

Stevenson High School Instrumental Music Program



2022-23 Program Overview

March, 2022 (updated 3/14/22)

Target audience: Stevenson Cluster Parents & Students

Elementary: Burr / Collins / DeKeyser / Harvey / Oakbrook / Plumbrook / Schuchard / Schwarzkoﬀ

Junior High: Davis / Heritage / Jeannette / VA High School: Stevenson / UAIS / VA



www.stevensonbands.org

39701 Dodge Park Rd.

Sterling Heights

Michael Sekich - Director

STEVENSON INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM & STEVENSON BAND BOOSTER CLUB

Dear Parents,

Thank you for learning more about the Stevenson Instrumental Music Program! Your child's involvement in band provides opportunities to flourish in a positive, caring, and supportive environment. Band is a place to learn new skills, build confidence, make new friends, and have fun!

I look forward to working with your children in the coming years!

Mr. Sekich, Director

Stevenson Instrumental Music Department



Fellow Parents,

The Stevenson Band Boosters have a long, proud tradition of providing support to the students of the Stevenson Instrumental Music Department under the direction of Mr. Sekich. Our volunteers help provide logistics, fundraising opportunities, student guidance, and camaraderie among parents.

If you have a student in the SHS Band program – you are automatically a Band Booster and I encourage you to get involved with your fellow parents. There will be countless opportunities to make a difference for the students and share in a terrific adventure!

Mrs. Sarah Sitarski-Rice – Stevenson Band Booster Club

STEVENSON INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

COURSE OFFERINGS: THIS IS WHAT WE DO

- *The SHS Instrumental Music Program has been recognized as one of the top music programs in the State of Michigan*
- *Participating in High School band classes can co-exist with other after-school activities like athletics*
- *Participating in High School band does not interfere with college prep classes. Being in Band meets the Fine Arts requirement for High School graduation in Michigan*
- *SHS Instrumental Music students usually have the opportunity to take an educational trip each spring. Past trips have included New York City at Carnegie Hall, Disney World, Washington D.C., performing for Presidents Bush and Clinton., Virginia Beach, Chicago, Nashville, Cleveland, and Cincinnati. Participation in spring trips is optional*
- *Our Band Booster organization raises funds for the students involved with the Instrumental Music Program. These fundraisers help to support the students' overall Instrumental Music experience*
- *Participating in Marching Band as a junior high student provides a head start to high school. Students will know upperclassmen and those older experienced students can help with classes, transportation, school activities, schedules, finding your way around SHS, and knowledge of the SHS teachers*
- *"The nation's top business executives agree that arts education programs can help repair weaknesses in American education and better prepare workers in the 21st century" (Business Week Magazine)*

J040-Concert Band- Open to any student. Concert Band is a full year course that provides the opportunity for participation, study and individual achievement. Classes are devoted to further training in techniques, Music Theory, Ear Training, student composition, sight-reading and to individual progress. Because this is a performing group, members will be required to attend all rehearsals and performances, some of which happen after school hours.

J050-Symphonic Band- Instructor recommendation required. Symphonic Band is a full year course that provides the advanced band student an understanding and appreciation of music either as a performer or listener and an academic approach to the presentation of public performances. Classes are devoted to further training in techniques, Music Theory, Ear Training, student composition, sight-reading and to individual progress. Because this is a performing group, members will be required to attend all rehearsals and performances, some of which happen after school hours.

J055-Varsity Band (Wind Ensemble)- Instructor recommendation required. Wind Ensemble is a full year course that provides the advanced band student an understanding and appreciation of music either as a performer or listener and an academic approach to the presentation of public performances through college level music. Classes are devoted to further training in techniques Music Theory, Ear Training, student composition, sight-reading and to individual progress. Because this is a performing group, members will be required to attend all rehearsals and performances, some of which happen after school hours.

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J070-Jazz Band- Instructor recommendation required.

Jazz Band is a full year course that is a performing group that consists of instrumental students who wish to perform various styles of the Jazz idiom. Improvisation will be a main component of this class along with Music Theory, Ear Training, student composition and sight-reading. Because this is a performing group, members will be required to attend all rehearsals and performances, some of which happen after school hours.

J060-Solo & Ensemble/Stevenson Band- This full year course is a great opportunity for students to learn new instruments, enhance abilities on their current instruments, improve their performance level in our other ensembles, and/or gain exposure to the requirements for Jazz Band. Students in this class will be encouraged to learn and perform with our performance ensembles. There may be some after school time requirements.

