

# STEVENSON HIGH SCHOOL



## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT 2023-24 HANDBOOK

MR. MICHAEL D. SEKICH - DIRECTOR OF BANDS

[www.stevensonbands.org](http://www.stevensonbands.org)

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## Welcome to the Stevenson High School Instrumental Music Program!

As a member of the Instrumental Music Program you will be introduced to many traditions of excellence and goals that have been developed over many years. The Stevenson program has come to be known for its excellent level of expectations in attitude, leadership, musical excellence, and high levels of performance in all ensembles. It is our goal that all students make lasting memories and have wonderful experiences while attaining the highest level of musical excellence.

### Director of Bands

Mr. Michael D. Sekich

**Email:** Michael.Sekich@uticak12.org

**Office Phone:** (586) 797-2128

### **Stevenson High School**

39701 Dodge Park Road

Sterling Heights Michigan 48313

**Main phone:** (586) 797-1900

**Web site:** [stevenson.uticak12.org](http://stevenson.uticak12.org)

### **Stevenson Instrumental Music**

**Web site:** [www.stevensonbands.org](http://www.stevensonbands.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/groups/stevensonbands/](https://facebook.com/groups/stevensonbands/)

Mike Austerman – Admin Assistant:

mike.austerman@gmail.com

Mr. Ken Cucchi III - Principal

Mrs. Alison Hildebrand - Associate Principal

Mr. Dave Ersig- Associate Principal

Mr. Robert Enne - Associate Principal

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**Students & Parents – Stay up to date with messages from Mr. Sekich through the Band App!**

**Use these links to join (or see the end of the handbook for QR codes):**

- **Symphonic Band (2<sup>nd</sup> Hour):** [band.us/n/a4ae98240aT2M](https://band.us/n/a4ae98240aT2M)
- **Wind Ensemble (3<sup>rd</sup> Hour):** [band.us/n/a0a89b2102Ucp](https://band.us/n/a0a89b2102Ucp)
- **Stevenson Band (4<sup>th</sup> Hour):** [band.us/n/a9ae982900U6b](https://band.us/n/a9ae982900U6b)
- **Concert Band (5<sup>th</sup> hour):** [band.us/n/adae9f240fv1C](https://band.us/n/adae9f240fv1C)
- **Jazz Band (6<sup>th</sup> hour):** [band.us/n/a7a39f2009weg](https://band.us/n/a7a39f2009weg)
- Get the Band App for Android or Apple devices!

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### Stevenson Band Boosters

Our Stevenson Band Boosters are some of the BEST people in the world. High school music programs can't thrive without strong parent/booster groups working behind the scenes. All parents, not just those of marching band students, are highly encouraged to get involved with the booster group in whatever capacity you can. Your time and talents are needed! Please feel free to contact any member of the Booster executive board listed on the Instrumental Music Web Site ([www.stevensonbands.org](http://www.stevensonbands.org)).

**Booster Band App group:** [band.us/n/ada6922c0b45x](https://band.us/n/ada6922c0b45x)

## Daily Schedule / Office Hours

### 2023-24 Office Hours/Class Schedule

Prep (1<sup>st</sup> hour)  
Symphonic Band (2<sup>nd</sup> hour)  
Wind Ensemble (3<sup>rd</sup> hour)  
MADE Band/Solo & Ensemble (4<sup>th</sup> hour)  
C Lunch  
Concert Band (5<sup>th</sup> hour)  
Jazz Band (6<sup>th</sup> hour)

### Stevenson High School – Daily Schedule

1<sup>st</sup> Hour- 7:20 – 8:18  
2<sup>nd</sup> Hour- 8:24– 9:21  
3<sup>rd</sup> Hour- 9:27 – 10:24  
4<sup>th</sup> Hour- 10:30 – 12:09  
    A lunch- 10:30 – 11:01  
    B lunch- 11:07 – 11:32  
    C lunch- 11:38 – 12:09  
5<sup>th</sup> Hour- 12:15 – 1:12  
6<sup>th</sup> Hour- 1:18 – 2:14  
*Half day dismissal at 10:24 AM*

Contact Mr. Sekich through his school e-mail address – Michael.Sekich@uticak12.org – to schedule an appointment to discuss your student.

View our calendar of events at [www.stevensonbands.org/calendar](http://www.stevensonbands.org/calendar) - it is updated throughout the school year.

### Philosophy of the Stevenson High School Instrumental Music Program

Through learning in class, our students will receive top instruction. Our students at Stevenson will learn to become:

*Creative Problem Solvers* who think critically and can make decisions through artistic modes in situations where there are no standard answers.

*Culturally Aware Citizens* who have a sense of history and an appreciation of the Fine Arts through multi-cultural experiences.

*Humanistic Thinkers* who have creativity, sensitivity and emotion.

*Collaborative Workers* who are confident, receptive to others' ideas and utilize peer input to develop and improve their interpersonal relationships within the framework of our classroom.

**Attitude + Respect + Commitment = Success**

## **ENSEMBLE OPPORTUNITIES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

For all students, participation in Stevenson HS Instrumental Music Ensembles will result in mandatory graded performances, rehearsals, and Concerts & Festivals scheduled throughout the year, including at the Stevenson Commencement Ceremony in June (graduation is required of all 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> graders in a Stevenson band class). Groups may occasionally rehearse after school as part of their preparation for performances. All classes are FULL YEAR commitments and consist of brass, woodwind, and percussion.

### ***MADE Band/Solo & Ensemble (4<sup>th</sup> Hour)***

Students in this class will perform with the 5<sup>th</sup> hr Concert Band. It is designed for students that are:

- New to the Stevenson Instrumental Music Program / 9<sup>th</sup> Grade MADE students
- Receive more in-depth learning on their instrument, wish to learn a new instrument

Students will develop and expand their knowledge of all aspects of their instrument.

### ***Concert Band (5<sup>th</sup> Hour)***

Concert Band is designed to assist and develop high school musicians attain skills and learn all aspects of their instrument and music theory. Upper classmen may be invited to also participate in performances with Wind Ensemble.

### ***Symphonic Band (2<sup>nd</sup> Hour) & Wind Ensemble (3<sup>rd</sup> Hour)***

Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble are advanced groups that performs high level High School literature as well as college literature. **These groups are audition only.**

### ***Jazz Ensemble (6<sup>th</sup> Hour)***

The Jazz Ensemble is an advanced class that focuses on improvisation and listening skills and all members are HIGHLY encouraged to listen to all different genres of Jazz. Music theory is heavily emphasized. Jazz Ensemble will often be called upon to perform at various gigs throughout the school year.

### ***Marching Band (After School)***

The Marching Band rehearses after school at Stevenson multiple days a week until the middle of October. YOU MUST BE ENROLLED IN A MUSIC CLASS TO PARTICIPATE IN MARCHING BAND. THIS IS A UCS MANDATED RULE. In August, the Marching Band attends camp both at home and away to learn their show. The band performs at all home football games, including playoffs should the football team qualify.

**Two complete seasons of Marching Band is available for a Physical Education credit towards graduation (but not Foreign Language credit)! If you would like to use the Marching Band flex credit, please see [www.stevensonbands.org/marching-band](http://www.stevensonbands.org/marching-band)**

*Remember, you can receive a credit for Foreign Language by taking a SCHOOL BAND CLASS*

Visit [www.stevensonbands.org/resources/curriculum-planning/](http://www.stevensonbands.org/resources/curriculum-planning/) for details!

## GRADING & EVALUATION

The grading for Instrumental Music Classes at Stevenson High school is divided into the following criteria. Percentages vary dependent on the quarter and ensemble.

### Daily Participation

- Being prepared with your instrument and music every day, including reeds, sticks etc.
- Arrive on time to class and begin to get ready to start warm-up no later than 2 minutes after the bell.
- Be seated, with a pencil, when rehearsal begins.
- Act maturely and responsibly during rehearsals by not talking or using your cell phone in class unless instructed to do so. There is a no tolerance rule for cell phone usage during my class.

### Individual Performance and Homework

- Come to class prepared with your part better than it was the day before.
- Playing checks with minimal to no mistakes.

- Participating in sectionals when scheduled.
- Practice at HOME. This is a must.

### Performances\*

- Participation in all rehearsals, concerts and festivals.
- Arrive for all performances on time and in the proper uniform.
- Come prepared for all events with your music, instrument etc.
- Play your part to the best of your ability.
- Follow all UCS rules after hours and at all off-campus events.

*\*If you miss a performance due to an unexcused reason, you will be in jeopardy of receiving a failing grade. Instrumental Music is a performance-based class, and you will be graded as such.*

## Attendance Policy

You are expected to be at all rehearsals and performances. **Outside employment is not an excuse for missing any scheduled rehearsal or performance.**

It is in my best interest to do the best thing for your student. Communication is huge with me. Because our calendar is planned so far in advance and shared with all, I feel it is the student and parent's responsibility to work with that schedule to the best of their ability. We want everyone to work together to give our students the best possible experience while they are attending Stevenson High school. If you have a conflict, you need to make me aware of it ASAP, not the day of or day before.

**School-related conflicts:** It is expected that students who choose to participate in activities or classes that have an after-school practice and/or performance component will make every effort to completely fulfill their obligation to the group. In

many cases, splitting the time equally between the two simultaneous activities is the best compromise. Graded academic activities, such as performances within the Arts, will take precedence over non-graded extra-curricular activities.

**School-related athletics:** Performances and/or games take precedence over practices and/or meetings. The student and/or parents should resolve practice conflicts by giving advance notification to the student's coach. If possible, the director will make arrangements to limit the amount of practice time missed.

**Emergency/illness:** If you are suddenly ill and are in jeopardy of missing a rehearsal or performance, a PARENT must attempt to reach me by email within 24 hours of the missed event. This is still required if the student missed school that day. If I need to have a part covered, I need the time to teach another student that part.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

### Code of Conduct

Each person in the program here at Stevenson is a representative of our community, district and our School. Our code of conduct applies to all music activities in or out of uniform. We expect you to act in an appropriate manner including appearance, behavior and language. Students should be considerate of other students. All UCS school rules are always in effect.

### Private Lessons

Who should take private lessons? The answer is anyone that wants to improve and be the best they can be! If you are interested, please see Mr. Sekich. Private lessons are the SINGLE BEST THING you can do to encourage and develop your child's

musical talent. There are a wide variety of GREAT instructors in our area!

### Instrument Care & Responsibility

If you own your own instrument, it is your responsibility to make sure it is functioning properly. Mr. Sekich can assist with this in class. If you need repairs done, please see Mr. Sekich and he will do his best to get your instrument back to you, (possibly with a temporary loaned instrument), in a timely fashion. If you are using a school instrument you need to treat it as you own it! It is a very expensive piece of equipment and must be treated with respect. If there is an accident, please report it to Mr. Sekich ASAP. If there is neglect on your part, you and your parents are responsible for the repair.

## GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

### Uniforms

#### **MADE/Concert/Symphonic/Wind Ensemble**

**classes:** Ladies wear dress black **long** skirts (below the knee) or slacks, a dress black blouse / sweater, and black dress shoes, preferably flats. Men wear an all-black tuxedo or suit jacket (a limited number of tux jackets can be loaned out, but sizes are limited). Men must purchase a white-tip tuxedo shirt for all performances, black dress pants, and black socks with black dress shoes. Bow ties and cummerbunds are provided by the band.

**Marching Band:** All students, with the exception of the Colorguard (and depending on the season's show, percussionists), will receive a UCS Stevenson Titan Marching Band uniform. These uniforms are VERY expensive and must be well taken care of. If it is lost or damaged, it will be at the students/family expense. All marching band

uniforms are dry-cleaned and paid for by UCS at the end of each school year. If the uniform needs cleaning during the year, it is the responsibility of the student/parent to make sure this is done.

### Music Awards

**First year:** At the completion of the first year, an SHS Band Letter (if not already earned in Marching Band at the end of the season) is awarded upon request.

**Subsequent years:** Chevron service bar

### Audition Information

Auditions for all ensembles will take place in the spring of each year. Information and details will be shared with Junior High students through their band directors. Junior High directors will also be consulted in regards to the audition selection process.

## Banquet Information

**Marching Band Banquet:** Each fall, the Marching Band will celebrate their season at a banquet.

**Senior Banquet:** Each spring, a banquet is held just for 12th Grade Instrumental Music students and

their parents/guardians. This is to celebrate their musical career throughout High School.

