Stillwater Bands

8TH GRADE BAND GUIDELINES

PHILOSOPHY

The Stillwater Band program is dedicated to providing each student with the opportunity to become proficient musicians while developing life-long skills such as responsibility, teamwork, confidence, and an appreciation for the arts.

ATTENDANCE

- 8th Grade Band members are responsible for attending all performances, sectionals, clinics, and other required band events. These are all graded events. Dates for all activities will be sent out well in advance. We encourage you to make note of these events on your family calendar as soon as possible.
- If you have to miss rehearsal for any reason, you are expected to communicate this with your director BEFORE the rehearsal begins (as early as possible). If you have a conflict with another school activity (sports/robotics/ag/etc), you must let both teachers/coaches know about the conflict so that they can let you know which activity will take precedence at that time. Example - a concert is more important than a practice, but a game is more important than a rehearsal, etc. If activities are equal in importance (concert and game), the student and their family may decide.
- Please make every effort to schedule your medical, dental, or other appointments around daily band rehearsals and activities - especially before-school sectionals. Every band member is a vital part of the success of the group. Also, please be aware of band performance dates and avoid scheduling major dental work (braces on or off/oral surgery) 4-6 weeks prior to the event. This is most important in the months of January and February.
- Attendance of before or after school sectionals/rehearsals is required and graded. If you have a transportation issue, we will be glad to help find a solution for you. Students that ride a bus need to make alternate travel arrangements on sectional days.
- An unexcused absence from an activity will result in a zero grade for that assignment. At his or her discretion, the director may offer a make-up assignment for partial credit.
- We understand that occasional instances can occur that could prevent your attendance at a band event (personal severe illness, family emergencies, etc.) In such a case, communicate with the band director as early as possible.
- Illness that results in a student missing the school day is always excused.

COMMUNICATION

E-mail

- Our primary means of distributing information is via e-mail through Infinite Campus. If you are not receiving band e-mails, please log into Infinite Campus to make sure your email address is correct. Contact the SJHS office if you need help.

Financial

Cut Time is the student information database for Stillwater Band. An account is already in place for every Stillwater Band student and parent. You do not need to create an account. Please look for information soon about how to log in to Cut Time and view financial statements. In the meantime, please email Ms Perkins if you'd like to inquire about your band account funds. Band accounts can be used to pay for any band activity (audition entry fees, trips, etc). Fundraisers and OSU concessions are the best way to accumulate money into your band account!

GRADING

Band students will receive grades in band as they do in all other subjects (A, B, C, D, F). 8th Grade Band grades are divided as follows:

- **Playing tests, recorded assignments, sectional rehearsals, class participation and preparedness - 70%**
- **Performances – 30%**

8th Grade Band students will have a recorded assignment due most weeks. Recorded Assignments are due at midnight. If you are absent the day your assignment is due, you are expected to turn it in the day you return. Students are given assignments at least one week in advance. Students will receive a grade deduction for late assignments. Recorded Assignments must be done at home. (Percussion students are an exception and will play live in class.) The purpose of at-home recordings is for students to practice the assignment throughout the week and to record their very best performance. All assignments are turned in through Canvas. Detailed instructions about each recording will be posted for each assignment. Students should always use a metronome unless the instructions say otherwise. Each assignment is worth 100 points, with a chance for extra credit on every assignment with either extra scales or an 'early turn-in' incentive. With a rubric, assignments will be graded on the following criteria: Tone quality, note and rhythm accuracy, style, articulation, and musicality.

Students are only responsible for **one** assignment a week for band class! Recordings are a large portion of your grade and are vital to the success of the ensembles. Students who do not complete recordings will be academically ineligible to attend any school-related functions including competitions, sports activities, and school dances.

