

SELINGSGROVE BAND HANDBOOK

<http://www.seal-pa.org/domain/320>

Welcome to the Selinsgrove Area High School Band. As a member of this proud organization, much hard work and responsibility will be expected from you. This handbook was written in the hope of familiarizing you with band policies, traditions, and expectations. Through the following information, you will soon feel like one of the group and truly be a member of the Selinsgrove Area High School Band.

Your decision to make a commitment to the Selinsgrove Area High School Band is the first priority for success in all your efforts. Though there will be times when the road to success seems a bit rough, you must console yourself with the thought that the final goal is worth the effort. Use the opportunity to the best of your ability. Strive to become a good musician, a credit to yourself and your parents, and an asset to the Selinsgrove Area High School Band.

The Band had a great season last year for three basic reasons: A talented group of seniors furnished excellent leadership. This year, the seniors are just as capable and I am sure, will be just as outstanding. Second, Band students worked diligently to reach a high caliber of performance. Third, the highly professional music staff is dedicated to the SAHS program.

Image

There is something special about being a member of the SAHS Band Program. We have been recognized for our commitment to the excellence and attention to detail that has set us apart from other bands. The Selinsgrove Area High School Band program takes great pride in the successes of its performances in recent years. These successes have been based on an attitude of pride and discipline and hard work by the members of the organization. It is in this spirit that the following guidelines have been developed for students of the Selinsgrove Area High School Band program.

Philosophy

We, the members of the Selinsgrove Area High School Band, believing in the high ideals of unity through achieving worthwhile goals in musical performance and development of good character, do hereby establish these policies:

- A. To promote high ideals of musicianship, character, and discipline among its members.
- B. To provide opportunity to share in unity and fellowship.

Conduct/Attitude

As members of the Selinsgrove Area High School Band, students are charged with the responsibility of setting the standards of conduct and behavior for the entire student body of Selinsgrove Area High School. Band members are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner at all times, especially under the public's watchful eye. They must show respect for the property, instruments, uniforms, and equipment of others. Consideration must be shown to adults and peers at all times. It is imperative that band members keep in mind that they represent their parents, school, and community.

Never talk about the SAHS Band or other bands or their members in a demeaning manner. Talking or other disruptions during a rehearsal will not be tolerated. Any smoking or use of drugs or alcohol is strictly prohibited at all Music Department functions. Violations may result in the immediate expulsion of the student from the program and/or the loss of any awards, festival participations, future trips, etc. The high school principal will be notified and apply any further disciplinary action required.

Those who have a positive attitude, regardless of their individual skills, will always have a place in the Selinsgrove Band. Regardless of your ability, if your attitude is not positive, if you are not doing your personal best to make the group successful, you should not be a part of this band. Students who do not project an attitude that is positive and cooperative will be given the opportunity to change their personal perspective or else leave the organization. The ideal band member is someone who is always willing to give their best for the good of the organization.

Rehearsal

Adherence to the following points will insure productive rehearsals:

- A. Proper individual warm-up procedures must be followed. Following adequate warm-up, instruments should be tuned.

- B. Un-excused tardiness will not be tolerated. Do not leave before rehearsal is over unless granted prior permission.
- C. Play your assigned part. Each member will be assigned a folder for which he or she is responsible.
- D. Instruments should be repaired prior to, not during, rehearsals. Students are expected to have their instruments in proper working condition at all rehearsals and performances. Forgetting of instrument or music will not be tolerated.
- E. Be attentive, do not talk between selections, especially when the music staff is speaking.
- F. Mark all music properly, bring a pencil to all rehearsals.
- G. Strive to play your best at all times. Remember, the way you rehearse is the way you perform. Play in tune. Use good posture and correct articulations. Strive for good tone and technique. Perfection is the goal.
- H. No gum chewing or food/drink (with the exception of water) is allowed in the band room.

Uniforms

Band members are expected to wear full, correct uniforms at all public appearances.

- A. Stay in COMPLETE uniform unless otherwise instructed.
- B. The uniform and hat should be clean. Each uniform will be dry cleaned at the school's expense in December of each year. The student is responsible for additional cleaning if need. DRY CLEAN ONLY. DO NOT WASH.
- C. Clean black shoes are to be worn with black socks covering the ankles. SHOES MUST BE ALL BLACK. Guard members wear all white sneakers and white socks.
- D. Jewelry must not be worn while in uniform and long hair must be pulled back.
- E. NO visible shirts should be worn under the red band shirt.

