



School of the Arts High School Band Handbook

Please review all the documents included in this section before completing the last two forms. **All Students must complete the last two forms and turn them in to Mr. Kerr at Band Camp.**

CONTENTS:

- A. From Mr. Kerr
- B. About the Band Department
- C. General Course descriptions
- D. Band Grading guidelines
- E. The band fee
- F. The “Fair Share” program
- G. Artistic Probation and Reaudition Policy
- H. The Year In Band
- I. 17-18 Band Calendar of Events
- J. Senior thesis Requirements
- K. The SOA Band Award Letter
- L. Band Instrument Inventory Registration form
- M. 17-18 HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
FORM**

**THE CHARLESTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
HIGH SCHOOL BAND**

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to another year of musical excellence! The instructional staff of the SOA Band department has been making preparations to help the students take their skills and performance to new levels. Together we will be working to help our band members earn recognition as some of the best young musicians in the nation.

This success will not happen overnight. A successful band program takes commitment on the part of the students and parents. Building a band that will represent the best of the school and community requires hard work, discipline, character, and dedication to excellence. As every famous musician knows, it takes hours, days, months, and even years of practice to become an “overnight success”. If all of us at SOA work together with the same kind of determination, our own “overnight success” will begin to take place as well.

To accomplish this goal, many smaller goals must be reached along the way. Among the most important of these is the establishment of personal discipline, the development of musical skills and a commitment to doing our best at all times. To achieve success in any area requires an investment of time and talent, and a willingness to make short-term sacrifices for long-term gains. I have every expectation that those students who are willing to make those choices will achieve a level of accomplishment and personal satisfaction that will extend far beyond their band experience.

Having been a band parent myself, I knew how important it was to my children that I gave them encouragement and support as they took on the challenge of performing music at a high level. Parents, encourage your child to always do his or her best, not only in band, but in all their academic studies as well. You know that sometimes they will complain when you “nag” them, but in time they always come to understand and appreciate the fact that you care. Recent studies have shown that parents who take an active part in their child’s educational and social development have a positive impact on their child’s level of success. That is one of the key ingredients to the success of the School of the Arts. The same thing applies to the SOA Band. Get involved in the SOA Band Booster Club, and be a part of the team along with your child.

I look forward to meeting and working with each of you over the school year. Together we will build a band that will be one of the best anywhere!

Sincerely,

Basil J. Kerr, Jr.
Director of Band

ABOUT THE BAND DEPARTMENT:

The School of the Arts Band Department is recognized regionally and nationally for their outstanding performing ensembles. Students are challenged to perform at a high level, with emphasis on correct performance practices and styles. The Wind Ensemble has performed at nationally recognized events in Chattanooga TN and Indianapolis IN. The Symphonic Band performs at the state level, and all the ensembles have received “Superior” ratings in performance. The SOA Jazz Ensemble is considered the best in the state, with more members recognized as “All-State” over the past 10 years than any other school in SC. The SOA Jazz Lab Band is the place where students learn the art of jazz performance, and they also have received “Superior” ratings at the state level. Chamber groups from the Band Department perform for community and private events all over the Charleston area.

IN 2005 the College Board recognized the SOA AP Music Theory as the strongest in the world. It has maintained that high standard since then, with a high percentage of students passing the national exam and receiving college credit.

Graduates of the SOA Band Major have attended such prestigious music schools as The New England Conservatory, Berkeley School of Music, Manhattan School of Music, Wheaton Conservatory, Peabody Conservatory, and the University of Miami. Many students go on to major or minor in music, or participate in ensembles at Clemson, the University of SC, Winthrop University, Furman University, Coastal Carolina, Converse College, the University of Georgia, and many other colleges and universities.

Band Major Course Requirements

All Band Majors must take two courses in their major each school year. All performing ensemble classes are determined by audition. The following is the list of ensembles available to band majors:

Wind Ensemble
Symphonic Band
Orchestra winds/percussion
Jazz Ensemble
Jazz Lab
Chamber Ensemble

Students are encouraged to form small ensembles, combos and chamber groups for public performance. These are usually scheduled after school hours.

In addition to the above, Band Majors are encouraged to take at least one of the following electives:

AP Music Theory
Music Technology
Recording techniques

Seniors are strongly encouraged to complete the Senior Thesis. Refer to the “Senior Thesis” page for further details.

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS HIGH SCHOOL BAND MAJOR COMMON ENSEMBLE REQUIREMENTS

Preface: The School of the Arts Band Department is a performance-oriented organization and is designed for serious instrumental music students. The students selected to participate must possess a commitment to superior musical achievement which will earn recognition on the local, state and regional level. In order to achieve such a musical status, all participants must conform to the necessary requirements below.

Requirements:

1. Students must possess a desire to excel in music and in maturity of character.
2. STUDENTS MUST ATTEND ALL SCHEDULED REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES!
3. Students should make a strong effort to obtain the best instrument available and to maintain their instrument in excellent working condition at all times.
4. STUDENTS MUST CONDUCT THEMSELVES AS LADIES AND GENTLEMEN AT ALL TIMES.

COURTESY AND RESPECT FOR DIRECTORS, FELLOW MUSICIANS, SUBSTITUTES, ADMINISTRATION AND GUESTS IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF A MUSICALLY MATURE ORGANIZATION.
5. Students must make a conscious and concerted effort to master the music and materials taught in class. Individual practice is imperative.
6. Students must be prepared to handle financial responsibilities.
7. Students are strongly suggested to obtain private lessons on their instrument.

Grading Criteria:

1. Students must participate in class with positive effort.
2. Students must behave in the appropriate manner.
3. Students must show proper respect towards the directors, each other and our facility, instruments and equipment.
4. Students must demonstrate a desire to excel.
5. Students must be prepared for rehearsals and have music, materials, and instruments in proper working order and maintained in good condition.
6. **STUDENTS MUST ATTEND ALL SCHEDULED AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES!!! THESE ARE MAJOR TEST GRADES!!**

Please refer to the grading rubric for more specific grading criteria.

