



Sabercat Band Handbook
2017 / 2018

Dear Band Students and Parents,

Welcome to South Valley Junior High School and the 2017-2018 school year! We have a proud tradition of excellent musicianship and this year will be even better. Our success depends on *every* individual putting forth his/her best effort and working together as an ensemble. The main goal of our bands is for you to develop musical skills and knowledge while having a lot of fun in the process.

Who is this Mr. Bannon person anyway? This is my 21st year of teaching and my sixth year at SVJHS. I have a Bachelor of Music degree and an Education Certificate from A.S.U.; I did a year of graduate study at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, hold a Master of Orchestral Performance degree from the U.S. International University and a National Board of Professional Teaching Standards certificate in the area of band instruction. I taught elementary band in Gilbert for eight years before coming to SVJHS, and junior high band in Paradise Valley for seven years prior to coming to Gilbert. I served two terms as Vice-President of the Arizona Association for Jazz Education and am an active clinician judging several concert band festivals each year. As a trumpet player, I performed with many ensembles including the San Diego Symphony, the Lincoln Symphony and the Nebraska Chamber Orchestra. I was a member of The Groove Merchants (a local, 10-piece horn band) for 20 years and now play with Late Harvest Jazz (a light jazz group). My 17-year old son, John starts college this month at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott to study Aeronautical Engineering.

The following information comprises the Band Handbook for all SVJHS Sabercat Bands. It explains our procedures and expectations. Links to ***two required forms*** are provided on the last page of the handbook. The "*Policy Acceptance/Shirt-Order Form*" is filled out and submitted electronically. Please print, fill out and return the "*Student Release Form*." The two forms and the shirt fees must be submitted **by Monday, August 7**. They are the first, graded homework assignments. Please bookmark this handbook for reference throughout the school year.

Communication is one of the keys to our success. I use our website (www.bandrox.com) to distribute non-copyrighted materials and provide supplemental resources. Please feel free to contact me with your questions or constructive comments. Email is the best way to reach me.

John "Jack" Bannon
SVJHS Band Director

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The SVJHS Band Handbook

This handbook outlines the policies of our band program. Please read all of the information carefully. *Every student will be held accountable for the information within this handbook.*

Classroom Expectations

Our primary responsibility is to learn about music. Student behavior should be positive and contribute to the learning process. All students must respect the learning and safety of others.

Daily Expectations

1. *Be dependable (Be on time and have all necessary equipment every day)*
2. *Be respectful, attentive and appropriate*
3. *Keep the band room free of food, gum and drinks (including water)* except Mr. Bannon
4. *Practice your instrument at home and be musically prepared for class*

The following steps will be taken to help students adjust their actions when necessary. Some situations may warrant skipping to a more advanced consequence.

Classroom Consequences

1. *A reminder of the expected positive behavior*
2. *A second reminder and loss of class participation points*
3. *Instrument is put away, loss of all participation points for the day, parent contacted*
4. *Removal from class to a "Buddy Teacher," parent contacted, possible office referral*

Daily Schedule and Lockers

Band meets every day for 60 minutes. Lockers protect our instruments during the day and you will have to share if we run out of space. Only band items may be stored in the lockers. Neither SVJHS nor Mr. Bannon is responsible/liable for items stored in a locker. **Locks are not recommended**, but combination locks are permitted. Misuse of our lockers will result in the loss of locker privileges.

Band Concerts and Other Important Dates (Participation is required for every performance!)

Date	Location	Event	Attendance	Start
Sept. 30	SVJHS Gym	Sabercat Music Days (ends at 5:00 p.m.)	8:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Oct. 6	CVHS Band Room	CVHS Jr. High Night (8th Grade Bands Only)	4:00 p.m.	4:15 p.m.
Dec. 11	Tempe Marketplace	Public Performance Field Trip (Jazz Band Only)	Day Trip	10:00 a.m.
Dec. 15	SVJHS Band Room	Small Ensemble Performances (All Bands)	In Class	In Class
Jan. 31	SVJHS Gym	6th Grade Festival (7th and 8th Grade Bands)	6:15 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 27	CVHS Auditorium	Formal Concert (All Bands)	6:45 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
Mar. 6	MJHS Auditorium	GPS Jr. High Band Festival (7th Grade Bands)	Day Trip	TBD
Mar. 8	TBD	ABODA Jr. High Band Festival (8th Grade Bands)	Day Trip	TBD
May 4-6	MAYBE -Disneyland	Disney Sound Session Workshop (8th Grade Bands)	TBD	TBD
May 16	CVHS Auditorium	Formal Concert (All Bands)	6:45 p.m.	7:00 p.m.

Grading Policy

Students will receive a grade for band (A+/-, B+/-, C+/- ...) that aligns with GPS District guidelines.

Participation

Students earn participation points for being prepared, following our “Classroom Expectations” and actively participating in rehearsal. Being prepared for rehearsals means bringing your instrument (including accessories), a pencil, your black binder with page protectors and all music. For a complete list of materials, please read [Required Supplies and Accessories](#).

Written Work/Homework

Written work may include paper/pencil worksheets, reports, Chromebook lessons and other online and offline activities.

