

Steel Magic Northwest Attendance Policy Agreement

As a member of one of the Steel Magic Northwest ensembles, I understand that regular attendance at twice-weekly practices are expected, and attendance at all performances is required of every student as a condition of membership in the organization.

Steelband is a team effort. Each band member, and the instrumental section they are in, plays a crucial role in the collective orchestra. When a student is absent, it makes a difference to what can be accomplished in the rehearsal, *and to the experience of all of the other players in the group*. When a student is absent for several rehearsals in a row, the progress of the entire group is impacted, and the player will have an increasing amount of music that they will be responsible to learn on their own time. Absences are felt throughout the entire group when a member is missing, and that is especially true for performances.

I also understand that prior attendance records are a factor in determining who advances to the intermediate (Steel Dragons) and advanced (Pan Wizards) orchestras, and I realize that advancing into these groups is not guaranteed. As Steel Magic Northwest grows and matures, it is increasingly imperative that students are fully committed, and regular attendance is a reflection of that commitment.

I also understand that for the intermediate and advanced youth groups (Steel Dragons and Pan Wizards), it is crucial that the season ends with the same personnel that it begins with, and that my commitment to the group is for the full 2023-24 season. (Beginner Steel Mojo students may add or drop in January).

Attendance Policy:

- The director should be notified *in advance* of any anticipated absence, so that the rehearsal schedule may be altered accordingly if necessary. Email director@steelmagicnorthwest.org, or text him at 206.271.2230.
- Our 2023-24 season is divided into three “trimesters:” Fall (September through December), Winter (January through March), and Spring (April restart through the end of June or into July if tours extend into July).
- Each player is required to make at least 75% (3/4) of the rehearsals within each trimester.
- Players are automatically allotted rehearsal absences (1/4 of the total number of rehearsals) for their own purposes, such as personal reasons, family trips, extra study time, work, routine short-term illnesses, other activities, etc. Example: if there are 20 rehearsals in a trimester, a student may miss a total of five rehearsals, with the one condition that...
- Two of the last four rehearsals prior to our most important performances (listed below) must be attended in full.
- Our most important performances include:
 - our “Carols on Barrels” holiday show in December
 - our end-of-winter, casual in-studio recital prior to spring break
 - our “Youth Steelband Summit in mid-May
 - for the Steel Dragons, the elementary school assembly tour days

- our “Here Come the Sun” spring concert in June
- for Steel Dragons and Pan Wizards, their out-of-town tours in late June
- Students attending only a half of a rehearsal (leave early or arrive late by 30 minutes) will be charged with a half absence.
- All players are expected to learn the music that they missed learning in a rehearsal in their own time; we have 15 minutes prior to each rehearsal and 15 minutes after each rehearsal for this purpose. Other times might be made available by appointment, but this is rare. The director will advise the student on what material the student missed.
- Exceptions: exceptions to this policy can be made by the director in rare circumstances (such as extended illnesses, family emergencies that put the student over the limit, or other unforeseeable/extenuating circumstances. These exceptions will be rare.

Consequences:

If a student exceeds the maximum allowable absences or misses any performance without obtaining an exception from the director in advance, or without proof of emergency preventing their attendance:

- First violation: student will be placed on probation and/or their instrument assignments may be changed going forward.
- Second violation: student will be expelled from the group, unable to advance or go on tour.

By signing below, you and your parent/guardian are agreeing to this policy. Quarterly (trimester) and monthly payments made will not be refunded in cases of violation of this attendance policy.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____