



STEVENS STREET
HOMESCHOOL BAND

BAND HANDBOOK
2024 - 2025

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Cookeville, TN 38501

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Cookeville, TN 38501

WHY A BAND?

The goal of the Stevens Street School of Performing Arts is to develop Christian artists who love to serve the church. We believe that music has intrinsic value because it allows for the creation of art that is true, beautiful, and good; characteristics that reflect the nature of the Creator God who has designed music to bring Him glory.

The purpose of the Homeschool Band is to provide an educational music experience in a group setting for 6th-12th grade homeschool students regardless of prior musical knowledge or playing ability. This program will provide students with instruction on how to grow in musicianship from beginner to advanced levels and provide performance opportunities throughout the academic year.

The Homeschool Band provides a setting for students (both in and out of private music lessons) to exercise their God-given gifts. Ensemble participation allows students to put their skills to use in new ways and gives them the opportunity to experience the powerful gift of music multiplied among many believers who all are focusing on one goal: to praise the God who created a good world in which music is possible, and who gives to humankind the ability to make music. The Homeschool Band provides an environment for young musicians of many ability levels to adapt their musical skills for the good of the group and to be held accountable for their practice and preparation.

We are committed to providing a safe environment where students can make mistakes, grow in confidence, and be encouraged to push forward and do all things to the best of their ability.

REHEARSAL INFORMATION

The Homeschool Band will rehearse on Wednesday mornings from 9:00-10:30 at Stevens Street Baptist Church. Students are asked to *arrive early to help set up* and to have plenty of time to get their instruments out so that rehearsal can begin promptly at 9:00. Students will also be expected to *stay a few minutes after rehearsal* ends to help reset the rehearsal space.

Rehearsal time will be broken into the following key components:

- full group music theory instruction
- woodwind / brass / percussion sectional time
- full group music rehearsal

All students will gain a strong foundation in music theory knowledge, music reading, and playing their instruments. These skills will include scales, rhythm counting, proper posture, breathing techniques, and correct technique for playing the instrument.

Absences

In order for the ensemble to work efficiently, commitment to weekly attendance is extremely important! We understand that sometimes families must miss rehearsal (due to sickness, vacation, family emergencies, etc.), but please try to keep absences at a minimum. If you know you will be unable to attend rehearsal, please notify our staff at spa@stevensstreet.org at least 24 hours in advance or as soon as possible.

Individual Practice

Regular practice time at home is critical to building and maintaining the muscles needed to play for long periods of time. In addition, each student must spend time learning the ensemble music so that weekly rehearsal time can be used most efficiently. *All students are required to practice a minimum of 3-4 times per week for 30 minutes each.* Below are some tips for getting started!

- Create a practice routine. Plan a time and place for daily practice in addition to a general layout for what to practice and for how long.
- Include these components in each practice session:
 - A long tone warm-up
 - Scales
 - Method book exercises (assigned or sightread some new ones)
 - Parts of the ensemble music that you cannot play consistently well
 - A fun piece (with sheet music or by ear)

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

Students are expected to arrive at each rehearsal with their method book (*Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician*), folder, pencil, and necessary equipment for their instrument. We recommend renting and purchasing through Bandwagon Music and Repair, as this company has set up a profile for our school with the directors' specific preferences for each instrument.

Proper instrument care is an essential part of playing an instrument. Below is a list of a few important items students will always need to have with their instrument.

Flutes	Cleaning rod and swab
Clarinets and Saxophones	Cleaning swabs One box of reeds (strength 2-2.5 for beginners, 3-3.5 for experienced players)
Trombones	Slide grease
Trumpets and Horns	Valve oil

Percussionists will need to be prepared with their full kit:

- Practice pad
- Mallet bag containing:
 - Medium yarn mallets
 - 5A drumsticks (preferably Vic Firth or Innovative Percussion brands)
- Bell kit

We recommend each student have a music stand at home to be used for individual practice time. These will not be necessary to bring to rehearsal.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

- Be prepared and ready for rehearsal to begin on time. This means students will need to arrive early to allow time for setup.
- Sit quietly, listen to instructions, and play only when prompted.
- Treat your instruments with care. Each student should only handle his/her own instrument.
- Respect the rehearsal room by putting equipment in the designated spots, throwing away trash, and using chairs and stands appropriately.
- Be respectful and respectable. Show good manners and genuine class in all areas of the church campus and any other performance venue.
- Remain in the approved rehearsal space of the church until rehearsal is over and your guardian has arrived for pickup.

Behavioral Issues

Music ensembles present a unique environment where the success of the group requires the cooperation and participation of *everyone* involved. We desire to hold our students to a high standard of conduct, both for their own good and for the success of the group. Our staff will aim to work together with families to resolve any behavior concerns by keeping an open line of communication with parents. Misconduct during rehearsal will be handled according to the chart below.

First Offense	Verbal warning
Second Offense	Pack up and observe the remainder of rehearsal
Third Offense	Phone call to parents and dismissal from rehearsal
Major Offenses or Ongoing Misconduct	Dismissal from the band program (no refunds will be given)

The success of each student is our goal. We commit to take every necessary step toward correcting a student's behavior prior to dismissal from the program.

PERFORMANCES

Performances are the keystone event of any music ensemble. They serve as a presentation of achievement and growth as well as an opportunity to serve the community. The final concert at the end of each semester is a *mandatory event* for all participating students. This date will be announced at the beginning of each semester to allow families ample time to make arrangements for attendance.

Additional opportunities will be available to students throughout the year through our school's affiliation with the Middle Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association (MTSBOA) and the local music community. These opportunities will include auditioning for Mid-State, performing at Solo and Ensemble Festival, and participating in an All-County Honor Band. More information will be provided as these events approach.

Concert Attire

Students will be expected to arrive prepared to all band performances, which includes the standard concert attire. Failure to meet these standards may result in dismissal from the performance. The following requirements are for all performances unless otherwise specified.

- **Men** should wear a black, long-sleeved, button-down shirt. Ties are optional, but must be solid, neutral colors. Men will wear black dress pants with a solid black belt. In addition, long black socks and black dress shoes are also required.
- **Women** should wear a solid black dress OR a solid black dress shirt with black pants or skirt. All dresses and skirts must pass the knees when sitting, and all necklines must rest within a fist's length of the collarbone. Solid black shoes must also be worn (no sandals please).
- **Everyone** is asked to please keep jewelry, makeup, fragrances, and accessories to a minimum so as not to distract from the performance or interfere with each student's ability to play his/her instrument. If you have a question about whether a particular piece fits these specifications, contact one of the directors at least a week before the performance.

RESOURCES

Bandwagon Music and Repair

bandwagonmusicandrepair.com

615.721.BAND

7639 HWY 70S

Nashville, TN 37221

Private Lessons

The School of Performing Arts offers private lessons on all instruments Monday through Thursday. Homeschool Band students will not be required to pay a registration fee for lessons. Contact our office for scheduling.

Music Theory

- musictheory.net (online music theory lessons, exercises, and tools)
- thepracticeroom.net (online sight-singing, reading, and rhythmic practice)

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The spiritual condition of each student is of great importance to our staff. Please feel free to reach out to our Directors, Administrator, or Worship Pastor with any needs or questions. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us at Stevens Street on Sunday mornings at 9:00 and 10:30 or Wednesday evenings at 6:00.

We are thrilled that you have chosen to take this musical journey with us! We look forward to many days ahead of hard work, collaboration, laughter, and honoring the Lord through the gift of music.