

# 2017-18 Handbook for SPMS Raider Bands

Grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>

A year-long academic elective class

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Band Website: <http://teachers.stjohns.k12.fl.us/zentz-l/>

Charms™ is used for teacher/student and teacher/parent communication

**Wind Symphony, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band,** and **Jazz Ensemble** are performance-based instrumental ensembles for experienced players.

**Beginning Band** provides entry-level instruction on flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion. **Jazz Ensemble** is by audition and students must play in one of the other bands in addition to Jazz Ensemble. The band program provides students the opportunity to perform music from a wide range of styles. The content is designed to challenge the students' skill level and promote the development of musicianship. Music theory, language arts, math, reading, writing, and history are woven into the curriculum through the study of quality literature and the elements of music. Learning goals are derived from the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Middle School Music and the St Johns County Curriculum Maps for middle school band.



## ***Student Goals***

- Develop a love for musical performance and an appreciation of music as an art form
- Build technical aspects of music performance on chosen instrument
- Learn the basic concepts of music theory and vocabulary
- Learn steadfast self-discipline and make a commitment to musical excellence
- Participate in a musical “community” and contribute to the success of the ensemble
- Through the art of music, become more responsive to the world around them

## ***Student Expectations***

- Active, respectful participation in class, positive attitude and appropriate rehearsal etiquette
- Regular practice routine outside of class – band “homework”
- Proficiency in assigned music, scales, and exercises
- Helpful support of other band members
- Respect for fellow classmates and their equipment
- Follow the SPMS Code of Conduct
- Honor the opportunity to learn and make music

## ***Performances***

There will be several required performances, all specified well in advance via website, email, Charms, and calendar. Every member is vitally important to the band, and we need everyone present when we perform. Performances will count as Summative Assessments. (Exception: Participation in the St Augustine Christmas Parade is optional.)

## ***Books***

All band students will be provided with at least one method book as part of their “fair share”. The band director will provide all instructional materials for all the bands. Lost books will need to be replaced at a cost of \$10.

## ***Music***

Music will be on loan from the SPMS Music Library at no charge. A replacement fee will be charged for music and folders that are lost. Band arrangements for middle school are expensive. PLEASE KEEP UP WITH YOUR FOLDER! It is your “text book”. There will be occasional “folder checks” for a formative grade.

## ***Fair Share***

Our band program operates on a budget which is handled by the band director and supported by the Band Parent Association. The school district provides a very small amount of our operating expense. Therefore, we depend on the band families to contribute a “fair share” to provide the band with the many things necessary for our success. Fair share covers purchases of music, binders, folders, instruments, tools, supplies, educational materials, uniform shirts, formal dresses, awards, technology, transportation, band professional organization fees (FBA and FSMA), and staff professional development. The fair share amount is \$145/year, and is due by the first concert. Fundraising will be kept to a minimum and will benefit the total band program. No student will be denied the opportunity to participate in band because of inability to pay the fair share. Please contact the director if you desire a payment plan or payment waiver.

## ***Uniforms***

The FORMAL band uniform for Wind Symphony, Wind Ensemble, and Symphonic Band consists of a long black dress for the girls, and tuxedo shirt, bow tie, cummerbund for the boys (provided by the band). The FORMAL uniform for Beginning Band is the official monogrammed band polo shirt (provided by the band) and black dress pants, black closed toe/heel shoes, black socks and black belt provided by the student. Our INFORMAL uniform is the official black band t-shirt (provided by the band) with blue jeans and comfortable shoes, used for parade and field trips.

## ***GRADING OVERVIEW***

**75% - Performance tests in class, written tests**

**25% - Musician responsibilities and Rehearsal etiquette**

**Performance Tests/ Written Tests – 75%**

Includes scales and exercises and any assigned individual playing tests. Attendance at performances is required.

**Musician Responsibilities and Rehearsal Etiquette – 25%**

Daily preparedness, folder checks, being on time, putting belongings away in the proper place. Forgetting an instrument or folder will lower this portion of the grade 5 points each time. Sustained focused attention, respect, and discipline are required during all rehearsals. Grade will be lowered 5 points each time these expectations are violated.

## ***Practice Requirements***

Practice outside of class is essential for growth and development on any musical instrument. Please help your child understand that practicing at home is the equivalent of doing homework in any other subject. When students practice at home, they improve rapidly and get much more out of their band experience. You as the parent will receive a better return for your investment in band if your child practices regularly. Schedule a regular practice time if possible. Students will always have a particular learning goal that they are working toward in band. Some students respond well to being told to practice a certain amount of minutes, while others respond better to accomplishing a certain goal during the practice session, regardless of the number of minutes. Set the practice parameters for your child. It is strongly recommended that instrument practice time is done away from cell phones, TV's and other distractions. Practice logs may be required for certain periods during the year.

