



SARASOTA MILITARY
ACADEMY
FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT
HANDBOOK

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ADMINISTRATION

Co-Founders.....Colonel Dan Kennedy and Mr. Burt Bershon
Headmaster..... Colonel Dan Kennedy
Chief Financial Officer.....Colonel Stephen Cork USA Ret.
Director of Instruction.....Mr. Robert P. Lechner
Fine Arts Department Director.....Mr. Keith Hall
Band and Choir Director.....Mr. Keith Hall
Drumline Instructor.....Mr. W. Michael Finley
Guitar Instructor.....Mr. Ishmael Katz
Bagpipe Instructor.....Mr. Roddy MacDonald
ROTC Instructor.....Sergeant Major Mike Collis

FORWARD

The Sarasota Military Academy Concert Band, Choir, Drumline, Bagpipers and Guitarists are groups of musicians who carry on a proud tradition of excellence.

Over the years we have learned that if the Sarasota Military Academy ensembles are to be outstanding, certain qualities of behavior are necessary. When you display these qualities, you can be assured of an outstanding ensemble.

Hours of effort and planning go into a music performance. It is imperative to take good care of yourself and your band equipment, play your music as accurately as possible and give it your best.

We consistently have excellent ensembles because we work hard and efficiently to be our best.

GENERAL COURTESY

- 1) Return all borrowed items to the individual that you borrowed the item from.
- 2) Be kind to one another. Be respectful of the feelings and property of your fellow cadets.
- 3) Take responsibility for the care and upkeep of your performance area and practice area.
- 4) Remember, you are a part of an organization with a respectable reputation to uphold. Please conduct yourself in a corresponding manner.

GENERAL RULES

- 1) While representing the Sarasota Military Academy, both within and beyond our community, all cadets, staff and parent volunteers are under the jurisdiction of all stated and implied school policies. Everyone must conform to the laws, rules and regulations set by the State of Florida, the Florida Department of Education, F.H.S.A.A., F.S.M.A, the Sarasota County Schools Student & Family Handbook, and the Sarasota Military Academy.

- 2) Schedules are to be followed. Arriving late to any scheduled activity will be considered an unexcused tardy. It is imperative that each cadet arrive early to any scheduled activity.

- 3) Anytime the cadet is in public as part of a scheduled Sarasota Military Academy activity, he/she must be dressed in accordance with the Sarasota Military Academy dress code unless instructed otherwise. Forgotten uniforms or parts of uniforms will result in non-participation of the activity. Frequent infractions will result in dismissal from the performing ensemble.

- 4) Use or possession of alcohol or drugs in any form is absolutely prohibited. Violation will result in immediate expulsion from the organization with loss of all honors, awards and credits as well as suspension and/or expulsion from the Sarasota Military Academy.

NATIONAL STANDARDS IN MUSIC EDUCATION

Listed below are the nine National Standards in Music Education that are implemented and taught here at the Sarasota Military Academy:

- 1) Standard #1: Singing alone and with others
- 2) Standard #2: Playing alone and with others
- 3) Standard #3: Improvising melodies, variations and accompaniments
- 4) Standard #4: Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines
- 5) Standard #5: Reading and notating music
- 6) Standard #6: Listening to, analyzing and describing music
- 7) Standard #7: Evaluating music and music performances
- 8) Standard #8: Understanding relationships between music and the other arts and disciplines outside the arts
- 9) Standard #9: Understanding music in relation to history and culture

