



GREENVILLE
SIXTH GRADE
BAND

2021-2022 Handbook

Welcome, New Band Parents and Students!

On behalf of the GISD Band Faculty, I would like to welcome you to the GISD Lion Pride Band family. This is truly an outstanding organization and our team works very hard to help every student achieve success and be the best musician they can be.

As a member of the GISD Lion Pride Band family, your student will have many opportunities to perform and we hope you can attend many-if not all of them! All of our performances are open to the public, so please, bring the whole family! Students LOVE to play to a packed audience. The best thing about seeing your student perform is the growth you will see from the first sounds at home to the final concert of 6th grade. We start with some “creative” sounds and at the end of the year, we play *musically*! (And, the changes from 6th grade to 12th grade will astound you!!)

By allowing your student to start on their musical journey, you have created academic opportunities, in addition to musical opportunities. Students who are a member of their school band tend to perform higher on state testing and statistics show that high school musicians out-perform their non-musician classmates on the SAT and ACT tests. Your student is on the road to success.

Thank you for sharing your student with us this year. It is our hope that band will enrich their lives and teach them life skills as well as good musicianship. Please take a moment to read the following guidelines that will help your student be successful in our Band Family. If you have any questions, at all, please contact me.

Kelsey Mattice

Band Director

SGC Lion Pride Band

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Objectives

The objectives of the SGC Lion Pride Band are:

- Learn good technique on our instruments
- Learn to make characteristic sounds on our instruments
- Always be prepared for our performances
- Work hard to achieve our goals
- Make our families, teachers, district and community proud
- Be the best member of the Lion Pride Band Family that we can be

Policies

Grades

Band grades will be earned through a combination of submission of practice records, playing tests, performances and after school rehearsals, written grades and class participation.

- **Playing tests** will be given at least once weekly in the spring and may determine chair order placement. If a student misses a playing test, they will have to make up the grade during their next band class. It is the student's responsibility to make sure they play the make-up test.
- **Practice Cards** must be turned in on Fridays and the grades will be determined by the amount of time the student practices (the grade scale will be on the bottom of the practice card). On long holidays students will have special practice records with specific assignments. These practice cards can count as multiple grades and are very important. We reserve the right to test a student whose practice record times are excessively high or do not reflect the quality of playing that should be demonstrated from lots of practice.

- **Class Participation** grades are comprised of student's participation over the entire school week. Students will earn 20 points for every day they are in class with their instrument, all supplies (reed, valve oil, pencil, music/band book, etc.) **AND** they are participating in class activities. Students who do not have the required supplies will lose points for every day their supplies are not in class. A student with no instrument in class will lose all points for that class day.
- **All Band performances and after school rehearsals** are required in order to earn credit. Students will be excused for emergencies such as personal illness or death in the family, as well as other educational conflicts. Please let the band directors know as soon as possible if there is an emergency or conflict and we will handle these on a case-by-case basis. Each absence will be considered separately. Please remember that concerts and rehearsal grades cannot be made up if missed. We cannot recreate a concert or rehearsal for students that miss. Students that miss a rehearsal with an unexcused absence for that rehearsal will NOT be allowed to perform with the band at the performance. Again, if there is a conflict, please communicate such with the band director to handle all issues on a case-by-case basis.
- **Written assignments** may be assigned occasionally at the discretion of the individual class teacher. Students may be assigned written assignments in lieu of playing as needed, or to replace a participation grade in the case of an excused absence.

Performances

All students will perform in a Winter Concert and Spring Concert. There will be after school rehearsals in order to be prepared for these concerts. Specific information about after school rehearsals will be sent home prior to these dates so families can plan accordingly.

Additionally, students will be required to participate in a Contest (our yearly Field Trip) and Solo Contest in the spring. Students will be given the music well in advance of the Contest and will have the opportunity to stay after school for help with their music.

Please remember that ALL performances and after school rehearsals are required and graded for each student. Students are expected to stay for the duration of each rehearsal and concert, not just the part in which they participate. Any conflicts can be discussed with a director on a case-by-case basis.

