



Student & Parent Handbook

2021-2022

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Dear Band Students and Parents:

WELCOME to one of the most exciting experiences of which you can be a part of – THE BAND! Now, more than ever, we have information to justify why we do this demanding, yet rewarding activity. Experts have concluded that the study of music helps with spatial reasoning, test taking, and overall quality of life! Factor in social skills, emotional development, leadership training, group interaction, aesthetic perception, music making, discipline, for a powerful equation for SUCCESS. The ultimate goal is a lifelong understanding and appreciation for music and music making!

EVERYONE SHOULD READ THE INFORMATION IN THE HANDBOOK, even veteran band members and parents. A lot of information is new so make sure you're informed. For new members, this handbook keeps us running smoothly and efficiently. Most questions can be answered by consulting the handbook. Policies may be adjusted or amended from year to year as the need arises to help our program run more efficiently. I hope the information contained in this handbook will be both INFORMATIONAL and INSPIRATIONAL! Parents, please take time to review the advocacy page of the National Association of Music Parents

[\(http://www.amparents.org/resources/resourcesadvocacy/\)](http://www.amparents.org/resources/resourcesadvocacy/). This webpage has many wonderful resources to help you understand your role as a music parent and what you can do to support our efforts. Students need to know that we support and understand what they do in music. Being informed and knowledgeable is the very first step. 2020-2021 will be full of successes for our students. In all areas of the program, we hope to see growth and indications that our program will continue to prosper!

Myself, along with the associate directors, are committed to fostering and continuing the long standing tradition of excellence the South-Doyle Bands are known for. Additionally, we are committed to developing excellent musicians, life-long learners, student leaders, and a program that will be both a family and a community. As I conclude, this handbook is designed to answer any questions you might have concerning the program, but inevitably it will not answer every question. Please read all of the information carefully, sign the form in the back of the handbook, and contact me if you have any questions. We are honored to be your band directors and are looking forward to a great year!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel S. Mull".

-Mr. Mull

A STATEMENT OF POLICY [3.1]

To assist band members and their parents/guardians in understanding areas of responsibility, a statement of band policy is set forth herein. Being familiar with this policy will enable each individual to make the most of this great opportunity; being a member of the SDHS band program.

We firmly believe that each member should improve their musical skill through regular practice. When a student has lost the will to improve themselves or make contributions to the band, they risk wasting the time and efforts of their fellow bandmates, their parents/guardians, their directors, their school, and their community. A SUCCESSFUL student improves through regular practice and a commitment to learning. Students must develop a high sense of purpose, toward which they are willing to work. RESPONSIBILITY, COMMUNICATION, and COMMITMENT are the keys to achieving success within our program. The directors and any hired band staff intend to conduct themselves in a manner that will facilitate all students in learning and bettering themselves both as a musician and an individual.

OBJECTIVES OF THE BAND PROGRAM [3.2]

- To develop students' performance skills through individual and ensemble performance
- To foster school spirit and meet the musical needs of the school and community
- To develop students' understanding and appreciation for various forms of music
- To provide students with a positive social experience and the opportunity to explore music as a means of self-expression
- To provide a positive and safe learning environment where students are both encouraged and supported

MISSION STATEMENT [3.3]

The mission of the South-Doyle High School Band Program is to enrich the lives of its students through music education, assist band members in achieving their highest potential in self-confidence, cooperation, leadership, responsibility, excellence, and to support its community through music performance.

COMMUNICATION [3.4]

1. **Email** - Email via Aspen will be the **primary form** of communication. Students are expected to check their KCS student email daily.
2. **BAND App** - General announcements, and short-notice communications. The BAND App is available free for download on the iOS and Android stores.
3. **Canvas** - Announcements, assignments, and other course materials may also be communicated via the Canvas Course related to class and should be checked daily.
4. **Microsoft Teams** - General announcements and short-notice communications related to class.

