

# New Member's Handbook

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most Everything you need to know about being in the Band  
2018-19

**SOUTHMOORE HIGH SCHOOL BAND**  
**NEW MEMBER’S HANDBOOK**

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## **Welcome to the SaberCat Band Family!**

We are extremely excited that you have decided to continue your music education in the Southmoore Instrumental Arts Program. In a few short years, our program has gone from non-existent to a place where students are achieving at high levels every day. This is a great time to be a part of this outstanding organization.

This handbook does not serve as a “rules book.” That document - the official “band handbook” - will be made available online and serves as our policies and procedures book and will detail information such as grading policies, membership requirements, etc. Essentially, this guide has been created to help our new students and parents make the “jump” from junior high to high school band, though even seasoned band student and parent will benefit from reading through these pages. This transition is often a time of apprehension for our students as they start into what may feel like unknown territory. Often there is a great deal of misinformation for students and parents to sort through and we hope this handbook will deliver practical information concerning participation in the Southmoore High School Band.

## **Section I - Being in the Band**

### **What is in it for me?**

First and foremost, the study of instrumental music is extremely interesting, enjoyable, and fulfilling. We could write an entire handbook over the profound benefits of music study and band participation, however for our purposes we will mention few other “non-musical” benefits:

1. **Band is FUN!** Here you will learn that it is possible to be serious and have fun at the same time. Of course, we are not serious all the time...
2. **Band is Memorable...** There are many opportunities available to our students; however, our staff is focused on creating great experiences for all that participate. It is these lasting memories and sound educational experiences that will prove to profoundly and positively impact all who a part of our program. Each year our seniors usually dread the day they are forced to leave our program. You will always fondly remember your great experiences in the Southmoore band.
3. **Band is as an AP course for life skills...** Want a taste of the real world? - band provides it. These real-life skills are taught in band:
  - ✧ How to achieve and expect high standards
  - ✧ Developing great work ethic
  - ✧ Learn to successfully work with many differing personalities
  - ✧ How to manage your time wisely
  - ✧ You get what you give...you give what you get
  - ✧ Financial Commitment
  - ✧ The intrinsic value of Community Service
  - ✧ Servant Leadership Skills
  - ✧ Many more...
4. **The Southmoore Band is Successful...** The Southmoore High School Band is the largest student group on campus and is comprised of many of Southmoore’s top students. The band has already earned an excellent reputation for demonstrating a high level of performance and our students take pride in always doing their best. Our students take AP classes and participate in many different sports, clubs, and other student groups at Southmoore. Some people believe that people who are already smart enroll in band...this may be true but perhaps enrollment in band helps makes students achieve higher (scientific studies back up this statement)!
5. **Band is “Home” ...** Our program provides a “home” within our large school and provides a great place for your student to be a part. Students are happier and more successful in school when they feel a part of the total school community – our band provides a wonderful and educational “home” within the school.

### **What will I be doing?**

#### **Mid-May through October**

During the summer and fall months our curriculum focuses on the marching band activity and is commonly referred to as “marching season”. Students will continue to develop their instrumental playing skills while adding the element of moving at the same time. Additionally, students will also have the opportunity to audition for the fall color guard which usually occurs in May.

Percussion students focus on outdoor percussion instruments and are divided into two sub-sections – the battery percussion and the front-ensemble.

A healthy amount of performances take place during marching season. Students perform, with few exceptions, at most every varsity football game, home, away, and any playoff games. Our marching band participates in five to six marching competitions most which take place on Saturdays in the Oklahoma City or Tulsa metro-areas (see below).

Due to the addition of movement while playing along with the complexities of our competitive marching band show, rehearsals take place more frequently during this time of the year. Rehearsals are scheduled periodically throughout the summer and become more regular before the first day of school. Marching band rehearsals take place every day at 7:00 AM through the end of first hour. Students also rehearse after school on Thursdays from 5:30 to 8:30 PM and will have a “sectional” rehearsal once a week after school for approximately two hours. These additional rehearsals are scheduled to allow our students to have the best opportunity for success, especially since we perform for a panel of judges (and more importantly our parents and their families) many times throughout marching season. A typical marching day is shown below:

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
7:00 AM	Rehearsal Begins
9:00 AM	Rehearsal Concludes – change clothes
9:22 AM	Second Hour Begins...go learn more stuff
3:13 PM	School Ends
3:45 to 5:00 PM	Brass/Woodwind Sectional or Concert Rehearsals (one day per week)
5:30 to 8:30 PM	Guard Sectional (one day per week)
6:00 to 9:00 PM	Percussion Sectional (one day per weekly)
5:30 to 8:30 PM	Full Ensemble Rehearsal (Thursday Only)

### **Game Days**

Football Game days are a special event in the life of a band student as it allows our band to be visible to a large part of our community. Our students enjoy being a part of these truly “Americana” events and cite them as among the best memories of their band experience. Typically, our students will perform “pep” music while in the stands and then perform their field show either before the game or at halftime.

On game day, morning rehearsals and other activities go on as regularly scheduled. We typically hold a rehearsal after school beginning at 3:45 PM. The bandroom is open and available for students to congregate after school releases until the 3:45 rehearsal. After rehearsal students eat and change into performances clothing. A weekly meal is provided to students who cannot drive or do not wish to bring dinner to school. This meal is optional and costs \$6 per week.

Students are bused to all football games. Please note that all our home games are held at Moore High School at Moore Stadium. We typically perform our field show at halftime during home games and take a smaller “pep band” to away games. Football games are held on Thursday or Friday each week during the season and “kick-off” at 7:00 PM. A typical game day schedule is shown below:

<b>Approximate Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
7:00 AM to 9:00 AM	Morning Rehearsal
9:22 AM	Second Hour Begins...go learn
3:45 to 4:45 PM	Full Ensemble Rehearsal
4:45 to 5:45 PM	Eat and Change into uniform
5:45 to 6:00 PM	Board Busses and Travel to Stadium
6:35 PM	Pre-Game Performance (Westmoore Game)
7:00 PM	Kickoff
8:30 PM	Halftime Performance (Home Games)
10:15 PM	Game Concludes, board busses
10:45 PM	Return to SHS, unload, CLEAN BANDROOM
11:00 PM	Depart after cleaning and properly storing equipment

## 2018 Southmoore Football Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Kick-off Time</b>
August 30	Thursday	Deer Creek	Moore Stadium	7:00 PM
September 7	Friday	@ Westmoore	Moore Stadium	7:00 PM
September 14	Friday	@ Stillwater	Pioneer Stadium	7:00 PM
September 21	Friday	*Moore	Moore Stadium	7:00 PM
September 28	Friday	@ PC North	Putnam City Stadium	7:00 PM
October 5	Friday	Mustang	Moore Stadium	7:00 PM
October 12	Friday	@ Owasso	Owasso Stadium	7:30 PM
October 19	Friday	Edmond North	Moore Stadium	7:30 PM
October 26	Friday	@ Tulsa Union	Union Tuttle Stadium	7:00 PM
November 2	Friday	**Norman North	Moore Stadium	7:00 PM
		* Homecoming & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Night		
		** Senior Night		

### Marching Contests

The Southmoore Band will participate in approximately five marching contests each year. These contests typically take place on Saturdays and are typically located in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa metro areas. “Contest Days” almost always fill up an entire day – morning, noon, and night. Most contests are “prelim/finals” format, meaning each competing band participates in a morning or afternoon “preliminary” performance with the top 12 scoring bands advancing to another performance (“finals”) later that evening. Our band parent organization provides lunch and dinner for every “prelims/finals” marching contest. Typically, our band will hold a rehearsal before departing for contest and will stay for the entire contest, regardless of whether the band scores high enough to participate in the finals competition.

Contrary to popular belief, the purpose of participation in these contests is not exclusively to “win.” Much like Olympic figure skating or gymnastics, our competition results are extremely subjective in nature therefore the numerical results must always be celebrated or tempered with this fact in mind.

Conversely, a regular “look” at our students’ performances by qualified professionals certainly seeks to enhance their educational experience and provides valuable feedback to our staff and students. Furthermore, our students are provided with an audience that is more knowledgeable and invested in the marching activity and attended the contest for the sole purpose of watching high school marching bands. This often provides an experience that simply cannot be duplicated at a regular football game where halftime may unfortunately be viewed as a concession stands and restroom opportunity by many in attendance!

The following is a typical contest day. The example below is for a contest located in the Tulsa metro area and a 1:00 PM preliminary performance time. Obviously exact times would vary due to differing locations and performance times.

