

Scoggins Middle School Band Handbook

2020-2021



Ms. Emily Willingham, Band Director

Ms. Sandra Webb, Principal

Welcome Letter

SMS Parents,

I am excited to welcome you to the 2020-2021 band program at Scoggins Middle School! This will be the most unique year we have ever experienced in public education.

My focus for the year will be to teach your student to be a musician. I want them to love music, and to be prepared to perform in concert and marching bands at the next level. Traditionally, I have been able to do this via performance on wind and percussion instruments. Currently, across the county we are not allowed to perform on wind instruments indoors. Based on the ongoing study sponsored by the National Band Association, I believe it is safest for your students to not play wind instruments in the same room. Large audiences have been a tradition at concerts here at SMS. This will probably not be possible this year.

I do not know what the year will bring, but some current **ideas** (not certainties) include:

- Learning to read and write music aka music theory
- All students beginning on percussion and piano
- Wind Instrument selection for 6th grade via individual appointments via zoom
- Wind Instruments being practiced at home
- Private lessons online with Ms. Willingham
- Solo videos submitted online for the whole program to view.
- Individual videos being recorded and submitted for “virtual concerts”
- Spring concert outdoors at a social distance

I can only imagine as a parent or student I would be very confused or frustrated by not knowing all the answers at this point. I equally understand and share this frustration. However, rest assured, I will do all that I can to help your student become a skilled musician. In addition to all the cognitive benefits of learning a musical instrument, being able to create something beautiful is an amazing skill to discover in our students.

They say in 20-30 years, most of the jobs that exist now will not exist anymore and new technology-based jobs will exist. Part of what we need to be teaching our students is how to adapt to new situations and continue to learn, grow, and thrive in any situation. This will be a flexible year for bands across the country. I am grateful to have the opportunity to teach your student and help them grow into a successful adult.

Please let me know if you have further questions!

Emily Willingham, Band Director

Scoggins Middle School

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<https://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/Domain/6005>

Scoggins Middle School Band Handbook

I am excited that you are joining us and have designed this handbook as a reference tool to help familiarize your family with the policies, protocols, and procedures as a member of the band program. Please look through the sections:

1. Introduction & Insight
2. Attendance, Conduct, Rehearsals, & Concerts
3. Grading Procedures
4. Instrument Supplies & Equipment Introduction

Introduction and Insight

Purpose

The Scoggins Middle School Band Handbook has been created as a guide for students and parents to gain important information about our band program. This handbook will provide insight into daily responsibilities and helpful tips to be a successful member of the band.

Mission

The mission of the Scoggins Middle School Band is to provide each student with a well-rounded musical experience in a supportive, positive environment that also develops important life skills such as self-confidence, self-discipline, teamwork, organization, dedication, hard-work, responsibility, and respect.

Questions

If you have any concerns or questions about the band program at Scoggins Middle School, you can contact me at ewillingham@paulding.k12.ga.us.

Band Is An Activity That Develops...

Self-confidence: Ability to go from learning notes and rhythms to producing music instills a sense of accomplishment and self-confidence.

Coordination: Hand, eye, body, posture, and thought/motor skills all working together are the basics of playing an instrument. These skills transfer into life.

Teamwork: Every child wants to be part of a group. Band allows everyone to “be on the team” and to play an important role.

Comprehension: The skill to perceive and derive meaning from musical sounds sharpens your child's ability to comprehend abstractions.

Problem-Solving: Learning the basics of musical language and interpreting a work through performance teaches the ability to understand a problem and reach an appropriate solution.

Discipline: Learning the basics of music and applying them correctly takes perception and discipline.

Arts Appreciation: The words beauty, serenity, & excitement come to life with each musical performance.

Logical Reasoning: When a child learns to analyze a musical work from all perspectives, both inductive and deductive reasoning grow stronger.

Communication: Music offers the ability to cultivate our feelings and thoughts through non-verbal means and recognize how cultures utilize music for personal use.

Conceptualizing: Your child learns to classify by learning to identify different types & styles of music and time periods, history & genres of music around the world.

Value Judgments: Learning to comprehend, consider, and evaluate in music helps your child make decisions and uphold value judgments in other aspects of life.

Using Symbols & Languages: Learning to read, write, and interpret musical notation strengthens the use of other symbol systems and decoding skills, such as mathematics and foreign languages.

