

2017-2018 St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School Band Handbook



Welcome to St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School Band Program,

I am excited that your child has chosen to be part of our band program. With hard work and dedication, band can be an extremely rewarding experience. It is my hope that students can develop an appreciation for music while at the same time, gain a sense of pride and accomplishment through music performance.

This document is an outline of our goals and general class expectations as well as a roadmap for each student's musical experience and success. I look forward to a successful fun-filled year.

Sincerely,
Phil Rizzi
rizzi@stmm.net

Band Instrumentation

Our school band instrumentation includes: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone Horn, Tuba and Percussion. As students progress through each school year, they may be invited to move to alternative instruments in order to expand the ensemble. For example, Clarinet moving to Bass Clarinet or Alto Saxophone moving to Tenor or Baritone Saxophone. Other typical transitions include Trombone to Baritone Horn or Tuba.

Percussion students are expected play a variety instruments such as Snare Drum, Bells, Xylophone and Bass Drum. If a student plays drum set outside of school, he or she is making a commitment to learn different percussion instruments within a school band instrumentation (Bells, Xylophone, Cymbals, Snare Drum etc.).

Becoming a New Band Member

Any student that wishes to join band either as a new student to St. MM or after the school year has started, must take private instruction. This is to help insure one learns the basic techniques associated with assembling the instrument, breathing, producing a quality tone as well as reading music notation.

A student assessment may be required to better meet the needs of potential members. Students must consult Mr. Rizzi on their instrument preference. The needs of the group may determine which instruments are best selected by the student.

Commitment

Band is a full year commitment and members are not encouraged to drop out of band once the school year has started. Should a student drop band, they will not be permitted to re-enter the band program. Students and parents are encouraged to make an informed decision when contemplating a curriculum change.

Concerts and Performances

Throughout the year the band participates in various performances. Band performances include 3-4 masses, Winter and Spring concerts, and the Eighth Grade Graduation Ceremony. Additional performances include but may not be limited to the annual Trinity Band Festival.

As a performing group we have the highest expectations for our performances and appearance. Students must dress appropriately.

Concert Dress

Girls - Black pants or skirt, white shirt or blouse

Boys - Black pants, white dress shirt with a tie

No sneakers, Crocs, or flip flops please. Students are not to bring cell phones or other electronic devices.

Concert Attendance

Concert attendance is mandatory. Each student plays an important role in the ensemble and it is imperative to the band's overall success that all members participate in performances.

An excusable concert absence may include: medical/family emergency or illness. If a student is in school he/she is expected to be in attendance for the concert.

Any excusable absence from a concert should be accompanied with a note from a parent/guardian. Conflicts will be addressed on an individual basis.

Inexcusable absences include: scheduled sports conflict or other out of school event.

Any instrument repairs should be addressed ahead of time as not to impact one's ability to perform. A student's grade may move down by a letter grade if one is inexcusably absent from a performance.

Concert Probation

Band members must be organized and committed to each and every rehearsal. Band practice is a crucial part of improving the quality of our performances and student's overall learning. Attending class prepared is essential.

Students are **required to have all necessary materials for each rehearsal** (eg. instrument, music etc.). Failure to comply with these requirements could result in the student being prohibited from participating in a performance.

Class Expectations, Behavior, and Procedures

Band students are expected to have their materials for each and every rehearsal. These materials include:

1. [1.5" 3-Ring Avery Brand Presentation Binder with a clear cover](#)
2. [Small Locker Mirror](#) (except percussion)
3. Pencil
4. Sound Innovations Method Book
5. Band Music and Daily Practice Routines (distributed to students during class)

If one's instrument is in need of repair, they are to make Mr. Rizzi aware after class has ended or before the start of school. Small repairs and adjustments can usually be made on the spot.

Students whose instruments utilize a reed, such as Clarinets and Saxophones, should have at least three working reeds at all times. Purchasing a box of reeds and a reed guard will ensure students are able to play during each rehearsal.

Upon entering the classroom students are to immediately assemble their instruments and start warming up with their daily warm-up routine sheet.

An individual's behavior and performance have a major impact on the other members of the band. Students are expected to exhibit their best behavior at all times. Poor behavior can ruin the public's good impression of our band program and our school.

Throughout class, focus will be placed on individual sections to address and correct technique and performance issues. During this time students are asked to sit quietly and look over their parts. One's class grade can be impacted should one remain inattentive throughout this start-stop routine. The St. MM Demerit system is utilized for each class as per the student handbook.

Basic Band Room Rules:

- Upon arrival to school, band members should bring their instruments to the band room. Please do not leave your instruments in the lobby.
- No drinks or food are permitted in the band room.
- Refrain from bringing fidget toys/spinners etc. to class.
- Students must have their materials for each class.
- Members must start together and stop together.
- Students are not permitted to leave their seats once rehearsal has commenced. Only in an emergency is it acceptable to leave one's seat.
- Students should raise their hand when they have a question and refrain from calling out or making comments.
- Students are to use the restroom **before class has started.**
- All members should write their names on their music. Any missing music can be found in the band room lost music box.
- All members should show the utmost respect for our Percussion equipment and music stands. **PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS ARE FOR PERCUSSIONISTS ONLY.**

Extra Help

Extra help is available most days before school at 7:30am and during most recess times. Students must notify their teacher if they will be attending extra help in order to ensure that teachers are made aware a student's whereabouts.

