

# Southwestern High School

## Band Student Handbook

### 2019-2020

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Fall 2019

Erin Feldman

SWSD Band Director

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Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome Back! It is so nice to see lots of returning faces, and lots of new faces. I am very excited and very proud to be starting my sixth full year here at the Southwestern High School. Last year was an exceptional year with lots of program growth, and a ton of hard work from the amazing students at Southwestern. I am looking forward to an even bigger year for the students as we make preparations for some fantastic performances. I look forward to working with all of you to make this a fun, successful year for everyone involved, especially the students!

Something important to know about is our marching band uniforms! The students will be assigned a uniform at the beginning of the year. The uniform will stay at the school in the student's personal garment bag. There is a contract later in this handout for students and parents to sign. Since these are new uniforms, we need to make sure we take the utmost care of them. Also, we have 53 students this year, so I can not stress how important it is for each student to attend every marching band performance. Marching band is literally a numbers game, every student is extremely important to the whole band team.

Another awesome addition to this year's program, is the Disney Trip!! We are really looking forward to showcasing our students at the global level. Our students have so much talent!

In this Handbook, you should find the materials you need to participate with SWHS Band, including outlines of important dates, wardrobe requirements, as well as our Code of Conduct, grading policies, marching band information, and other important items used to run the band. Please look over the entire Handbook and contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Please also discuss these policies between students and families so that everyone understands the expectations.

Also, please take note of all the important dates on the SWHS Band Calendar. Adequate advance notice will be given of any additions or other changes to the Band schedule.

With that I welcome the parents and your amazing students back for another wonderful year at Southwestern High School's Band Program. Hopefully I will get to meet many of you at our music parent meetings. They meet the 2nd Wednesday of every month, and we could use help with the amount of fundraising we need to do this year.

Sincerely Yours,

Erin Feldman

## **Southwestern High School Music Dept. Calendar 2019 - 2020**

**\*Tentative, schedule is subject to change\***

- Golden Knights Drop-in ----- Wednesday July 3rd 8:30 - 1:00  
High School Colorguard/Percussion camp ----- Saturday, Aug. 3rd 9:00-2:00  
High School Band Camp ----- Monday, Aug 5th – Friday, Aug. 9th 8am-11am  
Southwestern Homecoming Parade ----- Friday, Sept. 13th (2:30 p.m.)  
Belmont Fair Parade ----- Saturday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> (10:00 a.m.)  
Craft Fair Fundraiser ----- Sunday, Nov. 17th 9:00-2:00  
Kieler Parade ----- Sunday, Oct. 6th (12:00)  
High School Halftime Show ----- Friday, Oct. 11th (7:00 p.m.)  
Platteville Homecoming Parade ----- Saturday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> (10:00 a.m.)  
Veterans Day Concert ----- Nov. 7th (during the school day)  
High School Christmas Concert --- Sunday, Dec. 8th at 2:00  
Middle/High School Honors Band rehearsal during school day (At Riverdale) ----- Friday, Jan. 3rd  
Middle/High School Honors Band (At Riverdale) ----- Saturday, Jan. 4th  
Dorian Choir ----- Jan. 12th-13th  
Middle/High School Honors Choir rehearsal during the school day (At Southwestern) ---- Thursday, Jan. 23rd  
Middle/High School Honors Choir (At Southwestern) ----- Saturday, Jan. 25th  
Tri-State Honors Band ----- Feb. 14th-15th  
High School Pops Concert/Music Menus ----- Sunday, Feb. 23rd at 5:00  
Dorian Band ----- March 1st-2nd  
Middle School Solo and Ensemble (At Iowa-Grant) ----- Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>  
Jazz Band>Show Choir Festival (At Fennimore) ----- Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>  
High School Musical ----- March 20th, 21st, 22nd  
High School Solo and Ensemble (At Mineral Point) ----- Saturday, April 4th  
Disney Trip ----- April 5th-10th  
High School Large Group Festival (At Cuba City) ----- Thursday, April, 30th (during the school day)  
High School Spring Concert ---- Wednesday, May 13th at 7:00  
High School Graduation ----- May 24th at 1:00  
8th grade promotion ----- May 27th



**Please mark these dates on your Calendars thanks!!!**

Pep Band

All dates are subject to change, we will let you know.

