**Seven Oak**

**Middle School**

2016-2017

Student Band Handbook



**Welcome!**

This handbook has been created and meant to provide students and families with resources for the entire school year. This handbook has information regarding the purpose, procedures, expectations and activities of the band program. **All members and parents should read the entire handbook carefully to avoid any conflicts with the policies stated. Please take note of attendance and grading policies, daily procedures, concert dress, and important dates.**

As a member of the Seven Oak music program, you represent the sight and sound of our school. The music program is striving for the highest standards of excellence. It is our responsibility as a team to build upon our success and maintain these high standards for years to come. It is your responsibility as an individual to give you absolute best effort at all times to ensure the continuation of the quality experience at this school. We are extremely fortunate to have parents, administrators, teachers, board members and a community committed and dedicated to a quality band program.

**Philosophy**

Through a public K-12 education, students will synthesize broad experiences and knowledge in order to create their own perceptions of cultures, societies, and the variety of roles within each. Students will have an opportunity to construct their own identities and self-purpose through education, thus making them independent thinkers. All students will have diverse opportunities to develop inquisitive minds in order to become lifelong learners and find success after completing their schooling.

Through music education, students will learn about different cultures and broaden their perceptions of society and the world in which they live. In music, students will discover their own identity, purpose, and develop unique ways of expression and communication. Through music, students will experience multiple opportunities to prosper, developing lifelong knowledge and skills that they continue to use outside of school.

**Contact information**

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**Performing Groups**

**SPARTAN BAND:** This class is open to all students interested in playing a band instrument. No experience is necessary! Students will not only learn how to play an instrument, but also how to care for their instrument, develop note reading, writing skills, and listening skills. Upon successful completion of this course, students may move up to the Intermediate (Titan) Band. Performances may include but are not limited to school assemblies, three evening concerts, and two parade performances. **REQUIRED** Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 (YELLOW).

**TITAN BAND:** This class is open to all students who have had at least one year of experience playing a band instrument. This is the intermediate band which picks up where the Spartan Band left off by continuing the development of various musical skills. Performances may include but are not limited to school assemblies, three evening concerts, and two parade performances. **REQUIRED** Essential Elements 2000 Book 2 (RED).

**OLYMPIAN BAND:** This class is made up of 8th graders in their third year of playing. The main focus of the Olympian Band is to prepare the students for participation in the high school band program. Performances may include but are not limited to school assemblies, three evening concerts, one festival performance and two parade performances. There is no required book for this class.

**JAZZ BAND:** The jazz band class is comprised of students who show interest in playing music in the style of jazz. Students will learn jazz theory, different styles of jazz, and improvisation. Performances may include but are not limited to school assemblies, and three evening concerts. **REQUIRED** Essential Elements 2000 for Jazz Ensemble (Red).

The books can be found at local music stores such as Stainthropes in Lebanon, Gracewinds Music in Corvallis, Pro-Sound in Albany and, and Pacific Winds in Eugene. Please give a call before driving any distance, just to make sure they have the book in stock. Your teacher also has a limited amount of used books if you are unable to purchase one.

**OPTIONAL MATERIALS**:

Seven Oak Music Program uses SmartMusic, music assessment software that encourages students to practice and provides instant feedback. Seven Oak has a SmartMusic lab for your student’s use, but is also available for home use if you wish to purchase a home subscription.

Music stands are recommended, but not required. They are to be used at home to practice with.

Metronome/tuners are very valuable to help all students and develop technique. Students are strongly encouraged purchase and use a metronome and tuner (they also make free apps that work really well!

**Band Materials List**

**Flute: Clarinet:**

❏ Cleaning rod ❏ **3** - playable reeds

❏ Small piece of absorbent cloth ❏ Reed Guard

**Oboe:** ❏ Clarinet swab

❏ **2** medium soft reeds ❏ Cork grease

❏ Small cup to soak reeds in **Saxophone:**

❏ Oboe swab ❏ **3** - playable reeds

❏ Cork grease ❏ Reed Guard

**Bassoon:** ❏ Saxophone swab

❏ **2** medium soft reeds ❏ Cork grease

❏ Small cup to soak reeds in

❏ Bassoon swab

**Trumpet, Baritone, Tuba: French Horn:**

❏ Valve Oil ❏ Rotary Valve Oil

❏ Tuning Slide Grease ❏ Tuning Slide Grease

❏ Soft Cloth ❏ Soft Cloth

❏ Mouthpiece brush and cleaning snake ❏ Mouthpiece brush and snake

**Trombone: Percussion:**

❏ Slide Creme or slide oil ❏ Percussion Kit - includes mallets,

❏ Small spray bottle for water practice drum pad and good quality

❏ Tuning Slide Grease drum sticks

❏ Soft Cloth

❏ Mouthpiece brush and cleaning snake

\*If you have difficulty acquiring the above items, please contact the director. Seven Oak does have a limited number of supplies, books and instruments available.

