

Summit Hill School District #161
20100 S. Spruce Drive
Frankfort, Illinois 60423
815/469-9103

BAND HANDBOOK

2023-2024



Summit Hill School District #161
20100 S. Spruce Drive
Frankfort, Illinois 60423

Dear Parents,

Learning to play a musical instrument is quite an adventure for you and your child. It is an enriching experience and one that we hope you both will enjoy. It is our sincere desire to do all that we can to make this a gratifying and worthwhile experience. We know that you will want to do all you can to help your child get the most from this venture. This booklet will answer many questions you may have about our Music Department. Please consider its contents carefully and refer to it for future reference.

In addition, we ask that you mark concert dates for the year on your family calendar NOW! This will help avoid conflicts and allow the whole family to attend.

By the school and parents working together for a more complete understanding of how the band program is conducted, we can be assured of enriching and worthwhile experiences in music for your youngsters.

Musically Yours,

Ed Fitzgerald, Hilda Walker 5th Grade Band Director
Jason Collins, Hilda Walker 6th Grade Band Director
Kim Coughlin, Summit Hill Junior High Band Director

General Information for All Bands

Band Director(s) Contact Information

Beginning Band

Ed Fitzgerald, Director
Walker Intermediate
(815) 464-2285
efitzgerald@summithill.org

Walker Wildcat Band

Jason Collins, Director
Walker Intermediate
(815) 464-2285
jcollins@summithill.org

Junior High Bands

Kim Coughlin, Director
Summit Hill Junior High
(815) 469-4330
kcoughlin@summithill.org

Band Booster Organization

Band Booster meetings are held periodically throughout the year. It is here that performance information, rehearsal times, fund-raising events, solutions to problems and any other questions are discussed. There are no dues and the only commitment is to your child. Meeting dates for the year are included with the yearly calendar (see copy elsewhere in the handbook).

Current Officers

President:	Brandy Nelson
Vice President:	Barb Mazarakos
Secretary:	Ericka Plastiak
Treasurer:	Tara Froehlich

Band Program Philosophy

It is the goal of the Summit Hill Band Program to produce well-rounded, independent musicians capable of making rational musical decisions. We strive to provide our students with the best musical education possible. It is our hope that their experience with the Summit Hill Band Program will encourage students to further their musical career in high school and beyond.

Band is a performance-oriented learning experience, and as such, is a serious commitment. Those students with the courage and resolve to keep that commitment will be successful and will benefit tremendously from the band experience.

Band will provide students with excellent opportunities for leadership, group interaction and development of self-confidence, as well as introducing the child to music. Band will provide students with a positive outlet for personal expression and achievement not possible in other academic areas of schooling. Band will provide an opportunity to explore and develop musical talent.

While the overall aim of the band program is growth of students through musical experiences, those students intending to gain the most (musically) from the Band program will need to realize that individual or group lessons given by band directors are only part of what it takes to be truly successful, that daily practice is essential, and that the addition of private lessons outside the school setting can be of great advantage.

Band Program: Purpose and Goals

One of the greatest accomplishments of American education has been its success in giving almost every child an opportunity to make music. Our program's overall aim is GROWTH OF STUDENTS THROUGH MUSICAL EXPERIENCES. Therefore, we have provided a band program, which will teach your child:

1. To enjoy working with others.
2. To develop social skills for use at school, at home, in the community and for the future.
3. To know music through familiarity with various compositions, styles and tone coloration.
4. To experience the thrill of playing well with others and for others.
5. To concentrate on the job at hand.
6. To accept criticism.
7. To understand the fundamentals of music, both practical and aesthetic.
8. To develop the self-discipline to succeed.

Conduct and Inappropriate Behavior

No large organization such as a band can function properly without well-disciplined participants. Band is not a requirement and therefore, it is assumed by the director that all students are willing participants. It is the student's responsibility to adhere to all rules set forth by the director and the school district. Inappropriate student conduct will be handled under the guidelines that are in effect at the Junior High and Walker Intermediate Schools. All school rules apply at all band functions.