2021-2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS [4.1]

July	14 th – 16 st 19 th – 23 rd 26 th – 30 th	New Member Camp Band Camp (Week 1): All Members Band Camp (Week 2): All Members
August	19 th 27 th	Oak Ridge: (Thursday) AWAY Grace: HOME
September	3 rd 10 th 17 th 24 th 25 th	Scott County: AWAY Bearden: AWAY Anderson County: HOME Farragut: HOME Clinch River Classic: Clinton HS
October	1 st 7 th 22 nd 23 rd 29 th 30 th	Fulton: AWAY Central: HOME Carter: AWAY Volunteer Classic: Heritage HS Gibbs: HOME Alcoa Band Competition: Alcoa HS
November	TBA	Playoffs: Keep Fridays Open
December	3 rd TBA	(MB) Christmas Parade: Knoxville (MS/HS) Christmas Concert
January	TBA	ETSBOA All-East Auditions
February	TBA	ETSBOA All-East Clinic
March	TBA TBA	ETSBOA Concert Festival Solo & Ensemble
April	TBA TBA	Band Banquet All-State (TMEA)
May	TBA 19 th	Spring Concert Graduation Performance

ALL DATES ARE CURRENTLY TENTATIVE PENDING COVID-19 GUIDANCE FROM KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS.

Please note that dates and events are subject to change. Prior notice will be given in advance, as soon as possible, should there be any deviation from the band calendar posted at www.southdoyleband.com or on the BAND APP.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS [5.1]

Concert Band

The concert band is the core of our band program and all other ensembles are accessories. The concert band serves to help students achieve a high level of musical excellence. In addition to individual instruction on their specific instrument, students will also have exposure to elements of music history and music theory. Students involved in the concert band will have the opportunity throughout the year to participate in E.T.S.B.O.A. sanctioned events such as All-East Clinic, All-State Clinic, Concert Festival, Solo and Ensemble, and various other travel and performance opportunities. Students participating in the concert band ensemble can expect to perform 2-3 concerts a year.

Marching Band

SDHS students with band experience and students with an interest in Color Guard are eligible to join the South-Doyle High School Marching Band. Rising 8th grade percussionists from SDMS, who demonstrate a high level of musical achievement and physical coordination, may be invited to join the pit percussion section at the discretion of the director. This ensemble requires a great deal of physical stamina as well as the ability to perform varying difficulties of literature while marching and/or performing choreography. All students participating in this ensemble are required to attend band camp during the summer, all home football games, designated away games, competitions, parades, and after school rehearsals. Rehearsals are **Tuesday & Thursday from 4 – 6 PM** in the band room unless otherwise noted. Additional rehearsals may be scheduled by the director in preparation for competitions. After school rehearsals will become less frequent as competition and football season nears its end.

Color Guard

The Color Guard is a separate class that meets in conjunction with the marching band class. Students who do not play an instrument but have an expressed interest in music and dance are encouraged to join the Color Guard. No prior experience is necessary to join but having the ability to keep time, move hands/feet interdependently, and dance experience are a plus. **Individuals who commit to Color Guard are responsible for purchasing certain equipment and their season uniform. Students with a financial concern should not let it deter them from participating. Please speak to the director if you have any concerns about affordability.**

Ensemble (Percussion, Jazz, or Other)

From year to year, the SDHS Band Program may offer other small ensemble classes. The goal of these course offerings is to explore various types of ensemble literature and hone individual musical skills. Students interested in an ensemble class should speak with the director to see what course offerings are currently available.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are one of the best ways to improve individual performance skills. The one-on-one approach allows the student to benefit from individual instruction which is difficult to attain in a large class setting. A recent survey of students in the All-State Band revealed that approximately 80% of the students in the band studied privately. Students are generally more inclined to practice diligently and this discipline increases the student's enjoyment in becoming a better musician. I am more than happy to assist you in finding and selecting a private teacher for your instrument should you wish to take private lessons.

ATTENDANCE POLICY [6.1]

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Unexcused absences are defined as any non-emergency or unapproved absence from after school rehearsals, performances, or any other band related function. Students with unexcused absences will be expected to reconcile them with “time for time” or by completing an alternative music related assignment. **Students with multiple unexcused absences may not be permitted to perform, at the discretion of the director. If the individual is a student leader, their leadership role may be revoked.** Administrators will also be notified of multiple unexcused absences and appropriate disciplinary action may be taken.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Excused absences include death of a family member or loved one, family emergency, doctor’s note, significant illness, or extreme circumstance.

