



# **Band Handbook**

## **2020 - 2021**

Director:

Steve Truran (Mr. T)

## **WELCOME**

Welcome to the band program at St. John the Baptist Catholic School. Whether you and your student are returning members or this is your first year in band, I welcome you for a fantastic year! In this handbook is a multitude of information about the band program at St. John's; it is here for your benefit, information, and reference. I look forward to working with and making music with each of you! Throughout the year, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. Contact information is provided below.

Mr Steve Truran  
SJB Band Director

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

E-mail: [trurans@stjohnnyb.org](mailto:trurans@stjohnnyb.org)  
Phone: (651)633-1522 ext. 1204

## **\*\*\*NEW FOR THIS YEAR\*\*\***

Students who have 2 or more missed lessons that they have not made up will be missing part of their elective time to make up their lessons. It will be treated as a missing assignment. Students will still receive the missed lesson slips to go home, be signed by a parent, and returned to Mrs. Johnston. Parents will also still receive an e-mail once lessons have been missed 2 weeks in a row besides the slip sent home.

## **USEFUL REMINDERS**

Band tuition will run through TADS. Please remember to check on your registration form if you would like to pay monthly, by trimester, or yearly. The payment plan chart is on page 7 still of this handbook.

The "rental fee" of \$0.25 a night will be given to students who leave their instruments overnight in the school building. If a student wishes to leave an instrument overnight at the school, they must okay it with me. The instrument will then be left in the music room where I can lock it up for safe keeping. The hallway and homerooms are not secure for instruments to be stored overnight. Homeroom teachers and maintenance are not responsible for the safety of student instruments.

## **CURRICULUM AND COURSE STRUCTURE**

Band, like any academic subject, emphasizes development of a variety of skills. These skills are mainly musical but often cross over into other subject areas. Skills like critical thinking, analyzing, coordination, and problem solving are all strengthened through participation in ensembles. Below are the curriculum and goals for the various bands at St. John's:

### **Beginning Band (Grade 4, plus any additional first-year band student):**

Students in the Beginning Band at St. John's are introduced to playing a band instrument, both in small group and large group settings. The fundamentals of playing an instrument and participating in an ensemble are emphasized—notes, rhythms, and basic playing techniques for each instrument, as well as rehearsal and performance etiquette.

In small group settings, students learn proper playing technique for their instrument as well as maintenance and cleaning. Students are encouraged to play both with other students of their instrument as well as individually in this setting.

In the large group, students will learn to play with other students of varying instruments. Students first learn to play and perform unison melodies with their bandmates and later learn to play more independently for full band music.

Emphasis is also placed on note identification, reading rhythm, understanding musical terms, and developing healthy practice habits. Students in this group perform two concerts per year, one in December and the other in May.

### **Concert Band (Grades 5-8 with at least one year of playing experience):**

Students in the Concert Band at St. John's continue their musical study in both small and large group settings. Students will continue to practice fundamental techniques, producing a characteristic tone for their instrument, and start to develop practice habits.

In the small group setting, students will be grouped with other students of like instrument and ability and will continue their individual musical development through etudes, scales, and solo studies, as found in method books used for lessons.

In the large group, students will strengthen their musical skills by playing with others as they embark on more complex music and expanded instrumentation (for example: tenor sax and baritone sax, bass clarinet, and tuba).

Students will be introduced to longer pieces, more complex rhythms, and new key / time signatures. Emphasis will be placed on expanding students' musical knowledge and solidifying previously learned skills. Students in this group perform two concerts per year and may have the option to perform at school liturgies.

## **Wind Symphony (Grades 5-8 Audition Only):**

This group is the most advanced ensemble at St. John's. Students in Wind Symphony continue to strengthen their playing skills in both small group and large ensemble settings. Students in wind symphony are expected to practice and put together notes and rhythms at home, so our ensemble rehearsals are focused on nuances of musical performance. Students in this ensemble will perform a wide variety of literature. Advanced musical and rhythmic concepts are introduced in the early stages of this ensemble and strengthened as the student matures musically.

The goal of this group is to prepare students to not only play in high school ensembles, but also to be future leaders in these ensembles. Students in the Wind Symphony will perform at least three concerts per year, including a prelude performance at the Christmas Program and other smaller performances throughout the school year.

## **Jazz Band (Grades 5-8 with at least one year of playing experience):**

Students in Jazz Band will learn about playing in the jazz style through a variety of music. Emphasis will be placed on learning styles in swing, rock, funk, and Latin. Students will also be introduced to improvisation and learn the basics of improvising through group and individual performances.