November

21st 6:20 pm Basketball (Girls) - Belmont

26th 6:20 pm Basketball (Girls) - Wauzeka

December

3rd 6:20 pm Basketball (Boys) - Cassville

January

28th 6:20 pm Basketball (Girls) - Iowa-Grant

30th 6:20 pm Basketball (Boys) - Darlington

February

27th 6:20 pm Basketball (Boys) - Boscobel

March

3rd 6:00 pm Boys Basketball Regionals (**ONLY IF HOME**)

5th 6:00 pm Boys Basketball Regionals (**ONLY IF HOME**)

## Instrument Rental and Uniform Cleaning Fees

In order to keep our school instruments clean, and in good repair, the school is charging a rental fee for school instruments. Checks need to be written out and turned into the office at the beginning of the school year.

- Percussion Rental: \$35.00
- Instrumental Rental: \$45.00

Our Marching Band Uniforms will last for a long time with the proper care. Part of this care is cleaning the uniforms at the end of marching season. Each student will need to pay a \$3.00 cleaning fee. Please turn these into Mrs. Feldman before the end of marching season (Oct. 19th)

The last point that I need to make will be the purchase of reeds. If a student is in need of a reed, it will cost \$3.00 per reed. I will have a sign-up sheet.

## Philosophy of Music Education

Just as there can be no music without learning, there can be no education without music. Music education is the cornerstone of a complete educational experience. In a world of impressionistic learning, it is the music educator's lofty goal to provide an environment, which is safe, challenging, and inspiring wherein students are able to learn the vocabulary and understanding of music to express themselves musically.

Music is a form of self-expression at a higher level stretching our understandings of ourselves and in turn understanding others. Music education is more than just music, I believe it is about educating the whole person. By stressing the process over the reward, music education develops an appetite for learning and an attitude of persistence for personal growth. It invites students to develop their creativity resulting in their ability and need to ask more questions, the source for possibility. It teaches communication skills by developing a language beyond words and invited students to conceptualize instead of just responding while offering students a sense of self-worth. Students are able to express their individuality while supporting their fellow human being. This individuality is amplified when students understand they do matter to the ensemble. Music students must balance what they take and what they give; in essence, music helps us find our place in this world. What else is music but the most basic form of human communication, the one language everyone understands? It binds us together, soul to soul.

## Our Mission:

Through Mind, Body, and Spirit, we will provide a safe, challenging and encouraging musical environment for all to express themselves and their ideas through musical understanding. With the right attitudes in cooperation and communication, we will continue to be lifelong learners striving to achieve the common goal of musical excellence. With our hard work, respect for each other, respect for the music, and respect for ourselves we will produce a Band that continually upholds the integrity of the Southwestern Music Department and the Student Body.

*As a Band we are a team, everyone relies on each other to perform the music as best as we can. We are only as strong as our weakest link.*

## Statement of Values:

Goals,  
Achieved by...

Concepts,  
Taught through...

Understandings,  
Committed to memory through...

Assessments and Standards,  
Held to by everyone.

## Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct exists to help each and every student be successful in growing and maturing as a human being, as a musician and performer and to give each student the chance to have the best musical experience and education possible. We want our students to make good choices.

All persons in the class will address each other with professionalism and respect. When addressing a teacher or other adult in this class, students should use Mr., Ms., or Mrs., as in "Mrs. Brown" or "Mrs. Feldman", unless the adult specifically gives alternative instructions.

Teachers and other adults should address students (and each other) with all due respect and consideration, without condescension. The words "please," "thank you", and "you're welcome" should be used at every opportunity. No matter how directly, forcefully, or critically you must speak, respect and politeness are the rules for communication and will take you far throughout the rest of your lives.