TARDIES

Students with unexcused tardies will be expected to reconcile them with “time for time” or by completing an alternative music related assignment. The length of “time for time” or an alternative music related assignment will be equivalent to the student’s cumulative tardies.

***THE DIRECTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THESE POLICIES. THE DIRECTOR MAY PROHIBIT A STUDENT FROM PERFORMING IF THEIR BEHAVIOR OR ACTIONS HAVE WARRANTED SUCH A LOSS OF PRIVILEGE.**

CONFLICTS WITH BAND ACTIVITIES [6.2]

Conflicts between band and other activities or events, and their resolution, are the responsibility of the student. Rehearsal and performance schedules are provided in advance so that both the parent and student are aware of any obligations. Students should refrain from participating in activities that may directly or consistently conflict with band activities. This is not to say that a student may not participate in activities outside of band, but band requires a serious commitment like most other school activities. Students who are consistently absent due to conflicts with other activities will limit the overall success of the band. While conflict resolution is the responsibility of the student, the director may be consulted in trying to resolve the conflict. Students should have a personal planner or calendar and be aware of all band dates in advance. Students are reminded that band is a time consuming activity and that involvement in outside activities should be limited to those that are compatible with the band schedule. Given the nature of a live performance, there is not a suitable assignment to substitute for a missed performance. **As such, performances cannot be made up.** You are either present or not. Students involved with athletics should consult with the director and their coach to plan a practice schedule that will benefit both activities.

GRADING POLICY [7.1]

Quarter grades will be determined using the following criteria:

- Performances (50%)
- Playing Tests (30%)
- Cumulative Daily Grade (20%)

Performances (50%)

- Students are expected to be at all performances at the designated call time with their instruments, music, all necessary materials, and dressed according to the concert attire requirements given by the director.
- A score of 100% will be given for excellent participation in performances. This includes being on time, having the necessary equipment and materials, being appropriately dressed according to the concert attire, being cooperative, having a good attitude, and fully participating in the performance.
- Any student with an unexcused absence for a performance will receive a (0) for their performance grade.
- Certain absences may be considered excused at the discretion of the director. **If a student foresees a potential conflict with a performance, the student must notify the director at least 2 weeks prior to the date of the scheduled performance.**

Playing Exercises (30%)

- Scales, etudes, and other playing exercises may be assigned throughout the year and are expected to be completed by the assigned due date. These assignments must be recorded and then submitted via Canvas. Instructions for recording assignments and submitting them in Canvas will be given to the students at the beginning of the school year.

Cumulative Daily Grade (20%)

- Students will be assessed a cumulative daily grade each week for being on time and prepared for class, rehearsals, games, and performances. Students will earn 20 points per day for a total of 100 pts. Students will lose points for being unprepared, disrespectful, insubordinate, or for unexcused absences/tardies.

LATE WORK [7.2]

Late work will be accepted at a **(10%) deduction for each day that it is late**. All class assignments will be posted in advance and students will have sufficient time to complete them. Assignments are intentional and will aid the student in developing their musical knowledge.

CELL PHONE POLICY [7.3]

Cell phones should not be visible (they should be in your bag, purse, or pocket, not on your stand or in your lap) during class unless given permission. Students will receive one verbal warning. Upon the second infraction, the student's device will be confiscated. **Refusal to hand over the device will result in an automatic administrative referral.**

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS, RULES, & PROCEDURES [8.1]

EXPECTATIONS

Be respectful to everyone and everything.

-This includes directors, guest teachers, professional staff, each other, music, instruments, and the band facility. Respect rehearsal time by not talking or playing out of turn.

Accept responsibility for yourself, your actions, and your learning.

-Pick up after yourself, pay attention, and work hard. Participate in class and practice...at home.

Never touch other people's belongings or equipment.

-Keep your hands off other instruments, music stands, the podium, the directors' belongings, and each other.

Do your best every day.

-Be prepared with your instrument, your materials, a pencil, and your music. Set up quickly. Participate and give your best effort!