Proper behavior at all performances is extremely important and expected. The actions of one member reflect upon all members of our organizations, school and community. Inappropriate behavior while traveling to or at any performance may be cause for dismissal from the program.

Band Fees

Our band program is a fee-based program. Fees for the 2023-2024 school year are \$20 for all Walker and Summit Hill Junior High band students. Parents are highly encouraged to pay their fees through the on-line payment system under 'band fees' for the appropriate school. Payments made by check are to be made payable to **"Summit Hill School District 161"**. Fee slips will be distributed to each child at the beginning of the year for the purpose of collecting and recording fees. Band fees defray expenses pertaining to district costs involved in running the band program. Parents should pay the fee in its entirety at the beginning of the year. Fees paid by check or cash will be sent from the directors to District Office for deposit.

Progress Reports

The Band Progress Report will be e-mailed home at the end of each trimester. The purpose of the Band Progress Report is to let parents know how their child is progressing in the program, including both strengths and weaknesses in the areas of effort, attendance, and performance techniques (such as tone quality, rhythm, etc.)

Fund-Raising Efforts

The annual fund-raiser for the District 161 Band Program consists of a Spaghetti Dinner, to be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024. All band members and parents are asked to participate in this one-day event. Each band will perform at some time during the dinner. Much parent assistance is required and each family is asked to buy/sell 10 tickets (tentatively \$6 each). Funds raised are used towards the purchase of needed supplies and music for the District 161 Band program.

Parent Protocol for Communication

Questions or concerns should be directed to the student's band director.

District 161 Band Programs

Beginning Band (Grades 5-6)

All students in 5th and 6th grade with less than one year or no previous playing experience will be members of the Beginning Band at Hilda Walker Intermediate School.

Beginning Band Rehearsals

Beginning Band rehearsals take place before school from 7:30- 8:10 a.m. Due to space restrictions, there may be two beginning bands for rehearsals. One band would meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings and the other band would meet Wednesday and Friday mornings. The groups would combine to perform together for concerts. *These details will be determined by the director after the recruitment is completed.*

Wildcat Band (Grade 6)

All sixth grade students with one year or more of experience will be members of the Walker Wildcat Band. This band will continue to teach basic band rehearsal techniques using more difficult music. The emphasis is on continuing to enjoy making quality music while preparing for the challenges of Junior High Band.

Wildcat Band Rehearsals

Wildcat Band rehearsals will be held on Mondays and Thursdays before school from 7:30-8:10 a.m. When there is no school on Monday, the morning rehearsal will be scheduled on another morning IF POSSIBLE.

Wildcat Jazz Band (Grade 6)

Jazz band is open to all sixth grade students with one year or more of playing experience. The emphasis is on continuing to enjoy making quality music, specifically jazz music.

Wildcat Jazz Band Rehearsals

Rehearsals will tentatively begin in January for interested students. The group will rehearse during intramural time.

Junior High Bands (Grades 7 and 8)

To become a member of one of the Junior High Bands a student must be in the seventh or eighth grade, preferably with previous musical training.

Marching Band (Grades 7-8)

The Marching Band is comprised of **ALL** seventh and eighth grade band members. Rehearsals are held before school from 7:00 - 7:40 a.m. during our brief marching season. Students need to arrive no later than 6:55 a.m. in order to be seated, have their instrument put together and be ready to start on time. These rehearsals begin when school starts and continue until Labor Day.

Jazz Band (Grades 7-8)

The Jazz Bands are open to junior high band members in the instrumentation needed. There are no auditions, although members must demonstrate the ability to keep up with the group. Emphasis is on the introduction of various jazz styles. Students will receive a monthly calendar indicating rehearsal dates and times, which are held after school until 3:30.

Symphonic Band/Chamber Ensemble Membership (Grades 7-8)

The Symphonic Band/Chamber Ensemble will be determined by audition and will consist of those individuals who demonstrate exceptional ability based on a minimum required standard, while adhering to the proper instrumentation needed.

