

# St. John the Baptist Band Handbook

Mr. Stranz  
2018-2019



Dear Band Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to school and the St. John's band program! I'm extremely excited to join St. John the Baptist School and make some great music with your students!

I am a Wisconsin native and jazz musician. I primarily play the saxophone, and as a jazz band leader, I double frequently on clarinet, flute, as well other saxophones. I earned a Master of Music in Jazz Pedagogy in 2017 from the University of Northern Iowa, and dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in Jazz Studies and Arts Management from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay in 2014. I am passionate about cultivating a lifelong appreciation of the arts, and I am excited to connect students with music as a creative outlet of self-expression, an interdisciplinary application of their curriculum in the humanities and sciences, and a means of expressing their faith.

Band for your son or daughter is an exciting part of their music education. Playing a band instrument is a fun and rewarding experience with benefits that reach well beyond the scope of literally making music. It is my goal to provide every student in the band program with a fun but challenging musical experience.

I'm looking forward to a successful year at St. John's! If you or your child have any ideas for things you would like to see happen in the program, please let me know and I'll do what I can.

This handbook includes information about the ensembles at St. John's, my classroom/rehearsal rules, information about practicing, required supplies for each instrument, contact information, weekly schedule, concert dates, and other important information. Please take time to look through this handbook and discuss the contents with your child. If you have any questions about any of the items in the handbook, please don't hesitate to contact me. I appreciate your support.

Thank you,

Sam Stranz

# Ensembles

## **Lab Band**

The Lab Band is our 5th grade concert band that meets from 1:55 - 2:40 every Tuesday afternoon. This ensemble gets to play at the October, Christmas, and February concerts as well as the Spring Fine Arts Show. We start band in 5th grade at St. John's, so most of our Lab Band members are new to band, but you'll be amazed at how great they sound by the end of the year!

## **Studio Band**

Our Studio Band is a concert band composed of 6th - 8th grade students. In addition to their rehearsals during the last period (2:10 - 2:55) on Mondays and Wednesdays, Studio Band members get new performing opportunities including Jazz Band, Pep Band, Solo & Ensemble Festival, and chamber groups for weekly mass.

## **Jazz Band**

This year, Jazz Band will be back and meeting Tuesday mornings before school. Students in Jazz Band will learn a little bit about the origins of jazz, play in a variety of styles, and most importantly, learn to improvise! Get ready to have a lot of fun in Jazz Band!

## **Pep Band**

The Pep Band is a small, informal ensemble drawn from the Studio Band that will play school songs, cheers, and popular music to get crowds fired up at various St. John's events. Meeting times will be discussed as performance opportunities arise. Stay tuned for more information!



## Classroom Rules and Expectations

1. RESPECT yourself, your classmates, your director, and all equipment.
2. ALWAYS treat others the way you would like to be treated.
3. BE PREPARED - instrument, music, pencil, and a positive attitude.
4. Follow directions the FIRST time. Rehearsal time is limited.
5. ATTEND ALL CONCERTS - band is a team sport! We need you there!
6. HAVE FUN making music with your peers!



## Grading

Band is a performance class - therefore, the bulk of a student's grade will be based on their participation grade for band rehearsals, lessons, and most importantly, concerts. Daily participation grades will be given based on participation/preparedness in band class and in private lessons. Students will be expected to play with their best sound, use good posture, and obey the classroom rules in order to learn proper rehearsal etiquette.

Concerts are the reward for all of our hard work in rehearsal. Since band is much like a team sport, we need everyone's participation in concerts for them to be successful. Therefore, concert attendance and participation is mandatory for all band students.

Students must come to rehearsals prepared with their instrument, all music and lesson books, and a pencil. If a student forgets their instrument, they will be required to write a summary of the day's rehearsal to be turned in to me in order to receive a daily grade.

In addition, there will be playing tests at various times throughout the year. Playing tests will be concert music excerpts, solo and ensemble literature, and/or scales.

## Practicing and Practice Charts

Encourage your child to practice every day. Daily practice is the key to steady improvement on a musical instrument - a little bit every day is much better than a ton once or twice a week. I require that band students fill out and hand in practice charts each month to track their individual practice and development. The expectation for Studio Band members is 75 minutes per week, 45 minutes per week for Lab Band Members.

## Homework

Because band is primarily a performance class, individual practice is the homework for band class for all students. However, over the course of the year, some other assignments will go out to students and need to be handed in. These include some writing assignments and worksheets. The penalty for late work is 10% per week it is late.