Bus Trips

- A. Keep buses clean. No switching buses. Ride in the same seat returning, unless change is by mutual agreement.
- B. Stay in seats until instructed to disembark. Exit by front door only, unless in an emergency.
- C. No loud yelling, profane language, whistling, or unseemly behavior.
- D. Be respectful of the bus driver and chaperones. No alcoholic beverages, no smoking.
- E. Keep hands, arms and other body parts inside the bus at all times.
- F. Help load or unload bus/van.

Conduct in Stands

- A. Remain seated in your section and leave only with permission. Return quickly.
- B. No exiting by back of bleachers or below seats.
- C. Play only your own instrument.
- D. Wear proper uniform and check carefully before performance.
- E. Listen to directions and follow instructions.
- F. Be alert and ready to play at a moment's notice.
- G. No food permitted in stands before Third Quarter.

Facilities

The Selinsgrove Area High School is equipped with a Band Room large enough for all rehearsals. The instrument storage room is only large enough to house a portion of the instruments. Therefore, instruments should be placed on the proper shelves in an orderly manner. One other small equipment room is available for the storage of instruments and auxiliary equipment. This room should be used with permission only. There is a practice room suite available for small ensembles or individual practice. Students may sign-up to use these during a resource period. The music office is a busy terminal of activity. Students should not be in the director's office at any time, unless a staff member is present or given instruction or permission.

Music/ Musical Organizations

All music is distributed by the director or student leader during marching and concert seasons. Any music that is lost must be replaced by the student at his or her expense. SYMPHONIC BAND is a credited class that meets during the school term. Band members are taught proper concert techniques, and individual musicianship is put to the test. Woodwind, brass, jazz/rock, and percussion ensembles may be organized from this group. Members have the opportunity to audition for chair seating and to challenge, with regard to technique, tone, sight reading, musical ability, and attendance during the first third of the school term. The Symphonic Band performs two "formal" concerts per year. The music is grades 4-5-6 in difficulty and requires much preparation. The "Guest Artist Night Concert" showcases the talents of our students along with local and professional musicians. This joint endeavor gives the concert a professional atmosphere.

Grading System – Symphonic Band

Grades for students taking Band for credit are established by the following criteria:

20% individual achievement

40% preparation of ensemble music, lessons

40% attitude/ attendance (diligence to task, commitment to excellence, self-discipline, effort, initiative,). Attendance at each performance (Winter and Spring scheduled concerts and Memorial Day Parade) is required and graded. Excused absences from performances include illness, injury, or family emergency – each requires a written note from parents. An alternate assessment will be offered for excused absences. Illegal absences will result in a failing grade for this category and cannot be made-up.

Lessons

Each student is provided with at least one small group instrumental lesson every 7-10 school days. If a student misses an assigned lesson, he/she should schedule a make-up lesson. The prime purpose of these lessons is to provide instruction in basic and advanced fundamentals and techniques. Students who participate in “private lessons” outside the school day are still required to attend group lessons during school. Each group will be composed of students of similar playing levels and abilities.

Participation Requirements/Attendance –

The success of our band depends upon the attendance of each member at EVERY rehearsal and performance. It is unrealistic to use the excuse "I know my music." Everyone should know his or her music. Band is not an individual effort, but a group effort to achieve a goal. Attendance will be taken at all rehearsals, during and after school hours. Fall marching band evening rehearsals are generally held on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. Special rehearsals may be scheduled prior to concerts or important performances. The director will notify students of all special rehearsals and all performances at least two weeks (usually longer) in advance, except in rare situations. Students are expected to notify their parents. Attendance at these special rehearsals and performances is required. In the event of an emergency, the director must be contacted at esmith@seal-pa.org or (372-2239), and a legal absence must be established. Illness is, of course, excused. Any other situation must be discussed with the director. Conflicts with regard to the definition of "legal absence" will be resolved in consultation with the music director. Members with un-excused absences from rehearsals and performances will be subject to a loss of future performance privileges, the loss of student eligibility for all awards, loss of future trips, and/or eventually suspension/expulsion from the program. Should a student not be diligent in music preparation, the director is at liberty to remove the privilege of performance at any given appearance.

Part-time employment: case-by-case arrangements are made among the students, the band director, and the employer to ensure that the performing organization, the students, and the employer are fairly treated. Please give a copy of the rehearsal/performance schedule to your employer. It is the student's responsibility to secure the needed time to attend rehearsals and performances. Participation in the Band program does not preclude the students' participation in sports or other extra-curricular activities. Arrangements will be made on an individual basis.

