

SILOAM SPRINGS BAND HANDBOOK

1. PREREQUISITE for BAND MEMBERSHIP:

Students must be enrolled in 9th grade or higher and must satisfactorily complete middle school band instruction or equivalency as determined by the band staff.

Beginning Band (6th Grade): Complete band placement procedures

Middle School Band (7th-8th Grade): Be proficient in musical skills learned in previous grade or equivalent as determined by band staff.

High School Band (9th-12th Grade): Be proficient in musical skills learned in previous grade or equivalent as determined by band staff.

2. BAND CONDUCT:

The band is a performing organization. The conduct of each member must at all times be a credit to the school and community. At all band functions, a members' conduct is expected to reflect courteous behavior. Any unsatisfactory conduct may result in dismissal from the band program at the director's discretion.

3. GRADING:

Band students are graded on the letter grade system. The band grade counts towards a student's overall GPA.

6th-8th Grade: Students are graded on tests, daily grades, performances and attendance, having required materials (reeds, music, pencil etc.)

9th-12th Grade: pass offs, Tuesday night rehearsals, playing tests, performances, attendance, having required materials (reeds, music, pencil, drill charts, valve oil etc.)

4. ATTENDANCE:

Band members are required to attend all rehearsals and performances of the band.

A performance is any activity in which the band is called upon to participate. Performances include but are not limited to: concerts, football games, pep rallies, parades and contests.

An excused absence from a rehearsal or performance will be granted for serious illness, death in the family, or participation in another approved school event. Requests to be excused from a rehearsal or performance for reasons other than those listed will be considered by the director on an individual basis. If prior notification is not possible, written notice signed by a parent must be turned in within three days after returning from the absence.

Those who are excused from absences will make up work as requested by the band director.

An unexcused absence from any performance or chronic unexcused absences from rehearsals may result in dismissal from the organization with an unsatisfactory grade for the term.

Tardiness will be dealt with as recommended by the Siloam Springs Public Schools Student Policy Handbook.

5. TRYOUTS AND CHALLENGES:

Tryouts or auditions are an integral part of the Siloam Springs High School Band Program. Competitive activities are emphasized and utilized as key motivation factors. The Siloam Springs Band maintains a system of competitive tryouts and challenges to further instrumental education and to evaluate work done by the individual student.

A challenge is a tryout between two students. A student may challenge the player directly ahead of him/her by following the procedure available from the director.

6. BAND UNIFORMS:

Wear the assigned uniform for each individual event. Concert attire is expected from all students in all grades. Shorts, jeans, graphic t-shirts are not acceptable.

7. AUXILIARY MARCHING POSITIONS:

Drum Major: Drum Majors are selected in a competitive tryout of interested band students. Drum Majors assume a major leadership role in the band program.

Color Guard: The color guard is selected in competitive tryouts of interested band students. Members are required to attend a guard clinic during the summer to receive specialized instruction. Expenses for certain uniform or equipment needs may be incurred as the responsibility of the student.

Band members choosing to try out for these positions must maintain a passing grade in band to be eligible.

8. EXPENSE RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of each band student to pay for certain band expenses. These include: \$35 annual band fee (covers new band t-shirt, glove expenses, marching rehearsal accessories, summer rehearsal meal costs). Students are responsible for purchasing marching band shoes. School instrument rental fees (\$50/year) to use school-owned instruments are also a student's responsibility.

9. BAND STUDENT TRAVEL FUND

Funds raised by the band are placed in a school district activities bank account. These funds are considered donations to the Siloam Springs Band; however, the funds are credited to students based on their individual hours of work at any given project. The students are informed in advance of the amount they will be credited for each event, and the band director maintains a database to keep track of balances in each student's account. Funds may be transferred from one student account to another at the direction of the donor student. Personal donations may be made at any time and may be designated for a particular student's account. Refunds are not allowed, as they may be considered a tax deductible donation to the band program. Any funds remaining in a band student's account upon graduation from high school as a member of the band, will be issued to the student as a college scholarship check.

10. MUSIC CAMPS:

There are a number of excellent summer music camps in the area. Information about camps and scholarships may be obtained from the band director.

I PROMISE TO

- Provide the best music education and band experience possible
- Grade fairly and consistently
- Communicate efficiently, accurately, and timely as possible
- Be flexible to meet your individual needs, the needs of your family while protecting the needs of the band
- Have an open line of communication via e-mail or school band office phone (479-524-3104)
- Help you meet your musical goals
- Hold you accountable for excellence and good character
- Hold you accountable for acceptable academic performance

I EXPECT STUDENTS TO

- Be early to each event on our calendar
- Show respect for each other and all adults that work with our group
- Keep their cell phone put away and turned off during class time
- Take responsibility for checking the calendar and taking off work when necessary
- Communicate as timely as possible in an e-mail anticipated absences
- Wear the assigned uniform, have the proper equipment and represent our band with class
- Be dedicated and understand the greater cause
- Keep your instrument and music secured in the proper place
- Practice and seek out help as needed
- Check CHARMS for information (this can be done at a school computer if home internet is not available)
- Perform to the best of their ability and realize each person is gifted differently

STUDENTS WILL BE AWARDED GRADES FOR

- Attending required performances outside the school day
- Attending Tuesday evening practices.
- Having all of the necessary equipment to be successful at performances and practices (this includes lyre, flip folder, water cooler, drill charts, sticks, reeds, valve oil, black socks, white/black gloves and black shoes)

I am very excited about the upcoming marching band season and will do my best to communicate any changes or additions to the schedule as far in advance as possible. Please update your information in CHARMS so I can communicate effectively via e-mail and/or text. You can communicate with me via e-mail daniel.hodge@siloamschools.com

To receive remind texts from me about events: text @siloamspr to the number 81010

Please sign the space below and return to Mr. Hodge. Signing will agree to the terms of our grading/attendance/financial policy as well as acknowledgement of our yearly schedule of events. Thank you so much!

Handbook/Schedule Agreement

Student Name _____

Parent Name(s) _____

Parent email: _____