

Band Class Expectations
Ms. Smith, Band Director
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It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2018-19 year of the South High Community School Band program.

Objectives: Students will grow into well-rounded, critical thinkers by working to improve their musical and instrumental skills and through performing a wide variety of music. They will serve as musicians within the community and experience satisfaction from performing well and enriching the lives of others. Students will develop their own musicianship and knowledge in order to create and appreciate music as educated adults.

Expectations of the Students:

- 1) Have a generous and constructive attitude. Be respectful of fellow students, the director, the instruments and the room (always leave the room and your music well organized [in your folder]). Be committed.
- 2) Practice outside of class to maximize the opportunity to excel. (You may practice at home. If you want to practice at school, you may make arrangements for the director to be available.) Practicing a short time, several times each week, is better than practicing an hour once per week.
- 3) Always bring your instrument (including drum sticks, reeds, valve oil, cork grease, etc.), music, and pencil to rehearsal. Be sure to keep your instrument maintained outside of class, so you are not working on it during rehearsal time. Rinse your mouth with water before playing.
- 4) Keep a folder for written work inside your music folder.
- 5) To reiterate: Keep a sharpened pencil on your stand every time you practice or rehearse.
- 6) Attend all performances. Performing is a requirement for the class and your grade will be lowered if you miss an event without being excused. You must submit a written note from a parent/guardian to be considered for an excused absence. If transportation is the problem, let the director know so we can help you. Other parents and guardians are very happy to help out. If you have a job or babysit a sibling, please arrange to be available during performances and scheduled rehearsals. To be a successful student, school must be your primary job.
- 7) Arrive on time to rehearsals and performances. If you know that you will be missing band class for a field trip, or any other reason, please notify the director ahead of time.
- 8) During rehearsal, do not talk, unless it is specific to the music and will help the learning process. Do not play your instrument if it is not time. Please do contribute and pay attention to class discussions.
- 9) Assemble your instrument and begin warming up properly, immediately after entering the band room.
- 10) Share with the director if you have concerns, difficulty, or something great happening. You might also talk with a section leader.
- 11) Take care of your uniform and wash it as per instructions. You will sign a uniform contract.

Expectations of the Director:

- 1) Have a generous and constructive attitude. Treat students, parents and others with respect.
- 2) Have high expectations.
- 3) Be on time to rehearsals and performances. Between classes, the director may be involved in other school business.
- 4) Begin and end rehearsals on time.
- 5) Be prepared for rehearsals and have a plan that aligns with the national, state and city educational frameworks/benchmarks. Be prepared for performances.
- 6) Choose a variety of repertoire that is meaningful and appropriate.
- 7) Make arrangements for students to participate in district and state competitions and festivals, if they desire. Help them prepare, as needed.
- 8) Provide extra help as needed. Currently the extra help day is Wednesday, but most days other than Mondays can be an option, with prior arrangement.
- 9) Provide notice of performances as early as possible.
- 10) Maintain contact with the greater community to provide more opportunities for students.
- 11) Interface with the South High Community School Band Association to nurture volunteer and fundraising support.
- 12) Apply for grants to garner as much revenue as possible, to support the band students and program.

Expectations of the Parents/Guardians:

- 1) Support your student by providing or helping to arrange transportation to events.
- 2) Expect your student to participate in all activities and try to accommodate the band schedule as much as possible.
- 3) Find some way to contribute through some type of volunteer effort. We cannot all do everything, but almost all of us can do something.
- 4) Attend as many band parent association meetings as possible.
- 5) Provide reeds, cork grease, valve oil, slide grease, slide oil, sticks, etc., for your student. Help them maintain their instrument in good repair.
- 6) Help your student acquire and maintain proper concert attire. Andy's Attic at South High is a free and available resource for this purpose. Help them take care of and organize their band uniform.
- 7) If possible, make a yearly \$40 contribution to the band. It may be at one time or spread out over the semesters, quarters or weeks of the year.

Assessment:

- 1) Playing exams through live or recorded performance. The rubric for the exam is the Massachusetts Music Educators Association (MMEA) Central District adjudicators form. Each student will be provided with his/her individual copy. Students will need to practice outside of class to prepare for these exams.
- 2) Preparation for rehearsal. Is the student improving? Did the student have the materials needed for rehearsal? Practice time is evaluated by how you play during rehearsals.
- 3) Written and online exercises for music theory.
- 4) Manageable online Smartmusic assignments/assessments. You will need a device other than a cell phone to connect to Smartmusic. Notify the conductor if you need to use a school device outside of class.
- 5) Writing assignments such as performance critiques or pieces regarding musical facts, composers, etc., in compliance with our school focus on “Strategic Writing”.

Typical frequency of required work:

Individual Practice

Consistently – At least 5 times per week is optimal

As Needed

Performance as they occur

Participation as it occurs

Writing assignment (reflections, etc., almost always short)

Weekly:

Music theory/history worksheet or online activity

Bi-weekly (every other week):

One manageable Smartmusic assignment

Monthly:

At least one playing test-usually video recording

At least one scale, alternating sharps & flats

Music theory test

SOUTH HIGH GRADING RUBRIC

PARTICIPATION 50%

In Performances, Rehearsals and Class Time

Missed performance = automatic drop of 1 letter grade and a 0% for the event grade

WRITTEN WORK 20%

Tests (2x) Quizzes and Worksheets (1x)

ATTENDANCE 10%

During Class Time

PERFORMANCE LEVEL 20%

Accuracy of Pitch, Rhythm,
Intonation, Style, Expression,
Tone, Balance and Blend

Students will take a final exam that is worth 10% of your final grade.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I am excited about the opportunities for this year and am grateful for your support and involvement.

Best Regards,



Ms. Smith

Please sign and return the form below:

I have read and agree to abide by the expectations for the South High Community School Band Program for the 2018 – 19 school year.

Student

Parent or Guardian