

Shadow Ridge Middle School Band

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Band Handbook 2019-2020

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Forward

Today, more than ever, educators and taxpayers examine the worthiness of every course in the curriculum. Does it fulfill the objectives of education? The Lewisville Independent School District recognizes that education should be more than just a means for preparing for a career. The emphasis that has been invested in the arts and specifically the band programs shows the appreciation and importance that music holds for the students of our district. **The band programs in LISD thrive and flourish with quality and enrollment more than anywhere in the state of Texas as shown by the success that these programs experience on the state & national level, from middle school through high school, concert through marching.**

Music is the most widely used art. Almost everyone listens to music on television, radio, movies or recordings. Central to the appreciation and understanding of music is music performance. The student who has learned to play an instrument will always enjoy music more than if he/she had not. A good band will perform superior and challenging music in order to give its members a worthwhile musical foundation.

The band's purpose is not only to serve the school and community through marching in parades and playing at football games, thus providing entertainment and enhancing school and community spirit, but also to furnish the student with an invaluable experience. The disciplines of a good band are similar to those acquired in athletics. Both develop coordination, cooperation, teamwork, and self-discipline to a degree not possible in academic subjects. The band is no haven for a lazy student. It demands and develops concentration essential to success in any subject or endeavor.

Band performance also promotes good health. Playing an instrument is physical – the muscles used in the face and respiratory system are always in high demand and require consistent working out, similar to preparing for an athletic event. One must not forget that superior bands help develop character, good behavior, and provides students with an ideal outlet for their energies. The band gives students a place “to hang their hat”. Everybody needs something of this kind for good mental health and happiness. Band participation also increases attendance and gets students excited to wake up and go to school.

In addition to the rewards from discipline and hard work, students also belong to band because it's fun. There is a genuine exhilaration in making music, in playing a beautiful concert, in being a part of a thrilling half-time show or marching contest, in being able to wear a band uniform. With the many social events that occur, being in band gives every student a home in their school. Coming to the band hall is always an option to see friends, get help, ask questions, and learn. Being a part of the band program means always having an important role in the largest team-activity in the building. In band, everyone plays – no one is benched. It's the equivalent of being the quarterback and having the ball all of the time.

Students enrolled in band score over 200 points higher on SAT tests compared to the state average, pass their classes more often, have better attendance in school, graduate at the top of their classes, and get invited to study at more prestigious universities.

The band directors look forward to preparing your child for a more enriched and fulfilled life. In the Shadow Ridge Band program, our goal is to create “better people through music”.

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How to Contact Us

You can find a lot of information about your band program on Charms and the Shadow Ridge Band website.

www.CharmsOffice.com
www.ShadowRidgeBand.org

Band Hall Hours: 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM

By EMAIL (quickest & preferred method regarding non-urgent items)

Chris Meredith	meredithc@lisd.net
Alicia DeSoto	desotoa@lisd.net
David Gronneberg	gronnebergd@lisd.net

Band Booster Team

President	Amanda Kramer
Vice-President & Treasurer	Jonathan Steitz
Secretary	Patti McAnelly

By PHONE (messages usually returned within 24 hours)

Chris Meredith	972-350-1553
Alicia DeSoto	972-350-1554

By STUDENT

You are always more than welcome to send a note with your student.
 Please include an email address or phone number where you can be reached.

Band Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Friday

Time	Period	Mr. Meredith	Mrs. DeSoto	Mr. Gronneberg
8:55-9:40am	1 st	French Horn	Clarinet	MMS
9:45-10:35am	2 nd	Trombone	Saxophone	FMS
10:40-11:25am	3 rd	Jazz Band/Advanced Techniques	Assist Jazz/Percussion	Percussion
12:00-12:50pm	4 th	Assist Symphonic	Symphonic Band	FMHS
12:05-1:40pm	5 th	Honor Winds	Assist Honor Winds	FMHS
1:45-2:30pm	6 th	Trumpet	Flute	FMHS
2:35-3:20pm	7 th	Tuba/Euphonium	Oboe/Bassoon	FMHS
3:25-4:10	8 th	Conference	Conference	FMHS

Wednesday (Odd Periods)

Time	Period	Mr. Meredith	Mrs. DeSoto	Mr. Gronneberg
8:55-10:20am	1 st	French Horn	Clarinet	MMS/FMS
10:25-11:50am	3 rd	Jazz Band/Adv. Tech.	Assist Jazz/Percussion	Percussion
12:20pm-1:50pm	5 th	Honor Winds	Assist Honors	FMHS
1:55-2:40pm		<i>Advisory</i>	<i>Advisory</i>	FMHS
2:45-4:10pm	7 th	Tuba/Euphonium	Oboe/Bassoon	FMHS

Thursday (Even Periods)

Time	Period	Mr. Meredith	Mrs. DeSoto	Mr. Gronneberg
8:55-10:20am	2 nd	Trombone	Saxophone	FMHS
10:25-11:50am	4 th	Assist Symphonic	Symphonic Band	FMHS
11:55am-1:20pm	6 th	Trumpet	Flute	FMHS
1:55-2:40pm		<i>Advisory</i>	<i>Advisory</i>	FMHS
2:45-4:10pm	8 th	Conference	Conference	FMHS

Band Program Goals – why are we doing this?

- To develop a lifelong love of music and appreciation of its importance in enriching the human experience and our society.
- To develop self and group discipline through preparation and practicing of instrumental music.
- To develop leadership, organizational skills, responsibility, diligence, and an ability to cooperate with others as a team member.
- To develop strength, stamina, endurance, coordination, and mental and physical discipline.
- To develop an ability to make musical value judgments through critical listening. The students will be provided opportunities to recognize quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation.
- To develop skill in using and understanding note values, rests, key signatures, scales, musical terms, signs and symbols.
- To develop the ability to recognize and tune intervals, unisons, harmony, and to develop discriminate listening skills.
- To develop proper instrumental technique, care for instrument, correct posture and playing position, embouchure, superior tone quality, correct breathing, technical proficiency and rhythmic skill.
- To develop instrumental technique in finger/tongue coordination, intonation, music phrasing, dynamic control, rhythmic skills, and articulation.
- To develop music reading skills, hand/eye coordination, and to interpret in sound, music symbols and terms from the printed page.
- To develop music sensitivity through performance of music as well as listening to music. The student shall be provided opportunities to internalize generally accepted authentic performance styles and techniques in music played and heard.
- To evaluate the quality of musical performance the student shall be provided opportunities to evaluate progress toward self-established music goals, evaluate solo and groups rehearsals and performances, and recognize quality of sound, pitch style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics and articulation.
- To develop creative self-expression in every performance experience and explore possible careers in music.
- The exhibit concert etiquette as an informed, actively involved listener during varies live performances.

