

# **Middle school Band** **handbook 2020-2021**

Superintendent- Dr. Brian Beagles

Middle School Principal- Mike Juby

Band Director- Makayla West

Assistant Band Director- Sarah Reed

### **Mission statement and vision**

On a musical level, the Sperry Band of Pirates exists to develop students into lifelong learners, as well as creators and appreciators of music. On a larger scale, this program strives to help our students develop into well-rounded members of society. Through music, we develop teamwork, leadership skills, communication skills, perseverance, goal setting, and much more. Our goal is to increase the musicianship and life skills of each student on all levels. Our band exists to be a place where everyone belongs and contributes.

### **Objectives**

Our band is an ambassador for our school and community. We represent Sperry proudly, by sharing our talents to the best of our ability and acting with honor and respect. We will hold ourselves to the highest standard of performance and conduct. This will be accomplished through dedicated attendance, hard work, and personal accountability. Let's do our best to demonstrate "PIRATE PRIDE" in everything we do.

### **Expectations**

In order to accomplish our objectives and live out our mission statement and vision, these are our expectations of each member. We believe in you, we have high standards because you can meet and surpass them. *We are only as good as we practice to become.* Above all, enjoy band. We are all here because we love music. Remember that you belong, what you do matters, and we love you.

- Have your equipment and supplies at each rehearsal and performance
  - Instrument, music, pencil, reeds, valve oil, etc.
- Have your music prepared (memorized when applicable)
  - Individual practice and sectionals is when you learn your part, rehearsal is when you learn everyone else's part
- Be early and be there – respect the time of those around you
  - Your absences hurt the entire group
  - When you are early, you are on time
- Respect the podium

- o The directors, additional staff, and anyone brought in to work the band is there to help you succeed. Listen and act respectfully
- Nurture those around you
  - o It is imperative that we respect and appreciate the hard work of all our band students. We will accomplish much more by positive leadership than by negative comments.
- Be responsible for your stuff. Keep your instrument on the shelf and keep your music in the cabinet
- Follow all rules as indicated in the Sperry high school student handbook (ie drug/ alcohol policies, dress code, bullying/ hazing, and all others)
- Follow the schedule, but be flexible when plans change
- The 'DUH' clause... don't steal, don't fight, don't vandalize; if you aren't sure if it's allowed, it probably isn't.

### **Social Media**

Social media is a beast that can tear our program apart. Please be mindful that anything you post will be seen. We will not tolerate bullying between band students. We will not tolerate students talking negatively about the program, other programs, or school and band staff. Social media will be used by the band to give updates and maintain communication. We have a Facebook page for the band and the color guard, as well as several remind accounts, but we do not use any other platforms. Do not create accounts under the name of the program. Extreme misuse of social media may entail discipline.

### **Band Karate and Challenges**

Band Karate and pass- off challenges are a component of the middle school band curriculum. They are a fun way to monitor progress, and students can move at their own pace. Each book has a different set of standards and challenges to accomplish. We will test each week in class, and students may schedule time after school to catch up or get ahead. Belt/ challenge levels will be used as a proficiency standard throughout the year for rewards. It is the students' responsibility to practice at home and be prepared for their test. Some test grades will be entered as a completion grade, while others will be based on playing ability. Students who choose not to test will take a '0' grade for their weekly test.

## **GRADING SYSTEM**

Students will be on a points-based grading system. Grades may include, but are not limited to:

- |    |                                      |                    |
|----|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Performances                         | 200 pts. Each      |
|    | a. Middle School Band Night          |                    |
|    | b. Christmas Concert                 |                    |
|    | c. Spring Concert                    |                    |
|    | d. Spring Catoosa Contest            |                    |
|    | e. Graduation (7 and 8 only)         |                    |
|    | f. Any other as assigned by director |                    |
| 2. | Daily Rehearsals/ participation      | 5 pts./day         |
|    | a. Instrument in class               |                    |
|    | b. Music in class                    |                    |
| 3. | Special Required Rehearsals          | 100 pts./rehearsal |
| 4. | Playing Exams (karate or other)      | 100 pts. Each      |

All absences from any performance will be considered unexcused, and will constitute a zero, unless previous arrangements are made per the absence policy.

