



# Sparkman Band Syllabus 2019-20

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Sparkman High School Band is to foster character development in students using music through performance as the tool to build honorable and productive citizens.

## Expectations

Band is a performance-based class; therefore, in order to participate each student is expected to:

- \*Be committed to perform to the best of your ability at all times.
- \*Be prepared with your instrument, music, coordinate sheets and a pencil every day.
- \*Be present at all performances and rehearsals.
- \*Ask for help and set aside time to practice after school if you are having trouble with your assignment.
- \*Always represent Sparkman as a mature young adult that strives for excellence.
- \*Treat the director, other students, chaperones and other adults with the utmost respect possible.
- \*Respect the band room by not bringing food or drink inside.
- \*Respect the band room by not leaving articles of clothing, music, instruments or other personal belongings inside.
- \*Attend all rehearsals and performances, even those that fall during any fall, spring or summer break.
- \*Pay all dues set forth by the booster organization. (Dues are subject to change each semester due to approved band budget)
- \*Adhere to all policies and procedures located on the Sparkman HS Band Website: <http://sparkmanband.com>

*Any student that does not fulfill the above requirements/expectations or is determined to be unreliable will be removed from performing with the band or assigned as an alternate under the discretion of the director. Students may be moved to any playing ensemble according to their participation, cooperation and playing abilities. Continued misbehavior or defiance may result in being removed from the band class.*

## Grading Procedures

60% - Test Grade / 40% - Daily Grade

**Test grades** are determined from performances. Each performance will count as one test grade. If students arrive late or leave early this test grade will be lowered. All absences will receive a zero until makeup requirements are complete. Competitions or any other performance that is being adjudicated will count twice as much as a regular performance. A playing test may be added at any time during the semester and will be announced in advance.

**Daily grades** come from participation in class and extra rehearsals. If students arrive late or leave early this grade will be lowered. All absences will receive a zero until makeup requirements are complete. Students will have a class participation grade that may be reduced each time a student does not fulfill duties inside the rehearsal: no instrument, no music or proper materials. Daily grades may also come from turning in signed sheets, uniforms and music on time.

## Absence Procedures

There are two ways to be excused for a performance or rehearsal absences: death in family and major medical emergency/ student illness. If a student must miss a performance or rehearsal due to a family death the student should return a written excuse from parent or legal guardian within 3 school days of the missed assignment. Copies of a doctor's excuse should be given to the director if illness prevents any student from attending any performance or rehearsal.

## Ensemble Eligibility

The Sparkman Band contains multiple ensembles during both the fall and spring semester. All 9th grade wind students will automatically enter the Marching Band during the fall semester. All students grade 9-12 will be evaluated and placed in the appropriate performing ensemble. Chair auditions in the fall will determine the student's placement during spring concert season. Marching evaluations during the spring will determine the marching placement in the fall. Students are responsible for practicing and obtaining outside help (if needed) with the audition materials and will receive ample instruction from the directors to pass all marching evaluations.

## Sparkman Band Performing Ensembles

Fall Semester	Spring Semester
<p><b>Competition Band (10-12)</b> (9th grade percussion by audition only)</p> <p><b>Marching Band (9-12)</b></p>	<p><b>Wind Ensemble (9-12)</b> <b>Symphonic Band (9-12)</b> <b>Concert Band (9-12)</b> <b>Jazz Band (by audition only)</b> <b>Indoor Percussion (by audition only)</b> <b>Winter Guard - Varsity &amp; JV (by audition only)</b></p>

## Chair Auditions and Evaluations

**Wind Ensemble/Symphonic/Concert Band** - At the end of each marching season, all wind and percussion students will receive chair audition materials made available on the website and during class. Students will be placed in chair placements according to the results of their performance. (*The placement of the ensemble may be determined by additional criteria found below*)

**Indoor Percussion** - At the end of marching season, students will receive audition materials for positions in the Indoor Percussion program for the spring semester and audition for those positions.

**Winter Guard** - All color guard members are re-evaluated by the instructor and directors according to the skills they have perfected throughout marching season and the additional criteria below.

**Competition/Marching Band** - During the spring semester, each student will be evaluated according to their ability to march a box 8 exercise at a predetermined speed and pass off a predetermined number of scales. Students that pass this proficiency test will be eligible to perform in the competition band as long as they meet the additional criteria listed below.

**Alternates** - In Competition Band, some students will be assigned an alternate status based upon the evaluation of a student's performance abilities, attendance/reliability records, and other criteria. All alternates will have an opportunity to march in the Marching Band show.

**Jazz Band** - Students will be selected for jazz band according to an audition and positions available. A sufficient number of qualified students must be interested before a jazz band will be assembled during the spring semester.

Students will be placed in various ensembles according to the following additional criteria:

- Attendance at prior rehearsals and performances
- Discipline referrals
- Consecutive band class participation
- Scheduled conflicts with future performances
- Performance ability (Marching ability will have no effect on concert band placement)

Return this document to the appropriate director according to your schedule. Do not cut or tear. Additional copy for your records can be found at <http://sparkmanband.com/downloads-2/>

## Signatures

I have read and agree to abide by all contents mentioned in the Sparkman High School Band Syllabus and policies and procedures located on the Sparkman HS Band Website: <http://sparkmanband.com>

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Student Name(print) / Date

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Parent signature / Date

*The Madison County School District does not discriminate in admission, treatment, or access to programs or activities on the basis of race, age, ethnicity, color, disability, creed, sex, religious belief, national origin, immigrant or migrant status, non-English speaking ability, or homeless status.*

*Madison County School District contact person for title IX and section 504*

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