

STEVENSON HIGH SCHOOL



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT 2019-2020 HANDBOOK

MR. MICHAEL D. SEKICH - DIRECTOR OF BANDS

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

Stevenson Instrumental Music

Web site: www.stevensonbands.org

Facebook: facebook.com/groups/stevensonbands/

Twitter: @shstitanband

Instagram: shs_titan_marching_band

E-mail Blasts: Sign up at stevensonbands.org

Mr. Ken Cucchi III - Principal

Mrs. Alison Hildebrand - Associate Principal

Mr. Tim Youngblood - Associate Principal

Mr. Robert Enne - Associate Principal

Students & Parents – Stay up to date with messages from Mr. Sekich through Remind!

Text the following codes to 81010

- **Symphonic Band (2nd Hour):** @h8kgdc7
- **Wind Ensemble (3rd Hour):** @mrsekich
- **Concert Band (5th hour):** @9h22gg
- **SHS Band (4th Hour):** @4thhrban
- **Jazz Band (6th hour):** @d3828ea
- **Marching Band:** @mrsekich-1 (A-H*) <or> @mrsekich-2 (I-P*) <or> @mrsekich-3 (Q-Z*)
(*based on student's last name)

- Get the Remind App for smartphones! Users can opt for text, e-mail, or just notifications in the app
- Exit any Remind list any time by replying @LEAVE@code to a text message or use the App to leave a list

Instrumental Booster Organization

The Stevenson Band Boosters are some of the BEST people in the world. We can't survive without them. I highly encourage you to become involved with the group in whatever capacity you can. We need you! Your student needs you! Please feel free to contact any member of the Booster executive board listed on the Instrumental Music Web Site (www.stevensonbands.org).

Booster/parent Facebook group: facebook.com/groups/SHSBandBoosters/

Booster Remind Messages: @shsbbc

HOURLY SCHEDULE & OFFICE HOURS

Mr. Sekich's Office Hours/Class Schedule

7:20 – 8:18	Prep Hour
8:24 – 9:21	Symphonic Band
9:27 – 10:24	Wind Ensemble
10:30 – 11:32	Stevenson Band
11:38 – 12:09	Lunch
12:15 – 1:12	Concert Band
1:18 – 2:14	Jazz Band

Exam Schedule (Half Days)

7:15	First Bell
7:18	Warning Bell
7:20 – 8:49	1 st Exam
8:52	Warning Bell
8:55 – 10:24	2 nd Exam
10:24	Dismissal

Stevenson High School – Daily Schedule

1 st Hour-	7:20 – 8:18
2 nd Hour-	8:24 – 9:21
3 rd Hour-	9:27 – 10:24
4 th Hour-	10:30 – 12:09
A lunch-	10:30 – 11:01 (Lunch) 11:07 – 12:09 (Class)
B lunch-	10:30 – 11:01 (Class) 11:07 – 11:32 (Lunch) 11:38 – 12:09 (Class)
C lunch-	10:30 – 11:32 (Class) 11:38 – 12:09 (Lunch)
5 th Hour-	12:15 – 1:12
6 th Hour-	1:18 – 2:14

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.

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 (required of all 9th – 11th graders). 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.

Stevenson Band (4th Hour)

This class is designed for students that are:

- New to the Stevenson Instrumental Music Program / 9th Grade MADE students
- Wish to explore a different Stevenson Ensemble in the future, such as Jazz Band
- Receive more in-depth learning on their instrument

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

Concert Band (5th 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.

Wind Ensemble / Symphonic Band (2nd & 3rd Hours)

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

Jazz Ensemble (6th 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. The Marching Band attends camp one week at home in the summer and one week away to learn their show. The band performs at all home football games, including playoffs should the football team qualify / advance.

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

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

Visit 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 and 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 phones 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 to all performances on time and in the proper uniform.
- Come prepared to all events, 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. **Work 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 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

Concert/Symphonic/Wind Ensemble classes: All ladies must wear dress black **long** skirts (below the knee) or slacks, a dress black blouse / sweater, and black dress shoes, preferably flats. All men will be issued a black tuxedo jacket. 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 end of the year, SHS Band Letter (if not already earned in Marching Band at the end of the season)

Subsequent years: Chevron service bar

Audition Information

Auditions for all ensembles will take place in the spring of each year. Mr. Sekich will visit each Junior High and explain the details of the audition process. Mr. Sekich will also consult the Junior High Directors 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 a minimum standard to be considered for membership.

Chapter Advisors may increase these standards at their discretion.

Students will have the option of purchasing a National Music Honor Society Cord upon selection. They will be recognized at UCS Graduation in the program as well. The criteria is listed below. 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 for complete information!