Students in this group, with the exception of piano, guitar, and set must be members of the St. John's Band Program in order to participate. Due to a desire for balanced instrumentation, auditions may be held for certain instruments if interest is higher than need.

This group can be incredibly demanding, as far as written notes and technical requirements (difficult rhythms, many added flats/sharps, and a large range), but it is also really rewarding. Students in this group have a good time making up their own melodies and expressing themselves in ways that are not typically allowed in the other ensembles.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is extremely important in the band program. If you are not here, you cannot learn. Due to the size of the ensembles, everyone is important to our success.

### **➤ Lesson Attendance:**

Students will be scheduled one 20-minute lesson each week with some exceptions, such as large field trips, school days off, or other extenuating circumstances. Students are responsible for checking the lesson schedules posted in homerooms, outside/inside the music room, and at home. The schedule will rotate each week to ensure that students do not miss the same parts of class each week. If there are any conflicts, please communicate with me and we will work out a new lesson time.

If a conflict arises, such as a test within a class, it is the student's responsibility to get in touch with me to reschedule as soon as possible (before the day of the conflict). Parents are asked to contact us for conflicts outside of school. Communicating this before the conflict is preferred.

A student who simply forgets or consciously skips their lesson, are required to fill out a missed lesson form and talk with me about rescheduling. Choosing to not make up a lesson will result in missing elective time that Friday. If a student misses two lessons in a row without an attempt to make up, Mrs. Johnston will contact parents to get attendance back on track.

➤ **Rehearsal Attendance:**

Please see the attached calendar for beginning and end dates of rehearsals, as they vary by group. By signing up for band you have committed to be a part of the band. Our full band rehearsals occur after school. Attendance at all afternoon rehearsals is expected. It is incredibly important for the group that you are there. Our group is not complete unless you are ALL there.

Should a conflict arise, such as a doctor's appointment or any other reason which would prevent students from getting to band in the afternoon, a courtesy call to the music office telephone or an email to Mrs. Johnston is requested. Without notice of the absence, the student's absence will be considered unexcused.

While you do pay tuition and poor attendance would not negatively affect an academic GPA, we want to make sure that you get what you pay for. Rehearsals are from 2:15pm - 3:00pm on the groups' assigned afternoon.

Occasionally, students experience temporary setbacks in their playing, and there are certainly reasons in which you might not want them playing. For example, braces may have been tightened or they have a sprained wrist. I understand that healing requires time and ease. Our philosophy is that if they are well enough to be at school, they are well enough to attend morning band. Even if they do not play, by your or your doctor's instruction, they can still listen, follow along, finger along (in some cases), and be a part of the ensemble. Listening to the group can give them just as much instruction as playing.

Upon a student's third unexcused absence from rehearsal, a meeting will be called between the parents, the instructor, and the student, to come up with a course of action.

➤ **Concert Attendance:**

There are at least two concert performances for each ensemble.

**Concert attendance is mandatory,** and students are expected to attend all scheduled performances. Only in cases of family emergency or severe illness will a student be

excused from playing a concert. **No excused absences will be given for scout, sporting, or other events.** Please put the dates/times in your calendars as soon as possible to avoid conflict. Performances are our chance to show people and ourselves how good we are and what we have achieved.

Concert attendance is defined as being there for the entirety of the concert. It is expected that students and attendees stay and support all of the students in the band program, unless cleared with Mr. T at least 1 week prior to the concert itself.

### **PRACTICE TIME**

Individual practice time is necessary and important for every student at every level. It is recommended that students practice twenty minutes per day, multiple times per week. With such a practice schedule, students will be able to learn their weekly lesson assignments and their band music. Moreover, time with the instrument is absolutely necessary for developing and maintaining a controlled and characteristic sound! The instructors will give students a weekly assignment sheet, ask to see it! It is tailored to student needs and ability.

