

SPANISH FORT MIDDLE SCHOOL



BAND HANDBOOK

2018-2019

Dear Spanish Fort Band Students and Parents,

I am excited to welcome you to the 2018-2019 school year! I am looking forward to seeing all of the amazing work that we will accomplish throughout our time in band! We will continue to push forward to make Spanish Fort Middle one of the best band programs in the area! For this to happen, every student needs to do their best and be prepared to learn and play every single day.

This band handbook is VERY important in keeping our students and parents informed about procedures, important dates, as well as classroom information. Please make sure to look over the entire band handbook as it has new information for the entire year.

I know this will be a fantastic year!

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns!!

GO BAND!!



Welcome to the Spanish Fort Middle School Band Program!

Band begins in the sixth grade at SFMS where students begin to learn the fundamentals of their instruments as well as musical knowledge. Being a part of the band builds confidence, responsibility, leadership, self-discipline, and teamwork. Research has shown students in music achieve more success in school, as well as higher test scores than those who do not study music. Band has many rewarding opportunities not just here at SFMS, but in high school and college. Practice is imperative for success from beginner to the advanced student. Learning the fundamentals and routine practice lead to very successful band members.

Remember, band is fun! Playing an instrument can help you receive a scholarship for college and it can be a very rewarding experience! We will work hard here at SFMS to make sure every band student learns the fundamentals they need to be successful, along with having a great time!!

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

www.SpanishFortBand.com

FACEBOOK:

Facebook.com/SFMSBand

Instagram:

SFMSBand

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION
CAREFULLY! IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS PLEASE
ASK MS. HUGHES!**

Band Council

The Band Councils are made up of responsible, hard-working students. They are voted on by their peers during the first month of school. The days we will hold Council meetings will be announced during band; and will usually be held before school. It should be considered a privilege to be voted to become a member of the Band Council, but it does not come without its share of hard work. Council members are in a position of authority, and are therefore expected to be an upstanding example to the other band members at all times. If any Band Council member has a problem being a positive role model to the rest of the band, their position will be revoked at the discretion of Ms. Hughes.

Duties of Band Council Officers:

President: This person must assist the band director in checking for students' necessary materials, checking attendance, warming up the band (on occasion), and other duties as needed by the director.

Vice President: The VP is responsible for assisting the President and Librarian with their duties. VP will also assist with form and music handouts as well as helping with social media information.

Librarian: This person is responsible for maintaining the Music Library (copying music, filing music, passing out music) and other duties as needed by the director, President, and/or VP.

Secretary: This person takes minutes at our Band Council Meetings, updates the board information, assists in updating and adding content/reminders to social media as well as website and text maintenance. This person is also responsible for other duties assigned by the director or president

Historian: This person MUST own a camera (preferably not one on a phone) and be allowed to bring it to school during rehearsals and to concerts and contests. Also, this person will assist in posting pictures in the band room and online from band events throughout the year. The historian is also responsible for other duties assigned by director or President.

Equipment Managers: These people must demonstrate an extremely high level of dedication to the SFMS Band, because this position involves moving instruments and equipment before and after pep rallies, concerts, etc. This person must be able to always be ready to spring into action. Along with equipment needs, the equipment managers will assist others in setting up, getting larger horns out and in place, and keeping order and cleanliness in the instrument room.

Grading Criteria

Performances:

Participation by all students for Winter and Spring Concerts is MANDATORY. These performances are worth 300 Points, as well as EQT grades. Students who do not show up to these performances will receive a "0" out of 300 points, as well as a 0 for their EQT grade.

Participation by all Symphonic Band and Concert Band students is required at the home football game performances (Homecoming & Spring Football) as well as District and State Competition. Football game performances are worth 200 points and District/State competition is worth 300 points.

Students who do not show up to these events will receive a "0" for their grade. If in the event of an emergency and a student may not attend mandatory performances, please send in a note or contact Ms. Hughes prior to the event in order to get make up work. Each student that misses a performance AND has an excused absence will have to complete a make-up assignment in order to receive points. These events are fun, and a great way to show off what you have learned! So don't miss out!!

Band Grading Breakdown:

Class Rehearsal/Participation = 30% This includes having all of your materials each day, as well as ACTIVELY participating in rehearsal.

Practice Logs = 10% Due every FRIDAY either using the online form or turning a log at the beginning of class

Assessment = 60% This includes all playing/written tests as well as Concert/Contest Performances.

“One or the Other”

Concert & Symphonic Band students are required to audition for 1 out of the following 2 options:

1. County Honor Band Auditions
2. All State/District Band Auditions

These performances are also worth 300 points.

All students, ESPECIALLY Symphonic Band students are strongly encouraged to participate in both, although students are only **required** to participate in one. Make your decision early and mark your calendar!!

