

Spanish Fort Middle School Band



2023-2024 Band Handbook

**Natalie Hughes, band director
Leslie Wheeler, principal
Shane Corley, assistant principal
Kim Turner, assistant principal**

GO TOROS! GO BAND!

Welcome to the Spanish Fort Middle School Band Program! It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that we introduce our band program to you in a more detailed manner. We are very proud of what the SFMS band program has established, it is a wonderful tradition of excellence and we are glad you have chosen to be a part of it.

Your child's participation in our band program is beneficial in many ways. Band students are engaged daily in a highly creative performing art that stimulates growth in areas of the human brain that no other discipline can. This growth effortlessly transfers into your student's academic life. In addition, our band students will develop traits such as teamwork, responsibility, dedication, self-discipline, social skills, confidence, leadership and dependability. Membership in our band program will give all a sense of accomplishment, pride, and respect as the students develop musical and personal skills that will enrich their lives.

The purpose of this handbook is to outline the guidelines and expectations for making this year a success for all involved, and to serve as a guide and resource for students and parents. Both students and their parents should take the time to thoroughly read this handbook. Upon completion, the contract at the end of this handbook, or found on our website www.spanishfortband.com, should be signed and returned to school, indicating your understanding of these guidelines and expectations.

****Enrolling in band is a full year course, and students who enroll are expected to commit for the full academic school year.****

I Look Forward to a Fantastic Year! Please Feel Free to Contact With Any Questions or Concerns.

GO TOROS! GO BAND!!



STAY CONNECTED WITH US!!

Using Our Connections Below GREATLY Reduces Schedule Problems. Since We Strive to Allow Our Students to Be a Part of ALL They Enjoy, Please Also Connect to Our Remind Services.

www.spanishfortband.com

Facebook –SFMSBand

Instagram -@SFMSBand

REMIND:

**Please make sure to add remind during the
First week of class!**

Woodwinds 7th Grade -@sfmsbandw

Brass 7th Grade -@sfmsbandb

Percussion 7th Grade -@sfmsdrum7

Percussion 8th Grade - @sfmsdrum8

All 8th Grade Winds -@sfmsband8

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION
CAREFULLY! IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS PLEASE ASK MS.
HUGHES!

Communication During the School Session

Please refer to the website/facebook/instagram for planning period times.

Please understand that my communication to you – the parents – is a very high priority! I want to take care of concerns and make every situation the best for each student. Please contact me for clarification on any concerns before they become major issues.

Student Communication

Students are also very encouraged to communicate with me before concerns become issues. They should do this in person at an appropriate time, one on one. Again, clarification and solid communication will keep everything running smoothly this year.

Throughout the year, I will send quite a bit of information home in the form of letters. Please make every effort to read this information carefully, check calendars often and keep me informed of any conflicts. The sooner we know of a situation, the more options we have in solving problems.

Please visit our website at www.spanishfortband.com for more

information!!
nhughes@bcbe.org
nhughes@ibaldwin.org
251-625-3271

Private Lessons

Private lessons are a FANTASTIC way to excel in band class!! Want a higher chair placement? Want to make All State? Need a little extra help to succeed? Lessons are what you need! Please look at our list of private instructors on our website! www.spanishfortband.com. A few lessons can make an incredible impact!!

Goals & Objectives

- Organizational skills
- Practice techniques
- Mental and physical discipline
- Citizenship through field trips/contests
- Music theory
- Proper instrumental technique
- Life lessons
- Creative self-expression
- Aural skills
- Music appreciation
- Teamwork/social skills
- Problem Solving
- Performance skills
- FUN!

Band Grading Breakdown:

Class Rehearsal/Participation = 30% This includes having all of your materials each day, as well as ACTIVELY participating in rehearsal.

Practice Logs = 10% Due every FRIDAY either using the online form or turning a log at the beginning of class

Assessment = 60% This includes all playing/written tests as well as Concert/Contest Performances.

IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED OUR STUDENTS AUDITION FOR EITHER COUNTY, DISTRICT, OR ALL STATE BANDS!!!

1. Baldwin County Honor Band Auditions

2. All State/District Band Auditions

T Make your decision early and mark your calendar!!

Practice Logs:

Practice logs are submitted on our website, spanishfortband.com. Students may also fill out their practice log on paper copy, from the bin in the Band Room. Practice logs are to be turned in every Friday. All Band Students are required to practice a total of 100 minutes each week. Each student will be held accountable for turning in their log each week. The log is worth 100 points a week and no late practice logs will be accepted!! If you practice more than 100 minutes in a given week, you may receive bonus points. If you are sick; or have an emergency in which you could

not fulfill your 100 minutes, simply write "sick" or the issue for that day and turn the log in when you return.