Full and enthusiastic participation is expected from everyone for the entire rehearsal, including Music Weekly and warm-ups.

We will all behave in a CONstructive manner, rather than a DEstructive one. All actions that build up the other members of the band and help us reach our goals together will be strongly encouraged. Any behavior that "tears down" band members, distracts from the musical or educational task at hand or does not demonstrate an appropriate, very high level of focus, will be discouraged. Bullies will not be tolerated, we are all equal and important members of this team.

Our classroom and all items within it will be treated with the utmost care and respect. Students should not move, change, or in any other way disturb any classroom items unless specifically directed to do so.

## Rules and Regulations

The most important rule in the Band room!

\*Show me the SAME amount of respect that I show you.\*

I greatly respect each and everyone of you. You are all valuable members of our team. It is only right that you return the courtesy. Along with this most important rule, respect yourself, your classmates, and the music.

1. This means that when I am talking, you **DO NOT** talk.
2. When I stop the band, you all stop playing and wait for me to give you instructions.
3. Do not disrespect me and your fellow classmates. Talking when we are trying to work is not fair for the whole group... we are only as strong as our weakest link... you do not want to be that link!
4. Keep your hands to yourself.
5. Keep your phones away, I **DO NOT** even want them on your stand. Leave your phones in your locker, otherwise they will be mine.
6. There is a lot of greatness in this group, do not spoil it by behaving badly. There is a lot of work to do, think how much better we can be without all of the talking and messing around.
7. Good behavior will be rewarded. You want parties and treats... then work to earn it!

### Other important regulations to follow.

- Always have a pencil in hand. No pen is allowed on the music.
- No gum or food is allowed during rehearsal, however, water is GREAT!
- Sit properly when playing, you will sound better and not be in need of chiropractic work later.
- Homework from other classes is not to be done during Band.
- Sit in your assigned part, otherwise you will be marked absent.
- Always have your music for lessons and class.
- Abide by all school policies.
- Be on time!
  - ~ A wise man once said...
    - If you are early you are on time.
    - If you are on time you're late.
    - If you are late you will lose points.

Final Thought-

When you walk into the music department, you are entering a "No Diss Zone". Do not make the bad choice to impede my ability to teach, your own ability to learn, and/or your peers' ability to learn. For every bad decision there is a consequence.

*"One difference between savagery and civilization is a little courtesy. There's no telling what a lot of courtesy would do." - Cullen Hightower*

## Music Council

Music council is a group of experienced students who will help make decisions regarding fundraising, performances, trips, and social events for the band and choir. The following positions and their descriptions make up the music council.

- President-
  - The job of the president is to make the agenda for each music council meeting. They will also be responsible for running the meetings. A very important part of the president's job is to attend music parents meetings and make presentations to the music parents.
- Vice President-
  - The primary job of the vice president is to share in the president's activities. They will need to preside over meetings when the president is not able to attend. This means they may also need to attend music parents meetings when the president can not. It is also the vice president's job to make sure that music council meetings stay on track.
- Secretary-
  - It is the primary role of the secretary to take notes during the meetings and distribute them to the other music council members within two days after the meeting. The secretary will also be in charge of taking attendance at the beginning of class.
- Band/Choir Librarians-
  - There will be two librarian positions, one for each room. Librarians are in charge of everything music: distributing, copying, filing and collecting music.
- Social Chair-
  - It is the job of the social chair to plan and execute bonding activities/social events. You will be given a committee to help you with this process.

Music council meeting times will be decided after elections take place.

## Grading

### Performances - 45%

You are required to attend every performance in proper dress and to also have proper concert behavior. A performance is the same thing as a final exam. Each student spends their time learning their music so they can develop their skills and showcase what they learned at the concert. Another important aspect to consider, music is a team activity. Every member of the band relies on the other members of the band. If one person is missing, then the rest of the band suffers in their absence. There is no make-up assignment for missing a concert. If there is an emergency situation, please contact Mrs. Feldman and an alternative assignment will then be discussed.