Personal Achievement

The members of the SAHS Band should always strive for personal fulfillment in the field of music. The Band Booster's Association sponsors two awards for graduating seniors along with one from the Catherman family. The recipients are chosen based on individual recognition for superior service, loyalty, performance, musicianship, leadership, service to the organization, dedication, and attitude. The Booster's group also funds two private study scholarships per year open to all band students. All members are urged to audition for the various Honor's groups offered (NMS Honors Band, District Band, etc.)

Band Banquet

The Band's annual banquet culminates the year's activities. It is a semi-formal affair that often coincides with the May concert. Included are the presentation of awards and honors to all students, and movies/slides of the past year. All members and their families are urged to attend.

Selinsgrove Area High School Band Boosters Association

This association is a group of individuals interested in fostering the Band Program at Selinsgrove Area High School. Money that is raised through various fund-raising activities, including the operation of a concession stand at

home football games, helps underwrite the designated areas of the Band Program. The group also provides chaperones, drivers, and equipment management throughout the performing season. All band trips are funded entirely through this organization. It is the responsibility of each band member to encourage his or her parents to join, help, and regularly attend the meetings of the Band Boosters.

MARCHING BAND begins rehearsals in June. All day Band Camps are scheduled along with shorter evening rehearsals throughout the summer. Rehearsals are rarely canceled due to inclement weather. We will not usually rehearse outdoors in the rain, unless it is just a drizzle or intermittent light rain. In the event of steady rain, we will rehearse indoors and go out at the first opportunity. Students should dress for the weather. Not having the proper attire is not an excuse. Students should wear comfortable shoes (preferably low-topped tennis shoes) and socks for rehearsals. This is important in that the style of marching step we use requires that the foot and ankle be permitted to move freely. Shorts are the appropriate attire for rehearsals – once the weather is too cool for shorts, you should wear something that gives freedom of movement in the lower body. Marching Band members appear at a variety of events and have the opportunity to go on many educational and interesting tours. In addition to performing at high school football games, pep rallies, parades, music festivals, and high school shows, the Band has been fortunate to be selected to perform at over 35 professional National League and Canadian football, basketball, and baseball games over the past 17 years.

Color Guard is organized and performs dance and flag routines as part of the Marching Band. Membership in the SAHS Color Guard is by audition only. The student agrees to attend all rehearsals and performances, including summer activities. Students in Color Guard that also play instruments should be enrolled in the appropriate band class period. Color guard is an intense, physical, outdoor activity. Performing in the guard requires that students be in excellent physical condition.

The band is conducted on the field by student drum majors who lead them through the 6-10 minute performance. The show is designed to entertain “football” audiences. The music is up-beat and recognizable by all ages. Songs can be interchanged from show to show, which keeps it fresh for the students and the audience. With the inclusion of a sound system, electronic instruments, microphones, drum set, and podium, a parent group is used to set-up, maintain, and tear down this elaborate setting in less than one minute! The Selinsgrove Band also represents SAHS and the town of Selinsgrove at numerous music festivals and professional sporting events across the United States and Canada. They recently performed at the Venier Cup, Canada’s National College football championship game that was broadcast live on Canadian national television. Other events and festivals:

Selinsgrove High School Football Games, Selinsgrove Street Fair, Memorial Day Parades- Freeburg and Selinsgrove, Fireman’s Parade- Freeburg, Selinsgrove Speedway, Lycoming College Football Game, Weis Markets/Monroe Marketplace Grand Openings, Selinsgrove Halloween Parade, Susquehanna Valley Mall Holiday Parade, Susquehanna Valley Mall Holiday Concerts, Christmas Tree Lighting, Selinsgrove, Susquehanna University Football Game, Kidsgrove Fall Festival, Selinsgrove Sesquicentennial Parade, Local Day Care Concerts, Selinsgrove Center Concert, Jazz Night, Elementary Schools Spirit Day, Selinsgrove Elementary Halloween Parade, Relay For Life Kick-off Ceremony, Selinsgrove Downtown Late Night Shoppers Entertainment, Selinsgrove Gazebo Concert, and Selinsgrove Center Memorial Day Festival. Detroit Lions, Hamilton Tigercats, Ottawa Roughriders, Montreal Allouettes, Baltimore Ravens, Washington Redskins, Toronto Argonauts, Ottawa Renegades Professional Football Games; Philadelphia Phillies, New York Yankees Professional Baseball Games; Orlando Magic, Miami Heat, Atlanta Hawks, and Charlotte Bobcats Professional Basketball Games; Tampa Bay Lightning Professional Hockey Game; VT-NH Shrine All-Star Football Game- Dartmouth Stadium, NH; Capitol Building-Washington, D.C.; Mallory Square – Key West, FL; Lincoln Center- New York City; University of Buffalo College Basketball Game; La Ronde Six Flags Amusement Park, Montreal, Quebec; Darien Lake Amusement Park, Darien Center, NY; Cedar Point, Sandusky, OH; Knoebles Grove, Elysburg, PA; Dorney Park, Allentown, PA; Six Flags America Park- Aurora, OH; Kings Dominion Park- Roswell, VA; Toronto’s Wonderland Park; Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland, OH; NFL Hall of Fame, Canton, OH; Don Shula Stadium, Cleveland, OH; Inner Harborplace Ampitheatre, Baltimore, MD; Great Adventure Park- Jackson, NJ; All Walt Disney Theme Parks- Orlando, FL; Universal Theme Park, Orlando, FL; Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, VA. The Band has also received superior ratings at music festivals in Cleveland, OH; Hershey Stadium, Memorial Stadium- Scranton, PA; Mansfield and Susquehanna Universities; Virginia Beach, VA; Sandusky, OH; and Williamsburg, VA.

The Selinsgrove Band is always well received wherever they perform:

“...Thank you so much for being part of our game day half-time show. That was the first standing ovation for a half-time show here. We would love to have you guys back!”

Shauna Brownlee, events coordinator, Ottawa Renegades professional football team.

"...Thank you for providing the half-time entertainment for the Redskins game. It was an exciting presentation, with great field coverage and quality of sound."

Billy Ball, Director of Entertainment, Washington Redskins.

"...The response we had to your performance was overwhelming. Ours fans absolutely loved it! We have never had a band that got the crowd that excited. The energy and enthusiasm of your entire group was admired by all. Thank you for your amazing performance and we, as well as the fans in Montreal, would love to have you back."

Danny Hill, logistics coordinator, Montreal Allouettes professional football team.

The Value of Music Education

For centuries, music and art have been recognized as disciplines, on equal footing with mathematics, language, and the sciences as regards the development of mental process. More recent research has shown that the study of music, and in particular performance, actively involves more of the domains of the brain than any other discipline. Instrumental music, particularly in an ensemble such as band or orchestra, is the purest form of mental activity. It requires more of the brain to be utilized, both right and left brain functions, than any activity we experience in formal education. Dealing with the demands of ensemble performance and individual performance simultaneously requires that the performers manipulate visual symbolic information, interpret visual instructions from a conductor, analyze and synthesize aural information being received constantly, exhibit manual skill with the instrument, regulate their volume level and style of playing in concert with several other performers, and many other factors that all combine to become "making music."

MUSIC IS NOT ONLY IMPORTANT . . . IT'S ESSENTIAL!

PLATO: "Music training is a more potent instrument than any other, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul."

SHAKESPEARE: "The man that hath no music in himself . . . let no such man be trusted."

ERNEST BOYER (President, Carnegie Foundation): "Music gives us a language that cuts across the disciplines, helps us to see connections and brings a more coherent meaning to our world."

PAUL HARVEY (Broadcaster/commentator): "Our schools tend to refine intellects but neglect to discipline emotions. For anyone to grow up complete, music is imperative."

GREGORY ANRIG (President of Educational Testing Service): "The things I learned from my experience in music in school are discipline, perseverance, dependability, composure, courage, and pride in results. Not a bad preparation for the work force!"

JOSEPH M. CALAHAN (Director of Corporate Communications, Xerox Corporation): "Arts education aids students in skills needed in the workplace: flexibility, the ability to solve problems and communicate, the ability to learn new skills, to be creative and innovative, and to strive for excellence."

CLIFFORD V. SMITH (President of the General Electric Foundation): "GE hires a lot of engineers. We want young people who can do more than add up a string of numbers and write a coherent sentence. They must be able to solve problems, communicate ideas and be sensitive to the world around them. Participation in the arts is one of the best ways to develop these abilities."

SHIRLEY YOUNG (VP, Consumer Market Development for General Motors): "The Japanese consider the study of music important for their engineers. Playing a musical instrument involves discipline, creativity, and conceptualization. These attributes, added to engineering talent, help produce results that are not only functional but also harmonious in every way. Music reaches across cultures and needs no translation."