aspects of the band curriculum that **require participation outside of the normal school day.** Responsibilities of the group cannot be divided up by the hours of the school day. Students and parents should understand that the success of the band depends on each band member being in place to perform his/her responsibility to the group and that **participation is required of each member.** If you are not willing to bring your students to rehearsals, performances, or concerts please reconsider band class.

Through the cooperation of every student, parent, and teacher we can have many enjoyable musical experiences, affording musical growth, accomplishment, appreciation, and recreation. Students will experience many hours of work and play as a member of the band, and hopefully each member will share in the spirit of doing a quality job.

## Philosophy

The SMMS Band program believes in creating a positive learning environment for each student. The performing arts has several benefits that students can realize by participation in studying an instrument. Learning to play and being a member of a successful program fosters discipline, group cooperation, self-esteem, creativity, critical thinking, fine motor skills, leadership, good work ethic, and personal confidence.

These great qualities explain why bands invariably have such a high percentage of the school's highest-ranking academic students in the organization. Scholarship and musicianship go hand in hand.



## Goals

- To provide a comprehensive music education experience for all students who demonstrate the aptitude and interest in learning music.
- To incorporate core subjects within the framework of the band standards: science, math, language/writing skills, and social studies.
- To involve students with performance opportunities and community involvement outside of the school day.
- To prepare students in their future endeavors with their education and careers.
- To provide a positive group experience where students can grow socially and learn to be independent and a leader.

## Class Curriculum

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Needed materials- one inch 3 ring black binder, 25 sheet protectors (provided in band fees).

In sixth grade we will be learning how to read notes on the grand staff, counting rhythms, identifying instruments and their families, and musical terms. All sixth graders will be tested for which instrument they will be assigned. Please know that there are limited slots for each instrument, but Mrs. Crozier-Price wants all sixth graders to feel excited and happy about their instrument selection. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Kick-Off day will be 2-3 weeks after the first day off school. Instructors for each instrument will come to the school and teach the beginners the basics of their instruments, how to hold, clean, play, and maintenance.

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Needed materials- one inch 3 ring binder, 25 sheet protectors (provided in band fees).

In seventh and eighth grade we will be continuing our musical learning. We will be learning 8 major scales, chromatic scales, extended rhythm and technique, simple and compound meters, musical terminology, world history, genre studies, style, and technique studies. In all three grade levels we will be basing our lessons on the Georgia State Standards.

## Concert Attire

All students will wear their band polo, black slacks/skirts, black dress shoes, and black socks. This will be our concert attire for all concerts.

## Concert Etiquette

This is to assist our audience

1. Dress nicely for live performances.
2. Arrive at the concert fifteen to twenty minutes early. If you are late, wait until you hear the applause before entering the concert area to find a seat.
3. Clap when the conductor comes on to the stage. This is a sign to welcome the musicians.
4. Please be quiet and attentive during the performance.

5. Do not bring food, drink, or gum to a concert area.
6. Clap only at the end of an entire selection. If there are movements within a selection, wait until the conductor turns around and faces the audience before applauding.
7. Please never leave a performance until the entire program is complete. This is disrespectful to the other performers. Plan to make the concert night an evening to relax and enjoy the performance(s).

\*\*\*All performers are required and expected to be on their best behavior. Those who cannot show self-control or proper etiquette will be handed a consequence along with a parent/teacher conference. Performers are always representing SMMS and Paulding County Schools.

## **Class Rules and Expectations**

It is a privilege to be a part of the band program. Due to the nature of the class, there are certain rules and regulations that must be followed to maintain a successful rehearsal environment.

