

Santa Fe Bands



2024 – 2025

Student & Parent Handbook

www.santafebands.com



Welcome to Santa Fe Bands

We Believe:

- Everyone should have the opportunity to participate in school music.
- Music is an integral part of a student's intellectual, emotional, and social development.
- Participation in band develops the self-discipline, positive work habits, creative thinking, and group/leadership skills necessary for success in life.
- Participating in and achieving success in a musical setting increases self confidence.
- Music allows for an emotional and expressive outlet for our students during the day, promoting higher levels of success in all areas.
- In order to achieve success, you have to want it. **YAGOTTAWANNA.**

Everything you do in Santa Fe Bands is important, which in turn makes YOU important. Excellence is attained through this attitude, and it is this attitude that is the basis of

-----The Santa Fe High School Band Program-----



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Mission Statement

The Santa Fe High School Band Program

"Academic excellence, artistic achievement and professionalism in performance are our goals. We strive to promote citizenship, scholarship and musicianship while helping students to realize their full potential as musicians and individuals, in all facets of their lives. "





Welcome To Santa Fe Bands

April 11th, 2024

Dear Santa Fe Band Students, Parents & Families,

Welcome to the Santa Fe High School Band Program! I am very excited to be a part of this program, school, and community. While I am able to communicate with the students daily, communication with parents is likely to be less frequent. While I will attempt to keep parents and students informed through weekly update emails, the best way to stay up to date with our program is to check our website regularly. Consider becoming a member of the Santa Fe Band Boosters Organization in order to get involved and support our students!

The best high school band programs in the United States all share an important quality: Hands-on, committed parent, family and community involvement. Our Booster organization's goals include supporting our directors, staff, and our amazing students! The involvement of parent and community volunteers is absolutely essential for the success of our outstanding band program and its members. "It takes a village to raise a child, and a city to build a band."

With the many events on our calendar (auditions, fundraisers, football games, contests, festivals, concerts, etc.), it takes the time, energy and a small army to accomplish everything. There are many areas that you can be involved in from chairing a committee to working behind the scenes. We ask that you volunteer based on your personal strengths and interests. You are, of course, very welcome to fill more than one spot if you have the time and energy to commit.

One of the most important things you can do is to attend the organization meetings. As we work through scheduling, we will establish a regular parent/booster meeting time that will be clearly displayed on www.santafebands.com, and in my weekly emails.

Please feel free to email me if you have any questions about our band program, our booster organization, or questions about how to get involved! I look forward to getting to know and working alongside all of you to help ensure the success of Santa Fe Bands and our students.

Yours truly,

Cameron Wilson

SFHS Band Director
cwilson@sfhs.k12.nm.us



Private Applied Lessons

Varsity Wind Symphony students and percussionists as well as students wanting to perform with Wind Symphony are expected to study privately on their primary instrument. This is a requirement for acceptance into varsity. All students are strongly encouraged to study privately as they develop and prepare for acceptance into varsity. These lessons are an integral part of each student's personal success and opportunities both during and after high school. Private lessons are a requirement for students in all of the top programs, both within the State of New Mexico, and nation-wide.

Private Lessons focus on instrument-specific pedagogy that cannot be addressed through band courses alone, as well as preparing students for NMMEA All-State auditions, NCMMEA solo & ensemble competition, and college scholarship auditions. Lessons can be scheduled during lunch, during the band period, before school, and after school, according to students' and instructors' individual schedules and availability. Students may also schedule lessons off-site as long as they are with an approved instructor. It is up to the student and instructor to find a time and location. Please contact Mr. Wilson if you need the band hall available outside of regular school and rehearsal hours. I am more than willing to help!

Varsity students are expected to begin their weekly private lessons by the end of August, 2024 at the latest. Progress and preparation in private lessons will be a component of each student's band grade. The estimated cost will vary depending on the level of education and experience held by the instructor, but should average out to between \$15 and \$50 per-lesson. Students should, if possible, cover this cost as an investment toward their education and college admission preparation. However, assistance will be provided to students in need through funds raised by the booster organization and other community assistance programs. No student will be stopped from participating based on a lack of personal finance.

A complete list of our approved Applied Lessons Faculty, and their contact information, can be found on the band website under the "Lessons" tab.



Academic Achievement Policy

Academic excellence is a primary concern within the Santa Fe Band Program. It is of the highest importance to us that each student place their graduation from high school at the top of their priority list. This being the case, we have what we call a "NO PASS, NO PLAY" policy. Quite simply, that means that if a student is not passing, they will not be allowed to perform with the group.

Every student must maintain passing grades in all courses, in order for guaranteed performance with Santa Fe Bands. If a student receives a grade lower than a C- they will be placed on a "watch list" for academic improvement. If this occurs during marching season, that student may be placed in reserve status (similar to being on the bench in football). In concert season, a student will be re-seated and may be removed from important parts, or placed in a non-competitive ensemble, at the director's discretion.

Any student who is receiving what is considered to be a failing grade (Anything lower than a D- or 50%) will not be allowed to travel or perform with Santa Fe Bands until their grade has improved. They will likely be assigned tutoring during class time. Santa Fe Band members who exhibit frequent substandard academic achievement or those who do not show demonstrable effort towards academic improvement may be removed from the ensemble for the remainder of the semester. They will be placed into study hall/tutoring during their band class in order to better focus on their failing coursework and will still be expected to attend performances during this time in a viewing capacity.

The first hour of every evening/marching band rehearsal is devoted to homework, tutoring, and nutrition. We strongly recommend that students take this time seriously and make the best possible use of it.

Santa Fe High School is proud to offer tutoring services for students that may be struggling. We encourage any student that is having difficulties in any of their classes to contact their teachers and/or academic coordinators to take advantage of this valuable resource.



Substance Policy

The Santa Fe Band Program strives to promote class and excellence in all members and, therefore, upholds a zero-tolerance drug, tobacco and alcohol policy. Any student caught using, trafficking or possessing tobacco, marijuana, illegal substances, vape, or alcohol will be immediately reported to school officials, removed from performing with the ensemble for the remainder of the semester, enter a "probationary period", and will be placed into study hall. Should there be a second offense in a subsequent semester, they will be cut from the program entirely, becoming unable to rejoin in future semesters. They will still be expected to attend performances during the probationary period. This policy applies to all Santa Fe Band students, and at all Santa Fe Band events. Students are expected to be excellent representatives of this program at all times. This includes remaining substance-free during high school. If you or somebody you know is suffering from addiction, the Santa Fe Bands encourage you to reach out for assistance. There are a variety of resources available to help, and there will be no penalties for past actions when seeking support.



Professionalism

The Santa Fe Band Program will pride itself on a high level of professionalism, sportsmanship and integrity. This applies to students, staff, **AND parents**. Competition is fun, but we must not forget what is truly important about what we do. Hard work, discipline, endurance, graciousness (regardless of placement), developing musical appreciation and skills, and forging new friendships will always remain the priority. These things are far more important than any championship, score or trophy that we can receive. In being a part of this organization, you will find that these are the qualities our administration, directors, and staff continue to stress every day while demanding the high standards necessary for our students to reach their fullest potential. It is the job of our parents to reinforce these ideals to our students outside of the classroom. Please remember it is equally important for our parents to show excellent sportsmanship and character as it is for our students.

Students and parents are expected to act in a professional and humble manner, in all situations. Students are expected to support each other AND our fellow musicians from other institutions. As a member of Santa Fe Bands, you are always representing this organization and more importantly Santa Fe High School and Santa Fe, NM. Make sure you are an excellent representative. We are all musicians at the end of the day, working towards the same goal. Strive to remember this, even in competitive situations.



Internet & Online Conduct

Online Posts

There are an abundance of social media platforms, apps, blogs, chat spaces, and other online forums that students and parents participate in. These include TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, Youtube, Tumblr, Twitter, Facebook, etc. These sites often become littered with posts that can unintentionally reflect poorly on individuals and organizations. It's apparent that some people do not realize that their personal thoughts, when subjective, controversial or inflammatory, reflect on their entire group.

Unfortunately, there have been incidents, in many organizations, where someone has accidentally posted something offensive or upsetting. Even when not intended, this would be highly destructive, distracting, and off-brand for our program. The safest way to avoid criticism or scrutiny is simply NOT to post. However, if you do choose to post comments as a representative of our band, please remember that you are speaking on behalf of the entire Santa Fe High School Band Program and we want to uphold an excellent reputation. This expectation applies to both our students and our parents.

Social Networking Policy for Students

Students WILL NOT request the "friendship" of or "follow" the personal pages of the Santa Fe Band Directors or any Santa Fe Band Staff. The directors and staff WILL NOT accept student friend requests. This policy applies to any social networking app or site.

Student & Parent Communication with Staff & Directors

All communication between students, parents, staff, and directors regarding student performance, and behavior should take place through the official email addresses provided in this handbook. The staff and directors will not communicate this information with students or parents through ANY other platform. Time sensitive information and messages may be communicated through official channels and applications. You are encouraged to sign up in order to remain up to date, as things can and will move quickly during band events.

Online Media: Videos, Recordings & Digital Photos

It is natural that students and their families will want to document their experiences with Santa Fe Bands through photos, videos, and recordings. This is highly encouraged and is a wonderful way to look back on past experiences. However, these forms of media must remain offline.

Due to the highly competitive and public nature of what we do, only the media that best represents Santa Fe Bands will be allowed online. We always want to show the world our best side.

Please DO NOT post ANY videos, recordings or photos of ANY Santa Fe Band rehearsals. This is strictly prohibited. This includes full ensemble marching & concert band rehearsals, sectionals, indoor guard rehearsals, and visual rehearsals. This ensures that our rate of progress throughout the year remains within our own community and also that our competitions outside of our community remain fair.

Please DO NOT post ANY videos, recordings or photos of ANY Santa Fe Band performances. Again, we only want media that best represents us making the "final cut" onto the online community.

If you have media that you would like to post online, please submit it to the director for approval. If it is approved, it will be posted under the official Santa Fe Bands YouTube Channel, our official social media accounts, or on our website, where the original owner will be credited. This will ensure that only our best and most highly polished performances are represented to the world.

Copyright Compliance

Along with representing our program in the best possible light, posting media online is often restricted for copyright reasons. In order to protect the rights of original composers and copyright owners who license their materials to Santa Fe Bands, we strictly prohibit the sharing of unapproved video, photo, and audio media online. This includes live streaming. Cooperation in this is necessary for our program and its members to comply with the law.



Travel Conduct

An essential part of music education is exposure to other performing groups as well as performance beyond local events. The ensembles within the Santa Fe Band Program will travel frequently. In order to maintain an outstanding reputation and ensure the safety of all our students, we uphold a strict set of travel policies.

- An itinerary will be given to every student BEFORE every trip. These itineraries will generally include a schedule, emergency chaperone and staff contact information, check-in and curfew times, a list of "what to bring," and all other important information specific to that trip. Students MUST adhere to the itinerary that they are given. Failure to do so may result in a student being sent home from a trip at their parent's expense or the student being confined to their chaperone's immediate supervision.
- A permission slip will be issued for every trip that must be signed by the student's parent or legal guardian. Students MUST return their signed permission form before they will be allowed to travel.
- Students must travel to and from band events with the group, on the bus. Parents wishing to pick their students up early from an event must have a completed travel release form on file prior to their student getting on the bus. This is a legal requirement.
- Any student that becomes involved in illegal activity of any kind while traveling will be sent home IMMEDIATELY at their parent or legal guardian's expense. In addition, they will be removed from the Santa Fe Band program for the remainder of the semester and placed into study hall. Their future membership in the ensemble may also be prohibited depending on the severity of the incident. **Any student that is arrested while traveling with the Santa Fe Band Program will NO LONGER BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SANTA FE BANDS OR SANTA FE HIGH SCHOOL.** It will be the parent or legal guardian's responsibility to handle any and all resulting ramifications of their student's arrest including, but not limited to: travel expenses, legal fees, damage costs, and bail. Students that are arrested while traveling will be removed from the ensemble for the remainder of the semester, or indefinitely, at the discretion of the Director of Bands.
- While traveling, students will be financially and legally responsible for any and all damage that occurs to hotel rooms, facilities and equipment. Property and equipment damage may lead to a student being sent home from a trip and/or being removed from the ensemble for the remainder of the semester. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis by the Santa Fe High School administration and Director of Bands.
- **All trips are considered to be school events. ALL rules, regulations and policies contained within this handbook and the Santa Fe Public Schools Code of Conduct will apply.**



Grading & Attendance

Members of the Santa Fe Band Program will be graded on attendance, punctuality, participation, attitude, participation in group promotional events, preparedness, and achievement (also known as performance). These are the necessary components of an excellent music education. As a non-compulsory **Co-Curricular Class** (as opposed to an extra-curricular or core curricular) course, the Santa Fe Band Program requires activities (rehearsals, events, performances, etc.) and coursework that fall both within the school day/year and outside of the school day/year. By choosing to participate in band, this is something that each student and their family agrees to. Band Courses do count for credit towards graduation, do factor into a student's GPA, and are considered by colleges for admissions, so this commitment should be taken seriously.

Santa Fe Bands Grading Scale:

0 – 59% = F
 60 – 69.9% = D
 70 – 79.9% = C
 80 – 89.9% = B
 90 – 100% = A

Students will have different components that make-up their total class grade. Every student will begin the course with 100%. This grade will be either maintained through meeting course expectations, or lowered by failing to meet course expectations. Attendance at rehearsals and performances, preparedness, professionalism, and attitude/effort (regardless of natural ability) are the most important components of band coursework.

Components of Band Course Grades

Performances & Promotional Events
 Attitude and Preparation for Rehearsals
 Assignments & Playing/Assessment Tests
 Attitude and Preparation for Private Lessons & Sectionals
 Attendance Policy (Explained Below)

Attendance Policy

- Attendance does not count as a component of the student grade, but can greatly affect a student's grade. Poor attendance (from after-school or in-school rehearsals/events/private lessons) will detract from a student's total grade. Practicing is your "homework" and performance in class is how you turn it in.
- One **unexcused** tardy will lower a student's total grade in the course by 1%.

- One **unexcused** rehearsal absence will lower a student's grade by 5%.
- **Band is a performance-based class. EVERYTHING we do is geared towards public performance of music (and a full, well-rounded understanding of what we are performing), which is our form of assessment. One unexcused absence from a performance will result in an automatic deduction of 50% of the student's total grade in the course, which will result in a **FAIL** of the course. The student may be removed from performing in the ensemble for the remainder of the semester while they complete equivalent alternate work for the missed performance, at the discretion of the Director of Bands.**

Information Explaining Our Grading Policies:

- Unlike many classes, when a student is late or absent to Band, it does not only affect that individual. It negatively affects the entire ensemble and makes it impossible for the group to rehearse or improve as a whole. Band is not an individual activity and cannot be "made-up" individually. Time lost from a rehearsal is permanently lost. That being said, tardies and absences discussed in advance with the Director of Bands may be "excused" if deemed of acceptable importance or value to the student's future (College visits being an acceptable example), under the condition that they "make up time" by practicing their instrument or other performance techniques in the band hall before/after/during school hours. To facilitate this, the band hall will be open a minimum of 1 hour after class time each day, and before school when requested.
- Absences and tardiness to rehearsals must be cleared with the director **beforehand** in order to be excused. We understand that extreme circumstances arise - If an unforeseen absence or tardy does occur, the director must receive a doctor's note and/or a note from home **within one week of the occurrence** in order for the student's grade to remain unaffected. "Make up time" may still be requested of the student depending on the circumstances surrounding the absence. Communication is the only way we know what is going on!
- All students are expected to come to class and participate with a POSITIVE working attitude. Exhibiting disrespect for staff or fellow band members, or exhibiting a bad working attitude may result in the lowering of a student's final grade. Attitude is contagious and we strive to provide each student with a positive learning experience.
- Promotional events are important to the well-being of the program as a whole, and all of its members. Funds and exposure generated at promotional events benefit the entire program and all of its students. Each student will be expected to participate in scheduled promotional performances and events.

- Opportunities for volunteer hours through performances are also available should students desire, and can count as "make up time" with sufficient evidence of performance.
- Being prepared for rehearsal means knowing your individually assigned part. Notes and rhythms in parts, should be learned during private practice time (homework), outside of class. Rehearsal is designed to build skills as an ensemble. It is not a place to learn individual parts. It is expected that students arrive with their individual parts and scale assignments prepared by deadlines given by the director. This is the homework for this course. If students are unprepared and, therefore, unable to contribute to rehearsal, this will be treated as an uncompleted assignment (just as in any class) and the student's grade will be affected. "Make up time" may be assigned in order to correct deficiencies if such behavior becomes a pattern.
- All students must come to rehearsals with ALL of their required equipment and materials. This includes but is not limited to a working instrument, sticks/mallets, reed, music, pencil, etc. Arriving unprepared is equivalent to being absent and will be graded as such. If a student has a problem obtaining required equipment, they need to speak with a director PRIOR to rehearsal to receive assistance. Simply showing up unprepared without communication is unacceptable.
- Part of being prepared means making sure that your instrument and attire are prepared. Uniforms and concert attire must be clean and presentable before a student will be allowed to perform. In addition, all metal instruments MUST be polished before each competitive event. This is not only an important part of our reputation and presentation, but a requirement for competition at many of the festivals that our ensembles participate in.
- Outside sectionals may take place at least once a week for every ensemble, usually during twilight/8th period, and attendance is required. Sectionals are organized and run by our section leaders, staff members, and private instructors. These individuals will take attendance at sectionals, with attendance weighted and treated the same as attendance in class. Sectional times will be scheduled and communicated by the director in advance. Sectional attendance is **mandatory**. A band is only as good as its weakest player. If one person cannot play their part, the band cannot perform to standard. If a student is having difficulty with their instrument or a specific part, they are expected to ask a director, a staff member, their section leader, or their private instructor for additional help.

- A student may raise a low grade through extra credit. Extra credit will be awarded at the discretion of the director for various activities including: extra private lessons, attending outside concerts/festivals, volunteer work as discussed previously, cleaning/filing/organizing duties in the band room, music-related research, or the preparation of solo performances in addition to solo & ensemble. Other extra credit may be awarded on a case-by-case basis.
- Because all students are dually enrolled in both a Concert Band during the day, as well as "Twilight Period" Marching Band, both of which cover the same materials and expectations, the two grades will always match.

What Qualifies as "Excused?"

It is important to remember that a band rehearsal/performance is a group activity and missing one member affects every single student in the ensemble. The only excuses that will be accepted for absence from a performance are serious illness/hospitalization with doctor's note, death in the immediate family, wedding in the immediate family (communicated well in-advance and documented with invitation) or exceptional emergency circumstances, with documentation. This is accurately representative of the expectations that will be set forth in a scholarship-granting collegiate program or a professional ensemble and, therefore, are the expectations of our ensemble. These circumstances must be communicated in advance or as soon as possible after occurrence, and documentation must be provided to the Director of Bands within one week for excusal. The "excused" status of all other tardies and absences are at the discretion of the Director of Bands and may have requirements attached (make up time, volunteer work, etc.) in order to attain such status.

Band performances, rehearsal times, and camp dates will be given well in advance (often several months in advance) and will be available on the website. Work schedules, appointments, vacations, and all other personal agendas should be scheduled around the performance and rehearsal calendar. Last minute or uncommunicated vacations, trips, and work schedules will not be excused. Vacations, trips, appointments, and work schedules intentionally scheduled over band rehearsals and performances will, likewise, not be excused.

Conflicts with other school activities are workable (we want students to participate in everything possible!), but must be communicated with all parties well in advance. Remember that band is a class with a grade, based on performance. As such, performances will always take precedence and it is expected that students will be at performances, regardless of conflicts with practices or outside events.

The Director of Bands will deal with any other conflicts or absence requests on a case-by-case basis, at their discretion. **Communication is key!**

Alternate Assignments:

If a student is tardy or absent from a rehearsal or performance, and their tardiness/absence is not discussed and excused in advance, they will be given the opportunity to complete an alternate assignment in order to repair their grade. **The assignment in most cases will be extensive academic writing on a relevant topic chosen by the Director of Bands.** Students will be expected to complete the research and a paper on the topic, as directed.

Papers should be completed in 12-point, Times New Roman Font, and double spaced. Students' research papers should be written using MLA or APA format as appropriate and should include a bibliography citing all sources.

This is not included as part of the length requirement. Sources must include at least one academic or peer-reviewed example. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic failure of the alternate assignment and subsequently the course.

- Alternate assignment academic writing will be graded on content (70%) and formatting (30%). It will be expected that assignments have been proofread for major grammatical and spelling errors. Unreadable work will be returned to the student for correction before being accepted for grading.
- The alternate assignment for being tardy to a band rehearsal or private lesson (unexcused) is one half page of writing. 1% of total class grade.
- The alternate assignment for being absent from a band rehearsal or private lesson (unexcused) or tardy to a performance call-time is one full page of writing. 5% of total class grade.
- **The alternate assignment for being absent from a performance (unexcused) will be one full page of writing for every rehearsal spent on literature working towards that performance.** For example, this means that if 32 school periods and 8 after-school sectionals (roughly 8 weeks of school working toward a concert) were used to prepare for the missed performance, the student will be expected to complete a total of 40 pages of academic writing. This is because any rehearsal spent by the student working towards a missed performance will have been wasted and must be made-up.

A partially completed assignment below the total number of required pages will not be accepted. The alternate assignment is fully intended to be equivalent in workload, rigor, and preparation to the missed performance and all preparation leading up to it. Missing a performance is **unacceptable** as well as **harmful to the students who attended** and will be treated as such. 50% of total class grade.

Students will be guided in their research by the Director of Bands and provided with all necessary resources to complete the assignment.

While completing an alternate assignment for a missed performance will allow a student the opportunity to repair their grade, it will not automatically allow them the opportunity to regain their position within the ensemble. **Missing a performance represents severely damaged trust between the student and the rest of the ensemble.** Rather than preparing for remaining performances, the student will instead be given alternate work for the remainder of the semester. If they so choose, they will regain a playing position within the ensemble the following semester when they are able to start on a fresh page. Exceptions to this policy will be made on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of the Director of Bands.



E.M.R.F. Policy

Every member of The Santa Fe Band program is required to fill out an Emergency Medical Release Form (EMRF), which will be kept on file with the band director. These forms **MUST** be signed by each student and their parent or legal guardian. EMRFs are essential in ensuring the safety of all of our students. They are kept on hand at EVERY Santa Fe Band performance and event. Per US law, consent is implied when life saving measures are required to be taken to prevent death or serious injury, and/or when the victim is unable to provide informed consent (unconsciousness). Nevertheless for the safety of our school, program, and students, these **MUST** be completed, signed and turned in before the student will be allowed to participate in any Santa Fe Band Program activity. A copy of this form has been provided in the back of or in addition to this handbook.



Band Dues

All students and families in the Santa Fe High School Band Program are asked to pay band dues. This donation is made to the Santa Fe Band Boosters and the amount will normally be set by the parents and community members who make up that organization. This donation helps to cover the student's share of the cost required to make the program run at a basic level, benefiting all students within the band. This includes the cost of buses/transportation, music, copyright licensing, guest clinicians/staff, sectional instructors, college recruiters, certain equipment purchases, music rentals, contest/festival entrance fees, and expenses necessary for the entire band to be successful. While it is expected that all students contribute their fair-share donation, a student will ***never*** be kept from participating in the Santa Fe Band Program due to a lack of financial means.

Band dues and payments should be made to the Santa Fe Band Boosters, the program's booster/philanthropic organization. They can be dropped off at the band office or directly at a scheduled booster meeting. Checks can be made payable to "Santa Fe High Band Boosters."

For the 2024-2025 school year, Santa Fe Bands is asking for the following, suggested Fair-Share Donation amounts, based on the anticipated basic needs of the program:

- **The Band Dues Amount for 2024-2025 is \$350.** This Helps to Cover:

- Clinician Expenses
- Licensing Fees
- Bus/Travel Expenses
- Parade/Contest Fees
- Instructor/Staff Expenses
- Food at Events
- Tape/Sewing/Fitting
- Prop & Pageantry Expenses

School Instrument & Equipment Rentals

While students are ***STRONGLY ENCOURAGED*** to invest in their own instruments, mallets/sticks, mouthpieces/ligatures, and guard equipment in preparation for college auditions, the school is able to provide a limited number of school instruments to students. These are provided on a first-come, first serve basis or on the basis of chair placement, by the discretion of the director.

Marching instruments are always provided to all low brass, mellophone, and percussion students. When school equipment is checked out, students and parents are required to sign a contract with SFPS agreeing to maintain and care for school equipment. They also agree to assume financial responsibility for the replacement or repair of the instrument in the event of loss or damage.

New Instrument Purchases

If you are planning on purchasing a new instrument **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE** consult with the director, staff, or a private instructor before making your decision. Unfortunately, it is very easy for students and families to make poor, overly expensive or uneducated decisions when purchasing new instruments, even from a music store. There are many overly inflated retailers, poor-quality instrument manufacturers, and scams designed to prey on unknowing students/families purchasing instruments. By consulting with one of our staff, you can make the best decision in buying new equipment and can often get a better-quality instrument for a significantly lower cost. Students who rent school instruments are asked to make an additional donation of \$50 to partially cover the cost of cleaning and routine maintenance to the instrument at the end of the year (all school instruments must be adjusted and chemically cleaned once-per year).

The Santa Fe High School Band Program has a comprehensive list of Recommended Equipment for 6th-12 grade that is intended to assist students and their families make informed new and used purchase decisions. This list can be accessed on our website (www.santafebands.com). It can also be requested from a director at any time. A link to recommended percussion equipment lists supported by Steve Weiss Music can also be found.

Shoes & Other Basic Supplies for Individual Use

Each year, marching band students will be asked to purchase basic supplies through our booster organization. These include items such as gloves, grip tape (percussionists), marching shoes, required band T-shirts, baseball caps, warm ups, plumes, and equipment bags (guard). These items are required parts of our uniform and ensemble materials. Every effort is made to ensure the lowest possible price for these items, for students and their families. Students who have trouble paying for items should meet with the director or booster member to seek assistance. Again, while it is expected that all students contribute their fair-share donation, a student will ***never*** be kept from participating in the Santa Fe Band Program due to a lack of financial means – we will help the students that are in need of assistance.



Varsity Letters & Bars

Letters and patches are a symbol of achievement and excellence at the high school level. Once earned, they can be displayed on a student's letterman jacket or band jacket. Students will receive gold bars to add to their letter in the case that they are to letter multiple times.

Varsity Band Letter Requirements:

- The respective Demon Pride Band (Marching **OR** Wind Symphony) must achieve a high degree of success at the state level, or in a major out of state competition. A "high degree of success" will be variable and dependent on the prestige and level of competition at a given event (I.E. Making 10th place in a BOA super regional competition holds more weight than 5th place at a significantly smaller state level competition). Participation in an all state band will also qualify to letter an individual student in the event that the band itself does not.
- Students must receive recommendation from the Director of Bands (based on attitude, participation, and positive impact on the organization).
- Students at the time of "lettering" must be participating in both marching band and a respective concert band, with no unexcused absences, or outstanding "make up time" from either.
- Students must have no delinquent fines with SFPS or the band.
- Guard Students must receive instructor recommendation (based on attitude, participation and positive impact on the organization).

Winter/Indoor Guard Patch - Must complete one season of Indoor Guard.

Leadership Patch - Must serve as a section leader, band officer, or ensemble rep for one year (any ensemble).

Honors in Music Patch - This is our most prestigious patch. In order to receive this patch a student must participate in an NCNMMEA Honor Band or NMMEA All state band AND participate in a solo & ensemble festival, achieving a high degree of success, along with Director recommendation.



Santa Fe Ensembles

The Santa Fe High School "Demon Pride" Marching Band

The Santa Fe High School "Demon Pride" Marching Band is made up of ***ALL*** members of the Santa Fe band program, and breaks into the three concert bands (Varsity Wind Symphony, and JV Symphonic Band) at the conclusion of marching season, in November. As the most visible ensemble within the program, it represents the school and the community, both locally and away from home. This ensemble is competitive, participating in local contests, as well the Bands of America Regional. In addition to competition, the band performs at all home football games, selected community events/fundraisers, and local parades. Members are expected to adhere to all eligibility requirements of our school and district.

The "Demon Pride" regularly rehearses during the school day, as well as evenings after school (beginning in "Twilight Period") from 4:00PM to 9:00PM on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:00pm to 7:00pm, as well as selected Saturdays. Membership is by director approval only. To ensure the highest educational and performance quality of the ensemble, students must be enrolled in a concert ensemble in order to participate in marching band. Guard students are expected to enroll in our new colorguard course and are strongly encouraged to enroll in a dance or theater course during the school day.

Marching band rehearsals rely heavily on student involvement in the form of our student leadership team. Student leadership helps to promote a positive culture, attendance, and proficiency in a number of skills. Members of our student leadership team hold increased responsibility and are required to audition into the role. There are varying levels of student leadership including Drum Majors, Captains, and Section Leaders. SLT may be called upon for participation in additional events that would otherwise be optional in order to maintain a full band presence. Such events may include fundraisers for the band boosters, basketball/pep band performances, and more. SLT is also required to pass their music off during the Leadership Camp that occurs the week before band camp.

The Santa Fe Junior Varsity Symphonic Band

The Santa Fe Concert Band is our Junior Varsity concert ensemble, and is composed of the younger musicians in the Santa Fe band program, generally freshmen and sophomores. The ensemble focuses on developing fundamental skills and musicianship that will prepare students for Varsity Wind Symphony. The ensemble performs standard and educational works within the wind band repertoire. The ensemble performs several times throughout the year, including at regional Music Performance Assessment, local concerts, and fundraisers. Membership in the Symphonic Band is by director approval only. Students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons on their individual instruments with an approved applied lessons instructor.

The Symphonic Band begins rehearsing in early November, at the conclusion of marching season. The Symphonic Band rehearses during the school day, and occasionally during twilight period on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4PM-5:30PM, as-needed. Symphonic Band members are expected to attend outside-of-class sectionals as scheduled.

The Santa Fe Varsity Wind Symphony

The Santa Fe Varsity Wind Symphony is our premiere concert ensemble and is composed of the most advanced musicians in the Santa Fe band program, generally juniors and seniors. The ensemble focuses on developing advanced skills and musicianship that will prepare students to be successful in ensemble playing beyond high school. The ensemble performs major works within the wind band repertoire, including new works, premiers, transcriptions, and standard literature.

The Wind Symphony performs several times throughout the year, including at local and regional festivals, contests, as well as local concerts and fundraisers. As our competitive concert ensemble, the Wind Symphony represents the program at NMAA State Concert Contest. Membership in the Wind Ensemble is by director approval only and students are expected to take private lessons on their instrument, with an approved instructor.

The Wind Symphony rehearses during the school day, and occasionally during twilight period on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4PM-5:30PM, or Wednesdays from 3:00pm-4:30pm as-needed. Wind Symphony members are expected to attend at least one outside-of-class sectional rehearsal per week and are held to all NMAA, SFPS, and SFHS eligibility requirements

The Santa Fe Indoor Guard

The Santa Fe Indoor Guard is a highly competitive pageantry and winter guard ensemble designed to provide an artistic experience for guard students during the Wind Ensemble's concert season. This is a varsity-level, co-curricular, auditioned ensemble for students who are either on the fall color guard, or are working to become involved in color guard. The ensemble focuses on developing fundamental skills in equipment, dance forms, and choreography designed to develop each performer's artistry and technical ability. As of 2024/2025, there is a color guard elective held during the school day that is a requirement for participation.

The Indoor Guard will travel and compete frequently, and will require significant out-of-school rehearsal time. Membership is by audition only and students must adhere to grade checks. Students enroll in "Twilight Period" Wind Ensemble/Marching Band during the spring semester. Students who participate in the Indoor Guard are expected to be a part of the fall color guard. The indoor season lasts from approximately late November to early April. The guard will perform at select Varsity SFHS basketball games and compete in local circuits, as well as WGI in the category of "Scholastic A."

The Santa Fe Jazz Labs

The Jazz Lab is a supplementary course composed of students with a special interest in Jazz and a more in depth musical education. All students interested in pursuing a career in music are strongly encouraged to apply. The ensemble focuses on improvisation, performance techniques, jazz and music theory, and contrasting musical styles. While this is a very flexible class, it is still held to a high standard, performing music on the varsity level. It is highly recommended that anybody considering a future in professional music joins this ensemble. Jazz lab meets during the school day, with the occasional out of school performance, to be communicated in advance. Jazz lab Students must be enrolled in both a concert band course as well as Marching Band in order to participate.

Our Feeder Middle School Bands

We consider all of the middle school bands in our feeder pattern to be an integral part of the Santa Fe High School Band Program. These include the bands at Milagro Middle School, El Dorado Community School, Aspen Community School, and Gonzales Community School. We are a 6th-12th grade, unified band program that shares staff, directors, resources and successes.



2024-2025 Fundraising

Fundraising is a necessary part of a successful band program. The money raised through fundraising is what will keep our outstanding program at the top. Each year all Santa Fe Band students travel, participate in festivals, use expensive equipment and are taught by some of the best staff in the State of New Mexico, the Mountain West, and the United States. Most of these experiences are financed through funds raised by students, staff, parents and directors.

Annual fundraising events are set, decided upon, and enacted by the parents and volunteers of the Santa Fe Band Boosters and the SFHS Director of Bands. These expectations are based on the financial needs of the Santa Fe Band program for the upcoming year. These funds will help cover normal travel expenses, equipment costs, staff pay, guest clinician costs, and competition and festival fees. In addition to basic operation costs, these funds also help to minimize student costs for large, out-of-area trips. Additional, optional, individual fundraising opportunities make it possible for students to earn individual money for trips, college applications, new instrument purchases, and summer camps.

If students or parents have any questions about fundraising or would like to volunteer their time/talents, they should contact the Santa Fe Band Boosters or the Director of Bands.



Spring 2025 Travel Plans

There is a tentative plan to travel in Spring of 2025.

The scenario we are currently planning for:

Ideally the full, combined concert bands will be traveling to Hawaii. If we cannot meet fundraising goals, then we will travel to San Antonio, Texas for a performance, clinic, and variety of excursions, based on fundraising efforts and payments made. The itinerary has yet to be created, but quotes and possible activities have been made available to the band boosters and a vote will be taken at a future meeting. Please email Mr. Wilson for more info.

Quick Facts & FAQs About A Tentative Out-Of-State Trip:

- The band's performance on the trip would be a required performance like any other.

By agreeing to be a part of the program you are also agreeing to participate in such a performance. The dates for the trip are *tentatively* set for 3/19/2024 - 3/24/2024. Parents are welcome to accompany the band as chaperones, provided that they pass the district mandated background check.

- **There will be a cost associated with this trip of approximately \$2,700 for Hawaii, or \$500-600 for San Antonio, per student or parent chaperone.** Individual fundraising opportunities and financial assistance would be provided to students in need – we do not leave people behind.
- The cost of the trip would be broken into a payment plan to make the cost more manageable for families, students, and the booster organization.
- Students who fundraise above the amount required for the trip may use any extra money earned for spending on a trip.
- The cost of the trip would include all transportation costs, event fees, clinician fees, some meals and more. Students are encouraged to fundraise or bring funds for additional expenses, activities, and purchases.
- The band would utilize Directors Choice for this trip, which is a tour company that specializes in accommodating school music groups. They have an outstanding reputation for providing top-quality, safe, fun, and rewarding educational travel experiences for high school bands. Please note that the Santa Fe High School Band would be entering into contract with the travel agent to pay for this trip. **As such, any payments would be entirely non-refundable** - If a student is removed from the program for any reason (disciplinary or other), or cannot travel due to academic eligibility, their payments WOULD NOT be refunded.



Special Needs & Circumstances

We often have students in our program that require special education, have individual needs requiring resources beyond usual classroom offerings, or have disabilities requiring accommodation. We believe that every student should have the opportunity to participate in music and are proud to offer a place in our band program to **ALL** students who are willing to give their complete efforts.

If a student has special needs or circumstances, the director needs to know about it in order for it to be correctly accommodated in a music classroom setting (as opposed to a general or core classroom setting). If the band staff is aware of, and has a full understanding of a student's individual needs, then they are able to better address the situation. As a result, the student will receive a better musical education and a more positive experience in our program.



Our "Social Contract"

"All Human Beings are born free and equal, in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience, and should act toward one another in a spirit of brotherhood." – *Article 1 The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

The Santa Fe Band is a unified ensemble that **WILL** function as one, singular entity, with shared interests, goals, failures, and successes. The Santa Fe Band Program is a safe space designed for our students to thrive and achieve together, as an ensemble. By being a part of this program, it is understood that students, staff, instructors, parents, and volunteers will treat one another with respect and dignity regardless of individual opinion, background, belief, age, education, socioeconomic status, talent, or ability. We are all part of **ONE BAND** and will function only as **ONE BAND**.

Derogatory, racist, homophobic, transphobic, and xenophobic rhetoric, as well as hate speech of any kind **will not be tolerated**. These behaviors and/or bullying of any kind do not have a place in this program. Period. Everyone has a place in this program that is willing to work hard, as a team, with respect for one another. It is expected that all students, parents, and staff of the program adhere to this social contract.



Additional Contacts

- Cameron Wilson, B.A.
Director of Bands, Santa Fe High School
Cwilson@sfps.k12.nm.us
- Clarissa Riggins, B.M.
Assistant Band Director, Santa Fe High School
Director of Bands, Milagro Middle School
Criggins@sfps.k12.nm.us
- Dhamaris Mendez B.M.
Assistant Band Director, Santa Fe High School
Director of Bands, Aspen Community School
Dmendez@sfps.k12.nm.us
- Band Program Website – www.santafebands.com #santafebands
- Santa Fe High School
2100 Yucca St.
Santa Fe, NM 87505
505.467.2400 (Main Office)
505.467.2928 (Band Office)



Handbook Agreement Contract

This form **MUST** be completed, signed and returned before the student will be admitted into the Santa Fe High School Band Program.

By signing this document, you, the student & parent, hereby understand and agree to ALL of the policies, terms, conditions, requirements, procedures and other information contained within the Santa Fe Bands Student & Parent Handbook. If you have any questions about the handbook or Santa Fe Bands, please feel free to talk to or email the Director of Bands at Cwilson@sfps.k12.nm.us **BEFORE** signing this document.

Student's Signature Date Parent/Guardian's Signature Date

Please Fill Out The Following Information:

Student's Full Printed Name:

Student's Preferred Name (And Pronouns):

Student's School ID#:

Student's Email(s):

Student's T-Shirt Size Shoe Size :

Parent Email(s):

Parent Phone Number(s) :



Emergency Medical Release Form

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ M.I: _____ Gender (Circle): M F N/B O.

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parent/Guardian's Name(s)

Parent/Guardian's Employer (n/a if not applicable):

Work/Cell Phone #: _____ Home Phone #:

Insurance Company: _____ Policy Number:

Additional Emergency contact (include name, phone number and relationship to student):

Primary Physician: _____ Phone #:

Relevant Regular Medications:

Allergies:

Any Medical History Relevant to The Student's Participation in Band:

In the case of a medical emergency in which the parent/guardian CANNOT be reached, I authorize any SFPS employee to obtain medical treatment including: X-ray, anesthetic, medical or surgical diagnosis/treatment, and hospital service that may be rendered as deemed necessary for my child's health and welfare.

Signature of Parent/Guardian Date