Smoky Valley Viking Band Handbook '25 – '26



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Mr. Keller Contact: ***akeller@smokyvalley.org***

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the beginning of a fresh, new and exciting school year. My name is Mr. Keller. I am thrilled to be starting my 17th year of teaching and 9th with the Mighty Viking band program. We are thrilled to continue to have Mrs. Ebling working with us. We are looking forward to working with you and having a great time making outstanding music together.

Our goal is to have the best time we possibly can this year. We want to enjoy making music together and feel successful each and every day. We sincerely hope that concerts, football games, basketball games, festivals, parades, auditions, etc. will begin to look and feel like they used to. No matter what, we will make the very best of the situation we are given.

The band hall and concert venue are safe places. They must remain positive and every person that chooses to meet in that space will be treated with respect and understanding. Students will feel safe to give their best effort and to try new things while feeling cared for and know that everyone else in the room is working to make our band program the best it can be.

Band is a unique activity in that every single person is important. We cannot, and do not want to, play our best few musicians and have the rest sit on the bench until a less important time. We must all be responsible for the part we are asked to play and know that every player, every part, and every nuance is critical to the success of our craft. Not to mention, it is way more fun to be a part of a group that sounds awesome!

This year is exceptionally special as the Smoky Valley High School Concert Band has been selected to perform at the Kansas Music Educators Association In-Service Workshop! This is a great honor. We are one of only three high school concert bands selected from across the state. An audition was submitted last spring and our high level of performance was recognized and the band will be honored during this annual event. Significant preparation is in our future, but I know we will rise to the occasion and present a memorable performance and experience. Thank you in advance for the effort this endeavor will take.

The following handbook is intended to be a reference for students and parents throughout the year. Understanding, and being able to locate, the information in this handbook will help us to have a transparent give-and-take and a successful band season together. If there are ever questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for all of your help, support, time, and effort.

Mr. Adam Keller

Mr. Keller
Director of Bands USD 400
akeller@smokyvalley.org

Guiding Principles

By following the subsequent ideals, we will become the best individuals and ensemble we can be. A successful band member will be the following:

1. *Positive*
    a. Follow the "Platinum" rule: ALWAYS treat others BETTER than you would have them treat you.
    b. Respect yourself and all that is around you.
    c. This includes the following rehearsal/performance etiquette: Talking when appropriate, keeping yourself and your objects to yourself, and appropriate use of technology.
2. *Present*
    a. Your amazingness does us no good if you are not here. This includes your physical and mental presence.
    b. Please do not be tardy; whether that is to class, to your seat, to be ready to play, or breathing with the group before an entrance.
3. *Prepared*
    a. I'm glad you're here, now are you ready to be the best you that you can be?
    b. Students need to have all music and materials prepared for class in a timely manner.
4. *Punctual*
    a. To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, to be late is unacceptable.

Expectations

As a member of the Smoky Valley band, you are a representative of our fine arts department, our school, and our town. You are expected to portray a positive image to everyone we come in contact with whether it is someone we see every day or may only see once. If students are not following our "Guiding Principles," the following consequence progression will be followed:

1. Verbal or non-verbal redirection
2. Loss of daily points and another verbal or non-verbal redirection
3. Meeting with director outside of class
4. Time-out in office and parent/guardian contact
5. Detention and parent/guardian contact
6. Office referral: Extreme or constant indiscretions will lead to a meeting with the student, parent, director and administration. We will discuss the situation and whether or not the student will be allowed to continue to participate in the band program.

- The teacher reserves the discretion to use whichever consequence is deemed necessary based on the situation.

❖ There will be no Food, Gum, or Drinks (other than a closeable bottle of water) allowed in band rehearsal/performance areas.

❖ Students are expected to use the restroom nearest to Mr. Littich's orchestra room quickly, quietly, and without disrupting any classes.

❖ Students must sign out/into the classroom if entering or exiting the room during class time.

❖ **Cell phone policy:** The band class will follow the school expectations regarding cell phones. Phones will not be used, seen or heard during class time. Failure to do so will result in immediate office referral.