<b>Approximate Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
8:00 to 8:45 AM	Full Ensemble Rehearsal (eat breakfast before arrival)
8:45 to 9:30 AM	Load Equipment and Board Busses
9:30 AM	Depart for Contest
11:30 AM	Arrive at contest, unload and dress in uniform
12:15 PM	Warm-Up Block
1:00 PM	Preliminary Performance
1:15 PM	Performance Concludes, change into a band shirt
1:30 PM	Band Boosters Provide Lunch
2:00 to 5:00 PM	Students watch other bands perform
5:00 PM	Preliminary Awards and Finalists Bands Announcements
5:15 PM	Boosters Provide Dinner
6:00 PM	Students prepare to perform or watch Finals
7:00 PM	Finals Competition Begins
10:15 PM	Finalist Band Massing and Awards Ceremony
10:45 PM	Ceremony Concludes, students change out of uniform and board busses
11:30 PM	Depart Contest
1:45 AM	Arrive at SHS, unload and clean bandroom
2:00 AM	Go home

## 2018 Southmoore Marching Contest Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Contest</b>	<b>Location</b>
September 15	Saturday	Mock Contest	Southmoore Stadium
September 22	Saturday	Moore Outdoor Music Festival	Moore Stadium
September 29	Saturday	Yukon Invitational Marching Contest	Yukon, OK
October 6	Saturday	BA Nightrider Invitational	Broken Arrow, OK
October 20	Saturday	Oklahoma Bandmasters Association Class 6A Marching Championships	Broken Arrow, OK
October 23	Tuesday	OSSAA Regional Marching Contest **	Yukon, OK
		**one performance only, not “prelims/finals” format	

### November through Mid-May

A multitude of concurrent activities occur during the late fall through spring months. Each of these activities is great methods for students to improve their craft. Also, please note that the only activities students are required to be a part of are our Wind Bands and Chamber Music. All other activities are optional and provided to our students for fun and educational activities.

Wind Bands – “Wind Bands” is the “academic” term for Concert Band, or simply a band playing on stage in a traditional concert setting. This time of year is traditionally termed “concert season.” Students are divided into three bands on the merits of an audition. This allows our staff to cater our curriculum based on the needs of each individual student. The highest scoring students participate in the “Wind Ensemble” and our more developing students participate in the “Symphonic Band.” The “Freshmen Concert Band” is made up of freshmen students and these students will switch their band hour to second hour during the spring semester. All bands perform music of the highest caliber, perform for all public concerts, and participate in OSSAA State Band Contests in April.

Jazz Bands – Jazz studies are an integral part of the Southmoore Instrumental Arts Program. Students who participate in jazz band gain from the additional playing time on their instrument and perform music that simply is fun to play. All three jazz bands have an active performance schedule from playing at various school functions and community events, to formal concerts and contests. Jazz Bands meet during a separate hour and occur throughout the entire year.

Due to high enrollment numbers the Southmoore Jazz Program offers three class hours in the regular academic schedule. The third hour jazz band is open to all Southmoore Band students and serves as our foundation group where students are introduced to jazz style and performance. The fifth and sixth hour jazz bands functions as a select group with students admitted only by audition. These ensembles will be a more advanced level groups allowing our students to experience more challenging literature. In most cases students must be enrolled in first or second hour band to enroll in jazz band.

Chamber Music – ALL students participate in our chamber music groups. Every student is required to participate on at least one chamber music ensemble and may choose to participate in many more. Chamber music is simply small groups of musicians performing. Students participate in groups as small as one (a solo) to as large as eighteen total musicians. The smaller number of musicians forces our students to more quickly develop musically as they are often the only student playing their “part.” A great deal of research has shown that participation in chamber music quickly builds students overall musicianship and is therefore a high priority of the Southmoore Instrumental Arts Program. Students perform their chamber music pieces at OSSAA District and State Solo and Ensemble Contests as well as at the Southmoore Chamber music concert.

Winterguard – Our Colorguard program includes a competitive Winterguard during the late fall and spring semesters. Winterguard, basically, are guard students performing in a gym to recorded music utilizing guard movements and equipment. Participation in Winterguard provides students with an additional means of skill development as well as offers them further public performance opportunities. Our winterguard is a member of the Winterguard and Percussion of Oklahoma Circuit and competes in many events from January through early April. Membership in Winterguard is open to all Southmoore students, including Junior High students attending a Southmoore feeder school. Participation in winterguard is highly recommended for students wishing to improve their skills and by students hoping to complete a successful audition into the fall Colorguard.

Percussion – Our program offers extended performance opportunities to our percussion students after marching season. The world of percussion is so immense that it simply cannot be adequately covered during regular first hour rehearsals. This year the program will perform as an indoor percussion marching group that will compete in the Winterguard and Percussion of Oklahoma Circuit. In past/future years the percussion students present a “Percussion Concert” to showcase the skills that have been developed.

### Irregular Winter/Spring Activities:

These activities take place after marching season but for predetermined and shorter periods of time.

Musical Orchestra – The Southmoore Band Program provides the instrumental music accompaniments to the yearly Southmoore musical production. Students are selected based on past demonstration of musical abilities. Our program works in cooperation with the Choral and Drama departments to produce a first-class performance in March. Typically, the orchestra will hold weekly rehearsals about a month prior to our “move-in” at the auditorium. An intensive rehearsal and performance schedule is required for approximately two consecutive weeks once we have moved into the orchestra pit.

Basketball Games – The band will perform for typically 2 to 4 home varsity boys’ and girls’ basketball games per year. The band is split into two pep bands and each student is required to perform for 1 or 2 games per year. All games take place in the Southmoore Gymnasium and occur late December through mid-February.

**Spring Contests**

During the spring time the band participates in a variety of Spring Competitions. The state activity association, the OSSAA, administers most of these competitions. These competitions most often occur during the school day and students receive an excused absence for participation in these contests. In all OSSAA competitions, the participants earn a rating from I to V. The goal is to receive a I – a Superior rating. Read below for descriptions of our spring competitions.

OSSAA State Band Contest – All Wind Bands separately compete in this contest usually occurring in Mid-April. The band will play two or three “concert band” pieces of music for a panel of three judges who each assign a rating to the performance based on quality.

OSSAA State Sight-reading Contest – The state sight-reading Contest occurs at the same time as the state band contest. After the Band performs on stage, they then participate in the sight-reading contest, usually in a bandroom at the contest site. Students are handed a piece of music that they have never played and perform it for a panel of three judges who assign a rating based on the quality of the performance. Students prepare the piece without playing, but instead using other techniques such as counting rhythms aloud, for 8-10 minutes prior to the performance.

OSSAA Solo/Ensemble Contests – All students are divided into chamber ensembles as explained above. These smaller groups of musicians prepare a selection to perform for a judge at the District Solo/Ensemble Contest in February. Ensembles that receive a Superior rating at the district competition advance to the state Solo/Ensemble Contest in April. Students may also choose to perform a solo at the district contest (Wind Ensemble Students are required to perform a solo) to attempt to advance to state competition. Students are encouraged to participate in multiple ensembles and perform a solo during these contests.

OSSAA State Jazz Band Contest – The Jazz Bands compete in this contest usually occurring in Late-April. The bands will play three or four standard jazz pieces of various styles for a panel of three judges who each assign a point value of up to 100 points based on the performance quality. Bands earn a rating and are ranked by highest amount of points earned.

Band programs that receive a Superior rating in the OSSAA regional Marching Band Contest, the State Band Contest, and the State Sight-reading Contest earn the **OSSAA State Sweepstakes Award**. A Band Program that earns a Sweepstakes Award, and receives a superior rating in the State Jazz Band competition, qualifies for a Sweepstakes Award “**with accent**”. In the ten years that Southmoore has existed, our students have earned the Sweepstakes Award, with accent, seven years. This is the highest honor a band program can receive.

**2019 Southmoore Spring Contest Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Contest</b>	<b>Location</b>
February 16	Saturday	OSSAA District Solo/Ensemble Contest	Southmoore
April 8	Monday	OSSAA State Band/Sight-reading Contest – Concert Band	Edmond
April 10	Wednesday	OSSAA State Band/Sight-reading Contest – Symphonic Band	Edmond
April 11	Thursday	OSSAA State Band/Sight-reading Contest – Wind Ensemble	OU, Norman
April 18	Thursday	OSSAA State Solo/Ensemble Contest	OSU, Stillwater
April 27	Wednesday	OSSAA State Jazz Band Contest	UCO, Edmond

**Who are my Teachers?**

Our students are taught by a team of dedicated professionals who care about the success of your child. We employ three full time band directors and numerous part time instructors. Full time teachers are salaried employees paid by the district while part time staff is paid using student fees.

### Certified Full-Time Band Directors

**Mr. Adam Mewhorter** is our head band director and is responsible for the entire band program. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Mr. Mewhorter completes all administrative functions, manages program finances, hires auxiliary staff, and sets the vision for the overall band program. He also travels to Highland West and Southridge Junior Highs to supplement instruction.

**Mr. Geoffrey Clifton** is our assistant band director and plays a major role in all functions of the band program. Mr. Clifton is the primary teacher of the three jazz bands and the Symphonic Band during concert season.

**Mr. Byron Church** is an associate band director. He assists in all functions of the high school band program and teaches at the high school during first hour daily. Mr. Church is the Highland West Junior High Band Program and is responsible for all facets of that junior high band program.

**Mr. Rick Street** is an associate band director. He assists in all functions of the high school band program and teaches at the high school during first hour daily. Mr. Street is the Southridge Junior High Band Program and is responsible for all facets of that junior high band program.

