



# WELCOME TO SRMS BAND!



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<https://sites.google.com/sau17.net/performingarts/srms/srms-band>

## **WELCOME TO BAND!**

Hello! My name is Chris Vinciguerra, and I am excited to return as the band director this year with the SRMS Middle School Bands! The band program is filled with opportunities for musical enrichment, performances, travel, and more. I am also pleased to welcome back Mr. Matthew Bradd as an instructor.

## **METHOD BOOK AND SUPPLIES**

In addition to instruments, students will need to provide the following materials for rehearsals and performances:

- *Standard of Excellence*: by Bruce Pearson
  - Grade 6 will need *Standard of Excellence, Book 1* (Red Book) from 5<sup>th</sup> grade to start the year and eventually *Standard of Excellence Book 2* (Blue Book)
  - Grades 7 & 8 will need *Standard of Excellence, Book 2* (Blue Book). We will not be using Book 3 (Green Book) this year.
- Pencil
- 1" 3-Ring Binder or Folder (note: music stands sometimes cannot hold up heavy, full binders; a durable folder or small/light binder is preferred)
- Sheet Protectors
- Instrument Supplies: i.e. reeds (oboes, clarinets, and saxophones), valve oil/slide cream (brass), and sticks/mallets and practice pad (percussion)

## **GRADES**

SRMS Band is a graded class that meets every day for non-chorus members. Students in sixth grade band and chorus have band MWF and chorus TTh. All students in 7th and 8th grade band every day. Students will be assessed on their abilities to create, perform, respond, and make connections to music. 60% of the grade will be summative assessments (performances, dress rehearsals), 30% will be formative assessments (weekly rehearsal grades), and 10% will be homework (Smartmusic assignments completed at home).

**Home Practice:** Students are expected to practice at home for 75 minutes each week, which should be divided into five days of 15 minute sessions or three days of 25 minute sessions. It is more effective to practice more often for short periods of time than it is to practice less often for longer periods of time.

**Smartmusic:** Students will have periodic assignments on Smartmusic which will count as students' homework grade. **Late Smartmusic assignments will not be accepted.** If there are technical issues with Smartmusic, it is the student's responsibility to reach out to troubleshoot at least three days before the assignment is due (email, ask in class, etc.).

## **CONCERT ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Band members are expected to attend all band performances. Any unexcused absence will result in a zero for a summative performance grade. If there is a conflict between a band concert and another event (softball game or orthodontist appointment for example), the student **will not be excused** from the concert. If there is a medical or family emergency, contact must be made from a parent or guardian stating the reason for the absence. Any long-standing family plans that conflict with the scheduled performances

must be communicated with the director no less than 30 days before the performance. In this instance, a make-up project may be assigned to the student.

### **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

- December 16, 6:00 PM - Middle School Winter Band Concert (snow date Dec. 18)
- May 21, 6:00 PM - Middle School Spring Band Concert
- May/June TBD - Great East Festival Field Trip (7th/8th grade only)

### **CONCERT ATTIRE**

During all public performances, students must dress to match the ensemble. Students need a nice white shirt, black dress pants or skirt, black shoes, and black socks. Skirts must extend below the knee when sitting. Students **should not wear** t-shirts, tank tops, leggings, jeans (even if they are black) or sneakers. If there are any issues in securing the items needed, please let the director know at least two weeks prior to a performance.

### **INSTRUMENTS**

Students are responsible for having a working instrument with all needed accessories. Rentals, repairs, and supplies are available at SRMS through Music & Arts. Please contact Eric Stokes at [estokes@musicarts.com](mailto:estokes@musicarts.com) or at (207) 210-2378, or visit the Music & Arts website at [www.musicarts.com](http://www.musicarts.com) for more information. Many families also visit Exeter Music for supplies and repairs, (603) 772-5440, 135 Water Street, Exeter, NH 03833. Students may borrow instruments from the district depending on availability. Parents/guardians must sign and return a loaner form before bringing any school instruments home. Students and parents/guardians are responsible for any loss or damage to a school instrument.

### **STORAGE**

Instruments should be brought into school and stored neatly on the band room's storage shelves. Instruments are allowed to occasionally stay overnight during the week if transportation is an issue. Instruments are NOT allowed to spend a weekend in the music room. All instruments and music binders need to have an ID tag or permanent label on the outside of the case. *Percussion students need only to transport a practice pad, sticks, and mallets to and from school. They will play on school equipment for rehearsals.* Students should bring their instruments to the band room when they enter the building in the morning. **If the band room is locked (rare occurrence), students must carry their instrument to their class. No instrument may be left in the hallway at any time.**

### **BAND EXPECTATIONS**

Members of a performance ensemble have a responsibility to one another that is unique in the school setting. Because the success of the ensemble is dependent upon each and every member's contribution, all student members are expected to be fully engaged during rehearsals and sectionals, follow the classroom rules, arrive prepared and on time with materials, and treat their teachers and fellow classmates with courtesy and respect.

Students enrolled in band must meet two criteria to participate with the group. 1 - Students must demonstrate care and safe habits with all band equipment, and 2 - students' behavior cannot take away from others' learning or ensemble cohesiveness. In the event a student is failing to meet either of these criteria, parent communication will be made. If a student continues to fail to meet either criteria, an in-person meeting will be requested with an administrator.

Band and choir classes are year-long courses, and as such, we expect that students enrolling are prepared to commit to participation for the entire school year. The directors encourage communication about any issues that may arise that would jeopardize your child's ability to fulfill this commitment. Dropping out of

band should be considered as a last resort, and will only be honored after discussion has taken place between parent, student, guidance, and director.

### **QUESTIONS?**

If at any point during the year you have questions or concerns about the band program, instrument upgrades, or your child's progress, please do not hesitate to email me at [cvinciguerra@sau17.net](mailto:cvinciguerra@sau17.net). Thank you, and I look forward to a great year with the SRMS Bands!

Please fill out the following and have a parent/guardian sign this sheet. This sheet is to be turned in by **Friday, September 5th**.

## **SRMS Band Syllabus Receipt Acknowledgement**

*I acknowledge receipt of the 2025-2026 SRMS Band Syllabus, and understand the listed policies and procedures.*

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Student Name

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Student Signature

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Parent/Guardian Signature

