

St. Patrick Band Handbook

2016-2017

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the St. Patrick Band Program! This is sure to be an amazing year and I am truly excited to have all of you in our program!

Please take some time to read over the Band Handbook. This will prepare you for the responsibilities and expectations as a member of the Band. Students who take part in Band at St. Patrick are encouraged and challenged to grow musically and achieve their highest potential.

There are sure to be some challenging moments ahead as most 6th and 7th grade students are completely new to their instrument and the 8th grade Band plays more sheet music. It is going to be fun working through these obstacles as a team and finding out how much we can really grow when every Band member steps up to the plate. One of the first things that all Band members must have is an attitude of success! All parents and teachers must be geared toward creating a positive learning experience for all students. A positive experience will begin with an understanding of the expectations for those who participate in our Band Program. This handbook will help explain these expectations.

This is going to be a great year and I am thrilled to start making music with all of you. Together we will definitely continue to build our tradition of musical excellence at St. Patrick School!

Miss Bethany Britt
Music Teacher/Band Director
St. Patrick Catholic School
bbritt@stpatschool.org

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Band Class Rules and Expectations

1. Follow directions the FIRST time they are given.
2. Do not speak unless you are asked.
3. Do not play your instrument unless you are asked.
4. Bring all required materials:
 1. Instrument!!!
 2. *Tradition of Excellence* Method Book

3. Extra supplies (reeds, valve oil, etc.)
4. Any music passed out to you
5. Pencil

*Failure to bring these materials will result in a lowered grade.

5. Treat all students, teachers, and instruments with respect.

Grading Procedures

Grades will be broken up into five different categories: Rehearsal Participation, Written Work, Playing Quizzes, Written Quizzes, and Performances. Rehearsal Participation and Written Work are weighted as 20% of the student's grade, while Playing Quizzes, Written Quizzes, and Performances are 80%.

Rehearsal Participation

You will receive a 10-point Rehearsal Participation grade for each Band class that you attend. The grade is based on the following:

1. You are prepared with your instrument, methods book, pencil, supplies, etc.
2. You have practiced and are ready to contribute positively to class.
3. You are in the music room by the tardy bell and are ready to go with your instrument and music no later than two minutes after the tardy bell.

*If you forgot your instrument, you will earn a zero as your Rehearsal Participation grade for the day.

Written Work

At the beginning of class, students will have bellwork such as rhythm counting, vocab, etc. We may also do other written work throughout class. This will be counted as a grade and must be

completed.

Playing Quizzes

Students will have bi-weekly Playing Quizzes. These could be over a song that we are working on out of the *Tradition of Excellence* book, a piece that I pass out, or a technical skill (such as a scale). Playing quizzes will ensure that the student is keeping up with the material, and if there are certain problems I will assess and be able to address them more accurately. Most Playing Quizzes will be 10 points, with the exception of an occasional 5 or 20-point quiz.

Written Quizzes

Students will have periodic Written Quizzes that will test the student's knowledge of musical concepts, vocabulary, rules, etc. Written Quizzes will be either 10 points or 20 points.

Performances

Students will have one concert each semester. Each concert is worth 50 points. Our first performance is the Christmas Concert. The second concert will be in the spring, and will also be held during school. **Attendance at both concerts is mandatory.**

Practicing

The students will not be graded on the amount of time they practice each week. A student's success is measured by their Rehearsal Participation and Playing Quizzes. I encourage students to practice an average of fifteen minutes a day, five days a week. I know and definitely understand that this might be challenging for some students, as most are involved in many other activities apart from Band. Having been an athlete and involved in many extra-curricular activities myself, I know that juggling a full schedule is difficult. I will be around before and after school as well as at lunch/recess if a student wishes to practice then, instead of conflicting with a sport or other extra-curricular activity. The amount of time that students spend practicing and putting forth effort to improve will be reflected by their performance on the Playing Quizzes and Rehearsal Participation.

Concert Procedures

All concerts are mandatory and a very large part of a Band student's grade. They are definitely one of the most fun and rewarding experiences that you will have in Band class! Performances are a culmination of what is learned in class, just like taking an exam at the end of a science unit.

Concert Absences

There are two types of absences for a concert: Unexcused and Excused.

1. **Unexcused Absences:**

a. If Miss Britt does not have a written note from a parent/guardian **at least one week** prior to the concert, the student will receive an Unexcused Absence. Excuses such as "I forgot," or "I had to babysit," etc. will not be tolerated.

b. Students with an Unexcused Absence will earn a zero for the respective Performance grade. The Performance grade heavily affects the student's overall grade.

c. You cannot do a “make-up” assignment to get back points lost due to an Unexcused Absence.

2. Excused Absences:

a. If Miss Britt has a written note from a parent/guardian **at least one week prior** to the concert, the student will receive an Excused Absence.

b. An Excused Absence occurs if there is a sudden illness, death in the family, or other emergency situation. In these cases, please contact Miss Britt prior to the concert so that an Excused Absence can be granted.

c. In the event of an Excused Absence, points will be made up through an alternate assignment, such as a report. This alternate assignment is due within one week of being passed out to the student.

Concert Attire

Concert attire will be dress clothes or the student’s school uniform. This is standard to all of our normal concerts, such as the Christmas Program that the students have participated in every year. If there is a special dress code, Miss Britt will announce it in class and send an email home.

Concert Etiquette

Included in our lessons will be proper concert behavior and etiquette. It is up to the student to behave correctly—both on and off the stage. Behavior will affect the student’s Performance grade.

Band is going to be a lot of fun this year and I can’t wait to get started! St. Patrick’s 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Band students have such a unique opportunity, since this is still the beginning of our school’s growing Band Program. I am very optimistic as I look at the upcoming year and all of the opportunities that your students will have.

Once again, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at bbritt@stpatschool.org.

Your first assignment as a Band student is to read through this handbook with your parent(s)/guardian(s), sign the agreement below, and turn it in to Miss Britt by Monday, September 12th. This will count as a Written Quiz grade, and will be worth 10 points.

We have read and understand the policies in this handbook. We understand them and agree to their terms and conditions.

(Parent/Guardian signature)

(Date)

(Student signature)

(Date)

(Parent phone number)

(Parent email address)

*Please provide a working email as I will be using them as my primary method of communication. Thank you!