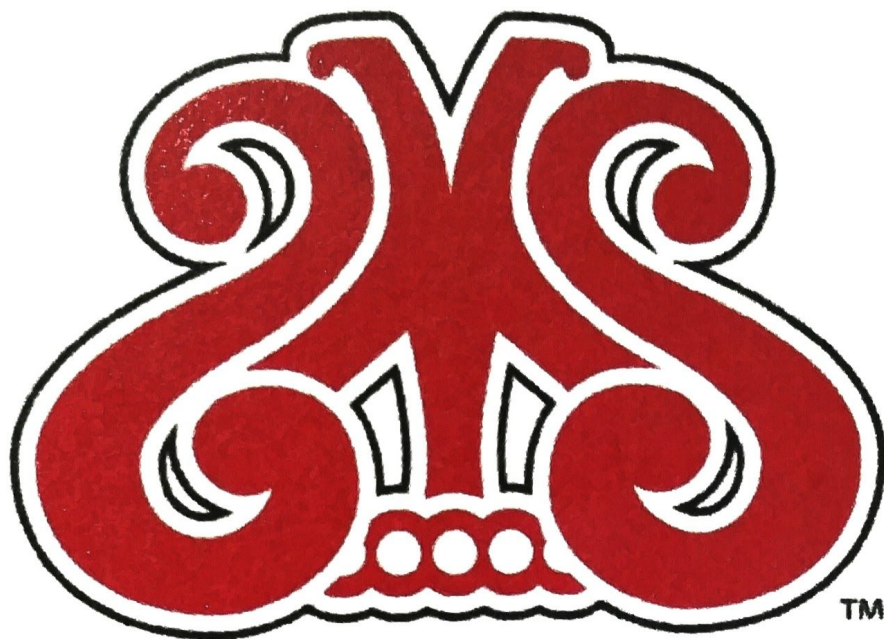


**Standard Middle School**

**Band Handbook**



**STANDARD MIDDLE SCHOOL  
MUSIC PROGRAM**

*Last Revised August 2018*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Being a member of the Standard Middle School Bands has the potential to provide some of the most memorable experiences you will have during your three years of middle school. This handbook is written as a guide to help you be successful in the Standard Middle School Bands and to explain the opportunities and responsibilities of being a member.

**Students who read and agree to meet the following EXPECTATIONS are making a commitment to stay in band for the entire year.** Also, please remember that a student's conduct, attitude, effort and willingness to meet these EXPECTATIONS will also factor into their grade in band.

All band members are expected to work together, with positive conduct, attitude, and 100% effort. Only when each individual is striving to do their best can the band as a whole be successful!

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Standard Middle School Bands is to foster the development of balanced, tolerant, and critically thinking students through providing a safe, nurturing, and cooperative learning environment. Life skills will be an integral part of the Standard Band experience.

Furthermore, musical success is gained through the demonstration of Purpose, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Excellence (P.R.I.D.E). We believe, through consistent P.R.I.D.E. each individual will gain the necessary tools to achieve rich, rewarding lives for themselves and others.

## **Standard Middle School Band P.R.I.D.E**

### **Purpose**

*The band is a source of pride and spirit for the community. It is our purpose to represent our school and community with dignity, and always give to the band more than it gives to us.*

### **Respect**

*Members of the Standard Middle School Band treat each other and Standard Middle School with respect.*

### **Integrity**

*Band Members always strive to do the right thing, even when no one is watching.*

### **Determination**

*If at first you don't succeed, DON'T GIVE UP! Try again and again until you get it right! Remember, every professional was once a beginner!*

### **Excellence**

*Members of the Standard Middle School Band strive to do their personal best every day and understand that nothing more is ever expected. What was acceptable yesterday is no longer acceptable today. We always strive to improve our personal best.*

## Expectations

### ATTENDANCE

Band is a performance oriented group. The band relies on full participation of every member, both in rehearsal and during performances. This applies to ZERO PERIOD marching rehearsal, as well as drumline rehearsals after school.

### **ALL PERFORMANCES ARE REQUIRED.**

Occasionally, conflicts may occur with other school-related functions or family emergencies. Any conflicts must be brought to the Band Director's attention well **before** the time of the conflict through a written letter/email of explanation from the parent. If there is an unexpected emergency please call 661-491-5901 prior to the performance to let the director know of the student's absence.

If your absence is excused, a make-up assignment (playing and/or written) may be assigned. If the assignment is not completed by the due date given, your grade will be adversely affected.

If the director is not notified of your absence before the performance or your absence is unexcused, your grade will be adversely affected.

