



Schimelpfenig Band

Student Handbook 2022-23

**Ben Altom & Michael Scott
Directors**

Rule No.1 ... Always!

Welcome to the 2022-2023 Schimelpfenig Band! Whether your child is new to our program or a returning member, we are grateful for their decision to begin or to continue their musical journey with us! Every student is important to us. We will work daily to provide an outstanding musical experience for each and every child. We are fortunate to have a vibrant band program with plenty of performances, activities, and social events throughout the year! ***We cannot overstate the importance of your ongoing involvement and support in your child's music education.*** Strong parental support is the key to a child's success in any activity!

This handbook, together with our website (<http://www.smsband.org>), is designed as a quick reference to help you understand how the band program operates at Schimelpfenig. Please read through the sections with your band student and be sure to fill out the online forms which highlight the most important topics. We are always happy to assist you should you have further questions.

We are looking forward to another exciting year!

Ben Altom

Michael Scott

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DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or concerns.

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PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY and STUDENT COMMITMENT

The Schimelpfenig Middle School Band is the beginning of a potential seven-year musical journey, culminating with membership in the Plano Senior High School Band Program. **The philosophy of the SMS Band Program is to open the musical doorway to self-discovery and self-discipline, with the goal of creating confident and respectful young individuals, who share a life-long understanding and appreciation of teamwork and love for music.**

We will work each day to help every student develop a life-long appreciation of music and understanding of teamwork by nurturing success in the following areas:

- **Becoming an independent and proficient performer on one's chosen instrument.**
- **Building self-discipline and self-confidence through daily preparation and participation as team members.**
- **Developing the ability to understand and evaluate musical performances as a critical listener.**
- **Fostering a respect for our musical heritage, and also recognizing the importance of music in our culture.**
- **Encouraging responsible citizenship traits through mutually respectful relationships with peers and adults.**

COMMUNICATION

CHARMS

We use the Charms database software for managing various components of our band program. Charms is a secure program with information only accessible to SMS Band staff. If you are not receiving semi-regular emails from us (usually at least one per week), there is probably an error with your child's Charms account. Please contact a director so that we may update the email addresses on file.

REMIND

The Remind program is used to send out secure messages to students and parents. You are able to receive messages through text or by downloading the Remind app.

Beginning Band: Brass/Percussion: Text @smsbegbp to 81010

Woodwinds: Text @smsbegww to 81010

Concert Band: Text @smsconcert to 81010

Symphonic Band: Text @smssymph to 81010

Wind Ensemble: Text @smswind to 81010

WEBSITE

All information regarding the band program can be found on our website – <http://www.smsband.org>. If you ever have a question, need some information, or are looking for copies of handouts/files, please check the website first. If you cannot find what you need, feel free to contact a director.

The Band Office

Last year, we began producing a video newsletter called The Band Office. We try to send out new episodes every few weeks with news, updates, celebrations, and other fun stuff. To view/subscribe, go to this link: <https://www.youtube.com/c/SchimelpfenigBand>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Along with this handbook, each student will receive a calendar of band activities for the current school year. Students are required to participate in all scheduled band activities unless noted otherwise. All attempts have been made to provide accurate information, but it is not unusual for some adjustments to be made during the school year. The band website will always have the most up to date information.

ABSENCE GUIDELINES

Absences from required events will be excused in accordance with established PISD criteria, including illness, family emergency, religious observances, or certain school-related conflicts. Conflicts with non-school related activities (club sporting events, transportation issues, etc...) are not excusable reasons for missing a required activity. In the event of an unavoidable conflict, please let your child's director know as early as possible so we may readjust part assignments as needed. **Please, if at all possible, schedule non-emergency doctor or orthodontic appointments and similar events outside your child's scheduled rehearsals (including sectionals for 7/8 graders).**

PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Parent support is crucial to the success and quality of the Schimelpfenig band! We would not have the band program we have without the help and support of our band parents!

There are a number of times throughout the year when we will need parents to help with planning events, chaperoning, and assisting with other aspects of the band program's daily operations.

ALL parents who wish to chaperone an event or assist on campus must complete an annual online criminal history check.

<https://plano.voly.org/> <https://www.pisd.edu/domain/265>

It can take several days to clear once it is submitted to the district. Please do this ASAP if you plan on volunteering this year.

FUNDRAISING GOALS

Band is both a curricular course and a campus organization. In order to function as an organization throughout the year, the band participates in one fundraising activity each year. The funds raised are used to pay for clinicians, equipment, supplies, contest fees, and to help cover the other costs and fees associated with band. Every dollar that raised through fundraising by the band goes directly into our band account and is only allowed to be used for the benefit of SMS band students.