SOA HS BANDS

Semester Grading Rubric

Area	100-90	80-90	70-80	60-70	FAILING
<i>Rehearsal Contribution</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has required materials for daily rehearsal • Is seated and ready to begin within 2 min of tardy bell • Shows a positive attitude toward teacher and peers • Eager to assist teacher and peers in various activities • Follows instructions • Consistently participates in class room discussions • Works well with minimal supervision • Initiates • Takes on leadership roles/positions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comes to class with required materials on a regular basis • Is frequently seated and ready to begin within 2 min. of tardy bell • Usually shows a positive attitude towards teacher and peers • Willing to assist teacher and peers in various activities • Follows instructions • Participates in class room discussions • Works well with minimal supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comes to class with required materials more often than not • Generally seated and ready to begin within 2 min. of tardy bell • Shows a good attitude towards teacher and peers • Sometimes assists teacher and peers in various activities • Follows instructions • Occasionally participates in class discussions • Generally works well with some supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often without required materials • Occasionally seated and ready to begin within 2 min. of the tardy bell • Shows a passive attitude towards teacher and peers • Rarely assists teacher and peers in various activities • Follows instruction irregularly • Occasionally participates in class discussions • Often needs supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often without required materials • Seldom seated and ready to begin within 2 min. of tardy bell • Negative attitude towards teacher and/or peers • Rarely assists teacher and peers in various activities • Does not follow instruction • Does not participate in classroom discussions • Needs supervision
<i>Testing & Quizzes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates exceptional musical competence and technical skill on performance tests • Turns all recorded or written, tests/quizzes and various assignments in on time • High quality of workmanship in all assignments • All major/minor scales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates excellent musical competence and technical skill on performance tests • Turns all recorded or written tests/quizzes and various assignments in on time • High quality of workmanship in all assignments • Knows all Major/Minor scales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates average musical competence and technical skill on performance tests • Turns most recorded/written tests/quizzes and various assignments in on time • Good quality of workmanship in all assignments • Knows most Major/Minor scales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates below average musical competence and technical skill on performance tests • Turns some recorded/written tests/quizzes and various assignments in on time • Reasonable quality of workmanship in all assignments • Knows some 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates unsatisfactory musical competence and technical skill on performance tests • Seldom turns tests/quizzes and various assignments in on time • Poor quality of workmanship in all assignments • Knows a few Major/Minor scales

SOA HS BANDS

Semester Grading Rubric

	Major/Minor scales				
Area	Superior 90-100	Excellent 80-90	Good 70-80	Fair 65-79	Needs Improvement (Below 65)
<i>Performances</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attends all performances • Has all required materials for performances • Performs music with almost no noticeable errors in pitch or rhythm • Wears Correct performance attire • Attends at least three outside performance a year • Performs in small group ensembles or solos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attends all performances with little exception • Has all required materials for performances • Performs music with a few noticeable errors in either pitch or rhythm • Wears Correct performance attire • Attends two outside performance a year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occasionally misses performances • Has some required materials for performances • Performs music with a number of noticeable errors, but still at an acceptable level • Wears Correct performance attire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attends some performances • Often without required materials for performances • Music not prepared, performance negatively impacts the entire ensemble • Wears Correct performance attire occasionally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seldom attends performances • Often without required materials for performances • Does not wears correct performance attire

THE SOA BAND FEE

THE SOA BAND FEE IS 325.00. This covers part of the cost of Band Camp, adjunct instructors, registration fees for all SCBDA events (Region, All-State, etc.), guest clinicians, music and equipment purchases, and band shirts. The fee covers less than half the operating costs of the Band Program at SOA. Fund raising events cover the rest. Participation in fundraisers is essential to the success of our program.

CONCERT ATTIRE

The proper concert attire for the men in the SOA Bands is a tuxedo, with a wing collar tux shirt, black bowtie and cummerbund. Black studs are to be worn in place of the buttons. Black dress shoes and black socks complete the men's uniform. The tux can be purchased at any formal wear store, or JC Penney, Joseph A Bank, and other menswear stores that carry formal attire. The average cost for the entire outfit, not including shoes, is approximately 110.00.

The ladies attire is the "Mariposa" formal dress from *Stage Accents*. This is a floor length formal, and is only available through this vendor. Measurements will be taken at Band Camp, and the orders will be made shortly thereafter. The cost for the dress is \$69.00. Black dress shoes and black hose complete the ladies attire. Do not get very high heels (stilettos, platforms, etc.) as they affect your posture when sitting and performing.

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS/EQUIPMENT

Instruments owned by the School of the Arts are provided to adequately equip the various band programs and to provide needed instruments to selected students at minimal cost to them. The **\$50 rental fee** provides only a portion of the cost of yearly chemical cleaning and routine adjustments to instruments that are well cared for. **The student and his/her parents are responsible for the care and maintenance of the instrument.** In order for the band to continue to provide high quality instruments, it is important that this equipment is cared for in a most responsible manner. Failure to do so will result not only in loss of the equipment for that student, but for future SOA band students as well.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE SECURITY

Every effort is made to insure a safe and orderly environment for the storing of instruments and equipment, both privately owned and school owned. Please be advised, however, that belongings kept in the band room and related facilities are there at **your own risk**. The school or district has no insurance coverage for private possessions stored in our facilities. Even though we don't anticipate problems, they can be even further avoided if students would lock their cases and put their instruments in their storage locker. All Band Majors are expected to monitor the storage areas and report unusual activity to the Director.

CARE AND USE OF THE BAND FACILITIES

The Band Rehearsal area is an excellent facility and will remain so for as long as the personnel using it take care of the rooms and keep them clean. All Band Majors will follow these guidelines regarding the care of our facility:

1. NO FOOD, CANDY, GUM, OR DRINKS (other than water) ALLOWED IN THE BAND ROOM, PRACTICE ROOMS OR STORAGE AREAS.
2. BRING ONLY YOUR INSTRUMENT, MUSIC, ACCESSORIES AND A PENCIL INTO THE REHEARSAL AREA. LEAVE EVERYTHING ELSE IN THE STORAGE ROOM OR OTHER DESIGNATED SPACES.
3. DO NOT LEAVE PAPER, OLD REEDS, VALVE OIL BOTTLES, ETC. ON THE FLOOR OF THE ROOM. IF IT'S TRASH, THROW IT AWAY. IF IT'S NOT, TAKE IT WITH YOU.
4. IF YOU SEE A CHAIR OR STAND OUT OF PLACE, STRAIGHTEN IT UP, EVEN IF IT'S NOT YOURS!
5. WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ARTICLES LOST OR STOLEN FROM THE BAND AREA. WHILE WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MAINTAIN THE SECURITY OF THE ROOM, WE NEED EVERY MUSICIAN'S HELP IN MONITORING THE STORAGE AREAS. BAND MEMBERS MAY PLACE LOCKS ON THEIR STORAGE CABINETS, PROVIDED THEY GIVE A COPY OF THE COMBINATION OR THE KEY TO MR. KERR. EACH MEMBER'S LOCKER MUST HAVE THEIR NAME ON A STICKER ON THE LOCKER DOOR.
6. ALWAYS LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER. PROTECT YOUR FELLOW MUSICIANS' INSTRUMENTS, MUSIC AND PERSONAL THINGS. **NEVER HANDLE ANOTHER PERSON'S INSTRUMENT OR THINGS WITHOUT THEIR PERMISSION.**

Welcome to the Fair Share Volunteer page!

Thanks to our parents, our children have the opportunity to participate in a lot of special activities during their years at the School of the Arts. If it weren't for you, the parents and families, none of the concerts or trips would be possible.

Thank you all for helping out!

Each year, we ask that families donate 5 hours of their time (2.5 hours for single parent households.)

But don't let that stop you from doing more if you enjoy it!

There are opportunities during the workday, as well as in the evenings and weekends, too. Some of the most important groups and events are listed below. Look for emails from signupgenius.com OR log in to your account on signupgenius.com to see a list of our upcoming events. Choose a time that works for you, and sign up for a volunteer. It's that simple!

For families unable to come out to SOA to help, we do offer the option of "buying out" the volunteer hours.

Please contact Ginger Snook at paysoaband@gmail.com if you are interested in this option.

Organizational Groups and Events

Knock out all of your Fair Share hours by participating in one of the organizational **Groups** or bit by bit by helping with our **Events**!

Uniform Group

1-2 volunteers (sewing/mending skills are helpful) who can come to the school one hour before concerts to assist in inspecting the students' concert attire before they take the stage.

Please contact the Uniform coordinator, Leslie Bogstad.

Jump, Jive and Wail

Need 15 volunteers to plan and organize this very important fundraising event! There will be many volunteer opportunities on the day of the event, as well. Watch Signupgenius.com for further details. Students needing service hours can also volunteer on the day of the event. Contact JJW chair Leah King at leah_king@charleston.k12.sc.us

Concert Stage Crew

8-12 volunteers needed to assist with clearing the stage after each concert. The more volunteers, the faster it is completed!

SOA Showcase

More details to come on signupgenius.com and by email.

Spring Concert Group and Event

14 volunteers will be needed to help organize this event. Contact the volunteer or event coordinator if you can help plan and organize this event. More details to come on signupgenius.com and by email.

ARTISTIC PROBATION POLICY

Beginning in the eighth grade, and continuing through the 11th grade, a student who earns an average of 80 or less during any nine-week grading period in any of their arts majors classes will be placed on artistic probation for the following grading period. Students are required to raise their average over the next grading period to 80 or higher. Students who earn a grade of 79 or below in their major for any two grading periods in a school year will be required to re-audition before the end of the school year to remain a student at School of the Arts. A committee of the arts faculty, including the student's major teachers, will audition probationary students to determine their continued enrollment at School of the Arts.

The Year in Band

The Band Department at the School of the Arts has a very full schedule of events and activities throughout the year. Not every event involves every student, and it can get confusing to parents (as well as students) when they hear of a coming event, and they're not sure if it applies to them. This article is an attempt to briefly explain all the main activities of the various band ensembles, listed in order as they occur over the course of the school year. So, HERE WE GO:

AUGUST--

BAND CAMP— (All students participate)

Band Camp is held the first week in August. This is the workshop that begins the year. It is the most important event for all the band majors. Students attend ensemble rehearsals and master classes on their instruments. Professional musicians are hired to work with the students in the master class setting to refine their playing skills. There is a professional for each section of the band, as well as a jazz ensemble and percussion ensemble instructor. The workshops and ensemble rehearsals culminate in the annual "Flip Flop Concert", held on the Thursday evening of Band Camp. Friday is the first audition day, and the audition results set the initial seating for all the band ensembles. Unlike other high school band camps, which emphasize marching band, SOA Band Camp is all about concert and jazz music, and getting off to a strong start for the year.

SEPTEMBER--

BAND CONCERTS— (All students participate.)

Beginning in September, the Band has a major concert at least once every quarter (9 week period). The Fall and Winter concerts are usually based on a theme; the spring concerts are usually related to their coming festival performances and the Senior thesis. At least two ensembles will perform at each band concert. The concerts may feature just the concert ensembles, just the jazz ensembles, or a combination of both. These are the equivalent of a major test or project in another class, and the grades are weighted accordingly.

OCTOBER--

JUMP, JIVE AND WAIL—("JJW")- (All students participate)

Each October, the SOA Band sponsors the annual "Jump, Jive and Wail" jazz show and dance. While the SOA Jazz Band is the featured performer, this is more than a concert; it's an EVENT! It is the largest single day event sponsored by the school. 1,000 patrons from the community as well as the school come to enjoy the music, dancing, food and fun. The show requires all band members and parents in the entire department to participate, as setup or takedown crew, ticket takers, food service helpers, silent auction workers, lighting and sound setup assistants, and other logistical and technical helpers. JJW is the major fund raising event for the High School Band.

NOVEMBER—

VETERAN’S DAY CELEBRATION AT PARK CIRCLE— (SOA Jazz only)

The City of North Charleston hosts a celebration for veterans at Park Circle. There is a luncheon for veterans only that is part of the event. The SOA Jazz provides music for that occasion. This occurs during the school day. The luncheon is not for the general public.

FALL CONCERT—November (all students participate)

Featuring the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band; see Band Concerts above...

(Registration for Master Recital, and Region/All-State/ All State Jazz auditions are completed in November.)

FOLLY BEACH JAZZ FESTIVAL- (SOA Jazz only)

The SOA Jazz Band has become a regular at this annual event, held on a weekend in November.

DECEMBER—

ALL COUNTY BAND AUDITIONS- (required for 9th and 10 grade; optional for 11th-12th grade)

Sponsored by CCSD and the Charleston County Band Directors Association, These are practice auditions to prepare for the coming Region Band auditions. The All-County auditions are the first Saturday in December. While not required, they are strongly recommended as a practice run to prepare for the mandatory Region Band auditions coming soon after the Holiday Break.

HOLIDAY FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS—(Chamber music students participate)

Each year chamber groups from the SOA Chamber Music Classes perform at the Holiday Festival of Lights at James Island County Park. The student groups sign up for a time to perform during the festival.

JANUARY—

REGION BAND AUDITIONS/ ALL-STATE BAND AUDITIONS- (All Students participate in Region auditions; Selected students go to the All-State final auditions)

The Region Band auditions, sponsored by the SC Band Directors Association, are held early in January. They are an opportunity for all our band majors to receive an objective evaluation on specific skills required in this audition. This serves as the semester exam for our band. These are held at Summerville HS. Students who finish in the top few places in each section at the Region auditions advance to the All-State Callback auditions held two weeks later at Lexington HS near Columbia.

THE CHARLESTON INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL— (SOA Jazz only)

The SOA Jazz has been one of the main acts for the “Family Day” concert at this event, held in mid-January. Last year’s concert was at the Sottile Theatre, downtown Charleston.

ALL-STATE JAZZ AUDITIONS- (All Jazz Students participate)

The All-State Jazz Auditions are held the same Saturday as the All-State Band auditions at the same location, Lexington HS. There is no region audition for the jazz band. Many of our students make callbacks to All-State Band and also take the All-State Jazz audition at the same time.

FEBRUARY—

SENIOR THESIS PERFORMANCES- (All-Students attend or participate)

The Senior Thesis concerts are the culmination of each student's experience at SOA. Thesis candidates choose to perform, create, or teach. The performance/composition recitals are held in the spring. Students who successfully perform their thesis or successfully complete the education thesis will be recognized at graduation and a seal affixed to their diploma indicating the completion of this important part of their education at our school. All underclass students are required to attend the concerts and provide evaluations of each thesis performance.

MASTER RECITAL- (voluntary, 11th-12th grade)

The Master Recital is open to 11th and 12th grade musicians only. It is a highly competitive event where the finest solo musicians perform for a panel of college music professors. In November, candidates submit a recording of a solo performance of a piece that is considered a standard at the college level for their instrument. 12 finalists are selected from across the state to perform in the Master Recital on the first weekend in February. The top three performers at the recital receive cash scholarships. This event is held as part of the SC Music Educators Association Conference, held in Columbia SC.

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL (voluntary; selected students participate)

This year's school-wide musical is "High School Musical". Students are selected to participate either by auditioning to be in the cast, or selected to perform in the band for the show. The band for the show is a modified rock band, final instrumentation TBA. Mr. Kerr is conducting this year.

PRE-FESTIVAL CONCERTS- (all students participate)

The Jazz Ensembles and the Concert Bands perform their competition pieces for family and friends. This occurs in mid-February (see Band Concerts from earlier).

REGION BAND CLINIC- (selected students participate)

The Region Band is made up of the best players in the Lowcountry region of our state. This area covers Charleston, Beaufort, Orangeburg, and everything between. These students were selected at the January auditions. The clinic is held on the last weekend in February, at Charleston Southern University. Students who make All-State Band do not attend this clinic; theirs comes in March.

MARCH--

ALL-STATE JAZZ CLINIC/ STATE JAZZ ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT- (all jazz students participate)

These two events occur over the first weekend in March, at Newberry College. The Students selected to the All-State Jazz Ensemble will begin rehearsals on Thursday evening, and continue Friday, culminating with a concert Saturday. The Jazz Ensemble Performance Assessment (formerly known as the State Jazz Festival) takes place on Saturday. The usual schedule is for the remaining jazz band members to travel by bus Saturday morning to attend the All-State Jazz Concert, then after lunch, return to perform for a rating.

ALL-STATE BAND CLINIC- (selected students participate)

This event is held the second or third weekend of March at Furman University in Greenville (whichever is closest to St. Patrick's Day). Students who were selected at the January auditions work with distinguished conductors and composers, and perform in concert that Sunday afternoon. The Junior band (8th grade and below), Clinic band (9th-10th grades), and Senior Band (11th=12th grades) are considered the finest band musicians in our state.

CONCERT PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (all students participate)-

Formerly known as the State Concert Festival, bands from across the state perform in a concert setting for a panel of distinguished college and high school band directors from other states. They are evaluated in concert performance and sight-reading performance. In the concert portion, the band performs selections that are scaled according to their level of difficulty, and the ensemble is rated on the quality of their performance. The Sight Reading portion involves the band and the director performing a piece in its entirety after only 5 minutes of preparation time during which they cannot play any of the music. After the prep time, the band must perform the selection as close to perfect as possible. This is the ultimate test of the students' and their director's musical skill. Bands can receive ratings from Poor (V), to Superior(I). A perfect score from all the judges is considered a "Superior with Distinction".

APRIL--

THE CHARLESTON MUSIC FESTIVAL- (All students participate)

This year, SOA is the host site for the Charleston Music Festival, a band festival geared to bands from out of town. This event is held the Saturday after the Middle School Concert Festival (April 1, 2017). It follows a similar format to the State event, except that in place of the sight reading part, one of the judges has a clinic with the band to help them improve for their next performance. We will perform as the host band and use this to prepare for the big competition coming up.

BAND COMPETITION TRIP- (All students participate)

In April, the bands travel to one of the major regional or national competitions held around the country. We are fortunate to have several major competitions that occur within

a reasonable distance from home. At these events, the SOA band competes against some of the finest bands in the country. Like the state event, these are evaluated performances, this time by nationally recognized composers and conductors at the college and military/professional band level. The standards are more rigorous than at the state event. There is no sight reading portion; however, there are often required pieces that must be selected from a list provided by the sponsoring organization. It's not all work, however; there are fun events scheduled. These are serious competitions, however, and the fun comes after the performance.

