

*SAUGATUCK
HIGH SCHOOL BANDS*

A Tradition of Excellence!



**Band Handbook
2020-2021**

Andrew C. Holtz, Director of Bands

401 Elizabeth St
Saugatuck, MI 49453
(269) 857-2133 ext. 111

Dear Parents and Students:

What a difference a year makes! I'm sure the start of this school year has brought as much if not more anxiety and uncertainty to your home and hearts as my own. I am excited and anxious for this year to start, while still feeling many layers of other, positive and negative, emotions.

This year's band handbook is very different than all the ones that have come before it. Most of that is due to the high levels of uncertainty we are currently facing. Will we be able to rehearse indoors or outdoors? Will we be able to schedule any performances? What are we doing in band class if we can't play our instruments?

Please take some time to read through this document. Things have changed repeatedly over the summer, and will undoubtedly change many more times throughout the year. This handbook is living, and by necessity will have to change as new regulations and mandates are handed down.

If ever you feel the need to contact me, the best way to do so is through my school email, aholtz@saugatuckps.com. If the need is urgent, please contact my cell phone at (616)550-4672. Please understand that I have four school-age children of my own at home and may be unable to answer your call immediately.

If there is ever anything I can do for you as your band director, please do not hesitate to let me know. I look forward to a school year like no other!

Sincerely,
Andrew C. Holtz
Director of Bands, Saugatuck Middle and High School

“The Problem”

Justifiably, the main concern right now for band class is Covid-19 and the potential spread of germs through a class our size and the playing of wind instruments. Across the nation, several scientific studies have been done since things were shut down in March, and the biggest takeaway is that band CAN be done safely, so long as a list of safety protocols are followed.

Procedures

Students will be playing outside on the marching band/football field. Our drill has been designed specifically so that students are six feet apart from all other musicians at all times throughout the show, and rehearsals will be tweaked to maintain distancing during the class period (there will be a lot more ‘reverse marching,’ where instead of walking back to your previous formation you march it back to maintain the necessary distance).

Masks will not be on while students rehearse outdoors, however the end of brass players’ instruments will be covered with a mask to reduce emissions. Studies have shown woodwind emissions to be much less problematic.

Student instruments will be stored in the school’s hallways in such a way that instruments can be picked up quickly before class and after school. Students will be assembling their instruments outdoors while socially distant.

“The Plan”

Even though there is no football season this fall, we are going to be marching as close to normal of a band season as possible. This means going outside to rehearse every day—unless weather doesn’t allow. On days when the weather is poor we will be meeting in the auditorium—sitting in the audience seating and conducting a music exploratory/appreciation type class. Content for this class will primarily be student interest driven, and could cover a wide range of topics from music composition to music

What about Disney?

You will, I'm sure, remember that the band was scheduled to perform at Disney World a week after everything was shut down this past March. You have no idea how disappointed I am that we didn't schedule our trip just a little bit earlier! The plan RIGHT NOW is still to travel and perform in March of 2021. The following is a quote from an email with our travel company dated 8/27:

Within 4-6 weeks, Disney is supposed to contact us with a decision on the 2021 season. The Performing Arts management team has informed us that Disney may NOT be offering the performing arts program for spring 2021. There is also the chance that corporate Disney may not allow ANY groups for spring 2021. Disney did request a list of groups who were originally scheduled for 2020 or contracted for 2021. Our hope is they honor those groups.

I know I am not the only one that would be heartbroken if Disney backed out of having us perform, unfortunately this is another thing completely out of my hands. I will be sure to keep you informed as updates become available.

Policy on School-Owned Equipment

School owned properties, instruments, and equipment can be distributed for use with school band personnel only; however, certain obligations must be accepted by the lendeer before a loan can be given.

1. The lendeer will follow proper procedures in securing property:
 - a. Obtain an authorization form (instruments only)
 - b. Sign an Agreement and Check-Out form
 - c. Return property at the end of each trimester or school year (instruments cannot be taken over the summer unless approved by the Director)

2. The lendeer will accept full responsibility for the property while in their possession.
This will include:
 - a. Repair of any damage from the result of negligence or misuse.

- b. Replacement of lost or stolen articles of property or instruments while in the lende'e's possession.
- c. Compensating the school for any lost or stolen property at the current price as established by the Director.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Please inform Mr. Holtz by phone call or email of any concern you may have in regards to your child's health in band class. Items such as heart conditions, hearing loss, allergies, and asthma are important for the director to know in order to appropriately teach your child.