

STARKVILLE ACADEMY



**“The Pride of Starkville Academy”
Student Handbook**

2015-2016

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a convenient and informative reference for students, parents, administrators, and directors who have any questions concerning the Starkville Academy Band program. Strong efforts were made to cover a spectrum of issues and topics commonly addressed in classroom and real life settings. It would be prudent and wise to read and review all aspects of this handbook before choosing to ask questions in order to prevent unnecessary discussion. This handbook serves as a constitution for the band program and all participants who are involved in the process. Failure to heed the expectations expressed within will cause said individuals to reap the consequences of their decisions. **The band director reserves the right to amend any or all parts of the band handbook/class syllabus.**

THE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Jeremy Nicholas	Head of School
Mr. Billy Wilbanks	Secondary Principal
Mr. Gary White	Elementary Principal

Without the continued support of these administrators, the band program would not exist as it does today. We cannot express our appreciation enough for their service.

PHILOSOPHY

The purpose of the Volunteer Band is to ensure that all students, regardless of age, sex, religion, socioeconomic status, political beliefs, or natural ability, receive the highest level of music education available. Students involved with the Volunteer Band will become knowledgeable on music theory, music history, aural music knowledge, and cultural music knowledge while also becoming proficient on one or more musical instruments as a part of a large and small band ensemble as well as individual musicianship.

Competition in the Volunteer Band is not meant to drive students to seek domination over others but rather to cause students to set higher goals for themselves and to motivate one another to higher levels of achievement. Why settle for only accomplishing a few minor goals when you can push one another to reach the top of your musical achievement?

The goal we wish to achieve with the Volunteer Band is to create musically literate students who will carry the lessons learned in school throughout their lives, blessing others with the gift of music. As a part of the musical experience, students will also learn leadership and team-building skills, increase their overall intelligence, and become a part of a winning program.

BAND STAFF**Director of Bands**

Dr. Duane Warfield

(662) 323-7814 ext.109

dwarfield@starkvilleacademy.org

Assistant Director of Bands

Ms. Haley Harper

BAND BOOSTER OFFICERS

President	Jim Harfst
1 st Vice-President	Shelly Kelly
2 nd Vice-President	Susan Heath
Secretary	Sylvia Sutphin
Treasurer	Melanie Gully
Historian	Amy Helms

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

To the students and parents of the Volunteer Band,

Welcome to the handbook of the Starkville Academy Volunteer Band! It is my pleasure and privilege to be in my fourth year as the director of the Starkville Academy Volunteer Band. It is great to be working with a band that has such a strong tradition of excellence and a history of pride. I would like to take a moment to share with you the proud history we share.

Founded in 1970 by a group of parents and two MSU grad students who wanted to promote music at Starkville Academy, the Volunteer Band remains an integral part of SA. With the first marching show occurring on September 10, 1971, the band's uniforms were sewn by hand with a lot of love and pride. The first home of the band was upstairs behind the gym, where the old study hall room is located. The band hall that we currently occupied was built through loans secured by band parents who sold everything from barbeque chicken dinners to "square feet" of the band hall to repay the loan. For many years band members removed their shoes at the door, considering the band hall as "sacred ground."

At one point in time, the Volunteer Band was as large as 110 members, making up 32% of the student population. Today, the band currently comprises 24 students with six students in the 6th grade band. With the option of student activities ranging from football to golf, cheerleading to dance team, or speech and debate to chess, the possibility of the band returning to 100 members looks daunting. However, with the support of strong band boosters, the school administration, and students like you who strive for excellence, we can bring back the "glory days" of the Volunteer Band to the strains of "Hail to the Volunteers" and "Battle Hymn!"

As a member of the Volunteer Band, strive to make a difference. Don't settle for anything less than your best. Let everyone know that we are "The Pride of Starkville Academy!"

Go Vols!,

Dr. Duane Warfield

SA SUMMER BAND CAMP: July 20 - July 28

Camp Fee - \$10

Each student is required to pay a \$10 camp fee to help cover the cost of water and other needs for camp.