Practice Logs:

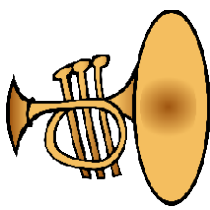
Practice logs are submitted on our website, spanishfortband.com. Students may also fill out their practice log on paper copy, from the bin in the Band Room. Practice logs are to be turned in every Friday. Beginning/Intermediate/Concert Band Students are required to practice a total of 100 minutes each week. Symphonic Band students are required to practice a total of 150 minutes per week. Each student will be held accountable for turning in their log each week. The log is worth 100 points a week and no late practice logs will be accepted!! If you practice more than 100/150 minutes in a given week, you may receive bonus points. If you are sick; or have an emergency in which you could not fulfill your 100/150 minutes, simply write “sick” or the issue for that day and turn the log in when you return. Practicing is imperative for a successful program!! I expect everyone to put the effort in to practice. Remember, slow consistent practice of music/fundamentals that DON'T sound good is what will make us improve and pay off much more than fast practice on material we already know. Always work for quality practice at times where you can be free of interruption and focused. Results may come slowly, but they will be much more rewarding!

Playing/Written Tests:

Students will have playing tests and written tests throughout the year to assess their theory knowledge and facility on their instrument. These tests are worth 100 points.

Participation Checks:

Participation checks are unannounced checks for a student's instrument, binder, band book and pencil. These are worth 100 points.



Discipline Policy:

In order to be productive and have a successful year, students must be willing to work hard and behave properly at all times. Our discipline policy is a three-strike system:

- Strike 1 – Verbal warning
- Strike 2 – Write lines/discipline essay with parent signature.
- Strike 3 – You're Out – Office Referral/Parent Contact & the student loses his/her chair placement

When a student receives lines/discipline essay twice in one quarter, the student's parents will be contacted and the student will lose their chair placement until the next playing test.

When a student receives lines/discipline essay three times in one quarter, they will be moved down one chair until the next playing test and may receive an office referral. Discipline essays and lines are to be hand written by the student, signed by the parent/guardian and returned the **very next day**.
Failure to return the work will result in a parent phone call.

Students who come to class unprepared will receive discipline essay/lines.

Band Class Requirements:

Students are responsible for bringing the following items EVERYDAY:

Woodwind supplies needed at every class:

- 2 reeds at all times (clarinet & sax) size 2 ½ for Beginning Band 3-3 ½ for Concert/Symphonic
- Band Book (Standards of Excellence)
- Band Binder
- Pencil
- Mouthpiece, ligature
- Instrument

Brass supplies needed at every class:

- Mouthpiece
- Valve/slide oil or grease
- Band Book (Standards of Excellence)
- Band Binder
- Pencil
- Instrument

Percussion supplies needed at every class:

- 1 pair of 5A sticks
- 1 pair of rubber mallets
- 1 stick bag
- Band Book (Standards of Excellence)
- Band Binder
- Pencil

(Drummers **MUST** have a stick bag. You cannot carry sticks around school without one and I will not keep track of sticks that have been taken away from other teachers.)

Instrument Safety:

ALL STUDENTS SHOULD WRITE THEIR NAMES OR INITIALS ON THE OUTSIDE OF THEIR CASES, BOOKS, AND SUPPLIES (VALVE OIL, REED CASE, STICKS, ETC.) Be sure to either use permanent marker, or a luggage tag. Quite often students will have the same types of instruments, and accidentally take someone else's horn to practice. Try to make sure no one can mistake your horn for theirs!

Students ARE NOT ALLOWED to touch instruments that do not belong to them. If you accidentally drop another students instrument, your parents will not be very happy having to pay for the instrument repair. If you are caught playing another students instrument, you will receive an office referral.

Band Fees:

SFMS fees are due in 2 payments per year. One payment at the beginning of the school year, and one in January. The band fees are as follows:

- Beginning Band: \$120
- Intermediate Band/Concert Band: \$155
- Concert/Symphonic Band: \$215

This two time a year fee will cover the students' t-shirt, folder, method book, scale book, busses for field trips, charter busses, entry fees for Contest, Solo and Ensemble, medals, trophies, and music.

Band Instrument Rental:

Here at SFMS we have a **few** instruments to loan out to students. These include very expensive instruments such as tubas, baritone, French horn, bassoon, etc. Students who are loaned an instrument through the school are required to pay a \$50 instrument rental fee per year to help pay for supplies. A contract will be handed out to each student using a school owned instrument for the student and parent to complete with information about the horn including the condition of the instrument. Students who are not using an instrument from SFMS must obtain an instrument for rent through our music supplier, Art's Music. Art's will come to SFMS for students and parents to get instruments and supplies on WEDNESDAY, August 15th, from 3 -5pm.

Additional Costs:

Additional costs not included in our fees: Purchase/rental of instrument, instrument accessories and reeds, concert attire, lunch costs on field trips.