Band Course Descriptions

At SRMS, approximately 250 students will enjoy the daily musical experiences provided in their Band classes. These young instrumentalists not only earn a greater knowledge of all aspects of music, they also develop discipline, responsibility, and the ability to cooperate with others. When you add to this the discovery of a lifelong means of self-expression and pleasure, you can see why so many students benefit from and enjoy being a part of the Shadow Ridge Middle School Band Program.

The **Beginner Band** is made up of students who have had no prior experience in playing a band instrument. These students are scheduled into the following homogenous classes: Flutes, Double Reeds (Oboes & Bassoons), Clarinets, Saxophones, Trumpets, French Horns, Trombones, Low Brass (Euphonium & Tuba) and Percussion. The performances that the Beginner Band will be involved in include the Winter and Spring Concerts and a band contest at the end of April.

The **Symphonic Band** is made up of seventh graders and eighth graders. These students have full Band every band class. A heavy emphasis on improving the individual student occurs during the fall semester with many split rehearsals during class. This class is similar to a Pre-AP class. The performances that the Symphonic Band will be involved in include Music Miles, the Fall, Winter and Spring Concerts, one or two band contests including UIL Concert & Sight-Reading, solo and ensemble festivals and recitals, region and district band auditions, and SRMS pep rallies.

Honor Winds is made up primarily of eighth graders but may include seventh graders. These students have full Band every band class. A heavy emphasis on improving both ensemble & individual skills occur all year long with “AP class-like” assignments and projects. The performances that Honor Winds will be involved in include Music Miles, the Fall, Winter and Spring Concerts, one to three band contests including UIL Concert & Sight-Reading, solo and ensemble festivals and recitals, required region and district band auditions and performances, SRMS pep rallies, school concerts, and recruiting performances. On special occasions the Honor Winds have been a representative of Texas at The Midwest Clinic in Chicago, IL.

The **Jazz Band/Advanced Techniques** class is an optional, additional band class made up of seventh & eighth graders that are excited to double their time on their instrument during the school day. This class offers an extraordinary amount of extra skills that improve the individual player and therefore the entire program. In addition to performing jazz and popular music, this group receives extra help and attention on the All-Region/All-District audition etudes & process in the fall, studies advance music theory and instrumental concepts, listens to and analyzes music and performs additional chamber music (ensembles).

Another extremely important aspect of the SRMS Band is the Private Lesson Program. Please read the information that is included in this handbook on this fantastic opportunity!

Private Lessons Program

The private lesson program plays a very important role in the music education of the Shadow Ridge Band and it's individual students. We urge you to take advantage of the opportunity afforded to our students by private study. The rates for these lessons are comparable and below what one would pay in a music studio or on a college campus. The LISD rate is \$22 per 30-minute lesson. These lessons are offered during the school year both in class and before or after school, and usually during the summer.

Private lessons are directly responsible for the successes that the SRMS Bands have benefited in the past. Students involved in this program enjoy receiving more individual attention than the band director can give to a program of 250+ students. The time that the student spends once a week with the instructor in a one on one situation will help him/her to excel much more quickly. These students receive instruction on fundamentals and techniques in addition to help on solos, ensembles, try-out materials, scale tests, objective sheets, all region band preparation and more!

Private lessons may be given during the student's band class or outside of the school day – contact the appropriate lesson teacher to set up a convenient time, they are very flexible! Lessons are given once a week. Billing is handled privately with the instructors and usually occurs monthly. Instructors usually have their own sign-up and contractual procedures.

Please fill out the private lesson form indicating whether or not you want to take advantage of the program at this time. We hope to have a high percentage of our students involved in this very beneficial aspect of our band program!

More information is located here: <http://www.shadowridgeband.org/private-lessons.html>

Sign-up for lesson's electronically here: <http://bit.ly/srmsbandlessons>

Band Activity Attendance Policies

VERY IMPORTANT

Every year you will be provided with a hardcopy Major Events List including all band activities, rehearsals, and concerts that the Shadow Ridge Bands will be involved in for the year. If there are any additions or changes, we will edit the Charms/Google/Canvas calendar, send an email notification about the change, and tell the students at school. Hopefully there will be few, if any, changes. Each student is required to be at all rehearsals and performances listed for his/her band. Students should have their own personal email address listed in Charms so that they receive our emails on their personal phone or school iPad. We place the responsibility on the students for knowing when they have to be where.

We request that you check the Charms calendar or website for the most up to date information. Please mark it on your family calendar and schedule other activities and appointments at times that do not conflict. It is impossible for the band to schedule around the activities of individual students and families. Therefore, we ask your cooperation in scheduling around band activities.

Students are encouraged to plan ahead and know their obligations for band, other school activities, and personal schedules such as vacations, dentist appointments, etc. The director must be informed of any potential conflict *no less than two weeks prior* to the event to allow time to work out the conflict. Last minute notification or simply not attending any performance or rehearsal may result in a parent conference to determine what action should be taken and will result in a low grade or zero. Should a conflict arise that is scheduled after a band event is scheduled, the band event should have priority. The band directors reserve the right to exclude any student from a performance that has missed sectionals, rehearsals, or prior performances. All performances are a major grade. Last-minute athletic schedules (tournaments, etc.) released days before a band performance will be dealt with on an individual basis, but priority must be given to the band performance – no one has the ability to step in and replace you but large sports teams can often make a substitution.

Excused absences will be given only for illness or immediate family emergencies. An unexcused absence from a band rehearsal or performance may result in that student being moved to a lower band. Should a student be excused from a performance, that student WILL be required to perform for one of the directors either live or by recording. Only partial credit may be obtained because of the inherent nature of the class. A major, live performance cannot fully be made up or recreated.

Rehearsal/Performance Schedules

- Participation at sectionals, outside of school rehearsals, and performances is required and will be integrated into the student's grade in accordance with the Grading Guidelines in Music contained in this Handbook, LISD policy, and TEA/UIIL regulations. All performances are MAJOR GRADES.
- A schedule of activities and events will be provided to students and parents. Updated schedules will be provided as needed. The Charms calendar is the most up-to-date and comprehensive source.
- Regularly scheduled sectionals, rehearsals, and concerts are curricular and have no academic eligibility requirements, provided they are on campus and do not charge admission. Ineligible students must plan to attend these.
- In addition to local performances, special performance ensembles may make numerous other appearances during the year.
- Performance courses like Band involve outside of school rehearsals and performances. Students who are members of principal performing groups are expected to participate fully in all performance activities including approved travel.