### Auxiliary Staff

Auxiliary staff members serve at the pleasure of the head band director. These names are valid as of August 16, 2017 but are subject to change.

**Mr. Paul Nesper** is responsible for teaching brass at both feeder Junior Highs and the High School.

**Ms. Susan Wessel** is responsible for “writing” our colorguard choreography and in charge of many visual aspects of the 2018 marching band production. She is responsible for coordinating the instruction our colorguard students and leads the Winterguard program.

**Sergeant Alan Wallace** is responsible for coordinating the instruction of our percussion students

**Mr. Dillon Buser, Mr. Trey Brown, Mr. Shelby Huffman, Ms. Sharon Blocker, and Mr. Tim Barte** are responsible for instructing our percussion students

**Ms. Kaitlynn Carter** is responsible for instructing our colorguard students

**Mrs. Aiden Street** is responsible for teaching visual dance choreography to our band students and “writing” the wind and percussion choreography. She is also vital in providing input and direction concerning all pageantry arts activities.

**Mr. Gabriel Schaffer** is responsible for marching and maneuvering instruction as well as contributing to all teaching and functions of the band program.

**Mr. Adam Cain** is responsible for instructing our brass students.

**Mrs. Alicia Clifton** is a counselor at SHS with an extensive background in music and aids in music instruction.

### What is expected of me?

Much could be written about the expectations of our students. At the risk of oversimplifying, our staff simply expects each student to have an **outstanding attitude** about participating in band. With a **great attitude**, all the following is possible:

- The student will WANT to improve musically and therefore will do so
- The student will CHOOSE to be at all required band events and may show up to others as well
- The student will MAKE CORRECT DECISIONS because bad decisions hurt the band
- The student will WORK to always give great effort into improving the overall band
- The student will SMILE and infect all those around them with their great attitude meaning...
- Even when working hard, all will have FUN while learning to be great

The student with the great attitude will soon discover that the more they GIVE to the band the more they will GET from being in band. We simply expect everyone to have a great attitude. A less than superior attitude is simply not tolerated and not at all conducive to creating a great band and overall learning environment

## **Attendance**

There is no mystery to our attendance expectations; students who enroll in band are making a commitment to attend ALL activities – pure and simple. Band calendars are distributed well in advance (and are ALWAYS available at southmooreband.com) to help families plan accordingly. Procedures are put in place when an event must be missed due to unforeseen or abnormal circumstances. We expect students to adjust their schedules to ensure attendance at all band events during the school year.

During the summer months, it is understandable that students will miss rehearsals at times. We simply expect students to attend if they are in town during a rehearsal. We want our students to go on vacation, attend summer camps, eat the great food at reunions, etc. and do not wish for the band to cause families to miss these important activities. The rehearsals that occur during August, however, are the most vital and we therefore need our students to attend these rehearsals for their band to be successful.

During the school year attendance is not optional. For instance, when one person is missing during a marching practice, the problem is amplified many times over. It is very difficult to learn to march a show if there are “holes” instead of bodies on the practice field. Those students who are at practice cannot figure out where to go because the people their drill relates to are missing and the people who are missing don't know where to go when they return. Time is wasted and the band fails to reach its potential - everybody loses.

If your child MUST miss rehearsal or part of a rehearsal, please fill out the absence form found at southmooreband.com at least 48 hours PRIOR to the rehearsal or 10 days prior to a performance. Usually (but not always) when prior notification is attained, Mr. Mewhorter will excuse these absences without a grade reduction.

Students are to avoid at all costs simply “ditching” a rehearsal or performance. This is completely unacceptable behavior in our band program or in the “real world” and appropriate consequences will be administered that could include removal from the band program.

## **Equipment**

Your student will be responsible for taking care of all school equipment. Students who play a school owned instrument are charged a \$50 maintenance fee and the student will be charged for any repair or replacement costs that occur while the instrument is in his or her care. Parents, please help emphasize the importance of taking care of our instruments. These are VERY expensive pieces of equipment that you do NOT want to pay to repair or replace.

## **High School Freedoms**

With a band of approximately 225 students it is simply impossible, unfeasible, and honestly unnecessary to provide a “tight leash,” on all students all the time. The band directors consider our students to be junior adults and therefore treat them with the respect due such people. Obviously, we do not lose sight that our students are very much capable of making incorrect decisions and therefore we work to define and teach what is considered acceptable behavior. However, unlike junior high band, your student will be given the freedom to be unsupervised in many controlled environments, such as marching contests, band trips, and even the bandroom itself. It is expected that parents will discuss these new freedoms at home to help ensure that the maturing student makes correct decisions. The band staff will provide consequences for bad decisions and it is expected that the parents will support and even enhance these attempts at encouraging correct behavior.

## **How do I fit band into my Life?**

Parents constantly ask our staff: “Does my student have enough time to be in band” and the answer is a resounding...YES! There is a reason that our organization has the highest GPA on campus, the practical skills taught in band are applicable to other academic subjects and life in general. To put your mind at ease:

- Students DO have time to do their homework. Often proper time management skills must be learned, but many of our students end up being ranked high in their class – they must have got their homework finished!
- Students CAN participate in other activities, even school sports. The band staff will make time compromises to allow students to participate in other activities. Communication is the key...do not show up after a performance and say “um...I was at a chess tournament” we must talk BEFORE any potential conflicts. We currently have many athletes and club members in our band.
- Many of our students have a job and attend all band activities. It takes great communication with your employer, especially during marching season, but it is possible to hold a job and be in band.

## **Tell me about the different “Band Clothes”**

### **Student Owned Band Attire**

All Students will be expected to own specific band attire. These items are purchased during the first year of band participation and may be used throughout all years in band. Students who lose, outgrow, or destroy any of these items will need to purchase new attire through the band office.

Band Polo – The Band polo is a “Sport” style shirt embroidered with a Southmoore band logo. The polo is worn at many events requiring a more “business casual” look such as those listed below:

- Early Season hot temperature football games
- Basketball Game performances
- Many Jazz Performances
- When hosting Contests at Southmoore
- Other events as specified

“Vegas Gold” Shirt – the Vegas gold shirt is a “breathable” sports shirt designed to wear in Oklahoma Heat. This shirt is worn often throughout marching season as listed below:

- Underneath the uniform jacket
- During “Vegas Gold” rehearsals (those that occur immediately prior to football games and contests)
- Encore Marching Performance
- Other events as specified

Band Uniform Attire – the following items are typically worn with the band uniform and purchased ala carte when needed

- Long Black Dress Socks must be worn with the band uniform and purchased at any retailer. Students forgetting their black socks may purchase socks from our boosters at cost plus a “convenience fee” or may not be allowed to perform.
- Band/Guard Shoes are shoes purchased through the band office that are worn with the band uniform. Students must wear the official band shoe with their band/guard uniform.
- Gloves – Brass and Woodwind students wear white gloves with the band uniform. These gloves are purchased for \$5 during the marching season.
- Color Guard students may be required to purchase a variety of accessories depending on the color guard uniform selected each year.

### **School Owned Attire**

Band Uniforms – The band program loans students an official band uniform to be worn for most marching performances. These uniforms are purchased at great costs by our community using bond funds and are therefore expected to be treated as a prized gift from our patrons. Furthermore, students are obviously easily identified as Southmoore Band students and therefore are to maintain proper decorum and behavior always while in uniform. Students should NEVER eat while in uniform and only drink water.

Colorguard Uniforms – the band program loans an official Colorguard uniform to each guard student every year. These uniforms are purchased each year using student band fee money. The uniform changes each year depending on the theme of each marching show. These uniforms are usually less durable than the band uniform therefore great care is required to maintain the uniform throughout the season.

Wind Ensemble Dresses – the band department provides concert dresses to each young lady participating in the Wind Ensemble. These dresses to provide a “professional” look to our Wind Ensemble typical to high performing ensembles. Concert Dresses will be purchased for the entire band program, as funds permit, at a currently undetermined future date.

Wind Ensemble Tuxedos – the band program currently shares tuxedo jackets with our choral music program to provide a unified professional look to our wind ensemble. Young men participating in the Wind Ensemble buy a tuxedo shirt and black slacks to complement the tuxedo coat. The band program will purchase a set of tuxedo jackets for the entire band, as funds permit, at a currently undetermined future date.

## **How Does the Weather Affect the Band?**

### **Rehearsal Attire**

It is important to note that not having the proper attire is not a satisfactory reason for having a poor rehearsal. We expect common sense; therefore, do not wear a trench coat and jeans in July or shorts and a t-shirt in late October! Also, please consider:

- Students should wear comfortable shoes (preferably low-topped tennis shoes) and socks for marching rehearsals. This is important in that the style of marching step we use requires that the foot and ankle be permitted to move freely. Open heeled shoes simply do not work for marching.
- We live in Oklahoma – bring water, preferably in an insulated container, to outdoor hot rehearsals. Drink water BEFORE rehearsal to help stay hydrated.
- Eat a good meal before attending marching rehearsals – a candy bar with a “Monster” Energy Drink does not cut it...