SA SUMMER BAND CAMP DATES

CAMP STARTS AT 8:00AM. STUDENTS NEED TO BE IN THEIR SEATS ON TIME

July 20 – July 23	Full Band Camp (8:00am-11:30am and 1:00pm-4:00pm)
July 24	Full Band Camp (8:00am-11:30am and 1:00pm-4:00pm) Dinner for Students @ 4:30pm Camp Performance for family and friends @ 5:30pm. Ice Cream Social and Band Booster meeting following performance.
July 27 & 28	Full Band Camp (8:00am-12:00pm)
August 4 th	Full Band Rehearsal 3:30pm – 5:30pm
August 7 th	Meet the Vols, arrival time TBA

All members of the SA Marching Band (Entering Grades 7-12) are expected to attend starting Monday, July 20, 2015.

* Water Bottles will be provided to students during band camp

Lunch During Camp

Lunch Break will be from 11:30-1:00 everyday at camp. Students are responsible for providing their own lunch. Students are welcome to bring a sack lunch, but they must remain in the band hall. If a student leaves campus for lunch, they must bring a **signed note from a parent**.

CAMP WILL RESUME PROMPTLY AT 1:00 AFTER LUNCH. STUDENTS NEED TO BE IN THEIR SEATS ON TIME!

Camp Dress Code

During camp please remember to wear loose and comfortable (but appropriate) clothing for both inside and outside. Make sure that you wear appropriate shoes (no sandals, boots, or flip flops) and that you wear socks. Students should bring a personal size water cooler, sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat to each rehearsal. Pencils, instruments, music, and drill charts are required for each rehearsal.

BAND UNIFORMS

This year's warm weather uniform will consist of black bibbers, the SA blue dry wick band shirt, black socks, black shoes.

BAND FEES

Booster Fee (one per family)	\$40
Camp Fee	\$10
Uniform Cleaning Fee	\$10
SA Band T-shirt (with new logo)	\$20
Instrumental Rental	\$50 (for entire year)
Band Shoes	\$40
Bibbers	\$43

Total Fees Due August 14th

*Prices subject to change from retailer

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL BAND FEES SHOULD BE PAID IN FULL BY
AUGUST 14th.**

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Friday	August 21	Marshall	H	7:00
Friday	August 28	W Lowndes	H	7:00
Friday	September 4	Magnolia Heights	A	7:00
Friday	September 11	Lamar	A	7:00
Friday	September 18	Washington (HC)	H	7:00
Friday	September 25	Heritage	A	7:00
Friday	October 2	French Camp	A	7:00
Friday	October 9	Leake	H	7:00
Friday	October 16	Pillow	H	7:00
Friday	October 23	Winston	A	7:00

Please note that you are required to be present for all games and rehearsals. Absences are granted only for illness and death in your immediate family. If there is a conflict with another school activity please let me know in advance so that the logistics can be worked out. Most of the time it can be worked out with advanced notice.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2015-2016

August 7	Meet the Vols @ 7:00PM
August 27	Starkville City Hall Dedication, time TBA
September 19	MSU Marching Honor Band
September 26	Marching Band Festival @ Kosciusko
October 24	MAIS Marching Band Festival @ JA (Jackson, MS)
November 14	1 st Round Lions Band (optional)
November 21	2 nd Round Lions Band (optional)
November 30	Starkville Christmas Parade
December 7	Winter Concert for SA Bands/Choirs @7:00pm (SA Gym)
January 7-9	MAIS Band Clinic @ Hinds College (Raymond, MS)
January 28-30	MSU Honor Band (optional)
?February 18-20	Mid-South Honor Band (optional)
March 11-13	SA Band Spring Trip
April 8	MAIS Concert Band Festival @ JA (Jackson, MS)
April 26	SA Spring Concert @ 7:00pm (SA Gym)
April	Solo and Ensemble Contest (during school day)
April 29	Band Banquet @ Hilton Garden Inn Starkville
TBA	Guard/Percussion/Drum Major Interest Meeting
TBA	Guard/Percussion/Drum Major Tryouts
May 12	SA Graduation (Practice AM/Performance PM)

***Dates and times are subject to change. I will notify you of any changes as soon as I know about them.**

After School Marching/Concert Band Rehearsals will be held on Tuesdays from 3:30pm-5:30pm.