Parent Involvement and Practice Tips for your Child

Simply putting in time on your instrument is not effective. Good practice habits make a significant difference. Poor practice habits can actually develop bad habits. What's the best way to practice?

1. **Limit distractions.** It's difficult to concentrate when kids are competing with the TV, music, or conversations. If possible, set-up a practice area in a quiet part of your home.
2. **Choose an optimal practice time.** If possible, try to break up your practice sessions. For example, if it's your goal to practice an hour each day, consider two 30 minute practices. That way, once children learn a piece of music in their first practice session they can review it during the second practice session.
3. **Warm up.** Properly warming up will not only allow you to sound better, it will reinforce the fundamentals. Similar to how a runner warms up with stretches and other exercises, take the time to warm up before launching right into practice.

4. **Set goals.** It's important to set goals and objectives. Do you want to be able to play a particular piece? Do you want to perform at a recital or concert? Think about your goals and what it will take to get you there. Setting up goals and working backwards will help you devise a roadmap for meeting your objectives.

5. **Practice what you are not good at playing.** It's very easy to get caught in the habit of working on what sounds good, because we feel good about ourselves. This does not do much of anything when it comes to improving our musicianship. A practice session should not sound perfect. Practice is a time to make mistakes, and work on fixing them.

6. **Record your practice.** Recording practices can offer incredible insight. Don't get caught up in trying to get a professional recording. Even a recording from cell phone can offer the feedback you need to improve.

Before/After School Rehearsals and Concerts As of 8/3/20

As of right now, we will not be having rehearsals before or after school. As soon as we are allowed to begin the process of rehearsals outside of school hours, I will send home more information so you are aware of the expectations of attendance. In order to have a successful program, we will need to meet to rehearse but we do not know when that will be made available. Overall, we are asking for your patience and cooperation with us.

Attendance

While after school rehearsals for the SMS Bands are minimal, when a rehearsal or performance is scheduled, **full participation from all members is expected.** Failure to show may be grounds to exclude students from future performances and/or other fun activities. Please keep a close eye on the calendar. I will always do my best to keep you informed well in advance as to dates and times of rehearsals and performances. Be a good team player and be present.

General Conduct/Expectations

Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection of the group. Band members will observe all policies set forth by the Paulding County School District, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

1. All students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times. (Display of profanity, temper, flagrant violation of rules, etc., will not be tolerated)
2. Students will be in the assigned area ready to work at the set time.
3. Students will bring all equipment to rehearsals daily. (See detailed supply list.)
4. Students will keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.

5. Students will bring no food, drinks, candy or gum in the band room except water.
6. Students will not use anyone else's instrument, or personal belongings.
7. Students should ask for permission to speak by raising their hand. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that our time will be utilized wisely.
8. Students will not deface or mark on music stands and chairs.
9. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area, and keep the storage area clean and neat in appearance.

Classroom Rules of Conduct

1. The band room is our home and reflects the pride and respect with have for each other and ourselves; therefore we will keep it clean.
2. All equipment must be stored away safely in its proper place before and after every class.
3. No food, gum, or drinks are allowed in the band room.
4. Rehearsal Etiquette & Podium Courtesy:
 - a. Show attention and respect when someone is on the podium.
 - i. Yes/No Sir/Ma'am
 - ii. No talking during instruction
 - b. Questions should be directed to the person on the podium.
 - c. It is each member's responsibility to learn their part to the best of his or her ability.
5. Percussion equipment is to only be played by percussionists.
6. **Do not touch an instrument that does not belong to you. Do not remove property from a cubby that does not belong to you. Stealing will be dealt with in a very serious manner.**
7. All PCBOE and SMS rules apply at all times.
8. **Poor attitudes are not allowed or tolerated.**

Disciplinary Actions

Failure to abide by any of the above mentioned rules results in the following disciplinary steps:

1. Warning

2. Second warning: 5 participation points removed from weekly grade.
3. Third warning: 10 participation points removed from weekly grade and student may be asked to do an alternate activity station (not allowed to play with the band for the remainder of class that day.) Parent will be contacted.
4. If poor behavior persists over a few days, parent is notified and student will serve silent lunch.
5. If it continues beyond this, student will receive a behavior referral.

This mirrors the SMS Discipline Board policy.

Cell Phone Policy

There is a strict no cell phone policy in the band room. Following the school policy, students will be warned to not have cell phones the first week of school, however, it becomes an automatic referral if a student is seen with a phone after that point. Ms. Willingham has a phone in her office and she requests students to use that when possible.