Ideally, we would raise enough money to cover the majority of the costs of being band. The things we cannot help cover would be social events (though we are allowed to help with transportation), spirit wear, and the personal costs associated with having and maintaining an instrument.

This year we are going to do a band fee (donation) of **\$75 per student** rather than selling items for 45% profit. By doing a fee/donation, we will be able to keep and use 100% of the funds raise for the band. In addition to

keeping all of the money raised, no one would have to purchase/sell anything, fill out order forms, and pick up/deliver items.

We do know some families might not be able to afford a \$75 fee per year. Anyone may donate a part of a student's fee. We encourage you to ask any family members or family friends for a donation if you are comfortable doing so.

Every student may be a part of the SMS band regardless of the ability to pay the fee or not. Please contact Mr. Altom or Mr. Scott if you are in need of assistance paying for the fee this year.

If your family would like to sponsor a full or partial fee scholarship for students in need, we are happy to accept that, and thank you for generosity.

REHEARSAL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Be On Time, Be Prepared, Be Respectful and always remember ... Rule No. 1!

We believe we get to work with the BEST students at Schimelpfenig, so we expect the best from everyone!

GRADING CRITERIA

Band is a curricular course. Students will be graded on all activities pertaining to the established curriculum for the ensemble or beginner class in which they are enrolled. Please be aware that scheduled concerts are a direct extension of classroom work and are graded events.

Major Grades—60%		Daily Preparation—40%
Performance Objectives	Summative Activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th Grade: Completion of a Nine Weeks Objective Sheet – your grade in this category is based on your efforts to complete the listed goals. 7th-8th grade objectives will include projects such as All-Region music or Solo/Ensemble Contest preparation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal Concerts – Concerts are a direct extension and culmination of the class curriculum and are required events. Performance Tests – in class or recorded online from home. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstration of efficient Rehearsal and Classroom Skills Practice assignment preparation Sectional Participation Grade (7th-8th grade as required)

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Although band is a curricular course, band members participate in several extracurricular activities throughout the year. These include off campus events such as football game performances, contests, and individual student competitions. According to the Texas Education Agency, students must pass all classes for the grading period in order to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities for the next grading period. **Section rehearsals,**

morning and afternoon rehearsals, and school concerts are curricular events and are not affected by eligibility restrictions.

Note: The TEA exempts certain upper level or honors classes from the eligibility requirement. We will let you and your student know when he/she is not eligible for an upcoming event.

OBJECTIVE SHEETS

All **beginning band** members will receive an objective sheet for each grading period. Students are responsible for completing all of the indicated objectives. For performing band students (7/8 grade) there will be a clearly defined project to work towards (i.e. All Region Etudes, Ensemble/Solo Contest preparation, etc...). Objective sheets are designed to guide and monitor every band student's musical and ensemble progress throughout the year with sequential progressive goals. Student efforts to complete the assignments are factored into each grade report.

PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS

Students who practice an activity effectively are more successful in that endeavor! Every student in the Schimelpfenig Band is expected to practice daily. It is your "Band Homework". Students wishing to excel will naturally practice beyond minimal expectations. Consistent practice will develop your musical abilities properly. We are often asked by parents what their child needs to do to advance to a higher band. One simple answer is forming and following regular, efficient, practice habits.

ALL INSTRUMENTS SHOULD BE TAKEN HOME EVERYDAY!

Ask your child to perform a song for you often!

Some parents are concerned that "forcing" their child to practice will negatively affect their attitude toward music. Parents, please join us as equal partners in helping keep your child motivated to improve throughout the year. Perseverance and diligence are valuable life skills to possess in our current culture of instant gratification!

MUSIC FACILITY USAGE

Band students are always welcome, and should feel safe and comfortable, in the band hall and ensemble rooms. In the interest of providing quality instruction as well as maintaining safety and security, the following guidelines must be followed when using the music facilities:

- **Only Band Students** are permitted in the band hall or ensemble rooms.
- Each student will be issued an instrument storage locker. These lockers are for storing instruments and music supplies only. Directors are present in the band hall throughout the day, so there is no need to lock the band lockers.

There are six practice rooms in the band hall which are shared among all students in the program. These rooms are available for student practice before school beginning at 7:30 AM and until 4:00 PM after school.

- Practice rooms are for practicing and/or private lessons only.
- Food, drinks, candy, or gum are not permitted in any band hall area.
- Any student being disruptive to others will be asked to leave and may lose the privilege.