Symphonic Band/Chamber Ensemble Rehearsals

Rehearsals for the Symphonic Band/Chamber Ensemble will be held before school on Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:00-7:40 a.m. Students need to arrive no later than 6:55 a.m. in order to be seated, have their instrument put together and be ready to start on time. Rehearsals will begin after Labor Day and continue throughout the year. Monthly rehearsal calendars will include all rehearsal dates and any changes made in rehearsal schedules.

District 161 Band Programs (Continued)

Concert Band Membership (Grades 7-8)

The Concert Band will be determined by audition and will consist of those students who are not yet ready for the difficulty of the Symphonic Band level of music yet have demonstrated a minimum level of proficiency on their instrument. At this time, ALL band members will play in Concert Band (including those who 'make' it into Symphonic Band/Chamber Ensemble).

Concert Band Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be held before school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning at 7:00 a.m. Students should be dropped off by 6:55 in order to be seated, with their instrument out and ready to start at 7:00.

Percussion Ensemble (Grades 7-8)

Percussion ensembles are open to any band member interested in learning how to play a wide variety of percussion instruments. No previous percussion experience is necessary, although groups will be divided by experience if needed. Students will need their own pair of drum sticks.

Percussion Ensemble Rehearsals

Students will be assigned to a specific percussion ensemble and time slot. These will be held once a week after school until 3:30. *This schedule will be determined once interested students sign up in the fall.*

Spartan Pep Band (Grades 7-8)

The Spartan Spirit Pep Band is open to any band member and will perform at home basketball games, as well as a Chicago Wolves game. There will be a few rehearsals after school before the season starts and then brief rehearsals the day of home game performances.

Musical Revue (Grades 7-8)

All 7th and 8th grade music students are encouraged to participate in our annual Musical Revue. Options include performing onstage, in the pit band, as a member of the stage/light or sound crew or as emcees. Rehearsals begin in April and are held twice a week after school. Tech/dress rehearsal week will run until 5:00, with all involved students attending each day of the week for the final week of the production. There may be available spots for non-music department students on an as-needed basis, such as serving on stage crew.

Junior High Bands: Placement and Auditions

Placement in the two junior high bands will be based on a proficiency audition early in the year. The purpose of having two groups is to best accommodate the inevitable wide variation in ability of the students, ensuring that each band member will be able to participate in a setting appropriate to his or her needs and abilities. There are established minimum performance requirements for entry into each group. The auditions will consist of the student performing assigned scales or rudiments and a selected etude. Auditions will be individually recorded in August prior to the beginning of school.

Transportation (Junior High)

Students getting dropped off for morning rehearsals should be dropped off in the circle drive on the south end of the building, nearest the band room door (#4).

Students being picked up following after school rehearsals should be picked up at door 4. Specific details will be included in information parents will receive when their child signs up for these additional ensembles.

Band Uniforms

Beginning Band & Walker Wildcat Bands: Uniforms

All 5th and 6th grade band students must wear the same Concert Band uniform.

This uniform is formal and will be used in concerts and festivals. The uniform requirements are:

- Black band polo shirt (purchased through the school)
- Black dress shoes & black dress socks
- Black dress slacks or long black dress skirt

Junior High Bands: Uniforms

Each junior high band member must purchase his or her own:

Boys:

- Black shoes (SOLID BLACK)
- Black socks that cover the ankle
- Green JH band polo shirt (available for purchase through the school) \$18.00
- Tuxedo Shirt (available for purchase through the school) \$23.00

In addition the following uniform will be assigned to each male student:

- Tuxedo Jacket
- Tuxedo trousers
- Satin Cummerbund
- Bow tie
- Garment Bag (for storage of uniform)

Girls:

- Black shoes (solid black) for marching band
- Black socks (for marching band)
- Green JH band polo shirt (available for purchase through the school) \$18.00
- Black dress shoes or sandals for concerts

In addition the following uniform will be assigned to each female student:

- Trousers
- Concert dress
- Garment Bag (for storage of uniform)

Care of Uniform:

- Students will sign out their uniform at the beginning of the school year and pay a cleaning fee (\$10.00 for boys and \$14.00 for girls. If girls only get a dress, this fee will be only \$10.00)
- All uniform pieces will be collected in May and the Band Boosters will have all uniforms cleaned and stored for use the following school year (utilizing the collected cleaning fees).