MAY-

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL- (voluntary participation, extra credit given)

There are two festivals. The SCBDA festival is held at Cane Bay HS, and students perform in solo or small ensemble groups for ratings, like the concert festival events. The SOA solo/ensemble festival not only has the students performing for a rating, but they can also receive a brief comment/clinic period immediately after their performance.

SPRING CONCERT IN THE PARK- (All Students participate)

This year, the SOA Bands will conclude their concert performances with a concert in the park, scheduled for May 7, 2017. As of this time, we are awaiting confirmation from either the City of North Charleston to perform at the Riverfront Park at the Old Navy Base, or the City of Charleston to perform at Hampton Park in downtown Charleston. It will feature a concert of popular and patriotic music.

BAND BANQUET—(All Students participate)

The Band Banquet is the social event where individual and group awards are presented. The Senior Class is recognized for their contributions to the program. Nationally recognized awards are presented at the end of the banquet. These include the Quincy Jones Award (for arranging, organizing and performing), the Louis Armstrong Award (excellence in Jazz performance), and the John Philip Sousa Award (the best all around band student).

THERE WILL BE A SEPARATE CALENDAR OF EVENTS WITH THE ACTUAL DATES EACH OF THE ABOVE WILL OCCUR. THIS LIST IS INTENDED TO INFORM PARENTS AND STUDENTS IN MORE DETAIL ABOUT ALL THE EVENTS THE BAND MAJOR IS INVOLVED WITH. There are other small events that may occur during the year that may involve small groups from the band. You will be notified in advance of these events, most of which are optional.

**2017-2018 SOA HS BANDS CALENDAR OF EVENTS,
1st edition**

These dates are confirmed. Events marked in **bold** involve all HS band majors. *Events in Italics are awaiting official confirmation ,but are always on our schedule.* Every student is expected to participate in those events that pertain to their ensemble or musical organization. All scheduled performances are considered test grades in our major.

Refer to “*The Year In Band*” for details.

JULY-AUGUST

7/31-8/4

Band camp at SOA

All band members attend 8am-1pm; SOA Jazz continues, 2-5 pm, Monday-Thursday; Friday, all band members attend 8am-12noon; SEE BAND CAMP LETTER!

17

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

21

ECLIPSE DAY- NO SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER

4

Labor Day - no school

7

SCOTT LANG WORKSHOP during school

28

**HS Band Concert, “The Game Show!!—Come on Down!”
RMMT Theater, 6:30pm**

OCTOBER

4

Chamber Music Recital, 6:30, TBA

6 OR 7

SOA JAZZ at the Folly Jazz Festival, Folly Beach Park, time TBA

21

JUMP, JIVE and WAIL - Visitor Center, Bus Shed

NOVEMBER

2

Symphony Orchestra “Thankful” concert, RMMT

11

SOA Jazz at the Veterans’ Day program, Park Circle, (during school)

20-24

THANKSGIVING BREAK

DECEMBER

(various dates) Chamber Groups performing at the J.I. County Park Festival of Lights (start 12/6, run through 12/16- Parent volunteers needed!)

7-8

Symphony Orchestra and Vocal combined concert, RMMT

12-13

Band Department HOLIDAY PRISM CONCERT- RMMT

20-23

Midwest Clinic SOA Clarinet Ensemble performs!

22- 1/3/18

SOA closed for winter holidays

JANUARY

1-3

SOA closed for winter holidays

4

SCHOOL RESUMES

15

MLK holiday (no school Monday)

20

REGION BAND AUDITIONS, Summerville HS

27

All State Band and Jazz final auditions - Lexington HS

**NOTE: ALL CONCERTS AT THE ROSE MAREE MYERS THEATER (RMMT)
BEGIN AT 6:30.** Call time is 5:30, unless otherwise specified.

**2017-2018 SOA HS BANDS CALENDAR OF EVENTS,
1st edition**

FEBRUARY

- 6-7 BAND SENIOR THESIS PERFORMANCES**
- 15-18 SCMEA Professional Conference, Columbia
18 Master Recital Concert, Columbia
16 Teacher Workday
19 Presidents Day – no school
17-27 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL (School-wide production)
23-24 Region Band Clinic, CSU
23-25 All-State Orchestra Clinic, Columbia, SC

MARCH

- 1-3 All-State Jazz Clinic, Newberry College
3 State Jazz Ensemble Festival, Newberry College
8 **Band Pre-Festival Concert, RMMT**
16-18 All-State Band Clinic, Furman University
20-22 **HS Band Concert Festival, West Ashley HS (times TBA)**
27-29 MS Band Concert Festival at SOA
30 Teacher Workday - no school

APRIL

- 1-8 **SPRING BREAK**
12 SPRING SHOWCASE at SOA
25-26 Orchestra Masterworks concert, RMMT
27-28 **WIND ENSEMBLE TO GRAND NATIONAL ADJUDICATORS
INVITATIONAL, Chattanooga, TN**

MAY

- 5 **BAND CONCERT IN THE PARK!** Location TBA
(Hampton Park, or Riverfront Park)
18 SOA Solo/Ensemble, RMMT (During class time)
20 **Band banquet**
29 GRADUATION – THE BAND PLAYS THIS YEAR!

JUNE

- 1* Last day of School

**NOTE: ALL CONCERTS AT THE ROSE MAREE MYERS THEATER (RMMT)
BEGIN AT 6:30.** Call time is 5:30, unless otherwise specified.

Charleston School of the Arts Instrumental Music Senior Thesis

Seniors in the Instrumental Music Program at the School of the Arts are expected to complete a Senior thesis or project. This is to complete the performance requirements that make our program of study unique. Students may choose from the following areas of study: Music Performance Music Composition, or Music Education. The requirements for successful completion of each are listed below. Both theses/projects require writing a supporting paper. The MLA Style manual will be the standard for this paper.

PERFORMANCE THESIS:

Students choosing this project will prepare and perform selections from the standard literature for their instrument. These will be selections commonly accepted as an audition requirement by the best colleges and schools of music in the country. The musical selection will be performed in its entirety. For example, if the required piece is an excerpt or movement from a concerto, the entire concerto must be prepared. Thesis candidates will undergo a series of three juried auditions to be held near the end of each grading period. Candidates must pass each jury in order to receive thesis credit. A Senior recital will be held the last month of school.