Beginner Band Course Details

The student will have the opportunity to:

1. Learn proper assembly and maintenance of an instrument
2. Learn and use good posture and correct hand position while playing
3. Learn and use the correct embouchure while playing a wind instrument
4. Learn the correct method of breathing for playing a wind instrument
5. Learn the proper concept of tone production and tone quality
6. Know the various articulation markings such as slur, staccato, etc.
7. Learn to count rhythmically
8. Learn, understand, and apply musical terms
9. Develop discriminatory listening skills
10. Develop good home practice routines
11. Promote social development through large group interaction
12. Develop personal and social self-discipline
13. Prepare for advancement in the seventh grade bands

NINE-WEEKS GRADES

- 70% of the nine weeks grade will be based on minor grades. This includes weekly participation grades, supply checks and small written tests, quizzes or activities and Practice Charts.
- 30% of the nine weeks grade will be based on major grades. This includes weekly performance opportunities in class, rhythm rocker progress and major concerts.

PASS OFF REQUIREMENTS – *done live in class as a playing test or electronically through a digital recording, depending on the assignment.*

Each 6th beginning band student will have a sequence of skills to pass off during the course of the year. These will be graded and done within a specific time frame at the student's own pace. Think of them as building blocks to becoming a well-rounded and skilled instrumentalist. Students will need to pass off their music & previous critical objective order to participate in the Beginner Band Contests in April/May.

The order of pass offs (both live in person and/or recording assignments) follows:

1. Musical Alphabet skills forward & backwards with a steady pulse
2. Note Naming Tests
3. Rhythm Rocker Performances
4. Essential Elements Book lines performed as live playing tests or as recorded assignments
5. Band music parts
6. Chromatic Scale memorized
7. Major Scales memorized

Honor Winds & Symphonic Band Course Details

Honor Winds – Chris Meredith, Director

- Continued development of individual playing skills at the highest level possible
- Maintain grades well above passing in ALL classes in order to be eligible
- Development of ensemble and rehearsal skills
- Performance of pep rally music, some by memory
- Performance at Music Miles
- Preparation of All-Region/All-District music during the fall, with tests assigned periodically throughout the first three months of school
- Performance of All-Region scales by memory
- Audition for All-Region & All-District Band
- Performance of a solo and an ensemble in the LISD Solo & Ensemble Contests
- Performance of class music and concert music as assigned by the director
- Attendance at section rehearsals and/or full band outside of school
- Individual practice outside of school
- Pass-off required objectives in a timely manner, following due dates.
- Attendance at all performances by Honor Winds
- Performance at UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest
- Performance at all outside of school contests and festivals
- Students in Honor Winds are expected to fully participate in all performance activities, including approved travel
- Be leaders of the entire band program in behavior, character and musical skills

Symphonic Band – Alicia DeSoto, Director

- Continued development of individual playing skills
- Maintain grades well above passing in ALL classes in order to be eligible
- Development of ensemble and rehearsal skills
- Performance of pep rally music, some by memory
- Performance at Music Miles
- Preparation of All-Region/All-District music during the fall
- Performance of All-Region/All-District scales by memory
- Audition for All-Region/All-District Band (optional; required of students auditioning to advance to Honor Winds in the fall)
- Performance with an ensemble in the LISD Solo & Ensemble Contest
- Performance of class music and concert music as assigned by the director
- Attendance at section rehearsals and/or full band rehearsals before or after school
- Individual practice outside of school
- Pass-off required objectives in a timely manner, following due dates. This may require coming in outside of band class.
- Attendance at all performances by the Symphonic Band
- Performance at a band festival
- Performance at UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest

Honor Winds & Symphonic Band Course Details (cont.)

GRADING PROCEDURES

The Shadow Ridge MS Band Directors have established instructional objectives that relate to the mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for grade level subjects or courses. These objectives are aligned to address the academic skills needed for successful performance in the next grade or next course in a sequence of courses.

Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, and other instructional activities must be designed so that the student's performance indicates the level of mastery of the designated District objectives. The student's mastery level of these objectives is a major factor in determining the grade for a subject or course. A major part of the music curriculum is the development of performance skills. Therefore, "unexcused" absences from a sectional, rehearsal or performance, which are integral to developing these performance skills, will lower a student's course grade as follows:

Sectionals and rehearsals are course requirements that require interaction from members of a group and cannot be made up entirely. Therefore, an "unexcused" absence from a before or after school sectional or rehearsal will lower a student's participation grade. Students are expected to attend a makeup sectional & get information covered from the section leader.

Performances are mandatory as a culmination of group course requirements and cannot be made up. Therefore, an "unexcused" absence from a scheduled performance will reflect a grade of "0" to be averaged into the student's nine-week performance grade, and the student may be subject to removal from the course.

NINE-WEEKS GRADES

- 70% of the nine weeks grade will be based on minor grades. These include Practice Charts, sectional attendance, weekly participation, supply checks & other written tests/quizzes/daily work.
- 30% of the nine weeks grade will be based on major grades. These include Pass Offs & Section Placement. Objective Sheets will indicate the procedure and timeline of all playing tests & recording assignments.

ATTENDANCE

Any activity included in the course objective is considered curricular. Sectionals and performances are part of the course requirements and are therefore graded activities. Please review the Band Activity Attendance Policies in this handbook.

OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL CLINICS *Required for Honor Winds*

We are lucky to have some of the best master-teachers in the state and nation come in on a regular basis to work with our bands. These educators offer us a fresh perspective and help prepare us for a level of detail that only one person could never do. As younger directors, Mr. Meredith and Mrs. DeSoto are constantly striving to become better, more efficient teachers. These clinics are just as much for us as they are for the students. The level of literature and standard of performance for Honor Winds necessitates additional rehearsals outside of school from time to time.

Our SRMS block schedule means that Honor Winds does not meet during the school on Wednesday. Because of this, clinics are important and Wednesday AM or PM rehearsals will be scheduled close to a performance. In a week of sectionals, it is most important that students attend the clinic and use sectional time if necessary to

make up work. Communication with the director is required if conflicts arise. Do not assume the director knows where you'll be. Be responsible with your schedule and plan ahead.

Honors & Symphonic Band Course Details (cont.)

RECORDING PASS OFFS & OBJECTIVE SHEETS (pass-off schedules)

Our Band students are held to a very high standard when it comes to grading. Every Six Weeks (or so) they will receive an Objective Sheet that serves as a pass-off schedule. This sheet will have listed everything they will need to accomplish or “pass-off” during that grading period. Some things are easy like “show a director your organized band binder”, other things are playing pass offs like “perform the Bb Concert Scale at 80 bpm with a metronome” or “perform measures 1-4 of your All-Region etude”. Playing pass-offs are done through RECORDING, but may be done in person. Directors will create a timeline that students have to adhere to – no class or sectional time will be used for the pass-offs required. Students get multiple times to pass something off or change their grade regarding anything that is a “playing test”. The purpose is to give everyone a chance to reach our high standard at his or her own time. We cannot perform when someone only knows their music at a 70%, so we make sure to get everyone as close to 100% as we can. If students are organized and practice, they will receive 100's on their pass offs and not have trouble passing off objectives. These are the band equivalent of “tests”.

RECORDING ASSIGNMENTS

Most of our pass-offs involve using technology. Students are required almost weekly to record an assignment and send it to the directors during their practice sessions at home or before/after school – preferably through Google Classroom, but there is no wrong way to send in a recording.