- The health of the student is the most important consideration; students who feel ill while marching are expected to stop marching, sit down and rest. The staff does NOT punish students for taking a medical break, however we DO expect students to prepare for rehearsal to avoid “self-inflicted” illness due to lack of eating, poor hydration, or improper clothing choices.

### **Rehearsals and Performances**

Rehearsals are rarely canceled due to inclement weather. We will usually not rehearse outdoors in the rain, unless it is merely drizzle or intermittent light rain. In the event of steady rain, we will rehearse indoors and go outside at the first opportunity. Rehearsal formats may be altered, but the rehearsals are very rarely canceled.

Very rarely a marching competition will be canceled due to rain, but this does not happen in most cases. If it is raining on a competition day, we will still load up and travel to the site unless we are notified that the competition has been canceled. We will then assess the weather and our chances of presenting a creditable performance after arrival. Students will not be asked to stand or sit for lengthy periods in the rain – if we can find no other shelter we will return to the buses. For home football games, a rainy Friday night can be a pain, but we generally wait in the band room to see how the rain is going to develop. If it is possible by half-time to go out and perform and remain for the rest of the game we will – if not, we will decide to dismiss when it becomes apparent that we will not be able to perform.

Never assume an event is cancelled unless you personally hear a band staff member announce an event is cancelled or you receive a text from the Remind band account. Absences will not be excused due to an incorrect assumption that an event is cancelled.

Our staff is aware of the sometimes-serious nature of Oklahoma weather and monitors conditions at appropriate times. When severe weather is imminent, students will be moved to a safe location in our building or nearest structure. Please note that students are released to parents only when the imminent threat has passed.

### **Student Leadership Group**

Students are encouraged to participate in our band leadership group. The group participates in leadership training activities and is responsible for coordinating many vital activities and functions of the band program. Meetings are held throughout the year and all band students are eligible to participate.

## **Section II – Having a Student in the Band**

### **Keeping the family “in the loop”**

An earnest attempt is made to keep all families up to date concerning band activities and logistics. Unfortunately, not every piece of information is hand delivered to the parents by the students (I know you are shocked to hear teenagers may forget to give you a letter!). Please become familiar with our attempts to get information to our patrons.

southmooreband.com – Our primary means of communication is the band webpage – southmooreband.com. All information sheets that are handed out to the students can be downloaded on our page. We also have a wealth of other information including program details, contact information, calendars, and our “member’s page”. Our member’s page has a wealth of learning material for our students (and parents) including recordings of judge’s comments; music downloads, and archive pages. To truly know what is happening, make a habit of regularly checking out southmooreband.com.

Band Bulletins – Our primary means of communicating current band events is our band bulletins. These are made available to the students every Monday in the fall and approximately every three to four weeks when our activities slow down after marching season. The bulletin is where our trip itineraries can be found as well as all other current activities that need further explanation. Band bulletins are available in hard copy in the bandroom and available for download at southmooreband.com on the home page.

Remind 101 Text Messaging Services – Mr. Mewhorter operates a text messaging service via the free online service “Remind 101.” The service allows Mr. Mewhorter to text out information that is time sensitive as needed throughout the year. He also texts times that students arrive back on campus after trips which can help parents from having the wait hours in a parking lot when we are delayed. This service is secure and Mr. Mewhorter will not have access to your phone number (nor will you get Mr. Mewhorter’s cell phone number ☺). To receive messages via text, text ‘@mrmew’ to 81010. You can opt-out of messages at any time by replying, 'unsubscribe @mrmew'. The band parent’s organization and the colorguard director also maintain separate Remind 101 services. Please see southmooreband.com for more info and enrollment information.

Band Parents e-mail List – One of our SBPPAA organization sends out regular e-mails of parent activities and some band activities upon request. This is an excellent way to stay up to date on current fundraising opportunities and other band happenings. The e-mail list does not supplement reading the band bulletin or checking out the band page, but is another excellent method of staying in the loop. See sabercatband.com for enrollment information.

Facebook/Twitter – The band staff maintains the open group page – “Southmoore Band” page on Facebook and Twitter. Much like the e-mail list, adding the group “Southmoore Band” does not supplement the band bulletins or southmooreband.com, but adds another dimension of communication, especially since so many parents regularly check Facebook!

The SBPPAA a closed group page – “Southmoore Parents, Patrons, and Alumni” on Facebook. This group is especially beneficial to parents because the group is made up of only adults and therefore discusses issues of interest to band parents.

Social media is primarily used as a one-way communication device. The band staff prefers e-mail, telephone, and face to face meetings as the best method for two-way dialogue.

## **Picking Up Your Child**

The staff makes every effort to end rehearsals on schedule. This is not an exact science, and on rare occasions it takes a few extra minutes to bring adequate closure to the rehearsal. At any rate, after rehearsal the students must put away equipment and get their stuff ready to go home, therefore please allow 10-15 minutes after the announced end of rehearsal before you would expect them to be ready to get in the car.

Concerning performances, we provided detailed itineraries, including approximate dismissal times, on the band bulletins. Obviously, many of these times are estimates, since we have no control over how long a football game or band competition might actually last, or how traffic might affect our ETA. However, even though these events are more difficult to predict end times, the approximate time provided is usually fairly accurate. To help us keep you up to date regarding any time changes, we suggest you subscribe to Mr. Mewhorter’s Remind 101 text messaging service to receive updates (see page 11).

One of the most important reasons to stay in the loop is so you know the approximate time your child will be ready to go home. The band directors spend a great deal of unnecessary time waiting on rides due to poor communication between students and parents or an apathetic attitude towards getting information concerning the event. Our staff understands that your time is valuable and therefore works hard to ensure that most every rehearsal ends at the published time. We ask that you please respect our time by picking up your child in a timely manner.

Often students wish to stay at the school long after an event and therefore delay calling their parents to let them know they are ready to be picked up. Our parents must actively find out the approximate arrival times and additionally instruct their son or daughter to promptly call home to avoid waiting. These actions will be very much appreciated by the band directors, their spouses, and their families!

## **Supporting Your Child and the Band**

Our staff desires that the parents and family will play an active role in the music education of your student. Your son or daughter may be at the age where they seem to not want you around too much – but do not be fooled! They love it when you support their band pursuits. Here are a few ways to help...

Come by and watch a rehearsal – You can learn a great deal about the work your student puts into band by simply watching a rehearsal. Grab a lawn chair, a cup of ice water, and come on out. Please know that you are welcome to be at rehearsals (but do not expect us to converse much with you during rehearsal...we are busy!)

Attend the Performances – Nothing is much more heartbreaking than a kid who does not have someone special supporting them in the audience. Again, they will not necessarily ask you to attend a performance, but I have NEVER met a kid who was not thrilled when their family members came and watched them “do their thing.” Certainly, we do not suggest that you must be at every performance cheering the band on (although you may find following the band is addictive) but please don’t take a negative approach to your child attending rehearsals and performances.

Become an Active Band Parent – We need your help! There are a multitude of fun jobs to do that only adults can handle. Read the section below concerning the Band Parents Organization.

Request a Private Concert – Your kid may roll their eyes at this one, but ask your kid to play some of their music for you at home. This is a great encouragement to your student.

Allow Home Practice Time – Band is an academic class and we also have “homework” to complete. All too often students may not be allowed to practice at home because of the perceived noise pollution it causes in the house. Perhaps it may be wise to set times specific when the instrument may be played in the house, but PLEASE do not ban your student from completing their band “homework!”

Be Supportive – Please, be supportive – keep in mind that very few things can be as constructive to a child’s musical accomplishments, and thereby facilitate the success of the entire program, as a parent who fervently supports their child’s activities. Yes, having a child in band may mean making some sacrifices – just as it does if they are taking dance, or karate, or piano lessons, or tennis lessons, or playing a sport, or just about anything else that is worthwhile. Please consider that they will not be children much longer, and the time they have to do these things that will enrich their lives will soon be gone.

Please, please do not become an enabler – if they want to miss a practice or (horrors!) a performance, make sure you don’t make it easy for them to bail out on the commitment they have made. As marching season progresses, it sometimes may become easier and easier to let our responsibilities slide, and this is definitely not a road we want our children headed down. “Taking the path of least resistance makes rivers and men crooked.”

### **Is your child considering Quitting Band?**

Parents...please allow a frank and admittedly opinioned discussion of this topic...please read with caution!

Plain and simple: parents - it is up to you if your child will quit band. I have an issue with the argument “well, I don't want to make them hate playing their instrument.” Does that argument hold true for Math Class? “I don't want Susie Q to hate Math for the rest of her life, so I am withdrawing her from all math classes at semester.” No, of course not. In fact, I have never met a person who said, “my father or mother forced me to continue playing the flute and I hated it and resented ever learning to play it.” Yes, you will have periods in your life where it is a struggle, even a battle, to get them to practice or even play. But do you give up on them? No!

Let me put it this way: sometimes you should force your child, against their wishes, to clean their room. You might punish them into doing it, or guilt them, or bribe them. But never would you have the (irrational) fear “I hope that I don't make them hate cleaning their room... I hope that they don't grow up total slobs because they learned to hate clean rooms because of my actions.” You make your children brush their teeth. They may cry and wail and complain, but you make them do it. Why? Because you are the adult and you know more they do. Because you can see “the Big Picture” and you know that the time and effort invested will be well worth it. You know that eventually they will come to love and embrace the feeling of a clean mouth, that they might one day even thank you for still having beautiful teeth and an attractive smile, as well as the ability to eat corn-on-the-cob.

It is up to you. What is important in your house? What values do you want to pass along to your children? I invite you to consider participation in Band as important as anything that you would be willing to argue with your child about; anything with which you would force your child to do "for his/her own good." Because it is - plain and simple.

I have counseled many unhappy students who regretted their choice of quitting band, especially since we do not normally allow them back into the program. Furthermore, ninety-nine percent of all children who stop playing in school never pick up an instrument again in their lives. If they stop, they simply will never start again. If they want to quit, most likely there is a very real reason why. Let's find out what it is and deal with it. They may not be able to admit what it is out loud. Most likely, it is a source of embarrassment - at their inability to master a new skill, to play at a level equal with their peers, the fear of being a “band geek” ...or a simple teenaged disagreement with someone in band. Let's work together to solve this (often hidden) reason and keep your child invested and active in the act of making music. It will make them a better person and a more responsible citizen of the world.

## **Become an active Southmoore Band Parent**

### **Southmoore Band Parent, Patrons, and Alumni Organization’s Purpose**

A large high school band program simple would not function without a dedicated adult support group. The Southmoore Band Parents, Patrons, and Alumni Association (SBPPAA) serve as our support group and these patrons provide logistical and financial assistance that help our students thrive. Our program is fortunate to be served by volunteers who have a heart and love for the band program and the welfare of our students.

All parents are members of the SBPPAA. Regular meetings are held on the third Monday of each month. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM and take place in the bandroom. Please contact the current SBPPAA president, Staci Pruett, at [president@sabercatband.com](mailto:president@sabercatband.com) for more information.

Parents, friends, and patrons we ask that you play an active role in our group. You will have the opportunity to meet and work alongside some wonderful people who share common interests. You also get to play a vital role in supporting an activity that is very important and valuable to your child. Even if you have not typically gotten involved in parent groups throughout elementary and junior high, we hope you will consider taking an active role in the band. Our parents serve the band and have FUN in the process!

### **Activities**

There are a great many duties to complete to adequately support the band. Our program has approximately 225 students enrolled and therefore should have more than enough adults to get all jobs accomplished. Often only a small group of dedicated parents are

brave enough to step up...but please know YOU CAN DO IT! Our students need your help even if you can only help on rare occasions.

We need all kinds of help like:

- Bus Chaperones
- Concession Workers
- Preparing food for students (I know you can grill!)
- Parent Leadership Positions
- People to push equipment onto the field (it all rolls)
- Smart Drivers who own a truck and can haul the band trailer to performances
- Band Uniform Organizers and washers (a standard washing machine is all that is needed)
- Equipment loaders
- Prop Builders
- Altering uniforms and dresses
- Fundraisers
- People who like to get out of the house, support their kids, and have fun
- And more stuff

## **The Senior Year**

Certainly, it is our sincere hope that all students who participate in the Southmoore High School band will one day be senior band students. We are grateful for our students who choose to commit to our program for four years and we seek to recognize them for their contributions to the band program. Presently we have two special nights dedicated to our seniors

Senior Night – During the last home football game of each season we stop to honor our seniors and their parents. Immediately after the halftime show, parents escort each senior and are announced individually at the game. This is a special night for our senior students.

Band Banquet – Though we honor the entire band, a major emphasis is placed on honoring our senior students. We include a baby picture and senior picture of senior students as part of our band video and recognize each student again individually at the banquet.

Graduation – All graduating band students will receive a pink cord to wear with their cap and gown at graduation (pink is the official music color, please blame the Greeks for color selection, not the band directors). They also will earn a medallion engraved with their name to wear at graduation and other items to keep as a permanent reminder of their fun days in the Southmoore band.

## **Personal Items left in the bandroom**

Our school has provided outstanding instruments and a fantastic auditorium along with great overall support. However, our bandrooms are simply much too small to effectively house our band and all its equipment. Unfortunately, our small floor space causes our room to be overflowing with our equipment and therefore very difficult to remain orderly – which is imperative to create a great learning environment. We desire for our students to cultivate a pride concerning keeping their bandroom clean.

Students may store their instrument in the bandroom; however, we simply do not have enough space to accommodate any other personal items. Belongings such as clothing, bags, textbooks, and other articles are NOT to be stored in the bandroom except during actual class time. Items that remain in the bandroom for over a week are subject to being donated to charity at any time.

Parents, please help remind your students to take home all their stuff. This issue is most rampant during marching season when we are forced to contend with students leaving their often-smelly clothes all around the bandroom. Although the Southmoore Band has donated a great number of items to charity over years, we suspect that most of these articles were never intended to be given away.

## **Addressing Concerns to the Band Directors**

The band directors most definitely want to foster open, honest, and genuine communication with all parents and patrons. One of the most enjoyable roles of teaching is getting to know families. We also understand that occasionally you may need to address concerns directly to the directors. Most often, problems are easily resolved with direct communication, especially when teenagers are involved. We wish for concerns to be fully addressed and during times when we all can devote our full attention to the matter at hand.

Often band directors seem to be much more accessible since you may see us during games, contests, concerts, and maybe even at Wal-Mart. During these events, we are working (and maybe even a little stressed), so therefore we simply cannot give your concern our complete attention. Occasionally parents may attempt to address concerns during these times; however, we respectfully ask that

we schedule a separate conference. The conference should occur at a mutually agreed time and therefore please do not just simply walk in the office and demand an immediate conversation. The matter has a much better chance of being resolved when we can sit down together and figure out the situation.

## **Section III – Money Matters**

### **Band Fees**

#### **Required Expenses**

Band fees are charged for only one reason– we could not participate in any event other than public concerts on the Southmoore campus without the funds that student fees provide. The educational value provided by these funds is well worth the cost. Our school district provides rehearsal and performance facilities and very expensive instruments; however, the district is only able to finance approximately 5 percent of our yearly operational fees. The following are examples of operational fees:

- Contest Entry fees
- Transportation Expenses
- Auxiliary Instruction Salaries
- Student Attire
- Colorguard Uniforms
- Miscellaneous Equipment/Props
- Marching Band Show Music and Drill Design
- Sheet Music – Marching, Concert, and Jazz Bands
- Much more!

Yearly Band fees typically cost approximately \$500 per student. Fundraisers are provided to allow students to earn funds with little to no out of pocket expenses. An information sheet concerning each year’s band fees is distributed to students and made available online each summer. Please review the Band Fees Information sheet found at [southmooreband.com](http://southmooreband.com) for all the current information.

#### **Optional Expenses**

Students have the opportunity to participate in additional band events throughout the year. Some of these events require a fee to offset our costs of participation. The most common are listed below:

- All-District Band Audition: \$10
- All-State Band Audition: \$15
- Band Banquet Ticket: \$30-\$40
- OSSAA Solo Contests Entry Fee: \$10 per solo
- Piano Accompanist Fee: \$40 per performance
- Winterguard/Indoor Percussion Fee: TBD

### **Band Accounts**

Southmoore Band funds are distributed into the following accounts:

**Student Accounts** – An individual account is set up for each band member and housed in the SBPPA Account. Funds raised by or paid by an individual band member are credited to each student’s “account.” Both the head band director and current SBPPA treasurer maintain account balances. Additionally, statements may be accessed using the “Charms” online system. Moneys in these accounts are non-refundable and may only be used for band related expenses as approved by the head band director.

**Band Account** – Funds, which are raised by the SBPPAA organization, are deposited into the SBPPAA account. Typically, the SBPPAA arrange fundraising events and sell concessions or other items to raise funds for this account. These funds are used for any purchases that the SBPPAA in coordination with the directors deem necessary for the overall band programs and help to keep student fees as low as possible. The account balance and expenditures are announced at monthly band parents’ meetings.

### **Charms Office Assistant**

The Southmoore Band maintains much of our records by utilizing the web-based program, “Charms Office Assistant.” Beyond serving many band-related functions for the band directors, Charms Office Assistant allows parents to directly access their student’s account records via the Internet. Parents can retrieve their password from the current SBPPAA treasurer to access Charms. To login to your account, simply follow the link to Charms from the band webpage or access directly at [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com).

### **Turning in Money**

Turning in money to the band should be an easy procedure when done properly. Please take note of the best methods for making sure moneys are received and properly credited.

- Almost all monies are always turned in directly to the band safe or Mr. Mewhorter. The most common exception to this rule is monies turned in for student fundraisers. On these occasions a “turn in day” is announced and boosters are assembled to count and accept fundraiser funds.
- The band safe is located mounted on the wall between the band offices and is the preferred method for turning in money.
- Money should always be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the students name and the reason for submitting the funds.
- Mr. Mewhorter does not accept money at all times (like eating at a restaurant, or getting in his vehicle, or during rehearsal). Please give Mr. Mewhorter money when he is in his office where he can properly secure the funds or simply turn in the money in the safe (preferred).
- All checks should be made out to “Southmoore Band.”
- Parents – when you send money with your students...please pester them that evening to make sure they turned in the money. Many students carry around cash for days and even weeks!