Eligibility

In order to participate in competitive events like Solo and the SpringFest Contest (Field Trip), band members must maintain the grade average of at least 70 or passing equivalent in all classes. This does not apply to our concerts so all students are eligible to perform in all concerts. In the event that a student is not passing one or more classes (**no matter what class**), the student will NOT be allowed to participate in the festivals or competitions. There are no exceptions as this is state law. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their grades to maintain eligibility. Additionally, Students will be given a "Band Karate" assignment, In which they will need to pass a certain level in order to be eligible. The level is flexible depending on how the class progresses and will be announced after the assignment is passed out in January. Students will have approximately 3 1/2 - 4 months to work on this assignment.

Concert Uniforms

Students must wear their band shirt, jeans with a belt and dress code appropriate shoes for all performances. (Jeans must be a blue color without any holes in them!) The band shirt will cost around \$10 and is REQUIRED. Please note that the shirts will be ordered in adult sizes to make sure that pricing is cheaper and that your student will be able to wear it for years to come! If you would like to order more than one shirt, you are welcome to! The order form for shirt sizes will be collected as part of the handbook form. (And family can order shirts for themselves!!)

Supplies

Students should have the following supplies:

- 1" binder-solid color
- Box of tissues (optional, but highly recommended for the class)
- Pencils and a Pencil Pouch
- 10-20 sheets of paper
- 8 dividers
- Supplies required for their instrument as listed on the Recommended Supply List

School Owned Instruments

Students using School Owned Instruments are required to pay a \$50 usage fee per year and must fill out and return an instrument check out form. The first semester portion of the usage fee, \$25, and the check-out form must be submitted before a student will be issued an instrument. This MUST be paid by October 29th. Additionally, students MUST have all class and instrument supplies before an instrument will be checked out. The Usage Fee covers normal maintenance of the instrument. Parents and students will be held responsible for damage to an instrument that is beyond normal wear and tear. Normal wear and tear will be determined by the band directors. The ONLY instruments available from the school are: Tuba, Baritone, French Horn, Oboe, Bassoon.

The usage fee can be paid in 2 payments of \$25 each or in one payment of \$50. If you want to make 2 payments, they will be due on October 31st and February 28th. Payments can be made before the due date.

Discipline

Band students will follow all school rules during band class and at all band events. Students may not call out in class, or speak without being called on by the teacher. Students must have their instrument and book out and participate fully every day in class. Students are expected to care for school property appropriately and respectfully. All students are must participate in our daily rhythm exercises.

Some events may require additional rules which must be followed as well. Any rules set in place are for student safety and must be followed in order to provide a safe band experience for all students. Parent contact will be made for continuing problems. We will work with you to resolve any issues. Failure to demonstrate appropriate behavior in band class may require further action.

Students with continuous behavior issues will not be invited to participate in band events throughout the school year. If a band director deems it necessary, students who refuse to demonstrate appropriate behavior will not be allowed to travel with the band on our spring band trip. Students who cannot participate with their instrument group because of behavior problems will do alternate written assignments as needed.

Consequences:

1. Conference with student after class
2. Conference with parent/guardian
3. Teacher option (removal from rehearsal, detention, written assignment, etc)
4. Student referred to assistant principal/principal

Honor Band

The SGC Honor Band is a small group of hand-selected students that are chosen to perform at special events during the school year. Students earning a spot in the Honor Band are well-behaved and proficient on their instrument. Membership is at each director's discretion. Students have two opportunities to be in the Honor Band-once in the fall for the Winter PTA Meeting- and once in the spring for the Spring PTA Meeting and Spotlight on Engagement. Membership in The SGC Honor Band 'resets' each semester, so that every student may have the opportunity to participate. There will be a required after school performance for all Honor Band performances.

Auditions

In May, students will be assigned music to play for their 7th grade Band Audition. All students are required to play the selected music for their final band grade. Auditions will be recorded or listened to (like a class playing test) by the directors. This audition will determine which band each student will be in at GMS and the results will be posted by the last day of school, if time permits. Students at GMS and SGC will both have to audition for spots in the GMS Wind Ensemble, Symphonic, and Concert Bands.

Band Trip and Fees

Fees for the band include:

- \$10 Shirt
- \$20 Band Trip
- \$50 School-Owned Instrument Fee (only for student's borrowing and instrument from the school)

Please note that any fees paid to the school for supplies, fees or travel are non-refundable. If your student is included in the band trip head-count for pre-ordering tickets, etc, we have to pay in a lump sum to the vendor. We are NOT able to get a refund from the vendor when this has been paid, no matter the circumstances. If your student loses eligibility (doesn't pass their classes) or even has a family emergency, we CAN NOT offer a refund. We are at most, able to give you your student's admission ticket to whatever event/location we have scheduled. The band trip fee is due by March 1st.

Fundraising

In order to afford our band trips, instruments and equipment, repair costs, and more, the SGC partakes in spirit nights at local restaurants! Be on the look out for a time line detailing these events and how to participate and help us fundraise!

Practice Tips

- If you have trouble, add ONE note at a time and build on the hard part.
- Play slower than you think you need to!
- Circle the hard part and ask for help in class.
- Make arrangements to stay after school with Ms. Mattice for help.
- Sit with good posture.
- Count it, say it, play it.
- Use good breath support.
- Make good sounds!
- Work on small parts first. Try one or two measures first, then put them together.
- Don't give up!

***COVID Addendum:**

Due to COVID, we ask that you be flexible during this time and know that several things in this handbook, such as performances, rehearsals, fundraisers, and field trips, are currently tentative. Your student's health and safety is our top priority, and will always be in our consideration. This activities are tentative as we learn more and follow guidelines from the district, UIL, CDC, and Hunt County. Thank you for your understanding!

Contact Information

www.LionPrideBands.com

And on Facebook at “Greenville Lion Pride Band”

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- Ms. Kelsey Mattice
SGC Head Director
matticek@greenvilleisd.com
903-408-4755
Teaching: Saxophone, Flute, Low Brass
 - Mr. Richard Burt
GHS Head Director
burtr@greenvilleisd.com
903-453-3646
Teaching: French Horn
 - Ms. Samantha Jocoy
GHS Assistant Director
williamss@greenvilleisd.com
Teaching: Double Reeds
 - Mr. Luke Dailey
GMS Head Director
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903-453-3240
Teaching: Trumpet
 - Mr. Anthony Abruscato
Assistant Director
abruscatoa@greenvilleisd.com
Teaching: Low Brass, Clarinet
 - Mr. Hunter Langhans
GISD Percussion Director
langhansh@greenvilleisd.com
Teaching: Percussion

Always feel free to contact you students’ teacher or Ms. Mattice with any questions or concerns. Please know that we are in class most of the day and we will get back to you as quickly as we can. **Email is the easiest way to get ahold of any director as we teach at SGC, GMS and GHS throughout the day.**

***Please detach this page and return to the Band Directors*

After reading the band guidelines, I agree with the procedures and policies of the Lion Pride Band at SGC.

I further understand that I will be held accountable for the information in these guidelines in cases where conflicts arise with band activities.

I also give permission for photos of my child to be used on the Band Webpage and other promotional materials for the band. **Please strike through the previous sentence if you do not consent.**

I understand that a successful band is made up of committed students who are willing to work together with the band staff toward common goals. The sole purpose of these guidelines is to ensure a great experience for all members of the Greenville SGC Band without being subject to those who would prohibit learning from taking place.

Printed Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Student Printed Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Instrument: _____ Birthday: _____

Shirt Size - in Adult Sizes (Write the amount you're ordering next to the size. As a reminder this is the order form and they're \$10 ea):

____XS ____S ____M ____L ____XL ____2XL ____3XL