Students should have a working personal email account that allows them to email the directors at meredithc@lisd.net or desotoa@lisd.net and/or share files in Google Drive or Google Classroom.

Sectionals *Required for Honor Winds and Symphonic Band*

Starting on the second week of school, we will begin our weekly sectionals. Every Honor Winds and Symphonic Band member is required to attend one sectional rehearsal per week. Directors will take the students commitments to other school related organizations into consideration and this schedule will be distributed the first week of school. Situations do arise, however, in which the students must be flexible with their time. A schedule of sectionals and extra full band rehearsals will be given to the students well in advance to allow personal schedule planning to be made.

Students are always excused and not penalized from SRMS athletics or other campus activities to attend their once a week sectional. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each sectional or rehearsal and is a grade. A missed sectional must be made up for partial credit. We will also have playing tests and chair tests as an additional grade.

If you have a sports practice everyday of the week, you are expected to attend our once a week sectional instead of the sports practice. Sectional attendance is required and is a major part of the grade. If you miss sectionals, it will result in not participating with the band. HELPFUL TIP: a performance/game always beats a practice/rehearsal.

Why sectionals? With such large classes, it is very important to have section time where the director can work with just your section. With the complexities of our music, this rehearsal time is critical. Near contest time there may be additional clinics or sectionals required. This will help us all move faster and more efficiently in class, and also help us fix problems characteristic to your instrument. It also gives us a chance to work on instrument specific materials such as All-Region music and Ensembles that cannot be rehearsed during class.

Communication is the MOST important thing. If you run into an issue (car breaks down, electricity goes out, going to be sick from school, etc.), please call the band hall or send an email in a timely manner so that we can expect your absence or tardiness. No communication will be an unexcused absence and will reflect poorly upon your grade. Sectionals will always happen unless Mr. Meredith or Mrs. DeSoto has given you at least 24 hours notice. In other words, sectionals will not be canceled except for in extremely rare circumstances or during heavy performance weeks!

In order to be ready to rehearse at the appointed time, students should arrive at the band hall at least 10-15 minutes early in order to set up their instrument and music. A makeup section rehearsal will be arranged if a student has an excused absence. Absences will be considered excused if the student was not in attendance at school that day, or if the student or parent makes contact with the director prior to rehearsal. Students arriving late will also be required to attend a make-up rehearsal. Morning sectionals will meet from 7:30 AM to 8:40 AM. After school sectionals will be from 4:20 PM to 5:30 PM.

The night before...

- Remind your parents (aka your shuttle service) that you have sectionals and need to be at school BEFORE 7:30am. (7:15am drop off)
- Set your own alarm – do not rely on other people to wake you up!

The morning/afternoon of...

- Be in the band hall or ensemble room in plenty of time to get out your instrument, a stand/chair, a pencil, and all music.
- Be in your chair ready to play by 7:30am or 4:20pm.
- Have all supplies and music numbered so that we can rehearse efficiently.
- Be prepared to stay for the entire sectional. Do NOT schedule tutorials, ortho appointments, etc. on top of sectionals. This is our one chance per week to get to rehearse with our sections.

Sectionals (cont.)

The following will occur if a student is late unexcused:

- Lose his/her chair placement
- The sectional grade will be affected. If a student is late the grade will be lowered from a 100 to an 85.
- Students that are more than 10 minutes late may be required to attend a full make up sectional as scheduled by the director. If a student then fails to attend the next scheduled make up sectional he/she will receive a 50.

If possible, the director should be contacted prior to the sectional in the event of a tardy or absence. If this is not possible, a note should be brought to the director at sectional or band class that day.

The following will occur if a student is absent unexcused:

- Lose his/her chair placement
- The sectional grade will be affected. If a student is absent unexcused, once it is made up, the grade will be an 85.
- Failure to attend a regularly scheduled sectional and then not attending the next scheduled make up sectional will result in the student receiving a zero.
- A detention will be assigned for each unexcused absence beginning with the second offense.

The following will occur if a student is late excused:

- Students that are more than 10 minutes late may be required to attend a sectional as scheduled by the director to make up the time missed. If a student then fails to attend the next scheduled make up sectional he/she will receive an 85, will lose his/her chair placement and opportunities to perform.

The following will occur if a student is absent excused:

- The student will be required to attend a sectional as scheduled by the director to make up the time missed. If a student then fails to attend the next scheduled make up sectional he/she will receive a zero, will lose his/her chair placement and opportunities to perform.
- Three unexcused absence from a band sectional may result that student in being moved to a lower band.

Practice Charts — For all band students, Beginner/Symphonic/Honor Winds

To aide in being prepared for class, pass-offs & performances, students are required to practice on their instruments daily. This is the band equivalent of “homework”. Getting the school year started with a developed practice routine is KEY.

- THE POSITIVE PRACTICE CYCLE: Practicing helps students be successful, which makes them like band, which encourages them to practice more! The opposite effect will occur if a routine isn’t established in September/October.
- Our students are required to practice 180 minutes a week to receive a 100 (Beginner students will work up to 125 throughout the year).
- Any student practicing more than their required amount number of minutes WILL earn extra credit. These students usually earn high chairs and make an All-District or All-Region Band.
- Practice Charts are done by handout – students need to log practice sessions daily and goals
- Practice Charts must be updated Sunday night – due Monday.
- LATE PRACTICE CHART SUBMISSION is available before/after school at the front of the band hall.

Beginner Band By the end of the year Beginner Band members must practice 125 minutes per week distributed over a no less than five days each week. We will slowly build this this.

Jazz Band Students may receive practice time during this class on a regular basis and may count it on their chart.

Symphonic Band Students are expected to practice a minimum of 180 minutes each week, distributed over no less than five days.

Honors Band Students are expected to practice a minimum of 180 minutes each week distributed over no less than five days. More than 180 minutes a week may be necessary in preparing for All-Region/All-District tryouts and when students receive a lot of NEW MUSIC in January. Also, less than 180 minutes a week may be necessary at other times of the year.

We understand our kids do many other activities so we want to make sure no one is penalized. Communication is KEY. Let us know when you’re busy and cannot do 180 minutes a week. We’d rather you be honest about being busy and not lie on a Practice Chart for the sake of a 100.

If a student cannot practice during a given week (due to extended illness or instrument in need of repair) please enter a practice session with SICK for each day you are unable to practice. This way we do not accidentally give you a low grade and can adjust the amount of practice time accordingly.

Practicing is considered band homework. Practice assignments are given in class everyday. Therefore, if a student misses school or is away for a weekend, they are expected to make up work/practice time the same as if they miss other classes. If you are going out of town for the weekend, please consider this as you plan your practice minutes for the week. Always check with your section leader to see what you’ve missed to be prepared for the upcoming rehearsal.