Replacement Uniforms:

In the case of missing or damaged uniform pieces, it is the responsibility of the student to pay for the replacement costs.

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| • Tuxedo (coat & trousers) | \$100.25 |
| • Bow Ties | \$3.25 |
| • Satin Cummerbunds | \$8.50 |
| • Garment Bag | \$6.00 |
| • Girls dress | \$70.00 |

District 161 Band Policies

1. All students are expected to attend all rehearsals, group lessons and performances. In the case of absence from school, the director will be notified by the main office. Otherwise, a note from the parent is required. **In the case of a performance, the director should be notified of a conflict as far in advance as possible.** Advance notice for a missed performance makes it possible for the director to plan accordingly with music selection and part assignments.
2. Unexcused absences and tardies will be reflected in the student's Band Progress Report.
3. The director will not be responsible for making up lessons skipped by a student or by a student's absence. Snow days and holidays will be rescheduled when possible.
4. Students are responsible for missed assignments from all missed classes due to lessons.
5. Missing rehearsals can prevent students from being allowed to participate in performances. Chronic unexcused absences can result in dismissal from the program.
6. Band music, percussion equipment and certain instruments are the property of School District 161 and students are responsible for these items.
7. Students using a school instrument will be requested to pay a maintenance fee and to sign a contract. Abusive or neglectful damage must be repaired at the student's expense.
8. Students are not to use another's instrument or music without their permission. This includes school instruments and all percussion equipment.
9. Students are to come prepared to all rehearsals and lessons with their instrument, book(s), music and a pencil.
10. Regular purchasing of reeds, valve oil and other consumable supplies are the responsibility of each band student.

Contests

IGSMA

The District 161 Bands are members of IGSMA, the Illinois Grade School Music Association, District VI. This entitles us to participate in the IGSMA Solo & Ensemble Contest as well as District Organizational Contest.

Solo & Ensemble Contest

This competition is held each February, where students can perform as soloists or as a member of an ensemble (duet, trio, etc.).

Organizational Contest

This competition is held in March for the Junior High Concert Band as well as the 6th grade Walker Wildcat Band. These contests are an opportunity for bands to perform for a panel of adjudicators and receive comments and suggestions for improvement. *All students would be involved in these performances.*

ILMEA (Jr. High Only)

The District 161 bands are members of ILMEA, the Illinois Music Educators Association, District I. This enables our students to participate in the annual ILMEA District Festivals. Selected junior high students may audition for seats within the festival or jazz bands, which will be comprised of the best student musicians from approximately seventy area school districts. Auditions are held in early October with the one-day festival and concert held in November. *Not all students would be involved in these performances.*

Awards/ Scholarships

Awards

Awards will be given to each band member at the end of the year. Participation awards, as well as those for improvement, effort, etc., will be distributed. These are purchased by the Band Boosters.

Director's Award (Concert Band), Jazz Musician of the Year, Outstanding Musician of the Year (Jr. High Only)

These awards are presented annually to the eighth grade band member in each band who best demonstrates leadership skills and dedication to the program, while striving to be a strong musician and positive role model for others in the group. The individual will receive a personal plaque, plus have their name engraved on the corresponding perpetual plaque at school. The Outstanding Musician Award takes into account student participation in the entire music department, including choir and strings as well as the band program.

Band Booster Awards

The Summit Hill Band Boosters annually present scholarship awards to band members in each grade at each bands' Spring Concert. Each Scholarship recipient will receive a monetary award (amount to be determined by the Booster Executive Board). The Band Directors will nominate individuals from their own band and the Band Boosters will review the nominations and determine the recipients. The qualities these scholarships represent include ambition, improvement, leadership and goal achievement.

Ellen Davis Memorial Band Award

This award is presented annually to the seventh or eighth grade band member who best demonstrates a positive attitude and will to succeed, even in the face of adversity. The individual will receive a personal plaque, plus have their name engraved on the "Ellen Davis Memorial Award" perpetual plaque at school. The award, presented at the Junior High Bands' Holiday Concert in December, is named in memory of former band member Ellen Davis, who succumbed to cancer during her eighth grade year after a brave battle.

