

NAME _____ INSTRUMENT _____ GRADE _____

The STEM Academy Band Handbook



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Dear STEM Academy Band Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year here at The STEM Academy! My name is Mathew Graham, and I am the Band director here at STEM. I have formulated this Band handbook to present to the student and parents the requirements, procedures, and expectations for our Band program this year. My ultimate goal is to help each student develop the skills, attitudes, and ideals necessary to reach his or her fullest potential.

The process of understanding and performing music incorporates many other subject areas. Foreign language, math, physics, English, history, science, and sociology are a few of the subjects that have an interactive relationship with music. This relationship enhances the student's learning experience in those subjects as well as developing an understanding of music for a more enriched and encompassing musical performance.

To be most effective we must work as a team: parents, student, administration, and teacher. We ask our Band parents to take an active role in their child's learning process by giving support and guidance. This support establishes the foundation to build a positive, worthwhile, and successful Band program.

I look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Mathew Graham

Band Director

Band Expectations

Come prepared everyday: Each member of the Band will come to class prepared with his/her instrument in good playing condition, have supplies (reeds, cork grease, valve oil, slide oil, sticks, mallets, etc.), and prepared assignments.

Raise your hand to speak: Each member of the band is expected to actively listen when the director or anyone else is talking or playing. Do not talk while the director is on the podium. When the director is off the podium working with an individual or group, you may talk softly with the person next to you if you find the need to discuss something related to the music you are working on.

Play ONLY when directed to: If the director is working with another section, you may practice fingerings and/or “tizzle” your music.

Respect yourself and others: Each member of the band will show respect for himself/herself and others. This applies not only to the person, but to his/her instrument and equipment as well.

Follow all directions and procedures: Each member of the band will have a knowledge and understanding of the rehearsal procedures. These procedures are to be followed during rehearsal times without comment or argument from each member of the ensemble. It is to be understood that these rules are in place for the benefit of the entire group.

- Do not fold or tear music
- Never use pen to write on music (use a pencil)
- Take your music home for practice but return it to Band for rehearsal
- Properly store your music in sheet protectors



Weekly Standards Grades

Students are expected to consistently bring their instrument and materials to class, rehearsals, and performances. A 10-point weekly standards grade is earned and will be input on a weekly basis for a 100 point total. In order to earn full credit, students must bring their instrument, music, and all other materials needed, practice the skills learned based off of the Georgia Performance Standards for Band, and actively participate in class.

Every student is expected to have their instrument, band binder, pencil, and method book(s). In addition, the following is needed for each specific instrument:

Flute: Cleaning kit.

Oboe/Bassoon: 3 good reeds, small bottle to soak reeds, cleaning kit, cork grease

Clarinet: Ligature, 3 good reeds numbered 1-3, cleaning kit and cork grease.

Saxophone: Neck strap, ligature, 3 good reeds numbered 1-3, cleaning kit and cork grease.

Brass: Mouthpiece, cleaning kit (valve oil, slide grease, and small spray bottle (trombones).

Percussion: Required mallets, sticks and stick bag.

In order to receive full credit students will:

- a) Show up on time
- b) Adhere to all classroom procedures
- c) Be prepared for class with the correct equipment
- d) Have practiced assigned exercises/be working on our performance standards
- e) Display a positive attitude and be respectful to the director and classmates

Technology

The SCCPSS Student Code of Conduct JCDAF-R(1) states that “students may be permitted to use their personal electronic devices for instructional purposes and to access the District provided network/internet. Students must follow all directions given by school personnel in regards to using personal devices.” While we will use technology during some lessons, unless instructed otherwise students should have phones and iPads off and away during class. Students will not be permitted to leave their phone on their stand or be using it during class. During the first offense the students will be issued a warning, and every time after that students will receive a ticket. Per the Student Code of Conduct, school staff may confiscate personal devices.

Tardy Policy

The STEM Academy Class Tardy Policy is included below and will be used in the band room.

1st tardy- verbal warning

2nd tardy- parent contact

3rd tardy- yellow ticket and parent contact

4th tardy- orange ticket and parent contact

5th tardy- red ticket, parent conference, teacher assigned detention

6th tardy- referral



Performances

Performances serve as authentic assessments of your mastery and serve as a forum in which to apply the musical skills you have developed through band. In order to receive full credit, students are expected to attend all performances, arrive on time, wear the appropriate attire, and participate fully in the performance to the best of their ability.