WEEKLY SECTIONALS

All 8th Grade Band students are required to attend a weekly sectional rehearsal held during various times of the year from either 8:00am-8:45am (Symphonic Band) or 4:00pm-4:45pm (Concert Band). It is during sectionals that important individualized and small-group instruction is given. Sectionals are graded rehearsals. Please avoid scheduling medical or dental appointments during sectional time. If you are absent at school the day of a sectional, it will be excused in the grade book, but prior communication with a band director about the situation is expected. Each sectional is worth 100 points. Students who ride a bus will need to make alternate arrangements on sectional days.

The sectional schedule may be altered during the school year due to extenuating circumstances such as weather, but families will be notified of changes well in advance. A sectional calendar will be e-mailed to parents and sent home with students prior to the start of sectionals. **Sectionals will occur during January and February**.

UNIFORMS

Concert Uniform

The Stillwater 8th Grade Band uniform is the same as in 7th Grade. This uniform will be worn at all concert performances and contests. Please be extremely specific when purchasing your uniform.

- Black button-up collared dress shirt
- Black dress pants
- Black belt (unless a female cut shirt is worn)
- Black dress shoes (no tennis shoes, combat boots, high heels, etc)
- Long black socks or hose
- Undershirt (if worn) must be all black

The purpose of a uniform is that everyone will look the same. No decorations or ornaments, ribbons, etc. should be worn. No hair style or facial piercing that would distract from the uniform look of the group should be worn during a performance. Hair color should be a ***natural*** color during performances. Temporary color coverup might be necessary.

SUPPLIES

All 8th Grade Band students will need the following supplies on a daily basis. Students will receive a daily grade for having these supplies in class:

- Instrument in proper working condition and any other necessary accessories or equipment (i.e. reeds, mouthpiece, oil, grease, mallets, etc)
- $5 for Band Binder with page protectors, pencil bag, and pencils
- $15 for Stillwater Band shirt (required uniform for 8th Grade Night at SHS Football Game)
- Foundations for Superior Performance book by King/Williams
- Electronic tuner/metronome with clip on microphone for everyday class use. (brass/woodwind only)
- Flip folder with rings and pages
- Lyre (not for percussion or tuba students)

The flip folder, lyre, and t-shirt are for 8th Grade Night when students perform with the high school marching band at a SHS football game. These items will also be used in high school band the following year. These items can be purchased through our order form provided to students on the first day of school. Palen Music also has an online store designed for Stillwater Bands (www.palenmusic.com/stillwater). This is great for accessories such as reeds and valve oil.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

- The school will issue instruments in proper working order to those students chosen to play them.
- All students using a school-owned instrument (Oboe, Bassoon, Bass clarinet, French horn, Baritone, and Tuba) are required to pay a yearly $50 maintenance fee. This yearly fee helps offset the total maintenance expense of equipment throughout the year, while still providing a significant financial savings to our families by not having to purchase the instrument. Checks should be made payable to Stillwater Band at the beginning of each year.
- The student will pay for any repair resulting from accidental dropping, irresponsibility, misuse or neglect. Abuse of school owned instruments will not be tolerated. In addition, students will be responsible for the replacement cost of any lost pieces of the instrument, i.e. mouthpieces, neck straps etc. Please be aware the cost of a mouthpiece can be significant.
- General wear and tear repair needs will be paid for by the school.

RANK ONE

All secondary students participating in ANY school activity (sports, academic team, band, FCCLA, etc.) must complete the online safety records and agreements through Rank One. This covers any travel in which your student may partake throughout the school year. Instructions are as follows:

- Go to ***https://stillwaterschools.rankonesport.com*** and create an account. You will need your child's student ID (lunch number). All forms should be completed EXCEPT the following: 'Student Athlete Pledge', 'Concussion and Head Injury Acknowledgement', and 'Sudden Cardiac Acknowledgement'. Please keep in mind that while the verbiage is 'sports-oriented', it is meant for all students in any activity school-wide. Please fill out these forms as soon as possible. If forms are not filled out completely, students will not be released to participate in any school activity. If your child is involved in multiple school activities, the forms only need to be completed once. 8th Grade Band students do *not* need a physical.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are a voluntary, once a week, year long activity. They are not meant to be viewed as 'remedial tutoring', but as a means to go above and beyond. Private lessons are designed to help the student develop, through individual attention and careful practice, complete command of their instrument. Lessons are not meant to be used solely as a preparation for a single event (i.e. NCDA, Solo/Ensemble, etc.) We **HIGHLY** encourage private study for all students. Information on our private lesson program will be sent out early in the school year.

