

Sun Valley Band Handbook

www.svband.blogspot.com

The Sun Valley band program strives to create strong, independent, disciplined band members in an environment that is both enjoyable and educationally sound. Our program is designed to help students gain a feeling of accomplishment through personal effort, experience a spirit of cooperation through group participation, and provide an outlet for emotional release and creative expression all while mastering technical execution on their given instrument.

This handbook reviews the policies of our program and our expectations of the students. Participants in the band program are expected to know and abide by the material in this handbook. Therefore, it is important that both students and parents or guardians read the handbook in its entirety. Once this is done, both parents and students are asked to sign a “**statement of responsibility**” acknowledging that they have read, and are familiar with, the policies and the expectations of the program. Please refer back to this handbook during the school year if you have questions or forget any of the procedures.

Communication The best way to support your child’s music education is to STAY INFORMED. You are encouraged to check WEEKLY for announcements, event details, assignments, student progress and news in the following places:

- Band Website (www.svband.blogspot.com) – updated weekly
- Practice Records – sent home with students weekly
- Progress Reports – sent home with students every 3 weeks
- Report Cards – sent home with students every 6 weeks

If you have a question about the band program in general, please reference the **band website**. If you cannot find the answer to your question on the website or you have a specific question about your child’s progress, please use **email**. If you wish to discuss something of a confidential nature, please call the school and leave a message for me to call you back.

www.svband.blogspot.com

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Supplies

- Band Method Book
 - 6th Grade – Ed Sueta Band Method Book 1
 - 7th Grade – Essential Elements 2000 Book 2
 - 8th Grade – Foundations for Superior Performance
- Instrument and mouthpiece in good condition
- **BLACK** hardback three ring binder with a pocket inside
- Pencil pouch that can be clipped into a binder with PENCILS
- 15-20 plastic page protectors for the binder
- Name tag for instrument case

Woodwind Supplies: cleaning swab, cork grease, cleaning rod (flutes only), 3 or more working reeds - Vandoren, Hemke or Mitchell Lurie (2½, 3, or 3½)

Brass Supplies: valve oil, slide grease, and a rag

Although not required, we strongly recommend the purchase of a **music stand**, **metronome** and **tuner** to aid in your child’s practice and musical development.

Supplies can be purchased at Music & Arts Center in the Arboretum shopping center (704.341.0000) or online at www.musicarts.com.

Classroom Rules

- 1) Be in the right place at the right time with the right materials when the director steps to the conductor's stand to begin class
- 2) No gum, candy, food, or drinks in the band room, during rehearsal, or during performance (WATER IS ALWAYS ALLOWED)
- 3) Do not play your instrument unless you are under direction
- 4) Avoid equipment not assigned to you
- 5) Raise your hand to speak or to ask to leave your seat

Grading System Each 6-weeks grade will be determined by student performance in the following areas:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| 1) Class Work | 40% |
| 2) Tests and Performances | 40% |
| 3) Practice Records | 20% |

Class Work The class work grade is based on daily preparation for and performance during class. Work ethic, preparation and completion of daily goals are evaluated as part of this grade. Deductions from the classroom grade may occur in the following cases:

No Instrument	-20 points
No Reed/Mouthpiece	-10 points
No Binder	-10 points
No Pencil	-5 points
Tardy to class or seat	-10 points
Gum/Candy in class	-20 points

Playing Tests Playing tests will be given during class at the rate of about one per two week period and will be graded using a scale of 100 points.

Written Tests Written tests will be given periodically and will concentrate mainly on the theory and history of music. BRIEF homework assignments may be given to prepare for each test.

Performances The bands at Sun Valley Middle School are performing ensembles and **every student is expected to attend all band performances**. There are usually between two and five concerts per ensemble each year. The dates of these performances will be announced well in advance to allow for adequate planning. In the event of personal illness or death in the family, a student may be excused from the performance without penalty, provided that a note is signed by the parent or guardian and given to the director the next day. **Failure to arrange transportation, athletic/dance practices, scout meetings, tryouts or other extra curricular events ARE NOT excused.**

Practice Records Students are to turn in a signed practice record on the first school day of each week accounting for the minutes practiced at home in the week prior. One point is earned for each minute practiced during the week. **Instruments are to be practiced at home a minimum of 100 minutes per week.** Missed practice records cannot be made up without making special arrangements with the director. Late practice records will not be awarded full credit. **Practice records MUST have a parent signature to receive full credit.**

Fundraising UCPS does not supply middle school band programs with adequate funds for instrument purchase and repair, transportation costs, performance registration fees, and sheet music in a band program of this size. **Therefore, ONE fundraiser will be held in September and all students are expected to participate.** Our fundraiser is a donation program.

Instrument Storage

Instruments will be taken home from school each day. Students will neatly put their instrument in the instrument storage area in the band room immediately before school begins each day. All cases must be clearly labeled with the band student's name, address, and phone number on the outside. At the end of the day, students will retrieve their instrument from the band room and QUICKLY move to the bus lot or car line. Neither the band director nor the school is responsible for the safekeeping of any instrument left overnight in the band room.