Practicing is imperative for a successful program!! I expect everyone to put the effort in to practice.

Remember, slow consistent practice of music/fundamentals that DON'T sound good is what will make us improve and pay off much more than fast practice on material we already know. Always work for quality practice at times where you can be free of interruption and focused. Also, work the sections that need help rather than repeating the whole song over and over. Results may come slowly, but they will be much more rewarding

Playing/Written Tests:

Students will have playing tests and written tests throughout the year to assess their theory knowledge and facility on their instrument. These tests are worth 100 points.

Participation Checks:

Participation checks are unannounced checks for a student's instrument, binder, band book and pencil. These are worth 100 points.

Band Fees

SFMS fees are due at the beginning of the school year. This fee will cover the students' t-shirt, folder, method books, certain supplies, scale book, busses for field trips, charter busses, entry fees for Contest, Solo and Ensemble, medals, trophies, and music.

Band Instrument Rental

Here at SFMS we have a **few** instruments to loan out to students. These include very expensive instruments such as tubas, baritone, French horn, bassoon, etc. A contract will be handed out to each student using a school owned instrument for the student and parent to complete with information about the instrument including the condition of the instrument. Students who are not using an instrument from SFMS must obtain an instrument for rent through either Art's Music, our music supplier, or another local service.

****The Spanish Fort Middle School Band believes that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact Mrs. Hughes.****

Additional Costs

Additional costs not included in our fees: Purchase/rental of instrument, instrument accessories, concert attire, lunch costs on fieldtrips.

Instrument Safety

ALL STUDENTS SHOULD WRITE THEIR NAMES OR INITIALS ON THE OUTSIDE OF THEIR CASES, BOOKS, AND SUPPLIES (VALVE OIL, REED CASE, STICKS, ETC.) Be sure to either use permanent marker, or a luggage tag. Quite often students will have the same types of instruments, and accidentally take someone else's instrument to practice. Try to make sure no one can mistake your instrument for theirs!

Students ARE NOT ALLOWED to touch instruments that do not belong to them. If you accidentally drop another student's instrument, your parents will not be very happy having to pay for the instrument repair. If you are caught playing another student's instrument, you will receive disciplinary action.

Band Room & Conduct Expectations

Any behavior which is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band director, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity, as well as disciplinary action. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both public and private events.

- All students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the student handbook. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection of the group, the school, and yourself.
- Students should follow teacher instructions.
- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area with all necessary equipment 2 minutes after the tardy bell.
- Students will keep their hands and feet to themselves.
- Students will not use or play on equipment they do not own without permission from Ms. Hughes
- Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
- Students should request permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be quiet so we may utilize all of our time to rehearse.
- When allowed in the band room, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress, or other school function.
- Students will respect the property of others, and return their equipment to its proper storage locker when not in use. Students should keep their equipment in their locker, and keep their locker clean and neat in appearance. Students who have difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band room
- Students will not deface or mark on music stands, chairs, walls, etc.
- Students will not write on the dry-erase boards without permission from Mrs. Hughes
- Please leave large cases in the instrument room. If your instrument case does not fit under your seat, the case will need to stay in your locker.



Grading Criteria

Performances:

Participation by all students for Winter and Spring Concerts is MANDATORY. These performances are the mid and final exam grades. Students who do not show up to these performances will receive a "0" for their exam grade.

Participation by all Symphonic Band and Concert Band students is also required at Pep Rallies, School Performances, Winter/Spring Concerts.

District/State competition, Winter/Spring Concerts are worth 300points, All other performances are 200 points. ****State will be auditioned in 7th grade, NOT mandatory****

Students who do not show up to these events will receive a "0" for their grade. If in the event of an emergency and a student may not attend mandatory performances, please send in a note or contact Ms. Hughes prior to the event in order to get make up work. Each student that misses a performance AND has an excused absence will have to complete a make-up assignment in order to receive points. These events are fun, and a great way to show off what you have learned! So don't miss out!!

Band Class Requirements

Woodwind supplies needed at everyclass:

- 2 reeds at all times (clarinet & sax) size 2 ½ for Beginning Band 3-3 ½ for 7th and 8th grade
- Band Binder
- Music
- Mouthpiece, ligature
- Instrument

Brass supplies needed at everyclass:

- Mouthpiece
- Valve/slide oil or grease
- Band Books
- Band Binder
- Music
- Instrument

Percussion supplies needed at everyclass:

- 1 pair of 5 sticks
- 1 pair of rubber mallets
- 1 stick bag
- Band Book
- Band Binder
- Music



(Drummers **MUST** have a stick bag. You cannot carry sticks around school without one and I will not keep track of sticks that have been taken away from other teachers.)

