

SPMS INTERMEDIATE BAND

HANDBOOK



MEADEBAND

Welcome!



Contact Information

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Welcome back to the Stuart Pepper Middle School Band! It is the intent of Stuart Pepper Middle School to offer each student the opportunity to participate in a well-rounded instrumental music program. Band will be a course designed to teach the students individual skills of instrumental musical performance through group instruction. Instruction will take place during the regular school day. **Additionally, some rehearsals and most performances will be after school. These dates are listed in this Handbook and on the Band website calendar.**

Visit our website www.meadebands.org to stay up to date on all important information and events! Please have the Meade County Schools app for all communication.

SPMS BAND EXPECTATIONS

Teamwork

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Band is more than just a class. You have joined the biggest team in the school and a program that spans both SPMS and MCHS. In band, we all come from different backgrounds and situations. We accept everyone for who they are. We are all different, but we are *one band working together to achieve excellence!*

Inclusion

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**HATRED, BULLYING, RACISM,
SEXISM, HOMOPHOBIA, OR ANY
OTHER DISCRIMINATORY ACTIONS
WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN THIS
BAND! YOU WILL BE REMOVED
IMMEDIATELY!**

SPMS BAND STUDENTS ARE...

Great Students

We want the students that put forth their best effort in ALL classes. The most successful students in band are the ones who know how to work hard and try their best!

Well Behaved

We want the students that can follow expectations in ALL classes. Excessive strikes, office referrals, detentions, In or Out of School Suspensions may result in a removal from the band program.

Great People

We want the students that other students enjoy being around. You can be with this group for up to 6 years if you stay in band. It is important that we all respect one another. We want the students that will represent the band and SPMS in a positive manner.

SPMS BAND EXPECTATIONS

Morning Routine

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- Once you enter the Band Room, immediately get your instrument, music, and a music stand, and sit in your assigned seat.
- Students should not be grouped together in the hallways or in the room. You should get everything you need and sit down.
- NO HANGING OUT IN THE STORAGE ROOM!! Get your materials and head to your seat.
- Once you enter the Band Room, you must ask permission to leave for the bathroom, water fountain, etc.
- Once the teacher steps on the podium all playing and talking should stop immediately

Classroom Expectations

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1. When an adult is teaching or talking, you are not talking or playing. You are expected to pay attention and be active in class.
2. Try your best at all times. You are expected to put your best effort into playing your instrument and learning music.
3. No food, gum, or drinks (other than clear water) in the band room.
4. Phones or other electronics are not to be out in class for any reason unless given permission.
5. Do not touch other students' instruments or items. Be respectful of other students' belongings.
6. No running or horseplay is allowed.

****Failure to follow expectations will result in a strike. 3 strikes will result in In School Suspension.****

Materials and Grading

Required Classroom Materials

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1. Instrument, mouthpiece, reeds. Clarinets and Saxophones are expected to have a minimum of 4 working reeds that they rotate. Reeds may be purchased for \$3 (clarinet) or \$4 (sax).
2. Sheet music given to the students.
3. Folder or 3-ring binder with sheet protectors for music.
4. A pencil.
5. A positive attitude.
6. A band book may be required to be purchased. These usually cost around \$10 (more info to come).

How Grades are Earned

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In Band your grade is earned in a variety of ways.

1. Playing tests and written assignments/worksheets given throughout the year.
2. Attendance at required performances.
3. Daily participation and preparation (including bringing all required materials!!). Failure to meet class expectations will result in the loss of the daily participation grade.

Important Information

Performance Dates

All performances are required for ALL students. These are a part of the student's grade. We work every day in class toward these performances. Performances are our big "tests" in Band Class! Specific information will be sent home and posted online closer to the performance dates. *****Multiple absences (excused or unexcused) from performances may result in removal from the program*****

Dress for all performances will be ALL BLACK: black dress shirt, black dress pants, black dress/skirt, black socks, and black shoes.

Fall Concert: October 16th, 2025 7 PM MCHS Auditorium

Winter Concert: December 9th, 2025 7 PM MCHS Auditorium

Assessment Preview March 19th, 2026 7 PM MCHS Auditorium

KMEA Assessment: End of March (official date/time won't be available until March) at John Hardin High School

Spring Concert: May 5th, 2026 7 PM SPMS Gym (TENTATIVE)

After-School Rehearsals

After-school rehearsals may be added to the schedule. These will be announced well in advance to provide enough time to secure transportation and resolve any scheduling issues with other practices or appointments. ***Any unexcused absences from these may result in the student not being allowed to perform with the band.***

Other Performance Opportunities

All-District Band

In January students will have the opportunity to audition for the All-District Band. Students will perform selected music for judges and if they score high enough, they will earn a spot in the ensemble. They will compete against students from other Middle Schools in our district. It is a big accomplishment to make the All-District Band and we are striving every year to get the most students in this group as we can. After-school help sessions will be available before and after Winter Break (see Calendar on the website). Music for these auditions will be given to the students at the beginning of the school year. More detailed information regarding specific times will be given out prior to the event.

Auditions: January 17th, 2026 at Larue County MS/HS

All District Band Event: January 30-31 at Campbellsville University

All-State Band

Students may also audition for the KMEA All-State Middle School Band. These auditions are done through video submission and are due in mid to late January. Students will compete against middle school students from across the state to make one of the two All-State Bands. This is the HIGHEST honor a middle school musician can achieve! Help sessions for this audition will also be available after school.

Step-Up Instruments and Lessons

Step-Up Instruments

The quality of your student's instrument is important to their success as a musician. Instruments rented from Paige's Music in Beginning Band are suitable for the developing musician, but higher quality instruments are available. If you have rented from Paige's you can often trade in your beginning instrument and use that money towards a more professional model. Please talk to a director if you need suggestions on good step-up instruments.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are a great way for students to rapidly progress on their instruments. These lessons, taught by private lessons teachers, will be an outside expense by parents and will typically be done outside of school hours. These lessons are done either in person (location TBD by the private lesson teacher or virtually online). There may be exceptions where some lessons could be done during class time. These lessons range from 30 minutes to an hour long and can cost anywhere from \$20-50/hour. Please contact Mr. Leonard if you would like more information on private lessons or contact information for private lessons teachers for your instrument.



Contact Information



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