



SGCMS Band Handbook 2025-2026

Mr. Ryan - Band Director

rbateman@gcssd.org

731-783-1962 ext. 2952



SGCMS Band Mission Statement

The mission of the South Gibson County Middle School Band is to cultivate a community of aspiring young musicians and leaders, fostering their growth through transformative musical experiences. We are committed to providing a comprehensive music education that not only develops technical proficiency but also empowers students with invaluable leadership skills. Through ensemble performances, rehearsals, and individual musical endeavors, our band members will learn the importance of teamwork, discipline, and dedication. We strive to create an inclusive and supportive environment where every student can explore their musical potential, build self-confidence, and embrace their unique talents. Our ultimate goal is to inspire a lifelong love for music while equipping our students with the tools to become influential leaders in both the musical world and their communities.



Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the South Gibson County Middle School Band for the 2025-2026 school year! We are thrilled to embark on this musical journey together, and we couldn't be more excited to have you as part of our band family.

At South Gibson County Middle School, we believe in the power of music to inspire, uplift, and transform lives. The band program provides a unique opportunity for students to express themselves creatively, develop discipline and teamwork, and build lifelong friendships. We are dedicated to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment where every student can thrive.

This upcoming year promises to be filled with exhilarating performances, challenging rehearsals, and countless memorable moments. We want to emphasize the importance of dedication and hard work. As band members, we ask for your commitment to attend rehearsals, practice regularly, and strive for excellence. Together, we will create beautiful music and achieve remarkable achievements.

Throughout the year, we will have various performances, festivals, and events where you will have the opportunity to showcase your talent. We encourage you to embrace these opportunities, as they are not only a chance to demonstrate your hard work but also a chance to experience the joy and excitement of performing for an audience.

We understand that the success of our band program is a collaborative effort involving both students and parents. We greatly value your support and encourage you to actively participate in your child's musical journey. Whether it's attending concerts, assisting with fundraising events, or simply providing encouragement at home, your involvement makes a significant difference.

As we embark on this exciting journey together, let us remember that music has the power to inspire, connect, and bring joy to our lives. We are confident that the 2025-2026 school year will be a memorable and transformative experience for everyone involved.

Once again, welcome to the South Gibson County Middle School Band. Get ready for a year filled with exhilarating music, lifelong friendships, and personal growth. We cannot wait to see the amazing things we will achieve together!

Best,
Ryan Bateman
Band Director, South Gibson County Middle School

Supply List

Required Supplies

- 3-Ring Binder ANY COLOR - 1 Inch or 1/2 ONLY. Anything larger will not fit in folio cabinets.
- 5 Dividers – Labeled as: 1. Information, 2. Warm-Ups, 3. Rhythms, 4. Music, 5. Old Music
- 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade will use their method book throughout the year
- Students will be expected to have a pencil at all times

Recommended Supplies

- Korg TM60 Metronome and Tuner Combo with Clip on Microphone (not for percussion)
***HIGHLY RECOMMENDED* Can be found on Amazon or ordered through Amro.**
- Box of Reeds for the following Instruments (can be found on Amazon):
 - Clarinet: Vandoren CR103 Bb Clarinet Traditional Reeds Strength 3; Box of 10
 - Alto Saxophone: Vandoren SR213 Alto Sax Traditional Reeds Strength 3; Box of 10
- 1 Locker Sized Mirror
- Cleaning supplies for each instrument

How to Set Up Your Binder

1. The front of the binder should be labeled with the student's name. The label is supplied by the director.
2. The method book should be in the LEFT front pocket, labeled with your name. Books for private lessons may also go in this pocket or in the back pocket.
3. 5 dividers labeled and in this order:
 - Information
 - Warm-Ups
 - Rhythms
 - Music
 - Old Music

For students in private lessons, any private lesson materials should go in the back of the binder.

Grading

Grading will be used for the 25-65 school year. Grading will be used in Band Class both as a means of accountability and a method of measuring student growth. It's important to recognize that in band class, your teachers will NEVER criticize you, but WILL give feedback. Feedback helps us grow as humans and musicians. Grades will be given for participation, worksheets, playing tests, chair auditions, and concert performances.

Participation: Students will be given daily grades based on their participation in class through various ways, such as pencil checks, binder checks, down the row exercises, and their willingness to participate in all of the above.

Worksheets: Will be given throughout the year to constantly check for musical literacy and understanding of musical concepts. These will usually be completed in class. Practice logs will count here as well. If a student cannot take their instrument home, working on reading music or using their mouthpiece and fingers will count.

Playing tests/Chair Assignments: Will be assigned well in advance to give students ample opportunity to practice/prepare. These will be completed via Google Classroom. Students will complete these at home - this is to give students more than one chance to record their playing test. If a student is not able to complete the tests at home, they will be given an opportunity to record an assignment and submit it to Mr. Bateman.

