

Welcome to St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School Band Program,

I am very excited that your child has chosen to be part of our accomplished band program. Band can be a rewarding experience with dedication and progress. Band is a class comprises of people with different personalities and cultures but we are all one group where everyone plays a vital role. Music is close to my heart and it is my goal that my students will develop this same appreciation of music. This document is an outline of our goals and general class expectations as well as a roadmap for each student's musical experience and progress. I look forward to an amazing year with these bright students and the musical journey that we take in the upcoming years.

Sincerely,
Jacobi Davis
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Band Instrumentation

St. Mary Magdalene 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. Private lessons are highly encouraged for percussionists' progress. Recommendations are readily available if parent contacts director through email. 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 Better Musician

Any student that is involved in band are highly encouraged to take private lessons from someone reputable in the area. Private lessons are imperative to achieve a better band experience since students are more prone to enjoy something if they are constantly improving. Band only meets two to three times a week so private lessons are also a great way to keep the student engaged and ensure no regression.

I will gladly provide names of private teachers for the instrument played but please email me about this list so I can keep a personal tab on students taking lessons. I will also offer **extra credit** to students taking lessons.

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 performing in different places and events as need throughout the school. As a performance based ensemble 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

Concert Dress Boys - Black pants, white dress shirt with a black tie or bow tie

No sneakers or flip flops please.

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. 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. [Staff Paper](#) (5th-8th grade)

If one's instrument is in need of repair, they are to make Mr. Davis 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. It is recommended but not required that these students buy mouthpiece pads (\$2) to ensure no discomfort from the mouthpiece. Purchasing a box of reeds and a reed guard will ensure students are able to play during each rehearsal.

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 moral 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 these 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 other than healthy H2O or food are permitted in the band room.
- Students must have their materials for each class
- Members must start together and stop together.
- 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 after school 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

Three components of home practice:

1. Daily warm up routine(Long tones, scales, etc.)
2. 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 bit every day.

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.

Rehearsal Grading Policy

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 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)

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. Davis if you are considering purchasing an instrument. Many reputable music stores and websites stock quality instruments.

Band Method Book

Sound Innovations for Concert Band Book 1. (Grades 4-8) by Robert Sheldon (Author), Peter Boonshaft (Author), Dave Black, and Bob Phillips

Purchase the book for student's specific instrument:

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