Performance/Rehearsal Expectations for the Concert Ensembles

Each of the concert ensembles will perform at various times throughout the school year. Students are expected to participate in the performances of their assigned ensemble. Performances of the concert ensembles will include but are not limited to the following:

- Winter Concert
- Spring Concert
- Large Group Performance Evaluation (Festival)

Concerts / Performances

Concerts and performances are important for all band students. **Punctuality is essential.** A concert concludes when the last group performs and directors have given permission for students to be dismissed. A report time will **ALWAYS** be given. The band can only perform at the highest level if ALL its members are present for performances.

Concert Guidelines:

1. All concerts are a group effort, thus, **attendance is required.**
2. All concerts are an extension of the classroom and will be graded accordingly.
3. Due to all of the unknowns we are facing in this current moment, we will be postponing the purchase of a band polo. More information will come as it is made available.
4. Students are expected to stay the entire concert.

Uniform

Due to all of the unknown possibilities, we are postponing an order for the SMS Band Polo. We will be selling spirit wear and will make you aware of that when it's made available.

Methods of Communication

There are numerous ways that information is sent out to reach parents and family members. The following are just a few lines of communication utilized:

- School Website: <https://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/Domain/6005>
- Paper notices sent home with students
- Remind 101: Text @smsbands20 to 81010
- Email – ewillingham@paulding.k12.ga.us

Grading Procedures

60% - Summative Assignments (Concerts, Written Tests, Playing Tests, Passoffs)

40% - Formative Assignments (Weekly Classroom Performance Grades, Before School Rehearsals, Practice Records)

100% - Total Possible Grade

Weekly Performance Grades are defined as:

Every week students earn a performance grade based on their ability to come to class prepared with all needed materials, participate in all playing exercises and music for the entire class duration and show continuous improvement on their assigned music. **Forgetting an instrument, music or other materials not only hinders the student's ability to participate but also doesn't allow the band to perform at its highest potential!**

Practice Records are defined as:

Practice Records are weekly assignments turned in every Thursday. Daily individual practice is essential. This is daily practice outside of the normal band rehearsal. Each student must practice at least 100 minutes individually per week, 20 minutes per day is recommended.

Passoffs, Written and Playing tests:

These are based on individual progress made playing the instrument---reflected in playing, pass offs and written tests.

Makeup work for absences must be completed in 3 days after absence.

It is the band member's responsibility to find out if any test should be made up. Pass offs are assigned lines from a student's band book or music. They may be assigned each nine weeks. Lines can be passed off before or after school, or during class with permission.

Instrument Supplies & Equipment

Supplies for All Band Students

The following is a list of supplies to have at each rehearsal. This list is not all inclusive:

- Pencil
- A 3-ring binder - 1 inch
- Plastic sheet protectors for sheet music (at least 10)
- Composition Book
- Band Method Book - see below
- Tuner/Metronome (suggested)
- Music Stand (keep at home for individual practice)
- Instrument specific materials - a list will be provided

Local Music Stores

We have a representative from Art's Music Shop who comes to Scoggins once a week for repairs. However, here are some other recommendations:

Ken Stanton	Music and Arts	Paulding Music Center	Art's Music Shop*
3636 Dallas Hwy	125 Johnson Ferry Rd Swe 9	10175 Dallas Acworth Hwy	4647 Hwy 280
Marietta, GA 30064	Marietta, GA 30068	Dallas, GA 30132	Birmingham, AL 35242
(77) 429-8816	(770) 977- 7073	(770) 974-1158	

Acknowledgement of Receiving Band Handbook

In years past, students have been asked to sign a form on the back of the handbook, along with the parents to acknowledge them receiving the material. This year, there are only 3 things you and your child **MUST** due by Friday, August 7th.

- 1) Sign Up for Remind101 (Text @smsbands20 to 81010)
- 2) Fill out the Google Form so I have your contact information! You can find the form on my school website.
- 3) Go to Canvas and make sure you can open the file (it simply has the band handbook in it) and then take the simple 2 question quiz. This is to make sure your child has access to Canvas...**PLEASE** email me if they cannot get to it!

I'd also like to take a moment to thank you all so much for your generosity regarding the supply list! It was simply a wish list and anything I received has not and will not go unnoticed. This school year will most certainly be different, but with parents like you, we will make it through! I wish nothing but the best for you and your family during this time. I truly appreciate the kindness you've shown. The wish list is below:



