



SARASOTA MILITARY

ACADEMY

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

HANDBOOK

2011 - 2012

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## ADMINISTRATION

SMA Headmaster.....Colonel Dan Kennedy  
SMA Music Department Chair / SMA Drum Line.....Major Michael Finley  
SMA Band and Orchestra Director.....Captain Katherine Sireno  
SMA Choir Director.....Captain Tom Downs  
SMA Pipe Band Director / Bag Pipe Instructor.....Captain Roddy MacDonald  
SMA Guitar Ensemble / Guitar Instructor.....Captain Ishmael Katz  
JROTC Instructor / Music Department Advisor.....Sargeant Major Mike Collis

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Sarasota Military Academy is to provide high school students the highest quality education possible, incorporating the principles of leadership, discipline, patriotism, and honor in a military environment. Our primary intent is to enable students to become exemplary citizens and to help them shape their futures into satisfying and fulfilling lives.

## **FORWARD**

The Sarasota Military Academy Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Drum Line, Bag Pipe Band and Guitar Ensemble 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 areas.
- 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 Cadet Handbook.
- 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 in order to be on time.
- 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 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

## **SMA CLASSROOM PROCEDURES**

- 1) Be on time for class
- 2) Bring necessary materials to class
- 3) Upon entering, stow backpacks by bookcase or back of room
- 4) Bring necessary materials from backpacks to your seat; there is no going back
- 5) Raise hand to speak and wait to be addressed
- 6) When acknowledged, stand to speak
- 7) Address teacher as "M'am" or "Sir" or by rank
- 8) Use rest rooms before class
- 9) No food or drinks in classroom (except bottled water)
- 10) Do not leave classroom without teacher's permission
- 11) Approach teacher's desk only on request

## 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 must also have the following medical forms filled out:
  - a) Medical Treatment Authorization Form
  - b) Emergency Medical Treatment Consent Form
  - c) Medical Release Form for Field Trips
  - d) Medication Authorization Form
- 4) 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

- 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 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 music program but to build and mold thoughtful and responsible young adults with a life-long love of music.

Parents, please read the handbook and be aware of the standards and requirements set forth in this Sarasota Military Academy Music Department Handbook and please sign the Music Department Agreement Form on the following page.

All cadets who are enrolled in the Sarasota Military Academy Music Department are also required to read this handbook and sign the Music Department Agreement Form.

**MUSIC DEPARTMENT AGREEMENT FORM**

All parents and cadets, please sign below stating that you have read and understand all of the contents of the Sarasota Military Academy Music Department Handbook.

CADET NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

MUSIC ACTIVITY: \_\_\_\_\_

CADET SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE(S): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED FORM TO THE  
MUSIC DEPARTMENT CHAIR – THANK YOU!!