Grading Policy

1. Daily Participation and Preparation - 34% of total grade
    a. Students begin with 100% of available participation points.
    b. Absence from rehearsal for any reason (other than orchestra) will result in a loss of that day's point.
    c. A participation point can be deducted for missing equipment, a lack of participation, and/or preparation.
    d. Students are allowed to make up missed participation points. Please see Mr. Keller for available options.
2. Performances - 33% of total grade
    a. Band is a performance based class. Students enrolled in band are expected to be present and accounted for at all scheduled performances.
    b. Students begin with 100% of available performance points
    c. Absence from a performance for any reason will result in a loss of those points.
    d. Participation points can be deducted for missing equipment, a lack of participation, and/or preparation.
    e. Parent communication is expected in any absence situation. Please communicate with Mr. Keller for available make-up options.
    f. Students involved in football, basketball, cheerleading, and dance team are not expected to participate in pep band events that directly conflict with SV athletic events. This is a fine line situation. *Please stay in communication regarding what is expected*.
    g. Eligibility: Ineligible students are allowed and expected to participate in all home events, but are not allowed to travel with the band or participate in KSHSAA events.
3. Assignments - 33% of student grade
    a. Assignments will be given throughout the grading period. These could be playing assessments, written assignments, and/or recording outside of class practice.
    b. All logical accommodations will be made to help be sure students can complete assignments.

Performance Attire

Concert Performance Attire:

Ladies: Concert Black. Black on top, Black on bottom, Black shoes, and Black socks/leggings/hosiery. If it's not "dressy" black, don't wear it. Shoulders, mid-drift, and back covered. Knees covered when seated

Gentlemen: Black long-sleeve button up dress shirt, black pants, black shoes, black socks and a black belt. An orange tie will be checked out to you at the beginning of the school year and must be returned in excellent condition after our May concert.

Athletic / Marching Band Performances:

1. Marching Band / Pep Band: Current Year's Music Department Shirt, tennis shoes, and school/weather appropriate lower half or jeans when specified.
    a. Seating will be assigned by section for pep band events
    b. We stay together as a band. We arrive, move and leave as a team. We also play only as a band. No individual playing in the hallways, outside, or in the stadium/gymnasium.
    c. Only band members will be allowed to sit in the assigned band section
    d. Food/Drink/Gum will not be allowed in the band section. Nor will students be allowed to leave to go to the concession stand during our performance time.
    e. Leave the stadium, gymnasium, school, etc. better than you found it.

Band Lettering System - *SVHS Only* - Subject to Change

It will be a select number that earns the distinction of "Band Letterman." Earning the required points will be a challenge, but worth the time and effort. To letter, students need a total of 10 points from the system below.

1. Band Membership:
    a. Freshman – 1 point
    b. Sophomore – 2 points
    c. Junior – 3 points
    d. Senior – 9 points
2. Auditions and Honor Ensembles (No more than 7 points can come from this category)
    a. SVHS Jazz Band Member – 2 points
    b. Audition for district band and/or jazz band – 2 points each
    c. Make district band and/or jazz band roster– 3 points each
    d. Audition for state band and/or jazz band – 3 points each
    e. Make state band and/or jazz band roster – 5 points each
3. Solo / Small Ensemble Participation (No more than 6 points can come from this category)
    a. League Festival Performance – 1 point
    b. Regional Festival Performance – 1 point
    c. State Festival Performance – 1 point
    d. 1 Rating @ State Festival – 1 point
4. Other (No more than 4 points can come from this category)
    a. Regular Private lessons on school instrument: 2 points
    b. Win Sousa, Armstrong, Director's, or Outstanding Awards: 4 points each
    c. Band camp participation (upon director's approval): (No more than 2)
    d. Lindsborg Community Band Member: 1 point per performance (No more than 2)
5. Unexcused Absences
    a. Minus 10 points each

Instrument Maintenance

Instruments must be maintained. Instruments that are not in proper working order will not play well in tune or play easily enough for you to enjoy making music. If you are using a school owned instrument, please contact the director as soon as you expect there might be a problem. If you are using your personal instrument, please take your instrument to a professional repairman if there is a problem. If it is a significant problem that will keep you from playing in class for more than a day or two, ask the repair shop to let you use a "Loaner" instrument.

