

The St. Timothy School

OFFICIAL  
BAND  
HANDBOOK

2008 - 2009

Band Director

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Dear Band Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the St. Timothy Band Program!! I would like to welcome back all returning members and extend a warm welcome to all of our new students! I am sure that this will be a successful and rewarding school year for all of us as we work and grow together.

Our band program strives to expand students' learning experiences and develop many mental and physical skills which can be applied to other areas- all while we have FUN! Participation in band provides students with the opportunity to discover his/her talent in music and develop this talent to a high level of achievement. It is my hope that each student takes advantage of this great opportunity to learn and grow this year!

The purpose of this handbook is to introduce band students and parents/guardians to the band program at St. Timothy School. The handbook outlines the policies of the group that are necessary for a successful program. There is also information for students about the many opportunities that the instrumental program has to offer to share and improve their skills.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments. To make sure that everyone has read and understands the policies contained in this handbook, I ask that both the student and parent/guardian sign the slip at the bottom of this page.

I look forward to making music with my students and working with the parents/guardians this year!

Sincerely,

Laura M. Scheidt  
Director of Bands

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(Please sign, detach, and return this slip by September \_\_)

I have received and read the information about the St. Timothy School Band Program and agree to adhere to the policies outlined.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Email-Address \_\_\_\_\_

# IMPORTANT DATES

Band Day: Thursdays

After-School Rehearsals: Thursdays 3:15pm - 4:00pm

First Day of In-School Band Classes

September 11th

First Day of After-School Advanced Band

September 18th

Winter Concert

December 18<sup>th</sup>  
7:00pm

Advanced Band Diocesan Festival

March 28<sup>th</sup>, TBA

Spring Concerts

May 21<sup>st</sup>  
2:00pm  
7:00pm

# STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- We are ready with a pencil (no pens!), our instrument, and our folder/book 2 minutes after the official class time.
- We respect ourselves and each other. This includes, but is not limited to, using respectful language.
- We raise our hands, speak one at a time, and listen to each other.
- We respect all instruments and only play our own.
- We do not ingest anything other than water in the Band Room.
- We sit with proper performance posture at all times.
- We clean up after ourselves.
- We do not leave the room unless given permission.
- We attend all rehearsals, sectionals (before and after school rehearsals included), and performances.
- We complete our assignments on time and complete the required amount of weekly practice time.
- We always strive for creativity and beautiful music making!

# THE GRADING SYSTEM

The main focus of the Band Program is to provide students with the opportunity to succeed. With this in mind, the following grading system will be used to evaluate each student's effort as well as his/her achievement.

Instrumental Music Achievement Reports will be passed out 3 times throughout the school year. They must be signed and returned or a confirmation email may be sent by the parent/guardian.

Students will be observed and evaluated throughout the year in the following areas:

## MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENT:

- Tone - The quality of sound produced by his/her instrument. Determined by playing quizzes and observation in class.
- Skill Development- Improvement in comfort level and proficiency with the instrument. Determined by the quality (# of minutes) and quantity of his/her practice chart records as well as observation in class.
- Music Reading- Ability to translate music from the page to play correct pitches and rhythms on the instrument. Determined by observation in class and playing quizzes.
- Musical Knowledge- Comprehension of music terms and styles. Determined by written work and quizzes as well as observation in class.
- Posture & Position- Consistent demonstration of correct body position to aide in producing the best sound possible . Determined by observation in class.
- Instrument Care & Maintenance - Caring for the instrument as if it was an infant! Keeping it clean and safe! Determined by periodic case checks and observation in class.

## WORK CHARACTERISTICS:

- Responsibility- Attending class on time. Determined by tardy records.
- Preparation- Attending class prepared. Determined by material checks each week.
- Initiative- Demonstration of independent work at home and leadership. Determined by practice chart records and observation in class.
- Listens to and Follows Directions- Respecting the teacher's instruction and putting forth effort. Determined by observation in class.

## PRACTICE CHARTS:

**BEGINNING:** Students are required to practice for a **MINIMUM** of 70 minutes per week.

**ADVANCED:** Students are required to practice a **MINIMUM** of 105 minutes per week.

Students receive a practice chart every week that must be filled out, signed by the parent/guardian, and turned in.

- In-school band rehearsals do **NOT** count towards weekly practice times.
- If a student is out of school because of illness write “sick” on those days, and they will be counted as full days of practice (10 min for beg., 15 min for adv.)
- Students may earn extra credit for every 30 minutes past the required amount of practice time.

