

Seminole Middle School

Band Handbook

2008 - 2009

**Director of Bands - Chad Guess
Principal - Thomas Lechner**

Forward

The purpose of this handbook is to provide valuable information about the Band program at Seminole Middle School. To consistently achieve and maintain the high standard of excellence desired by this organization, members must familiarize themselves with the regulations, procedures and traditions of the Seminole Middle Band.

Code of Conduct

Here are some very straight forward rules about how to behave when in Rm. 502 and when representing S.M.S. as a member of the band.

1. If it's not yours don't touch it without permission.
2. Loud and obnoxious behavior is inappropriate in Rm. 502.
3. Food is not allowed in the band room.
4. Gum is not allowed in the band room.

Please work hard to keep the Music Department clean so we can all have a pleasant environment in which to make music!

Discipline Policy

When students misbehave in the Music Department they will adhere to the following consequences:

- 1st Step Verbal Warning & Sign the Discipline Book
- 2nd Step Parent Notification/Detention
- 3rd Step Parent Notification/Guidance Referral
- 4th Step Administrative Referral

*Steps start over at the beginning of each grading period.

Attendance

Unexcused absences from concerts will result in a full grade level drop on the student's report card.

An absence is excused when the student brings a note from home explaining the absence and it is **approved** by the director.

Please do not schedule Medical appointments on before or after school rehearsal days if at all possible.

Grading Policy

The students are graded on the following items:

- Practice Journals
- Daily Participation
- Music Theory (written)
- Pass Off or Playing Tests
- Performances
- Written Tests
- Research Projects
- Smart Music Tests
- Bringing Materials to Class

*Practice Journals will not be accepted after the designated due date.

*Mistakes on playing tests count as a 3 point deduction each from the total score.

Practice Journals

A journal of practice time and practice goals will be kept by the student and turned in every three weeks throughout the school year. Students will keep a daily log of what their individual practice goal is for the practice session and how many minutes they work to achieve said goal. Private lesson minutes may be doubled in value. Journals will be turned in the third and last Friday of each grading period (2 times every six weeks).

<u>Minutes (per journal)</u>	<u>Grade</u>
650 - 750	A
550 - 649	B
450 - 549	C
350 - 449	D
349 or below	F

Music Department Phone

The phone in the music department is not for personal use by students.

Please feel free to call the music department for band business or questions that you may have. The number is: **547 – 7660**.

Chair Placement

The director will assign students to parts or chairs to achieve proper balance in the ensemble. Students sometimes forget that ALL parts are important and must be played well. An ensemble relies on all of its members for the final product. Therefore, sections may be staggered to provide the best sound possible. The director may reseat students according to musical progress and preparation.

In cases where two students are of similar ability, the Director will have an audition to determine who will play a particular part.

The Director's decision is final and only has the best interest of the program and the success of students in mind when making those decisions.

Use and Care of Music

Do not fold, tear or otherwise mutilate music.

Do not make excessive marks on music; always use a pencil, no ink of any kind!

Lost or misplaced music can usually be found in the lost and found box in the band room.

Instrument Storage

Unfortunately, we do not have lockers for your instruments. However, at your own risk, you may leave your instruments on one of the instrument shelves during the day.

Unless you have a double instrument at home, INSTRUMENTS MAY NOT BE LEFT OVERNIGHT IN THE BAND ROOM.

The shelves are for instruments. Books and backpacks should be left on the shelves provided. Please help keep the band room neat and organized as it is a reflection of the program.

Instrument Rentals

The band department has a limited number of instruments for rent during the school year and summer. The larger instruments are rented on a first come, first serve basis until they are gone. The following rental fees do apply:

Full Year	\$60.00
Half Year	\$35.00
Second instrument	\$30.00
Percussionists	\$36.00

The music department does not provide mouthpieces, reeds, drum sticks and mallets, method books, and cleaning equipment. Those items can be found at any of our local music stores.

Rental fees can not possibly maintain and replace instruments as they wear out. Damage or lost instruments are the responsibility of the student during the rental period.

Daily Rehearsal Procedures

1. Every band and orchestra member should bring instruments, music, pencil, planner, and proper equipment to every rehearsal.
2. There is to be no loud or obnoxious playing before rehearsal. Warming up is to be done properly and discretely.
3. There is to be no talking during rehearsals, subdued talking is permitted when the director leaves the podium. When anyone is on the podium, all talking should cease immediately.
4. Students have 3 minutes after the bell rings to be seated and ready for rehearsal.
5. Please respect our equipment by not leaning on stands or leaning back in chairs.
6. Please fold your stand down and clean your personal space before leaving the rehearsal set.