## ***Performances***

PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY and will count as a Summative Assessment. The most current performance schedule is included on the band website and will be updated regularly. Mark your calendars now!

## ***Band Class Procedures***

Rehearsals are held during band class with emphasis on developing strong musicianship through working on performance fundamentals, technique, skill, musical style and interpretation, and theoretical essentials. We have much to accomplish during each class period in order to reach our potential. Because we are on an alternating block schedule, each day of class represents two days of learning! Respect for this time is expected!

1. Be on time and prepared. Slow down and be respectful of the expensive instruments and equipment in the room.
2. Exercise self-discipline in your voice level, and don't talk during the rehearsal. It's time to listen and learn.
3. Show respect and courtesy; treat others as you would like to be treated.
4. Have the music folder ready each day. Note the learning goal for the day/week.
5. Listen carefully at all times during the rehearsal. If you are talking you cannot listen carefully.
6. Keep your folder, your instrument, and the band room neat and clean – this is our band “home”. Show PRIDE!
7. No food or drink is allowed in the band room. Water bottles with lids are OK.
8. Rehearse as if you were performing a concert. Sloppy practice does NOT make progress!

## ***Behavior Expectations***

Students are expected to abide by the SPMS Behavior Code. The school's demerit system will be used in the band program. Raider Bucks will be awarded for exemplary behavior. Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible!

## ***Charms Communication Portal for Band***

New this year is the Charms system for band organization and communication. All families are encouraged to set up an account and check it regularly.

## **PLAYING TESTS/PASS OFFS**

Students will be assigned scales and exercises that will be played during class individually. A grade will be assigned for each playing test according to the band rubric. Pass offs will also be used. Students may choose the lines from the book to play for the director, and credit is given for each successful pass off.

## **SOME VERY IMPORTANT EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW:**

### **OPTIONAL ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITY:**

**Florida Bandmasters Association Solo and Ensemble Festival – February 9 or 10, 2018 @ Creekside High School**

This festival provides selected band members with the opportunity to perform a solo and/or small ensemble for a judge. Music must be selected from the FBA required list, and working with a private teacher is recommended. The performance is evaluated by the judge using a prescribed set of criteria, and band members are rated as "Superior", "Excellent", or "Good". Medals are awarded for a rating score of "Superior". This is a great opportunity for band students who want to devote the necessary time to studying an advanced piece of music in depth.

### **MANDATORY FOR WIND SYMPHONY:**

**Florida Bandmasters Association Music Performance Assessment – March 6 or 7, 2018 @ TBA**

This festival provides the entire band the opportunity to be adjudicated as an ensemble by professional judges. The performance is evaluated using a prescribed set of criteria by each judge. Final scores are averaged and the band is rated as "Superior", "Excellent", or "Good". This assessment is a major component of our yearly focus for it is a measure of our standard of excellence in all areas of band performance. The results are included in our Band EOC scores.

### **MANDATORY FOR WIND ENSEMBLE AND SYMPHONIC BAND:**

**Music Performance Assessment – March 13, 2018 @ SPMS**

This festival provides the entire band the opportunity to be adjudicated as an ensemble by professional judges. The performance is evaluated using a prescribed set of criteria by each judge. Final scores are averaged and the band is rated as "Superior", "Excellent", or "Good". This assessment is a major component of our yearly focus for it is a measure of our standard of excellence in all areas of band performance. The results are included in our Band EOC scores.

### **MANDATORY FOR JAZZ ENSEMBLES:**

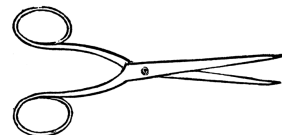
**The Lakeside Jazz Festival – Saturday, April 21, 2017 @ Port Orange, FL**

This festival provides the entire jazz band the opportunity to be adjudicated as an ensemble by professional jazz judges. The performance is evaluated using a prescribed set of criteria by each judge. Final scores are averaged and the band is rated as "Superior", "Excellent", or "Good". This assessment is a major component of our yearly focus for it is a measure of our standard of excellence in all areas of band performance. The results are included in our Band EOC scores.

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*Return this page to Band Room for a Raider Buck!*



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## **BAND MEMBER and PARENT HANDBOOK SIGN-OFF**

We have read The Switzerland Point Middle School Band Handbook and understand the requirements, responsibilities, and consequences as stated within.

We are fully aware of the band performance dates on the website calendar for this school year.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Student Information:

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone Number for Parent: \_\_\_\_\_