**Sandwich Middle School Band Handbook**

2012-2013

Ms. Killey

Band Director

ekilley@kidsroe.org

 **7th and 8th Grade Band 6th Grade Band**

 MTWThF 8:00-8:43 MWF 2:15-2:55

 Room 101 Room 101

 (alternating Advisory days)

***Introduction***

Welcome to SMS Band! It is a pleasure to have all of you in class this year. I know that if we all work together, we will have a great year full of amazing musical experiences! In band, you will learn how to play and care for your instrument as well as reading and performing music. This handbook will be a valuable resource for you if you have any questions about classroom rules, grading, and more. Remember, working hard leads to having fun! Enjoy your year at SMS!

Ms. Killey

ekilley@kidsroe.org

(815) 786-2138 - SMS

***Grading Policy***

In Band you earn a letter grade. Each day, and every lesson, you will be able to earn **10** **points**. Two points will be for having your instrument (in working order), two points will be for having your music, 5 points will be for positive ensemble contribution (see below) and one point for attendance. You can lose points for not participating in classroom activities, negative ensemble contribution, not having the required materials to participate completely, or disrupting class. If you do not show up to Band class, for whatever reason (lots of homework, sleeping in, skipping class), you will get a zero for the day. The SMS grading policy is as follows:

 A 90-100%

 B 80-89%

 C 70-79%

 D 60-69%

 F Below 60%

**Ensemble Contribution** is helping/giving musically towards the common goals of the ensemble. Band is a team and everyone must put in their best positive effort to reach our goals. This includes playing the right notes and rhythms, performing individual and group responsibilities, being on time, etc. Students that are not contributing or contributing negatively will not receive their ensemble contribution points.

**In-class work** will be given upon occasion. You will be given ample time in class to finish these assignments. The amount of points these assignments are worth will vary depending on the assignment and range from reflections, worksheets, and individual or class projects. NOTE: If you are unhappy with the grade you are given on any given in-class assignment, you are allowed to re-do it as many times as you would like in order to improve your grade – the catch is that you must do it on your own time.

Your **homework**, as band members, is to learn your music by practicing. **Students are expected to practice at home so they can keep up with the accumulative nature of the class.** Individuals may be assigned a set amount of practice minutes or exercises as needed. Consistent practice is the only way to achieve your musical goals!

Each quarter, you will be asked to complete **Achievement Assessments**. Some Achievement Assessments are written, some are performance-based (ex: playing your Bb Concert Scale). They vary in difficulty and will become posted at the beginning of every quarter. Achievement Assessments will be worth between 10-50 points depending on difficulty. Students may perform and Achievement Assessment as many times as needed to achieve the grade they want. These score will be added to their band grade in the last week of the quarter. Students may complete more than the required Achievement Assessments to earn extra credit.

***Attendance at concerts is mandatory.*** Concerts are the time for you to show off all of your hard work for the entire quarter. These performances are worth 100 points each. Missing a concert means that you will get a zero for your grade. In the event that you have to miss a concert for any reason, a note from home signed by a parent or guardian is required no less than a month (to the date) prior to the concert or it will be considered unexcused (except in the event of an emergency).

***Instrument Maintenance***

Students are expected to keep their instruments in working order. If their instrument is not working properly they cannot fully participate in class and cannot positively contribute to the ensemble. Time will be taken in lessons to show students how to care for their instruments; however it is a student/family responsibility to keep them maintained.

***Band Schedule***

*The 7/8th Grade Band schedule is as follows:*

Monday – A Band

Tuesday – B Band

Wednesday – A Band

Thursday – B Band

Friday – A/B Band, choir students alternate

*The 6th Grade Band schedule is as follows:*

Monday – Band

Wednesday – Band

Friday – Band, choir students alternate

*The year's concert dates are:*

October 18: 6-8th Band and Choir 7pm

December 16: 6-12th Band @ SHS 3pm

February 26: 5-6th Band and Choir 7pm

February 28: 7-8th Band and Choir 7pm

April 30: 7-8th Band and Choir 7pm

May 2: 5-6th Band and Choir 7pm

***Classroom Rules***

**Be on time for class.** Any student who is late without a pass will be marked as tardy. The consequence for tardiness is the loss of 1 participation point. If a student is late and receives an “Unexcused” office pass they will lose 3 points. Please note, per school policy 3 “Unexcused” office passes will result in a school detention.

**Come prepared to class.** Each day, you will be expected to have your instrument and all its parts, music and a pencil (NOT a pen!). This also means that you must be dressed appropriately (school-appropriate dress clothes) for all **concerts.** If you do not have these materials every day, you will lose your materials points for that day. You will have one excused day if you leave your materials at home or in your locker, but points will be lost after that.

There will be **no food or gum in class.** Anyone caught with food or gum will lose points for the day. The only beverage allowed during band is **water** with permission. You *are* permitted to eat food before class in the cafeteria, but any food not consumed by the beginning of class must be disposed of or saved for later.

**Be responsible for your music and instrument/equipment.** Your instrument and music are YOUR responsibility. If you lose your folder or music, you will lose points and miss out during rehearsal. Instrument: please see Instrument Maintenance. Equipment includes chairs and stands as well as other materials in the band room. Students who damage chairs and stands through misuse or vandalism will have to pay to replace them. Chairs: $60 Stands: $75. Prices for other equipment will be determined as incidents occur.

**Respect your classroom.** 7th and 8th graders will be required to drop off their personal belongs (such as coats and backpacks) in their lockers before class, 6th graders will be asked to keep their backpacks and coats in the hall outside of class. Instrument lockers are for your instrument and music and should be kept clean. Vandalism will not be tolerated.

**Be respectful of others.** We are all part of a team in this class. Disrespect will not be tolerated. Let your problems be left at the door and be ready to make music together!

**Consequences.** If classroom rules are broken the consequences are as follows:

 1st time Verbal Warning

 2nd time After-Class Conference

 3rd time Phone Call Home

 4th time + Guidance Referral/Detention

Any of these steps may be skipped depending on the severity of the situation.

**Please note:** Students are encouraged to keep playing the instrument they started on. This is the best way to develop on that instrument and as a musician. A lot of consideration and preparation goes into switching instruments and requires commitment from the student, parents (guardians) and director. Students will be allowed to switch instruments only with director approval and parental (guardian) consent. Students who did not play percussion in 5th grade and do not have piano experience may not switch to percussion. Students who have piano experience still may not be allowed to switch to percussion due to the number of available instruments.

***Extracurricular Opportunities***

***Jr. Regiment***

Jr. Regiment is a volunteer marching band. Band members in 6th, 7th and 8th grade are eligible to participate. Students will learn a song and basic marching band technique. The Jr. Regiment performs at two out of town marching band competitions, the Sandwich Homecoming Parade and MusicFest. Students participate on their band class instrument. Alternative instruments are offered for oboe students. Jr. Regiment meets from 6-7pm on Tuesdays from August to the last week in October.

***Jazz Band***

Jazz Band is open to 7th and 8th grade band members. Specialty instruments: Piano, guitar and bass guitar are open to students who are currently taking lessons and or pass a proficiency check. There is room for only two of each specialty instrument. This group will focus on jazz and blues style of music. A short audition for all students is required. They will perform at the all district Jazz Concert in May.

***IMEA Auditions and Festival***

7th and 8th grade band members who are achieving at a high level are encouraged to audition for IMEA District VIII. Students prepare scales and one to two etudes on their instrument and audition at Sterling High School on October 13th. If selected at the auditions, they will participate in the District VIII Festival on November 17th. This is a prestigious honor for a music student of any age.

*Students who decide to participate in IMEA Auditions must practice at home.* The etudes are selected to be challenging. They must also take extra lessons (free of charge) with Ms. Killey to monitor progress.

***Solo/Ensemble Contest***

All 6th, 7th and 8th grade band members can participate in the IGSMA Solo/Ensemble contest. Students prepare a solo or an ensemble (two or more) and perform for a judge. Students receive a critique and a medal depending on their rank. All soloists must perform with a piano accompanist ($20 fee) and practice twice with their accompanist before the contest. All ensembles must practice together before the contest.

Contest Sign-up Deadline: December 12th 2012

Contest Performance Date: February 23rd 2013

These activities do NOT receive a grade – they are purely for student enrichment. However, all students participating in extra-curricular band activities are expected to follow procedures and guidelines for that activity.

( After reviewing the Band Handbook sign and return to Ms. Killey by the date specified. Thanks!)

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***Agreement***

Please tear off this page and return it to Ms. Killey in class by the dates below:

 7/8th Grade Wednesday, 9/5

 6th Grade Monday, 9/10

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the information in this handbook. I understand that I will be held to the expectations of Ms. Killey and Sandwich Middle School.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you are in both Band and Choir please note that you will be in a class everyday so you are not guaranteed Advisory time.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_