NCDA AUDITIONS and SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST

- These activities are highly encouraged, and are designed to encourage students to set high goals in individual musicianship and achievement.
- Students are responsible for paying the entry fees for these events and must do so by the deadline date in order to be entered.
- Students will be expected to play their audition music for a director multiple times throughout the preparation process to help them stay on track and gain feedback on their progress so they feel confident when performing.
- Woodwind and Brass students performing a solo will be required to play with a piano accompanist. The school will provide one or you may use your own. Accompanists should be compensated for the work. Exact fees will be discussed closer to the event, but is approximately $15.
- NCDA and Solo-Ensemble events are counted as performances. Attendance policies will be in effect. Backing out at the last minute is not allowed. If you enter, you play!

ELIGIBILITY

In accordance with OSSAA and Stillwater Public Schools policy, students must maintain a 60% in all classes in order to be eligible to participate in any extra-curricular activity. The Stillwater Band program will adhere to these policies with no exception. Students playing school owned instruments must maintain a passing grade in all classes for continued use of these instruments.

8TH GRADE BAND SPRING TRIP

In order to attend the trip, students must be passing all classes and must have maintained good behavior throughout the school year - both in band and school-wide. Because this is an overnight trip, students must be trusted to be responsible and well-behaved throughout the entirety of the trip. Any student who has received disciplinary action or shown problematic behavior throughout the school year will not be allowed to attend the trip. All information about the trip will be provided soon.

SUMMER BAND CAMP

Students are encouraged to attend The Oklahoma State University or University of Arkansas Summer Music Camps in the summer. This is a great way to keep students playing through summer break. It also provides a wonderful learning opportunity from new instructors and gives students an experience to make new friends away from home.

Some scholarship money will be available to help aid the cost of band camp. Scholarships will be awarded based on need, performance throughout the year, and participation in activities such as NCDA, Solo and Ensemble, and private lessons. Scholarship applications will be made available in April.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

- Each member of the Stillwater Band Program should do their best to represent our band program and school at all times.
- Be in your seat with your instrument out and ready to warm up when the bell rings.
- Instruments go home every night. Playing an instrument requires skills that must be developed continually over a period of time. You can't "cram" the night before a playing test and expect to do well. Remember, you have homework in band every night. Practice!
- Never let unauthorized people play or handle your instrument.
- Gum, food, or drink are not allowed in the band room at any time, except for water.
- Instrument storage lockers are for the storage of your instrument and music only.
- Non-band students are not allowed in the band room or instrument room at any time, for any reason.

SPECIAL NOTES FOR PARENTS

- You and your student will receive a weekly "Sunday Email". This is the best way to stay up to date on all band-related activities. Please encourage your student to read this as well.
- Your child should be bringing their instrument home every single night. As little as 20 minutes a day of practice will help significantly.
- Nearly every week your child will have a recorded assignment due. Please help them stay diligent with turning in their assignments. They are assigned a week in advance.
- The black concert uniform will be needed multiple times throughout the year. The first time it will be needed is at the Holiday Concert in December.
- Please check the calendar thoroughly. The spring and following summer have high school band-related obligations in which attendance is required. Please check the calendar before scheduling family vacations.

8th GRADE BAND BEGINNING OF YEAR CHECKLIST

In order to help you stay organized, please make sure you have completed the checklist below no later than **Thursday, *August 20th***.