School Owned Instrument Rental / Maintenance Fee

For students who are eligible to rent an instrument from the school; there is a once-a-year rental fee of $50 (due at the beginning of the school year). This fee helps to cover normal use throughout the school year. School owned instruments will be due no earlier than the last performance and no later than the last day of school. Each school instrument needs to be cleaned and maintained during the summer. Not all instruments are available via school rental. Please talk to Mr. Keller about the availability of school instruments.

Local Music Stores

Midwest Music (Repair and Retail) 210 South Sante Fe Salina, KS 67401 785.825.6296	S.M. Hanson (Repair and Retail) 335 S. Clark St. Salina, KS 67401 785.825.6273	Keller Instrument Repair (Repair Only) 5 South Main Hutchinson, KS 67501 620.669.0455

Required and Recommended Equipment

1. All Band members are expected to take care of the school owned equipment included but not limited to: music, stands, chairs, instruments, auditorium, rehearsal hall, storage areas, stadiums, etc.
    a. The above-mentioned are subject to normal use. Repairs due to damage that falls outside of "Normal" will be the responsibility of the student accountable.
    b. All SVHS band members (except percussionists) need to have a lyre and flip folder and a luggage style tag attached to his/her instrument. SVMS band members are encouraged, but not required to have these items as well.
2. Woodwinds
    a. Flute: Cleaning/tuning rod, swab.
    b. Clarinet: At *least* 4 "Good" reeds, cork grease, and pull through swab
        i. 5th: Rico/Juno 2.5. 6th: Rico/Juno 3. 7/8th: Mitchell Lurie 3-3.5, HS: Vandoren 3-3.5
    c. Bass Clarinet: At *least* 3 "Good" reeds (La Voz Med. or Vandoren 3)
    d. Oboe: At *least* 2 "Good" reeds, reed guard, cork grease, pull through swab.
    e. Bassoon: At *least* 2 "Good" reeds, reed guard, cork grease, cleaning swab, and seat strap
    f. Saxophone: At *least* 4 "Good" reeds, neck strap, pad saver, and cork grease.
        i. 5th: Rico/Juno 2.5. 6th: Rico/Juno 3. 7/8th: Juno/Vandoren 3, HS: Vandoren 3-3.5
3. Brass
    a. Trumpet: Al Cass or Blue Juice Valve oil, Tuning slide grease, straight mute (Recommended)
    b. French Horn: Rotor oil
    c. Trombone: Slide cream, water spray bottle
    d. Baritone/Tuba: Al Cass or Blue Juice Valve oil
4. Percussion – Please clearly label all personal mallets
    a. Required – Stick Bag
    b. Recommended – Snare sticks (Vic Firth SD-1), yarn keyboard mallets (Vic Firth or Mike Balter), rubber keyboard mallets, timpani mallets (soft). All labeled please.
5. Method Books -
    a. 5th Grade will be using Essential Elements Book 1 (yellow). Please purchase book 1 asap.
    b. 6th Grade will begin the year using Essential Elements Book 1 (yellow). We will move to Essential Elements book 2 (red) later in the semester. Please purchase book 2 at your convenience (before October 1, please).
    c. SVMS 7/8 will begin the year using Essential Elements Book 2 (red). We will move to Essential Elements book 3 (green) later in the semester. You are welcome to purchase book 3, but the school will provide one for your use.