They are as follows:

1. Always have respect for your director and classmates.
2. Be in your seat with all equipment ready to play 3 minutes after the time class is scheduled to start otherwise you will be counted as tardy. Being in the band room on times does not make you on time for band class.
3. Do not play your instrument until the director begins the rehearsal.
4. Students should always have their parents/guardians read all materials sent home by the band director.
5. Students should always make plans to be a little ahead of any announced schedule.  
Remember: Punctuality is respect for the time of others.
6. Raise your hand for permission before speaking or getting out of your seat for any reason.
7. Students should take all suggestions and constructive criticism in the proper spirit with a positive attitude. Remember: If at first you don't succeed, try, try again!
8. No gum, candy, food, or sugar drinks allowed. You may have water.
9. Have permission before entering the band office or using the phone.
10. Do not touch anything on the director's stand, podium, or cart at any time.
11. Abide by school rules and district policies, please follow all instructions given.
12. Students should show proper care and respect for the band facility and all band property. Each band member is to do his/her share in helping to keep the band room neat and clean. Band members should get permission from the director before handling any electronic equipment, percussion equipment, or instrument other than their own.
13. Remember the first word of self-control and self-discipline is SELF. Nobody can do it but you.
14. Always come to class prepared. Have your instrument, music, and necessary items for class.

**Breaking any of these expectations can/will result in a step on the discipline plan.**

## Consequences

Consequences for inappropriate behavior/unprepared for class will be:

1st Offense-Verbal Warning

2nd Offense- Discipline board and parent contact

3rd Offense- Discipline board, silent lunch, parent conference

4th Offense- Office referral to administration

5th Offense- Removal from the band program

Students who disrupt the learning of others will not be allowed to continue in the band program. If a student is habitually unprepared for class, he/she will be put on a “learning agenda” that must be signed daily by the parent and director. If said student shows no progress in coming to class prepared, he/she will be removed from the program.

## Grading System

Students will be graded based on playing tests/quizzes, theory assignments, rehearsal and performance attendance and participation, and other teacher-made assignments. Select assignments students may have the opportunity to resubmit the work to improve the grade received. The breakdown for grading will be based on the following:

**Class Participation (Formative)**- 100 points per week= 20 points per day (Attentive, proper materials, asking/answering questions related to the class, good posture, playing to the best of their ability, following class rules, etc.)

**Weekly Playing Quizzes (Formative)**- 100 points. Quizzes will be taken during class with options to send electronically depending on the standard/content.

**Playing Tests (Summative)**- 25-100 points each (Scales, concert music, sight-reading, rhythmic exercises, exercises from the book.)

**Written Tests (Formative)**- 25-100 points each (Theory tests, music terminology, fingering chart tests).

**Rehearsal Attendance/Participation (Formative)**- 100 points each (Failure to participate without a valid excuse result in a “Zero”).

**Concert Attendance/Participation (Summative)**- 400-600 points each (Failure to participate without a valid excuse result in a “Zero”).

\*Any student with lower than an 80% average grade at the end of each grading period will be removed from the band program; please monitor your student’s grades and their practice time.

## Chair Placement

Chair placement will be determined according to playing tests. Chair placement will fluctuate during the semester. Placements for the concerts will be determined by averaging the students’ playing test grades. Students who are disruptive during a rehearsal/class may be demoted within their section due to behavior issues. Chair placement rubrics will be given a week before each test.

## **Concert Make-Up Assignments**

The only excused absences from concerts are due to illness requiring a doctor visit or a death in the family. Anything else will be considered as unexcused. Please send an email or a note with the student on the next day they come to school explaining the absence so that I can determine if it is excused or unexcused. \*\*Concert dates are given months in advance; therefore, work schedules and ride arrangements need to be planned.

For excused absences from a performance, there will be a make-up assignment (created by the band director) made available which the student will have one week to complete for full credit. As it is impossible to recreate a performance environment, **unexcused absences from a performance cannot be made up and will simply result in a grade of zero for the performance.** In rare cases, a make-up assignment may be given no higher than 70% credit for an unexcused absence depending on the nature of the absence.