#### **1) Practice Tips:**

Here are some helpful tips for students and tips for parents to encourage good practicing habits:

- a) Pick a consistent practice time during the day so practicing will become a habit. Before or after homework time works well.
- b) Break up practice time. Twenty minutes a day does not necessarily mean all at once. Maybe practice time works better in two ten-minute chunks.
- c) Have a "practice place." This can be a place where the student leaves their music and instrument out and ready to play. Half of the battle of practicing is simply getting set up.
- d) Formulate a routine. Have your lesson instructor help create a specific set of exercises meant for warm-up, tonguing, sticking, rudiments, slurs, technique, warm-down, and more. These things can be done and are perfectly well-suited for every practice session.
- e) For parents: Listen to your student!! Poke your head into a practice session and see what your student is working on. Ask your student to play part of their assignment. Have students play for occasions outside of school (church, recitals, open-mic nights, etc.). Even self-proclaimed non-musical parents can offer important and helpful feedback to their student's practice. No one is tone deaf!

Building good practice habits can take time but the rewards will soon pay off. Students will need to be reminded to practice. All die-hard musicians were likely reluctant to practice at one point.

#### **2) Practice Charts:**

Students will be given a practice chart to fill out and hand in the following week. Students will get credit for each chart turned in regardless of the amount of time

practiced. This means that even if a student practices one minute, they will receive credit for the practice chart, but the parent has to first sign off on the lack of practice time. Practice charts will only receive credit if they have been signed by a parent or guardian. Besides being a rock star on your instrument, Mr. T will be tracking practice time and recognizing students who go above and beyond. Completed and signed Practice Charts are expected each week after morning rehearsal, whether any minutes were practiced the previous week or not.

### **GRADING**

Students will receive a band report card at the end of each trimester. These report cards will not figure into the regular academic GPA, but will have an overall grade as an attempt to quantify the students' efforts and improvement in the band program. Students will receive a list highlighting their strong skills and skills that need improvement, as well as a number of comments, as needed.

Report cards will help to give parents and students an update on individual student progress, will identify areas on which to focus, and will highlight student strengths as a developing musician.

### **TUITION AND PAYMENTS**

A tuition fee is asked of all participants of the SJB band program. Tuition for the program includes all printed materials (method books, sheet music, folders), the upkeep of band room supplies (chairs, stands, etc.), and the salary of the band instructors during band days.

Tuition for the St. John's Band Program is as follows:

- a) \$35.00 per month for the first student
- b) \$30.00 per month for the second student
- c) \$25.00 per month for each additional student

For the monthly \$35.00, a student receives about four lessons, four after school rehearsals, minor maintenance for their instrument, and emergency reeds (for woodwind players). This is a steal when compared to the standard going rate of approximately \$20.00/half hour lesson through a private instructor.

#### **1) Payments\*:**

Parents have three options for making payments, and each payment option equals the same yearly tuition.

- a) Monthly: \$35.00 per month x 9 months = \$315.00
- b) Trimesterly: \$105.00 per trimester x 3 trimesters = \$315.00
- c) Yearly: \$315.00 per year in one payment

\*based on rates of first student

A chart with the breakdown of payments is shown below.

	Monthly	Trimester	Yearly
1 Student	\$35.00 for first student = <b>\$35.00/month</b>	\$35.00 for one student/month x 3 months = <b>\$105/trimester</b>	\$35.00 for one student/month x 9 months OR \$105.00 for one student/trimester x 3 trimesters = <b>\$315.00/year</b>
2 Students	\$35.00 for the first student + \$30.00 (\$5 discount) for second student = <b>\$65.00/month</b>	\$65.00 for two student/month x 3 months = <b>\$195.00/trimester</b>	\$65.00 for two students/month x 9 months OR \$195.00 for two students/trimester x 3 trimesters = <b>\$585.00/year</b>
3 Students	\$35.00 for the first student + \$30.00 (\$5 discount) for second student + \$25.00 (\$5 further discount) for third student = <b>\$90.00/month</b>	\$90.00 for three student/month x 3 months = <b>\$270.00/trimester</b>	\$90.00 for one student/month x 9 months OR \$270.00 for one student/trimester x 3 trimesters = <b>\$810.00/year</b>

## 2) Leaving the Program:

While the band program is fun and rewarding for all students, occasionally a student leaves the program. When this occurs, parents will be responsible for the tuition through the end of the month in which the student leaves (for example: A parent is responsible for April's tuition if a student leaves on April 3). If the parents have prepaid for the year or the trimester, they will be refunded the remainder of the tuition on their balance (for example: a parent paying by trimester will be refunded for April and May if the student leaves in March, and a parent paying by year will be refunded for March, April, and May if the student leaves in February).

A commitment from the start of the school year through the Christmas Concert is requested. Pieces are selected for Christmas based on band enrollment in the spring and less can be done in the short time to make accommodations for a changing ensemble.