Assessment

Students are expected to learn their music and play with the rest of the band during class. Periodic, formal and informal assessments will measure the degree that you meet this expectation. Assessments may include paper/pencil tests, online tests, individual in-class performances and/or SmartMusic instrument performance evaluations. There may be a final exam each semester to assess your progress in music theory, music vocabulary and instrumental performance.

Practice

To be successful, students **must** practice at home. Thirty minutes of **daily** practice is suggested, but goal-oriented practice is always more productive than time-oriented practice. Please read [“Practical Practicing”](#) to help develop a productive practice routine. While I do not require practice sheets, without practice you won’t be able to pass your performance tests!

Extra Credit

Extra Credit provides you the opportunity to earn extra points. It is **not** an alternative to assignments, tests or concerts; it is “*extra*” credit, not “*in place of*” credit. Extra credit can help push a borderline grade upwards a little bit, it cannot make up for a test score, missed assignment or concert absence. Here are some examples of extra credit:

- attend a full-length concert of live music
- write a review of a live concert
- write a report about a famous instrumentalist
- write a review of an instrumental music CD
- perform your instrument in a non-SVJHS concert (e.g. church, family recital, etc.)

Concerts

Concerts demonstrate the product of our practice and provide you the thrilling experience of performing as a group in front of a live audience. **Band students are required to perform on all concerts and remain for their duration.** Concert participation is a significant part of every student's grade. I encourage parents to make concert nights "family nights" in honor of the young performer and block these nights out on the family calendar to **avoid future conflicts**. A list of concert dates can be found on page 2 of this handbook.

In the rare event of a valid, unavoidable, non-emergency conflict, a parent letter or email **detailing** the reason for the absence must be received by Mr. Bannon **at least one full week prior** to the anticipated absence. Failure to meet these requirements will result in an unexcused absence for the concert. **Mr. Bannon will determine the validity of any excuse.** Insufficient information regarding the specific reason for an absence will result in an unexcused absence. In the case of a *true emergency* on the day of a concert, a parent letter or email should be given to Mr. Bannon as soon as possible. An unexcused absence will result in a "zero" for the concert grade. An unexcused tardy will result in a lowered concert grade.

Concert Attire

When performing, we represent ourselves, our school and our families. It is important that we wear clothing appropriate for performance. The focus of our performances should be the music and our attire should not draw attention to us as individuals. Regardless of gender, we will all wear the same attire for every concert. If family financial situations prohibit the acquisition of proper concert attire, please contact me as soon as possible. **Proper attire is part of the concert grade and must meet these requirements:**

- Black dress slacks
- Black SVJHS band polo shirt, tucked in
- Black dress shoes and black socks (**no athletic shoes or sandals**)

Fundraisers and Tax Credit Donations

Our band, orchestra and choir students will participate in music activities and performances at our "Sabercat Music Fest" (Sept. 30) to raise needed funds. Event fees, transportation, sheet music and instrument repair are a few of the ways these funds benefit our students. **Once we meet our budget goals for the year,** we can explore subsidizing some of the cost of our possible 8th grade Disneyland trip. *We also invite you, as an Arizona resident, to take advantage of tax laws allowing a **credit** of up to \$200/individual and \$400/joint tax return each calendar year for donations to a public school.* Checks accompanying the **tax donation form** can be written to SVJHS and specified for band. Your financial support validates our worth to the community. Thank you for considering this option.

Required Forms and Shirt Fees

Submission of both forms and fees are due by Monday, August 7, 2017

Policy Acceptance and Shirt-Order Form

Please fill out and submit the online form (linked above) to select the correct shirt size, choose your fee payment option and verify acceptance of the policies and procedures detailed in this handbook.

Our SVJHS embroidered black polo shirts will be worn for concerts and performance field trips. Our music department spirit T-shirts will be worn by all band, orchestra and choir students at school on concert days, at school on spirit days and during the Sabercat Music Fest event. The polo shirt fee is \$20 and the T-shirt fee is \$5.

- **7th grade students**, with care, your shirts should last two years. You probably won't need to purchase new ones next year. When choosing a size, remember to leave room to grow!
- **8th grade students** will need a new T-shirt unless you're one of the few who got one last year; however, if you can use your black SVJHS Band polo shirt from last year if it still fits.
- **8th grade students** who have outgrown or lost last year's polo shirt, or who are new to SVJHS, will need a new polo this year.
- **Sending Money to School:**
 1. Label an envelope with the student's first name, last name and class period
 2. Place cash (no coins please!) or check payable to "SVJHS Band" in the envelope
 3. Both shirts (\$25), T-shirt only (\$5), Polo shirt only (\$20)
 4. Student give envelopes to Mr. Bannon; please do not give them to the front office

 **Submit this form online: [Policy Acceptance/Shirt-Order Form](#)**

NBPTS Student Release Form

As part of the requirements for my recertification under the prestigious National Board of Professional Teaching Standards I will be submitting several projects. The projects may include video, audio or images of student performances and/or samples of student work. I first need to obtain permission from a parent/guardian to use the material.

 **PRINT, fill out and turn in both pages to Mr. Bannon: [Student Release Form](#)**