In addition to the recital performance, students will write a supporting paper that includes background on the recital composition. This paper will include information on the composer, background on the composition and discussion of performance techniques and practices for the solo.

COMPOSITION THESIS:

Students choosing this project will create an original composition that they must be able to perform themselves. The composition must feature the composer performing on their major instrument. The composition may also be written to be performed by and with other instruments, but it must include a major section that features the senior's original instrument (as Mr. Kerr says, "your money horn", the one that got you in SOA). The minimum performance time for the composition is 3 minutes. The basic outline of the composition (thematic material, construction, instrumentation, etc.) must be presented to Mr. Kerr by the end of the first semester.

The composer/performer will submit the final printed copy of his/her composition at least two weeks prior to the thesis concert.

EDUCATION THESIS:

Students choosing this project will teach beginning and intermediate students how to play their instrument. The "student teacher" will design an instructional plan for the students, including interim goals and objectives. The student teacher will keep a journal that includes weekly assignments, a record of lessons, and comments on their student's progress. The project will culminate in a "studio recital" given by the students under the supervision of their teachers. This recital will be given in April .

All students in this program will turn in their journals, sample handouts (as needed) and a recording of their student's performance in order to receive credit. The student will write a final summary of their work. The student teachers will also be evaluated by the Director at least twice during their class instruction time. These evaluations will be included in the final rating of this project.

JURIES:

All thesis candidates will have regularly scheduled juries, where their preparation is evaluated by members of the music faculty. (See the timeline below for jury weeks.) Students who are not progressing satisfactorily will not be allowed to complete the thesis.

Thesis Recital is scheduled for February 6 (classical) and 7 (jazz), 2018. All approved candidates will be allowed a brief amount of time in the theater to rehearse their performance.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL THESIS CANDIDATES:

1. Earn a grade of 90 or above in all performance major classes (Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra, Performance Ensemble Techniques) In which the candidate is enrolled;
2. Attend all dress rehearsals, performances, of every ensemble, in their entirety. Early departures will be a penalty.
3. Earn a minimum of 100 points for the following:
 - a. Audition for All-County (15 pts.)
 - b. Audition for Region Band (30 pts.)
 - c. Make call backs for All-State (15)
 - d. Audition for All-State Band (30)
 - e. Audition for All-State Jazz (30)
 - f. Fully participate in the clinic for any of the above: 30 pts. each clinic.
 - g. All-State Orchestra Clinic (30)
 - h. Special Honor ensembles (Bands of America, USC Band Clinic, other college honor band clinics, etc.) (20)
4. Service credit (40 points minimum):
 - a. Set up and/or take down the stage for concerts: 10pts per event
 - b. Assist with setup and take down for County Band Clinic: 15pts
 - c. Assist with MS Concert Festival (after school hours only): 10 Pts per day
 - d. Assist with special outreach programs (concerts at other schools, assist with SOA auditions): 10 pts each activity

TIMELINE FOR EACH THESIS MAJOR:

Performance candidates, Composition/arranging candidates and Education candidates-

Week of September 25-

Performers: Present your solo to Mr. Kerr for approval. **ONLY STUDENTS PRESENTING A SOLO TO MR. KERR AT THIS TIME WILL BE APPROVED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PERFORMANCE THESIS!** The selection may be changed at any time until the Thanksgiving break, but no 1st selections may be submitted after this first deadline.

Composers/arrangers: Present your initial sketch to Mr. Kerr for approval. This should include the main theme and rhythm concepts you are planning to use. **ONLY STUDENTS PRESENTING A SKETCH TO MR. KERR AT THIS TIME WILL BE APPROVED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THEIR THESIS!** The composition may be modified at any time until the end of the first semester, but no compositions or arrangements may be submitted after this first deadline.

(Week of Sept. 25, cont'd)

Education candidates: Notify Mr. Kerr of your intent to work the Education thesis. You will tell him where you live and whether you can provide your own transportation to a local school in your area, or in the North Charleston area. There are parental permission forms and also forms from the school that will be given to you to complete and turn in by October 20. The education thesis will begin as soon as the host school gives approval. This thesis could start at the beginning of the second semester, and end May 1 at the latest. Education majors must work for a minimum 6 week period with the host band director in order to receive credit.

October-

Performers: Perform the first third of the solo, without accompaniment. Be prepared to discuss the technical and musical challenges for this section of the music.

Composers/arrangers Present a simple score of the opening section of your arrangement or composition. This will include the main melodic ideas and harmonic structure. Some instrumentation ideas are also a good idea to include at this time.

November—

All candidates: Set up a regular schedule with Mr. Kerr so he can observe your progress. (Ed Thesis students will be notified of the availability and acceptance of their teaching assistantship during November and December.)

December-

Performers: The Thesis Jury will be held December 18 and 19, and will consist of the solo in its entirety. It doesn't have to be a polished performance. It does, however, have to show substantial progress. For Composers/arrangers, a full rough draft of the score must be submitted.

Education Thesis: you will perform the regular jury audition, then you will be assigned to your school and given the contact information for the supervising teacher at that school. You are to make arrangements to meet with that teacher the week after the semester break if arrangements have not been made earlier.

Composition/arranging thesis: The final composition must be submitted to Mr. Kerr by Dec. 18. It will be evaluated and, if necessary, recommendations for any modifications will be emailed to the student for revision. Also, the group performing the composition must be prepared to perform the piece by the first week of school in January.

January--

Perform with accompanist for the final check before the recital. Composers present the finished score and parts, and set up a final rehearsal schedule, including a run through of the piece by the first week after MLK weekend. All Ed. Thesis candidates must be scheduled or already working at the host school. **The Education thesis will not be completed until Spring Break!**

THE THESIS RECITALS ARE FEBRUARY 6 AND 7!

ALL CANDIDATES MUST ALSO COMPLETE A SUPPORTING PAPER (see below):

ABOUT THE SUPPORTING PAPER/DOCUMENTS FOR BAND SENIOR THESIS:

All thesis projects in the music majors at the School of the Arts include a supporting paper or research requirement that demonstrates scholarly accomplishment. This can take many forms depending on the kind of thesis being attempted.

