

# South Newton Middle School Band Handbook

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2016-2017 South Newton Middle School Band Program! My name is Michael Jamieson. I graduated from Saint Joseph's College, and I look forward to working with each and every one of you. We will work together to become the best musicians we can be, and this school year will be full of many exciting musical experiences for you and your family. Please feel free at any time during the school year to contact Mr. Jamieson through email or phone with any questions or concerns. **Open communication is the key to each and every band's success.**

## **Daily Procedures:**

1. Enter the room quietly, treating everyone with respect.
2. Check board to see what music we are rehearsing and put instruments together.
3. Make sure to have a sharpened pencil.
4. Always have music and instrument with you.
5. Keep your music in a folder to protect it. (You will receive one from me.)
6. Do not play other students' instruments, including percussion and school instruments.
7. Play with good posture. Sit at the edge of your chair with your horn up and back straight.
8. No gum, candy, or food is allowed in the band room, especially when you are playing your instrument.
9. When rehearsal is over, clean instruments and put them in their designated areas.
10. Reeds will be provided in the classroom at a predetermined price; however, I prefer that students purchase their own reeds. Students may purchase reeds for me, or parents may purchase reeds from Quinlan and Fabish (Q & F) Music Company at [www.qandf.com](http://www.qandf.com) or call 219-462-5086. **If you are going to purchase reeds directly, ask Mr. Jamieson in advance what reeds to order! All reeds are different, and Mr. Jamieson will determine what student needs what reed type.**
11. Lastly, enjoy playing your instrument!

## **Grading:**

Students will receive 3 points per day during class: one for having your instrument, one for having your folder, and one for participation in class. If students do not bring necessary materials to class, they will receive one warning. After the warning, students will lose participation points if they do not come to class prepared. Every performance is worth 100 points, and there is at least one per semester. Playing tests, rhythm worksheets, and other forms of assessment will also comprise of students' grades. Playing tests will take place every two weeks. Extra credit will be given for any extra performances students watch or attend.

**Programs of these performances must be turned in to receive credit!**

### **Rehearsals/Performances and Your Grade:**

Band is considered a co-curricular class and performances outside of the school day are considered an extension of the school day. Therefore, **PERFORMANCES ARE REQUIRED!** We spend weeks preparing pieces of music for a performance; therefore, a performance is considered to be like an exam and the end of a unit or chapter. Students will lose those points if they have an unexcused absence. Excused absences include only family emergencies. Work and vacations are **not** excused absences. Every single student is important to the success of the group. Band students work together like a team, and if they are not at a performance, it would be as if there is no second baseman for a baseball or softball team. Students work together to perform a piece of music, and if a student is not there, a part could be missing. If there is an emergency, students must try to contact me whenever possible. We work as a team to perform music, and every student is important in the group. Just like a sports team, every single person is important to the success the whole group.

### **Concert Attire:**

All students are required to wear Maroon South Newton Music Department shirts, Khaki (beige) pants, (**shorts are not acceptable**), and dark shoes and socks. Remember, the point to a uniform is so that the whole group looks the same. We do not want anyone to stick out and draw the audience's attention away from the music. **If a student does not wear the proper attire, they may not be allowed to perform with the group and will receive an unexcused absence for the concert.**

### **Transportation to and from Events that do not take place at South Newton:**

On almost all occasions, students will be expected to ride on the bus to and from an event that does not take place at South Newton. All students will be expected to return to South Newton in the same manner in which they left the school for the event. Students can only ride home with parents **if they provide written permission** given to me signed by the parents before we leave for the trip.

### **School Instruments:**

All band members using school owned instruments are charged an annual instrument rental fee of 30 dollars per school year. All percussionists will be charged 15 dollars per school year for the use of school owned percussion instruments. The school will provide routine maintenance repairs on these instruments. However, students/parents will be charged for loss of instrument, repairs caused by gross neglect, or deliberate misuse of the instrument by the student. All fees are due by September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please make checks payable to South Newton Band.

### **Classroom Behavior:**

1. Student will receive a verbal warning.
2. If the student does not adhere to the verbal warning, he or she will be given a lunch detention.
3. If the student persists to disrupt the classroom, the student will be asked to pack up his or her instrument and sit in my office. A phone call will then be made home.
4. If the student still disrupts the classroom, he or she will be sent to the office, and a parent-teacher conference will be held.
5. If the issue persists, the student will be referred to the principal for further discipline.

## **Classroom Expectations:**

- **Respect-** Success in any program requires that respect is established throughout the entire band program. Respect includes but is not limited to: respect for yourself, respect for the people around you, respect for teachers and staff, respect for the equipment you use.
- **Trust-** Students must understand that everyone is here to create a program that can be as successful as we can make it. This group must have trust in the fact that students, parents, and teachers are here to create a successful learning environment where all students will be successful.
- **Dedication-** I will put in the time to make sure this program is successful, and I ask that every student be dedicated to this program. Band programs are unique in that we have the ability to work as a team, as a family, and each and every one of us must be dedicated to creating a successful program.

I believe that people involved with this program will be successful if respect and trust is given and received and dedication is given to this program. Band programs create a unique opportunity where students have the chance to play great music and develop unique skills that will help them thrive in school and in the future. Working as a group is detrimental to the success of the entire group. If you have any questions about the program, feel free to contact me 219-474-5167 ext. 131 or my cell phone number, 574-270-0073 or email me at [jamiesonm@newton.k12.in.us](mailto:jamiesonm@newton.k12.in.us).

Please DETACH, fill out, and return THIS PAGE of the handbook as soon as possible, indicating that you have gone over it with your family. Please do not return the whole handbook as you will need it for reference throughout the year. Please retain the rest of this document for you records.

WE, \_\_\_\_\_ (student) and \_\_\_\_\_ (parent)  
HAVE REVIEWED THE BAND HANDBOOK AND UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO ALL  
OF THE ABOVE RULES AND REGULATIONS. I, \_\_\_\_\_ (parent) GIVE MY  
CHILD PERMISSION TO BE INROLLED IN BAND.

STUDENT'S NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check One:

\_\_\_\_\_ My student owns his or her own instrument and will not use a school instrument this year.

\_\_\_\_\_ My student will be using a school-owned instrument and my annual fee of 30 dollars is enclosed in full.

\_\_\_\_\_ My student is a percussionist and my annual fee of 15 dollars is enclosed in full.