SVHS Viking Band Calendar 2025-2026 (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Date	Call Time/Downbeat	Event/Participants	Location
09.10.25	TBA/All School Day	SVHS Band March at Kansas State Fair	KSF - Hutchinson, KS
09.15-10.20		SVHS Music Dept. Fundraiser	As Needed
09.19.25	6:35/6:45p	Home Football Game (Homecoming)	SV Football Stadium
09.25.25	7:00/7:30p	SVHS B/O Concert	SV Auditorium
10.01.25	TBA - PM	SCKMEA District Jazz Auditions – *Select Students*	Wichita Collegiate
10.03.25	6:35/6:45p	Home Football Game	SV Football Stadium
10.17.25	6:35/6:45p	Home Football Game	SV Football Stadium
10.18.25	TBA AM	Hyllningsfest Parade	Downtown Lindsborg
10.24.25	6:35/6:45p	Home Football Game	SV Football Stadium
10.27.25	7:00p	Fall Jazz/ Concert - *Select Students*	SV Auditorium
11.06.25	TBA	McPherson College Jazz Festival- *Jazz Bands Only*	McPherson College
11.08.25	TBA	SCKMEA District Auditions (*Select Students*)	Goddard HS
12.02.25	6:20/6:30p	Home Basketball Games	SV Gymnasium
12.04.25	7:00/7:30p	SVHS B/O Concert	SV Auditorium
12.06.25	TBA	SCKMEA District Performances (*Select Students)*	Maize HS
12.10.25	All Day	SVHS Jazz Christmas Tour	TBA
12.13.25	2:30p	St. Lucia Bell Tower Brass	MLC - Lindsborg
12.15.25	6:20/6:30p	Home Basketball Games	SV Gymnasium
12.19.25	6:20/6:30p	Home Basketball Games	SV Gymnasium
01.13.26	6:20/6:30p	Home Basketball Games	SV Gymnasium
01.17.26	TBA/All Day	KMEA State Auditions - *Select Students*	Salina Central HS
1.29-1.30	TBA/All Day	HCC Jazz Festival	HCC - Hutchinson
01.30.26	6:20/6:30p	Home Basketball Games	SV Gymnasium
02.03.26	6:20/6:30p	Home Basketball Games	SV Gymnasium
02.13.26	6:20/6:30p	Home Basketball Games	SV Gymnasium
02.20.26	6:20/6:30p	Home Basketball Games	SV Gymnasium
02.24.26	6:20/6:30p	Home Basketball Games	SV Gymnasium
2.26-2.28	TBA	KMEA ISW / State Ensembles	Wichita
02.27.26	***7:15a-Noon***	***KMEA ISW Performance! *VERY IMPORTANT***	***CII Wichita***
03.04.26	During School Day	CKL Music Festival	Tabor College
03.28.26	TBA	Regional Solo/Small Ens. Festival *(Select Students)*	Barton CC
04.15.26	During School Day	State Large Group Festival	SV Auditorium
04.25.26	TBA	State Solo/Small Ens. Festival *(Select Students)*	SE of Saline
04.27.26	6:45/7:00p	SV Jazz Concert *(Jazz Band Only)*	SV Auditorium
05.08.26	TBA - AM	McPherson County All-Schools Day Parade	McPherson
05.12.26	7:00/7:30p	SVHS B/O Concert	SV Auditorium

After reading the handbook, please sign and return this page before Friday, August 22, 2025

**If possible, please return this page with $12 for shirt*

I/We have read and understand the 25-26 SVHS Band Handbook. This includes the most important information, including, but not limited to:

- $12 for the 25-26 Band Shirt/Pep & Marching Band Uniform ***(Due Sept. 5)***
- The 25-26 Band Event Calendar
  - *INCLUDING THE KMEA ISW PERFORMANCE (Feb. 27 (AM)!*
- Attendance Policy (Including the necessity of parent communication)
- Required Materials/Instrument Accessories
- Required Concert Attire
- Cell Phone Policy
- Reminder! Spring Break 2027 is our “Big Trip!” More info to come!

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

SVMS Viking Band Calendar 2025-2026 (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Date	Call Time/Downbeat	Event/Participants	Location
08.04-08.08	8-10a	Beginning Band Camp (5th)	SVMS
09.15-10.20	N/A	SVHS Music Dept. Fundraiser (optional)	As Needed
10.17.25	12:00p	Hyllningsfest Opening Ceremony (7/8th)	Downtown Lindsborg
10.18.25	TBA AM	Hyllningsfest Parade (6,7,8th)	Downtown Lindsborg
11.11.25	1:30p	SVMS Veterans Day Ceremony (7th/8th)	SVHS Gym
12.16.25	6:30/7:00p	SVMS 7/8th Concert	SV Auditorium
03.10.26	TBA 1-6p	CKL 7/8th Music Festival	SVMS
04.07.26	6:30/7:00p	SVMS 5/6th Band and Orchestra Concert	SV Auditorium
05.08.26	TBA AM	McPherson All-Schools Day Parade (6,7,8th)	McPherson
05.15.26	6:30/7:00p	SVMS 7/8th Concert	SV Auditorium
05.19.26	6:45/7:00p	SVMS 8th Grade Class Night (8th)	SV Auditorium