

Somers Middle School Instrumental Music

Communication

Most questions can be answered from my website www.theradiohour.net but please do not hesitate to call me at the Middle School (914) 214-5192 if you have any questions regarding this material or anything else pertaining to the band program.

***The Band Open House meeting will be held before the opening session at 6:45 in the band room. This way you get the true feeling of your child's schedule. See you there!**

**** There will be a SmartMusic demonstration at 6:30.**

Materials

1. Standard of Excellence Lesson book (6-Red, 7-Blue, 8-Green)

2. Each family must have a home subscription to SmartMusic.

Go to <http://www.smartmusic.com> to download and register your subscription.

Instruments

Each student is responsible for supplying his /her own instrument. Instruments must be kept in proper playing condition. All personal equipment must be labeled. All instrument cases must be clearly labeled with your child's name and grade. Instruments must be brought home at the end of the school day. Instruments are not to be left in the school over night. They are not insured after school hours.

1. **Brass** - must keep their valves well oiled and have extra valve oil on hand.
2. **Woodwind** - must have extra reeds, cork grease and cleaning cloths in their case at all times.
3. **Percussionists** must own all equipment listed below before being registered for band
****Required Percussion equipment list:** Percussion kit includes a 2 -1/2 octave Bells (notes G3 – C5), Acrylic, Yarn, and Timpani Mallets ,5A and 2B drumsticks, a Remo practice pad, a Stick bag and a drum key.

Lessons

Students are excused from their regular classes to attend instrumental lessons on a rotating schedule. Lessons are part of the school curriculum and attendance is required. Students will be given materials for weekly practice that must be kept in their band binder. Students will also be required to purchase repertoire books as needed. Coming to lessons without required materials or unpracticed lessons will affect their lesson grade.

Instrumental Lesson Procedure

Instrumental students must follow the same procedure before attending a lesson

1. Before a student goes to their lesson, the student is to inform the teacher of their lesson, and hand in any homework due for that day.
2. After the lesson, the student; must check with their classmates or teacher about class activities or additional assignments.
3. If a student has a test or a quiz that period, they are to stay in class. Then report to Mr. Chetcuti to schedule a make up lesson.
4. Make up lessons must be completed within one week to receive credit.

Website support and technology

The Edline page for band will provide you with the basic information that you and your child will need to know about band. However, I will also provide a link you to my website called www.theradiohour.net. On the home page, go to the Somers MS pull down menu and select Band Info. Here you will find rehearsal schedules, a calendar of events, FAQs, band forms to download, interactive music benchmarks and other important information.

SmartMusic (www.smartmusic.com)

Students are required purchase the interactive music software called SmartMusic. This program will contain music for lessons, concerts and supplementary materials. Smart music will also chart how long a student is practicing each week. Student will also be asked to keep a notebook of scales, rhythm, etudes, and other material.

Rehearsals

All band rehearsals will be held in the Band Room (04) on the bottom level.

Morning rehearsals begin at 7:40 am and end at 8:20.

Attendance is mandatory. Missed rehearsals/performances will affect your child's grade.

6th Grade Band will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays

7th & 8th Grade Band will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays

Concerts

There are two required performances.

Semester 1 - Winter Concert (January 6, 2011 – 7:30 @ SMS auditorium)

Semester 2 - Spring Concert (June 2, 2011 - 7:30 @ SMS auditorium)

Jazz club will only perform at the Spring Concert.

Fife & Drum will perform at the Somers Veteran's day and Memorial Day Parades.

Concert Attire

Band members are required to wear concert dress attire at all functions. (Same for Jazz Club)

*Boys - White button down oxford shirt, dark slacks, socks, shoes and a dark long tie.

*Girls - White button down blouse, ANKLE length black skirt and black shoes

Fife & Drum must own their own Tricorner Hat, Shirt, Breeches, white knee socks, and marching shoes. Go to http://www.theradiohour.net/smsband_fifendrum.htm for more information.

Transportation

Your child can take the morning bus to the High School and then be shuttled down to the Middle School in time for rehearsals. If you choose to bring your child yourself or form a car pool with other families please have the children arrive at least five minutes early to set up for rehearsal. All students should be dropped off in front of the Middle School no earlier than 7:35 am.

Rehearsal Cancellations & Delays for Bad Weather

I will make every attempt to make an announcement at school if I know rehearsal is going to be cancelled for the next day. In case of a delayed opening, all morning rehearsals will be cancelled. However, daily lessons will still take place.

Band Registration Contract

Grading

Students will be graded on the following criteria.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Rehearsal participation (25%) | If your child is absent they must bring me a note on the next rehearsal. |
| 2. Lesson participation (25%) | Students must prepare for their lesson and bring all required materials |
| 3. Homework (25%) | Practice log and lesson assignments on SmartMusic. |
| 4. Tests, performances (25%). | Students will be tested on concert materials one week before the scheduled performance. This will be combined with their performance event grade. |

<u>Rehearsals</u>	<u>Lessons attended</u>	<u>Homework Points</u>
0 unexcused - 100	7 – 100	40 - 100
1 unexcused - 95	6 – 90	36 - 90
2 unexcused- 85	5 – 80	32 - 80
3 unexcused - 75	4 – 70	28 - 70
4 unexcused - 65	3 – 60	24 - 60
6 unexcused - 60	2 – 50	20 - 50

Part of a Team

Students who sign up for band are making a commitment to be part of a team for a scheduled performance. Leaving the band mid season does affect the group's sound quality. Therefore, if a student stops attending rehearsals or lessons he/she will receive zeros until the end of that grading period. These zeros will be averaged into your child's band grade. A student may be leave band at the end of any quarter with a note from their parent/guardian.

I understand and will follow the policies of the SMS Band. I would like to register my child for the SMS band for the 2009-2010 year.

Name _____ Grade _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Parent/Guardian Email _____

_____ I wish to have my child called on the band phone chain list

_____ I wish to volunteer to help with the phone web. Name _____

Parent / Guardian signature _____ Date _____

Name _____ Grade _____

Name _____ Grade _____ Phone _____

Band Order form -

Must be returned by September 17, 2010

Materials will be delivered to the school store for purchase. Students who do not hand in this form by Friday, September 17, 2008 must acquire their own lesson materials.

_____ Smart Music \$25.50 (Required for every band student)
Go to www.smartmusic.com

Lesson Books (\$7 for each book)

_____ Grade 6 (Book 1) – Instrument _____
Lesson Book – Standard of Excellence (Red) \$7

_____ Grade 7 (Book 1 & Book 2 required) – Instrument _____
Lesson Book – Standard of Excellence (Blue) \$7

_____ Grade 8 (Book 1, Book 2, & Book 3 required) – Instrument _____
Lesson Book 3 – Standard of Excellence (Green) \$7

Jazz Club

Book - The Real Easy Book \$20 (includes shipping) – for Jazz Club (Friday mornings)

_____ (Key of C) Piano, guitar, flute, xylophone _____ (Key of Eb) Alto sax, Bari sax
_____ (Key of Bb) Clarinet, Tenor sax, Trumpet _____ (Bass Clef) Trombone, Bass

Solo Repertoire Music for lessons – to be announced

Music can then be purchased at local music stores or online at www.jwpepper.com

Amount enclosed \$ _____