## **Rehearsals**

Rehearsals for performances will be on the calendar in advance. Rehearsals will be scheduled either in the mornings at 7:30 am or in the afternoons from 3:35-4:45pm. Students who have to miss a rehearsal for a certain reason (dentist appointments, illness, etc.) will need to notify the director two days in advance so that an “exemption” is given in the grade book. Dates and times may be subject to change. Updates will be sent via Remind 101 messaging.

## **Accommodations**

All 504 and IEP students will be accommodated as per their paperwork. Please understand that music and band class are not academic classes in the sense of seating, timing, and expectations. All students are expected and required to do their best daily and are given the same opportunities for success. Many studies have shown that all students involved in music have growth in their learning abilities, language skills, math skills, etc. Religious accommodations can be given if the director is notified weeks in advance. If you have religious holidays, beliefs, etc. that Mrs. Crozier-Price needs to be aware of please notify her immediately.

## **Communicating with Director**

If you need to contact me for any reason, there are several ways to do that. The fastest and easiest way is through email. Emails are read several times throughout the day and can usually be responded to no later than the following day. I can be reached at [kcrozier@paulding.k12.ga.us](mailto:kcrozier@paulding.k12.ga.us) or [sammymcclureband@gmail.com](mailto:sammymcclureband@gmail.com).

## **Turning in Money**

All fees and payments will be paid on RevTrak.

Please know there is a small fee/tax when using RevTrak. This system is our paying policy. If you have any issues with this system, please contact me or our bookkeeper.

## **Private Lessons**

Individual private lessons are the best way for students to improve their individual playing skills, which in turn makes our band program better. Private lessons are also the best way to help students achieve individual honors and accomplishments such as District Honor Band, All-State, and Solo/Ensemble. I will provide a list of names and phone numbers of qualified private teachers in our area soon after the beginning of school. Please give this careful consideration and feel free to contact me should you have any questions about private lessons.

## **District Honor Band/ All-State**

One of the biggest individual honors that a band student can receive is to be selected to perform with the District Honor Band or the Georgia All-State Band. These two ensembles are chosen through competitive audition. The first audition will be a district level audition held in December. In this audition, students will be expected to perform four major scales (memorized), a chromatic scale (memorized), a prepared etude, and a sight-reading exercise. The scales and etudes will be available at [www.gmea.org](http://www.gmea.org). If a student scores a minimum passing score (which varies by instrument), he/she will advance to the state level audition. The district level audition also serves as the audition for district honor band. A student's score on the first audition will determine whether they are selected for district honor band. A student does not have to make it to the state level All-State audition to be selected for district honor band.

Students participating in the district honor band will have a two-day clinic at a local school where they will rehearse and present a concert with a guest clinician.

Students who advance to the state level auditions will have a 2nd audition in January. On this audition they will play the prepared etudes and sight-reading exercises. From this audition, the Georgia All-State Band will be selected. Students selected to the All-State Band will travel to Athens, GA in March for a three-day clinic, much like district honor band, where they will rehearse and present a concert.

\*\*If your student is interested in participating, they will need to sign up and begin practicing when the sign-ups are announced in class-end of August. GMEA does not accept late registrations.

## Solo and Ensemble Festival

A vital part of improving the quality of a band program is to improve the individual playing skills and musicianship of its members. In addition to private lessons, a very effective way to improve these skills is through participation in Solo and Ensemble Festival. This event, which occurs in April, is an opportunity for students to prepare a musical selection and perform individually or in a small group in front of a judge who will critique their performance and give the students a rating. Students wishing to participate whether in a solo setting or a small group will discuss music selections with private lesson teachers and Mrs. Crozier-Price.

## UGA Midfest

This event is held in December for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Students will be nominated by their director and chosen from a committee. Students selected to participate will travel to Athens, GA where they will audition for an ensemble and be placed based on their skills. Students will have rehearsals, sectionals, concerts to attend, and a final performance.

