



Sabin Middle School

Student/Parent Handbook

2021-2022

Melissa Shank

Band Director

I am looking forward to a GREAT year with the band students at Sabin. I am a firm believer that band is good for kids for so many reasons other than learning to play music. It promotes team work, and a sense of belonging, as well as instills responsibility, focus, and reliability. One of my

favorite sayings- *Not every band needs the kid, but every kid needs band!*

Welcome to the Sabin MS Band Program!

Supply List

Instrument (with all items to make it work)

Pencil (EVERY day!)

Band Folder (provided in class) with all required music (on loan to student like a library book)

Music books:

Beginning and Intermediate Band - *Traditions of Excellence Book 1**

Concert Band - *Tradition of Excellence Book 2**

Symphonic Band - *Foundations for Superior Performance**

*When your band fee (\$15) is paid to the Business Office, bring the receipt to the band room to get your book.

Music stand for practicing at home (keep it at home!)

Metronome & Tuner for practice at home (available on the class Schoology page or download an app. I like "Pro Metronome" and "Tonal Energy" apps.)

Grading

- I. Ensemble Contribution (20 pts per day, entered as a weekly grade every Friday)
 - Students earn 20 points per day when they arrive to class on time, and have readily available the following items:
 - Instrument in good playing condition
 - Band books and sheet music in band folder (provided)
 - Pencil
 - A positive attitude, ready to give their best effort in class
- II. Assessments
 - a. Playing Tests (20 pts each, 2-4 per quarter)
 - Students will be assigned short playing assessments through Smart Music (website).
- III. Performances (200 pts each)
 - Participation in Concerts are so important! It's so FUN to make music with our friends and show an audience what we've worked on! We hope to have multiple performances this year, with information and dates coming soon!

Practice

The expectation is that students practice at home what they could not play during class that day. Students should come to band class each day able to play something *better* than they could play it the day before. I don't expect music sections to be perfect the next day, just that students continue to improve on the previous day. ***If this expectation is repeatedly not met, Practice Records may become required and part of the student's grade.***

(Optional) After School Practice will be offered on **Wednesdays from 3:45 to 4:30 P.M.** in the Sabin Band Room. Students can practice on their own and/or get help from the band teacher.

Private Lessons

One of the best ways to improve as a musician and as a band student is to take private lessons. Private lessons allow students to receive individualized attention, specific to their instrument, by a professional who plays that instrument at an extremely high level. Students who study privately excel faster and generally have more success with chair placement, auditions, honor bands, and more. Private lessons are by no means a requirement, but are strongly recommended. Ask the band director for private teacher recommendations.

Band Website

Please visit the Sabin Band Website often for up to date band information. Announcements, reminders, and upcoming events will be posted there. www.d11.org/sabinband

Communication

Please don't hesitate to email with questions or concerns. Email is the easiest way for me to get back to you in a timely manner.

SHEET MUSIC

Students will be given *original* sheets of music (not photocopies). Sheet music is expensive, especially when individual parts must be replaced due to damage or loss. Sabin Band Students will be asked to take special care of their sheet music and be responsible for it. Students will need to pay for damaged or lost parts. **Replacement parts will cost \$5 per song. PENCILS ONLY** are used to mark music as to not permanently change a part. Parts will need to be erased before being returned. Students will be shown what their music should look like when it is returned. In order to help students keep their music in good condition special band folders will be provided to protect the sheet music.

BAND LOCKERS & PADLOCKS

We have wonderful, new, very nice band instrument lockers for students to keep their instruments in the band room, locked up and safe. Band instruments and folders ONLY should be kept in band lockers. Each student will also be provided a combination

padlock for their instrument locker. The padlock is on loan to the student and should never leave the band room. If a padlock for the student's assigned instrument locker is lost or damaged, the student is responsible for the replacement cost of \$10. Instrument lockers should not be used to store other school items, lunches, or shared with another student.

Jazz Band

We hope to have a Jazz Band after school club this year. More information will be sent home via email when a start date is determined.