**Please check and record performance dates in your family calendar!**

## Grading

**A student's grade will be calculated as such:**

**40%** from concert attendance and performance. Unexcused absences will result in an unsatisfactory grade

**25%** Participation and preparedness for rehearsals, both during and before/ after school as needed.

**20%** Tests and quizzes, both written and playing. Students will be given at least 2 weeks of notice for tests, or 2 days of notice for quizzes. Tests carry double weight of quizzes in the average.

**15%** Homework and other assignments.

## Musicianship

o **Performances are equivalent to final exams, a missed performance that is unexcused is likely to cause a failing grade for that card marking.**

o It is expected that you come to class each day prepared. This includes practicing on a daily basis and arriving to class having worked on the assigned material.

o Forgotten instruments, music, reeds, etc. will adversely affect a student's grade.

o Playing and written tests will be given throughout the year and will be a significant portion of your grade.

### **Participation, Attitude and Personal Responsibility Checklist**

- o Are you on time for rehearsal?
- o Do you have your music and instrument?
- o Woodwinds – do you have **3** working reeds?
- o Brass – do you have valve oil?
- o **Do you have a pencil with you?**
- o Are you giving 100% during class?
- o Is your instrument case properly labeled?
- o **Are you demonstrating the ideals of the Standard Band P.R.I.D.E.?**
- o Are you giving more to the band than you take?

Your **participation grade** for each marking period will be based on your attitude and effort during class periods, band concerts, and other band related functions.

Your grade will be negatively affected by the following things:

Being tardy

Gum chewing

Excessive disturbance

Not following classroom rules

Negative Attitude

Lack of Effort

Forgotten Homework

### **Instrument Maintenance and Requirements (General)**

All band instruments should be kept at home in a safe place away from pets or younger siblings. During the school day, band shelves are provided for most band instruments, and are located inside the band room or in the surrounding storage areas. Students may drop off their instrument before school, and pick it up before they go home.

**It is required that each student properly label their instrument case with full name and school.**

Copies of all band music and a folder will be issued to all students. It is each student's responsibility to maintain their folder and have it in class every day. Warrior band students may choose to utilize a 3-ring binder with page protectors instead of a folder if they so choose.

## **Woodwind Instruments**

Be sure to rinse the mouthpieces out with warm water and soap periodically.

Make sure to swab instrument out after each use.

**Clarinet and Saxophone players are required to have 3 working reeds at all times.**

Reeds are available for purchase and will vary in cost according to instrument. Prices will be listed in the band room.

## **Brass Instruments**

Be sure to rinse the mouthpieces out with warm water and soap periodically.

All slides must be in working order.

Valve oil, slide cream, and tuning slide grease are available for purchase. Prices are listed in the band room.

## **Percussion**

**All percussionists are required to have their own set of drum sticks and mallets.** It is recommended to purchase a stick bag.

It is recommended that all percussionists own their own practice pad and bell set for practice at home.

It is the responsibility of all percussionists to treat school instruments in an appropriate manner. Misuse or intentional damage will result in immediate consequences.

## **Rehearsal Procedures**

Remove instruments from cases immediately upon entering the band room. No LARGE instrument cases are to be taken to the band set-up area. Tables or other areas will be designated for these items. ALL PERSONAL ITEMS MUST FIT UNDER YOUR CHAIR. AISLES MUST REMAIN CLEAR AT ALL TIMES.

You must be in your chair, with all necessary equipment and be ready to play within four minutes after the period has begun. This includes reeds, pencil, music, and instrument. Proper Warm up – Scales, lip slurs, finger exercises, etc. are all excellent warm-ups. (Blasting, hammering, or honking will not be allowed.)

**All playing and talking will stop immediately when the director steps on the podium.**

Use your best posture when playing. Feet should be flat on the floor at all times. Only tuba players may use the back rest on the chair. Adjust music stand to a height that allows you to see both the director and your music. Both eyes must be visible to the director.

Find music quickly with a minimum amount of noise. If rehearsal selections are listed on the board, place them in order before rehearsal begins. This is ESPECIALLY important to the percussion section.

After rehearsal, leave chairs and stands in an orderly position. Clean your instrument and area. Carefully put away all equipment and music. \*In the event that any trash is found in a section's area and no

individual can be found responsible, that section will be responsible for removing all trash from the room following the next rehearsal.