Each member is encouraged to attend extra help throughout the school year. This is an opportunity to monitor student progress and provide feedback and encouragement.

Individual Home Practice and Practice Record Sheets

Three components of home practice:

1. **Daily warm up routine** - This sheet is designed to provide a means to develop technique, tone quality and sound development.
2. **Sound Innovations Band Method book** - Assignments from this book will be used to provide a pedagogy for ensemble performance and instrument technique.
3. **Band Music** - Students will be required to master the skills practiced in both their daily warm up routine and band method book and apply them to our performances.

Band members are expected to take their instruments home each day to practice. Practicing at home is a crucial part of becoming a great musician. Students are expected to practice a minimum of **50-60 minutes each week** in order to keep up with what we are rehearsing in class.

- Parents must sign the practice record in order for student to receive credit.
- Practice sheets are required to be submitted weekly.
- Each practice sheet will be part of one's final average.
- The information on the sheet should be accurate and honest. **DO NOT sign your child's practice sheet if he/she has not practiced.**



smartmusic.

Students will no longer log their practice time with SmartMusic but rather manually track their time. Students can use SmartMusic during their home practice if they choose.

The band method book, *Sound Innovations* is compatible with SmartMusic. A CD/DVD of musical accompaniments is also included with each book and students are highly encouraged to use these materials.

Practice Sheet Grading

50-60+ minutes of practice time, with parent signature = Outstanding (90-100)
16-49 Minutes of practice time, with parent signature = Satisfactory (74-89)
0-15 Minutes of practice time, with parent signature = Needs Improvement (73-0)
No parent signature = 0

If student is sick, please write "SICK" in the day space. If instrument is in the shop getting repaired, record "SHOP". **Students will not be penalized** for sick days however a parent signature is still required.

Rehearsal Grading Policy

Each student will receive a daily grade of 2, 1 or 0.

2 ► (Full Credit 100% points earned)

The student is attentive during rehearsal, has their materials, sets up their instrument in a timely manner, follows instructions and contributes to class through participation. *Student is improving their tone production, posture, hand position, rhythm, and music reading comprehension.*

1 ► (1/2 Credit 50% points earned)

The student is slightly inattentive during rehearsal, does not have all of their materials or needs a reminder to follow instructions during class. *Student is improving their tone production, posture, hand position, rhythm, and music reading comprehension.*

0 ► (No Credit 0 points earned)

The student is inattentive/disruptive throughout rehearsal and does not have any materials in class. *Student is not showing improvement in their tone production, posture, hand position, rhythm, and music reading comprehension.*

Supplies, Repairs and Instrument Rentals

PLEASE NOTE: St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School does not rent instruments.

The provision of music supplies and a reliable instrument are necessary for a successful band experience. From time to time instruments may need to be repaired and maintained.

Supplies such as reeds, cork grease, valve oil, sticks, and ligatures may be purchased online or from a local music shop such as Music and Arts.

Woodwind players are asked to have at least three working reeds at all times. Purchasing a box of reeds is strongly encouraged and can be more cost effective.

(Please see the separate list of supplies for each instrument)

Quarter Note Music

Beaver Creek Crossing
919-387-3939

Music and Arts (two locations)

Crossroads Plaza
919-854-0024

Poyner Place
919-872-1601

Flying Squirrel Music

Raleigh
919-615-3117

Purchasing An Instrument

Should one choose to purchase an instrument rather than rent an instrument a few guidelines should be followed:

- Always purchase a name brand instrument such as **Yamaha, Selmer, Conn, Holton Gemeinhardt, or Bach.**
- Never purchase an instrument from a box store or discount website. These instruments are inferior in many regards. Repair shops can refuse to make repairs due to the inferior materials used in constructing the instrument. Brass instruments can rust due to metal plating defects and Woodwind instruments tend to be constructed with soft metals.
- Use caution when purchasing from Craigslist or Ebay.
- Please consult Mr. Rizzi if you are considering purchasing an instrument. Many reputable music stores and websites stock quality instruments.

Band Method Book (Paperback Version)

Sound Innovations for Concert Band Book 1. (Grades 4-6)

by [Robert Sheldon](#) (Author), [Peter Boonshaft](#) (Author), [Dave Black](#), and [Bob Phillips](#)

Purchase the book for student's specific instrument:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Eb Alto Saxophone
- Trumpet
- French Horn (Horn in F)
- Baritone Horn BC (Bass Clef)
- Trombone
- Combined Percussion



Sound Innovations for Concert Band Book 2. (Grade 7-8 Except Percussion)

by [Robert Sheldon](#) (Author), [Peter Boonshaft](#) (Author), [Dave Black](#), and [Bob Phillips](#)

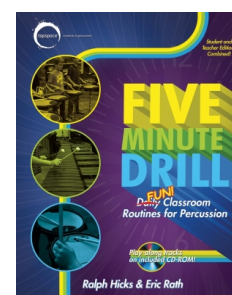
Purchase the book for student's specific instrument:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Eb Alto Saxophone
- Trumpet
- French Horn (Horn in F)
- Baritone Horn BC (Bass Clef)
- Trombone



[Five Minute Drill](#) by Ralph Hicks & Eric Rath (Percussion Grades 7-8)

Available on TapSpace.com



I have read the band handbook and understand what is expected of me as a musician in band.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

GRADE _____

Instrument _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Email _____

Date _____

RETURN THIS PORTION TO Mr. Rizzi

Thank you and good luck this school year!