Banquet information, including dates and times, will be available on the web site & calendar.

## TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY



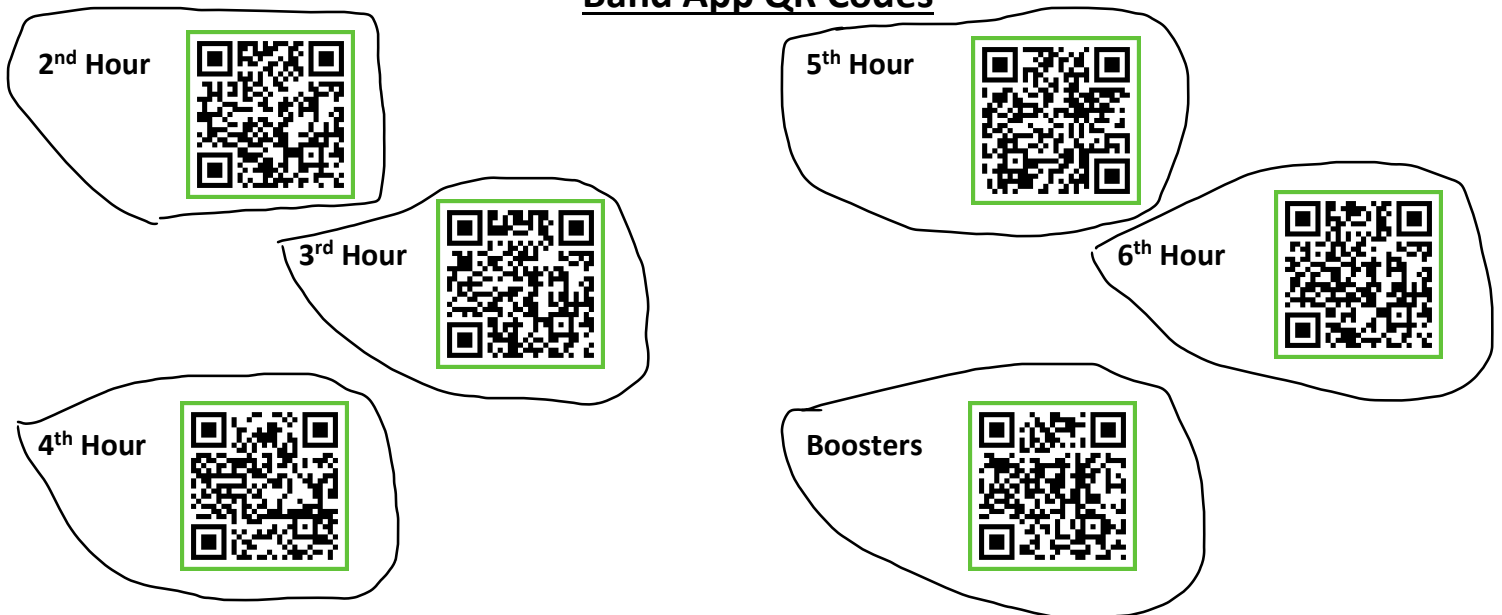
The Tri-M Music Honor Society is the international music honor society for middle/junior high and high school students. It is designed to recognize students for their academic and musical achievements, reward them for their accomplishments and service activities, and to inspire other students to excel at music and leadership.

Tri-M students must meet minimum standards to be considered for membership. Once you are in the group, you must maintain the grades listed below. Constant leadership and service is required all year.

- Music Participation – Enrolled in a school-sponsored music ensemble and/or class for at least one full year.
- Academic Achievement – At least a B average in music courses and at least a C grade average in other academic subjects.
- Character Strength – Demonstrate leadership, service, and character in all activities.

Visit our Tri-M web site at [www.stevensonbands.org/Tri-M](http://www.stevensonbands.org/Tri-M) for complete information!

## Band App QR Codes





# 2023-24 Instrumental Music Student/Parent Contract

I have read the 2023-24 Instrumental Music Handbook and fully understand the expectations of the Stevenson Instrumental Music Program. Return of this contract is a graded assignment worth 50 points towards your first quarter grade in your band class(es).

Printed Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Printed Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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This form must be turned in no later than September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for a grade (50 points). **Late submissions will receive reduced points.**

Thank you,  
Mr. Sekich