Performance grades can be made up by a 3 page composer report, due one week after the missed performance.

## **ABSENCES**

Success demands commitment. We will make every effort to respect your time, and we strive to be fair with our requirements. Therefore, we will adhere to the following attendance policy.

- You are required to be at all pre-scheduled performances and rehearsals.
- Arrangements for performances and evening rehearsal absences should be made in writing from your parent or guardian.
- Excused absences are considered as:
  1. Personal Illness/Immediate family illness

## 2. Family emergency

- In the event of an absence due to an emergency, parents will be given a 48-hour window to make contact or send a written note to the director. After 48 hours, the grade will be registered as a zero.
- Absences for work during pre-scheduled performances and rehearsals will NOT be excused. You are responsible to work this out with your employer in advance. On some occasions when a performance or rehearsal comes up with little or no advance notice, we will work with you on this matter. However, no excuse will be tolerated when performances or rehearsals are scheduled well in advance. Emergencies will, of course, be handled on an individual basis.
- Please schedule dental and doctor visits or driving tests outside of rehearsal and performance times.

The directors will make every effort to avoid conflict with other school activities. If there is a conflict, the student affected needs to communicate it to me as soon as possible. *I cannot solve a problem that I don't know about.*

## **SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY**

Students are required, by state law, to meet eligibility requirements. That is, they must maintain a minimum of a D average in all classes. Students who are academically ineligible (have an F in any class) will not be allowed to compete in music contests or OSSAA activities. Students are, however, required to attend all activities that do not interfere with school attendance. Students will be assigned alternative duties while unable to participate in activities. Eligibility is issued on Monday and is in effect until the next Monday.

## **DRUG POLICY**

Sperry Public Schools has implemented a drug testing policy, and all rules in the Sperry Public School Drug Policy will apply. All students may be required to take a drug test before the school year begins. After the initial test is taken, any student is subject to a random drug test to participate in an extracurricular activity. A student who tests positive

for drugs may be dismissed from the Sperry band or be required to sit out from events and performances.

### **USE AND CARE OF INSTRUMENTS and EQUIPMENT**

All students who wish to use a school-owned instrument will be required to complete an instrument usage form. Instruments will not be checked out to students until this form is signed and returned. School-owned instruments are furnished to the students without charge. The instrument will be in good playing condition when it is issued. Instrument damage caused by carelessness or misuse by the student will be repaired at the students' expense. Abuse of a school-owned instrument will not be tolerated.

All instruments, when in the band room, are to be kept in their cases in the storage room.

All music is to be kept in the music rack and not in the instrument storage area.

Individual supplies (reeds, valve oil, ect.) for students' instruments may be purchased at any music store or online. For your convenience, students may purchase individual reeds from the band office for the following prices. Clarinet reeds may be purchased for \$3. Bass clarinet and saxophone reeds may be purchased for \$4.

### **UNIFORMS**

Students may have a grade deduct for improper dress.

All students will be required to purchase a \$10 shirt from the band department.

**Informal:** band shirt and jeans. Jeans should have no holes. Depending on weather, students may be allowed to wear shorts. All shorts must be to the fingertips or longer. This uniform will be used for informal performances, travel, and any other event as required.

**Sunday Best:** dress or skirt or slacks or no with no holes. No hoodies or t-shirts with pictures or words All clothing needs to meet the school dress code.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

All students are required to ride the school provided transportation to all required school activities. Exceptions will only be made through written contact between your parent/guardian and Ms. West. Students will be allowed to ride home from an activity with their parent or an approved adult by parent and director. **All students must be signed out by a parent/guardian before leaving a traveling band activity.**

All students must provide a completed Medical Release Form. In the event of an illness or injury the student's parents will be contacted to determine the extent of medical attention needed. In the event a parent cannot be contacted, the administrator in charge will determine proper medical procedures. Parents are responsible for student's medical care and expenses.