### Equipment required for all rehearsals:

#### Instrument (including all equipment necessary for playing)

**All music and folder**

**Pencil (NO PEN ALLOWED)**

**Percussion, you must have your own snare drum sticks, and mallets.**

#### Communications

1. Before every event, students are given a written handout with complete info. For marching events these handouts appear about two weeks before the event (or as soon as I receive the info from the event chairman).
2. Check the website regularly for calendar updates, missing assignments, and handouts. The website is [www.sms-musicprogram.weebly.com](http://www.sms-musicprogram.weebly.com)
3. Sign up for text reminders for your student's band class. I will use this service to send quick updates and reminders about impending due dates, upcoming concerts, and fundraising opportunities.

#### **WARRIOR BAND**

Text @warriorbnd to 81010

#### **CONCERT BAND**

Text @bandcnrt to 81010

#### **BEGINNING BAND**

Text @beinaband to 81010

4. I am on Facebook, and I will be using the standard warrior and color guard page for quick announcements. **I will not accept friend requests from current students, or their parents.** This is nothing against you or your student, it is just my policy to give me some form of privacy in a very public role. Parents/Guardians, feel free to send individual concerns to my school email.
5. The school phone number is 392-2130 and band extension is 5530 (good for direct phone calls after regular school hours). If you are unable to reach me at this number, it is highly advisable that you send an email, rather than leave a voicemail message. I can also be reached at 661-491-5901 for time-sensitive concerns and emergencies.

#### Uniforms and Band Fees

1. There are **no uniform fees!** Uniforms are provided free, courtesy of the Standard School District and the Standard Music Boosters.
2. Fees are charged for **OPTIONAL ITEMS** such as **SPIRIT WEAR** that students often choose to wear under their uniform. **SPIRITWEAR** may also be used at school pep rallies and other informal performances. Students also have the option of **PURCHASING** their own band polo. These items will be made available on our **WEBSITE!**
3. **Warrior Band students must provide their own LONG, BLACK, dress socks to wear** for marching competitions.
4. For seated concerts, all band students are to wear our black SMS MUSIC polo shirts. **Students are to provide their own black pants and black shoes to go with the polo shirt.** These are needed **before the first concert of the year.**





### School Instruments and Instrument Fees

We ask that those who are able to do so please provide your own instrument! Don't ask to use a school instrument if you could really afford to get your own (rent/buy from a music store). We are asking that for each school instrument, you pay a \$35 maintenance fee to help cover the cost of basic cleaning and upkeep. (The average cost to us for just basic maintenance is well over \$50 per instrument!!) This fee is strictly voluntary, but please be aware that fees collected are the main source of money for repairs and upkeep during the school year!!! Also, please be aware that families CAN be held responsible for cost of repairs due to damage caused by the student and the cost to replace the instrument if it is lost or stolen while checked out to your student. Failure to return an instrument when a child leaves our district is THEFT and will be reported as such!! INSTRUMENT FEE payable to STANDARD SCHOOL DISTRICT!

**For all fees, CASH (exact change appreciated) or MONEY ORDERS are the preferred method of payment! Band and Instrument FEES must be paid in the BANDROOM.... do NOT try to pay them in the SMS office!**

**FUNDRAISING.** Knotts trip is paid for by the **Standard Music Boosters** through their Fireworks booth and various other fundraisers held throughout the year. These fund raisers also help pay for many other things, including color guard equipment, band and color guard camp helpers, instrument repair, new uniforms, new instruments, and bus transportation to all Warrior and Concert Band events. **No student is ever required to sell anything**, but they are required to perform at Pancakes and Pops. However, it is very important that both students and parents assist with these projects whenever possible. Not everyone will be able to participate in every project, and that is okay. However, everyone should try to help at sometime!

### Other Important Information....

Unless otherwise noted, bus transportation is provided for events not on the SMS campus. Students will meet in the SMS band room and travel together to the event. Students **MUST RIDE THE BUS HOME** after the event. There is no longer sign-out protocol in order for parents to take their students home after a field trip. Students who do not follow this rule **may be barred from participation** in other field trips, including but not limited to:

- Future competitions
- Band Festival
- Knott's Berry Farm
- End of Year Trips such as Magic Mountain, Camp KEEP, or John's Incredible Pizza

Once you have read this handbook, please sign and return the bottom portion of this page. Please **keep this handbook** for your own future reference.

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### **Band Handbook Agreement**

*By signing this agreement, I acknowledge that I received an SMS Band Handbook and have had adequate time to review its contents. I understand the expectations placed upon me as a member or parent of the SMS Band program, and agree to uphold my personal responsibilities.*

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

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

*Parent Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date:* \_\_\_\_\_