

St. Mary's



6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band

Welcome to the St. Mary's 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band! You are part of a program that is dedicated to excellence in all things that we do. With your membership in this ensemble, you have taken on responsibilities beyond those of an average St. Mary's student. It is expected that you live up to the standards set by your teachers and peers in order to achieve Excellence. Throughout your membership, BE PROUD of your accomplishments and always strive to achieve more.

The enclosed information will provide you with an overview of the band program at St. Mary's. This handbook has been discussed with all band members and *should be kept as a reference* for parents and students during the school year.

I thank you in advance for discussing this handbook with your son or daughter; it will help to reinforce the responsibilities each band member has to the ensemble as a whole. The following policies have been established to allow all students (regardless of initial ability level) to progress individually, and to contribute to a musically-successful ensemble.

After discussing the handbook with your son or daughter, it is important for the student and one parent/guardian to sign the last page indicating that the handbook has been received and read. The last page should be returned to Mr. Parcell on or before Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. Returning the signed slip on time is a graded assignment for all band students.

Sincerely,

Mr. Parcell

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## Principles, Rules, and Procedures

### Principles

1. Be Respectful
2. Be Prepared
3. Try your best at all times
4. Create a musically expressive environment

### Rules

1. Be in your seat and quiet by 2:25.
2. Bring all books, pencils, and materials to class.
3. Follow directions the first time given.
4. Complete all assignments on time.
5. Treat all students, teachers, and staff with respect.

## Procedures

1. Enter class in an orderly manner.
2. Quickly get instrument, stand, and materials and take them to your seat.
3. Do not play your instrument unless instructed to.
4. One person is allowed to speak at a time.
5. Put stands away correctly at the end of class.

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## Grades

1. Performances - 50%
2. Tests - 25%
3. Classwork - 25%

## Performances

ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY!!! Failure to show for any performance will result in 0 points given for your performance grade. In band we work towards goals, often these goals are performances. Every member of the ensemble is important. When one instrument isn't there it is noticeable and it affects other members of the ensemble. Being in band is a responsibility. Of course, family emergencies are an exception.

### Performance dates:

- Dec. 12 3:00 - Jr. High / High School Holiday Concert
- April 1 TBA - ISSMA Concert Band Contest
- May 19 7:00 - Spring Arts Festival

Throughout the year performances might be added, notice will be given far in advance.

## Tests

Assessment is an important part of a quality music program. Tests allow students to know how they are doing. Tests also inform parents about the progress of their child. As a teacher, testing gives me a snapshot of what my students have learned. This allows me to adjust the pace of the class to meet the individual needs of the students.

## Classwork

In Band, we will be doing worksheets, writing, listening, and note taking along with playing our instruments to make sure we have a strong grasp on music and music making.

## Extra Credit

Students will have opportunities to do extra credit work. Attendance at instrumental music concerts approved by Mr. Parcell will be worth 5 points. In order to receive credit, the student must bring back the program or ticket stub signed by a parent.

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## Practice

As a member of the St. Mary's Band, it is your responsibility to come to class prepared to play your instrument. This can only happen if you practice. The amount of time practiced isn't as important as the quality of time practiced; however I suggest that you practice a minimum of 80 minutes a week. That is *only* 20 minutes, 4 days a week. Practicing is most productive when it is part of a regular schedule. Find a time and place every day when you can practice without interruption or distraction.

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## Performance Attire

Each band student is expected to own a Greensburg Band Shirt. This is a "golf" type shirt with an embroidered logo. It costs around \$20 and is purchased through the school. Information as to the exact cost and when it is to be paid will be sent home with your student.

Your child also needs Khaki pants/long skirt with dressy shoes by Dec. 12.

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## Solo and Ensemble

In January, students will have the opportunity to participate in the ISSMA Solo/Ensemble Contest. This contest is an opportunity for students to prepare solos and ensembles on their own. This is a wonderful opportunity that has many musical rewards. I will pass out more information on this subject in November.

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## School Owned Instruments

Any students using school owned equipment or instruments are responsible for the care and maintenance of said equipment. All instruments are repaired in the summer months and are

therefore in good playing condition.

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## Private Lessons

Private lessons are an important and integral part of any successful instrumental music program. Individualized study allows the student to progress at their own pace while taking into consideration strengths and weaknesses. Private lessons are a good idea for ALL students: students who are behind and struggling, students who are advanced and looking for an extra challenge, and students who are performing at an average level but wish to compete for top spots in the section.

Students who complete 20 lessons on their band instrument throughout the school year are eligible to receive a point towards their band award.

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## Band Awards

A point system has been developed in order to recognize the efforts of individuals in the Greensburg Band Program. It is as follows:

- Each year of band: 2 points
- Instrumental Solo and Ensemble: 1 point per event
- Pep Band: 1 point
- Perfect attendance at Summer Band: 1 point
- Private lesson: 1 point
  
- 2 points (After 1<sup>st</sup> year) = Certificate of Completion
- 4 points = Letter
- 6 points = Pin
- 8 points = Certificate of Excellence
- 12 points = Certificate of Dedication

Director's Award - (10 points to qualify) - outstanding 8<sup>th</sup> grader(s)

Jerry Williams Award (10 points to qualify) - 8<sup>th</sup> grader that exhibits Leadership, Musicianship, Dedication

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**Reeds, oils, etc.**

Students are responsible for the care of their own instruments. This includes, but is not limited to, the purchase of things like reeds, oil, slide cream, polishing rags, brushes, etc. These things can be purchased through Paige's Music Store. They have free delivery to the Jr. High School every Thursday. Call 1-800-382-1099 or visit [www.paigesmusic.com](http://www.paigesmusic.com) to order these supplies and tell them to have Matt Benson, Greensburg's roadman, deliver it to the school.

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## Braces and Band

If you will be having braces added/removed this year, anticipate 2 to 4 months of adjustment until normal playing abilities return. Before changes are made, parents should contact Mr. Parcell to discuss an adjusted practice schedule. In terms of band, the absolute worst time of the year to install/remove braces is from January 1 to April 10. During these 3 months, students are relying on consistent playing abilities for Solo & Ensemble Contest and Concert Band Contest.

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## Communication

If you have questions or concerns at any point throughout the year, feel free to contact me by phone or by e-mail. For the benefit of our kids it is important that we keep lines of communication open. This includes any problems you think your student might be having or **anything!!!** Just please let me know. Communicate. Communicate. Communicate.

School Number: 812-663-7523 x1709

E-mail: [nickparcell@greensburg.k12.in.us](mailto:nickparcell@greensburg.k12.in.us)

Website: [www.greensburg.k12.in.us/teacher/parcellnick](http://www.greensburg.k12.in.us/teacher/parcellnick)

I have read the above information and agree to abide by all rules and policies held within. Please sign and return this page by Friday, August 27.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_ (student) \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

\_\_\_\_\_ (parent) \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

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### E-mail

E-mail is a great way to communicate. I can quickly send out info and make sure it gets directly to the parent, bypassing the sometimes forgetful child middle-man. Your e-mail address will not be seen by others who receive my e-mails, and I will not clog your accounts with "junk" e-mail. Parents, please put *your* e-mail address down, not your students.

Print **parent** e-mail address **clearly**: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Band Shirt Order Form

If your student needs to order a Greensburg Band Shirt please fill in their size below. Keep in mind that this is a high quality shirt that is meant to last 3 years. When ordering a shirt, get a size that you think your student will be able to wear through their eighth grade year. These shirts are "golf" style, in adult sizes, and pre-shrunk. Once I have specifics about cost I will send that home.

Size (s, m, l, xl) \_\_\_\_\_