Anthony Brattoli Memorial Award

This award is presented to the eighth grade brass player who best demonstrates self-discipline, focus and integrity, the values which Anthony strove to achieve both as a tuba player and as a student of life. The recipient will receive a personal plaque, plus have their name engraved on the "Anthony Brattoli Memorial Award" perpetual plaque at school. The award, presented at the Junior High Bands' Spring Concert in May, is named in memory of former band member Anthony "AJ" Brattoli, who died in 2018 from a brain aneurysm.

Roy F. Corrigan Band Scholarship

The Roy F. Corrigan Band Scholarship was established in 1996 by the Board of Education of Summit Hill School District 161. Mr. Corrigan was a member of the Board of Education from 1977 to 1997. He served as president from 1982 through 1995. Mr. Corrigan continually served as an advocate and supporter of the District 161 band program. Mr. Corrigan passed away in 2015.

The Scholarship shall dispense up to \$1,000 annually from District 161 funds for the purchase of instruments, related supplies and repairs, music instruction, participation in band camp, plus any and all other expenses in furthering the music education of one District 161 band student annually.

The Roy F. Corrigan Band Scholarship application can be obtained through any District 161 band director and a copy will also accompany this handbook. The application contains a brief survey and essay questions for the applicant to answer.

Completed applications will go through a process involving the band directors of District 161. Step one is the screening of completed applications by the District 161 band directors. Step two involves the band directors discussing the finalists of the award with the final decision being made by the consensus of the directors. The winner of the Roy F. Corrigan Scholarship will be announced at the Fall Concert.

- An application for the Roy F. Corrigan Scholarship is included as the last page of this Handbook. All applications for this award are due no later than Friday, October 6th.

PM Music Center

4411 Fox Valley Center Drive
Aurora, IL 60504 (630) 978-9927

<https://www.pmmusiccenter.com>

The District 161 company representative from PM Music Center makes weekly visits to the schools to make any deliveries and take care of any repairs. Please feel free to utilize this valuable resource.

- A. If you utilize a District 161 instrument and it requires service or repair, contact the band director.
- B. If you own an instrument that requires service or repair, you may contact PM Music to set up a time for the instrument to be picked up at the school.

Some services available from the PM Music Center include:

- Repair of instruments (loaner available during repairs)
- Rental of instruments
- Basic supplies for instruments including: music books, mutes, polishing cloths, reeds, and valve oil.

Hints for Progress In Music

The following hints may help in your child's progress in music:

1. Daily practice is important. Decide on a specific time each day. The room should be quiet and free of distractions. Music should be placed at eye level on a music stand. Sit in a straight backed chair.
2. Slow, careful practice for a short time accomplishes much more than a fast, rushed practice period. Work on short sections to get notes and rhythms correct. In the fast "playing through" practice, your child learns only mistakes. Practice does not make perfect; perfect practice makes perfect.
3. If possible, help your child with the practice sessions. Showing interest can be a boost to the ego.
4. Attend concerts, not only those that your child is performing in.
5. Encourage the young musician to play for family and friends.
6. Discuss with the band director anything that will help him or her to understand your child better.
7. Become involved in the Band Parent Organization.
8. Communicate with your band director. This booklet is intended as a guide only. If a situation or problem not covered arises, it can be solved through the combined efforts of the parents and the band director when the lines of communication are open.
9. Take private lessons. Lessons that are held at school for the students are group lessons and cannot take the place of private lessons. Having your child take private lessons outside of school in addition to in-school band can be a great help. Your director can help provide names of possible instructors. Please check with the band director first to avoid problems with unqualified instructors.
10. Keep your instrument in good playing condition. An instrument in need of repair will only frustrate your child, as he/she won't know whether the problems encountered are due to lack of ability and effort or are simply caused by an instrument that won't play correctly.
11. Good reeds are a must! The Vandoren brand is the best quality reed.