## **College Scholarships**

We sincerely hope that your student will chose to participate in music beyond high school. Most parents do not realize that band students regularly receive good college scholarships because of their musical abilities. If your child participates in our band program all the way through their senior year and puts an adequate amount of effort into learning their instrument chances are – they will be eligible to receive a music scholarship. Students who regularly audition for all-district/all-state band, perform solos for contest, and most importunately – participate in private lessons WILL be eligible for a music scholarship at some university, GUARANTEED (yes, guaranteed). You do not necessarily have to major in music to receive a scholarship (except for OU and OSU). The band staff will HAPPILY set up college auditions and speak to university professors on your student’s behalf.

Furthermore, participation in band is also extremely helpful for any all types of scholarships. In fact, college administrators often cite high school band participation as a very helpful “resume builder” primarily because band students statistically perform very well in college and are more likely to graduate and go onto graduate school. This makes your band student a better investment for those awarding scholarship money. The money your student may earn towards college may quickly pay back that instrument price tag and band fees (ask Mr. Mewhorter’s parents).

## **Section IV – More Stuff to Know**

### **Private Lessons**

Private lessons are the key to developing an outstanding musical organization. Students who study their instruments privately with a professional show rapid improvement in individual musicianship. As these students improve, their excitement towards practicing increases, they continue to improve, and they become a stronger contributor to the overall success of the band. Private instruction has a great impact on the individual student and on our band program both this year and in the future. The key to satisfactory results from private instruction is to start as soon as possible.... SO, START NOW!

The band directors will assist you, if needed, in selecting a private instructor. In the past, we have been able to arrange for the private lesson teachers to travel to Southmoore and instruct your student during band class, saving parents time and money. Private lessons typically cost approximately \$12 to \$20 per half hour. Occasionally the band may be able to help with costs for outstanding students with financial hardships. Furthermore, your band account may be used to finance private lessons.

### **Band Trips**

The band takes varying types of trips – short evening trips to away football games; a day’s trip to a close competition; a three-night overnight for Grand Nationals or a Bands of America Super Regional, and even major trips that last 7 days such our trip to London. The Band Director determines the trip location and makes all travel plans for the major trips. We plan to return to London during the 2019-20 school year.

Overnight trips are almost always on chartered motor coach and we stay in quality hotels. Students are usually four to a room, and chaperons generally have 2-3 rooms of students they are responsible for checking. On most trips hotel management is easy, because we are only at the hotel when it is time for sleeping. Boys and girls are usually on separate floors and boy-girl visitation is off-limits. Some or all meals are included in the trips – full details about trips, including meals, are made available well in advance. Time not taken up with rehearsal or performance is generally planned and may include educational as well as fun activities.

Band parents act as chaperones on band trips. Chaperoning a band trip is GREAT fun, but there are many responsibilities involved. Chaperones must be prepared to be “on duty” long hours, be willing to be responsible for a group of young people they may or may not know ahead of time, and be willing to be surrogate parent, nurse, policeman and travel guide all in one. Although you will be exhausted when you return, chaperones seem to have just as much fun as the students.

Each band student and chaperone is expected to pay his or her own way to participate in band trips. We organize the trip and work up a budget well in advance and the cost of the trip is broken down into "manageable" payments due at intervals throughout the year. The band boosters work hard to organize opportunities for the band members to raise money to help pay for their trips, but ultimately, the expense of the band trip is the responsibility of the student and the parent.

### Southmoore Band Trips

School Year	Event	Location
2009-10	BOA Super Regionals	St. Louis, MO
2010-11	BOA Super Regionals	St. Louis, MO
2011-12	Concert & Jazz Bands Festival	Chicago, IL
2012-13	BOA Grand National Championships	Indianapolis, IN
2013-14	BOA Grand National Championships	Indianapolis, IN
2015-16	London Concert Series and New Year's Day Parade	London, England, UK
2016-17	BOA Grand National Championships	Indianapolis, IN
2017-18	Disney Music Festival – Walt Disney World	Orlando, FL
2019-20	London Concert Series and New Year's Day Parade	London, England, UK

### Band Banquet

Each year the band students, staff, families, and friends congregate at a formal banquet to celebrate the previous year of band activities. This is a special and fun night for our band students and a highlight of each year. Typically, the banquet is held early in May at a local hotel banquet facility. Food is eaten, awards are presented, and a special video is shown highlighting the entire year. The cost for a plate typically ranges from \$35 to \$40. Families are invited and encouraged to attend.

### Student Awards and Honors

There are multiple opportunities for students to be recognized for outstanding achievements. Many students do not take advantage of these opportunities...we encourage parents to encourage your student to participate!

#### Honor Bands

All-District Band: Each year students from Central Oklahoma audition for placement in the all-district band. Students prepare a piece of music and perform this music along with scales and a sight-reading excerpt for a panel of judges (who are behind a screen). Students who are selected participate in a band of these combined students from across central Oklahoma and perform a concert in January each year. Most Southmoore band students can qualify for this honor! Music is available in May of each year from Mr. Clifton and with the proper amount of practice; your student CAN "make" the all-district band! Students in grades 7-12 may audition for the all-district band.

All-State Band/Orchestra: Much like the all-district band, students prepare the EXACT SAME audition material as the all-district band and audition at the EXACT same time in November. Students who qualify at the November audition are "passed" onto the final auditions at Westmoore in December where students perform new material. The all-state band is comprised of the top auditioning students from all band programs in the state and these students perform a concert in January in Tulsa. Like the all-district band, many of our students are capable of being selected for the all-state band and with the proper preparation will qualify. Students in grades 10-12 may audition for the all-state band (per state regulations).

All-State Jazz Band: Jazz Students may seek to earn placement in the all-state jazz band. Students prepare a piece of jazz music and improvisation skills. Audition Music may be picked up from Mr. Clifton and is available in May. The all-state jazz band performs a concert in Tulsa during January of each year.

### 2018-19 Honor Band Dates

Date	Day	Event	Location
November 3	Saturday	All District Band/All-State First Round Auditions	Edmond Santa Fe HS
November 17	Saturday	All-State Jazz Auditions	Midwest City HS
December 1	Saturday	Final Round All-State Auditions	Westmoore HS
January 11-12	Fri-Sat	All District Clinic/Concert	OU, Norman
January 16-19	Wed-Sat	All State Jazz Band & Bands Clinic/Concert	Downtown Tulsa

### **Solo Contest**

Each year students may perform a solo in competition as detailed above. Students perform their solo, usually with piano accompaniment, for the district contest in mid-February. Students who earn a “superior” rating qualify for state solo contest in April. Performing a solo is highly encouraged as it is among the best methods of improving musical skills. Students register for the contest in January. The band directors will assist any interested student in selecting and preparing a solo for contest.

### **Band Letter**

All Southmoore band students are eligible to qualify for a “band letter.” The band letter may be sewn onto a Southmoore “letter jacket” as typically earned by students in athletic activities. Letter jackets are sold separately at area retailers. Band Letters are awarded at the yearly band banquet in May.

The exact specifications for qualifying for a letter jacket are on the application. A partial list is provided below:

- Students must turn in the application form on time (usually available early April and due mid-April)
- Students must attend all required band activities with NO unexcused absences
- Students may not appear on the academic ineligibility list at any time during the year
- Students must have their account balance paid up to date
- Students must fully participate in ONE of the following optional activities:
  - Qualify for an honor band
  - Perform a solo at district contest with at least an excellent rating
  - Participate in Winterguard or Indoor Percussion in addition to demonstrating proficiency on their instrument
  - Perform in the Musical orchestra

### **Band Banquet Awards**

Each year students are recognized individually at the yearly band banquet. The band staff also selects a few students who go above and beyond for additional recognition and awards these students plaques or other appropriate items.

### **Live Streaming**

Many of our performances are available for viewing Live Stream. Simply click on the “Live Streaming” page at southmooreband.com or download the “UStream” app and subscribe to the Southmoore Band Channel. The video and audio feed may not necessarily be of professional quality, but it certainly gives the opportunity for family, friends, and distant relatives to check out a performance. Most indoor events at Southmoore High School are available for live streaming. An occasional outdoor event off campus may be available depending on internet availability. Check out the band bulletin and text messaging service to see if a performance is available to view via Live Streaming.

### **In Conclusion...**

Hopefully you feel very informed rather than overwhelmed after digesting all this information. Certainly, there is a great deal of particulars pertaining to participation in our band program – this is because we offer so many exciting activities to our students! We are SO excited that your student has elected to participate; it will be well worth the time invested. Please remind your students that the more they give to the band the more they will get from the band.