The following are the expectations for students while traveling

- Band trips (including on the bus) are considered an extension of our classroom. Students should be aware that they are accountable to follow all the rules in the student handbook including smoking, alcohol and drug policies, as well as dress codes and codes of conduct. Discipline procedures will be followed as indicated in the handbook. Public displays of affection (PDA) will NOT be tolerated.
- It is wise for students to bring money for snacks or traveling meals
- Personal property (such as phones, games, ect.) may be brought on trips at the student's own risk. The school, nor the band department, will be responsible for lost or stolen items.
- While traveling and on band trips, students MUST stay in groups of 3 or more. There is no leniency on this. If you stray off, you will stay with an adult the entire time.
- You are responsible for your equipment. You will load/ unload your own equipment. It is your job to make sure you have all the pieces of your uniform and all your music.
- Trips (and freedom on those trips) are a privilege that is earned. You need to be at the appropriate place at the appointed time, and to act responsibly at all times.

### **FUNDRAISING**

The band will conduct at least two fundraising activities during the year. Students are asked (but not required) to participate. The fall fundraiser is used to fund operating costs, examples including but not limited to: entry fees, instrument repairs, music, new instruments, and other supplies.

The spring fundraiser is used to fund our spring trips. Each band member has an “account” where funds for trips will be deposited. Cash advances into this fund by the student will be refunded if the trip in question is not attended by the band. Profits made by the fundraising sales are non-refundable.

### **Additional opportunities**

Students are highly encouraged to participate in musical opportunities outside of our regular music activities. We are here to support you in any way that we can.

#### **Honor band**

- Students will have the option to participate in various honor groups. The directors will provide copies of the music, as well as assistance in preparing the music, for no additional cost. The directors must listen and approve students before they are able to audition. The band will provide transportation and pay the entry fee for all honor bands. Any student who signs-up but does not audition will be required to repay the band.

#### **Solo/ ensemble contest**

- Students will have the option to participate in solo and ensemble competition. The directors will provide copies of the music, as well as assistance in preparing the music, for no additional cost. The directors must listen and approve solos and ensembles before they are able to compete. The band will provide transportation and pay the entry fee for all contests. Any student who signs-up but does not audition will be required to repay the band.

#### **Summer band camps**

- This is not referring to the required school camp, but additional opportunities. Many universities offer an instrumental summer camp. The band will not provide funds for camp costs, transportation costs, or transportation to these camps. The



directors will provide information to any interested students and will assist in music preparation.

### **High school band crew**

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who have been in band for at least one year can apply to be part of the band crew that helps with equipment for the high school band. The number of students selected will vary each year based on the needs of the halftime show. Students who are part of the crew will travel with the high school band to all football games and contests. The uniform for the crew is the middle school band shirt, long black pants, black socks, and black shoes. A crew member who is ineligible is unable to travel and participate, so it is important that every student stay eligible. Any crew member who does not fulfill their duties may be removed.

### **Booster organization**

The band program cannot exist without the help of our army of amazing parents. All parents are encouraged to join. The boosters meet one Tuesday a month. The parents help with logistics, fundraising, travel, and more. We need you!

### **Communication**

Communication is imperative for the functioning of our band program. Parents and students are highly encouraged to contact us regarding any questions or concerns. Ms. West can be called at the school or emailed at [mwest@sperry.k12.ok.us](mailto:mwest@sperry.k12.ok.us). For emergencies, you can text or call (918)704-6690.

We will have handouts and newsletters for all events, students are responsible to take all paper communication home.

Parents and students should follow Sperry Band Info on Facebook for updates. We also use remind frequently. You can join by texting @sperrymid to 81010 or searching @sperrymid on the app. If you want emailed newsletters or to join the google calendar, you can send your email to Ms. West.