BONUS TIP:

*There is no special talent needed to be an amazing band student. We start from the beginning and move slow. The key is **RIGOR, PRACTICE** and **MORE PRACTICE**. Every student will be good at something. For the difficult things you are not good at, you may have to practice more & harder than someone else. You will be as good as you PRACTICE.*

Daily Individual Practice – *tips for ALL bands*

Playing a musical instrument is a physical activity and like any physical activity, the body needs repetition for strength and accuracy. Every musician uses tiny muscles in their mouth (embouchure) and those muscles need conditioning – an act that merits daily repetition. Even practicing the same pieces helps strengthen a student’s embouchure. Along with the tiny muscles in the mouth, daily practice helps with the student’s accuracy. Ability could be defined as “being able” to duplicate without mistake over and over again. Daily practice helps students become more accurate in playing the intended note with the desired near-professional tone quality.

Similar to any other middle school class, band students have homework. Their homework assignment is always to practice enough to increase their overall ability on their instrument, and to be prepared on whatever piece of music they have been assigned (band music, solo, ensemble, private lessons). The Symphonic Band and Honor Winds perform music at a level of difficulty that demands individual study and practice. Our short class time is used to put all 70+ member’s parts together; it is not a time to teach an individual their own part. Sectionals are meant for instrument specific guidance and help, and working things out between different parts within a section; sectionals are also not used to teach individuals their own parts.

Following a consistent daily practice schedule is essential to student progress. Parents: PLEASE encourage your child to adopt a schedule of 30 minutes per day, six or seven days a week. Past experience has shown us that students who are practicing and making noticeable progress on the instruments are more likely to enjoy band than those who do not practice.

Keep the following guidelines in mind when establishing a practice routine:

- Practice for results, not just for the sake of putting in time. Are you better at something at the end than you were when you started?
- Keep distractions to a minimum: no radio or TV while practicing.
- Set up a daily schedule and stick to it. Treat practice as part of your homework.
- Always use a metronome AND tap your toe. The greatly enhances your sense of pulse.
- Always use a music stand and appropriate chair. This helps avoid the formation of bad habits.
- Try to follow a daily routine:
- **Daily Routine** (30+ minutes)
 - Daily Drill (3-5 minutes) warm ups, lip slurs, flow studies, articulation, Remingtons/long tones
 - Scales (5-10 minutes) All scales 3X each at different speeds.
Slow - work on technique, medium -performance speed, fast - push your limits. Memorized!
Chromatic 5X and work in chunks.
 - All-Region Music/Solo/Ensemble (15-25 minutes) This stuff makes you better!
 - Band Music (5-10 minutes) You should only need to spend time learning notes and rhythms when you first get it, practice the hardest part.
- 30 minutes a day will be much more beneficial to the student than trying to make up by doing longer chunks of time every few days.
- Fill out your Practice Chart after each practice session.
- Parents should monitor practice and attest that the student is submitting time correctly and honestly. Academic dishonesty will result in severe consequences at the discretion of the directors. It is recommended that parents NOT enter student’s time for them. We are trying to instill responsibility and good record keeping with our students.

Code of Conduct

Any organization that has high performance standards must also have high behavioral standards. The basic behavioral guidelines for students in music activities are taken from the LISD Student Code of Conduct.

- Sponsors and coaches of extracurricular activities including band may develop and enforce standards of behavior that are higher than the District-developed Student Code of Conduct. Adherence to these standards may condition membership or participation in the activity. Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time, on or off school property. No provision of an extracurricular behavioral standard shall have the effect of discrimination on the basis of sex, race, disability, religion, or ethnicity.
- Students shall be informed of any extracurricular behavioral standards at the beginning of each school year or, in the case of band, at the time the students report for practices that occur prior to the beginning of classes. Students and their parents shall sign and return to the director an acknowledgement of the behavioral standards as a condition of participation in the activity by accepting this handbook.
- Students enrolled in the band program are expected to display exemplary behavior at all times. At every performance as a band member, you represent your family, Shadow Ridge Middle School, and the Lewisville ISD. Make sure that your actions prove that the SRMS Band is a class act in every way.

Band Student Guidelines

Consequences for violation of these listed policies may include reminders, loss of privileges, detentions, teacher/parent conferences, office referrals, and removal from the band program.

1. All students are expected to be courteous and respectful to their classmates and teachers. Be helpful to other SRMS students & respond to adults politely (yes sir, yes ma'am, etc.)
2. The primary use of the band hall is for rehearsals. Never do anything that would interrupt a rehearsal such as talking, walking in front of a group, waving, etc. If no rehearsal is taking place, please consider the band hall a very quiet place.
3. You must be in your chair before the tardy bell starts ringing. Being late will result in a band detention.
4. Only band students are allowed in the band hall and practice rooms.
5. NEVER leave your instrument unattended. Students may drop off their instruments before their first period class and pick them up immediately after school.
6. All cases will be stored in their assigned lockers, even after assembling your instrument. Students are responsible for keeping their individual lockers clean and neat. Band lockers must be locked at all times except during band class time.
7. No one shall play, hold, or otherwise operate or handle another person's instrument. If it does not belong to you, do not touch it. Do not touch any of the percussion instruments or use them as a table.
8. For your health and well-being, food, drinks (except water), and gum are not allowed in the band hall.
9. Please keep the chairs and stands neat. Return all moved chairs & stands exactly as you found them. Push down your stand completely before you leave.
10. We do not have much space in our band hall when the full band is set up. Please leave the setup by walking down the rows, not through the row in front or behind you. Never walk through the percussion.
11. Backpacks should be left outside of the band hall during classes on the book shelves in the hallway.
12. No phones or electronic device other than your tuner/metronome should be on your stand, chair or person during a rehearsal. Texting when you are not being worked with is a lapse in concentration from the rehearsal and will not be tolerated. Phones/iPads may not be used to check the time – please wear a stylish wristwatch instead.

Choice Log

Students will be asked to sign the Choice Log after committing a violation of the rules at the director's discretion. After a student signs the choice log for a sixth time, the student will receive a 15-minute before or after school detention and the parent will be contacted. If a student fails to attend the detention, a second detention will be scheduled for 30 minutes. Failure to attend the second will result in a one-hour detention. If the third detention is also missed, the student will be referred to an assistant principal. SEVERE DISRUPTION: Immediate referral to appropriate assistant principal.

Note: Signing the Choice Log multiple times may disqualify a student from parties or trips.

Student Use of Technology

Students who use personal technology during band class will be expected to follow all SRMS and district guidelines for its use. Any student who misuses the privilege of using technology during band class or before or after school practices will be disciplined according to the policies set by SRMS.

Students may be allowed from time to time to utilize personal technology during band class. Because of the physical nature of instrumental education, however, they will not use it as much as in their core classes. We will do our best to inform the students ahead of time when personal technology may be used during class. On a normal day, leave your phones and iPads in your backpack. They should never be visible during a rehearsal.

Rehearsal Etiquette

The quality of work that a performing ensemble achieves in its rehearsal is the single most important factor in the overall success of the group. Efficient rehearsals produce SUPERIOR bands. There are certain factors that will contribute to good rehearsals on a daily basis.

1. A POSITIVE ATTITUDE will go a long way in helping the band reach its potential. Always enter the band hall with a purpose of accomplishing a musical goal. Leave other problems outside of the band hall and focus on the rehearsal at hand. Hurry to your seat & do not waste time visiting with friends. Move with a sense of urgency to accomplish a lot.
2. THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT will make the rehearsal go smoother. HAVE A PENCIL on your music stand at all times. Marking music will help you remember important information about the piece being prepared. This will be beneficial to you in performance and in home practice. Be well prepared by having all equipment in the proper working condition. This includes reeds, mouthpieces, tuning slides, etc. If you have a mechanical problem with your instrument, please seek help from the assisting director in your band before school.
3. THE RIGHT TIME. To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, and to be late is to be sorry! Always give yourself enough time to get set up and warmed up. When in a rush, your focus and concentration are the first things that suffer. Students should be in their seats at ready position when the tardy bell rings. All noise and movement should come to a halt after the tardy bell.
4. GOOD POSTURE and HAND POSITION: Every band member should know the importance of good habits in posture and hand position. Please be responsible for maintaining a high level of professionalism in your approach to playing your instrument. It is not the director's job to constantly remind you of this important aspect.
5. SELF DISCIPLINE: Rehearsals run smoother when the classroom atmosphere is at a superior focus level. Students can make a big difference in the direction of a rehearsal by following these etiquette guidelines:
 - a. Absolutely NO talking during rehearsal
 - b. Eyes on the conductor throughout the rehearsal
 - c. Raise your hand if you have a question
 - d. Be at ready position unless told otherwise
 - e. Be patient with others and listen to progress taking place
 - f. Always answer a question with a "yes or no sir," "yes or no ma'am."
 - g. Concentrate: Be ready to move quickly and quietly between tasks. Perform!
6. Always LISTEN TO THE ANNOUNCEMENTS and CHECK THE BOARD for information and the daily activities.
7. RESPECT: When a large group of people work closely together on a daily basis, it is important to bolster respect for each other and the director in and out of rehearsal. Please be sensitive to the feelings of others in the group. Be polite and treat others as you would want to be treated.
8. **BE PREPARED**. We have *extremely high expectations* that after introducing new music or assigning something to you, that you come to class or rehearsal PREPARED with notes & rhythms LEARNED. There is no shortcut around this. *Personal Practice* is the answer.

Band Hall Procedures *ALL STUDENTS NEED TO READ AND AGREE TO THIS SECTION*

Band Hall Procedures ensure that the Shadow Ridge Band will establish and maintain a tradition of excellence that will protect students, equipment and our facility. There are several thousand dollars worth of equipment in the band hall that is the responsibility of each SRMS Band member.

- Create a learning atmosphere respectful of other students and directors.
- Keep your eyes on the director when he/she is speaking.
- Do not speak when a director is speaking.
- Absolutely no running or horseplay in the band hall.
- Music stands are for music only. Please do not use them as a footrest or desk.
- Do not handle stereo, remotes, tuners, metronomes, piano, etc. without a director's permission.
- Students should refrain from bringing contraband (friends who aren't in band, gum, candy, food or drinks) in to the band facility.
- Students should refrain from handling any equipment/instrument they are not assigned to play. Also, do not let another student touch your instrument.
- All required materials are to be brought to class each day (see Daily Supplies list).
- Students should refrain from playing their instruments until the director grants permission.
- Students should not leave their instrument unattended unless it is in its proper storage location. Instruments should be stored correctly in their case in the locker.
- Instruments and binders will be stored in their assigned band locker during the school day. Cases must be clearly labeled with the student's name. Only band related materials are allowed in the instrument storage areas.
- Your locker must be kept neat. The directors will clean out messy lockers and ALL items will be thrown away. No food containers should be kept in lockers. No person should ever go inside of any locker.
- If you are in the Band Hall during a rehearsal, you must be silent as you enter and remain silent.
- As a security precaution, only band students are allowed in the band hall area.
- Students are expected to take their instruments home every day. Instruments shall be picked up immediately after school is dismissed. Athletes should plan accordingly. If you leave school early, pick up your instrument before you leave.
- All band students are encouraged to use the band facility before and after school and are encouraged to practice. However, do not disturb if there is a class or sectional in progress. Show every courtesy to the director and students involved.
- Everyone will assist in keeping all rooms neat and clean. Cleaning is everyone's responsibility and should not be thought of as a punishment. Always pick up after yourself and others without being asked.

Typically the directors prefer to handle any band procedure issues in-house. However, multiple offenses will be handled through disciplinary referrals to the principals.

The Band Hall is your room. Treat it with the highest regard and great pride. Please understand that 250 students & teachers will pass through this room on a daily basis, therefore, we must adhere to these rules. Imagine 250 people in your room on a daily basis.

Band Hall Procedures (cont.)

BAND OFFICE

Although the band office is meant for business, it is not off limits to students. When the door is open, students are welcome to enter. When the door is closed, do not enter or interrupt the work or business that is taking place. If you have an emergency, please knock and use common sense in regard to how important your concern may be.

BAND TELEPHONE

The telephone placed in the band office is intended for business use only. Students will be allowed to use the phone with director permission. To place a call: wait for a dial tone, and then dial your area code and phone number.

PRACTICE ROOMS

Practice rooms are for practice only. No more than 3 students to a room. These rooms should only be used when working with a private lesson teacher or with director permission.

Daily Supplies

The following items are required of all Shadow Ridge Band students. Each student should plan to bring the following items to rehearsals and/or performances. These items are integral to the instruction your child is receiving in class. Without these supplies, your child will have difficulty completing assignments and continuing his/her improvement. Most of these items will be used on a daily basis for home practice and school rehearsals. They are likely to be used in sectionals and private lessons. If these items are ever lost or broken they need to be immediately replaced. Other items may be added at the discretion of the directors.

- All issued music and warm-ups
- Black 1" view binder (with labeled dividers and pencil pouch)
- *Rhythm Rockers* (**Beginner Band only**)
- **Pencils – ALWAYS! Have at least 4 sharpened pencils in your pencil pouch**
- Instrument in proper working condition (with case name tag)
- Reed Players – 3 playable reeds at all times in a reed guard, swab
- Brass Players – valve oil, slide grease
- All other supplies relative to specific instrument
- Korg TM-50 metronome/tuner
- Korg CM-200 Contact Microphone Pickup (*Honor Winds Only*)
- Portable music stand and small mirror for home practice
- Other equipment as needed

Eligibility – applies to Beginner/Symphonic/Honor Winds

The following is an effort to keep you informed as to how the “No pass/No play” rule will affect your child and our band. We will greatly appreciate your aid in keeping your child’s grades above the 70% mark so that each member of our band can be involved in every aspect of band performance. Students in Honor Winds that fail a class in two different nine weeks periods may be removed from that group.