## Appendix I - Common Band Terms

**7AM Rehearsals:** Weekday rehearsals starting at 7 AM and lasting through first hour during marching season. Rehearsal begins with stretch and fundamental block, followed by sectionals and concluding with drill. Students are released twenty minutes before second hour to allow time to change into clean school clothes.

**All-State:** All-State Band and All-State Orchestra auditions are open to all 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and are held in November and December at Edmond Santa Fe High School and Westmoore High School. Audition material may be obtained from Mr. Clifton's office.

**BAI:** The Broken Arrow Invitational marching contest is held in mid-October at Broken Arrow Senior High School in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. This is a popular regional contest that many bands around Oklahoma as well as some out of state bands attend.

**BOA:** stands for "Bands of America" which is a national organization responsible for many music education programs including administering a series of national marching competitions across the country culminating in the "Grand Nationals" Competition held in Indianapolis in mid-November. The Southmoore Band is a regular participant in these competitions.

**Band Banquet:** Held during the beginning of May, the entire band gathers in formal attire to celebrate the preceding year and its accomplishments.

**CODA:** stands for "Central Oklahoma Band Directors Association" and is responsible for administering the all-district band. All-District band auditions are open to all high school students. Auditions are held in early November at Edmond Santa Fe High School. Audition material may be obtained from Mr. Clifton.

**Freshmen Concert Band:** A competitive performing ensemble directed by Mr. Mewhorter that performs wind band literature.

**Concert Season:** Concert season begins in November immediately following the conclusion of marching season. Auditions will determine the placement of students within each performing ensemble.

**Contests:** Many contests take place within the school year during both marching season and concert season.

**Coordinate Sheet:** A sheet which lists the exact coordinates a marching performer is to travel to and from during the marching production. Students are provided lanyards in which to wear their sheets. These lanyards are required at each marching rehearsal.

**Dot:** A student's individual placement on the field during marching band.

**Drill:** The formations students march on the football field.

**Drum Major:** Student directors that lead the band on the field as well as in the stands during football games in the fall.

**Exhibition Performance:** A performance of a marching band show at a contest that is scored and critiqued, but not placed in competition with other bands.

**Finals Performance:** A marching band contest typically has the top twelve scoring bands advance to finals. Finals performances are held at night and have a larger audience.

**Football Games:** Football games occur on Thursdays or Fridays during the fall starting in September and last until the beginning of November. Band students attend all varsity football games.

**Football Rehearsals:** Students are required to attend rehearsal before each varsity football game and typically wear the Vegas Gold Shirt.

**Full Ensemble Rehearsals:** Rehearsals consisting of the entire marching band: Front ensemble, drumline, brass, woodwinds, and guard.

**Fundamental Rehearsals:** Rehearsals focusing on the basics of marching band to help each student improve for the competitive marching season.

**Indoor Percussion:** Consists of the marching percussion and front ensemble sections of a marching band, competing in winter contests after marching season.

**Jazz Band:** An ensemble consisting of traditional jazz instrumentation (saxophones, trombones, trumpets, piano, bass guitar, drum set, and auxiliary percussion) that performs jazz repertoire.

**Leadership Team:** A group led by students that plan and run certain band functions and activities and undergo leadership training.

**Letter:** An award of achievement for students. Requirements to letter include having perfect attendance and being involved in certain activities that are not required, as well as maintaining good grades in school.

## Appendix I Continued – Common Band Terms

**Marching Production:** The product of the summer and the fall. The entire marching band (including front ensemble, drumline, woodwinds, brass, and color guard) performs a marching production, or show, on a football field.

**Marching Season:** The outdoor season of band, lasting from May through November.

**Members Page:** A portion of the Southmoore Band website that students can visit to obtain music and drill, as well as listen to and watch performances and judge's tapes.

**Moore Outdoor Music Festival:** A marching competition hosted by Moore High School at the Moore Public Schools Stadium.

**Musical:** Select students are chosen to perform in a small ensemble for the school's annual music production.

**Nightrider Invitational:** The Nightrider Invitational marching contest is held in October at Mustang High School in Mustang, Oklahoma. This is a popular regional contest that many bands around Oklahoma as well as some out of state bands attend. The Southmoore Band earned the Grand Championship of this event in 2014.

**OBA:** stands for "Oklahoma Bandmasters Association." This organization administers the State championship marching band contest held at the end of the competitive marching season in October.

**OSSAA:** stands for "Oklahoma Secondary Schools Athletic Association." Official state sanctioned contests are hosted by this group.

**Preliminary Performance:** The first "round" of a competition. Finalists are selected from the top twelve bands in the preliminary competition.

**Premiere Performance:** A performance where patrons are invited to attend the unveiling of the entire marching production.

**Preview Performance:** A performance held in August for friends and family that includes a preview of the marching production for the upcoming season.

**Renegade Review:** The Renegade Review is a marching contest held in October at Union High School in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The event is sponsored by the Union High School Band Program.

**SBPPAA:** Refers to the Southmoore Band Parents, Patrons, and Alumni Association. All band parents are members of this group.

**Sectional Rehearsals:** Smaller sections of the band (percussion, guard, brass, woodwinds) rehearse separately to improve.

**Senior Night:** Honors senior graduates and occurs during the last home football game of the season.

**Show:** The product of the summer and the fall. The entire marching band (including front ensemble, drumline, woodwinds, brass, and color guard) performs a marching production, or show, on a football field. (also referred to as "marching production")

**Solo and Ensemble:** Small groups and individuals competing to receive ratings from OSSAA.

**Sweepstakes Award:** Received by bands being awarded straight superior ratings at regional marching and concert band contests.

**Symphonic Band:** An audition-based competitive performing ensemble directed by Mr. Clifton that performs wind band literature.

**Two-a-Days:** Days with rehearsals in both the morning and the evening typically held in late July and early August.

**WGPO:** "Winter Guard and Percussion of Oklahoma." Winter guard and marching percussion competes in a series of contests held around the state hosted by this circuit

**Wind Ensemble:** An audition-based competitive performing ensemble directed by Mr. Mewhorter that performs wind band literature.

**Winter Guard:** Indoor color guard during the winter months

## Appendix II - Incoming Freshmen FAQ

### Do all freshmen band members participate in marching band, or is that an option?

All incoming freshmen participate in our marching band placement auditions. Incoming freshmen will either be enrolled in first hour marching band or second hour freshmen band as a result of these auditions. First hour students will be full participants of the marching band. Second hour freshmen students will receive marching instruction and will participate in football games and some other marching activities.

### What is jazz band and can I enroll?

Jazz band is one of the most fun and exciting classes offered in the instrumental music program. Jazz band is a class that meets Third, Fifth and Sixth hours and your student will be placed in one of the classes based on ability. The jazz ensemble is dedicated to performing the finest of jazz literature from varying standards of the past to contemporary work and also regularly performs music outside of the jazz idiom. The group has an active performance schedule from playing at various school functions and community events, to formal concerts and contests. Students who enroll in jazz band must also be enrolled in band.

### When does marching band start?

Marching Band rehearsals begin with the “freshman only” rehearsal on May 9. Additional rehearsals will be scheduled in May to start preparing for marching season and to get ready for the graduation performance. More information will be handed out in the students’ current band class and be made available online at southmooreband.com.

Rehearsals will take place over the summer; however, students are obviously excused for vacations, summer camps, reunions, etc. Simply put, if a student is in town on a rehearsal day we then expect them at rehearsal. Typically guard and percussion rehearsals are held weekly in June and July and brass and percussion hold a 3 to 4-day camp in June. Full Band rehearsals begin everyday approximately 3 weeks before the first day of school and we start spending a good deal of time rehearsing and starting to put the show on the field. Additional sectional rehearsals may also be scheduled.

During the school year the marching band meets every day during first hour. During marching season, band begins at 7 AM and runs through first hour. Some after school rehearsals are also scheduled throughout marching season. When marching season ends (around the end of October) students fall back to a less intensive rehearsal schedule.

### What do we do after marching season?

After marching season concludes, students participate in concert performances like what they experienced in junior high band. Most freshmen students will be a part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> hour freshman concert band and those students will be switched to second hour for the spring semester. Our concert bands participate in a variety of public concerts and contest performances. Students also have the opportunity to perform in various smaller groups such as percussion ensembles, woodwind choirs, and brass choirs. Winterguard and winter percussion also take place after marching season.

### What expenses are involved?

Students will be expected to pay a band fee that covers costs of necessities such as transportation, meals, equipment maintenance, and other miscellaneous expenditures.

Band trips occur most years, however for the 2018-19 academic year the full band will not be attending a trip to help save money for our 2019-20 London trip (there may be a trip for a smaller group i.e. Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble, Winterguard etc.) More information concerning trips and their costs will be discussed at parent meetings.

It is important to note that **STUDENTS CAN FUNDRAISE TO COVER ALL BAND EXPENSES.** Fundraisers are offered through the band program and 100% of all profit generated by the student is used to cover their individual costs. We had a number of students easily pay for their entire band fees through fundraising this past year.

### What if I do not play an instrument but I want to join band now?

Typically this is not allowed since High School band is made up of students with years of experience in our Junior High Program. Students wishing to join colorguard who have not ever played an instrument can join band with approval from our staff.