## Large Group Performance Evaluation

LGPE (Concert Festival) is the annual state evaluation for band, chorus, and orchestra. This evaluation is a performance based on the state standards with three musical selections from the GMEA music list. Groups perform three contrasting pieces for three judges. These judges give ratings of Superior (I), Excellent (II), Good (III), Okay (IV) with superior being the highest rating. Each group will also have a sight-reading judge and learn a full piece of music in six minutes. This evaluation is like the Georgia Milestone only for music programs.

## Fundraiser

To support our band program, we host several fundraisers. All money raised goes towards the band program and band students.

## Band Fees

All fees go towards band students and the program. Fees help the program run efficiently throughout the year. Everyone is expected to pay their fair share in the program. **These fees are only paid once.**

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Fees: \$40**

Includes- band folder, sheet music, band book, band t-shirt, band polo, pencils, highlighters, classroom supplies, guest instructors, awards, notebook paper, staff paper, one replacement of needed materials.

### **7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Fees: \$40**

Includes-band binder, sheet music, pencils, highlighters, band t-shirt, classroom supplies, guest clinicians, LGPE fees, awards, notebook paper, staff paper, and one replacement of needed materials.

**School Owned Instrument Fees:** \$50 Students who use a school-owned instrument are required to pay this fee for the upkeep and maintenance of the instrument. (Baritone, Tuba, French Horn, Baritone Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Percussion, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon).

**Band Polo Replacement Fee:** \$12 sizes range from Youth Medium to Adult XXL.

**Spirit Wear:** Ranges from \$5-30 in materials that are first come first serve.



## **Instrument Storage/Lost or Stolen Instruments**

Instrument storage is offered as a service to all students in the band. There will be on storage room for the students to use will assigned areas. Please be aware that there are security cameras in the instrument storage room. Mrs. Crozier-Price, SMMS, and Paulding County Schools cannot be held responsible for any personal items left in the storage room, including your instrument. No student is ever allowed to climb on the storage units in the storage room.

There are a couple of things that you can do to help ensure the safety of your instrument. First, I encourage everyone to make sure you carry insurance on all personally owned instruments. The school is only insured for school-owned instruments and equipment. I also require that the student's names be on the instrument. This can be in the form of a name/luggage tag or a piece of masking tape. There is no excuse for finding an instrument without a name on it. Another thing you can do is to require your child take home their instrument every day. This will prevent anything from happening to your instrument after school hours and it will make the students a lot more likely to practice.

Each parent and student are responsible for recording the instrument's serials number at home, and each student is responsible for making sure his/her instrument is always taken home at the end of the school day. Parents who rent their child's instrument from a music store or from the school instrument inventory are strongly encouraged to purchase insurance on the instrument. Parents who purchase an instrument are recommended to check with their homeowner's insurance policy regarding potential loss or theft of that instrument during the school day.

If an instrument is lost or stolen:

1. Obtain the make, model, and serial number of the instrument.
2. Determine where your child last saw the instrument.
3. Contact the director immediately.
4. Upon teacher request, file a police report.

## **Broken Instrument Policy**

If your instrument is broken, you need a note from a parent/guardian indicating the music store and date you took it to get repaired. The band director reserves the right to call and verify this with the music store. PLEASE KEEP YOUR INSTRUMENT MOUTHPIECE-the director may have a loaner instrument for you to use with your mouthpiece until yours has been repaired. If no loaner is available, you are required to follow along quietly with the band during class. Failure to follow along quietly will result in a grade reduction and disciplinary action.

## Renting/Purchasing Instruments

With beginning band students, I always recommend starting out by renting an instrument from a local music dealership that deals with quality band instruments and provides a good warranty and repair service. In our area, we have several music dealers that can meet these needs and you will receive brochures from them after we have completed instrument selection.