Courses of Study

5TH GRADE “CADET” BAND

The Volunteer Band experience begins in 4th grade when students take a music class on playing the recorder to determine the level of success they may achieve through the Volunteer Band. In the fall, the 5th graders will participate in the beginner band program, learning the basics of music. During this time the students will be tested on different instruments to determine the most appropriate instrument for them. A licensed instrument salesman will be prepared to sell instruments to the students during this time. After the students receive their instruments, they will begin to learn how to play the instruments as well as continue their general music education. The students will have two public performances during the year at the Christmas and spring concerts. Students must have satisfactory academic grades in order to continue in band.

6TH GRADE BAND

The 6th grade Volunteer Band will be a continuation of the 5th grade experience with added benefits. Students will continue to receive music instruction as in fifth grade with additional lessons in advanced techniques. The 6th grade band participates in the Christmas and spring concerts.

VOLUNTEER MARCHING BAND

The Volunteer Marching Band consists of grades 7 – 12 and serves as the “face” of the school. This group performs at all high school football games, two contest festivals, the MAIS festival, and the Starkville Christmas parade. The Volunteer Band has a proud history dating back to 1970, and has an even brighter future! The full band will meet during school hours and on Tuesday nights in the fall from 3:15 to 5:30.

CONCERT BAND

Immediately following the football season, the Volunteer Concert Band begins its performance schedule with the Christmas concert. An audition is held to rank students so that they can perform to the best of their ability. During the spring semester, the Concert Band will work on individual musicianship as well as ensemble performance. The band participates in the MAIS Concert Festival. The band will also participate in the spring concert and in an out-of-state festival trip every other year.

JAZZ BAND

The Volunteer Jazz Band is a non-credit ensemble that practices outside of school hours and performs jazz-styled music. Open to all students, the jazz band will allow students to experiment and play different styles of music and perform at different venues throughout the spring.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. Each band member is expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals including any after school or night rehearsals, all summer rehearsals, and all performances.
2. Absences from band rehearsals or performances are either considered excused or unexcused. An absence due to personal illness, death in the family, emergencies, personal involvement in another school function, or special permission from the band director or principal **obtained in advance by the parent or guardian shall be considered EXCUSED. Absences due to any other reason shall be considered UNEXCUSED.** Doctor and dentist appointments need to be made after school if possible so that the student will not miss rehearsal. All students are required to make up missed rehearsals or performances. An unexcused absence from a performance/rehearsal will result in a separate assignment (to be determined by the band director) to be completed within a week of the missed performance/rehearsal. Students failing to complete the assignment within the week will receive a "0" for that performance/rehearsal.
3. Only four (4) unexcused absences from rehearsals will be accepted. Upon being absent for the fifth rehearsal unexcused, the student will receive an "F" for the nine weeks and have a parent conference scheduled. Upon the sixth unexcused absence, the student will be considered for dismissal from the band. **Dismissal of students will garner a zero in band and no credit for the semester.**
4. When joining the Volunteer band, all students agree to abide by all rules and regulations stated in the handbook. **If students fail to adhere to these rules and are dismissed from the band during the school year, they may only be readmitted the following school year with the full consent of the band staff.**
5. **It is the responsibility of the student or parents to contact your director PRIOR to a performance if you are going to be late or cannot attend.**
6. **EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEARING AND SEEING ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Failure to look and listen is not an excuse. "I didn't know" is not a valid excuse. A time for meeting will be specified for all performances. **THIS IS A FORMATION TIME, NOT AN ARRIVAL TIME.**
7. Students should arrange their personal jobs or extra church functions so as not to conflict with rehearsals or performances. Work is not considered an excused absence. Performances and rehearsals will be announced well in advanced so that these activities, as well as family trips, should not conflict.
8. All students must travel to off-campus performances or events on the bus. If students wish to ride home with their parents they (the parents) must contact the director in person after the event so that the students may be released to them. Any student who wishes to ride home with another set of band parents must have their parent contact the director PRIOR to the trip. **NO STUDENT WILL BE RELEASED TO A NON-BAND STUDENT OR ADULT AT ANY TIME.**
9. Smoking, consumption of alcoholic beverages, and the use of controlled substances will not be tolerated in the band program. This is a zero-tolerance policy. Any student caught breaking this rule will be dismissed from the band for a minimum of one calendar year, receive a zero and no credit for the semester and may not be readmitted to the band without the full consent of the band staff.