Class Procedures

- 1.As soon as each student enters the band room (quietly and orderly), they are to put their book bag on the hook wall, get out their instrument and supplies, and go straight to their seat. Students have 2 minutes after the bell to be ready to play and no time for socializing. Please do not block walkways, doors, or other students' lockers.
- 2.Students must be in their seats by the time the tardy bell rings or they will be marked tardy.
- 3.As soon as each student gets to their seat, make sure to look at the agenda for the day to organize your materials for class. Please make sure you ALWAYS have your pencil.
- 4.As soon as Mrs. Hughes steps up to her stand, all warming up is to stop, and students are to be quiet in order to begin the lesson. Please DO NOT PLAY OR TALK OUT OF TURN
- 5.Director on stool/at stand = Rest Position
- 6.Students may not get up during class to get water. Students may bring their own water in a sealable container.
- 7.After class please clean up around your chair, picking up any trash, reed wrappers, paper, etc. Please make sure your chair is in the correct place and wait to be released.

Concert/Field Trips

The band will frequently travel on either school buses or commercial buses. Students are expected to conduct themselves at the highest level on any trip.

Students who have been subject to school-level discipline in the course of the school year may be deemed ineligible to participate in field trips, at the discretion of the director and/or administration.

Students must travel to events and return from events on the bus. Any student wishing to arrive or leave with his/her parent must notify a director in writing with parent signature, prior to the event. Permission will be granted or denied based on the circumstances of the occasion.

Students must have all necessary forms (Medical/Travel Release) completed and on file with Ms. Hughes to travel on any trip with the band.

While on the bus students will:

- Remain seated at all times.
- Keep the bus clear of food, drinks, and debris.
- Keep all body parts inside the bus.
- Use only approved type/headset radios (no audible speakers).
- Remain silent when addressed by an adult on the bus.
- Refrain from loud, boisterous talking, singing, screaming, whistling, inappropriate jokes ,etc.
- No public displays of affection.

Special Note

As a member of the band, you are a representative of your school. Always be on your best behavior. If you are in doubt about an action, do not do it! Your conduct at all times should be considered a good reflection on the school, the band, your home, yourself, and the community.

Chaperones

Adult chaperones must be Approved Volunteers and are a great asset to the band program. Students will treat them as an extension of the band staff. Proper respect will be shown to all adults at all times. If your parent is interested in serving as a chaperone, please speak with Ms. Hughes.

Discipline Policy:

In order to be productive and have a successful year, students must be willing to work hard and behave properly at all times. Our discipline policy is a three-strike system:

- Strike 1 –Verbal warning
- Strike 2 –Write lines/discipline notice with parent signature.
- Strike 3 –You're Out –Office Referral/Parent Contact & the student loses his/her chair

When a student receives lines/discipline notice twice in one quarter, the student's parents will be contacted and the student will lose their chair placement until the next playing test.

When a student receives lines/discipline notice three times in one quarter, they will be moved down a chair until the next playing test and may receive an office referral. *Discipline notices and written line are to be hand written by the student, signed by the parent/guardian and returned the **very next day**. Failure to return the work will result in a parent phone call.*

Students who come to class unprepared will receive a discipline notice.

8th Grade Symphonic Band Information

This performance based class is the middle school's most advanced performing for wind and percussion students. This class is composed of 8th graders that are introduced to "comprehensive musicianship" through performance of challenging and varied literature. Skills from previous years are developed and expanded. Students continue to refine their musical skills and knowledge, with the performances including district/state assessments, winter/spring concerts, and Honor Band opportunities.

Once students are scheduled into Symphonic Band, they are required to finish that year in the class. Schedule changes will not be permitted. In order for our band to continue to perform at the appropriate level, we need all players throughout they year. Schedule changes would harm the band program due to instrumentation issues.

7th Grade Concert Band Information

This performance-based class is composed of 7th graders or students just beginning band that did not participate in 6th grade. Performances include district/state assessments and winter/spring concerts. These students will also have the opportunity to perform at solo and ensemble. These students continue to work on understanding of basic music literacy, instrument maintenance, proper posture and playing position, and development of characteristic tone quality through= exposure to daily exercises and musical literature. Students will receive a Date Sheet of ALL Band Activities for the Year during the First Week of School

Once students are scheduled into Concert Band, they are required to finish that year in the class. Schedule changes will not be permitted. In order for our band to continue to perform at the appropriate level, we need all players throughout they ear. Schedule changes would harm the band program due to instrumentation issues.

Performance Attire

Listed Below is the CONCERT BLACK UNIFORM for ALL CONCERTS/ASSEMBLIES. The Uniform for PEP RALLIES/CASUAL events will be your BAND TSHIRT, and BLUE JEANS (school appropriate).

