

# Sandys Secondary Middle School



## BAND HANDBOOK 2015-2016

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Dear Sandys Music Parents: Welcome!

We are fortunate to have a staff and student population that is excited about music. Our staff encourages the ongoing evolution and development of musical skills and understanding through the use of current teaching practices and music technology. We study music of the past and present to give students knowledge of a wide range of musical styles and genres. The parental support for the program and students is vital to our continual quest for musical excellence. We believe that having staff, parents and students working together on the same team will result in an innovative, creative and expressive experience.

The Sandys Secondary Middle school band offers students opportunities to experience music in a variety of ways. Music helps students become expressive, creative and disciplined while capturing the spirit of music and fostering their personal love of music. Our long standing traditions have provided SSMS students and the Sandys community musical experiences that demonstrate music's relationship with our culture through concerts, celebrations, and chamber music experiences.

This handbook should answer many of your logistical questions as well as provide you with descriptions of the types of experiences your children will have at Sandys. We look forward to working with you and your child on this musical journey.

Sincerely,

Sheldon Fox II

# Philosophy of Music Education

Music education should be presented to all. No matter what their race, gender, age, creed, culture or religious beliefs. Music has the power to break down age gaps, language barriers, racism, and shift paradigms from partiality to an inclusive understanding of the world around them. Music has the power to speak to the inner most parts of our being. These experiences we can use to guide others so that these experiences can be extended to all.

Participating in a music performance class can help develop morale, character, and an intrinsic self-motivation that will have lasting effects in the life of the student. We are here to model and guide students to define music so that they can become responsible, confident students who grow up to be persons who think for themselves, who care about others, and who become advocates of music education for others.

We teach styles ranging from classical music to jazz and big band to methods of contemporary performance, as well as emerging musical fields and styles. We are committed to the enrichment of the high school and community culture through excellence in our musical offerings.

## Objectives of the Music Program

### Cultural

To develop an appreciation and an understanding of the art of music through the study and performance of an extensive and varied repertoire.

### Educational

To develop comprehensive musicianship through a well-rounded music education; learning basic musical skills and concepts, becoming discriminating listeners, and achieving a high level of musical performance.

### Service

To provide programming, consistent with the curriculum, for school and community functions.

### Recreation

To provide students with the opportunities for the worthy use of leisure time, good group social experiences, and a positive emotional outlet.

# Course Descriptions:

## **Beginner Band:**

Beginning Band at Sandys Secondary is a course intended for students who have never played a band instrument. The class utilises the National Standards for Band in order to teach and improve student understanding and performance in Music.

## **Advanced Band M2/M3:**

The Advanced Band includes all wind instrumentalists at Sandys Secondary Middle School. The concert band performs regularly throughout the year and we work on a wide variety of repertoire for concerts. Concert band focuses on developing the students' technique, musicality, music theory, and sight-reading.

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## Course Objectives:

Each week throughout the year, the class will cover the following objectives: posture, playing position, breathing, tone quality, intonation, articulation, style, fingerings, syncopation, rhythm, rhythmic precision, dynamics, balance & blend, and phrasing. In addition, students will have weekly musical vocabulary and theory lessons.

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## Required Materials:

**Tradition of Excellence Book I** (for your instrument) - Bruce Pearson

**\*Please wait until instruments have been assigned before purchasing this book!\***

### Woodwinds

- Instrument: recommended brands are Yamaha, Jupiter, Buffet, Selmer.
- Reeds: Beginning saxophone and clarinet players should have 2 1/2 strength reeds through the first semester, and 3 by second semester. Experienced players should play on a 3 or 3 1/2. Double reeds should get medium or medium-hard reeds.
- Maintenance: Saxes/clarinets should have a swab and mouthpiece brush. Flutes should have a polishing cloth, swab, and cleaning rod (wood if possible).

### Brass

- Instrument: recommended brands are Yamaha, Jupiter, Conn-Selmer, King, Holton, Bach.
- Maintenance: polishing cloth, valve oil, slide grease, mouthpiece brush, snake.

### What if I forget my instrument?

- If instrument is in the shop, just bring a signed note to class or have parent call/email. There is never a consequence if the instrument is being repaired.
- 1st time: no consequence. Mr. Fox will try to loan you an instrument or you take notes on that day's class.
- 2nd time: complete notes on that day's class, phone call home.
- 3rd time: complete notes on that day's class, phone call home, lunch detention.
- Further instances will result in an administrator conference.