## QUIZZES:

Students will take a few playing as well as written quizzes. All quizzes will be announced in advance. These quizzes will be on a variety of topics: basic music theory, rhythm studies, method book assignments, band music checks, etc. If a student has an excused absence on the day of a quiz he or she may make up the quiz but it is his/her responsibility to contact Ms. Scheidt to make up the grade.

## A NOTE ABOUT CLASSWORK:

Due to the nature of the program students will miss 30 minutes of classroom instruction on a rotating weekly schedule. The schedule rotates to prevent students from missing the same class repeatedly each week. However, it is the responsibility of the student to receive and make-up the classwork he/she missed during the 30 minute band lesson.

# ATTENDANCE POLICY

The first step to learning is being in class!! All band members are expected to arrive in the music room at the time on the band schedule.



**If a student is late 3 Times, he/she will receive 1 Demerit**

**If a student has a 2<sup>nd</sup> unexcused absence, he/she will receive 1 Demerit**

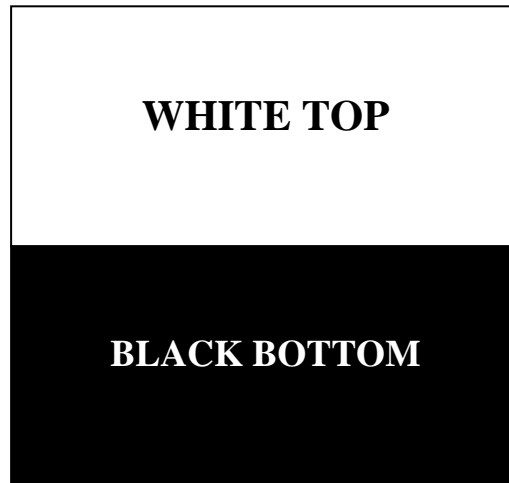
Each student is entitled to ONE “Oops! I forgot!” absence excuse. It is understood that certain circumstances may prevent a student from being in class. These absences are excused as long as the student speaks with Ms. Scheidt ON THAT DAY. If Ms. Scheidt does not hear from that student, he or she will be marked for an unexcused absence.

## PERFORMANCE PARTICIPATION:

Performance is one of the most important aspects of participating in a band program. Therefore, it is **MANDATORY** that all students participate in scheduled performances. A student’s absence from a performance can severely impact the performance, and the morale of the whole group.

A written excuse from the parent/guardian must be received by Ms. Scheidt at least **two weeks** prior to the concert date, unless there is sudden illness. In this case, a note, voicemail, or e-mail must be sent.

# PERFORMANCE ATTIRE



- **Black Dress Shoes & Black Socks**
- **Boys Shirts Must Have A Collar**
- **Skirts No Shorter Than The Knee**
- **No Jeans**
- **No Ties**

# BAND FESTIVAL

**Saturday**

March 28<sup>th</sup>

Bishop Ireton High School

Alexandria, VA

Band Festival is an event where all the bands in the Diocese perform for a panel of judges and are given a non-competitive rating.

Full ADVANCED BAND student attendance is vital to the success of the program

You will receive more information in a take-home flyer.

# ESSENTIALS FOR SUCCESS IN BAND

## **All Students:**

- Wire music stand
- Essential Elements 2000 Book 1
- Metronome (Can be bought at any music store)
- Pencil

## **Clarinets:**

- 4 good reeds (not chipped/cracked) **at all times**. Mitchell Lurie Reeds (size 2 for beginners, NOT Van Doren size 2) recommended.
- Cork grease
- Mouthpiece cap
- Mouthpiece “saver” – rubber on top of mouthpiece to protect teeth and equipment
- Recommended items: silk swab, Pyne poly-crystal mouthpiece, reed guard, thumb rest pad

## **Flute**

- Cleaning rod w/swab
- Recommended items: thumb rest, polishing cloth

## **Saxophones**

- 4 good reeds (not chipped/cracked) **at all times**. Rico (size 2 for beginners) recommended.
- Cork grease
- Neck strap
- Mouthpiece cap
- Mouthpiece “saver” (rubber that is placed on top of mouthpiece to protect teeth and equipment)
- Recommended items: silk swab, Selmer C\* mouthpiece, reed guard

## **Trumpet/Trombone**

- Cleaning kit specific to the instrument. Trombones must have a cleaning “snake.”
- Trumpet: valve oil
- Trombone: slide grease/oil
- Recommended- polishing cloth

## **Percussion**

- Pair of matching 2B snare drum sticks (Beginner, 5A Sticks)
- Practice Pad
- Snare Drum/Bell Kit Percussion Set