



Band Program Handbook

Classroom Rules

Be on time with necessary materials.

Listen and follow directions.

NO GUM, DRINKS, OR FOOD are allowed.

Pick up after yourself: if you use something,
put it away.

Accept responsibility for yourself and your learning.

Consequences

1st Offense - Warning and lowered participation grade

2nd Offense - Demerit

3rd Offense - Detention

Grading Policies

Daily Participation comprises 50% of each student's grade.

The **participation** of each member of any organization is vital to its success. Such is the case in the SJS Band program. Students learn to be part of a "team," working towards a common goal. Some of the more common reasons for not earning one's Daily Participation points include:

- Disturbing the class / disrespectful attitude
- Bringing instrument and music to every class
- Poor posture or effort
- Performance participation (proper concert attire, proper concert and audience etiquette)

The effectiveness of any music program can be measured by the progress made by each individual student. Self-control, courtesy and dedication are essential from each participating student in order for the group to attain a superior level of performance.

Punctuality comprises 20% of each student's grade.

- Students are expected to arrive and be ready to play within 7 minutes of the dismissal bell from their previous class.

Performance comprises 20% of each student's grade.

In addition to concert participation, periodic evaluations of each student's progress will be given in the form of playing and written tests and/or quizzes. Some common areas for evaluation include: the ability to produce a proper and characteristic tone, note accuracy, rhythmic accuracy, correct articulations, dynamics, phrasing, hand-position, instrument position, posture, sticking, grip, etc. The student's comprehension of various musical concepts and terminology will also be evaluated. These evaluations may be announced or unannounced and will take place during class.

Additional Requirements

Private Lessons: Private lessons **are a requirement** of our band program. Private lessons are an asset to the student and have always been the traditional method used to master a musical instrument. Additionally, at SJS we only meet with Band students twice per week as opposed to daily as is common in public schools. Band class time at SJS is used to work on ensemble playing, not teaching the proper techniques and mechanics of the instruments. Exceptions may be made to this requirement upon request.

Home Practice: Every student is expected to practice at home regularly. It is a proven fact that those students who practice regularly display the most improvement during the year. *The minimum expectation for home practice is 20 minutes per day for 5 days per week.*

Parent/Teacher Communication

Communication for Band will be done in three ways:

1. Email (My email is agoodspeed@stjameslaf.org)
2. News and Notes
3. Remind - This is a texting service that allows me to communicate with you via text without you having my cell number or me having yours. I will send out performance reminders and rehearsal date changes primarily, but also other information, quick reminders or updates.
 - You must register for this service (parents and students too if you wish) - Details are included. You do not need the app to participate.
 - **THIS IS THE FIRST GRADE FOR BAND.**