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## Concerts:

Every musician is important to the sound of the band, so it is imperative that every student perform in concerts. Concert dates are provided as far in advance as possible so that arrangements can be made for transportation and to take family plans into account. Music is a performing art, so the most important part of the band experience is to perform! **Concerts are rewarding for students and fun for the family, so please make every possible effort to attend.**

Concerts are like final projects. **If a student misses a concert, he or she must make up the points.** Because the performance opportunity cannot be recreated, students will be asked to choose a composer and write a 2-3 page report describing the composer's life and musical contributions. Guidelines for this assignment will be available.

**Concert Arrival:** Students need to arrive at the appointed call time. This time is used for seating, warming-up and tuning before the performance.

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## Grades:

**Band is graded on a semester system. Grades are determined as listed:**

Practice and Preparation: 40%

- Practice Logs
- Written homework
- In-class work

Formative Assessments: 40%

- Playing tests
- Written tests
- In-class assignments

Summative Assessments: 20%

- Concerts/Performances
- Final exams

*"Please note, in the new grading system, students' overall grade average will not be affected by an assignment until the due date. If a student turns in an assignment early, the parent will be able to view the score, but the overall grade in the class will not change calculation until the due date assigned."*

*"All students are expected to exemplify academic honesty. 'Academic Honesty' means performing all academic work without plagiarism, cheating, lying, tampering, stealing, giving or receiving unauthorised assistance from any other person, or using any source of information that is not common knowledge without properly acknowledging the source."*

**Teacher/Parent Communication:** Parents will be contacted by telephone or email if their child is having difficulties in class. Parents are encouraged to contact the teacher with any concerns. Email is the easiest way to reach Mr. Fox: [sefox@moed.bm](mailto:sefox@moed.bm)

## SSMS Band Procedures and Expectations

### Procedures:

1. Come prepared to class: instrument, books/music, supplies, POSITIVE attitude
2. Place instrument either in cubby in Band room or locker (provided free of charge)
3. Be in your seat, with your instrument assembled and daily assignment ready within 3 minutes after the tardy bell.
4. Participate throughout the class period; all instruction relates to everyone.
5. Take you instrument home every night to practice!

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## Expectations:

1. You will remain quiet and focused in class. Our class is one that is based upon your ability to hear instructions and follow them, so your quiet and attention is essential.
2. You will be prepared to learn. An instrument that is not ready to play is worthless; make sure that you have everything you need in order to make beautiful music!
3. You will be respectful of the Band room and each other. Our instruments are all expensive, and we don't want them to break. Never touch an instrument that isn't yours! Curiosity is great, but if that curiosity leads you to break someone else's instrument then you will be held financially responsible for it.
4. You will be an enthusiastic music student...making music is fun, and if you are not having fun then you are not doing it right! Practice hard, until you get it right; the better you play the more fun you will have!

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## Connections Community Norms

1. **Be on Time** - Students are required to be in class by the tardy bell. Tardy students will be required to sign in and face consequences outlined in the local discipline cycle.
2. **Be involved** - The Connections team will meet with parents as needed in order to discuss strategies to help each child stay on the right track in classes.

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## Practicing:

Students are expected to practice outside of school! They receive monthly practice logs and are always given a specific assignment for the week. They are required to practice that assignment and keep track of how many minutes they have put in to achieving their goal. While I am more concerned with the quality of practice, and not necessarily the amount of practice time...I will contact parents to collaborate if I see a lack of practicing throughout the year. I want them to succeed and feel good about playing in the band!

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## Smartmusic:

This is an exciting music education tool we will be using for students to accelerate the pass-off process. By purchasing and downloading SmartMusic to your computer at home, your child can practice and pass-off goals in the comfort of their own home. Students who use SmartMusic may achieve more through their GLE goals: [www.smartmusic.com](http://www.smartmusic.com)

### What is needed to use SmartMusic?

- The program works on your PC or MAC and requires an internet connection. (iPad version is available as well)
- System requirements and support are available on: [www.smartmusic.com/support](http://www.smartmusic.com/support)

### What does SmartMusic cost?

- You can purchase a full-year subscription from SmartMusic for \$40 per calendar year.
- Microphones cost \$19.95 for Windows PC and \$29.95 for MAC. Microphones are required for assignments, tuning, recordings, and assessments.
- Order online at [www.smartmusic.com](http://www.smartmusic.com)