

SJMS BAND HANDBOOK

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The Johnson Middle School Band Program has a proud history of accomplishments. It is our responsibility to build upon these successes and set higher standards for the future. We are privileged to have parents, teachers, administration, and a school board that are committed toward having a quality music education program in the McKinney ISD. This Handbook is designed to inform you about the expectations, policies, and student/parent responsibilities that will result in a successful band program in the years to come.

Our educational goals are to develop competent musical performers, promote music appreciation, train future McKinney North High School Band members, enhance the development of responsibilities as a citizen, and foster good self-discipline in members of the Johnson Middle School Bands. Band provides a recreational goal by offering the opportunity for worthwhile use of leisure time, for an emotional outlet, and for social activity with a family of long-lasting friends.

As a member of the SJMS Band, you represent an outstanding school and community who are very proud and interested in your achievements. We are glad you are a part of our organization.

Band Philosophy

The instrumental music program in our middle school is the first phase of a seven-year program of instruction. It is our hope that participation in the band program will foster better understanding and appreciation of music and help students carry with them the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will help them throughout their academic career.

While it is the individual student's achievement in music that is our primary goal, it is the commitment of all band members to each other that has allowed our program to achieve excellence. By signing the forms at the end of this handbook, you will be making a commitment that includes the following:

1. You will be a member of the band for the entire school year.
2. You will give your best effort to improve as a musician.
3. You will maintain a progressive, positive attitude toward band and school throughout the year.

SJMS Band Expectations

Band is a group activity that depends upon the collaborative work of many people. The actions of one person will have an effect, either positive or negative, on the entire group. For this reason, we have set expectations and guidelines that everyone must strive to achieve so that each person may grow as an individual musician and also make a positive contribution to the entire group.

- Students **must** attend ALL rehearsals and ALL performances of their ensemble. All students are vital to the success of the ensemble as a whole, and their presence is necessary to prepare for and execute a performance.
- Students share information handouts with their parents.
- All students will be courteous and respectful to their classmates and teachers.

- Never leave your instrument unattended. Students may drop off their instruments before their first period class, and pick them up immediately after school. Do not place your instrument in your school locker.

Classroom Expectations

- Follow the directions the first time they are given.
- Follow all learned procedures.
- Respect your property as well as others and their property.
- Bring your instrument and all necessary materials to class every day.
- Accept nothing but the best from yourself, your peers, and your teachers.
- Non-band students are not allowed to be in the band hall.
- For your health and well-being, food, drinks, and gum are not allowed in the band hall, ensemble room, or practice rooms.

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

Grading & Eligibility

As per MISD policy, these two areas will determine the band grade each nine weeks:

Summative Grade (70%) Playing and written tests, playing and written quizzes, long term pass off assignments

Formative Grade (30%) Practice records, daily playing and written assignments, sectional work

Most band activities are a direct extension of the class whether they occur during school or outside the school day. These events are considered *Co-Curricular*. Any activity that is held in conjunction with a competition, athletic event, parade, or pep rally; or any event for which an admission fee is charged is considered *Extra-curricular*. Students who are academically ineligible will not be allowed to attend these activities.

A student becomes ineligible upon receiving a grade lower than 70 in ANY class after the first six weeks and/or at the end of each 9-week grading period. A student may regain eligibility by attaining a passing grade in ALL classes at the three-week grade check. The dates affecting eligibility are included in the SJMS Band Calendar.

Rehearsal and Performance Attendance

All band events are mandatory unless explicitly stated otherwise.

- Symphonic Band members will be required to attend one section rehearsal (sectional) per week either before or after school.
- Concert Band members will have a limited number of after school rehearsals/clinics in the first semester. During the second semester, members will be required to attend one section rehearsal (sectional) per week either before or after school in order to prepare for UIL Concert and Sight-Reading.
- Beginning band members will have a limited number of after school rehearsals prior to the Holiday Concert, Spring Festival, and the Spring Concert.
- Alternate assignments will be given to students who are absent from rehearsals or concerts.
- For conflicts between school activities, the following general guidelines will be in effect.
 - A performance or game will take precedence over a rehearsal or practice
 - A performance, game, rehearsal, or practice will take precedence over a social event
 - A clinic or other special rehearsal or practice will take precedence over a regular practice or rehearsal.

SJMS Band Website

The band calendar, supply lists, and other general information about the program can be found at www.sjmsband.com

Essential Online Communication

The portal for SJMS Band communication and student administrative accounts will be an online program known as Charms. Handouts and other documents will be available for download from this site. When logged in with the student ID, the student's financial record and a record of forms turned in or due will be available.