REHEARSAL REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Be in your chair/position by two minutes past the tardy bell. Be early when possible. Do not play your instrument before the rehearsal starts.
- 2) Have accessories such as mouthpieces, reeds, mutes, sticks, mallets, pencils, etc. ready for rehearsals.
- 3) When a composition is distributed, look it over. Think about how a piece of music sounds before you play it.
- 4) Line up your chair and music stand so that you can look directly over the top of the music stand to see the conductor.
- 5) The conductor must be able to see your eyes and have your attention before he begins to direct or speak. When the conductor starts directing, there will be no talking or playing except by permission or direction.
- 6) Be sensitive to changes in dynamics, tempos and styles.
- 7) Concentrate during rehearsals on the objectives of the sessions. Have your part prepared before the rehearsal - this is practicing. "Putting it together" at sessions with your fellow musicians - that's rehearsing.
- 8) Demonstrate musicianship by:
 - tuning up before you play
 - playing at all dynamic levels
 - playing stylistic articulations
 - thinking in phrases, not just measures and notes
 - feeling the beat, the meter
 - producing a musical sound, a sound that is a pleasure to hear
 - counting rests and watching the conductor for entrances
- 9) Performance of music requires determination and confidence. Don't be afraid to be wrong. Go for it!!

FIELD TRIPS

- 1) For any cadet to be able to participate in any scheduled field trip, he/she must maintain a grade point average of 70% (a "C") or better - there will be NO EXCEPTIONS.
- 2) For any cadet to be able to participate in any scheduled field trip, he/she must completely and accurately have filled out SMA Form M 109 - Field Trip Permission Slip.
- 3) Cadets who are absent the day BEFORE a scheduled field trip will be unable to participate in the scheduled field trip the following day.

CARE OF YOUR INSTRUMENTS

1) All cadets are expected to be properly prepared for all performances (i.e. uniforms cleaned and pressed, brass instruments cleaned and polished, woodwind instruments cleaned and polished, drums cleaned and polished, cymbals cleaned and polished). Inspections will occur regularly.

2) YOU are responsible for maintaining your instrument(s). If you do not properly care for and clean your instrument(s), YOU will be responsible for repairing and/or replacing it.

ATTITUDE

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude to me is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or any skill. It will make or break a company, a church, a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past. We cannot change the fact that people will act a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it. We are in charge of our attitudes.

Charles Swindoll

- 1) It is your attitude at the beginning of a task which, more than anything else, will affect its successful outcome.
- 2) It is our attitude toward life which will determine our altitude in life.
- 3) We are interdependent. It is impossible to succeed without others. It is our attitude toward others which will determine their attitude toward us.
- 4) Before a person can achieve the kind of life that he/she wants, he/she must first become that kind of person. He must think, act, talk, walk, and conduct himself/herself in all of his/her affairs as would the person he/she wishes to become.
- 5) The higher you go in any organization of value, the better will be the attitude you will find.
- 6) Your mind can only hold one thought at a time. Since there is nothing to be gained by holding a negative thought, hold only positive, successful thoughts.
- 7) The deepest craving of human beings is to be needed - to feel important - to be appreciated. Show appreciation and you'll receive appreciation.
- 8) Part of a good attitude is to look for the good in people and to be open to new ideas from any resource.
- 9) Radiate the attitude of well being, of confidence, of a person who knows what he/she wants then you will find that good things will start happening for you.
- 10) Lastly, for the next 30 days, treat everyone with whom you come in contact with as if they were the most important person to you on earth. If you will do this for 30 days, you can do it for the rest of your life.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the root of any fine arts / music education program is much more than taking a cadet and instructing him/her in the reading and performing of music. They can also learn to appreciate how music represents our culture. They must learn to see the bigger picture and form a cohesive and cooperative unit striving together as a winning team. It takes motivational, technical and diplomatic skills to forge a unit - remembering that the unit is first and foremost comprised of individuals. Our goal here is not to simply build a nucleus for an efficient fine arts / music program but to build and mold thoughtful and responsible young adults with a life-long love of the arts.

Parents, please read the handbook and be aware of the rules and requirements set forth in this Sarasota Military Academy Fine Arts Department Handbook.

All cadets who are enrolled in the Sarasota Military Academy Fine Arts Department are also required to read this handbook.

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT AGREEMENT FORM

All parents and cadets are asked to sign below stating that they have read and understand all of the contents of the Sarasota Military Academy Fine Arts Department Handbook.

CADET NAME: _____ GRADE: _____

FINE ARTS ACTIVITIY(IES): _____

CADET SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE(S): _____ DATE: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED FORM TO THE
FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR