



South Pasadena Middle School Tiger Cub Band Handbook 2019 - 2020

Dear Band Students and Parents,

Welcome to middle school band! We are all very excited to begin another busy, fun-filled year of making great music. The purpose of this handbook is to inform you of the events, activities and policies of the middle school band, and to assist you in having the best year of middle school yet. In this handbook you will find information that I believe is helpful in ensuring your success in the band program. You will find the rules and regulations of the program that each student is expected to know and observe.

From time to time throughout the year I will be sending home more information with your students. I believe communication is essential to all of our success, so please contact me for any questions or suggestions.

A note from the director

My name is Trey Farrell and I have been given the good fortune of being the band director this year! I've recently relocated from Santa Barbara where I spent 8 years teaching band and orchestra as well as coaching college students majoring in oboe performance. I'm an avid surfer, skier, backpacker and obsessed with cooking Sichuan cuisine!! I am very excited to be the band director at SPMS this year and look forward to continuing the tradition of excellence already in place in the Tiger Cub Band. Most importantly, I look forward to getting to know each and every student and family that makes our school so special.

Please contact me through Remind or email any time.

Trey Farrell
tfarrell@spusd.net
626-441-5830 ex. 3301
tigerscubband.weebly.com

Contact – Sign up class Remind

This year I will be using Remind as a major way to communicate with students and parents. Remind is an app that lets me communicate with students and parents over text in a secure manner. You do not need to download an app to use this service and it is free to you.

To sign up for your class send the following in a text to this number: **81010**

6th grade band: **@band440**

Intermediate band: **@band441**

Advanced band: **@band442**

Budget

Below is a brief summary of our financing for the band program at SPMS.

Fundraising: Each year we fundraise in various and fun ways for our program. If you have a great idea for a fundraiser, let Mr. Farrell know!

Expenditures: We spend approximately \$10,000 each year on buses, instrument repairs, music, equipment and supplies.

Per Student Expense: Each year the SPMS band spends approximately \$40-\$50 per student for the band shirts, method books and other supplies. This money comes from our band budget, which is funded through donations and fundraising.

Donations: South Pasadena parents have always been very generous and supportive of the SPMS band. Donations allow us to avoid multiple fundraisers. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support!

Kleenex: We go through a lot of tissue at SPMS! Donations of tissue are always welcome. We would appreciate if each student in band brings ONE (or more!) box of Kleenex!

Supporting your Students

There are many ways that you as a parent can support your student and their success in band.

Practicing: The number one way to help your students improve on their instruments is by encouraging them to practice. All good habits are learned, and need to be encouraged in the early stages. Dedicating time and effort to learning an instrument teaches students commitment, hard work, and perseverance. Help your students by dedicating a time and space to their practicing where they can be as uninterrupted as possible. Also keep in mind that *how* they practice is more important than *how long*. We will be reinforcing good practice habits in class, which I hope you will hear at home!

Donating your time: I welcome any and all help in the classroom whether you are a musician or not. If you are a musician or know a musician who would like to donate time or talents, please let me know. We also welcome volunteers to serve as our audience in class if you just want to listen!

In order to be the best band member you can be, you need to be aware of the policies and procedures. Be sure to carefully read the following, and make sure you understand everything.

Grades

Academic grades of A, B, C, D or F will be given in this class, and will be based on the criteria below. The overall grade will be a combination of your performance improvement goals, positive participation/attendance, performance, playing tests and written worksheets/tests.

Performance Improvement Goals: Performance Improvement Goals are returning! These P.I.G.s will not be able to be turned in late for any credit. It is intended to be a weekly reflection on your practice. You will receive 10 points per week. 5 potential extra credit points each week for the grey boxes.

Participation/Attendance: Students are required to always participate and contribute positively to the band. Positive participation includes: having your instrument/music/pencil every day, playing to the best of your ability, raising your hand to talk during class, attending all required events, and being respectful of your fellow students, instruments and teachers.

Recorded Tests: We will be using Google Classroom to submit playing quizzes. Seating tests will be done in class. Once every 3 weeks, your class will be assigned a recorded assignment. You will have the option to perform the test in class if the internet is not an option for you. It will be YOUR responsibility to let Mr. Farrell know if you plan on taking the test during class instead.

Students will be assessed on:

- knowledge of scales
- technical etudes
- current band music.

Performance Requirements

All concerts held at SPMS (and Festival for 7th/8th grade) are **mandatory**.
The expectation is to attend for the entire duration of the concert.

Students will only be allowed an excused absence from a concert performance if there is an emergency or illness. *Please take note that sports are not considered an excused absence.* If a concert is missed for any other reason besides emergency or illness, students will receive an unexcused absence from the concert, and lose all points. Any student who misses the concert will be required to do a concert make-up assignment.

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in all band activities students must meet the minimum requirements of behavior, practice records and grades. Students in danger of not meeting those requirements will be notified and may lose the opportunity to perform with the band.

Instrument Lockers

Instrument storage lockers will be issued during our first few classes. Lockers and combination locks are school property and should be treated with respect. They are subject to search at any time. Please only use a school issued lock. Do not give your combination to anyone!

Please follow these rules:

- **Always** keep your locker locked.
- Report lost locks and damage to Mr. Farrell immediately.
- Do not share your combination with anyone.
- Do not switch lockers without permission.
- Flutes and clarinets may use school lockers for storage.
- Nothing should be stored in your locker except band materials.