**3) Refunds:**

There is no refund of band tuition except as described above. It is the student's responsibility to reschedule lessons with Mr. T. If a student misses a lesson and the student makes no effort to make it up, it will be counted as a loss.

**INSTRUMENT UPKEEP AND SUPPLIES**

In order to continue to grow and learn in the band program, a student's instrument must be in good working order. This means that student instruments may need to be repaired on occasion. Please be prompt in arranging for the repair, as it is difficult to play on a broken instrument. If a student is going to be without an instrument for an extended period of time, please inform Mrs. Johnston, as there are some school-owned instruments available.

**1) Supplies:**

Each student should have the following list of supplies for their instrument:

Flute

Cleaning swab  
Cleaning rod

Oboe

2 reeds (medium soft)  
Reed holder  
Cork grease  
Cleaning swab (specifically for oboe)

Trumpet

Valve oil  
Mouthpiece brush  
Slide grease

Trombone

Slide grease  
Mouthpiece brush  
Slide sprayer

Percussion

One set drumsticks  
One set medium weight mallets for keyboard percussion  
Practice pad

Clarinet/Bass Clarinet

4 reeds (size 2.5 or as specified)  
Reed guard  
Cork grease (tube)  
Cleaning/silk swab

Saxophone

4 reeds (size 2.5)  
Reed guard  
Cleaning/silk swab

Horn

Rotary valve oil  
Mouthpiece brush

Baritone

Valve oil  
Mouthpiece brush

## INSTRUMENT REPAIR AND SUPPLIERS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) Hass Instrument Repair<br>441 Old HWY 8 NW<br>New Brighton, MN 55112<br>(651) 631-8820    | 3) Schmitt Music<br>2400 Freeway Blvd.<br>Brooklyn Center, MN 55430<br>(763) 566-4560 |
| 2) Eckroth Music<br>3065 Centre Pointe Dr., Suite 1<br>Roseville, MN 55113<br>(651) 704-9654 | 4) Groth Music<br>8056 Nicollet Ave S<br>Bloomington, MN 55420<br>(952) 884-4772      |

## 2020-2021 TENTATIVE BAND SCHEDULE

### **Full Group Rehearsal After School 2:15 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.:**

- Jazz Band: Tuesdays
- Beginner Band: Wednesdays
- Concert Band: **Thursdays** (please note this change from last year)
- Wind Symphony: **Fridays** (please note this change from last year)

September 8, 2020	Meet My Teacher Day 10:00 - 5:30 4th Grade Instrument Trials
September 9, 2020	First week of lessons for all students No Beginner Band Rehearsal (Beg. Band rehearsals start Oct. 21)
September 10, 2020	First Concert Band Rehearsal
September 11, 2020	First Wind Symphony Rehearsal
September 15, 2020	First Jazz Band Rehearsal
October 16, 2020	No School – NO Wind Symphony rehearsal
October 21, 2020	First Beginning Band Rehearsal
November 6, 2020	No School - NO Wind Symphony rehearsal
November 25-27, 2020	Conferences and Thanksgiving break – NO rehearsals
December 1, 2020	Jazz Band Video during rehearsal
December 2, 2020	Beginner Band Video during rehearsal
December 3, 2020	Concert Band Video during rehearsal
December 4, 2020	Wind Symphony Video during rehearsal
December 23-31, 2020	Christmas Break – NO rehearsals
January 1, 2020	Christmas Break – NO Wind Symphony Band rehearsal
March 12 - 19, 2021	Spring Break – NO rehearsals
April 2, 2021	No School - NO Wind Symphony Rehearsal
April 12, 2021	Easter Monday – NO Concert Band rehearsal
April 23, 2021	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade instrument presentations
May 5, 2021	Band Concert set up (morning)-TENTATIVE Dress Rehearsal (afternoon)-TENTATIVE
May 6, 2021	BAND CONCERTS, 1pm/7pm-TENTATIVE
May 10-14, 2021	Last week of lessons. Last week of rehearsals
May 10 - 14, 2021	2019-2020 Band Registration and Summer Lesson forms handed out
May 19, 2021	Band Pizza Party (during scheduled lunch times)

## **Please complete, detach, and return to Mr. T**

By signing below, you are indicating that you have received, read, reviewed with your student(s) the material contained in this handbook and that you, to the best of your ability, will uphold the conditions regarding attendance, required materials, tuition, and practice outlined therein.

Student name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Students' signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_