### Attendance/Participation - 20%

This one is pretty easy. Coming to class and making good choices equals full points. Not making good choices (ie: not coming to class, talking instead of playing, chewing gum, not listening, not putting your things away, etc.) will result in the loss of points. If you have an excused absence, the office will notify me and your grade will not be affected.

### Music Weekly- 10%

In-class activity that works on strengthening a student's musical vocabulary, rhythmic accuracy, and music reading abilities. This will be done every Friday as a joint band and choir activity.

### Lessons - 10%

Weekly in school lessons are required. If one is missed for an appropriate reason, we can reschedule. The students and I will make the lesson schedule at the beginning of each semester.

### Written Tests - 5%

There will be two tests administered during class. The content of the exams will be taken directly from the music weekly worksheets.

### Quizzes -5%

There will be four check quizzes throughout the year. These will be individual quizzes designed to assess the student's progress in their abilities.

### Personal Assessment -5%

One of the national music standards is to assess and critique music performances. This in-class activity allows the student to assess their own performance.

## Wardrobe Requirements

The goal of the uniform concert wardrobe code is to let the ensemble be seen (and heard) as a single unit, rather than a group of individuals. Any wardrobe item that will cause the audience to remember a single student above the entire ensemble may not be worn in concert.

We want our students to be dressed as professionally as possible. Concert Dress is a black top, and black bottoms. Ladies, leggings/jeggings are not appropriate. Your bottoms must be knee length or longer black skirts, or black dress pants with pockets. Please wear black dress shoes. Gentlemen need a black button up shirt and black dress pants. Please wear black dress shoes with black socks. Students should be dressed appropriately. You are representing our school and our organization before and after the performances.

Please keep jewelry to a minimum and refrain from wearing cologne or perfume.

## Contests and Special Events

PASS YOUR CLASSES! Students who pass their classes benefit from the many rewarding opportunities band presents. Those who fail their classes let down the group and lose out on these experiences. It is the student's responsibility to maintain eligibility. Check your grades online, communicate regularly with your teachers, hand in your assignments, study for your tests! Grades play a crucial role in your ability to participate in extra activities. As the director, I have absolutely no discretion when a student is declared academically ineligible. Guidelines restrict students from participating in the following events: Dorian Band, Honors Band, Tri-State, Musical, extra school day events not previously approved by the administration (ie: Field trips).

We want you to be academically responsible!

## Lettering in Band

SWHS Band students may apply for a school letter each year they participate in Band. Eligibility is determined by a point system that is outlined on the following form. Points are cumulative from year to year.

- Students are responsible for filling out the lettering form each year and submitting it to Mrs. Feldman to be initialed. Only students whose forms are approved by Mrs. Feldman by the announced deadline and receive her initial will be considered.
- After students have received a first letter, they are eligible to receive bars/pins.
  - First 500 points = Letter and Band pin
  - Second 500 points = Letter Bar
  - Third 500 points = Instrument Pin
  - Fourth 500 points = Letter Bar
  - Fifth 500 points = Music Staff Pin
  - Sixth 500 points = Commitment to Excellence Pin
  - Seventh 500 points = Star Performer Pin
- Private teachers must be approved by Director
- Summer Band Camp counts for 75 points, please indicate on form
- Points for Service can be earned for the following:
  - Office work: filing organizing, computer, etc. 5 points per hour
  - Event/Concert set up 5 points per hour
  - Cleaning/organizing 5 points per hour
  - Other (see Mrs. Feldman for approval)
- Any other ensembles you are performing in or auditioning for counts for 50/25 points.

## SWHS Band Lettering Form

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

A student may earn a letter for the first 500 points.