A student whose grade average in any course is lower than 70 at the end of a nine week period shall be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity event during the following nine week period. This suspension shall become effective seven days after the last day of the nine week period during which the grade lower than 70 was earned.

If, however, the student has raised all his grades to 70 or above by the end of the third week of the following nine weeks period, his eligibility will be reinstated after the end of the fourth week.

- CONCERTS, RECITALS, SECTIONALS, AND AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (not affected by No Pass No Play)
- ANY CONTEST IS CONSIDERED TO BE AN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY (affected by No Pass No Play). This includes UIL Concert & Sight-Reading.

Sound Advice for Passing Grades

Each student should develop structure and discipline in their study habits. Here are some common sense ideas to help you maintain good standing in all classes.

- **PAY ATTENTION:** Do everything you can to try to discover just what it is the teacher is attempting to get across to you. Take notes, follow along in the text, ask pertinent questions, and avoid distractions.
- **REVIEW DAILY:** Make a habit of reviewing notes on a daily basis to solidify material covered in class. If you do not understand material being taught, make arrangements with the teacher to get one-on-one help.
- **DO ALL HOMEWORK AND HAND IN ON TIME:** The most frequent reason why students fail a class is the failure to turn in assigned work. This is the easiest thing to fix. Do not miss deadlines.
- **FAILING TO PREPARE IS PREPARING TO FAIL:** Prepare for all tests and projects in a timely manner. In comparison, you wouldn’t wait until the night before a major performance or audition to begin practicing. By the same token, you shouldn’t wait until the night before a test or project deadline to begin the work. Every teacher at Shadow Ridge wants to see you succeed.
- **COURTESY:** Treat all teachers with the same respect that you expect from them. A few simple courtesies will go a long way. Paying attention in class will help your relationship with the teacher. Be careful not to draw negative attention to yourself and follow all classroom rules.
- **ASK FOR EXTRA HELP AND EXTRA CREDIT WORK.** Make the first move towards this-don’t wait.
- **FOLLOW UP:** If you have a failing grade at the 3 weeks reporting period, make every effort to resolve every grade in question.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Don’t be afraid to ask your teachers about grades in question or when tutorials are held. The teachers are on your side.

Financial Obligations

It is the philosophy of the Shadow Ridge Middle School Band that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact the director.

Fundraising

We have one fundraiser/donation drive planned for the school year. Participation in this fundraisers is strongly encouraged. Fundraisers are used to defray the students' fees and trip expenses as well as provide superior instruction (master classes taught by outside staff, clinicians, etc.). Any other money raised will be used to purchase additional materials and equipment for the SRMS Band Program. Due to budget limitations, this has become a necessity. If the money is not fundraised, then we cannot operate the program. The SRMS Band receives very little from LISD – our yearly operating budget is 95% FUNDRAISED. Instruments, supplies, motivational materials, music, and additional instruction are all dependent upon fundraising.

We have one major fundraising event:

Music Miles 5K & Fun Run

- Fun and easy participation
- It's educational
- Promotes a healthy lifestyle
- Gets the community involved
- No unwanted items must be purchased

Donation Drive (in lieu of Music Miles participation):

- The band keeps 100% of the profit

Donations are accepted to help the program. Any funds donated to the SRMS band program are for expenses other than student fees and trip expenses. These include, but are not limited to instrument repair, equipment replacement, helping families in need, and unforeseen expenses that might occur. The Shadow Ridge Band Booster Club is a 501c3 Non-Profit Corporation.

School Owned Instruments

School owned instruments will be issued to students who play: **oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor/baritone saxophone, french horn, euphonium, tuba, and percussion (7th & 8th grade only)**. Students who play these instruments must pay a yearly non-refundable usage fee of \$100 (\$50 for percussion). This is a very minimal fee considering that most of the school owned instruments cost several thousand dollars each. Please make your payment online in the Online Band Account (Charms) or write checks out to “Shadow Ridge MS Band”.

Responsibilities of the individual using a school owned instrument are:

1. Purchase your own mouthpiece (brass) and supplies (all).
2. Keep instrument in good playing condition.
3. Brass: oil valves daily.
4. Brass: keep slides in working order.
5. Woodwinds swab out after each use.
6. Woodwinds remove reeds from mouthpiece after each use.
7. Latch all latches on case.
8. Do not store anything besides the instrument and small instrument accessories in the case.
9. Do not attempt any “home repairs” when something doesn’t work. Bring it to a director immediately.
10. Treat the instrument as though it belongs to you personally!
11. Enroll in the Private lesson program – this offsets the cost of other instruments that pay a monthly fee and ensures school-owned property being used by successful, carefully trained students.

- If a student misuses or abuses a school owned instrument or equipment during the course of the year, the student and their parents will be responsible for paying for any damages or repair work (other than normal wear and tear). This includes removing large dents that you are responsible for.
- The instrument will be inspected at the end of the year or any time during the year for damage and the student must pay for any repairs.
- It is strongly recommended that all school owned instruments be insured through your homeowners policy or a private company. The school district will not assume liability for maintenance, repair, or damage of school owned instruments while they are checked out to a student.
- Instrument Fees that are not paid in full in agreement with a payment plan may be repossessed until fees are paid in full.

Personal Instruments

- A quality program requires quality musical instruments. Instruments from the Shadow Ridge MS Recommended Instrument List are good-quality instruments for middle school students. Check the website for this list and always ask a director before purchasing an instrument. However, students who plan to continue into the Flower Mound High School Band should consider eventually purchasing a professional quality instrument.
- The Band Directors and private teachers will be most happy to consult with the student and parents in order to avoid an inappropriate purchase and to assist in obtaining the best possible price for the instrument.
- With all personal instruments, it is strongly recommended that the instrument be insured through your homeowners policy or a private company. The school district will not assume liability for maintenance, repair, or damage of personal instruments on school property.

Uniform Requirements

BEGINNER BAND

The band t-shirt is required and must be purchased by all beginning band members. This will be worn with khaki pants and dress shoes for the Winter Concert, Spring Concert, and the Spring Contest.

SYMPHONIC BAND & HONOR WINDS

The band t-shirt is required and will be worn with blue jean pants and tennis shoes for informal performances like pep-rallies and athletic events.

For concerts, members will need to have the following items:

Girls

Black dress pants (not leggings or skinny pants)

Black skirt – longer than knee length

Black dress – longer than knee length

Black blouse or dress shirt – must cover shoulders (at least short sleeves or longer)

Black hose/tights or black dress socks. You must cover your ankles – no bare skin.

