

# SIGNAL MOUNTAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK



2018-2019

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND DIRECTOR, DREW BUCKNER

PRINCIPAL, DR. SHANE HARWOOD



## SIGNAL MOUNTAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS

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Director of Bands  
Drew Buckner

August 8, 2018

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Signal Mountain Middle School Band Program! This handbook has been designed to familiarize and navigate you through the middle school band experience, as well as ensure the best experience for our kids. Please read the entire handbook! After you have read the handbook, please print, sign and return the final page by the end of the first full week of school (Aug. 17th). All members of the middle school band will be expected to abide by the expectations laid out in this handbook. Therefore, please feel free to print a copy for future reference.

I am looking forward to you and your student becoming part of the rich history and tradition at Signal Mountain Middle School. Together, we can change the lives of these students and use music for their benefit.

Again, I cannot express how excited I am that your student will be part of our organization. Please know that you as a parent will be an asset to their success. I encourage every parent to get involved and be part of something great. We have many opportunities for you to help us lay the foundation that will help lead our students to a great experience in band. **We will have a band parent meeting on Tuesday, August 21st at 7:00pm in the band room.** This is to inform all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade band parents of everything to expect during the year. Finally, if you have any questions about this document, please do not hesitate to contact me or visit our website [www.smmsbands.com](http://www.smmsbands.com). Once again WELCOME, and GO EAGLES!!!!!!

Sincerely,

Drew Buckner  
Director of Bands

## SMMS BAND STAFF

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND DIRECTOR.....DREW BUCKNER

HIGH SCHOOL BAND DIRECTOR.....SHELBY WALKER

PERCUSSION DIRECTOR.....MATT BROOM

## PRIVATE INSTRUCTORS

FLUTE INSTRUCTOR.....SAM SENCEBAUGH

FLUTE INSTRUCTOR.....ERIN HARRELL

CLARINET/SAXOPHONE INSTRUCTOR.....GORDON INMAN

TRUMPET INSTRUCTOR.....TOMMY BULMAN

FRENCH HORN INSTRUCTOR.....DAVID DEMARCHE

LOW BRASS INSTRUCTOR.....JORDAN PITNER

PERCUSSION INSTRUCTOR.....CHIP HANCOCK

## 2018-2019 MUSIC BOOSTERS BOARD OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....THOMAS LINDSAY.....TLINDSAYBAND@GMAIL.COM

VICE PRESIDENT (HS).....ANGELA KODSI.....KODSIMOMBAND@GMAIL.COM

VICE PRESIDENT (MS).....MELISSA BARRETT.....MELISSA.BARRETT@COMCAST.NET

VICE PRESIDENT (STRINGS).....ANGELA APABLAZA.....WILBURNFAMILY@EPBFI.COM

TREASURER.....DAVID VERNETTI.....SMHSTBAND@HOTMAIL.COM

ASSISTANT TREASURER.....KIM VERNETTI.....SMHSTBAND@HOTMAIL.COM

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SECRETARY.....ANN PARRY.....APARRY2@GMAIL.COM

SPORTSWEAR.....REBECCA WERT.....REB3307@EPBFI.COM

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR.....SUSIE WILLIAMS.....SUSIEW81@GMAIL.COM

PUBLICITY & ADVERTISING.....MINDY QUINN.....MINDYQUINN719@GMAIL.COM

COLOR GUARD REP.....DAWN MCLEMORE.....DAWNMCLEMORE@EPBFI.COM

CHARMS ADMINISTRATOR.....SUSAN MENKE.....JSRMENKE@EPBFI.COM

## GLOSSARY

**Music Boosters** - The Music Boosters provide financial and physical support to the music programs of Signal Mountain Middle/High School. They are the life blood of our organization, handling all finances, volunteer work, and organization needed to make our program operate to its best potential.

**Concert Band** - Signal Mountain Middle offers 3 different concert bands, one in each grade level. During the school day, these bands are divided into the following classes: 6th Grade Brass/Percussion, 6th Grade Woodwind/Percussion, 7th Grade Band, and 8th Grade Band. Each of these bands rehearse mainly during the school day and require only rare after-school rehearsals (other than performances). Our concerts each year include, but are not limited to our "Christmas on the Mountain" concert at the Abba's House in Hixson, Regional Concert Performance Assessment, State Concert Festival (if invited), a Spring Concert held at the school, as well as the traditional Disney World trip taken every other year. Leading up to each of these concerts, 6th grade students are asked to come together during a portion of at least two Directed Studies/Advisory classes to put together the entire ensemble that is normally separated during the school day. Students are asked to take care of homework and other school work prior to these rehearsals, so that we do not require an after-school commitment.