GENERAL RULES

1. Each student is responsible for the welfare of any and all equipment, music, uniforms, etc. issued to him or her. Any lost or misplaced music or equipment must be replaced or paid for by the student. If music is lost, there will be a \$1 fee for replacing the music. Reeds and oil may be purchased from the band director before or after rehearsal begins or concludes.
2. Each student is expected to have all proper equipment at all rehearsals **ON HIS OR HER BODY**. This includes instrument, sticks, music, pencils, valve oil, etc. "It's in my case" is not an acceptable answer.
3. Take pride in your band hall. Put trash in the trash cans. Do not write graffiti on shelves, walls, doors, stands, etc. Students caught in the act will have to repair/clean or pay for their mistakes themselves.
4. You are to play on the instrument assigned to you and no one else's. Damaging school owned instruments will not be tolerated. Students caught damaging equipment will pay for all damages in full. Students who use school owned instruments (tuba, percussion, horn, euphonium) must purchase their own mouthpiece or drumsticks/ mallets.
5. When in uniform, students no longer act as individuals but as representatives of the band, school, and community. As such, students must appear either in full uniform at all times except when otherwise stated. **THIS MEANS BIBBERS UP AND ZIPPED, COAT ON, ZIPPED AND BUTTONED, AND ALL ACCESSORIES ATTACHED.**
6. Use of cell phones or music players while in rehearsals or in uniform is strictly prohibited. Any said objects will be confiscated immediately and given to the principal.
7. Students who wish to be in the band hall at any time other than band class or rehearsal should be doing one of the following: a) practicing his or her instrument; b) cleaning the band hall; c) meeting with the director; or d) participating with the elementary bands. If you are not doing one of these things, you should not be in the band hall. **NO ONE IS TO BE IN THE BAND HALL WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION!**

CONSEQUENCES

Unlike other subject areas, where students receive grades strongly based on individual performance, band requires everyone to perform as a group. Therefore, students who fail to respect the rules of the band or choose to act in a negative fashion will have their grade lowered. Students who commit larger or multiple (two being the minimum) offenses will receive detention or said students who fail to follow classroom rules or general rules will receive the corresponding disciplinary actions.

FUNDRAISING

All members of the Volunteer Band are expected to perform their share of duties. As such, all students must participate in fundraisers. There are several fundraising events throughout the year that will provide students the opportunity to pay for band fees as well as the big band trip for the school year. All other fundraisers directly benefit the Volunteer Band.

TRAVELING

All students will be expected to follow school rules while on a band trip. If we are to stay overnight at any location, it will be expected that males will stay in male-sanctioned areas and females remain in female-sanctioned areas. There will be a zero-tolerance policy on this issue. **When traveling on the bus, male students must sit next to male students and female students must sit next to female students.**

BAND STUDENT OFFICERS

President – Student representative of the band; conducts band officer meetings; see that officer meetings are held when needed; appoints and coordinates committees as needed; reports to director any problems or suggestions that may improve the band program. Prerequisites: Must be a senior in good academic standing; if no candidates are suitable, the President may be a junior in good academic standing.

Vice President – Assumes all duties of the President in his or her absence. In addition to the vice president's responsibilities, he/she may also act as secretary and treasurer for the band (see descriptions below).

Secretary – Takes minutes of each band officer meeting; cuts out and posts any band publicity from newspapers.

Treasurer – Is responsible for any money taken up from students for special projects or functions.

Historian – Writes and documents a history of the Volunteer Band's activities and accomplishments for the year in a slideshow or video format to be presented at the Band Banquet each spring.

Librarians – Assists the director with music and library duties.

Uniform Officers – Assists the director with the issuing and return of uniforms.

SECTION LEADERS

Section leaders are members of the band who have proven to be leaders through their hard work, dedication, and leadership. Their role is to act as role models for the band, to help take attendance, and to assist students with any issues. If one wishes to become a section leader, they must demonstrate the qualities of a leader through their work in the band and in school. During camp I will select students to be section leaders in the marching band. These students will help with the everyday operations of the band.

