



*2021-2022 SMS Band  
Handbook*

## **Administration Approval**

I, James Talton, the principal of Springville Middle School, have read and approve of this program handbook in its entirety. I fully support Mr. Saxon's vision and intentions for the Springville Middle School Band program.

Mr. James Talton

Principal, Springville Middle School

I, Aaron Cox, the vice-principal of Springville Middle School, have read and approve of this program handbook in its entirety. I fully support Mr. Saxon's vision and intentions for the Springville Middle School Band program.

Mr. Aaron Cox

Vice-Principal, Springville Middle School

## Classroom Rules

Make responsible choices.

Use equipment properly.

Show respect.

Involve yourself.

Care for each other and yourself.

## Classroom Expectations

1. Always come to class prepared.
2. Always give your best effort.
3. You get in what you put out.
4. Always come with a great attitude.
5. Have fun!

# Classroom Policies

## Responsibility Log

The Responsibility Log is a documented journal that students must sign for behavioral issues, bringing gum or eating without permission in the band room, or forgetting necessary items.

Every student is expected to come to class every day with all of their materials needed for class. That includes, but is not limited to, the following list:

- Instrument, pencils, binder, band book, music, index cards, rhythm charts.

If a student forgets an item that is needed for class, they must sign the Band Classroom Responsibility Log. This log is a progressive procedure and resets every 9 weeks. It is defined as follows:

1. First signing – no harm, no foul
2. Second signing – student has a conversation with the band director.
3. Third signing – student is issued a demerit and an email is sent home to parents.
4. Fourth Signing – conference with parents is held.

## Attendance

All students are expected to attend every rehearsal and every performance as defined by Mr. Saxon. It is the duty of Mr. Saxon to inform parents and students of rehearsals and performances ahead of time.

# Grading Policy

Each student's grade is a total of the following breakdown:

1. Fall & Spring Concerts – Gold Grade (60%)
2. Playing Assignments through Smartmusic – Silver Grade (30%)
3. 9-week participation – Silver Grade (30%)
4. Equipment checks – Bronze Grade (10%)

## Concerts

Every Fall and Spring, all Middle School Bands hold a concert to showcase that semester's work and growth. These concerts are a wonderful opportunity for the students to showcase their abilities. All students are required to attend these concerts.

## Smart Music Assignments

Smart Music assignments are playing assignments completed on the student's laptop or tablet. They will be issued at the beginning of every week and due at the end of every week. The student will receive a rounded grade of 100, 90, 80, or 70 for each submitted assignment, based on the quality of the student's playing. The director will always round up for every student. For example, if Smart Music's grade for the student was a 73, the student will receive an 80.

If a student does not submit an assignment, they will receive an automatic 50.

## 9-Week Participation

Every 9 weeks, each student begins the 9-weeks with a 100. Each time a student has to sign the Responsibility Log for misbehavior, not participating, or forgetting an item they need for class, 5 points will be removed. If the student does not have to sign the Log and participates with a great attitude, they will receive a free 100.

## Equipment Checks

At random times throughout the 9-weeks and semesters, Mr. Saxon will conduct random equipment checks and check for music, all rhythm charts, pencils, cleaning kits, instruments, etc. to ensure every student is coming to class prepared. If a student has something missing, they will receive a zero for that check.

## Concert Uniforms

### Men - termed “Concert Black”

Black dress slacks, black button up shirt with black undershirt, black socks, black dress shoes.

### Women - termed “concert black”

Black dress slacks or black dress that passes beyond the knee with a black shirt or blouse. Black leggings are acceptable only underneath a dress that passes below the knee. Black shoes. Hair bows, ties, etc. must all be black in color. Minimal jewelry.

## *A Note from Mr. Saxon*

The goal of the SMS Band is for your student to enjoy a new experience called music. One where they can have a tremendous amount of fun with their friends while learning at the same time. Music is meant to be experienced, not endured. My goal is for your student to look forward to class and have excitement when they enter.

With that said, being a part of this band also carries the expectation that students must consistently practice. The student’s experience in class is directly tied to how much time & effort they put forth into their instrument. There is a saying that goes something like: “If you practice, you get better. If you get better, you experience success. If you experience success, you have fun. If you have fun, you want to practice. If you practice, you get better....” and so on.

I can’t wait to see your child experience success and have fun!