Being in band costs money and brings on certain financial obligations that are the responsibility of the band member. Students will be required to provide their own instrument (unless rented by the school), accessories (such as reeds, valve oil, etc.), book, and any other expenses that may arise during the year. Please contact the director if you are having problems meeting these obligations and this issue will be worked out confidentially. **No student will be denied participation in band due to financial issues.**

**Classroom participation and general policies**

Please remember that being a part of any musical organization is a team effort and requires rules to obtain musical goals. In addition to these rules, they also help foster excellent rehearsal habits and outstanding workplace habits for the future.

**Rules and Guidelines**

-No food, gum or soda will be allowed in the band room! Water is fine.

-Loud rowdy behavior such as running and horseplay is strictly prohibited in the band room.

-Students are expected to enter the band room in an orderly manner. All backpacks, cases, and materials not related to this class must be put away in their locker or placed in an approved area, designated by the director.

-Students must be seated and set up with a music stand, their own music, pencil, planner, and instrument within 3 minutes of the bell ringing. At this time, roll will be taken, and those who are unprepared will be marked tardy.

-Students will play only their own instrument, or one that has been assigned to them. Students may not touch or play property that does not belong to them, even with the permission of the other student.

-Students are to bring all of their individual band music and band books to class in a folder every day.

-Students should have a pencil in their music folder at all times.

-All instruments must be kept neatly in a cubby space that is assigned by the director during the school day.

-Being allowed in the band room is a privilege, and it is not available to non-band members. Please do not bring your non-band friends into the band room. But do encourage them to join band!

-DO NOT TOUCH PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT.

-Students may not touch or use the piano, A/V equipment, or whiteboard unless instructed to do so by the director.

-Cell phone use is prohibited unless you are using a music related app that has been approved by your director.

-The student will demonstrate good citizenship, be courteous, and will respect teachers, guests, and other students and their property.

-Be respectful, be prepared, be your best, make beautiful music.

Remember showing up without adequate supplies and music will be considered unprepared for the class or concert.

**Grading policy**

A student’s grade in band is a reflection of musical achievement, technical skill, participation in musical activities, and effort both within class and at home. The grade is made up of four different factors: Rehearsal Participation, practice charts, playing and written tests, and performances.

**Rehearsal Participation (15%)**

Each week students will receive a rehearsal grade based on the following:

1. You are prepared; you have your instrument, music, pencil, book, and you have practiced your music.

2. You participate in class appropriately meaning you work as a team to create music. You are respectful, and courteous of everyone in the ensemble.

3. You are in class and in your seat 3 minutes after the bell rings.

4. You complete all assignments and or quizzes given in class.

Assignments and quizzes will be a formative assessment to track students’ progress throughout on different musical concepts throughout the semester. There will also be in class assignments to assess various musical aspects such as theory, scales, and compositions.

If you forget your instrument, it will result in a deduction from your participation grade for each occurrence. Without an instrument, you cannot participate in class. The same consequence applies for not having any reads or any other needed accessory which renders your instrument inoperable.

If your instrument is in the shop, I will need a signed note from your parents stating the following: 1. What is wrong with the instrument? 2. Which shop is it in? 3. What is the estimated time needed for repair? I recommend seeing your director first before taking it in. It may be a minor repair that could save a lot of time and money.

**Practice Charts (15%)**

Practicing is the most important thing you can do to improve your musicianship. Through practice, you will gain confidence, learn the importance of self-discipline, and gain musicianship skills. Practicing is a necessary part in the development of our band.

**Practice Chart Requirements**

Students will be graded on what and how they practice. Students will be required to fill out the practice chart each week. This chart includes warm-ups, what pieces, the section they practiced and how they went about practicing (repeated the measure, used a metronome, played through the whole piece, etc.) Practice charts will be handed out in class and will be checked on a weekly basis.

**Other forms of practice that will be accepted**

Researching your instrument- Write 3-4 sentences on something about your instrument. It can be the history of it, how it’s made, how it plays, how to get a good tone, tips on playing it. Ask if you have other ideas! Also write down where you found this information.