MUSIC EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

All 7th and 8th GRADE STUDENTS in the Schimelpfenig Band will need to have the following:

- A good, working, and well-maintained instrument from the approved list
- A Schimelpfenig Band Tee Shirt and a formal black uniform (see p. 9)
- A marching band style flip-folder. Also a music lyre if required for your instrument
- A Metronome/Tuner. Ex: Korg TM-60 or a comparable smart phone App

In addition, the following items will be needed for each instrument as applicable:

- A Folding Music Stand for home practice
- Reeds, reed care supplies, and cork grease for most Woodwinds (including school owned instruments)
- Valve or Rotor Oils, Slide Grease, and a cleaning snake for Brass (including school owned instruments)

All **beginning band students** should refer to their separate supply requirements provided by the directors. The supplies lists are also all located on the website (<http://www.smsband.org>)

STEP UP INSTRUMENTS, MUSIC STORES, SHEET MUSIC RETAILERS

For information on Step Up Instruments, Local and Online Music Stores, and Sheet Music Retailers, please visit the band website: <http://www.smsband.org>

SOCIAL EVENTS

Our students work incredibly hard and they deserve the chance to “play hard” as well! We organize several social activities for our band students throughout the year. Students who have demonstrated behavioral problems may be excluded from social activities as deemed appropriate by the band directors or campus administration.

Social events will require extra fees, and attendance is always optional. A sufficient number of parent chaperones will be needed for supervision at some social events.

SECTION REHEARSALS – 7/8 Grade Bands Only

Weekly Section Rehearsals are required for students in the Wind Ensemble and (and anyone auditioning for All Region Band) beginning a few weeks into the school year. Symphonic Band/Concert Band sectionals may begin in December, but students are welcome to attend in the fall if they wish to work on and learn the All-Region etudes. Topics covered during each sectional may include basic performance fundamentals, learning All-Region Band etudes, learning concert and contest music, and section ensemble skills and refinement. Sectionals are academically designed to meet the specific needs of each particular instrument, so it is important that students make every effort to attend their scheduled time.

Every attempt is made to create a sectional schedule that accommodates the majority of academic and athletic schedules, however, occasional conflicts may occur. We will set up the next best option for those affected students. Please be aware of the following important guidelines:

- Morning sectionals are from 7:30-8:15 and Afternoon sectionals are from 3:45-4:30.
- *****The Athletic Coaches allow student athletes to miss one practice weekly, without penalty, for school activities such as band sectionals.**

- Academic tutorials and detentions are offered multiple times each week and should not be scheduled during the once weekly band sectional time. Students will need to be sure their teacher is aware of the required band sectionals.
- Please make every attempt to schedule doctor, orthodontist, and other appointments/visits on a different day from your child's band sectional.
- Students should let their director know of an unavoidable conflict that needs to be resolved. Non-school activities, other than religious observances are not excusable reasons for missing sectionals.
- A missed sectional must be rescheduled for an alternate time, with the director's approval, in order to receive credit.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

Being dressed appropriately is a fundamental aspect of performing. The following guidelines will be followed for SMS Band Performances.

Spirit Attire – All Band Students 6-8th Grade

- Gray Band T-shirts
- Blue Jeans
- Athletic or closed toe shoes

Formal Concert Attire – 7TH and 8TH Grade Band Students Only

GIRLS:

- **Black** Band Polo (Long Sleeve)
- **Black** skirt or Black dress pants (No Jeans/Leggings)
- **Black** dress shoes
- **Black leggings** (with skirts or black dress socks with dress pants)

BOYS:

- **Black** Band Polo (Long Sleeve)
- **Black** dress pants (No Jeans)
- **Black** dress socks
- **Black** dress shoes
- **Black** belt

Band T Shirts and Black Band Polos will be purchased online along with other spirit items in August. If a 7/8 grade student has a shirt from last year that still fits and is in good condition, they do not need to purchase a new one.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Band is a full-year course. Students may not drop band after the second week of school unless there is an extenuating circumstance as specified by the admin or counselor. Students may be changed from one level of ensemble to another if such a change is academically appropriate. Likewise, students may be promoted to a higher level for ongoing outstanding work.

INSTRUMENTAL INSURANCE

The Plano Independent School District, Schimelpfenig Middle School, and the Schimelpfenig Middle School Band staff are not responsible for loss or damage to any instrument. Parents are encouraged to consider musical instrument insurance. In many cases, your homeowner's or renter's insurance may cover your instrument.

OFF-CAMPUS TRAVEL

All school rules apply to any off-campus event sponsored by a school organization, including the band. Once a student leaves the school with the band, that student must remain with the band until the group returns to the school. If parents desire that their child travel by alternative means to or from an event where school travel is provided, an **Alternate Transportation Form** must be approved by the Director and Principal and be on file **before departing from the school**. Students with appropriate documentation on file must check in with the director before separating from the group. **A handwritten note or verbal authorization cannot be used in place of an Alternate Transportation Form and these arrangements must be done well in advance of the scheduled trip date. PISD policy states that a student can be released only to their own parent or guardian.**

The directors respectfully ask that parents be waiting for their student or arriving to transport her/him home within a few minutes upon the band's return to SMS from any trip. We do our very best to provide accurate return times and ask that you be prompt in picking up your child so that we may go home to our families as well. Failure to take your child home from band events in a timely manner may impact their attendance at future off-campus events.