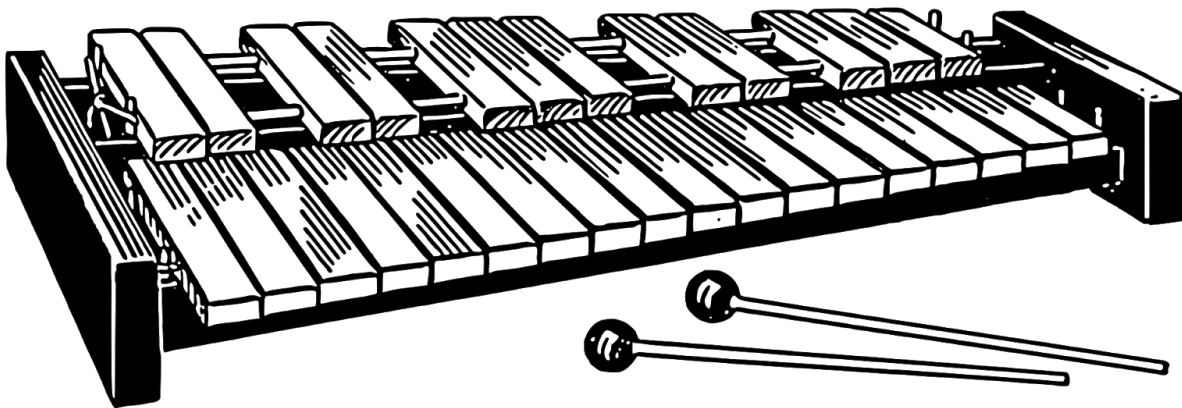
## Lessons and Lesson Scheduling

Lessons will begin the second week of classes. I have scheduled 15 minute lessons for each student with the help of their teachers. Please contact me with any concerns you may have about it and I will do what I can to accommodate everyone. My lesson schedule is and will remain somewhat flexible and I expect to make changes over the course of the school year to best accommodate all students. If a student has to miss a lesson, I have make-up times available and will be flexible in order to give each student the time they need.

## Powerschool

We use powerschool for grading here at St. John's, which is another way for us to communicate about your child's progress. With powerschool, you will be able to log in and see homework, daily grades, and play test scores.

I know that students and parents want quick feedback on their progress in class, so I will try to get daily grades entered by the end of each day and homework, playing test, and practice chart grades as soon as possible after I receive them.



## Important Dates 2018/19

Please take note of these performance dates:

Tuesday, October 16th	Fall Concert
Thursday, December 13th	Christmas Concert
Tuesday, February 19th	Mid-Winter Concert
Saturday, March 2nd	Solo & Ensemble
Wednesday, May 8th	Spring Fine Arts Show

## Contact Information

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have. The best way to get in touch with me is via email at [sstranz@gracesystem.org](mailto:sstranz@gracesystem.org). You can also leave a voicemail for me at school by calling 920-434-3822 ext. 563.



# St. John's Lab Band - Accessories 2018/19

## All Instruments:

- Method Book: Essential Elements 2000 Book 1
- Pencil
- Music stand at home for practice

## Flutes:

- Cleaning rod
- Polishing cloth

## Clarinets:

- Swab (for cleaning inside of the instrument)
- At least 3 usable reeds - Juno 2.5, Rico 2.5, or LaVoz Medium
- Reedguard
- Cork grease

## Alto and Tenor Saxophones:

- Swab (for cleaning inside of the instrument)
- At least 3 usable reeds - Juno 2.5, Rico 2.5, or LaVoz Medium
- Reedguard
- Cork Grease

## Trumpets:

- Valve Oil

## Trombones:

- Slide Oil

## Percussion:

- Snare Drum Sticks (SD-1)
- Xylophone mallets

## Local Music Stores

Instrumental Music Company  
Heid Music

920-857-3923  
920-498-2228

musicimc.com  
heidmusic.com



**I have read and understand the rules and expectations for St. John's Band. I have also discussed them with my child.**

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you would be interested in volunteering to help at concerts or other performances, please print your name clearly and provide an email address and/or phone number that you can be contacted.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you would like to be put on a distribution list to receive periodic updates and reminders about St. John's Band, please provide your email below. If you provided it above, just indicate "YES" in the space below.**

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