



SPRING LAKE PARK HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK

Spring Lake Park High School
1100 81st Ave NE
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432

<https://www.springlakeparkschools.org/activities-athletics/activities/band>

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Welcome to 2022. The New Normal.

“Return to normal” is the phrase many of us hear after COVID-19 shutdowns for the past two years. Returning to normal is exciting and refreshing, but has a daunting quality to it as well. Being in lockdown did, indeed, teach us a great many things. Those new lessons are slowly absorbing themselves into our everyday lives. More than ever, we treasure time with friends, families, chosen families, and communities.

Our music ensembles hope to be a source of community for all of us. After getting accustomed to “normal” again, how do we make sure that we don’t take this musical community for granted? When we look left and right and see the other musicians next to us, aren’t we in complete awe of the thing we are doing collectively? Creating something magical? Something larger than ourselves?

“Normal” just doesn’t have the same spark as “magical.” Where will you go beyond the normal and find the magical? Perhaps what *was* can be replaced with what *will be*. What *will be* for you? What new lessons are absorbing into your everyday? Magic might be found in the giant sound of our next Showcase Concert, in the sound of a flute practicing downstairs, or simply the chance to take a deep breath on an autumn evening.

We hope to encourage our young musicians that this year, 2022, can be a magical one indeed.

Your music team,

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SLPHS Instrumental Music Program Overview

Varsity Band | Grade: 9, 10, 11 | Prerequisite: All students welcome | Fee: \$TBD Showcase Performance Polo

Varsity Band covers entry-level skills in ensemble and individual performance skills and expands upon previously learned concepts from middle school. By its completion, students will be prepared to advance into Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble.

Symphonic Band | Grade: 10, 11, 12 | Prerequisite: Previous band experience encouraged | Fee: \$TBD Showcase Performance Polo

Symphonic Band is the intermediate ensemble of the SLP band program. Students gain a more complex understanding of their individual instruments as well as mature ensemble skills, complex rhythm reading and music composition skills.

Wind Ensemble | Grade: 10, 11, 12 | Prerequisite: Teacher Approval Required | Fee: \$TBD Showcase Performance Polo & \$25 Formal Uniform Rental

Wind Ensemble is the premier ensemble of the SLP band program. Students gain an advanced understanding of their individual instruments, mature ensemble skills, complex rhythm reading and complex problem solving through composition.

Jazz Ensemble 1 & 2 | Grade: 10, 11, 12 | Prerequisite: Teacher Approval Required | Fee: Free

Jazz Ensemble 1 & 2 is dedicated to jazz and pop styles. Course also includes jazz music theory and improvisation. This course meets as a zero-hour class before school and students must be concurrently enrolled in either Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble.

Jazz Ensemble 3 | Grade: 9, Extra-Curricular | Type: Extra-Curricular | Fee: Free

New to 2022-23 school year, Jazz 3 is an all-freshmen ensemble dedicated to jazz, pop, and improvisation. Jazz 3 is a club that students register for and will meet once per week. Dates and registration will be announced after the start of the school year.

Pit Orchestra | Grade: All, Extra-Curricular | Prerequisite: Teacher Approval | Fee: \$50

Pit Orchestra is a small, ability-based ensemble that performs with the Spring Musical every year. Instrumentation changes every year based on the requirements of the particular show being performed. If a student is interested, they can tell their director; however, this does not guarantee placement. The SLP Pit Orchestra has been granted awards from the Hennepin Theatre Trust Spotlight on the Arts.

Pep Band | Grade: All, Extra-Curricular | Fee: Free

Pep Band performs for athletic functions and helps our school celebrate its school spirit. Due to the nature of sporting events, our pep band receives the largest “audience” of any ensemble and is therefore an important part of our music program.

Lettering

For a Band letter, a student must be enrolled in Varsity Band, Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble for 2 years. A student may letter in Pep Band by attending 80% of the Football, Boys and Girls, Basketball and Boys Hockey games. A student can letter in the Patriots Marching Band by participating for 2 years and attending all of the parades for each season.

Instrument Rentals

Rentals are available for any instrument through the school district. Students can rent an instrument by [filling out this rental form](#) and paying the rental fee on Infinite Campus. Rentals are good for 1 academic year plus the subsequent summer unless the student is graduating or otherwise leaving the district. One school year rental is \$100 (Reduced Lunch: \$50, Free Lunch: \$0).

Attire/Uniforms

- **Varsity Band** - Students dress formally for performances. Varsity band concert attire is any combination of black and white. Options: collared shirt or blouse, dress pants, below-the-knee skirt, full-length dress, long socks, dress shoes.
- **Symphonic Band** - Symphonic Band concert attire is all black. Options: collared shirt or blouse, dress pants, below-the-knee skirt, full-length dress, long socks, dress shoes.
- **Wind Ensemble** - Concert attire is either a black SLP-embroidered button-up or black SLP dress. Students provide their own dress shoes, dress socks, and dress pants if applicable.
- **Jazz** - Please wear business casual or the uniform of your band (above).