- <https://charmsoffice.com>

Private Lessons

It is the goal of the SJMS Band to provide the very best learning experience for each student. One of these experiences is the opportunity for a student to study privately with a professional instrumentalist. This enrichment opportunity is available to all band students in grades 6-8. Although it is not mandatory to study privately, the individual attention that the student receives generally improves the performance level of the student and also has a positive effect on the band in which the student participates. The key to success with this opportunity is to start early and continue throughout the year.

- Lessons are 25 minutes and occur once a week.
- Lessons will be held before or after school, or during the class period, as schedules permit.
- Lessons will cost \$24.00 per session, payable directly to the private instructor.
- All private lesson teachers are screened and hired by MISD, and are considered contract labor for the district. They are hired based on their strong qualifications as music teachers who specialize on the instrument they teach. Each has gone through a background check and is bound by the policies and guidelines of the MISD.

Uniforms

- Beginner band students will wear the official band t-shirt, jeans, and casual shoes at all performances.
- 7th and 8th Grade students will wear the "Informal" uniform at pep rallies and informal events, and the "Formal" uniform at concerts and contests.
 - **Informal** = Official band t-shirt, Blue jeans, Casual shoes
 - **Formal** = Provided by SJMS. Parents are responsible for purchasing dress shoes (No athletic shoes)

Financial Transactions

- Whenever possible, make payments by check or money order, rather than cash.
- All payments must be sealed in an envelope (made available beside the white lock box in the band hall) labeling the student's name, the amount of the payment, and the reason for the payment, and placed in the secure lockbox.
- Never leave a payment on a teacher's desk or any location other than inside the lockbox. Always properly seal and label any payment.
- Money will be removed from the lockbox daily. Payments should appear on the student's "Charms" profile within 48 hours. If not, please contact a director as soon as possible.

Student Discipline and Behavior

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual. As such, each student is responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the SJMS Band. Any student who shows an inability to work effectively in class may be reassigned to another class at the discretion of the band director. As a school group, band members are governed by school and school board policies anytime they are together for any band function whether it involves all students or only one. Any student who violates school rules while with the SJMS Band will be subject to all usual school disciplinary procedures. In addition, those students will be subject to dismissal and will not continue to perform or travel with the band. Also, students who receive assignment to the Alternative School for disciplinary action outside of band activities are in danger of not performing with the Band in any extracurricular functions for the remainder of the school year.

Equipment & Facilities

Instruments/Lockers

- Instruments will be placed in the correct storage bin each day and will have a name tag for proper identification.
- If a student requests to lock his or her band locker, the directors will issue a lock. The directors maintain the right to cut off any unauthorized lock placed on the bins. .

School Instruments

- The use of a school-owned instrument will require a rental fee of \$100 for the school year.
- The fee does not cover items such as dents or bent keys or other repairs needed due to negligence or abuse of the equipment. These repairs will be charged to the student.
- When the instrument is checked out to the student, he or she will take a form home to be signed by a parent. This form will include the serial number, model, and condition of the instrument and will detail the payment deadlines for each semester.

Instrument Repair

- When personal or school-owned instruments are in need of repair, students or parents should **NOT** try to make repairs themselves. A director will be happy to look at the instrument to determine if it needs to be sent for professional repair.

Band Binders

- Students will receive a band binder at the beginning of the year, including tabbed dividers and a pencil pouch.
- Students will be expected to keep the binder organized and up to date and will bring it to all classes and band events.
- Students will share any new items with their parents immediately upon receipt. Many of the handouts will have important deadlines attached.

Required Contracts and Paperwork

Each student must have the following forms or contracts on file prior to participation in any band event:

- Band Handbook Acknowledgement Form
- Co/Extra-Curricular Contract
- Co/Extra-Curricular Emergency Medical Form
- Consent for Random Drug Testing (District Administrators will remove any student from the program who has not completed this item)
 - MISD School Board policy requires all members of extra-curricular organizations and their parents to sign a contract stating that the student will refrain from the use of any illegal substances. It is understood that members of such organizations represent the district through their participation and are therefore held to a higher standard of expectation than non-participants. Participation in these programs is a privilege. The MISD has adopted a highly confidential random drug testing policy. Students and parents must sign the form stating acceptance of this policy in order to participate in extracurricular activities.

Parent Volunteers

Throughout the year we will need chaperones and other parent help. Any person who serves as a chaperone or parent volunteer must be cleared by the McKinney ISD through the volunteer background check.

Go to <https://www.mckinneyisd.net/human-resources/employment/volunteer/> and follow the appropriate links to complete this background check. It only needs to be done once per school year, so it is best to take care of it at the beginning of the year.