Concerts: As a performance-based class, concerts will serve as "Exam" grades. All students will receive a "100" for simply showing up to the concert and putting their best effort forward. If a student must miss a performance due to an emergency, they will be given an alternate assignment.

GCSSD operates off of the following grading scale:

- A:** 90-100
- B:** 80-89
- C:** 70-79
- D:** 60-69
- F:** 0-59

Band Uniform

7th and 8th grade students will be assigned a band uniform during the month of September. These uniforms will be used for parades and other events deemed fit by the director. The fitting date will be finalized after the first parent meeting of the school year. A contract will be shared with students and guardians detailing upkeep and uniform responsibility. The uniform may also be washed at home - instructions will be sent.

Private Lessons

All SGCMS Band students are encouraged to take Private Lessons outside of school on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Private lessons provide one-on-one personal attention that improve student ability at the fastest rate possible. Lessons are available based on the availability of the private instructor and are typically offered in 30 or 60 minute slots. Payment and rates will be set by the private instructor. Please view the website for a list of available instructors and their contact information. If you need assistance in finding a lessons instructor, please reach out to Mr. Ryan.

Honor Bands

On top of Private Lessons, SGCMS Band Students in 7th and 8th grade are encouraged to audition for All West Honor Band in November and apply for UTM Honor Band in December. This is a prestigious honor that can be used on college applications in the future! More details will be given to students as they become available.

Solo & Ensemble

All 6th-8th grade band students will also be given to participate in Solo & Ensemble at UT Martin, provided this does not interfere with testing. The date for this year is April 18th, 2026.

Solo and Ensemble is an event where students prepare solos or small groups (duets, trios, quartets) and perform in front of a judge to receive one of the following ratings:

- I - Superior
- II - Excellent
- III - Good
- IV - Fair
- V- Poor

Students prepare with minimal help from the band director, but will be given opportunities for feedback through the Spring Semester. The cost to perform at Solo & Ensemble is \$10 and will be collected at a later date. This is a tentative event. Pending on testing schedules.

Communication

Communication is a very important part of a well-functioning band program. Below are two ways to keep up to date with the SGCMS Band. Please note that all dates for the upcoming year are also listed in the calendar at the end of the Band Handbook. Dates are subject to change and rehearsals may be added or taken away at the discretion of the Band Director.

If there is a date on the calendar that your student cannot attend, please let me know! A quick message on the Band App or an email is all I need.

YOU MUST JOIN THE BAND APP! This is our primary method of communication. If you need help joining, please email rbateman@gcssd.org Scan the code below to join!



Band Website



The band website serves as a resource for both parents/guardians and students. It contains our handbook, calendar, updates, etc. It also has sections specifically geared towards students. If your student is struggling with something in band, have them check out the website to see if it may help!

Instrument Rentals

The primary source of instrument rentals will be through [Amro Music](#) out of Memphis, Tennessee. Amro works on a “Rent to Own” program, or an instrument can be purchased in full. Here are a few things to consider when renting an instrument:

Instrument Quality – Not all instruments and brands are created equally. Selecting a quality instrument is important to ensure it will withstand the rigors of a young player and offer the best opportunity for long term success.

Maintenance Coverage – It’s inevitable that an instrument will need repair. Selecting a rental program that takes this into account will make the repair process much easier for directors and parents.

Regular Service – A reputable music store should be able to visit your program on a regular basis. This ensures the needs of the students, directors, and parents are met in a timely manner.

Fast Repairs – A student without an instrument can quickly fall behind. In order to keep the class together, it’s important that rental instruments are returned from repair as quickly as possible.

Step-Up Option – As students advance, they will need to move out of a beginner instrument and into a step-up instrument. Rental programs that offer equity in the form of rental credit or trade-ins can ease the financial burden of moving a developing musician to the step-up instrument.

School Owned Instruments

The band program owns a few instruments that can be loaned out to students. This is typically reserved for students who will play a larger instrument, such as the baritone or tuba. However, we have a very limited supply of other instruments to loan out. Please keep in mind that it is preferred that students rent an instrument directly from Amro. Students may be loaned an instrument from the school for a fee of \$70. This fee will be used for any maintenance/repairs that are needed. Students needing a school owned instrument will be sent an Instrument Loan agreement.

Repairs

If an instrument is in need of repair, Mr. Ryan will always check to see if it can be repaired in-house first. If not, the instrument will be sent to Amro. Students who rent will be covered in their M&R insurance. Students who are on a school owned instrument will be covered by their fee that was paid at the time of their Loan Agreement.

6th Grade Band Calendar

This calendar is subject to change at the discretion of the band director. The 6th grade band calendar provides a small sample of what is expected in the 7th and 8th grade year of band. We expect full attendance at all events, as set forth in the handbook expectations.