A Bar/Pin is earned for each subsequent 500 points

ACTIVITY	POINTS	9	10	11	12
Volunteer Performance	25				
Attending Band Camp	50/day				
Member of Drumline	50				
Member of Colorguard	50				
Drum Major	75				
Section Leader/Captain	75				
Jazz Band Participant	50				
District Festival Soloist	50				
State Festival Soloists	75				
District Festival Ensemble Member	50				
State Festival Ensemble Member	75				
Honors Band Participant	50				
Dorian/Tri-State Participant	50				
Officers	40				
Pit Band	50				
Private Lessons (not from Mrs. Feldman)	10 per lesson				
Special Service to Band (prior Director's approval required)	5/50 per quarter				
Band Concert Performance Attendance (not SW)	10				
Band Audition (not SW)	25				
Band Performance (not SW)	50				
Totals					
Director's initials/date (required every year)					

Meeting this deadline will be your First Grade in Band!

## **HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

(Please read carefully and sign where appropriate)

We have read the hard copy or gone online at [www.swsd.k12.wi.us](http://www.swsd.k12.wi.us) and read the grading guidelines, rules, policies, and expectations as stated in the Southwestern High School Band Handbook. As a student, I understand what will be expected of me as a member of SWHS Band and agree to maintain its tradition of high musical and behavioral standards. As a parent, I understand what is expected of my child and will help him/her meet these expectations. We have discussed these policies together and will see to it that I/the student will fulfill all of his/her obligations to the Southwestern High School Band.

Please sign and return to your director by Monday, September 9th, 2019

Signature of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you!

Dear Parents,

The Southwestern High School Band is preparing for a busy season. These are the parades we will be participating in the 2019-2020 year.

Southwestern Homecoming Parade (Parade time 2:30)	Friday, Sept. 13th
Belmont Fair Parade (Parade time 10:00)	Saturday, Sept. 14th
Kieler Parade (Parade time 12:00)	Sunday, Oct. 6th
High School Halftime Show (Game time 7:00)	Friday, Oct. 11th
UW-Platteville Homecoming Parade (Parade time 10:00)	Saturday, Oct. 19th

Precise bus times and schedules will be passed out one week before the parade. If your student can not make a performance, please fill out the absence excuse form and return it to me. These forms are located on the band room wall. Please let me know sooner than later so that we can make the necessary changes to the parade block.

**\*\*\*\*\*Students will need to have their own pair of black shoes and socks, tennis shoes will be the most comfortable. Wind and Percussion students will also need a pair of shorts and a t-shirt to wear under their uniform.\*\*\*\*\***

We are in great need of chaperones this year. Any parents that can help us out with this, please let us know. We will need people to help braid hair and get the students dressed for performances, as well as helping out during the parade. There will also be a need to have pants hemmed. If you are able to help with this, please let me know.

The uniforms will be issued the first week of school. The jackets, pants, bandanas and garment bags are very expensive, and will look good for a long time with the proper care. Because we want our uniforms to remain in good shape, the following policy will be in effect. Please read it carefully, then, sign the permission slip and uniform agreement below.

UNIFORM CHECKOUT AGREEMENT

***The student and/or parent shall be responsible for the uniform that is issued until it is checked back in by the director. Uniforms shall be hung neatly and kept in their bags when not in use. A \$3.00 cleaning fee will be paid by the student. In the event that a uniform is lost or damaged, the student and/or parent will be responsible for the replacement cost.***

Please fill out the slip below and return the bottom portion to school as soon as possible. This slip is worth points toward your student's grade. I am looking forward to seeing you during the school year, and thank you!

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(Please Sign and Return the bottom portion with the hand book form to Mrs. Feldman along with the \$3 cleaning fee)

I GIVE MY PERMISSION FOR MY SON/DAUGHTER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PERFORMANCES AND ACTIVITIES LISTED ABOVE DURING THE 2019-2020 MARCHING SEASON, AND TO BE TAKEN TO A DOCTOR FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT IN CASE OF INJURY, ETC. WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THE BAND FOR SOUTHWESTERN SCHOOLS OF HAZEL GREEN. I ALSO HAVE READ, UNDERSTOOD, AND HEREBY AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE SOUTHWESTERN SCHOOL BAND UNIFORM AGREEMENT.

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Student Signature

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Parent/Guardian Signature and Date