If you lose/damage your lock, you will be responsible for replacing it for a fee of \$5.

Band Uniforms

All 6th grade band students will be provided a white long sleeved polo shirt, and a black short sleeved t-shirt. 7th and 8th grade band students should still have theirs from their previous years in band. If you need a replacement shirt, t-shirts are \$10, polo shirts are \$15.

All students in SPMS band will be required to wear the following uniform for concerts and Festival: The white SPMS Band Polo Shirt (provided), black dress pants, and black dress shoes with black socks that cover your ankle.

****If you do not arrive at a concert in full uniform, you may not be allowed to perform.****

Method Books

Each student will receive one method book at the beginning of the year. If the student loses their book, they will be required to replace it. Books are required every day for rehearsal.

Performances

We are a performing ensemble, and each of us is reliant on each other. YOU are important!! Our concerts and performances are the rewards we work for every day in rehearsal, and you are essential to our success.

It is your responsibility to know when our performances are and to plan to attend each one. The dates are attached with this handbook - add them to your calendars now! If there is an emergency or illness, Mr. Farrell must receive a call or email from parents. If you miss a performance for an illness or emergency, you receive an excused absence and will have the opportunity to do make up work. If you miss a concert for any other reason, you will receive an unexcused absence and lose all concert points. Make up work must be completed within one week of the concert date in order to be counted. If you miss a performance and do not have an excused absence, and do not complete the make-up work, your grade will suffer! Plan ahead! Again, be aware that sports are never an excuse to miss a concert.

Behavior

To be an outstanding member of our band you must first be a responsible person. You are expected to uphold the SPMS code of conduct at all times. Please also follow these rules in the band room:

- Bring your instrument, music and a pencil every day.
- Be in your seat, ready to play, two minutes after the tardy bell.
- Assemble your instrument and warm-up with a sensible routine.
- Leave your instrument case in your locker.
- Do not talk when Mr. Farrell is teaching.
- Do not talk when another group is playing - be respectful.
- Use good instrument position and posture.
- Keep your hands on your own instrument and music.
- Be responsible with your music. If you lose yours, ask Mr. Farrell for a replacement immediately.
- No gum, food or drinks in the band room! Water is OK.
- When rehearsal is over, clean up your area and leave the band room neat and tidy.
- The storage shelves are off limits for all students.
- No studying or book reading during class without Mr. Farrell's permission.

Website

Please visit us at www.tigercubband.weebly.com

2019 - 2020 Tiger Cub Band Performance Dates

2019-2020 Tiger Cub Band Dates Updated 8/28/2019

Parade Rehearsal	Wed, Sept 18th	SPMS	7:00am	Int/Adv
8th Grd band day rehearsal		SPHS	7:00am	Adv band
8th Grade Band Day	Friday, Sept 27th	SPHS	6pm	Adv. Band
LA County Fair Parade	Saturday, Sept 21 st	LA Fair	8:30 - 6:30	Int/Adv
Picture Day	Monday, October 21st	SPMS	1,2,3 period	All Grades
LA Clippers Game \$\$\$\$ Fundraiser	Monday, Oct 28 th	Staples Center	TBD	Int/Adv
Parade Rehearsal	Wednesday, December 4 th	SPMS	7am	Int/Adv
Montrose Christmas Parade	Saturday, December 7th	Montrose	6pm	Int/Adv
Glendora Christmas Parade	Saturday, December 14th	Glendora	9am	Int/Adv
5th Grade Concert	Monday, December 16th	SPMS	5pm,6pm,7pm	5th
Holiday Concert	Tuesday, December 17th	SPMS	7pm	All Grades
Disneyland Clinic	TBD	Disneyland	all day	All Grades
5th Grade Concert	Monday, March 9th	SPMS	5pm, 6pm, 7pm	5th Grade
Festival Concert	Tuesday, March 10th	SPMS	7pm	All Grades
Festival	Thursday March 14th or 15th	TBD	all day	Int/Adv
SPMS Musical	TBD	SPMS	7:30/2:30	8th
Spring Concert	Tuesday, May 19th	SPMS Lawn	6:00pm	All Grades
8th Grade Promotion	Tuesday, June 4th	SPMS	5:30pm	Select 6th/7th

* tentative date

Bold indicates mandatory events

SPMS Music Department Concerts - Extra Credit for attending these!

Choir Winter Concert	TBD	SPMS	7pm
Orchestra Winter Concert	December 10th	SPMS	6:30pm
Choir Spring Concert	May 18th	SPHS	7pm
Orchestra Spring Concert	May 13th	SPMS	6:30pm

Acknowledgement of Understanding

Parents and students, please initial next to each statement and sign below.
This form is due no later than Friday, August 30th.

Parent - Student (initials)

_____ I have signed up for Remind through text. If my student has a
_____ phone, they have also signed up for Remind with my permission.

_____ We have read and understand the grading policy.

_____ We have read and understand the drop policy.

_____ We have noted all performance dates and mandatory performances. I
_____ understand that I must let Mr. Farrell know of any conflicts in advance.

Signatures:

Parent: _____ Date: _____

Student: _____ Date: _____

Donations

Yes! I would like to donate to band at SPMS Music Booster –
Suggested \$50/ per student

Parent: _____

Student: _____

Please make checks payable to SPMS Music Boosters

Amount enclosed: _____ Check Number: _____