For Education thesis candidates, the written research requirement includes a description of the demographics of the class or classes being taught, copies of lesson plans, written evaluations of student performance, and an essay that reflects on the experience of teaching. Additional documentation is also required for education thesis candidates, including samples of student work, assignments, programs, and photos/videos of teaching in action. The candidate will also be observed while teaching and evaluated by the host teacher as well as Mr. Kerr. **This thesis will continue through Spring Break.**

For Performance Thesis candidates, a supporting paper must be written based on the music being performed. The paper will include research on the composer, the composition and the context in which the piece was created. A second section will discuss the technical challenges to a successful performance of the composition. The final section will be a reflection by the performer that includes the specific challenges the soloist discovered/faced in preparing the performance, and how he/she overcame the musical challenges to render a successful result.

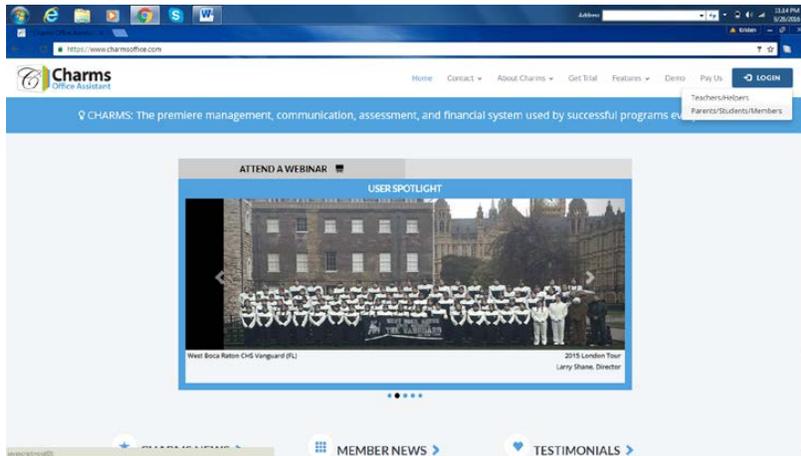
For Composition/Arrangement Thesis candidates, a clean, well-organized score created by the performer must be presented to Mr. Kerr. (Finale or Sibelius scores are preferred; clean manuscript arrangements are also acceptable.) In addition, a brief essay (1-3 pages) describing the creative process (how you chose the tune to arrange, or what inspired you to write your original work, etc.) must be submitted with the final copy of the score.

ALL PAPERS MUST BE IN MLA FORMAT, TYPED IN “TIMES NEW ROMAN”, 12 pt TYPE, DOUBLE SPACED, WITH 1” MARGINS. If needed, proper citations and source listings must be included at the end of the paper. The paper must be between 3 and 10 pages in length. (The exception is for the composition/arrangement thesis as explained earlier.)

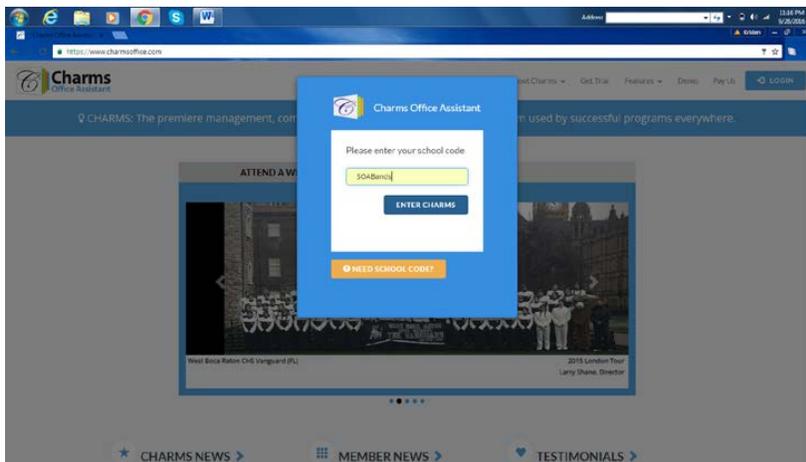
ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ARE DUE FEBRUARY 28!!

Now you can access Charms Office to update the student and parent emails, pay band fees. We hope to add FairShare hours and signups this year as well! Follow instructions to login:

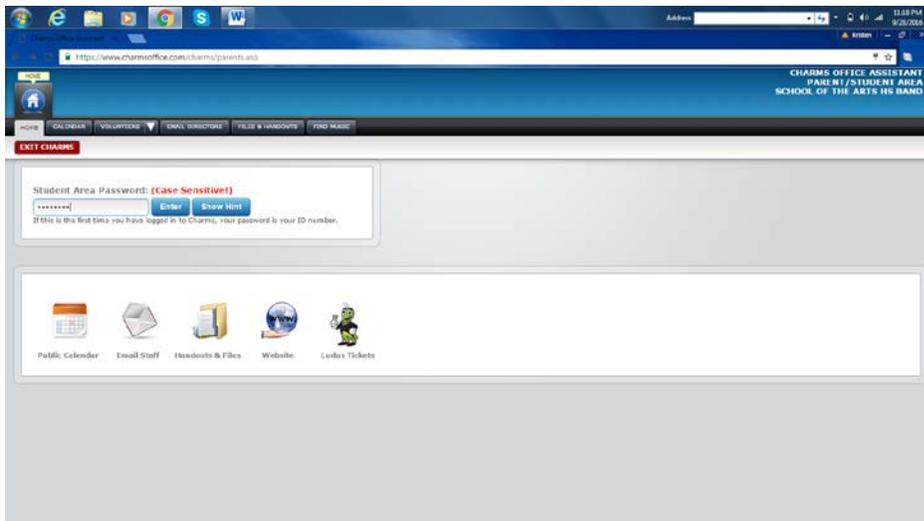
1. Go to www.charmsoffice.com. Hover over the Login button in the upper right corner and select Parents/Students/Members.