✓ Put performance dates on the family calendar.

✓ Turn in money and order form for this year's required material during band class by Aug 20.

✓ Complete Band Guidelines parent/student acknowledgement form by Aug 20. This Google Form can be found in Canvas as well as in an email sent to parents and students.

✓ Students and parents should complete Rank One forms together to be eligible for all school activities by Aug 20. If this has already been completed *this year* for a school sport or other activity, you do not have to do it again. Students/parents must complete the following forms **only**:
-Emergency Consent Form
-Co-curricular Contract
-Seasonal Transportation Waiver
-OSSAA Eligibility Form
-Drug Testing Consent Form
8th Grade Band students do *not* need to get a physical!
If you recently moved into the district, it might take a few days for your name to show up in the Rank One database.

✓ Students should submit their band placement audition through Canvas by midnight on Thursday, August 20th so they can be placed in one of two bands. Percussion will complete their audition during class.

✓ Students who play a school-owned instrument (oboe/bassoon/bass clarinet/French horn/euphonium/tuba) should sign and return the instrument contract that is in their binder as soon as possible. The fee is due September 18th.

https://stillwaterschools.rankonesport.com

https://forms.gle/cYjZYM42r6DRp7vj7

Stillwater 8th Grade Band Performance Calendar

 # Denotes Required Attendance for all members

#Friday, October 9th
8th Grade Night - SHS football game
Time: 4:30-10:00pm (approximate)
Attire: Grey Band t-shirt, tennis shoes, and denim jeans (No shorts or jeans with holes.) Dinner is provided.

Saturday, November 7th
NCDA auditions at Owasso HS
Time: Early morning to mid afternoon
Attire: School clothes

#Tuesday, December 8th
Stillwater Bands Holiday Concert
7:00 PM @ SHS PAC
Attire – Black concert uniform

Fri - Sat, January 8th - 9th
NCDA Clinic and Concert @ Stillwater High School (for students selected to NCDA)
Attire Friday – school clothes.
Attire Saturday – black concert uniform.

#February 2, 16, March 2, May 10
New Marcher Camp
4:30-6:00pm @ SJHS Band Room
Attire – athletic clothes/tennis shoes
*Color Guard clinics - dates TBA in May

#Friday, February 26th
OBA Concert Band Festival @ Mustang HS
*Symphonic Band Only
During School Day
Attire - black concert uniform

#Thursday, March 4th
7th/8th Pre-District Concert
7:00 PM @ SHS PAC
Attire – black concert uniform

#Thursday, March 11th
OSSAA District Contest (during school)
Attire - Black concert uniform

Saturday, April 10th
Solo/Ensemble Contest @ SHS PAC
Time: Early morning to mid afternoon.
Attire – black concert uniform.
*Required grade for percussion students

Tuesday, April 6th
Percussion Ensemble Concert
7:00 PM @ SHS PAC
Attire – black concert uniform
*Required grade for percussion students

#Thursday, April 15th
Trip Meeting for all students/parents/chaperones
SJHS Cafeteria - 6:00pm

#Friday/Saturday, April 23-24th
North Texas Festival of Distinction Trip
Info will be released in October

#Thursday, May 6th
Spring Concert (6,7,8)
7:00 PM @ SHS PAC
Attire – black concert uniform.

#Friday, May 21st
Graduation @ Gallagher Iba Arena 6:00 PM
Attire – Professional/any color (no jeans or tennis shoes).
*Required grade for all woodwind/brass students

May 24th-28th
Percussion Training Camp - 8:30-11:30am
*Required for all percussion students

June 6-10th
Oklahoma State University JH Band Camp
OSU Campus

July 11th-16th
University of Arkansas JH Band Camp
Fayetteville, Arkansas

#July 26 - August 6
High School Marching Band Camp
Mon-Fri from 7:30am-3:00pm with lunch break.
*Required for all members of the band program. Please schedule family vacations accordingly