Black dress shoes (Closed toe)

Boys

Black dress pants

Black belt

Black collared shirt – tucked in (*Black undershirt optional - no white undershirts please*)

Black socks

Black dress shoes

*Black vest or tie is optional

Student Leadership/Class Aides

The SRMS Band program provides many opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills. Students may apply to be a class aide. Class aides are able to assist directors during additional band classes, typically the beginner class. The directors evaluate all selected student aide candidates based on their performance both during the final exam audition and throughout the school year.

Band Auditions/Final Exams

At the end of the spring semester, 6th and 7th graders band students will perform a final exam for the directors. This playing exam determines the students' placement in Symphonic Band or Honor Winds for the following semester and counts as their final exam grade and applies to all students, regardless of whether they are signed up for band for the next upcoming year. Jazz Band takes an additional elective but does not require an audition. 8th grader band students will audition for placement in the Flower Mound HS Band as their final exam grade.

The audition will consist of the chromatic and eight major scales (Concert D, G, C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db) from memory, prepared music that is selected by the directors, and sight-reading.

Results of the end of the year exam/audition will be discussed individually with students before the last day of school. All students continuing in band for the following year will be placed in Symphonic Band or Honor Winds. Students not signed up for band will not be ranked or placed in a band.

The following will be considered during auditions for Symphonic Band or Honor Winds:

1. How well he/she performed in the final exam
2. Eligibility throughout the previous year
3. Citizenship throughout the previous year
4. Attitude throughout the previous year
5. Grades throughout the previous year

A student may be moved up from one band to another during the year under the following conditions:

1. If he/she is consistently principal chair, has maintained his/her eligibility, performed a successful audition, and the group above needs him/her to improve instrumentation.
2. If he/she is principal chair, eligible, performed a successful audition, and has improved so much that the director feels that he/she should be moved up.
3. Any Symphonic Band student that makes an All-District or All-Region Band will be moved up into Honor Winds.

Glossary

Concerts

A concert is a non-competitive performance given as part of our curriculum. There is no admission charge. Family members and friends are encouraged to attend. Concerts are a state-mandated part of our curriculum and attendance is required of all students in the participating groups. UIL eligibility rules do not affect a student's participation in free concerts. Concert etiquette is also part of our curriculum. For this reason, band members will be expected to be an attentive audience member for the entire concert. This means no talking, movement, cheering, whistling, or cell phone usage.

Solo & Ensemble Contest

All Symphonic Band and Honor Winds students participate in the LISD Solo & Ensemble Contest in February (there is also an optional contest in May). All Honor Winds students are required to perform a solo with piano accompaniment and Symphonic Band students are strongly encouraged. The majority of percussion solos do not require accompaniment. The soloists are judged on a scale of I (Superior), II (Excellent), III (Good), IV (Fair), V (Poor). Students that receive high marks are awarded a medal or ribbon. Piano accompanist costs are very reasonable and include two 10-minute rehearsals and a performance.

Concert Etiquette

Audience manners are based on respect for performers and for others in the audience. Unfortunately, young people in today's society are seldom exposed to formal concert situations and are often not aware of the standards of appropriate behavior. By following these guidelines you can set a proper example for our students and will make the concert more enjoyable for all. Thank you for your assistance.

- Avoid entering or leaving the venue during a performance. If you find this necessary, move only between pieces.
- Applause is welcome, but whistling or cheering is considered inappropriate for a formal concert.
- Applause is appropriate after the piece when the director lowers his or her hands. Silence is called for when the conductor's hands are up.
- Talking is inappropriate during a performance. Young children who are talking or crying must be escorted from the performance area.
- Attention should be directed to the performing group at all times.
- All cell phones, tablets, pagers, and other electronic devices should be turned off. This can be very distracting and ruin a band's performance and recording.
- In the formal concert setting, flash photography is not appropriate during a performance and is distracting to performers.

Dental Work

Please consult with a band director before making appointments for major dental work. This would include getting braces on or off or any kind of oral surgery involving the lips, mouth, or throat. Having braces put on or taken off just before a performance or contest can be detrimental to a student's performance. We realize schedules sometimes cannot be changed and sometimes these procedures are unavoidable, but it is important to note that these procedures are likely to have a negative impact on the affected student's playing for a considerable amount of time afterwards. Contact your director if you have any questions! **If possible, consider getting the Invisalign type of braces – these will help your student transition more comfortably.**

All-Region Band

Students in Honor Winds and select students in Symphonic Band will work on etudes (practice pieces) and scales from August to October in an effort to become better individual musicians on their instruments. We focus on improving the INDIVIDUAL in the fall semester more than the ensemble. Students prepare the audition material and compete against students from Argyle, Lewisville, Denton, Northwest/Trophy Club and Lake Dallas ISDs for placement in the All-Region Band.

The etudes are very difficult and require months of preparation (students get the etudes when school begins and audition in late October). This is a HUGE focus of our fall semester. The skills that students develop while working on these etudes and bettering themselves on their instruments are a major part of their music education. All Honor Winds students will be required to learn the etudes. When students get to high school band, the top chairs in the All-Region band go onto All-Area, and the top students at Area make the Texas All-State band, which is the top 2% of ALL HIGH SCHOOL BAND STUDENTS in the entire state. This band meets at the annual Texas Music Educators Convention in San Antonio every February.

The All-Region tryouts are an enormous event with hundreds of kids. Parent support is appreciated since all band directors act as judges for this event. Students will be assigned an audition day depending on instrument, either Wednesday or Saturday. There are two phases; phase one is a qualifying round where the best musicians advance and others do not. Both phases will occur on the same day resulting in only a partial day commitment.

In December the fun part happens! All students selected to the All-Region band will come together on a Saturday with a guest band conductor and will perform a special concert that evening with really fun and difficult music! It is an honor to be a member of and perform with the All-Region Band.

All-District Band

The All-District Band audition process is the exact same as the All-Region Band, except students are only competing against other students in Lewisville ISD. The audition music is the same for both All-Region and All-District. Honor Winds students participate in both auditions. Students selected to the All-District Band have a clinic and concert on a Friday in January. Students do not need to make the All-District Band to audition for the All-Region Band.

UIL: Concert & Sight-reading Contest

Symphonic Band and Honor Winds participate in the state wide UIL Concert & Sight-reading Evaluation Contest. Every band in the state will go through this process where three prepared contrasting pieces are performed for a panel of adjudicators, followed by a performance of a sight-reading piece for another panel. Bands are judged on a scale of I (Superior), II (Excellent), III (Good), IV (Fair), V (Poor). The standardization of this contest helps maintain the overall strength of music programs throughout the state of Texas.

Beginner Band Contest

The Beginner Band will perform at the Annual BWR Band Festival at the end of April. Students will perform three contrasting pieces for a panel of distinguished adjudicators. This will be the Beginner Band's first contest and initial opportunity to perform on a stage, which are extremely valuable educational experiences.