**Are the students expected to upgrade from their beginner instruments?**

No, but students are highly encouraged to upgrade. First and foremost, the student will be playing much more challenging music and a better quality instrument makes this process much less frustrating. No to mention, better instruments are more durable and able to withstand the stress of both indoor and outdoor performances.

Most music stores offer an “upgrade” program in which you can trade in your instrument for another or even apply the payments you have made thus far on your beginner instrument to a higher quality instrument.

**I want to be in the colorguard...how does that work?**

Colorguard is the group in the band that helps to provide much of the “visual interest” during our marching band shows. Colorguard members are not only taught to spin a flag, rifle, or saber, they are also taught aspects of modern dance and choreography.

Auditions take place on May 14, 15, 17 and 18 (time TBA) in the Southmoore small gymnasium. The cost to audition is \$20 and helps to pay for the colorguard staff. Students should wear athletic/dance apparel and must attend all three days of the clinic. During the audition process our instructors teach you how to spin a flag along with other fundamental skills; therefore, beginners are welcome to attend. Our staff is looking for great attitudes and strong potential during auditions.

Students do not have to have any prior dance experience to join colorguard. Furthermore, students do not necessarily have to be currently enrolled in band to join either, though they have to enroll in band next year. Be on the lookout for flyers around your school for upcoming audition information or check out the band website – [www.southmooreband.com](http://www.southmooreband.com).

During the spring semester, our program sometimes offers “Winterguard.” Winterguard basically serves to continue to enhance colorguard skills while allowing students multiple performance opportunities. Guard students perform in a gym, without the band, to recorded music. You can find more information about Winterguard at [wgi.org](http://wgi.org).

**Can I play sports and be in band?**

**YES!!!!!!** Contrary to sometimes a more ignorant belief, students can play sports and be in band at the same time. Our staff works with our coaches to ensure that students are able to pursue both activities well. Our current band has a great deal of athletes!

**I want to play on the “drumline,” how does that work?**

Our marching percussion section is made up of two important sub-sections, our front ensemble (a.k.a. “the pit”) and the battery percussion (a.k.a. “the drumline”). The front ensemble plays keyboard and accessory percussion instruments on the sidelines. The battery percussion marches on the field and is made up of marching snares, tenors, tonal bass drums, and marching cymbals. Both sub-sections are extremely important and neither is more prestigious than the other. Auditions for percussion instrument assignments will take place during the May rehearsals.

Students must be presently part of a school band program percussion section to play percussion in the Southmoore Band. The band directors may make exceptions to this rule in certain circumstances.

**I play a double reed instrument – what would I do during marching band?**

Obviously we do not normally march double reed instruments since they are easily damaged due to temperature changes. Our double reed players typically either play in our front ensemble or join colorguard. Our staff works with incoming double reed students to place them in an enjoyable role during marching band and to ensure that they continue to practice their oboe or bassoon.

**As a parent or guardian, how can I be more involved and help out the band?**

The Southmoore Band is supported by a vibrant and gracious Band Parent Group. Our boosters help provide assistance that the district is unable to provide along with serving as a great support base for our students. You can contact our band parent presidents, Staci Pruettt ([president@sabercatband.com](mailto:president@sabercatband.com)), for more information and details about the parent organization.

## Appendix III - "You may have heard"

Occasionally false information can be unintentionally spread concerning what people have "heard" about being in the high school band. Tragically, this false information sometimes causes students to be uneasy about enrolling in band. Here are some of the more popular untrue rumors.

### **False Rumor #1: I heard that High School Band is "really hard"**

The Southmoore Band may very well cause students to "work really hard." However, it has also been reported that all our students have a great deal of "fun" ...not to mention hard work helps to cause even more "fun" to occur. You WILL play more challenging music and learn to march around while doing it, but many students just as smart as you have done it successfully...so will you!

### **False Rumor #2: I heard that the High School Marching Band practices all summer long and that you do not even get a summer break**

The Southmoore band DOES practice in the summer, but NOT "all the time." Students are considered excused from any rehearsals in which they are out of town, or at camps, vacations, reunions, etc. We DO NOT practice all the time and at all hours of the morning - EVER. We WANT our students to experience summer relaxation as well as put in time preparing for our marching show to be successful and have more fun.

### **False Rumor #3: I heard that High School Marching Band practices at Like 5:00 AM everyday**

The marching band does rehearse at 7:00 AM (not 5:00 AM), but ONLY during a certain part of the year. Marching Rehearsals occur at 7:00 AM due to amount of time needed to develop a first class "half-time" show. We have found that students and parents prefer before school rehearsals as opposed to after school rehearsals due to work and family obligations. However, when marching season ends, so do 7:00 AM rehearsals. Marching season ends October 28.

### **False Rumor #4: I heard that it costs about a million dollars to be in High School band**

It DOES cost money to be in band. Students pay to help offset some of the costs to run an active high school band program, however we offer multiple fundraisers with 100 percent of all profit used to offset your individual student costs (for example, if you earn \$200 profit - all of it is credited to the student).

NO STUDENT has been removed from band due to finances

MULTIPLE STUDENTS are helped when TRUE financial issues are experienced

MOST costs simply offset any band trip expenses - students get a fun educational trip for their investment!

### **False Rumor #5: I heard that the band directors do not let you play sports and be in band**

This is just simply untrue. We have many current students who participate in many various sports. The band directors communicate with coaches and sponsors to make sure that students can participate in any other activities they like.

### **False Rumor #6: I hear everyone makes fun of "band geeks" in high school**

This one is just dumb!!! In fact, due to the success and high number of students enrolled in the Southmoore band program, it could be argued that it is "cool" to be in band. Also, remember, many so called "band geeks" get great jobs and live wonderful lives as they grow up. The clear majority of doctors, engineers, recent US Presidents, and other great professionals were once a part of their high school band. Our students seem to happily survive every day even though they are in band. The whole "band geek" thing can really blown out of proportion by those students who overly worry about their high school image. These students are surprised to find out that it is not a big deal at all to be in band. Do NOT be dumb enough to allow other people to cause you to quit doing something you already love! Students often wish to return to band after falling victim to believing this rumor.

Do not believe everything you hear...

## Appendix IV - "Don't Just Take Our Word On it"

Of course, the band directors believe you should be in the Southmoore High School Band, but so do our parents, students, and even smart researchers. Here are some samples of what other people have to say...

"I almost did not show up to summer band because I was so afraid to march, then when I got there and it was hot outside and it took hard work to get good, so I really wanted to quit. Luckily my parents made me stick with and I am SO GLAD THEY DID! This experience has been so much fun. There is nothing better than the feeling after a fantastic performance! Also, everyone in the band becomes part of your family. I cannot imagine what high school would have been like if I had given this up, this has been the absolute best experience of my life!"

~ **Katelyn Martin, Senior Percussionist**

"I love my twins being in Southmoore Band because band is like on-the-job training for life! They've learned first-hand that hard work pays off; that the pain is truly worth the gain.

Band has given them the opportunity to push their own personal boundaries and discover just how much they are capable of when they really apply themselves. Each has managed to be very active and successful in band while keeping a 4.0 GPA, participating in other extra-curricular activities, and working a part-time job. That kind of experience is a firm foundation to build a future on!

The Southmoore Band directors are amazing, in terms of both dedication and concern for the kids as well as pure talent. Not all students get the opportunity to be a part of such an outstanding band program. Don't miss yours!"

~ **Terrisa Singleton, mother of Brooke and Catherine Phipps, Class of 2011 Clarinet and Flute Players**

"When I joined, it was all about the friends. I was so afraid to march and play actual "hard" music. But as the years go on the music really becomes an important part of your life – it's fulfilling. Plus, everyone is really nice!"

~ **Lilly Deemer, Class of 2012 Percussionist**

"College admissions officers continue to cite participation in music as an important factor in making admissions decisions. They claim that music participation demonstrates time management, creativity, expression, and open-mindedness."

~ **Carl Hartman, "Arts May Improve Students' Grades," The Associated Press, October 1999.**

"I love my child being in the Southmoore Band because it is teaching her life skills that can't be learned anywhere else but from this one-of-a-kind high school experience ... skills such as teamwork, discipline, musicality, sportsmanship, an appreciation of hard work, the reward of accomplishment, and confidence. And she actually practices her instrument of her own accord - because she wants to! This is a miracle of Southmoore Band!"

~ **Karen Munroe, mother of Cayla Munroe Senior Clarinet Player**

"A ten-year study indicates that students who study music achieve higher test scores, regardless of socioeconomic background."

~ **Dr. James Catterall, UCLA.**

"This is the hardest working group of people you will ever meet and the best family I have ever had."

~ **Haley Robinson, Class of 2012 Bass Clarinet Player**

"I love my child being in the Southmoore Band because it has provided her with a tremendous opportunity for personal growth and accountability as well as a powerful positive learning environment and social environment. The growth in her has been incredible!"

~ **Paul Fischer, Parent of Carlyon Fischer, Class of 2013 Flautist and Percussionist**