Please see the included Band Calendar for the dates and times of performances. Each member of the band is expected to attend all performances. The calendar will also be posted on our website. Out of respect for your fellow band members, any conflicts with the calendar must be brought to the attention of Mr. Graham ***in writing*** as soon as possible. Our calendar is published early to help minimize conflicts, therefore conflicts brought to Mr. Graham less than two weeks prior to the event will not be excused except in emergency situations.

Playing Tests

There will be numerous playing tests each 9 weeks. Most tests will be announced in advance. Material that will be included for playing tests will include scales, exercises, and excerpts from current music. Students may also be asked to record their test on their iPad, and turn it in via Google Classroom. All announced playing tests will be posted on Google Classroom.

Instrument Storage Procedures

In order to achieve a measure of security for instruments during the times when they must be stored at school or during trips, the following procedures will be followed by the director and the student:

1. Students will clearly label their instrument with their name, address and school. (Name tags can be acquired from Mr. Graham)
2. Any personal property (clothes, phones, iPads, etc.) left in the classroom, on the bus, or any public space are left at the discretion of the student.
3. The director, bus drivers or the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System are not responsible for any lost, damaged or stolen items (including instruments).
4. Students will report any theft or damage to the director as soon as it is discovered.
5. Parents may wish to purchase insurance to cover theft/damage to instruments.
6. Mr. Graham will never require that instruments be left at school overnight. Instruments will only be safely secured during the day. It is the expectation that students will not leave their instruments overnight.

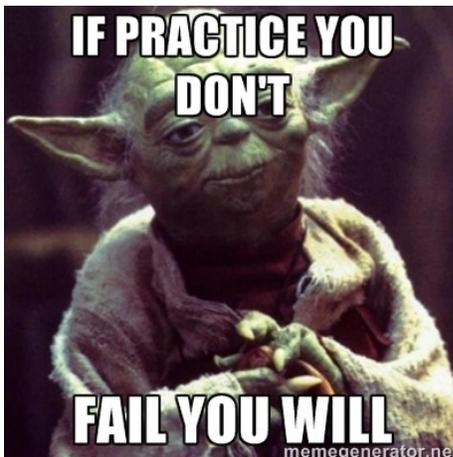


HOW TO PRACTICE

Instrumental practice at home is essential and expected as daily homework in Band. I recommend practicing a minimum of 20 minutes day 5 days a week. With a properly organized and followed practice procedure, improvement and musical development will be maximized.

Practice Strategies

- **Slo-Mo!** = Play each section as slow as you can and make sure every note is perfect. Speed it up once you can play it well.
- **Chunks** = Split the song into small chunks and fix each chunk individually. Gradually put them back together.
- **Write it in!** = Use your pencil to write in a note or marking you keep missing (don't write them all in!)
- **3rd Time's a Charm** = Play each measure/section/song perfectly 3 times before moving on (restart each time you make a mistake)
- **Fingers/Notes** = Do the fingerings and say the notes WITHOUT playing.
- **Tongue & Fingers** = Say the tonguing and do the fingerings WITHOUT playing.
- **Sing it!** = Sing your part without your instrument.
- **Karaoke** = Play along with audio tracks.
- **Forget about it!** = Go back to a song you can play really well, and then come back to the one you're having trouble with.



Performance Attire

Students are expected to look their best at all performances. The first impression you will make with the audience will be **what you are wearing and how you look**. There will be two types of attire for performances. Order forms will be sent home with students in September.

Informal

STEM Academy Band T-shirt tucked in, tennis shoes, belt and khakis

Formal

Black slacks/skirt, black belt, black band polo tucked in, black shoes (no open toe) and black socks/hosiery. NO jeans, shorts or short skirts are allowed. Skirts should follow school dress code and students can wear leggings under dress code appropriate skirts, but not alone. Female students should wear shoes with a low heel, no stilettos will be permitted. No brightly colored or oversized jewelry will be allowed with the formal band uniform.