Marching Band (co-curricular)- Secondary students in the Stevenson cluster that are interested in the Titan Marching Band may join! **Students must be enrolled in a band class to participate as an instrumentalist.**
Note: Colorguard members do not need to be in a band class, but it is strongly recommended! The full Marching Band meets together daily for about two weeks during August and then after school one day a week through mid-October.

Two years of Marching Band qualifies to receive flex credit for High School Physical Education Credit (1/2 year)! Full participation at every performance and rehearsal is required for eligibility.

Through learning about music, rehearsals, and performances, it is our goal that the students of the Instrumental Music Program become:

- *Creative problem solvers who can think critically and can make decisions through artistic modes and in situations where there are no standard answers*
- *Culturally aware citizens who have a sense of history and an appreciation for the Fine Arts through multicultural experiences*
- *Humanistic thinkers that are creative and sensitive*
- *Collaborative workers who are self-confident, receptive to others' ideas, and utilize peer input to develop interpersonal relationships within the framework of their learning*

I care about your children as people and musicians.

I give you my word that I will do everything in my power to teach your child to be a more responsible person as well as making sure they always receive the best musical instruction. All of us here at Stevenson are dedicated to creating the highest standards of music and creativity in our program.

*Musically Yours,
Mr. Sekich - Director of Bands*

Did you know? In addition to in-school band meeting the Fine Arts graduation requirement, further band classes may be used towards one year of your World Language requirements!

STEVENSON INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM COURSE OFFERINGS: BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

Students that attend Utica Community Schools, and specifically Stevenson High School, are fortunate to have many different options and learning pathways to explore their interests and prepare for their lives beyond high school.

Band can be part of the curriculum all throughout Junior and High School for all students

We believe strongly in giving students that wish to participate in Instrumental Music the opportunity to do so while also working collaboratively to meet every student's other academic interests and needs. Legislation has made it easier for students exploring music to do so in secondary school by utilizing Flex Options as part of their scheduling plan - no matter if they are a traditional student or enrolled in specialty program such as CSI, MST, or Stevenson MADE. Current Flex Options include:

- Substituting two complete seasons of Marching Band in place of the graduation requirement of ½ credit (one semester) of Physical Education
- Taking a second full year of an in-school Band Class (two semesters) in place of the graduation requirement of a second full year of World Language
- Taking foreign language class in 8th grade to fulfill the graduation requirement of the first full year of World Language. Your Junior High counselor must be notified in advance

Important note: Some, but not all, colleges/universities “require” two years of the same World Language for admission. It is advisable to explore the requirements of any college or university you plan on applying to in advance of completing your high school schedules. Many colleges/universities LOVE band students and will work with you during the admission process! Ask!!

The schedules that follow are simplified for clarity. For example, many students will have flexibility in which years/semesters they take Economics, Government, Science, and Social Studies classes. Always consult with the Stevenson Counseling Department to ensure you are on track to meet graduation requirements.

Option for all Band Students to waive high school Physical Education

	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
After School	Marching Band	Marching Band	Marching Band	Marching Band

Two full seasons of Marching Band can be used to substitute the requirement for 1/2 credit (one semester) of physical education (Flex Option).

Students that don't complete the Flex Option requirement through an alternative activity (such as two seasons of Marching Band or organized school sports) must add 1/2 credit (one semester) of Physical Education as one of their electives to the sample schedule outlines that follow.

STEVENSON INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

COURSE OFFERINGS: BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

Sample Pathway: Traditional Students

	<u>9th Grade</u>	<u>10th Grade</u>	<u>11th Grade</u>	<u>12th Grade</u>
1	Math	Math	Math	Math
2	English	English	English	English
3	World History	US History	World Language ²	Econ / Gov't
4	Science	Science	Science	Health / <i>elective</i>
5	<i>elective</i>	<i>Elective</i>	<i>elective</i>	<i>elective</i>
6	Band ¹	Band ²	Band ³	Band ³

Sample Pathway: CSI Students

	<u>9th Grade</u>	<u>10th Grade</u>	<u>11th Grade</u>	<u>12th Grade</u>
1	CSI Math	CSI Math	CSI Math	CSI Math
2	CSI English	CSI English	CSI English	CSI English
3	CSI Pathway	CSI Pathway	CSI Pathway	CSI Pathway
4	Science	Science	Science	Health / <i>elective</i>
5	World History	US History	World Language ²	Econ / Gov't
6	Band ¹	Band ²	Band ³	Band ³

Sample Pathway: MST Students⁴

	<u>9th Grade</u>	<u>10th Grade</u>	<u>11th Grade</u>	<u>12th Grade</u>
1	MST Math	MST Math	MST Math	MST Math
2	MST Science	MST Science	MST Science	MST Science
3	MST Tech	MST 2 nd Science	MST 2 nd Science	MST Tech
4	English	English	English	English
5	World History	US History	World Language ²	Econ / Gov't
6	Band ¹	Band ²	Band ³	Band ³

