



Sabercat Band Handbook
2018 / 2019

Dear Band Students and Parents,

Welcome to South Valley Junior High School and the 2018-2019 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 22nd year of teaching and my sixth 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 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 18-year old son, John starts college this month is studying Aeronautical Engineering at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott.

The following information comprises the Band Handbook for all SVJHS Sabercat Bands. It explains our policies, expectations and procedures. After reading the entire handbook be sure to **fill out and submit the online “Policy Acceptance/Shirt-Order Form” by Monday, August 6**. It is the first, graded homework assignment for band this year.

Please bookmark this handbook for reference throughout the school year.

Communication is one of the keys to our success. I use our website (bandrox.com) and Google Classroom to distribute 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. Your 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*

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. Only band items may be stored in our lockers and you will have to share if we run out of space. You responsible/liable for items stored in a locker. **Locks are not recommended**, but combination locks are permitted. Misuse results in loss of locker privileges.

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

Date	Location	Event	Attendance	Start
Sept. 7	CVHS Band Room	CVHS Jr. High Night (8th Grade Bands Only)	4:15 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 29	SVJHS Gym	Sabercat Music Days (ends at 5:00 p.m.)	8:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m.
Dec. 10	Tempe Marketplace	Performance Field Trip (Jazz Band Only)	Day Trip	10:00 a.m.
Dec. 13	SVJHS Band Room	Small Ensemble Performances (All Bands)	In Class	In Class
Jan. 30	SVJHS Gym	6th Grade Festival (7th and 8th Grade Bands)	6:15 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 26	CVHS Auditorium	Formal Concert (All Bands)	6:45 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 28	MJHS Auditorium	GPS Band Festival (7th Grade Bands)	Day Trip	TBD
Mar. 6	TBD	ABODA Band Festival (8th Grade Bands)	Day Trip	TBD
May 3-5	MAYBE -Disneyland	Disney Studio Workshop (8th Grade Bands)	TBD	TBD
May 15	CVHS Auditorium	Formal Concert (All Bands)	6:45 p.m.	7:00 p.m.

***** All concert information is subject to change depending on facility availability *****

Grading Policy

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

Participation

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

Classwork and Homework

Assignments may include worksheets, reports, online lessons and/or other projects.

Assessment

Playing Tests: You are expected to learn your assigned music to accepted levels of proficiency. Playing tests measure your degree of proficiency as an individual or within a small ensemble. Some tests will be taken by video at home, others will be taken during class time.

Written/Online Tests: You are expected to learn the musical terms and concepts taught in class. Quizzes and tests measure your success in learning. There may be a final exam each semester to assess your long-term progress.

Practice

To be successful, 30 minutes of **daily** practice at home 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. Without practice you won't be able to pass playing tests!

Retakes and Make-Up Work

You may **retake** any assignment or test (except the final) **only** if you submit the original on time. You must obtain Mr. Bannon's approval to make up **missed** work. There are no make-ups for missed concerts. The deadline for retakes/ make-ups is 6 school days prior to the end of each quarter.

Extra Credit

Extra Credit lets you earn **a few extra** points. It is **not** an alternative to assignments, tests or concerts. Talk to Mr. Bannon about extra credit ideas if the need arises.

Concerts

Concerts demonstrate the product of your practice and provide the thrilling experience of performing for an audience. Concert participation is a significant part of your grade. **You are required to perform on all concerts, stay for the duration, and help clean up afterwards.** An unexcused absence earns a 0% for your concert grade. An unexcused tardy or leaving early drops your concert grade by 20%. Try 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. Concert dates are listed on page 2.

In the rare event of a valid, unavoidable conflict, written parent communication detailing the reason for the absence must be received by Mr. Bannon at least two full weeks prior to the concert. Failure to meet these requirements or provide sufficient specific information earns an unexcused absence. In the case of a true emergency on the day of a concert, written parent communication detailing the reason for the absence must be received by Mr. Bannon upon the student’s return to school. While parents have the right to withhold their children from a performance, Mr. Bannon is the sole determiner of whether or not to excuse an absence for grading purposes.

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 detract from the group performance by drawing attention to us as individuals. If your family’s financial situation prohibits the acquisition of proper concert attire, please contact me as soon as possible. **Proper attire is part of your concert grade. Don’t wait until the last minute!**

- Black dress slacks
- Black SVJHS band polo shirt, tucked in
- Close-toed black dress shoes and black socks
- SVJHS Music Department Spirit T-Shirt (informal events)
- Blue jeans w/o tears or holes; athletic shoes (informal events)

Fundraisers and Tax Credit Donations

Our band, orchestra and choir students will participate in music activities and performances at our “Sabercat Music Fest” (Sept. 29) to raise needed funds. Event fees, transportation, sheet music and instrument repair are a few of the ways these funds benefit our students. *We also invite you, as an Arizona resident, to take advantage of tax laws allowing a **credit** of up to \$200 per individual or \$400 per joint tax return each calendar year for donations to a public school.* Checks accompanying the [tax credit 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 Form and Shirt Fees

Submission of the online form and fees are due by Monday, August 6, 2018

Policy Acceptance and Shirt-Order Form

Parents, please confirm acceptance of the policies and procedures detailed in this handbook, select your child's correct shirt size, and choose your fee payment option by filling out and submitting the online form (linked below).

Our embroidered SVJHS Band black polo shirts will be worn for formal concerts and performance field trips. Our Music Department Spirit T-shirts will be worn by band, orchestra and choir students during school on concert and spirit days. We will also wear the T-Shirts 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!
- **New 8th grade students** will need to purchase the shirts.
- **Returning 8th grade students** who still own and can fit into their shirts from last year will not need to purchase a new shirt. You will need to purchase a new shirt if you have outgrown or lost last year's shirt(s).
- **Sending Money to School:**
 1. Label an **UNSEALED** envelope with student first name, last name and class period
 2. Place cash (no coins please!) or check payable to "SVJHS Band" in the envelope
 3. If paying by check, be sure to put student first and last name on the memo line
 4. Both shirts (\$25), T-shirt only (\$5), Polo shirt only (\$20)
 5. Student gives envelope to Mr. Bannon
 6. ***Do NOT give band money to the front office*** – it really complicates our bookkeeping



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