STEM Band 2019-2020

Required Materials

All Students Need:

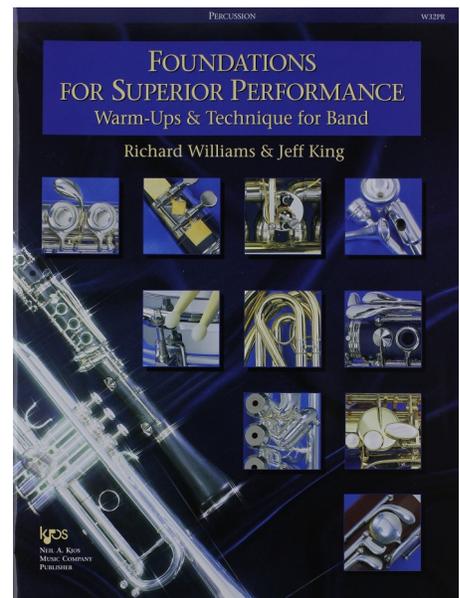
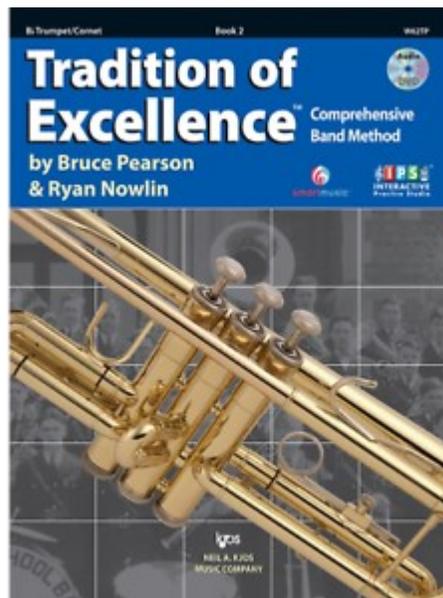
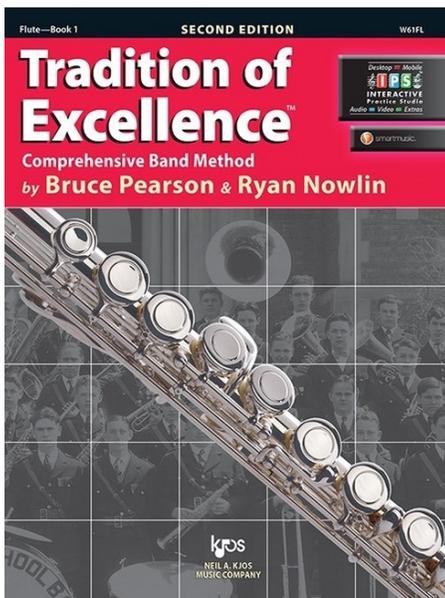
- A 1 inch binder
- A minimum of 10 sheet protectors
- Pencils
- Method Book(s) for grade level listed below
- Instrument in good working condition
- Instrument accessories as needed (i.e. reeds, valve oil, sticks)

Method Books Per Grade Level

- **6th Grade**
 - Traditions of Excellence Book 1 by Bruce Pearson and Ryan Nowlin
- **7th Grade and 8th Grade**
 - Traditions of Excellence Book 2 by Bruce Pearson and Ryan Nowlin
 - Foundations for Superior Performance by Richard Williams and Jeff King

Books can be purchased at any local music store or online. If possible, please also consider donating tissues, hand sanitizer, pencils, or disinfecting wipes. Any donations are much appreciated!

Please have all materials by Monday, August 12th for all but beginning Band!



CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF YOUR INSTRUMENT

FOR ALL WIND INSTRUMENTS:

- ___ 1) Know how to assemble your instrument *properly*. Remember, only you should assemble and play your instrument.
- 2) Your mouth should be free of food or gum before blowing your instrument.
- 3) Clean the moisture out of your instrument after, and sometimes during, every practice or performance. Wipe off the outside of your instrument after each use as well.
- 4) Have the outside of your case labeled with your name (percussion also). Keep your instrument case clear of worn reeds and/or trash.
- 5) Store your instrument in the case. Do not leave your instrument in an unsafe position during practice time, at home or school.

FLUTE

- ___ 1) Have in your case a tuning/cleaning rod and a soft cloth.
- 2) Show how to tune your flute. (do not damage the cork)
- 3) Clean sticky pads with thin paper.

OBOE

- ___ 1) Have in your case a swab or feather, a soft cloth, cork grease, and 2 good reeds in cases.
- 2) Use cork grease to protect corks.
- 3) Soak cane reeds before using and store reeds properly.
caution: Do not tighten adjustment screws.