Special Trips

One of the highlights of our program is the opportunity to participate in several special performance trips during the school year.

Beginning band members will have the opportunity to travel to and compete in a Band Festival in the Spring.

Performing Band students will have the opportunity to travel to perform at SMS Football Games, The All Region Clinic/Concert, and attend two Band Contests/Festivals in the Spring.

PRIVATE LESSONS

We are fortunate in Plano to have an outstanding staff of private music instructors available to teach private lessons through our Music Lesson Program. Students taking private lessons receive a 25-minute one-on-one lesson each week with an instrumental specialist at a cost of \$20 per lesson. These lessons are tailored to each student's specific needs and are intended to serve as enrichment for students who wish to excel. Students may begin private lessons at any time, though many teachers will run out of available slots early in the school year. Most lessons are arranged to be taught during your child's scheduled band class.

Below are the names and contact information of the private teachers currently approved to teach students at Schimelpfenig Middle School. Additional teachers may become available during the school year. This list will be updated as needed on our band website. Contact the Directors for more information. Each teacher sets and maintains their own schedule and collects their own fees. The band staff does not handle payments or scheduling for private teachers.

Flute

Joo Yon Chung flutist.joo@gmail.com 661-305-0767

Oboe

Aryn Mitchell lessons4u@verizon.net 972-527-3454

Bassoon

Jonna Griffith jonnagriffith@yahoo.com 940-395-3119

Clarinet

Andre Canabou acanabou@verizon.net 214-473-8413

Jun Qian myclarinetprofessor@gmail.com 585-472-9289

Saxophone

Mark Alewine mark@markalewine.com 972-671-9578

French Horn

Chris Dulin cjduhin@sbcglobal.net 214-417-4484

Taylor Wang yingtong.wang99@gmail.com 214-704-7968

Trumpet

Phil Holland phillip.b.holland@me.com 214-403-4732

Karen Holland karen.trumpet.me@gmail.com 214-284-0273

Trombone

Simon Willats simonwillats@verizon.net 469-939-9268

Scott Quintana squintana13@hotmail.com 972-921-2416

Euphonium/Tuba

Bill Mitchell lowbrasslessons@verizon.net 972-527-3454

Demarcus Walker demarcusw@gmail.com 903-571-8862

Simon Willats simonwillats@verizon.net 469-939-9268

Percussion

Steve McDonald smcdperc@mac.com 214-417-4825

Wesley Price wpriceless@gmail.com 972-377-9622

Plano ISD Guidelines for District Extracurricular Activities

Students involved in extracurricular activities are held to a higher standard of conduct than the general student body. Plano ISD views participation in extracurricular activities as a privilege not a right. Any student who violates the Student Code of Conduct shall be subject to extracurricular discipline and/or regular school district disciplinary action. This includes any misconduct, regardless of time or location, that would reflect negatively upon representing Plano ISD in an extracurricular activity. Students clearly involved in major disciplinary infractions (i.e. including, but not limited to, drugs, alcohol, and violent behavior) will be placed on probation, removed temporarily or permanently from extracurricular activities. Seasons of extracurricular activities may vary and could extend into the next school year.

Discipline action may affect tryout eligibility for the next season.

Disciplinary measures taken by the sponsor/principal may be in one or more of three forms, defined as special assignments, probation, and dismissal.

Special assignments may consist of extra duties and may be assigned for minor disciplinary infraction. Probation and/or dismissal from extracurricular activities will be for infractions involving alcohol, smoking, drugs, use of profanity, violence, and other serious offenses when the sponsor/principal believes the integrity and credibility of the organization has been jeopardized by the student's action. Probation may also be assigned when the student fails to comply with rules and regulations of the extracurricular activity. (Probation is defined as: A trial period in which a student is permitted to redeem bad conduct.)

The student may be dismissed from the extracurricular activity upon any major infraction, or during a probationary period. Prior to being dismissed from extracurricular activities, the student and parents will be notified of the reasons for the action. The student or his/her parents will be afforded the opportunity of a hearing with the sponsor and principal. The appeals process will be outlined at that time. Request for an appeal must be done in writing within 5 school days at each level of the appeals process. The student will not be eligible for any individual or team recognitions or awards that occur after the date of dismissal.

REGISTRATION FORMS

All beginning of the year paperwork and registration (including shirt/spirit wear orders) will be done online this year. Please visit the band website to register your student(s) for band this year.

<http://www.smsband.org>

All registrations should be complete by **Monday, August 22**