Sample Pathway: Stevenson MADE⁵

	<u>9th Grade</u>	<u>10th Grade</u>	<u>11th Grade</u>	<u>12th Grade</u>
1	MADE Math	MADE Math	<i>MADE Math</i>	MADE 2 Hour Class
2	MADE English	MADE English	MADE English	-----
3	MADE Science	MADE Science	MADE Science	World Language ²
4	MADE S-Studies	MADE S-Studies	<i>MADE S-Studies</i>	Health / Economics
5	<i>MADE Elective</i>	<i>MADE Elective</i>	<i>MADE Elective</i>	MADE English
6	Band ¹	Band ²	Band ³	Band ³

Schedule reference notes:

1. One full year (two semesters) of band fulfills the Visual, Performance, and Applied Arts requirement.
2. Second full year of band fulfills 2nd Year of World Language requirement (Flex Option).
3. 3rd and 4th years of bands are electives.
4. Due to the requirements of the MST curriculum, students taking four years of band in 9th – 12th grades must work with the Stevenson Counseling department to establish a Personal Curriculum to fulfill their required 1/2 credit of Health. MST students that do not complete two full seasons of Marching Band must also complete their Physical Education requirement.
5. Similar to students enrolled in CSI or MST, MADE students enrolling in 9th grade will have a pathway to graduation that can include taking a Band class all four years. MADE students first enrolling in 10th grade must make-up their MADE 9 Elective and cannot take band in 10th grade.

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Where to get more information

1. The Instrumental Music web site, www.stevensonbands.org, is a valuable resource to get more information about the Instrumental Music Program and Band Boosters at any time!

Highlights include:

- An up-to-date online calendar that is modified as needed
- Instructions for how to get our calendar on your mobile device
- Upcoming due dates
- In-school Ensembles
 - Band & Orchestra Festival
 - Solo & Ensemble
 - Scholarships
 - Concert tickets
- Marching Band
 - Links to forms
 - Link to payment portal
 - A detailed slide show with Marching Band Information
- Fundraising Information
- Resources and information on
 - Tri-M Music Honor Society
 - Varsity Jacket Information
- And much, much more!

2. Attend our monthly Band Booster / Program Information Update meetings

3. Encourage your kids to ask student leaders (drum majors, section leaders, seniors are excellent resources)
4. Engage with your fellow band parents / volunteer with the Boosters
5. Contact information for Mr. Sekich and the Band Booster Board is on our web site

STEVENSON BAND BOOSTER CLUB FUNDRAISING

Under the close guidance and direction of Mr. Sekich, the Stevenson Band Booster Club helps provide financial support for the Instrumental Music Program and its members through a number of fundraisers. These activities typically take place throughout the year to help with students' band expenses and to raise funds to help offset program costs for all, including all in-school ensembles.

Every family – including those at the Junior Highs and UAIS – is encouraged to participate in the Band Boosters' fundraisers throughout the year.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has limited opportunities, the Boosters are looking forward to re-engaging in full during the 2022-23 school year.

Sample Band Booster Fundraising

- Vertical Raise online campaign
- Late Fall sales of wreaths / poinsettias
- Kroger Community Rewards
- Amazon Smile
- Restaurant Nights
- Bring your ideas to one of the Boosters' meetings!

STEVENSON BAND BOOSTER CLUB SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

Chaperones and Logistics

Band Boosters' parents and guardians play an important role in the success of the Instrumental Music Program by providing volunteers to help chaperone activities, provide logistical support during the outdoor Marching Band season, and more.

Donations

The Boosters publish several requests for donations:

- Non-perishable items that will be consumed by the Marching Band during the season. These donations provide a huge boost to the kids when they need quick snacks, bottled water, and more.
- Food for Booster-planned game day dinners during Marching season

Uniforms

Volunteers are needed annually for sizing and distributing / collecting attire for both Marching Band and Concert Ensembles.

Helping Hands

The Band Boosters annually set aside funds received through donations that assist those that would not otherwise be able to participate in Band. These funds are a hand up, not a hand out.

If there are extenuating circumstances causing you to have trouble paying for a band activity, please contact Mr. Sekich for more information on the possible availability of assistance through the Band Boosters. Don't wait until you have a past due balance.

- Students accepting Helping Hands funds are not eligible for Spring travel during that school year
- Helping Hands contributions are limited to \$500 lifetime per student
- Eligibility is determined by Mr. Sekich with consultation with the Band Boosters and SHS administrators

Notes: _____