SUMMIT HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT #161
ROY CORRIGAN BAND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name_____

Grade in school for 2023-2024_____

Instrument(s) played_____

Do you own your own instrument? _____

Why did you decide to join band?_____

Check all that you have participated in:

Beginning Band_____	Jazz Band_____	Musical Revue _____
Wildcat Band_____	Solo at contest_____	
Concert Band_____	Ensemble at contest_____	
Symphonic Band_____	Auditioned for IMEA Festival_____	
Percussion Ensemble _____	Pep Band _____	

Other_____

What other music-oriented activities have you been involved with?
(Such as church, Saturday Strings, etc)

Do you take private lessons? Yes_____ No_____

Have you taken private lessons in the past? Yes_____ No_____

If not, why?

Please use a separate piece of paper to answer the following questions.

1. Do you plan to continue in band at the high school level?
2. How have you personally helped or influenced our band program?
3. How would you use the scholarship money if you were to win?
4. What is your primary goal as a band member?
5. Why should **you** be the winner of this scholarship? (Convince us!)

*This application is due to your band director no later than **Friday, October 6th.**
The scholarship winner will be announced at the Fall Concert on October 12, 2023.

BAND DEPARTMENT CALENDAR 2022-2023

AUGUST

7	JH Band Camp	at SHJH	9-3
8	JH Band Camp	at SHJH	9-3
9	JH Band Camp	at SHJH	9-3
10	JH Band Camp	at SHJH	9-3
11	JH Band Camp	at SHJH	9-12
21	Institute Day Performance (JH)	at SHJH	TBD

SEPTEMBER

1	JH Band at Walker	at HW	1-2 pm
3	Fall Fest Parade (JH)	Frankfort	11:45-3:30
11	Band Booster Meeting	at SHJH	7pm
18	Dress fittings, 8 th grade girls	at SHJH	6-8 pm
20	Dress fittings, 7 th grade girls	at SHJH	6-8 pm

OCTOBER

4	ILMEA Auditions due (will be virtual)		
12	Fall Band/Strings Concert	at SHJH	7pm
16	Band Booster Meeting	at HW	7pm

NOVEMBER

4	ILMEA Festival	TBD	All day
9	Symphonic Band Veterans Program	at SHJH	7pm
11	ILMEA Jazz Festival	H-F HS	All day
13	Band Booster Meeting	at SHJH	7pm
19	JH Pep Band at Wolves game		TBD
TBD	Beginning Band mini-recitals	at HW	

DECEMBER

4	Jazz & Percussion Concert	at SHJH	7pm
12	5 th /6 th Band Concert	at HW	7pm
14	Holiday Tour to schools	IT & FS	Daytime
15	Holiday Tour to schools	DJR, AH, HW	Daytime
21	JH Band Concert	at SHJH	7pm
22	Walker School Assembly	at HW	Daytime
22	SHJH School Assembly	at SHJH	Daytime
TBD	Tuba Christmas	Palmer House	

JANUARY

22	Band Booster Meeting	at HW	7pm
TBD	8 th Grade Music Parent Meeting	at LWE	

FEBRUARY

8	JH/Woodwind Showcase	at SHJH	7pm
10	Old Quarry Jazz Festival	Lemont	All day
12	Band Booster Meeting	at SHJH	7pm
15	JH/Brass Showcase	at SHJH	7pm
17	Solo & Ensemble Contest	TBD	All day
27	Bandorama	at SHJH	7pm

MARCH

9	IGSMA Band Contest	TBA	
11	Percussion Ensemble Concert	at SHJH	7pm
18	Band Booster Meeting	at HW	7pm
19	Jazz Coffeehouse	at SHJH	7pm
22	JH Springfield Trip Day 1		All day
23	JH Springfield Trip Day 2		All day

APRIL

11	Band Booster Meeting	at HW	7pm
13	Spaghetti Dinner	at HW	All day
29	JH/6 th Grade Step-Up Night	at SH	7pm

MAY

2	Musical Review/6 th grade visit	at SHJH	2:45-5:00
3	Musical Revue	at SHJH	7pm
4	Musical Revue	at SHJH	7pm
6	Band Booster Meeting	at SHJH	7pm
8	JH Band Concert	at SHJH	7pm
21	HW 5/6 Band Concert	at HW	7pm