August 7th - MEET THE HORNETS @ 6PM @ High School Stadium
August 9th - Instrument Rentals @ 3PM with Amro Music in SGCMS Cafeteria
August 12th - MANDATORY PARENT MEETING @ 6PM in Cafeteria
August 18th - 6th Grade WOODWIND Sectionals 3-5PM
August 21st - 6th Grade BRASS Sectionals 3-5PM
August 21st - 6th Grade PERCUSSION Sectionals 3-5PM
September 2nd-26th - "Pick a Date" Calendar FUNDRAISER
September 18th - WOODWIND + PERCUSSION SECTIONALS 3-5PM
September 25th - BRASS SECTIONALS 3-5PM
October 14th - After School Rehearsal *ALL STUDENTS* 3-5PM
October 14th - Parent/Guardian Meeting @ 5:30PM - & AMRO STEP UP MEETING
October 16th - After School Rehearsal *ALL STUDENTS* 3-5PM
October 20th - 6th Grade Band Concert @ 6:30PM in SGCMS Gym
November 17th to December 2nd - Butter Braid Sales FUNDRAISER
December 8th - Chili Supper *VOLUNTEERS NEEDED*
December 9th - After School Rehearsal *ALL STUDENTS* 3-5PM
December 16th - Christmas Concert @ 6PM in SGCMS Gym
January 8th - Parent/Guardian Meeting @6PM - Honor Bands/Daddy Daughter info
January 13th - WOODWIND + PERCUSSION SECTIONALS 3-5PM
January 15th - BRASS SECTIONALS
February 3rd - Parent Meeting @6PM - Daddy/Daughter Finalizations
February 6th and 7th - Daddy/Daughter Dance - times TBA
March 10th - After School Rehearsal *ALL STUDENTS* 3-5PM
March 17th - Spring Concert in SGCMS Gym @ 6:30PM
May 11th-15th - Concert @ Elementary School and for 5th Grade?
May 12th - Band Banquet @ 6PM - Location TBD

7th and 8th Grade Band Calendar

KEEP THIS! Calendar is subject to change as needed at the discretion of the band director.

August 7th - MEET THE HORNETS @ HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM 6PM
August 12th- MANDATORY PARENT MEETING @ 6PM in Cafeteria
August 18th, 19th, 20th - Drum Major Audition CLINIC
August 21st - Drum Major AUDITIONS
August 19th, 26th, and 28th - After School Rehearsal 3-5 *UNIFORM FITTINGS 26th*
September 2nd-26th - "Pick a Date" Calendar Fundraiser
September 4th - After School Rehearsal 3-5PM
September 9th - Football Game Performance - Call time @ 5:15PM
September 23rd - After School Rehearsal 3-5PM
September 30th - Football Bowl Game Performance - Call time @ 5:15PM
October 14th - Parent/Guardian Meeting @ 5:30PM - & AMRO STEP UP MEETING
October 17th - 8TH GRADE NIGHT @ SGCHS Football Game - Call time @ 5:45
October 23rd and 28th - After School Rehearsal 3-5PM
November 4th - After School Rehearsal 3-5PM
November 11th - Veteran's Day Performance *IN SCHOOL*
November 13th, 18th, 20th, 24th - After School Parade Rehearsal - 3-5PM
November 17th to December 2nd - Butter Braid Sales FUNDRAISER
November 22nd - ALL WEST HONOR BAND AUDITIONS @ Collierville High School
December 1st - After School Parade Rehearsal - 3-5PM *tentative*
December 2nd - Medina Christmas Parade
December 8th - Chili Supper *VOLUNTEERS NEEDED*
December 16th - Christmas Concert @ 6PM in SGCMS Gym
January 8th - Parent Meeting @6PM - Honor Bands/Daddy Daughter info
January 20th - After School Rehearsal - 3-5PM
January 22nd-24th - UTM HONOR BAND - Application info will be sent in Dec.
January 27th - After School Rehearsal - 3-5PM
February 3rd - Parent Meeting @6PM - Daddy/Daughter Finalizations
February 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th - After School Rehearsals 3-5PM
February 6th and 7th - Daddy/Daughter Dance - times TBA
February 12th-14th - All West Clinic & Convention in Memphis, TN
March 3rd and March 5th - After School Rehearsal 3-5PM
March 11th-13th - UT Martin Concert Festival - Martin, TN *IN SCHOOL TRIP*
March 17th - Spring Concert in SGCMS Gym @ 6:30PM
April 14th, 16th, 21st, 23rd, 28th, 30th - After School Parade Practice 3-5PM
May 2nd - Trenton Teapot Festival - Trenton, TN
May 5th - After School Parade Practice 3-5
May 7th - Jr. Strawberry Festival - Humboldt, TN
May 12th - Band Banquet @ 6PM - Location TBD

Goals for the Year

- Improve each time we enter the band room.
- Play with your best effort each day to create music.
- Support our peers through positive encouragement.
- Be respectful to all people and the spaces we rehearse in.
- Become leaders within the community by setting great examples for our peers both in and out of the band room.
- Have FUN creating music!

