

Stapley Music Department

3250 E. Hermosa Vista Dr.

Mesa, AZ 85213

Phone: (480)-472-2788 Fax: (480)472-2828

rrwagner@mpsaz.org

Dear Stapley Students and Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and provide information essential to Stapley students and their parents. Please read these guidelines carefully and pay particular attention to policies and procedures. The last page needs to be returned to me signed where indicated.

It is extremely important that all students strive for excellence, if we are to develop outstanding bands. Attendance at parades, football games, concert, and festivals is critical, and ultimately the final exam and reward for many hours of hard work and team effort. The opportunities awaiting us in the world of music are exciting and challenging. Let's work together to meet the challenge and provide our young people with the best possible music education.

Parents have the opportunity to make the most of their child's education by simply getting involved. Please insist on daily practice, and show interest and support. If we can motivate our children through encouragement, and working together positive results will naturally unfold.

Please feel free to contact me at Stapley if you have any concerns or questions. The phone number is 472-2788. I look forward to meeting with you and hope to see you at each and every music function that your child is involved in.

Musically,

Rita R. Wagner
Band Director

EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

1. **HOME PRACTICE** - Students are expected to maintain a regular schedule of Practice that will:

- (1) Prepare them for their regular class assignments
- (2) Prepare them for special individual assignments
- (3) Maintain themselves at a proper level of musicianship.

Regular daily practice is essential. It is recommended that a schedule of one half hour per day, five days a week be established and maintained. They will turn in a signed practice sheet every Friday with the date, minutes, parent signature, and student signature.

2. **CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR** - Students are expected to come into the classroom with their instrument, music, pencil and a positive attitude. During class students should be quiet and attentive and make maximum use of learning time. Often what is being told to one student or section, applies to all students. Any behavior which interferes with learning, will not be tolerated and can lead to being removed from the class for the rest of the term.

3. **PERFORMANCES** - Members of any performing group are expected to attend all performances of that group. Students who are absent or late to a performance should supply a written excuse as soon as possible, signed by a teacher or parent. In the event of a missed performance or rehearsal the student will be expected to attend a performance on their own and write a full page report. Forms will be available with all the information.

4. **INSTRUMENTS** - Instruments should be kept in good repair and in proper playing condition. Students will be expected to have sufficient reeds, valve or slide oils, so as not to limit or interfere with rehearsals. If an instrument needs repairs, it is important that repairs take as little time as possible. Instruments that are in poor playing condition hinder the student's progress and enjoyment. Reeds, valve oil and many other accessories will be available at the school bookstore.

EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES (cont'd)

5. **PROPER PLAYING TECHNIQUE** - There are several concepts in playing various instruments that are both essential to proper technique and within the capabilities of all students. Students will not receive a high grade if they do not sit and play the instrument properly. Wind players should use proper breath support and embouchure.
6. **SECTION REHEARSAL** - Section rehearsals will be called as needed at a mutually agreed upon time between students and/or teacher. Students who cannot attend a section rehearsal must make up the missed rehearsal, before or after school.
7. **PRIVATE INSTRUCTION** - Whether a student receives private instruction or not will NOT have a direct bearing on the students grade, however, it is highly recommended that every student and his/her parents consider the possibility of private lessons. Nothing can take the place of this kind of individualized, expert attention and guidance.
8. **JAZZ BAND** - Members of the Jazz Band (by audition only) will meet before or after school. This group performs at several school and civic functions each year and provides students the opportunity to explore various Jazz, Rock and Big Band styles of music. This group is open to Students who play saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Drum Set, Piano, Guitar and Bass Guitar.
9. **DRESS CODE FOR PERFORMANCES** - It is suggested that during any sporting event and parades that students wear light khaki pants (without pockets), a Stapley Band Shirt, and comfortable shoes. Band shirts will soon be available in the Bookstore. Price will range from \$15 to \$20 which includes tax. During nighttime performances it is highly recommended that students dress professionally. Professional attire consists of black pants, white dress shirt, tie and dark shoes for the boys; black long skirt, white blouse, nylons and dark dress shoes for the girls.
10. **INSTRUMENTS** - You are expected to provide your own instrument. Percussionists will need their own timpani mallets, bell mallets, snare sticks and practice pads. Stapley has a limited number of the larger and more expensive instruments that will be checked out. In either case, you will be expected to have your instrument in class by the second day of school.