RULES

1. Respect everyone and everything with your WORDS, ACTIONS, and ATTITUDE

a. Directors, classmates, band facility, music, instruments, & other equipment.

2. Do not speak when the directors are speaking

a. Students with questions related to the class should raise their hand to be recognized.

3. Be aware of the podium

a. Students should not talk when a director is on the podium so as to not disrupt the rehearsal process. When a director is off the podium and instructions have not been given, students may talk freely but at an appropriate volume.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

1st Infraction: Verbal warning from a director

2nd Infraction: (-20) points for daily grade and parent/guardian contact (email or by phone)

3rd Violation: Administrative referral

REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

- Students are expected to be prompt and on time for each class or rehearsal.
- Upon arrival, students should quickly make their way to their seats, acquire all necessary materials, and listen for instructions. Woodwind players should have cork grease and extra reeds on hand. Brass players should be prepared with valve oil and slide grease. Percussion should be responsible for all necessary equipment and have extra sticks on hand.
- Students should be sure that equipment, instruments, and other materials are properly stored away in their designated place at the conclusion of class or rehearsal.
- Talking or playing out of turn will not be tolerated and is considered a distraction to the learning environment.
- The purpose of rehearsal is to learn how other parts work in relation to yours. **Practice should take place at home. Rehearsal is for putting it all together.** Come to rehearsal prepared.
- It is not necessary for students to ask to be excused to go to the restroom. Students should quietly excuse themselves to the restroom and return promptly. Students should also limit their trips to the bathroom unless they have a medical condition that would prevent this.

DUTIES OF THE BAND MEMBER [9.1]

- Be on time, if not early, to all rehearsals and performances. **To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, and to be late is unacceptable.**
- Upon entering the rehearsal setting, acquire your instrument/music quickly and quietly, go to your designated area, and listen for instructions.
- When a director steps onto the podium or calls for your attention, all talking or playing should cease immediately.
- Come to **every** rehearsal with a **GOOD ATTITUDE**.
- Refrain from playing out of turn or making unpleasant sounds (i.e. goofing off on the instrument).
- Make a priority to improve on a daily basis and establish a good practice routine. **Practice should take place at home.** Rehearsal takes place at school and is for putting it all together. Come to rehearsal with your part prepared.
- At the end of rehearsal, be sure that all materials and equipment are stored in their proper place.
- Be in good academic standing in all course work.
- Be responsible for your own words and actions. Be humble and be willing to admit your mistakes.
- Demonstrate respect for **yourself and all others**.
- Think critically and be a problem solver.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTITUDE [9.2]

Attitude is the key to success for any individual or organization. There are many aspects of our life that we cannot control, but attitude is one that we can. There will inevitably be days that we will not be at our best but a positive attitude must be present at every rehearsal and performance. In addition to a positive attitude, sincerity, focus, and dedication are expected of every member.

THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLINE [9.3]

Due to the nature of our craft, discipline is a must. It is also what will define our program and make us stand out from the rest. Each band member should work toward developing a good sense of discipline in their personal practice, their academics, and their character. Misconduct or a lack of discipline casts a bad light on the school, community, and our band program. Any member who disgraces our school, community, or band program through a lack of discipline may be dismissed from the band program.

EMAIL ETIQUETTE [9.4]

1. Rude and inconsiderate emails will not elicit a response and will be forwarded to administration.
2. Please include a clear and direct subject line.
3. Please consider if it is appropriate to “reply all.”
4. Use professional salutations.
5. Correct spelling and grammar are appreciated.
6. Responses can be expected within 24-48 hours during **normal school days and hours**. If an email is urgent, I will do my best to respond as necessary in a timely fashion.

PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAND [10.1]

It is the responsibility of each parent/guardian to see that the policies outlined in the handbook are adhered to and that **the form on (Pg. 15) is signed and returned on the first day of band camp.** This Letter of Mutual Consent states that you understand and consent to the policies herein and that any questions are to be directed to the director via email or by calling the director's office. Each parent/guardian is responsible for ensuring their child attends all band functions and encourages good practice habits. Parent involvement is highly encouraged to foster a great band experience!