There are several reasons I recommend starting out with a rental instrument:

- ◆ To have a window of time to make sure the student is going to stick with it and not quit after the first year.
- ◆ In rare cases, students may be asked by the director to switch instruments during the first year or at the end of the first year. Please note that instrument changes can only be made by the director, not by the students and parents.

## Mouthpieces/Instrument Selections

### **Flute**

Gemeinhardt, Yamaha, Armstrong, Pearl, or Jupiter

Cleaning cloth (cotton)

### **Oboe**

Fox, Yamaha, Selmer

Medium/Soft double reed

Cleaning Cloth

Cork grease

### **Clarinet and Bass Clarinet**

Selmer, Yamaha, Bundy, Buffet

Vandoren V12 Reeds, 3 strength-synthetic reeds are encouraged.

Bonade inverted ligature

Plastic reed holder

Clear mouthpiece patches

Cleaning cloth

### **Alto, Tenor, Bari Saxophone**

Selmer, Yamaha

Vandoren Reeds 3 strength- synthetic reeds are encouraged.

Rousseau (5R facing) or Selmer C\* mouthpiece

Rovner Ligature

Plastic reed holder

Clear mouthpiece patches

Cleaning cloth

### **Bassoon**

Fox, Yamaha  
Medium/Soft double reed  
Leather seat strap  
Cork grease  
Cleaning cloth

### **Trumpet**

Bach, Yamaha, or King  
Bach 5C or 3C mouthpiece  
Blue Juice valve oil

### **French Horn**

Yamaha, Conn, or Holton  
King H2 or Conn H2 mouthpiece  
Rotor Oil

### **Trombone**

Bach, Yamaha, Conn-Selmer  
Bach 6 1/2AL mouthpiece  
Slide-o-max (or Ponds Cold Cream-no joke) for slide lubrication  
Small (trial sized) spray bottle for water

### **Baritone/Euphonium**

Bach 6 1/2AL mouthpiece  
Blue Juice valve oil

### **Tuba**

Bach 18 or Bach 24AW or Conn Helleberg 7B mouthpiece  
Blue Juice Valve Oil

### **Percussion**

Percussion drum pad  
Mallet bag-marimba mallets, xylophone mallets, timpani mallets, snare sticks

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: There are a few types/brands of equipment that will not be allowed due to extremely poor quality. These include “flavored reeds” for woodwind instruments and any red, green, yellow, or any other irregularly colored instruments. PLEASE ask me first if you have any questions about any of these type products.**

## Using a Local Music Dealer

I urge you to avoid purchasing instruments from pawnshops, wholesale stores or clubs, department stores or superstores, yard sales, the internet or catalogs as these are most often not good quality instruments and usually will not carry a warranty or repair agreement. Also, many instrument repairmen will not even work on these instruments due to the poor quality of the instrument as well as not being able to get parts for them which in effect makes these disposable items as opposed to a quality investment. In some cases, these instruments may offer a repair service where you would have to ship the instrument back to them for repair which would then leave your child in class without an instrument for weeks or even months as opposed to just a few days with a local service. Also, most of our local dealers will offer you a loaner instrument if your child's instrument is going to be out for more than a couple of days so that they can continue to play in class every day.

## Step-Up Instruments

Another reason that I encourage you to rent at the start is because many students will be ready to step up to a more advanced model of their instrument during the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. Just as students mature physically and grow out of clothes, they also mature musically and grow out of their beginner model instrument. Most music stores have a program where you can step-up to a higher quality instrument and put the money you spent on the beginner model rental towards the step-up model. Some parents will also look to purchase the step-up instrument once they feel comfortable that their child is serious about playing and is going to stick with it. Please feel free to check with me concerning recommendations for step-up instruments before going out to purchase one.

## Instrument Brands

### ***The following are desired brands for instrument purchase/rental:***

Yamaha, Gemeinhardt, Selmer, St. Petersburg, Bach, Holton, Armstrong, Fox, Leblanc, Buffet, Conn, Jupiter, King, Bundy.

