MATERIALS LIST

***Please have your materials by Tuesday, September 1st***

We will continue to use the Standard of Excellence Method book as curriculum for our Concert Band. We will not be using the method book for Symphonic Band (Previously called “Honor Band”) this year. Our students enrolled in Concert Band will use the Beginning Book, the first in the series. Many of our returning students have already purchased this book for their band class last year.

All band, orchestra and choir students should come prepared with a ½ inch, 3 ring **black** binder, and 10 plastic sleeves to start with. Students enrolled in more than one ensemble may want to use a 1 inch binder. Students should also bring a pencil to class every day.

**GRADING POLICY**

All music students begin with 100 points. If a student fails to bring their instrument to class, they lose 3 points. Failure to bring their pencil or music will result in 2 points deducted from their grade. Students may also lose points for low participation in class. There are several ways in which to earn these points back. If a student auditions for an honor band or orchestra, they receive 5 points. If a student attends an approved concert and writes a 3 page reflective essay on the performance, they receive 3 points. A student may also earn 3 points by writing a 3 page report on an approved musician or music composer.

I will not require practice records this year. However, practice is necessary for our students strengthen their skills, and should be built into their homework routine. I recommend that students find ***at least*** 15 minutes, 5 nights a week to practice. Choral students should find time to practice over their parts as well.

* 94-100 points= A
* 90-93 points= A-
* 87-89 points= B+
* 83-86 points= B
* 80-82 points= B-
* 77-79 points= C+
* 73-76 points= C
* 70-72 points= C-
* 67-69 points= D+
* 63-66 points= D
* 60-62 points= D-
* 59 points & below= F ***When a student drops below 80 points, their parent or guardian will be notified.***

**Our Music Program**

**Concert Band**  
The Concert Band is comprised of students who are typically in their first few years of study on their instrument, or picking up a second instrument. These students are working hard to hone their skills so that they can join the Symphonic Band when they are ready. This band will continue to use a method book throughout the course of the year, while also beginning to use sheet music. Sheet music is written in parts, allowing the band to perform in polyphony as sections, rather than everyone playing the melody. It is recommended that students involved in this group practice 75 minutes a week. The Concert Band performs at all of our home concerts.

**Symphonic Band  
(Previously called “Honor Band”)**  
The Symphonic Band consists of advanced 7th and 8th grade students who are experienced musicians, studying music at higher skill levels. Many of these students participate in honor band auditions, many of whom will be selected to join county, regional, and even state honor bands. This group, though still using the method book, primarily uses sheet music. Our Symphonic Band studies both modern and classical works. This band performs at all home concerts, as well as participating in festivals and community events. This group is one of two of our most advanced ensembles. These students have high musical expectations and are encouraged to practice a minimum of 150 minutes a week.

**Jazz Band**  
The Jazz Band is our most experienced group, consisting of students who have excelled in band and are ready to devote more time to their studies in music. Jazz Band meets every day during 5th period. The Jazz Ensemble is currently by director invitation. I will hold auditions for 7th grade participation in both Jazz and Symphonic Band in late September.. Our jazz program provides our students the opportunity to perform with a fine jazz ensemble and takes students through the theory of jazz, its rich history and vibrant cultural traditions. The Jazz Band will participate in several festivals this year. Our Jazz Band will be featured at several community events throughout the year.

**String Orchestra**  
The String Orchestra is one of only a few string programs offered in the Sacramento area, and is an ensemble we are very proud to be able to offer here at Spring View. The String Orchestra consists of Violins, Violas, Cellos, and Basses. The String Orchestra performs at our home concert series, as well as at the Capitol Section Golden Empire Festival.

**Choir**  
The choir has been moved from a year-long course to a semester long course this year to accommodate the district goal to keep our SLCs diversified and offer as many students the opportunity to join as possible. It is our goal to find a way to offer it again as a year-long course while adhering to our goal of keeping our academies diversified.  
Choir will use a variety of repertoire throughout the semester, exploring several styles of choral literature, both accompanied and unaccompanied. Choir may perform during either the winter or the spring concert, depending on which semester your child is enrolled.

**CONCERT ATTIRE**

We strive to set high standards for our Music program. We desire a strong reputation within our community and throughout our region. The way we present our ensembles visually is certainly an important aspect to our concerts and festival performances.

Acceptable concert attire:

Slacks  
Dresses or skirts  
Button up shirts (Not polo shirts)  
Dress Shoes  
***Please remember that dress code does apply***

Unacceptable concert attire:

Sneakers  
Jeans  
T-shirts  
Hats  
  
Students who are enrolled in Jazz Band are expected to wear all black. Students not enrolled in Jazz Band should wear black and/or white. Students enrolled in Jazz will wear their all-black attire to Concert Band/Orchestra/Choral functions as well.

If you have any need for financial help in purchasing concert clothing for your child, please don’t hesitate to talk with me.

SPRING VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

MUSIC DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK



2015-2016