

# **Steele Canyon High School**

## **Instrumental Music Handbook**

### **2015-2016**



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## Program Objectives

The Steele Canyon High School Instrumental Music program has four main objectives in its educational program.

1. **Educational:** To Expand knowledge, technique, and skill as musicians and colorguard performers, to provide an outlet for creativity and self expression, and to provide the challenges that high school students seek: leadership, teamwork, personal growth, and an opportunity to experience the rewards and sense of pride that go along with outstanding achievement. To prepare students for life musically and otherwise beyond high school.
2. **Cultural:** To develop an appreciation for a variety of musical styles and foster an understanding of music history and theory through the study and performance of the best in music and choreography, and to help each student develop his/her aesthetic potential to the utmost.
3. **Service:** To provide cultural and entertainment events for the campus and the community; to lend color, atmosphere, and spirit to certain athletic events and school functions.
4. **Social and Recreational:** To provide a source of enjoyment that can endure throughout life, enhance the quality of high school life, and provide an opportunity for the worthy use of leisure time, and provide an emotional outlet and social interaction.

## Steele Canyon Instrumental Music Culture

In all different societies there are certain ways of doing things. This is a part of their culture. We're not talking about art or pottery, just *behavior*. In the instrumental music department, we have certain ways of doing things as well, and this is our culture. It's the pride and good attitude that we all strive toward as an organization to make it better. It's an attitude of professionalism, excellence in performance, and determination. It's a culture that places the group above the individual. This culture goes beyond grades and exceptions; it's the spirit within the group that makes it excellent. Ask yourself often if your actions are ones in which the Steele Canyon Instrumental Music Culture is bettered.

1. **Be Early to Rehearsal!** Arrive to extra rehearsals at least 10 to 15 minutes early and warm up on your instrument or equipment as well as stretch out physically. Be prepared mentally, physically for rehearsal to begin on time.
2. **Avoid Wasting Time!** Develop a quiet atmosphere at rehearsals. Learn to have total concentration on the task at hand whether in rehearsal or performance.
3. **Be Organized!** Take good care of all of your music, equipment, instrument, uniform, etc. Respect yourself enough to always have your music, dot book, etc. with you at every rehearsal and in an organized and usable state. The biggest problem is usually neglect. Take the time to put away your equipment, uniform, etc. properly after each rehearsal and performance.
4. **Give 100% All of the Time!** How you practice determines how you perform. Don't sell yourself or your fellow students short: give it *all* you've got *all* the time. Every single member of the group is accountable for the success of the group.
5. **Be Respectful and Patient with All Instructors!** The instrumental staff puts out a tremendous effort on your behalf. Help them help you by being polite, attentive, and helpful. When it comes time to perform, you will be glad you tapped into the experience and expertise of the staff.
6. **Act Appropriately at all Activities!** Vulgar language and socially unacceptable behavior will not be tolerated. Complete professionalism is expected at all performances. Your behavior is equally important at rehearsals.
7. **Accept Criticism Without Excuses!** Criticism should always be given and received in an instructive manner. Do not take it personally and do not make it personal when you are receiving or giving criticism.
8. **Practice Individually Between Rehearsals!** Individual perfection takes place outside of rehearsal time. You must work on your music, marching, and/or routines on your own for the group rehearsals to be effective.
9. **Memorize!** In marching band it is necessary to memorize all music, and that's not just knowing most of it. "It kind of goes like this..." is not good enough.
10. **Deal With It!** Whatever it is, learn to deal with it and always try to be a part of the solution, not part of the problem. **Figure it out!**

## Performing Groups

The Steele Canyon Instrumental Music Department has seven main performing groups: Concert Band, Marching Band, Percussion Ensemble, Winter Drumline, Colorguard and Jazz Band. It should be stressed that each group is within the department and that the Steele Canyon Band Parents (the parent association hereafter referred to as SCBP) supports *all groups*.

**Bands: Concert and Steele Regiment (marching band):** The bands are composed of all wind and percussion instrument students. The bands meet during different class periods.

During the fall, all bands are primarily a marching band, which performs during football halftime shows, parades, and field competitions. They have a very busy rehearsal and performance schedule during this time. The bands practice for marching band and perform together. The bands perform in the school Winter Concert in December.

During the Spring, the bands are sit-down concert bands and perform at the festivals and concerts. Open auditions are held at the start of the second term in a blind audition format. Concert Band is designated band for first year members and also, open to all students wishing to play a band instrument.

**Percussion Ensemble:** This class is made up of all percussion students and all students are members of the Steele Regiment marching band. Students attend all extra marching rehearsals as discussed in the previous section. Members of the percussion class are expected to learn and perform on all instruments associated with percussion playing, including keyboard mallet instruments.

During the spring session, the percussion ensemble will perform in festivals for ratings.

**Winter Drumline:** This is an extra curricular activity for any and all students who are interested in drumline. Winter Drumline can be compared to marching band with everyone playing a percussion instrument, and marching indoors in the gym instead of the football field. This activity is highly competitive and performs all across Southern California. They also perform at various school events.

**Colorguard:** In the fall, colorguard is part of the Steele Regiment where they perform through dance, flags, and weapons to accentuate the music on the field. They are part of the Steele Regiment Marching Band and therefore responsible to attend the same activities as the musicians.

During the spring, colorguard is known as Winterguard and competes in indoor competitions held in Southern California. They also participate in the department's end of the year concert working the sound and light booth.

**Jazz Band:** The jazz band studies various genres of jazz literature and students work on the art of improvisation. They perform in the departments concerts, have gigs of their own, and go to jazz band festivals.

### **Grading and Attendance Policies**

This section lays out expectations for grading and attendance. It is the overriding philosophy of this department that if a student attends rehearsal and performances, acts professionally and does their job musically or otherwise, they should receive an "A" grade. The grading policy is discussed later in this section. First, of primary concern is attendance.

A musical organization can be compared to a delicate interrelated ecosystem: when a part is not present, the whole decays. Excellent attendance is critical to the success of our organization. It is Grossmont Union High School District policy that all students enrolled in performance classes (as all instrumental music department students are), must be required to attend all rehearsals and performances. These out of class rehearsals and performances are considered *curricular* (versus extra-curricular) and therefore taken into consideration for grading. Please refer to the grading tables later for specific deductions.

#### **Band and Percussion Grading**

Grades are distributed as follows all year long

Attendance	50%
Music/Performance Improvement	50%

**GRADING:** Grading is based half on attendance and half on music.

1. **ATTENDANCE GRADING:** Generally speaking, attendance grades are figured by the following matrix. All grades are figured accumulatively within each semester. During school convention performances are not counted for grading. Having correct equipment, instruments and accessories, sheet music, and attire all is factored into the attendance grade. A student may not receive credit or full credit (at a director's discretion) for attending if they do not have all required items or concert dress (black socks!). This is part of the professionalism that is expected of all students in this department. The following describes the deductions made for absences.

**Occurrence**

One unexcused missed performance

Two unexcused missed performances

For every Unexcused missed Tuesday night rehearsals

For every Tardy

**Consequence**

"F" attendance grade

"F" grade in the class

Drop citizenship grades, and receive 0 in grade book.

Drop rehearsal/ performance grade 10 points

**Point system**Rehearsals (Tuesday & Friday) - 100 points  
(Saturday) - 200 pointsPerformances (Saturday) - 300 points  
(Friday) - 200 points

Extra credit given for first place or special awards.

**2. Music Grading: 50% of the final grade, based on the following point system**

Weekly playing/memorization tests - 20 points

Etude performances - 10 points

Final performances - 100 points

Scale tests - 100 points

Theory tests - points based off of year.

Participation - 50 points a week (instrument in class, supplies ready, on time)

**Scale and Theory Tests**

For each year in band, there are scale and theory requirements. A student that completes *all* the scale requirements for their year will receive the total 100 points. A student that completes less than all requirements will receive partial points. Students are allowed to take the theory exams as much as possible until they pass. Students can start taking their scale tests at the start of the year. Testing ends the day before the last day of the semester.

**How to excuse absences:** Absences to rehearsals, sectionals, and performances must be excused using the following procedure, or deductions will be made from a student's grade.

The following events qualify an absence as excused:

1. Illness severe enough to preclude the student from playing (or marching)
2. Death in the immediate family
3. Family emergency (information regarding this emergency may be required by the director)
4. Appointments that cannot be rescheduled (Parents: do not make appointments during rehearsals or performances; a grade deduction may be made)
5. Court appearance
6. Other school commitment that is deemed necessary by the director or other Steele Canyon teacher.

In an absence qualifies, fill out a <sup>Cardinal</sup> ~~Green~~ Form (available outside Ms. Luck's office) that is signed by a parent and turn is in within two days of the student's return. Often the director will require a note from a doctor or other source of an absence in addition to the green form. If the absence is planned, the Green Form must be filled out *before* the absence occurs. Also, students should call Ms. Luck to notify her of an unexpected absence *before* it occurs, or the absence may not be excused.

*Parents, I appreciate you help in teaching responsibility to your students.*

Please fill out a Green Form for a music department absence even if a student is absent at school on the same day.

Tardies must be excused with Green Forms as well. The same reasons listed above qualify tardies as excused.

**Other Attendance/Performance Issues:** Because all musical groups rely heavily on having all of its members present for rehearsal and then performance, the following is the policy established for rehearsal absence and performance exclusion. Just like any athletic team, failure to attend practices by a member will result in the exclusion of that member from performance. It is noted that performance exclusion may and often does result from *excused* absences. Sick or not, a member who doesn't show for a rehearsal, hurts the group in performance.

In general, if a student is absent two or more block periods the day of a performance, or if the student is absent two or more block periods on the Friday before a Saturday performance, the student will be excluded from performance. Assuming the absence from school is excused, the performance will automatically be excused as well.

*Unless a student is excused, (by a green form) a student who is excluded from performance **still must attend** the performance or the students' grade will be dropped accordingly.*

**Steele Regiment (fall marching band, percussion ensemble, & colorguard):** For any given week with a competition/ performance on the Saturday ending the week, these shall be the policies:

**Occurrence**

**Consequence:**

Failure to attend Tuesday  
Night rehearsal

May not perform Friday night  
or Saturday

Failure to attend two or more  
marching rehearsals  
(sectionals included)

May not perform Friday night  
or Saturday

Failure to attend last marching  
rehearsal

Possible exclusion  
from performance

## SCBP Cougar Pledge

Steele Canyon High School does not fund the Instrumental Music program to the level at which it operates. In order to compete successfully, certain expenses occur which allow the program to run effectively, including coaching, uniforms, equipment, etc. We ask if parents can help with our expenses by making a pledge or donation. Please note that this is not mandatory and therefore not a requirement for participation or affect the student's grade in the class. Parents can speak to the teacher, coach or the school administration for alternative ways to assist our program if they are so inclined.

Pledges are used for the following expenses: (Percentages are typical)

Staff (coaches and clinicians)	50%
Transportation	14%
Field Show Arrangement & Drill	5%
Flag Equipment	8%
Entry Fees	7%
Instrument parts and repair	5%
Awards	5%
Meals	3%
Uniform Cleaning	3%

### Expenses

There are numerous costs associated with running a music program of this caliber. These expenses include:

1. Clinicians represent the single largest Booster expense (Over 50% of the annual budget). The Boosters financially support the Colorguard Instructors, Percussion Instructors, Field Show Drill Designers, and Instrument Specialists.
2. Transportation costs to tournaments and festivals are half covered by the school and by the boosters.
3. Activities and Awards
4. Sheet Music for all band members
5. Insurance
6. Meals
7. Uniform items not provided by the school. (Polo, shoes etc.)
8. Colorguard equipment, flags, and accessories
9. Tournament entrance fees
10. Festival, colorguard, and percussion entrance fees
11. Uniform maintenance

## **Official Steele Canyon Performance Attire**

\*Items marked with an asterisk are provided to the student by Steele Regiment

### **All Bands – REGIMENT CASUAL UNIFORM – Used for casual performances**

Steele Regiment Polo Shirt

Black Pants

Black Socks

Black Shoes

If a jacket or sweatshirt is worn, it must be a SR team jacket, or SCHS jacket (Travel or Pep Band Uniform is Polo Only)

### **MARCHING BAND PERFORMANCE UNIFORM**

Jacket, Pants, and Shako\*

Marching Shoes

Gloves (not required for students in pit or percussion)

Black Socks (must come up past the ankle)

### **Concert Attire – Concert Band**

#### **Boys**

Tuxedos (Black Jackets, Pants, White Shirt, Bow Tie) Some school jackets are available

Black Socks

Black Shoes

#### **Girls**

Black Blouse (Shoulders must be covered)

Black Pants or long skirt (Knees must be covered)

Black Shoes (Toes must be covered)

**Please contact members of leadership if you have any individual questions. Dress rehearsals will be conducted in dress to approve of concert dress. Students will not be allowed on stage without the correct uniform.**

## **WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?**

Great groups are great in rehearsal. This is true of every type of group or team. The important point is that practice makes what?

If you said perfect you're not completely right. You will perform like you practice. Practice makes permanent.

### **Perfect practice makes perfect.**

We will be putting in a lot of time and energy towards mastering this show, technique, and skills that will not just make the show better, but will make you a better musician and a better person. Anything worth putting that much time into, is worth doing right. We will do it right way EVERY TIME!!! We want to practice not just until we can do it right, but practice until we CAN'T do it wrong!

**Student Name:**  
**Instrument:**

**Due: Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> (uniform fitting)**

## **Steele Canyon Handbook Contract**

**We hope that both members and parents will find this manual useful and informative. After you have read the contents, please return this page.**

**We have read, understood and will support the responsibilities, obligations and policies of a Steele Canyon High School member and music booster as stated in the manual.**

**Member** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sign** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sign** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_