If your student needs assistance with their concert attire, please contact your director and we're happy to help.

Fees (needs updating)

- Showcase Concert Performance Polo: \$TBD
- Instrument rental fee: \$100
- Percussion rental fee: \$50
- Tux and dress rental: \$25 (Wind Ensemble students only)
- Pep band t-shirt: \$16*

Course fees will be added to your Infinite Campus student account. The asterisk * symbol denotes a fee that must be paid to the SLPHS Band Boosters instead.

To help with costs, you may qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch. See the [school nutrition services webpage](#) for more information and how to apply.

Patriots Marching Band

The Patriots is a summer marching band that combines band members from St. Anthony Village High School and Spring Lake Park High School. They perform in 6 to 8 competitive parades during the month of June and July and rehearse approximately 15 times from February-June. All students enrolled at St. Anthony Village High School or Spring Lake Park High School, currently in grades 8-12, are eligible to be in Patriots. Only SAV & SLP Band students are eligible for woodwinds, brass & drumline. Others are eligible for Color Guard or Honor Guard. [See the Patriots webpage for more information.](#)

Festivals & Contests

All bands participate in one large group festival or contest with other schools from the Northwest Suburban Conference (NWSC) and surrounding area. These events occur during the school day and also give students the chance to hear other students perform from their age group. Students will be excused from their classes and communicate with their teachers to make up missing work. Dates will be announced.

Honor Bands

Throughout the year, there are many optional opportunities for students to participate in regional, statewide, and national honor bands. Almost all college or university music departments host a program for high school students at some point during the year. Often participation requires an audition and/or a recommendation from your director. The Minnesota Band Directors Association Honor Bands and the Minnesota Music Educators Association All-State Band are two most frequently attended by SLP students.

All-Conference Honor Ensembles

The Northwest Suburban Conference (NWSC) Honor Band, Orchestra, and Choir are select ensembles of the top musicians from each high school in the conference. Members are nominated by their directors and students submit a recorded audition for chair placement. Students chosen are required to attend All-Conference rehearsals in February and January and perform a joint concert for the public.

Tours

Students have the opportunity to participate in annual music performance tours to various locations in the United States and overseas. Fundraising opportunities are available to help students attend. Past tours have included Duluth, Chicago, Costa Rica, Cuba, and New Orleans. Tour dates and locations vary by year and are subject to change or cancellation.

Music Suite Expectations

Use of the music suite is reserved for music students enrolled in music courses only, and is not considered a Flex space. Student use of the music suite is allowed under the supervision of their music teacher for class work time and small group activities during class. Practice rooms fall under this same expectation. Music students can use the music suite during SET times by reserving a space on Infinite Campus. For students retrieving their instruments after the school day, the suite will remain open until 3:10 p.m.

Additional Expectations: When the bell rings, students are inside the music suite doors. Rehearsal begins 4 minutes after the bell with everyone seated having their instruments, pencils, music, and iPads. Percussion students are the only members that play the percussion instruments.

Spring Lake Park Schools Behavioral Expectations

- Students will engage in words and actions that result in a safe physical and emotional environment.
- Students will promote a positive school culture and a sense of belonging for each student their words and actions.
- Each student will be a steward of their school environment, creating a place they are proud to call their school.
- Students will be aware of, and advocate for, their social-emotional and learning wants and needs.

- Students will adjust their behavior to match the learning activity and environment and be open to feedback when they have difficulty.

Supporting Each Other as Musicians and Learners

Students in music ensembles have the unique opportunity to spend time with their instructors and peers for multiple years and across multiple hours of the day in and out of school. That brings a great deal of responsibility to maintain student and staff community, safety, professionalism, and accountability.

For more information, please refer to the [SLPHS Student Expectations in the Student Handbook](#). If there are any concerns, the music staff will work diligently to find collaborative solutions when they are brought forward.

Support For One Another

The goal of the SLP music program is to create music in a positive, collaborative group setting. Members build a community with one another through positive peer interactions, friendships, open-minded conversations, and personal accountability. Students and staff are expected to support and foster one another in and out of ensemble settings so that everyone feels a sense of belonging.

As a student in the SLPHS Music Program, I have read, understand, and support the expectations outlined in the Spring Lake Park Band Handbook.

Please sign below. You may download a copy into the Notability app to sign digitally. Upload the signed copy to Schoology by Wednesday, September 14.

Student Name (Printed)

Student Signature

As a parent or guardian of a student musician in the SLPHS Band Program, I have read and understand the expectations of being a student musician in the band program.

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

____ / ____ / ____
Date