### **The following are brands to avoid:**

JinBao, Sino, Keilwerth, MFC, Good Quality, Western Musical Instrument, Mendi, SevenAngel Brand, Allora

**\*\*If you have any questions about brands, quality, etc. please do not hesitate to contact me\*\***



## How SMMS Band Parents Can Help:

1. Show an interest in the music study of your child.
2. Arrange a regular time (appointment) for him/her to practice.
3. Find a quiet place where he/she can practice without interruptions. (Provide a straight-backed chair, a music stand, and a metronome.)
4. Sign the student's DAILY RECORD of practicing.
5. Come up with a reward system for DAILY (good) practice.
6. Provide a safe place to keep the instrument.
7. Keep the instrument in good repair with needed supplies in the case.
8. Help your child be very careful with instruments, repair costs are high!
9. Teach the importance of being prepared and on time for rehearsals, performances, classes, and lessons.
10. Make faithful attendance at all band activities a priority. (Children tend to value what adults' value by example.)
11. Encourage him/her to play for others when opportunities arise in the family, church, school, and community.
12. **PROVIDE PRIVATE LESSONS WITH THE BEST POSSIBLE INSTRUCTORS IN OUR AREA!**
13. See that he/she takes the instrument and materials to school every day and brings them home every day.
14. Discuss with the band director anything that might help her understand your child.
15. Buy your child a personal planner in which he/she can put event and project dates (use the school agenda the student should have been given by the school).
16. Keep the Handbook in a safe place and refer to it often.
17. Notify the director as soon as possible if your child is to be absent from rehearsals or lessons.
18. See that he/she keeps up with academic studies.
19. Visit rehearsals occasionally.
20. Attend booster meetings, concerts, recitals, and any other activities.
21. Turn in fundraising money and orders on time.
22. **BE A POSITIVE, ENCOURAGEING FORCE IN THE MUSICAL GROWTH OF YOUR CHILD.**



# Band Handbook Acknowledgement Form

\*\*You and your student need to read each line and when you have fully read and comprehended the band handbook please sign at the bottom.

-I understand that there is a financial obligation and responsibility with band class (i.e. Band fee, instrument rentals and supplies).

-I understand that my student must practice regularly outside of the school hours to progress in band class and that I am responsible for monitoring their practice time. (Example: 4 days per week 30 minutes each time).

-I understand that all performances (concerts) and rehearsals are mandatory and that my student will receive a grade. I understand that as the parent/guardian I am responsible for all transportation needs, my students will arrive on time and be picked up on time.

-I understand that students will be placed in their assigned chairs based on playing tests. I also understand that my student can be moved based on behavior.

-I understand that Mrs. Crozier-Price has the overall say on what instrument my student is assigned, but that my students needs/wants will be considered.

-I understand that at any time Mrs. Crozier-Price reserves the right to dismiss any student from the program for behavior purposes or lack of participation/professionalism/ respect within the class.

-I understand that parents and students must be responsible for the following: reeds, mouthpieces, valve oil, keeping up with music, practicing, and the upkeep of instruments.

-I understand that I must pay fees, trip payments, or repair payments before or on the due dates given via RevTrak.

-I will be checking the SMMS band webpage, Facebook, and Instagram regularly to keep up with calendar dates and read all letters sent home with my student.

-I understand it is the responsibility of the parent and student to check Remind 101 and Infinite Campus for any announcements or messages regarding class, performances, and grades.

-I understand the band is a co-curricular, meaning band students' grades will come from in class and after school activities (rehearsal, concerts, etc.).

**By signing this document, you understand that most students possess the musical and mental skills needed to be a good student musician. Success is likely if the student has a desire to learn to play, and the parents and students understand what is required for success. Parents must agree to share responsibility for their student's music education. Band is a year-long class with a three-year commitment that involves applying math skills (rhythms), language, critical thinking, fine motor skills, and problem solving.**

Parent Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_