CLARINET

- ___ 1) Have in your case a swab, a soft cloth, cork grease, 4 good reeds, and a mouthpiece cover.
- 2) Use cork grease to protect corks.
- 3) Store your reeds properly.
- 4) Clean the mouthpiece weekly and use the mouthpiece cap to protect your reed.

SAXOPHONE

- ___ 1) Have in your case a neck strap, cork grease, swab, a soft cloth, 4 good reeds, and a mouthpiece cap.
- 2) Use cork grease to protect corks.
- 3) Store reeds properly.
- 4) Clean the mouthpiece weekly and use the mouthpiece cap to protect your reed.
caution: Handle your instrument by the bell so you will not bend the rods or keys. Handle the neck so as not to bend the register key.

* *I recommend reed guards for all reed players to protect and prolong the playing life of your reeds.*

* *Shove-its/pad savers are an alternative to swabs.*

TRUMPET, BARITONE, and TUBA

- 1) Have in your case a soft cloth and valve oil.
- 2) Bathe mouthpiece and horn monthly and lubricate valves with oil as needed. Keep slides free-moving.

HORN

- ___ 1) Have in your case a soft cloth and rotary valve oil.
- 2) Keep your mouthpiece clean. Clean the lead pipe monthly. (Remove main tuning slide and run water through the lead pipe. A "snake" cleans it well.
- 3) Grease slides with lanolin or vaseline and use rotary valve oil in the valves to keep parts free moving.

TROMBONE

- ___ 1) Have in your case slide oil or slide cream and a water spray bottle.
- 2) Bathe horn and mouthpiece monthly and keep tuning slide and main slide lubricated and free moving.

Brass Players ~ If your mouthpiece becomes stuck, do not attempt to remove it with force. See your director or an instrument repairman.

SNARE DRUM

- ___ 1) Have a labeled stick bag with xylophone and marimba mallets and snare drum sticks. (Have a practice pad or drum at home to play on.)
- 2) Wipe off drum with a soft cloth weekly.

The STEM Academy Band Calendar 2019-2020

August

Fri 9th

Band Handbook Form Due

September

Fri ____

All State/District Band Registration Due

December

Sat ____

District Honor Band Auditions
Winter Concert @ 6 PM

February

TBD

District Honor Band Event

TBD

Pre-Festival Concert

March

TBD

Large Group Performance Evaluation

April

TBD

SCCPSS Honor Band

TBD

Solo and Ensemble Festival

May

Fri TBD

District Clinic Band

Spring Concert @ 6 PM

Last Day of School for Students

**DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK EMAIL
REGULARLY FOR UPDATES!**



Stay Connected with Band @ STEM!

Email: Emails will be sent out regularly for reminders. I can be reached at mathew.graham@sccps.com

Google Form: Please fill out this form in order for me to have your most updated email for email blasts. <https://goo.gl/forms/ottdnhYHl2jBND1L2>

Google Classroom and Remind Codes: Assignments and reminders will be posted on this forum.

8th Grade Band

Google Classroom: f2m1bcc

Remind Code: Text @stemband8 to 81010

7th Grade Band (3rd Block)

Google Classroom: v13j8c

Remind Code: Text @stemband3 to 81010

7th Grade Band (4th Block)

Google Classroom: wxl073e

Remind Code: Text @stemband4 to 81010

6th Grade Intermediate Band

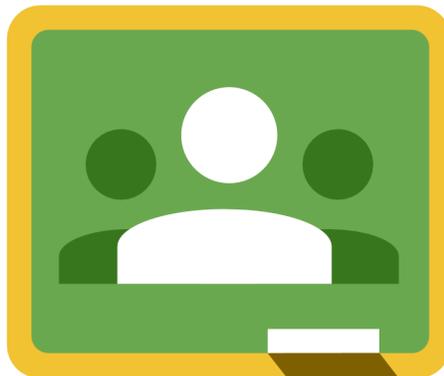
Google Classroom: p2uln3

Remind Code: Text @stem6ib to 81010

6th Grade Beginning Band

Google Classroom: c2ceqfc

Remind Code: Text @stem6bb to 81010



RETURN THIS PAGE TO MR. GRAHAM BY FRIDAY, August 9, 2019 for a homework grade.

I have read and understand the information contained in The STEM Academy Band Handbook. I agree to abide by the expectations and regulations set forth in this handbook.

Student Name

Grade

Student Signature

Instrument

Parent/ Guardian Name(s)

Date

Parent Signature

Parent's Email Address
Will be used for email updates!