HOW PARENTS/GUARDIANS CAN HELP [10.2]

Here are a few ways you can help your child be successful and support our program.

- Show an interest in your child's study of music.
- Encourage regular practice habits.
- Reward consistent practice.
- Keep the instrument in good working condition.
- Be extra careful with school-owned instruments. Repair costs are high.
- Hold your child accountable for their commitment.
- Provide a means for private instruction if possible.
- Be faithful in attendance at band events.
- Keep the Band Handbook nearby and reference it when needed.
- Notify the director if you foresee your child being absent from class, rehearsal, a performance, or other band related events.
- Attend a rehearsal from time to time. You are always welcome!
- Attend band parent meetings and other informational events.
- If you provide transportation for your child to and from band events, please be prompt and on time.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY [10.3]

To Yourself

While the directors are responsible for guiding and developing your musical skills, you are primarily responsible for your level of success as a musician. You reap what you sow. If you sow hard work, determination, and a positive attitude then you will reap the benefits. The directors are ALWAYS available for your guidance and encouragement!

To The School

South-Doyle High School and Knox County Schools provide us with the resources and facilities to help us be successful and make music. We have the responsibility to honor, respect, and serve our school and community.

To Each Other

We must always do what is best for the welfare and good of each other. There is no room for acts of selfishness. If you find yourself in conflict with one another, work toward a solution and pursue peace. Act toward each other with respect and kindness. Be quick to forgive and support each other in all things.

MARCHING BAND RULES & PROCEDURES [11.1]

MISCELLANEOUS

- Closed-toed shoes and socks must be worn at all times for outside practices.
- Students should have a reusable water bottle and sunscreen when rehearsing outside.
- Chewing gum or food is not permitted during rehearsal or in the band facility, except for water.
- Students should refrain from wearing hats or sunglasses inside the building.
- Be in your seat with all necessary materials and equipment ready to begin on time.
- Respect the "Chain of Command."
- All school rules and policies are still applicable after school hours and when traveling.
- Students are required to remain with the band during and after rehearsals, games, parades, and competitions. Students will be dismissed as a group by the director.

MARCHING BAND PRACTICE

Students are required to attend all rehearsals (**Tuesday and Thursday, 4 - 6 PM**) and all performances (games, parades, and competitions). If a conflict arises that would prevent this, please contact Mr. Mull in advance. If an unforeseen conflict arises, the student or parent must contact Mr. Mull via email or at the band office **(865) 577-4475 Ext. 74953**.

UNIFORMS

The band will provide the following regarding the marching band uniform:

- Shako (hat) and plume
- Bibbers (pants)
- Coat
- (1) Pair of black gloves
- (1) Pair of gauntlets
- Marching shoes. Marching band shoes are available to borrow but we have a limited inventory. Students may purchase their own if they wish. If purchasing your own shoes, please see Mr. Mull for purchasing information.

The student is expected to provide the following:

- Long black socks
- Shorts to be worn under the uniform that adheres to the school dress code.

***Uniforms will be kept and stored in the band room. Students should check out their uniform from the Uniform Chair before each performance and be sure that it is returned at the conclusion with all required components. Should damage or defect to the uniform become apparent, the student should notify the Uniform Chair immediately.**

DISCIPLINE

There is an appropriate time and place for disciplinary measures if any band member or student leader is disrespectful or insubordinate. Disciplinary measures are at the discretion of the director.

INSPECTION

Prior to all performances, band members will present themselves for inspection by the Band Captains. Any member that does not pass the inspection may not be permitted to perform. Band members will be inspected for the following:

- Excess hair is fully secured inside the shako (hat).
- Jewelry and makeup (except for color guard) are not present except for a wristwatch or class ring.
- All parts of the uniform are present including black gloves and long black socks.
- Instrument and all other required equipment are in good working condition.

