



# SPRINGFIELD CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

## High School Band Handbook

Welcome to the exiting opportunities available to you by participating in the high school band! Now, more than ever, research is available to support and justify why we participate in this demanding, yet rewarding, activity of music. Researchers have concluded that the study of music helps with spatial reasoning, test-taking skills, social skills, emotional development, leadership training, group interaction skills, aesthetic perception, discipline...the list goes on! Why wouldn't you want to be involved in a successful band program like the one here at the Springfield Catholic Schools? Here, the ultimate goal is a lifelong understanding and appreciation for quality music and music-making!

Whether you are in concert band or jazz band this year, it is my hope that you find a place in the high school band that you are happy. Throughout the year, we will have many performance opportunities, ranging from concerts to music festivals to sporting events. We are able to offer a unique class because of our preparation of these performances, so it is my hope that all of the students find their niche in band this year!

All students in band, returning or new, should read the information in this handbook and return the signature page at the bottom. Many questions can be answered by consulting this handbook and I will make sure that I address any issues that arise throughout the year, as needed. Since this handbook contains such important information, I ask that everybody please read the entire handbook, then sign the appropriate portion in the back and return it to me on the date that is announced to your class and school.

I understand that your families have busy lives, and to ensure that we have proper communication, please refer to my website for important information. On the website, you can find additional contact information for me, as well as my daily schedule. If you ever have any questions, or need to communicate directly with me, I am available through phone or email. Please contact me if you have problems or questions. I am looking forward to being your band director this year, and we will have a great year together!

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### **Concert Band**

Enrollment in the concert band is open to students who have successfully completed the middle school band curriculum of the Springfield Catholic School System. Students transferring into Springfield Catholic High School must have been a member of their respective middle school band or high school band program. The concert band will form the core group to play at the football games in the fall. The concert band is devoted to continued technical skill and musicianship development, incorporated into the preparation of concert band repertoire for public performance, including MSHSAA Large Ensemble Music Festival. Concert Band is a year-long class and will require individual home practice in order for the student to meet course objectives and expectations.

### **Jazz Band**

Instrumentation of this group will conform as closely as possible to the standard big band instrumentation. The Jazz Band program develops technical and musical skills in the various jazz idioms within the context of the big band setting. In addition, the jazz band will form the core group to perform at the basketball games in the winter months. Jazz band is a year-long course and will require individual home practice in order for the student to meet course objectives and expectations.

## **CLASSROOM POLICIES and PROCEDURES**

### **The Band Rehearsal Area**

The band room, stage, and storage room must be kept clean and organized at all times. Make sure all equipment and music is stored away properly after every rehearsal. An orderly room helps prevent accidents. Please take care of chairs, stands, and other band equipment as if it were your own. If you damage equipment, you will be responsible for replacing it. A good guideline is to leave the room in better shape than you found it—it is far easier for a group of people to keep the room in good order than for one person to clean up after the group!

**Daily Procedures** create a safe learning environment and prohibit the interference of the learning/teaching process. Efficiency is a must!

**Entering the room:** BE ON TIME! Roll will be taken when class begins. Enter quietly, get your instrument out, sit down and get set for the rehearsal. Please no playing of instruments until we play as an entire group.

**Announcements:** Announcements and reminders will be made at the beginning of class, after we have warmed up as a band. Questions will be answered at this time.

**Daily Participation:** students must have all necessary items for class. They should demonstrate a positive attitude and be an active participant in class.

**Rehearsal:** Display correct posture, instrument position and embouchure. If you need to get up for any reason, raise your hand and receive permission; do not wander around the room without permission.

**Stop When the Director Stops:** A good band will stop immediately and listen for instructions. This saves time, and allows for maximum efficiency!

**NO FOOD or DRINK in the classroom. NO GUM!**

**Consequences for interfering with the learning/teaching process are:**

1. Student is instructed to correct the inappropriate behavior.
2. If a reminder is needed, the student will be removed from the group to a safe-zone to reflect appropriate behavior; no daily participation points are earned.
3. After repeated inappropriate behavior, the student will be sent to the office and a parent/teacher conference will be scheduled.