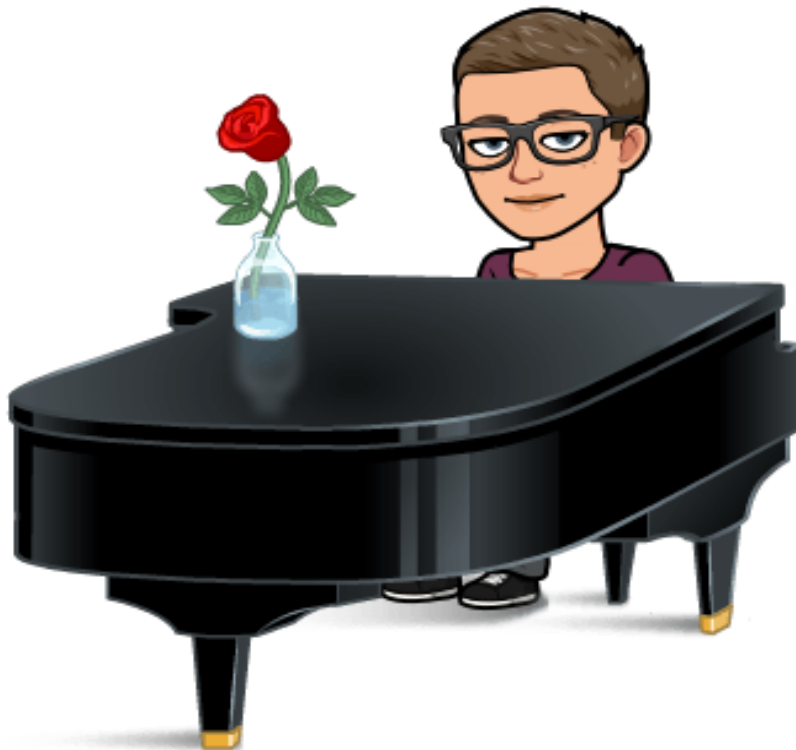
LADIES 'CONCERT BLACK' UNIFORM:

- Black Skirt (knee length), or dress black pants
- BLACK button down long sleeve shirt WITH COLLAR –we will use our red bow ties OR
- BLACK blouse (no sleeveless)
- Black Dress Shoes - please refrain from sport/casual shoes.
- Neutral Hose or Black Socks

MENS 'CONCERT BLACK' UNIFORM:

- Black Dress Pants
 - BLACK button down long sleeve shirt WITH COLLAR –we will use our red bow ties.
- Black Dress Shoes - please refrain from sport/casual shoes.
- Black Socks

*PLEASE HAVE THIS UNIFORM
BEFORE THE NOVEMBER 1st!!!*



As(_____) parent in the Spanish Fort Middle School Band program and the BCBE music program, I understand that participation in any parade can be a dangerous activity involving **MANY RISKS TO INJURY.**

I understand that the dangers and risks of participating in parades also includes the potentially high cost of health care. Recognizing the risks, I consent to the participation of my/our son/daughter in the parades offered byBCBE. I also agree to comply with all rules, regulations, and recommendations of administrators, coaches, athletic trainers, and doctors concerning injury prevention and care. I, hereby grant consent to any and all health care providers designated by BALDWIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION to provide my child any necessary medical care as a result of injury/illness. I consent to the participation in the following sport(s):

Spanish Fort Middle SchoolBand



Band Handbook Signature Page

Please read and sign below as indicated. This will be your 1st grade of the year! Return NO LATER than 8/18/23!

Students,

I have read the 2023-2024 Spanish Fort Middle School Band Handbook and understand the requirements for being a band member. I realize it takes full cooperation and dedication (100% from me) to help our band meet its potential. I also realize that my failure to follow policies and directions could result in disciplinary action, which could lead to placement in another band, chair demotion, etc. I

have received a copy of the SFMS band calendar for the current school year and am aware that a copy also exists on the SFMS Band website. As a member of the Spanish Fort Middle School Band, I acknowledge the following as responsibilities

I must fulfill as a band member. I will:

- Demonstrate behavior in accordance with student handbook
- Understand that band is a full year commitment
- Be punctual and prepared for class and rehearsals
- Practice with a purpose and turn in weekly practice logs
- Demonstrate my best on playing assignments and written tests
- Attend all concerts ,rehearsals and contests
- Treat my peers and teacher with respect, and maintain appropriate conduct
- Maintain my grades for eligibility and self-achievement
- Have a high standard for improvement in class and on my own

Student Name _____ Class Period _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parents,

I have read the Spanish Fort Middle School Band Handbook and am willing to support it and my child. I also understand all policies and procedures set forth by the Spanish Fort Middle School Band program, as outlined in this handbook.

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

I Look Forward To An Amazing Year!! Go Toros!!
Go Band!!