**Pep Band** - This group includes ALL 7th/8th grade band members. Performances include home varsity middle school football games and students perform in the stands for the duration of the game.

**Sectionals** - These are times when instrument-specific classes are held during or after school at different times throughout the year.

**Jazz Band** - Extracurricular ensembles such as Jazz Band practice after school, a minimum of 1 day a week, and operate in late fall (after marching band season), winter, & spring. The Jazz Band will perform a minimum of 1 concert late in the spring semester, as well as possible events outside of school in the Signal Mountain community. Only 7th and 8th grade students are invited to audition for this group.

The importance of rehearsal, attendance & student commitment to make the Jazz Band a successful organization cannot be overstated. If a student is not able to fulfill his/her commitment to the ensemble he/she will not be allowed to participate.

**Chamber Ensemble** - This ensemble is dedicated to grouping small numbers of students together to play a variety of musical genres. They rehearse at least once a week after-school, during advisory/directed studies, or at each other's homes. Playing in small groups is one of the most valuable and rewarding experiences that our students have. I cannot express the importance and value of this group! Their work can be seen at our Spring concert, as well as possible concerts around town. Only 7th and 8th grade students are invited to be a part of these groups.

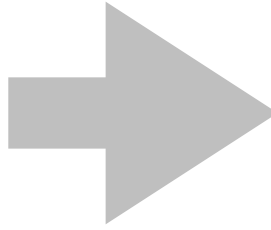
**Percussion Ensembles** - The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade percussion sections class meet during the school day to learn the fundamentals of their instruments and concert band music, but also work together to play "percussion-only" pieces. The product of their work can be seen at most of our concerts, as well as community events.

**Private Lessons** - These are NOT just for students that are struggling, or are extremely advanced; it is for everyone. While it is not required, we want every student to get the utmost enjoyment out of music, and we, therefore, strongly encourage it. We have the special opportunity of having a great private teacher for every instrument at the Mountain Arts Community Center (MACC) just down the road from the school. Please take the time to consider making a trip there on your way home from school! You can visit their website to find the contact info for each teacher.

**Junior Clinic/All-County** - These are individual opportunities to audition and perform with local and regional Honor Bands! (Open to 7th and 8th grade only)

RULES

1. No talking while the teacher is talking. Raise your hand before speaking and wait patiently to be called upon.
2. Bring horns up immediately with the conductors' hands and cut off immediately with the conductor.
3. Treat all teachers, students, facilities, and instruments with respect and care

CONSEQUENCES

1. Sign the Infraction Board at the front of the room.
2. Misconduct Report (MR) after 3 infractions

GRADING SCALE

A = 93 – 100            B = 85 – 92  
 C = 75 – 84             D = 70 – 74  
 Below 69 = Failing

<b>Classwork Grades -</b>	40% of grade. Earned by having all materials and equipment needed in class, participating in all activities, as well as assignments and quizzes.
<b>Homework Grades -</b>	10% of grade. Take-home assignments and/or recording assignments.
<b>Test Grades-</b>	20% of grade. This encompasses all outside events, other than the end-of-term concerts, including Pep band performances, after-school sectionals, festivals, and all other events outside of the classroom.
<b>End of Term Concerts-</b>	30% of grade. The largest grade each semester is the end of term concert. This is the “Christmas on the Mountain” concert in December and the Spring Concert in April/May. There are not make-up assignments for these events. Band is a team sport and it is very important that all students are present for concerts.

*\*\*Acceptable circumstances to miss an extracurricular event above: Medical emergency, Death in the family, Sport commitment that has been approved by Mr. Buckner, and any other extenuating circumstance approved.\*\**

## **“PRACTICE IS FOR HOME, NOT FOR CLASS”**

Our band program is very unique with its classroom structure. We learn all of the tools necessary for an individual student to teach himself/herself any given piece of music. We break down each specific concept that comprises music and practice these skills on a daily basis. Therefore, when given a piece of music for a concert, we sometimes expect all students to learn their individual parts on their own. Band is a team sport, and by setting this expectation, our band rehearses “music” every day. It is a unique environment in which we talk about emotion, communication, balance, blend, and so many other elements of musicality. Simply stated, after learning the skills necessary, we no longer learn notes and rhythms in class (that is the students’ responsibility); we are then able to be musicians in class.