Listening to someone playing your instrument- Find people who play your instrument well. Write what song it was, who was playing it, and what you liked or did not like about the person/ piece (4 sentences total) . Try not to find random youtube videos of people playing, try and find professionals.

Listening to the concert piece- Listen to at least 3 different groups playing the pieces you are playing. Write at least one sentence on what you thought about the group’s performance. Do not write I liked it. Make it thoughtful, why did you like it? What did they do well on or what do you think your band is doing well compared to the other group?

Playing another instrument- Maybe you play another instrument outside of school? Just fill out a practice chart but for that instrument.

Lessons- Fill out a practice chart will what you are working on in your lessons.

**Practice Chart Makeup**

If you do not turn in a practice chart and wish to make it up, you may do one of the other forms of practicing as listed above, or you can come in before or after school or during lunch (if okayed by teacher) and practice for 10 minutes for 10 points. Or you can record yourself playing at home for 10 minutes for 10 points and give it to the teacher to grade.

**Playing and Written Tests (20%)**

Tests are given in order to chart student's’ musical progress in a variety of ways. There will be playing, written, and verbal (counting rhythms) tests given throughout each semester in order to test student’s demonstration of proficiency of the various musical concepts we are studying.

Playing tests will consist of students playing music on their respective instruments (or clapping and counting rhythms) for grades. Written tests will consist of note naming, note placement, and fingering comprehension.

**Performance Points (50%)**

Concerts constitute up to 50% of student’s grades. Students will be graded on how well they are able to play their concert music, and how they act as members of the audience. Absences from concerts will severely impact the student’s grade as well as impact the rest of the group’s performance. If a student misses a concert there will be various ways to make up the missing points if it is an excused absence and I receive proper notice.

**CONCERT DATES!!**

**(And other important dates)**

September 6th Band night- 6:00pm Cafeteria- Albany music and sound

September 9th Band night- - 6:30pm- Cafeteria- Gracewinds

Both will have instruments to rent and materials such as books, reeds, and cleaning kits for purchase. This is not required.

December 13, 2016- 7:00 pm, Old Gym. This is our first concert of the year!

January 12-15- OPTIONAL-All State Middle School festival- Eugene OR.

March 21st, 2016 - ExtravaBANDza - Our annual exchange concert with the LHS Band

-This performance will be held in the LHS auditorium.

April 8th, 2017 - OPTIONAL - Middle School Solo & Ensemble Festival - Memorial Middle School, Albany, OR.

May 3rd 2017 - All Day Newport Band Festival - Olympian Band Only

May 23, 2017- 7:00pm Spring Concert- Old Gym. Our last concert of they year.

June 2/3- Strawberry Parade- Time TBA

Event times and dates are subject to change.

**Concert Absences**

Concerts constitute up to 50% of your grade and they are one of the most fun and rewarding experiences you will have in band. Performances at the Middle School are a culmination of what is learned in class, just like taking a test at the end of a unit in math or science.

**Unexcused Absences:**

You will be considered unexcused for a concert if I do not have at least **one** week notice.

Excuses such as “I had to baby-sit,” “I could not find a ride,” “I lost my polo shirt,” “I forgot,” will result in an unexcused absence.

It will count as an unexcused absence if you do not stay for the duration of the concert. Remember, it is important that we support each other! Please plan ahead to stay for the entire concert.

I am here to help sort out these issues, so please come to me early if anything comes up. Points lost due to an unexcused absence cannot be fully made up. This loss in points will cause a significant reduction in a student’s grade. If a student wishes, they can make up %50 of the lost points, please see Ms. Perkins for details.

**Excused Absences:**

Excused absences occur when there is an illness, death in the immediate family, or emergency situation. In those cases, please contact me by phone or email prior to the concert.

In the event of an excused absence, points will be made through a makeup assignment that will be assigned. It is the responsibility to see Ms. Perkins for makeup work. Work must be turned in one week after the assignment is given. Please look over the concert dates now for any possible conflicts. Should there be any conflicts, please let Ms. Perkins know well in advance.

**CONCERT DRESS**

❏ Blue band polo (order form and more information will be provided)

❏ Long black pants or knee-length black dress/skirt (No yoga pants)

❏ Black socks or tights

❏ Black SHOES (no sneakers, open-toed shoes or heels)

❏ Minimal Makeup

❏ Minimal jewelry

❏ No perfume/cologne

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE NOT PERMITTED AS CONCERT DRESS:

Neckties, bow ties, polo shirts that are not blue, t-shirts, shorts, short skirts/dresses, capri pants, sweat/athletic pants, cargo pants, leather, suede, sneakers, boots (unless covered by pants), flip-flops, sandals, excessive make-up, perfume/cologne, or excessive jewelry.

IF YOUR ARE NOT SURE WHAT TO WEAR - ASK.

All Band students will be fitted for a shirt and will receive it within the upcoming days before the concert. Shirts will cost around $13.00 (exact price will be provided) which will need to be paid through the office. Please bring the receipt to Ms. Perkins. Good places to find reasonably priced black pants and shoes are WalMart, Goodwill, Payless, Ross, TJ Maxx and possibly past band members! Concert clothes can be purchased quite inexpensively. Please do not wait until the day before the concert to find clothes for your uniform. If you have any difficulties finding what you need to wear for the concerts, PLEASE do not hesitate to ask for help.

**CONCERT ETIQUETTE**

We will have lessons in proper concert behavior and etiquette. It is up to you to behave correctly when you are on and off the stage. Please remember that you lead the entire audience by your example. If you behave inappropriately at a concert, points will be deducted from your concert performance.

**INSTRUMENT IDENTIFICATION**

Every student must have his/her name fastened to his/her instrument case. Percussion students must label all of their own equipment with their name, including sticks and mallets. It is also a good idea to have a record of your instrument's serial number in case it gets lost or stolen.

**CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF YOUR INSTRUMENT**

Proper care and maintenance of your instrument will enhance your performance and will limit the number of trips your instrument will take to the repair shop. Following the guidelines below will help you to keep your instrument in good shape.

1. Assemble/Disassemble your instrument following proper guidelines shown by your director

2. When possible, clean your hands and brush your teeth before playing.

3. Keep your mouthpiece clean!

4. Do not store books or music inside the instrument case unless you have a compartment for these items.

5. Keep the instrument in the case when you are not using it.

6. Repairs should be made by a qualified repair person.

**Band Fee**

The school is able to provide only minimal funding for the band program. There is a band fee of $20. Please pay this fee to the office. This fee is a year-long investment into your child’s band experience which will be a memorable and an enjoyable one! If there are any conflicts with the fee please contact me and we can work out the fee confidentially with payment installments if necessary.

**Weapons/drugs/alcohol**

All students are to follow school rules and regulations on weapons drugs and alcohol. Students may not possess any weapons drugs or alcohol during a band function on campus or off campus. This includes but not limited to band festivals, and any band trip. Also, students are prohibited from purchasing weapons drugs or alcohol at any band trip. Anyone caught with weapons drugs or alcohol during any band trip / function will be subject to disciplinary action according to the Seven Oak Student Handbook.

**Cell phones**

Students are prohibited from having cell phones for calling, texting, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media programs during class according to the Seven Oak Student Handbook. This means that during school or during after school rehearsal or performances, students are not permitted to use cell phones.

**Band room**

The appearance of our band room reflects the Seven Oak middle school music program this includes the rehearsal hall, all rooms, storage areas, practice rooms, director's office, and the hallways that connect these. Please help keep it nice and clean. Pick up any trash, music, stands, or anything else that has fallen over and try not to change the arrangement of the chairs. Gum is not allowed in the band room at any time. All of the equipment in the band room is very expensive. Do not touch any percussion instrument, electrical equipment, or any instrument that is not your own. Please refrain from running in the band room. Students are not allowed to come into the band room and borrow what they might need without approval from the director.

**Band Parents**

Band parents are a big part of what makes a band program run. I would gladly accept the help of parents with various tasks. This includes help with concerts, creating programs, chaperoning, fundraising ideas and more. Please contact Ms. Perkins for more information.

**Seven Oak Band Agreement 2016-2017**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please read and sign the statements below. Students must return this agreement to class by Friday, September 9th to receive credit.

STUDENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read the contents of the 2016-2017 Seven Oak Middle School Band Handbook. I have also taken the time to make note of all current performance times as listed on the Seven Oak Music Department Calendar. I understand that if there are any conflicts, I will do my best to provide Ms. Perkins with a note at least 1 week in advance. I commit to participating in and representing the Seven Oak Music Department in a positive manner and following the band expectations to the best of my ability.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*student signature* *date*

PARENT/GUARDIAN

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read the contents of the 2016-2017 Seven Oak Middle School Band Handbook. I have also taken the time to make note of all current performance times as listed on the Seven Oak Music Department Calendar. I understand that if there are any conflicts, I will do my best to provide Ms. Perkins with a note at least 1 week in advance. I commit to encouraging my student to participate in and represent the Seven Oak Music Department in a positive manner,and understand the expectations my student is responsible for.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Parent/guardian signature date*