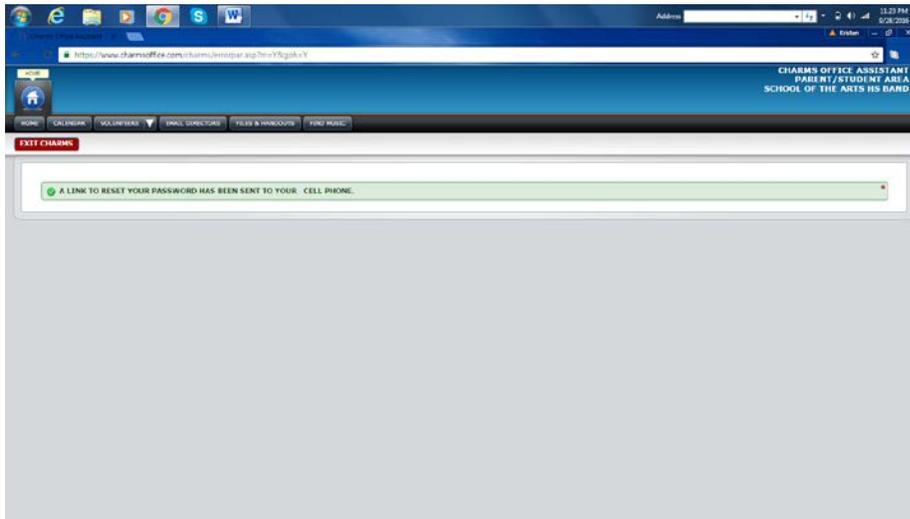
2. Enter the school code SOABands (this is case sensitive)



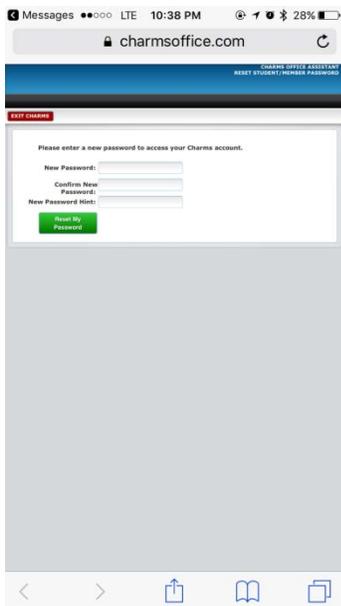
3. Enter the Student Area ID/Password. Your ID/Password is as follows: Starts with SOA, then first 2 initials of your child's first name, then the child's last name. So if your child's name is Fred Flintstone you ID/Password would be SOAFrFlintstone.



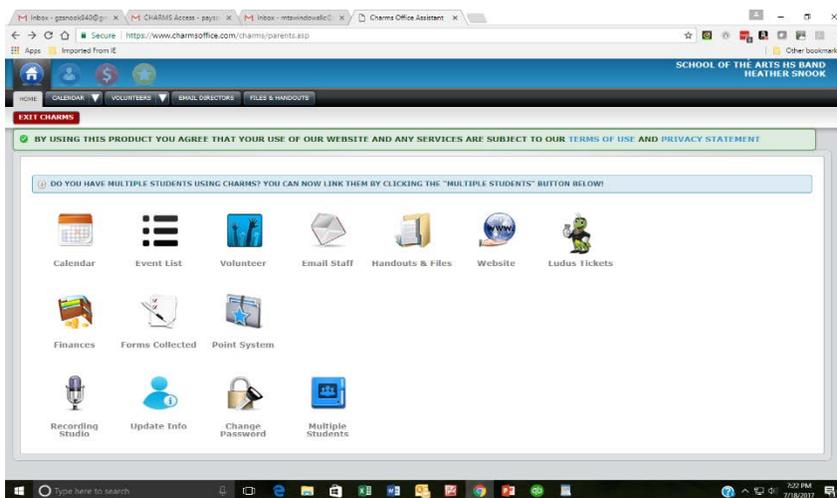
4. You will be prompted to change your password.



5. Enter the new password of your choice.



6. Follow the instructions to log in again. Use the school code SOABands and your new password to access CHARMS.



Click on Finances. If paying band fees prior or during band camp, pay through make miscellaneous payment. If paying after band camp and paying full amount of fees, use make fixed payment. After band camp or if paying only partial payments, pay through the make miscellaneous payment.

IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE, PLEASE EMAIL your treasurer AT paysoabands@gmail.com

SOA High School Bands

Student/School – Instrument Information Form

STUDENT NAME: _____ GRADE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

INSTRUMENT: _____ BRAND: _____

SERIAL NUMBER: _____

Circle one that applies: Personal School Owned

Note: Instruments are considered either “personal” or “School Owned”. Instruments held by families/students as purchased or “leased/purchase” are considered “personal” instruments. Instruments rented from the school are “school owned”.

Student's Name: _____, _____

(please print) Last

First

Handbook Acknowledgement

By the signatures below, I/we acknowledge existence and receipt of the SOA HS Band Handbook (posted online at the SOA HS Band website) and I/we agree to abide by the rules and policies found within the handbook. This Acknowledgement should be kept for reference throughout the 2017-2018 school year.

Acknowledgement of Understanding Band Fees and Dues

By the signatures below, I/we acknowledge and understand that there are certain fees associated with the privilege of attending SOA and being a member of the SOA HS Band. I/we understand and acknowledge that there is a yearly band fee of \$325.00 and that it is due IN ITS ENTIRETY no later than NOVEMBER 1st. I/we acknowledge and understand that failure to pay this fee in full will result in me/my child NOT attending any off campus trips or performances. I/we understand that in the event of financial hardship, I/we MUST notify the Band Director, HS Booster President, or the HS Booster Treasurer immediately and request assistance. I/we acknowledge and understand that assistance MAY be given on a case-by-case basis after thorough review and executive board voting.

Acknowledgement of Understanding Band "Fair Share Hours" Policy

By the signatures below, I/we acknowledge and understand that there is a "Fair Share Hours" Policy in place for the SOA HS Band. I/We understand that our family is responsible for volunteering FIVE (5) hours of time with the Band. It is my/our understanding that if I/we are not able to contribute our fair share hours, I/we may "buy out" hours at \$10 per hour. I/we acknowledge and understand that if volunteer hours are not complete by the end of APRIL, I/we will be billed for those hours in MAY. I/we acknowledge that if I/we intend to opt out of all volunteer opportunities, I/we must make the buy-out payment by OCTOBER 1st.

Please sign and return this page.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

Date Signed

- *These signatures will remain valid for the entirety of the 2017-2018 school year.*