BAND GRADING POLICY

Performance Participation.....	40 %
Test/Quiz.....	10 %
Homework/Practice Sheets.....	10 %
Class Participation.....	40 %

PERFORMANCE PARTICIPATION - In any performing organization, every member makes a group contribution. Attendance, both in class and at Performances is absolutely essential. Band is a group learning experience which counts on and depends on the participation of ALL members.

TEST/QUIZ - The primary goal of any performing organization is the development of individual performance skills. As a minimum standard, each student should practice at least 2 1/2 hours per week and all should be able to perform assigned work in class. Grades will be assigned for etudes, scales, and playing tests.

HOMEWORK/PRACTICE SHEETS - Time allotted in school is frequently insufficient for the development of the necessary skills for high quality performance, therefore, it is strongly suggested that individual effort outside the classroom become a part of a weekly study routine. Practice sheets will be due every Friday. Each practice sheet needs to include; student name, date, days and number of minutes practiced, student signature and parent signature.

CLASS PARTICIPATION - Because a performing musical organization must go beyond the achievements of the individual, there must be careful consideration given to the development of group interaction skills. Negative behavior is detrimental to learning and the accomplishment of performance goals in an organization, therefore, overall demeanor including attitude, cooperation, preparedness and behavior must be given careful consideration. While grading these elements tends to be subjective, it is nonetheless important that they are part of the grading plan in performance class.

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As parents of _____

We are aware that our son/daughter may have several performances to participate in during the year. We hereby grant them permission to be transported to and from scheduled Band performances in MPS vehicles.

X _____
(Parent signature)

Please indicate that you have read and understand the information in this packet by signing and returning this sheet. Students will be given 5 school days to return this paper.

X _____
Student name student signature

X _____
Parent name parent signature

Phone number _____
Home work/cell

STAPLEY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Music performing ensemble Contract

This contract is to verify that the undersigned Student and Parent have read the Stapley junior High School Policies and Procedures Handbook and understand its contents as well as the responsibilities of Band membership. Please initial each area indicating you've read all four sections regarding grading practices. Thank you!

(Parent initials)

(Student initials)

Performance Participation

Test/Quiz

Homework/Practice Sheets

Class Participation

X _____
(Student signature)

X _____
(Parent signature)

Phone number _____
(Home)

X _____
(Work or cell)

Name and make of student's instrument: _____

Serial number _____

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Stapley Band Dates

<u>When</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>Time</u>
Fri. Sept. 14	Jr. High Night	MVHS	Adv/Inter	4:45 PM
Wed. Oct. 3	FB Game	Stapley	Adv/Inter	3:30 PM
Tues. Oct. 9	Concert	Stapley	All Bands	7:00 PM
Tues. Nov. 6	Open Night	MVHS	All Bands	6:00 PM
Friday Nov. 16	Regional Reg.	Money Due	9 th Grade	3:00 PM
Thurs. Dec. 13	Concert	Stapley	All Bands	7:00PM
Tues. Jan. 15	Feeder School Concert	MVHS	Advanced	7:00 PM
Fri. Jan. 18	Fine Arts day	Stapley	Advanced	9:00 AM
Sat. Jan 26	Regional Audition	GHS	9 th Graders	TBA
Sat. Feb 16	Regional Concert	MVHS	Extra Credit	TBA
Thurs. March 6	Concert	Stapley	All Bands	7:00PM
Sat. March 8	All-State Aud.	TBA	9 th Graders	TBA
Fri/Sat. April 11-12	All-State Concert	ASU	Extra Credit	TBA
Tues. May 6	Concert	MVHS	All Bands	6:30 PM

Please put these dates on your calendar and remember that these performances are the **final exam** for the nine weeks. Your band student needs to be at all concerts as each student is important to the performance.