Beginning Band Information:

Beginning Band students will need their instruments no later than August 27th. Students will be trying out instruments and making decisions on what instrument they will play and fits them best during our instrument drive on WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15th from 3 - 5pm. Beginning Band will have two concerts this year, Winter and Spring. The concert attire for Beginning Band is khaki pants and their band t-shirt. This is also the attire for field trips. **Once students are scheduled into Beginning Band, they are required to finish that year in the class. Schedule changes will not be permitted. In order for our band to continue to perform at the appropriate level, we need all players throughout the year. Schedule changes would harm the band program due to instrumentation issues.**

Intermediate Band Information:

Intermediate Band students will have two concerts a year Winter and Spring. Attendance is MANDATORY at these performances and we need everyone present to be successful! If students need to obtain an instrument, we will be having our instrument drive WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15th from 3 – 5 pm.

Once students are scheduled into Intermediate Band, they are required to finish that year in the class. Schedule changes will not be permitted. In order for our band to continue to perform at the appropriate level, we need all players throughout the year. Schedule changes would harm the band program due to instrumentation issues.

Symphonic/Concert Band Information:

Symphonic/Concert Band students will have two concerts a year Winter and Spring, along with District Festival, State Competition, some football games, and performances in the community. Attendance is mandatory at these performances and we need everyone present to be successful! If students need to obtain an instrument, we will be having our instrument drive WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15th from 3 – 5 pm.

Once students are scheduled into Symphonic Band/Concert Band, they are required to finish that year in the class. Schedule changes will not be permitted. In order for our band to continue to perform at the appropriate level, we need all players throughout the year. Schedule changes would harm the band program due to instrumentation issues.

Listed below is the concert attire for Symphonic and Concert Bands:

Please have the uniform in time for the first concert.

The girls' uniform is:

- Black Skirt (knee length), or pants
- White Dress Shirt, or Blouse
- Black Dress Shoes
- Neutral Hose or Black Socks

The boys' uniform is:

- Black Dress Pants
- White Long Sleeve Dress Shirt
- Black Dress Shoes
- Black Socks

Class Procedures:

1. As soon as each student enters the band room (quietly and orderly), they are to put their book bag on the hook wall, get out their instrument and supplies, and go straight to their seat. Students have 2 minutes after the bell to be ready to play and no time for socializing. Please do not block walkways, doors, or other students' cubbies.
2. Students must be in their seats by the time the tardy bell rings or they will be marked tardy in iNow.
3. As soon as each student gets to their seat, make sure to look at the agenda for the day to organize your materials for class. Please make sure you ALWAYS have your pencil.
4. As soon as Ms. Hughes steps up to her stand, all warming up is to stop, and students are to be quiet in order to begin the lesson. Please DO NOT PLAY OR TALK OUT OF TURN
5. Director on stool/at stand = Rest Position
6. Students may not get up during class to get water. Students may bring their own water in a sealable container.
7. After class please clean up around your chair, picking up any trash, reed wrappers, paper, etc. Please make sure your chair is in the correct place and wait to be released.

Concert and Field Trip Etiquette:

During performances and field trips, students are to understand that they are a representative of the SFMS Band Program. All school rules and policies regarding behavior are still in effect during these times. Tardiness before performances or field trips punishes the whole ensemble! Students will always be notified in advance of activities. Tardiness will have a negative result in grades. Please remember you are required to have all of your music, supplies and instrument ready to play at performances and field trip.

I look forward to working with all of you this year with SFMS Band! I know we will work together to have a successful and rewarding year!! Go Band!! Go Toros!!

Sincerely,
Natalie Hughes

As _____ (Students Name) parent in the Spanish Fort Middle School Band program and the BCBE music program. I understand that participation in any parade can be a dangerous activity involving MANY RISKS TO INJURY. I understand that the dangers and risks of participating in parades also includes the potentially high cost of health care. Recognizing the risks, I consent to the participation of my/our son/daughter in the parades offered by BCBE. I also agree to comply with all rules, regulations, and recommendations of administrators, coaches, athletic trainers, and doctors concerning injury prevention and care. I, hereby grant consent to any and all health care providers designated by BALDWIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION to provide my child any necessary medical care as a result of injury/illness. I consent to the participation in the following sport(s):

Spanish Fort Middle School Band

Band Handbook Contract 2018-2019

I, _____, have read and

Understand all of the information presented in my band handbook.

_____ (student signature) _____ (date)

_____ (parent signature) _____ (date)

Detach, sign, and return **this page only.**

It is due back to Ms. Hughes at the end of the first week of school.

THIS WILL COUNT AS THE FIRST GRADE FOR THE 1ST 9 WEEKS!
(Easy 100pts.)

This is going to be a fun and exciting year!!

Ms. Hughes