## **Required Material**

In order for our band classes to perform at the highest possible level, it is essential that all students bring the following materials to band class on a daily basis:

1. Band Instrument in proper working condition
2. Appropriate care supplies for your instrument (reeds, valve oil, mallets, etc.)
3. Book: Foundations for Superior Performance (this was the book used for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)
4. Other sheet music and handouts
5. Folder
6. Pencil (no ink pens, please)

## **Performances**

Band is a cooperative learning environment, and each student is important to the educational process; band is a team. Attendance at ALL performances is required, as the group and sound is not complete without every member. Our concerts are the culmination of what has been worked on during class, and because every student is vital to our group, their performance grade is worth a portion of their grade. An unexcused absence from a concert is worth a **total deduction of 2 letter grades**. I understand that emergencies do happen, so if students must miss a concert, parent contact must happen **before** a concert, through phone or email. Please refer to the calendar page of this handbook, as well as the website for performance dates.

## **Grading Procedures**

There are three parts to your grade in band: daily grade, playing tests, and concert performances

### **Daily Grade 34%**

This is the grade for your daily rehearsal participation. If you come to class on time with everything you need and make a good effort in class and contribute to the progress of rehearsal, you will get 10 points a day. No instrument or music equals zero points.

### **Tests 33%**

There will be a series of written and playing tests to be completed each semester and should be performed by the given date. The tests will cover material that we are working on in class. Students will be graded on scales, tone, rhythm, technique, and other musical concepts.

### **Concert Performances 33%**

Performances are a vital way of displaying students' learned abilities and talents. Each student is Vital to the Springfield Catholic Bands, and is needed at every performance. All concert performances are **required** and are 25% of your final grade. **Director must receive written notice two weeks before a concert if you are unable to attend. If no notice is given, the result will be a "0" for the concert grade.** Emergencies will be considered on an individual basis. Poor planning is not considered an excused absence. Students with excused absences will receive 70% of the concert grade, and the other 30% can be made up with an alternative assignment at a later time. Students with unexcused absences will receive a 0% concert grade.

## Springfield Catholic Schools Band Calendar

Friday, August 29 <sup>th</sup>	7:00	Football Game	HS Concert Band
Friday, September 12 <sup>th</sup>	7:00	Football Game	HS Concert Band
Friday September 19 <sup>th</sup>	7:00	Football Game	HS Concert Band
Friday, September 26 <sup>th</sup>	7:00	Football Game	HS Concert Band
Friday October 17 <sup>th</sup>	7:00	Football Game	HS Concert Band
Tuesday, December 9 <sup>th</sup>	7:00	Concert	5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> Grades
Wednesday, December 10 <sup>th</sup>	7:00	Concert	HS Concert and Jazz Bands
Thursday, December 11 <sup>th</sup>	6:00	Girls Basketball Game	HS Jazz Band
Friday, December 12 <sup>th</sup>	6:00	Boys Basketball Game	HS Jazz Band
Saturday, December 13 <sup>th</sup>	4:00	Boys Basketball Game	HS Jazz Band
Thursday, December 18 <sup>th</sup>	6:00	Girls Basketball Game	HS Jazz Band
Friday, December 19 <sup>th</sup>	6:00	Boys Basketball Game	HS Jazz Band
Friday, January 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6:00	Boys Basketball Game	HS Jazz Band
Thursday, January 15 <sup>th</sup>	6:00	Girls Basketball Game	HS Jazz Band
Friday, January 30 <sup>th</sup>	6:00	Girls Basketball Game	HS Jazz Band
Friday, January 30 <sup>th</sup>	7:30	Boys Basketball Game	HS Jazz Band
Thursday, February 19 <sup>th</sup>	6:00	Girls Basketball Game	HS Jazz Band
Sunday, April 26 <sup>th</sup>	6:00	Concert	HS Concert and Jazz 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grades
Wednesday, April 29 <sup>th</sup>	7:00	Concert	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade

\*\*TBA: Solo and Small Ensemble Contest, Large Group Festival, Jazz Festival and All District Audition