

Practice/Private Lessons

Practice is an integral part of learning how to play a musical instrument. Students should plan to practice at least 30 minutes a day outside of band class. Students excel quickly when they establish a practice routine. You may have to start with 10 minutes a day and gradually work up to 30 minutes. Practicing daily develops tone, technique and endurance. You will progress much slower if you skip days then try to make up time by practicing longer. Private instruction and practice makes a tremendous improvement in student playing ability. See Mr. C if you are interested in information on private lessons.

POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

- * Students will show respect at all times toward the directors, parents, chaperones, school officials and other students. They will also be respectful of school property, and the property of others.
- * Gum, candy, food or drinks are allowed when we are not rehearsing. I only ask that we clean up after ourselves when eating in the band room and busses.
- * Vaping, Smoking, tobacco products, or alcohol is prohibited by anyone entering the SAHS campus. This policy also applies to anyone representing SAHS Band during off campus activities.
- * Students should plan to ride the bus when it is provided for scheduled events. Prior arrangements need to be made **IN WRITING** if a parent plans to transport a student to or from an activity where bus transportation is provided. This policy assures the safety and accountability of all students.
- * Always be on time! Every effort will be made to start and end rehearsals or performances on time. *If a rehearsal is scheduled to end at 5:00 p.m. you should plan to pick up your child at that time.* You are always welcome at any rehearsal or performance. The ending times for some performances are more difficult to estimate. **Your flexibility on this issue is greatly appreciated.**
- * For sanitary, safety and liability reasons, students should only play their own instrument. Please use the mouthpiece cleaner located by Mr. C prior to using a mouthpiece.

* Demonstrate positive behavior at all times. Disruptive, irresponsible or inappropriate behavior cannot be tolerated while representing the Southern Alamance Music Department.

* Students are responsible for issued items. This may include but not limited to: instrument, supplies, music, music folder etc. Replacement or repair fees may be assessed if items become lost or damaged.

Attendance

To have a truly successful program it is imperative that every band member attend and participate in ALL the scheduled rehearsals and performances of their respective class. Your attendance during class and at performances has a direct effect on your grade. **Band is a participation/performance based course.** Attendance is mandatory to all rehearsals and performances unless otherwise noted. Attached is the list of scheduled concert dates throughout the school year. Please be aware of these concert dates, and plan accordingly. Remember, performances and rehearsals are considered grades and cannot be made up. An absence from any performance or rehearsal will directly affect a student's grade.

Excused Absences Include:

- Extreme personal illness *with* Doctor's Note (or absence from school)
- Family Health emergencies verified by family
- Approved Academic conflicts
- Required Religious observances (with notice)
- Extra-Curricular School conflicts approved by director in advance

Again, communication with the director is crucial when an absence is known. The director should know about any conflicts at least TWO weeks prior to the event in question. The best method of communication would be via e-mail, preferably by the parent or guardian of the student. Absences that are excused will be subject to a make-up assignment. *Note: Even if the director is informed about the conflict with ample time, it does not guarantee that the absence will be approved.*

Dress Code for Performances

The dress code for Concert Band is (black & white) formal. Students need to provide their own concert attire and will not be issued a uniform. While reviewing the following information, please remember that *students dressed inappropriately will not be allowed to perform.*

Girls - dress black slacks, white dress blouse or shirt, and black dress shoes with black socks. We recommended that girls wear closed toe shoes. *No spaghetti straps or short skirts allowed.* You may wear a tie or bow tie if you like. Jackets or vests are not required.

Boys - dress black slacks, white short or long sleeve dress shirt with collar and black dress shoes with black socks. Boys *may wear a tie or bowtie.* Jackets are not required.

Grading Policy

The student's grade will be based on Daily Participation Points, Performances, Tests, and Quizzes.

Daily Participation Points: If student is prepared for class, on time, participates, and follows classroom rules and school policy, the student will not be deducted points for the day. Failure to be prepared, tardiness, and inappropriate behavior will result in loss of Daily Participation Points.

Performances: All performances are mandatory. The director will provide the students with performance dates with ample time to make adjustments in schedule.

Performance attendance will be a heavily graded aspect of the class.

Unlike a written test, performances cannot be made up or reproduced.

Additionally, the band is a group activity where students must rehearse and perform in a collaborative fashion: One band, one sound.

Test: These will be either performance-based or written and will take place during the class period. Students will be given prior notice to prepare before any test.

Normal Discipline Policy

1. a student reminder
 2. time-out from the activity and deduction in participation points
 3. a parent conference, note home, telephone call, etc.
 4. exclusion from a rehearsal, performance or activity
 5. discipline referral, detention, removal from activity or class
- * Severe discipline issues may result in a direct administrative referral

Instruments Left At Home Or In Need Of Repair

Instruments left at home:

Students need to bring their instrument and actively participate everyday. *Students that forget to bring their instrument to class will be given an alternative assignment and may lose some participate points.* It is important to remember that Band is a performance and participation class and when a student is unable to play because they left their instrument at home they are not fully participating in class.

Instruments in need of repair:

A student will NOT be penalized if their instrument needs repair. *The only way for us to distinguish the difference between a student that left their instrument at home and one that's being repaired is if we receive a note or phone call from a parent.* This policy prevents a student that left their instrument at home from saying "It's in the repair shop."

You might want to see me before you bring the instrument in for repair. If the instrument needs to go to the shop, it is generally a good idea to take it back to where it was rented or purchased. *Always ask for a loaner* so the student doesn't fall behind. Some music stores service our school on a weekly basis, arrangements can be made for one of them to pick up the instrument from the band room and return it the following week. They usually have loaners available but you will need to contact them before they come out.

I encourage all parents to get involved in their child's musical exploration. Many of you probably played an instrument while you were in school. If so, you know that the time spent in band was one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. It can be equally rewarding for your child. All it takes is commitment and a love for music.

Click here ----> [Please fill out this short form to acknowledge that you have read the syllabus.*](#)

***(This is for a grade)**