2019-20 Stevenson Titans Instrumental Music Calendar

Updated September 19, 2019 – Changes and updates will be communicated asap

Sep 21: Utica HS Band Used Instrument Sale
Sep 24: Marching Band Rehearsal, 6-9pm
Sep 24: Parent Show, Approx 8:40pm
Sep 27: Home Football Game (Homecoming), 4:30pm call time
Oct 1: Marching Band Rehearsal, 6-9pm
Oct 1: All-State Applications Due
Oct 2: Elementary Tour, report to SHS @ 8:30am
Oct 2: Booster Meeting, 7pm
Oct 5: Chippewa Valley Invitational, noon call time
Oct 6: Band-a-Rama @ SHS, 12pm rehearsal. At SHS all day, Boosters will provide dinner. Performances begin @ 6pm
Oct 8: Marching Band Rehearsal, 5-7pm (NOTE DIFFERENT TIME)
Oct 10: ½ day of school / conferences
Oct 11: Home Football Game (Friday Night Lights, 3 pm call time to mingle with Jr. High Members
Oct 13: Mini Home Camp @ SHS, 1-5 pm, 12:40pm call time
Oct 15: MSBOA Marching Band Festival @ SHS. Run show at 3pm. Performance time TBD
Oct 24: Deadline: MSBOA District XVI Solo & Ensemble Registration
Oct 25: Home Football Game (Senior Night), 4pm call time for seniors; all others 5:30pm
Oct 23-26: All-State Band & Orchestra Auditions (site TBA)
Nov 5: No school – Election Day
Nov 6: Booster Meeting, 7pm
Nov 27 – Dec 1: Thanksgiving Break
Dec 4: Booster Meeting, 7pm
Dec 7 & 9: MSBOA Honors Band
Dec 9: Marching Band Banquet, Century Banquet Center (Maple Lane n. of 14 Mile), 6:30pm dinner
Dec 10: Marching Band Rehearsal for Concert (in Auditorium), 3pm
Dec 11: Davis Concert, 7pm (SHS auditorium)

Dec 12: Stevenson Bands Winter/Holiday Concert, 7pm (includes Marching Band)
Dec 19: Boosters' Movie Night Fundraiser
Dec 21 – Jan 1: Holiday Break
Jan 15: Cluster Concert, 4pm call time; 6pm concert (ALL MARCHERS MUST ATTEND)
Jan 15 – 17: ½ days, Exams
Jan 18: MSBOA All-State Concerts
Jan 20: MLK Day, no school
Jan 25: MSBOA District XVI High School Chamber & Jr. High Solo & Ensemble Festival at Rochester HS
Feb 1: MSBOA District XVI High School Solo & Ensemble Festival at Rochester HS
Feb 4: Deadline: MSBOA State Solo & Ensemble Registration
Feb 5: Stevenson Jazz Concert, 7pm
Feb 6 – 8: CMU Jazz Weekend (Jazz Band / Jazz Combo)
Feb 12: Gonda Auditions @ SHS, 3 pm
Feb 13: Pre-Festival Concert, time TBA
Feb 15 – 23: Mid-Winter Break
Mar 5 – 7: Window: MSBOA District XVI High School Band Festival (KEEP OPEN)
Mar 14: MSBOA State Solo & Ensemble at Chippewa Valley HS
Apr 4 – 12: Spring Break
Mar 17 – Apr 20: State Jazz Festival, Date/Time TBA (JAZZ MEMBERS KEEP OPEN)
May 1 – 3: Spring Musical, Mamma Mia!
May 4: Senior Banquet, Century Banquet Center (Maple Lane n. of 14 Mile), 6:15pm dinner
May 8 – 9: Michigan Youth Arts Festival
May 15 – 17: Spring Travel, MICHIGAN BOUND!
May 20: Davis JHS Spring Concert, 7pm (SHS auditorium)
May 21: Stevenson Spring Concert, 7pm
May 25: Memorial Day, no school
Jun 11: First meeting/rehearsal for 2020-21 Marching Band, 12 pm

Get the most up-to-date calendar online anytime at:

www.stevensonbands.org/calendar

2019-20 Instrumental Music Student/Parent Contract

I have read the 2019-20 Instrumental Music Handbook and fully understand the expectations of the Stevenson Instrumental Music Program.

Printed Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Printed Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Address: _____

Student Cell Phone: _____

Adult Cell Phone: _____

Student Email Address: _____

Parent Email Address: _____

This must be turned in by September 9th, 2019 for a grade.

Thank you,
Mr. Sekich