FOOTBALL GAMES

- Call time for both home and away games will be announced, at the latest, the **Thursday rehearsal** prior to the game, if not earlier.
- When in uniform, students will enter the stadium in full uniform, and will only take portions of the uniform off in the stands at the discretion of the director.
- For home games, students will be dismissed following closing announcements from the director. For away games, students will be dismissed to the bus following the conclusion of the game. Students may leave with another parent/guardian or designated individual but the director must have written consent from the student's parent/guardian.
- When marching to and from the stadium the band will march at ATTENTION.
- **Only uniformed band members are allowed in the band section.** Parents and friends are welcome to sit on the outside, but not inside. Again, we must present an image of discipline.
- All members are to remain in their "section."
- Students should only consume clear liquids when in uniform and only consume food that is not likely to stain or damage the uniform.
- Band members have the privilege of 3rd quarter off but students must be back in their seats **two minutes** prior to the beginning of the fourth quarter. Please be advised that this is a privilege and this privilege may be lost if students are tardy.
- All members should be alert and aware of instructions from a director or Drum Major. Be aware and ready to play at all times.
- If a student must leave the band section, another student must accompany them and must have consent from the director.

THIRD QUARTER PRIVILEGE

For football games, students may lose their third quarter privilege for the following reasons:

- Failure to pass-off music by the assigned deadline
- Unexcused absences
- Unexcused tardies
- Any infraction of irresponsibility, disrespect, or insubordination

COMPETITIONS

Competitions are special events where we get to perform for an audience and adjudicators that understand and appreciate our art. WE COMPETE TO DO OUR BEST - AND TROPHIES ARE A PLUS. **We should not focus on comparing ourselves to other bands but rather being a better version of ourselves than before.** Pertinent information such as driving directions, departure/return times, and other necessary details will be shared with parents and students in advance. All parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend competitions to support the band.

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENT POLICY [13.1]

The SDHS Band charges a \$50 rental fee to maintain our instrument inventory. Our small inventory is available on a first come, first serve basis. Students who would like to rent an instrument should speak with Mr. Mull and complete an **Instrument Rental Form** with their parent/guardian. **Both the student and parent are financially responsible for the instrument and will be liable for any negligent damage or loss.** Any repairs that are necessary due to normal wear and tear will be paid for by the SDHS Band.

LOST MUSIC [13.2]

Students are often entrusted with original copies of music. They are responsible for ensuring that they are maintained and in good condition. Students should keep their music in a designated folder at all times and be ready to return it when requested by a director. **Students are prohibited from making photo copies of any music and sharing it with other students or individuals. Students will be charged for any lost or damaged music.**

USE OF THE BAND FACILITY [13.3]

BAND BUILDING

Use of the band building before, during, and after school is a privilege provided to us by South-Doyle High School and Knox County Schools. Students who abuse the facility will be disciplined accordingly. Students are to refrain from engaging in “horseplay” or any other activity that could cause damage to the facility or band equipment. Students are expected to only use their instrument or the equipment that is assigned to them unless asked to do otherwise by the director. At the beginning of the year, students may be assigned a locker in the instrument storage room to store their instruments and music. Lockers should be kept tidy and neat at all times. **The SDHS Band cannot ensure the security of the facility, therefore, the SDHS Band, SDHS, or Knox County Schools are not liable for lost or stolen items.**

MUSIC LIBRARY

The music library is only to be used by directors and designated student librarians. Materials such as solos, ensemble works, etude books, and other supplemental materials may be checked out through the directors.

BAND OFFICES & WORK ROOM

The band office/work room is a private space containing confidential records and documents. **Students are not permitted to enter without permission from the directors.** Students are welcome to enter to talk or hang out when the directors are present and the door is open. Student use of the office phone is permitted when the need arises but not before permission is granted from the directors.

Letter of Mutual Consent [14.1]

I, the undersigned student, understand the policies and procedures as set forth in the SDHS Band Handbook. I agree to adhere to these policies, procedures, and consent to do my best to uphold them.

Student Name (PRINT) _____

(Student Signature)

(Date)

I, the undersigned parent or guardian, have read and understand the policies as set forth in the Band Handbook. I also grant my child permission to be an active member of the South-Doyle High School Band. In addition, I agree to be an advocate of music education and an active supporter of the SDHS Band Program. Furthermore, I agree to adhere to these policies, procedures, and consent to do my best to uphold them.

Parent/Guardian Name (PRINT) _____

(Parent Signature)

(Date)