GRADING

Students will receive grades for each rehearsal and performance attended. Students will also be given playing and written tests during the nine-week grading period. Periodical marching tests will also be given as it relates to drill. The following represents the grading criteria for band:

1. **Participation** (attendance, daily participation, materials, instrument, music, pencil, drill charts, etc.)
2. **Presentation** (performances, concerts, festivals, football games, etc.)
3. **Homework** (weekly practice logs, written assignments, playing assignments, listening assignments, etc.)
4. **Pop Quizzes** (music pass-offs, drill routines, scales, rudiments, etudes, rhythms, pencil checks, etc.)

GRADES FOR REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES:

90-100	(A) Present/On Time
80-89	(B) Excused Tardy
70-79	(C) Excused Absence/ Unexcused Tardy
0	(F) Unexcused Absence

Drum Majors, Majorettes, and Guard Members are expected to play in the stands and pass off music and/or scales during the fall semester in order to keep their musical skills at a proficient level.

AUDITION INFORMATION

During the month of October, auditions will be held for the concert band. All members are required to audition and will receive a grade for auditioning. The individual results of the audition will determine the student's chair placement in the concert band. The seating may be adjusted by the band director according to individual progression and daily preparation.

Musical materials will be distributed in advance of the auditions and will consist of scales, rudiments, a prepared piece, and sight-reading.

The director will assign students to parts in order to achieve proper balance. Generally, the students will be seated in order; however some sections may be staggered to get a proper and balanced band sound.

Students who feel they are deserving of advancement within the section may challenge any person in a higher chair. The challenge procedure is as follows:

1. Students are limited to two challenges per 9 weeks period within bands.
2. A student challenging a student playing a higher part must use the higher part music. The music along with scales and sight-reading will be the challenge material.

3. The challenger must fill out a challenge form and return it to the director. Both members involved must sign the form.
4. The challenge must be held within one week after the form is returned at an agreeable time to both students.
5. The challenge will be forfeited to the person present if one person fails to appear.
6. The challenge will be forfeited if one person refuses to sign the form.
7. In case of a tie, the players will retain the same seating prior to the challenges.
8. All challenges will stop at the discretion of the band director.

SPECIAL AWARDS

Mary McCoy Outstanding Achievement Award – Established in 2000 and named in honor of one of the greatest band mothers to grace our program, the Mary McCoy award is a distinguished honor given to a band parent who goes above and beyond the call of duty to serve the band and the band boosters. The recipient of the award is typically the parent of an outgoing senior, though it is not held to that standard each year.

Kelly Shurden Award – Kelly Shurden was a band booster whose daughter Karen participated in the Volunteer Band. During the 1988 – 1989 school year, when his daughter Karen was drum major, Kelly died of a heart attack. This award was established in his memory to honor an upperclassman with a servant’s heart and attitude. This award is limited to seniors or juniors.

Corey Aldridge Award – Originally established as the Band Clown award, this award was renamed in memory of Corey Aldridge, a percussionist who passed away in May 2007. A multiple winner of the award himself, the Corey Aldridge award is for a student who keeps the attitude of the band light during tough times and (sometimes) finds him or herself in trouble for his or her antics. This award is open to all band members.

The Thomas Oakley Award – Originally established as the Outstanding Bandsmen Award, this award was renamed in memory of Thomas Oakley. A euphonium player and Lion’s Band member, Thomas never actually received the award. However, through the history of his family (being the fourth of four Oakley brothers in the Volunteer Band), Thomas demonstrated what it meant to be an outstanding bandsman through his musicianship and his character. This award is given to the most outstanding bandsman in the 9th through 12th grade.

The Pride Award – Perhaps the most simplistic of the awards, the Pride award is given to the band member who displays the most devotion to keeping the band a superior organization. This award is reserved for seniors or juniors.

John Philip Sousa Award – Named for the “March King,” the John Philip Sousa award is given out by virtually every high school band across the United States. This award is to recognize outstanding leadership and character as well as achievement and conduct. This award is given to a senior.

FORM OF CONSENT

I, the undersigned, have read and understood the guidelines and rules set forth in this handbook. I also submit that if I choose to violate the said rules that I will accept the punishment as set forth by the SA Director of Bands.

By signing this form, I will promise to do my best at all times, to not give in to pressure, to willingly agree to directions given by the band director, and to be positive of whatever condition that may befall us.

By signing below, I promise to be a law-abiding member of the Volunteer Band and to give my all!

Volunteer Band Member (Print Name)

Signature

Volunteer Parent (Print Name)

Signature