Concert Attire

It is important to dress for success when performing and all students are expected to adhere to the dress code specifications below:

- 6th Grade:**
- SVMS Performance **TEE**
 - School code **khaki** pant, skirt, or short
- 7th Grade:**
- SVMS Performance **POLO**
 - School code **khaki** pants or skirt. **NO SHORTS.**
 - Dress shoes or sandals. **NO SNEAKERS!**
- 8th Grade:**
- SVMS Performance **POLO**
 - **Black** pants or skirt (must be knee-length or longer)
 - **Black** dress shoes and socks/hosiery

Performance tees and polos cost \$10 each and can be purchased at the Brand Central Spartan Store located in Indian Trail next to the Bruster's or on the Brand Central website: <http://svms.brandcentralpromotions.com/>

Performance Opportunities

- **8th Grade Night (October 16):** The 8th Grade Band will perform pep music in the stands with the MRHS Marching Band at the last home high school football game of the season.
- **Barnes & Noble Holiday Music (December 4 & 5):** 7th and 8th grade students perform holiday carols in small ensembles at the Arboretum Barnes & Noble. Students are selected to participate based on instrumentation needs, work ethic, playing test results, practice records, and conduct.
- **Winter/Spring Concerts (TBA):** All band students will perform on the SVMS campus for family, friends, and community members in the winter and spring. These concerts are mandatory for all students and admission is free to the public.
- **All-County Band:** Students from each UCPS middle school participate in a clinic on Friday and concert on Saturday. Participants are chosen through an audition process.
- **All-District Band:** Students from South Central NC audition for this prestigious Honor Band. Students participate in a Friday clinic and concert on Saturday. This clinic is an overnight trip out of town.
- **All-State Band:** The top students from each District Band audition for the NC All-State Band. This is the highest individual honor available to a band student in North Carolina. This clinic is an overnight trip out of town from Friday through Sunday.
- **Concert Band MPA (Music Performance Adjudication):** This event is an adjudicated group evaluation and is normally held in March. Students are selected to participate in this event based on instrumentation needs, work ethic, playing test results, practice records, and conduct. This event is limited to 7th and 8th graders.

Band Store There is a small band store located in the band room where students may purchase basic supplies for their instruments. **The band store is open every morning from 8:20 – 8:40 am and every afternoon until the buses leave campus.** Students MAY NOT buy supplies during class. The following items are for sale in the band store:

clarinet reeds	flute cleaning rods	trumpet valve oil
bass clarinet reeds	saxophone cleaning cloths	horn rotor oil
alto saxophone reeds	clarinet thumb savers	trombone slide oil
NEW DEBIT CARDS	brass cleaning snake	brass tuning slide grease
page protectors	brass mouthpiece brush	cork grease
pencils		

Band Debit Cards

All Sun Valley Middle School band students may purchase basic supplies for their instrument in the band store using a BAND DEBIT CARD. The purpose of the debit card is to keep the exchange of cash and checks between teacher and student to a minimum. This card has a value of \$10 and never expires. Debit cards can be purchased with cash or check made payable to Sun Valley Middle School. Each time a student makes a purchase with the debit card, the total amount of the purchase will be removed from the card with a hole punch. Students are responsible for keeping up with their own debit card and lost or stolen cards will not be replaced for free.

Private Lessons Taking private lessons on a musical instrument is the BEST way to improve individual technique and performance skills. The one-on-one setting in a private lesson allows the student to benefit from the individual attention of a professional musician as opposed to a band director's attention that is often divided among as many as 60 students at one time. **A recent survey revealed that 80% of the students participating in the North Carolina All-State Middle School Honor Band studied privately.** Simply put, private lessons work.

At Sun Valley Middle School, we encourage parents to consider private lessons for their child. The current rate for private instruction is between \$25-30 per half hour lesson. A list of suggested instructors is posted on our website.

Statement of Responsibility

It is important that each rule and regulation be understood and followed by **EVERYONE** involved with Sun Valley bands in order to achieve our musical goals. Students, parents, administrators, and Ms. Craven are all responsible for the success of our band program.

Ms. Craven and the administrative staff at SVMS are responsible for creating and nurturing a rehearsal environment in which all students can grow musically. Band parents are responsible for reinforcing the expectations established in the band room, encouraging healthy practice habits at home, helping students obtain band supplies, having instruments repaired in a timely fashion, and arranging transportation to and from band events. Students are responsible for putting forth their full effort EVERY DAY to be in the right place, at the right time, with the right materials and a "can do" attitude as they strive to achieve musical goals. In the event that a student reveals that he or she is unable to follow through with the responsibilities detailed in this handbook, he or she will be removed from the band program permanently. The following are grounds for dismissal:

- 1) Extreme discipline problems
- 2) An unexcused absence from a performance
- 3) Failure to pass the cumulative written exam and/or playing exam at the end of each school year
- 4) Earning a failing grade in two or more grading periods

