



St. Mary's Catholic School Band Handbook

Robert Knoke
Director

St. Mary's Catholic School Band Handbook

2021-2022

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the St. Mary's Catholic School Band program! I am very glad to have you as a part of the band program at St. Mary's. This handbook has been written to familiarize you with the many aspects of the program, and to ensure an enjoyable and educationally rewarding musical experience. I realize the amount of reading material you as parents and students are presented with at the beginning of the school year but **PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ ALL OF THE HANDBOOK.** After you have read this handbook, sign the last page, detach the form, and return it to me. Band students will be held accountable for the information contained in this handbook so **please keep the rest of the handbook for future reference.**

Band is an *elective* and *selective* course. It differs from the general music class, or any other course on the elective wheel, in that we seek to develop greater proficiency over a longer period of time. It involves learning math concepts and applying them (rhythm); learning and applying a new system of notation; developing fine motor skills; developing the ability to listen critically; and becoming sensitive to the sounds we make, to the conductor, to the sounds others make, and to the musical demands of the music. It requires cooperation with a conductor and a large team of musicians working together toward a common goal. And of course it also requires practice at home, occasional after school rehearsals and performances, and investment in and proper maintenance of an instrument.

Band involves responsibility to the group. The sound each student makes changes the sound of the entire group. Most students possess the musical and mental skills necessary to be good student musicians. Success is most likely if the student has the desire to learn to play; the parents and students understand what is required for success; and the parents share responsibility for the music education of their child. It is hoped that this handbook will be a guide that will lead you and your child to a successful experience in band. I sincerely wish your band experience will be a rewarding and exciting one!

Sincerely,

Robert Knoke, Director

rknoke@stmarys-temple.org

General Rules and Procedures

- Be respectful to the director, to other students, and to school and personal property.
- Be in your seats, ready to play, at the beginning of the rehearsal. This means having your instrument, music, and pencil with you when rehearsal begins.
- Remain quiet when the director is teaching.
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
- No food or gum in the rehearsal room. Students may bring a water bottle containing water only.
- Remain in your seat during rehearsal. Bathroom breaks will be granted on an emergency basis only, so go before rehearsal.
- Only percussion students are allowed to touch or play the percussion instruments.

In addition to these, all St. Mary's rules will be enforced during class and at performances.

Consequences

All band members are expected to abide by both school and band hall rules. However, if a student chooses not to practice these rules, one or more of the following can occur:

- Verbal warning
- Alternate/written assignment
- Teacher/student conference
- Parent conference
- After-school detention
- Referral to principal
- Removal from band

Beginner Band

The beginning band classes are for 4th and 5th grade students who have not yet been in a school band. No musical background is necessary. Beginning band students meet twice a week. Each student will be provided with a 1" black 3-ring binder containing the beginning band method book as well as tabs for any additional material they may be given. **Students are expected to bring this binder with them to every band class. If the binder is lost or destroyed, there will be a \$5 fee for a replacement.**

BEGINNER BAND EXPECTATIONS:

- Students will bring their instrument, binder, and a pencil to class every day.
- Students will have the necessary supplies to play their instrument, such as reeds for clarinet and saxophone, mouthpiece for brass, and all the parts needed to play.
- Students should practice at least 15-20 minutes at home every day.
- Students will participate fully in all classroom activities.

Middle School Band

The middle school band is comprised of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students and meets 3 days a week. Students will be provided with a 1" black 3-ring binder with tabs to keep their music in along with any supplemental materials that are handed out by the director. **Students are expected to bring this binder with them to every band class. If the binder is lost or destroyed, there will be a \$5 fee for a replacement.**

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND EXPECTATIONS:

- Students will bring their instrument, all music, and a pencil to class every day.
- Students will have the necessary supplies to play their instrument, such as reeds for clarinet and saxophone, mouthpiece for brass, and all the parts needed to play.
- Students will keep their instrument in working condition. Brass instruments will oil valves and grease slides at home.
- Students should practice at least 15-30 minutes at home every day.
- Students will participate fully in all classroom activities.
- Students will dress correctly for all required performances.
- Students will attend and participate in all required performances.

Grading Policy

Grades will be determined from the following:

70% Daily/Classroom – Includes class participation, assignments, and binder checks; minimum of 12 recorded grades per 9 weeks

30% Performance – In-class playing assessments; minimum of 6 recorded grades per 9 weeks

Concerts

Playing in a band is a cooperative effort in which the students rely on each other to ensure a successful performance. Even one student being absent can turn a potentially fine performance into a mediocre event. Therefore, it is **essential** that every student be present for any scheduled concerts throughout the year. Dates for these concerts will be announced as soon as they are available so that you can add them to your calendars. The band uniform for concerts will be khaki pants and their St. Mary's uniform polos.

Practice and Commitment

Playing in the band requires outside practice time. I suggest a minimum of 15 minutes per day for each student. Practice is more effective when done in several short segments rather than all at once. **Remember: Practice does not make perfect all the time. Practice makes permanent. Perfect practice makes perfect. Encourage your student to use good habits when practicing.*

Private Lessons

If you are interested in obtaining private lessons for your student, here are some resources that you may find useful.

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor Conservatory

<https://go.umhb.edu/visual-performing-arts/conservatory/home>

Academie Musique

<https://amcentex.org>

Music & Arts – Temple & Harker Heights

<https://www.musicarts.com>

School-Owned Instruments

St. Mary's Catholic School has a limited supply of school-owned instruments which are available for loan on a *first-come, first-served* basis. Each instrument is checked out in working condition and is expected to be in the same condition when returned at the end of the school year. Students that are issued equipment are responsible for the care and upkeep of the instrument, and any damage or repairs will be the responsibility of the student. If an instrument is in for repair, the parent must send a note stating this fact.

Instrument Rentals & Purchases

Due to the limited number of school-owned instruments here at St. Mary's, some students will need to either rent or purchase an instrument for the year. Instrument rentals and purchases can be made at **Music & Arts (formerly The Band Room)**. Please contact the director with any questions regarding an instrument that is to be purchased online or at a pawn shop.

Music & Arts (The Band Room)

- Belton: 2805 N Loop 121, Belton, TX 76513 (254)939-6200
- Harker Heights: 212 W Veterans Memorial Blvd, Harker Heights, TX 76548 (254)699-2263

St. Mary's Catholic School Band 2021-2022 Sign and Return Page

"I/we have read, understand and agree to the policies and procedures outlined in the 2021-2022 St. Mary's Catholic School Band Handbook and our student has permission to participate in band and all band activities within the guidelines as stated."

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

"I have read, understand and agree to the policies and procedures outlined in the 2021-2022 St. Mary's Catholic School Band Handbook. I realize that failure to follow policies or directions will result in disciplinary action that could lead to dismissal from the Band and Band Classes."

Student Signature

Date