*Students should be bringing their instruments home a couple times a week and especially on the weekends. They should be practicing around 120 minutes per week.*

## **PAYMENT OF FEES/EXPENSES**

***\$40 Requested Band Fee*** (checks made payable to “SMMHS Music Boosters and students can put it in the locked Booster box in the band room when school begins. This fee helps cover music, instruments, stands, chairs, buses, concerts, etc. during the school year)

***Instrument cost*** (If you are playing a school owned instrument, you will need to pay the yearly price associated with their instrument)

***Cheesecake Sale in October*** (not a specific price, but each student needs to do their fair share of work, which is 15 items sold. This is the easiest fundraiser you’ll ever do on Signal Mountain, because the community members, teachers, and parents are all waiting for it every year. It’s been a tradition since the early 1990s, and the food items we sell are great!)

***\$5 per ticket for “Christmas from the Mountain” concert in December***

***Six Flags cost in the Spring for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band***

ALL payments directed toward our band program need to be placed in the secure black box on the band room wall or mailed to: SMMHS Music Boosters, P.O. Box 272, Signal Mountain, TN 37377. Checks may be written out to “SMMHS Music Boosters.” Also, once your student receives their "Charms" login information, you may pay most items online.

## **Important Dates! (smmsbands.com for calendar)**

### **Wednesday, August 8th:**

First Day of School! (Everyone needs to bring their instruments and place them in their personal band locker in the band room)

### **Tuesday, August 21st:**

MS Band Parent Meeting at 7:00pm in the Band Room (We will be going over the logistics of the year, changes, and what to expect)

### **Thursday, August 23rd:**

MS Home Football Game vs. Soddy Daisy (All non Fall Sport 7th/8th Grade Band members arrive at 6:30pm. Game Time 7:00pm)

### **Thursday, Sept. 6th:**

MS Home Football Game vs. Red Bank (All non Fall Sport 7th/8th Grade Band members arrive at 6:30pm. Game Time 7:00pm)

### **Thursday, Sept. 20th:**

MS Home Football Game vs. East Lake (All non Fall Sport 7th/8th Grade Band members arrive at 6:30pm. Game Time 7:00pm)

### **Friday, Sept. 28th:**

8th Grade Night! (All 8th Grade Band members report to band room at 2:30pm and perform with high school band for the HS Home Football Game vs. Brainerd at 7:00pm)

### **Saturday, Nov. 17th:**

All Region Band Auditions (All eligible 7th and 8th grade band members field trip from Signal Mountain to McMinn County High School)

### **Tuesday, Dec. 4th:**

"Christmas from the Mountain" Concert (ALL MS Band Members perform concert at ABBA's House on Hixson Pike. Students report at 6:30pm and Concert begins at 7:00pm.)

### **Dec. 7th and 8th:**

All Region Band Clinic and Concert (7th and 8th grade band members that made the All Region Band will take a bus from band room on Friday morning to Cleveland MS for an all day event/rehearsal. Parents will pick them up that evening and take them back on Saturday morning. Concert will be after lunch).

### **Monday, Feb. 25th:**

7th Grade Band Required Concert Performance Assessment Camp After School (3:00pm-6:45pm)

### **Tuesday, Feb. 26th:**

8th Grade Band Required Concert Performance Assessment Camp After School (3:00pm-6:45pm)

### **March 13th OR 14th:**

Concert Performance Assessment (All 7th and 8th grade band members take field trip during school on one of these 2 days to be evaluated as a band on their concert performance).

### **April 5th-6th:**

Tentative Six Flags Date for 7th/8th Grade Band

### **Tuesday, May 7th:**

MS Band Spring Concert at ABBA's House (ALL MS Band members report at 6:30pm. Concert begins at 7:00pm)

***\*\*Please be aware that dates do change and unexpected events do come up during the year. We will do our best to keep you up date as soon as possible\*\****



**2018-2019 BAND COMMITMENT FORM**

TO: Students and Parents of the Signal Mountain Middle School Band  
FROM: Drew Buckner, Director  
RE: **Signal Mountain Middle School Band Handbook**

In order for us to know all parents and students have been duly informed concerning details and guidelines related to the Signal Mountain Middle School Band, please read, sign and return the following statement. This statement **MUST** be signed and returned without modification prior to your student being allowed to participate in the SMMS band program.

We, the undersigned member of the Signal Mountain Middle School Band and Parent or legal guardian thereof, acknowledge that we have received, read, and understand the entire document referenced above. We further acknowledge that the student named below will accept the terms set forth in this document.

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(Printed Student Name)

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(Signature of Parent / Guardian)

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(Signature of Student)

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_