Student Expectations and Conduct

Students in band serve as representatives of the school and school district at many public extracurricular functions. Membership in these organizations is a privilege and it is within the right of any director to deny membership to a student if they believe that they would not positively represent the organization. To achieve our goals for the year, band members will observe all of the following expectations:

- **Come prepared and on time.** Students are expected to arrive on time with their instruments, binders, and pencils. This includes any after school rehearsals or performances. Performances and rehearsals are required.
- **Maintain a neat and organized environment.** This includes properly storing instruments, sheet music, and other equipment.
- **Follow established routines and procedures.** Students should adhere to established routines and procedures, such as raising a hand to speak, entering and exiting the classroom, setting up and putting away instruments.
- **Take ownership of instrument care.** Students are responsible for the proper care and maintenance of their instruments.
- **Respect classroom equipment.** The equipment in the band room is expensive and not easily replaceable.
- **Listen and follow directions.** Students should listen attentively to the teacher's instructions and follow them promptly.
- **Accept Feedback.** In band class, you will receive a ton of feedback - this should never be mistaken as criticism. Take every comment and apply it to yourself.
- **Be accountable for personal progress.** Students should take ownership of their individual progress and actively seek opportunities for improvement. This may include practicing regularly outside of class and seeking additional guidance when needed.
- **Promote a positive learning environment while having fun!** Band can be a challenging class and it's important to embrace the challenge. Encourage and support fellow band members. Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself.

Classroom Rules

- 1.) Be respectful.
- 2.) Listen, then play.
- 3.) Stay on task.
- 4.) Follow procedures.
- 5.) Stay helpful.

These are all broken down in each student's binder.

Consequences

Failure to meet the above rules and expectations does not go without consequence. Consequences will be given based on the severity of the infraction and could include, but are not limited to:

- Verbal warning
- 1-on-1 with student
- Call to a parent/guardian
- Meeting with director, parent/guardian, and student
- Disciplinary Referral to the Front Office
- Removal from the program

Rewards

On the flip side, I also love to reward good behavior and achievements! It will not be uncommon for students to leave my class with some kind of reward, whether that be a sticker, a piece of candy, or have a day where I let students sit wherever they want! I'm always thinking of other ways to reward good behaviors!

Contact

You can reach Mr. Bateman via email at rbateman@gcssd.org or by calling 731-783-1962 ext. 2952. Email is the preferred method of communication.

Guardian Expectations - READ & SIGN

- **Be involved!** We do a lot throughout the year and there are times when we need as much help as possible. Your voice is important and our events throughout the year will only be successful if we have multiple hands taking ownership. This is how we build a strong community! Come to our meetings! They usually aren't very long, but it helps you be in the know!
- **Show up!** Your involvement will show your student that you care about something that they are interested in. We understand that scheduling conflicts happen, that's why we get this document out to you ASAP out of respect for your time!
- **Hold your students accountable.** This means that if they have a rehearsal or a performance, it is up to you to make sure that they are holding their end of the deal. Band is a team and when they miss rehearsal, they are hurting the team. They should also be practicing at home! You made an investment when you purchased an instrument - make sure you get a return on it!
- **Fundraise!** Last year, we probably had half of our students participate in fundraisers. We need participation from all of our students and parents to ensure we ! Running a band program is expensive and we appreciate all of the help that our amazing community members give to us.
- **Communicate!** In the student expectations section, they are required to show up to ALL rehearsals and performances. Last year, too many students treated these as "optional" and that is not the case. In the event that your student has to miss something, please communicate that to Mr. Bateman via Remind or email.
- **Support your student!** Band can be really tough at times. As one of the premier faces for SGCMS, a high standard of performance is expected of our band program. To achieve the standard at which we hold our students, it requires hard work, difficult conversations, and emotional growth! If your student comes home defeated, uplift and encourage them to see the bigger picture!

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read and agree to the expectations listed above and will try your best to uphold these to ensure that your student has a great band experience with SGCMS.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Handbook Agreement Form

By submitting this page, both student and guardian(s) have read, understand, and will comply with expectations and rules set forth by the South Gibson County Middle School Band. This also means attending all rehearsals and performances. You understand that we are all responsible for making rehearsals run smoothly. You are willing to do your part! As a final note for parents and guardians, please know that your involvement is important! We want you to be part of our family, so make sure to come to meetings and volunteer for events! Band is for everyone.

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Name (Signature): _____

Guardian(s) Name (Print): _____

Guardian(s) Name (Signature): _____

Guardian Info

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Preferred method of contact: _____