

# Band Handbook

Missouri City Middle School

2015/2016



Twitter: @MCMSBand

Website: [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com), login with school code: MCMS Band

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Hello!

Welcome to the band program at Missouri City Middle School. Here at Missouri City we promote excellence in musicianship through our band program. We aim to provide each student with what is necessary to become great musicians as well as well-rounded individuals. Our band program strives for the highest levels of achievement in musicality and personality.

This handbook will be a guide for your year in the Missouri City Middle School band program. In it you will find; band expectations and rules, consequences for not following those rules, materials you will need, performance information, a calendar with important dates, our grading policy and an explanation of the various fees that we collect.

If you have any questions about the information in this handbook, or any questions in general, feel free to contact me through email or my school phone number found below. We look forward to having a great year with each one of you here at Missouri City Middle School. Go Cougars!

Sincerely,

**Mr. Maurice Ross**

**Mr. Mark Jurek**

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## Band Expectations and Rules

*These are the rules that we expect you to abide by, breaking the rules will result in a reduction of your daily participation grade as well as the consequences listed in this and/or the school handbook.*

**Be on time** – Show up to class and be **INSIDE** the band room when class begins. Have your instrument out and ready to play **1 minute** after the tardy bell

**Be Prepared** – Bring all of your required materials to class each day, have what you need **at your seat** when class starts.

**Respect others** – Including your peers, the teacher, and any guests that may be in the room.

**Respect the equipment in the room** – including other student's instruments, your own instrument, school-owned instruments, stands, chairs, and the band room itself.

**Give 100%** - All the time

**All other school rules must be followed whenever in the band room or ANYTIME you are with the band!**

## Consequences

*The following are the consequences for breaking the rules listed in this handbook. Depending upon the severity of the action the consequences may be altered at the discretion of the teacher.*

*For example, disrupting class for the first time might be a warning, but fighting or stealing will result in an immediate office referral.*

1<sup>st</sup> offence – Verbal warning

2<sup>nd</sup> offence – Student/teacher conference

3<sup>rd</sup> offence – Action Plan and a call home

4<sup>th</sup> offence – Office referral

## Materials

*You will need the following items in class each day in order to participate in class and be successful. Not having the required materials in class will result in a lowering of your daily participation grade.*

### Instrument

You must have an instrument in good playing condition. If for some reason your instrument needs to be repaired, LET ME KNOW! **Please do not attempt to repair your instrument yourself.**

### Music Binder

You must have a **Black** 3-ring binder for this class (I recommend 1" or less). In it you will need **sheet protectors and a loose leaf paper**. This will be your music binder and in it you will keep all of your music as well as any permission forms, papers, as well as your band calendar. Please see the Music Binder section for more details.

### Method Book

You will need to bring your designated method book to class each day. You will need one of the following method books:

Beginning Woodwind and Brass – *Tradition of Excellence* Book 1 by Bruce Pearson  
Beginning Percussion – *Simple Steps to Successful Beginning Percussion* by Kennan Wylie  
Symphonic Band – *Tradition of Excellence* Book 2 by Bruce Pearson  
Honor Band – *Tradition of Excellence* Book 2 by Bruce Pearson

### Pencil

In band we will frequently use pencil to mark in our music. **Students should not use pen.**

## Instrument Specific Materials

If you play an instrument that uses **reeds** you will need to keep at least **THREE** good reeds\* on hand as well as cork grease and a swab.

\* I STRONGLY encourage students to use *Vandoren or Grand Concert Reeds*.  
Strength: Beginner – 2 ½ , Adanced - 3

If you play a brass instrument you should always have a bottle of **valve oil**; trombone players should have **Slide-o-mix Rapid Comfort or Yamaha Slide Oil** and a small pocket sized **spray bottle**. All Brass players should also have a “spit-rag”.

Every student should keep a **soft cloth** in their case to wipe fingerprints and other marks off of their instrument after each use.

Each instrument case should have a **nametag** with the student’s name and phone number clearly printed on it.

## Your Music Binder

You will be required to keep a binder with all of the handouts and music that you have received and bring it to class each day.

Your binder should be organized and have all of the required materials in it.

There will be two announced notebook checks and at least once unannounced check each grading period. For announced notebook checks you will be given a list of the materials you will be graded on at least one week before the check.

### Some reminders:

- Your notebook should be a **Black 1 inch** 3-ring binder. (These can be found very inexpensively at Walmart)
- You will need to have everything in sheet protectors.
- You will need extra blank paper in your binder for use in rehearsals.

# Band Event Calendar (2015/2016)

*An important part of being in band is performing on your instrument. All of our performances are **REQUIRED**. Performances are worth a double major grade. **If you have a conflict with one of the dates listed let Mr. Ross or Mr. Jurek know at the time your handbook form is turned in.***

(**ALL**) = All band students , (**HB**) = Honor Band Students, (**SB**) = Symphonic Band Students, (**CB**) = Concert Band Students, (**BEG**) = Beginning Band Students

## August

27 – Band Parent Meeting (**ALL**)

## September

1 – Instrument Drive (**BEG**)

10th – MCMS Open House (**HB**)

## October

6<sup>th</sup> – Field trip during the school day to Houston Symphony (**ALL**)

7<sup>th</sup> – FBISD Band Night Eastside Schools @ Mercer Stadium (**HB, SB, CB**)

13<sup>th</sup> – Fall Preview Concert (**HB, SB, CB**)

23<sup>rd</sup> – MHS Football Game (**TBA**)

24<sup>th</sup> – MCMS 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (**TBA**)

## November

7<sup>th</sup> – Region Band Auditions (**most HB, Some SB, CB**)

13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> – Region Band Clinic and Concert

## December

1<sup>st</sup> – Beginning Band Concert (**BEG**)

3<sup>rd</sup> – Advanced Band Concert (**HB, SB, CB**)

## January

## February

19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> – Solo/Ensemble (**HB, SB, CB**)

## March

24<sup>th</sup> – Good Luck Concert (**HB, SB, CB**)

## April

8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> – FBISD MS Band Festival (**HB, SB, CB**)

22<sup>n</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> – UIL Band Contest (**HB, SB, CB**)

## May

17<sup>th</sup> – Beginning Band Spring Concert (**BEG**)

19<sup>th</sup> – Advanced Band Spring Concert (**HB, SB, CB**)

*For each activity the students are expected to arrive 30 minutes before the program begins unless they are informed otherwise. Additionally, students are **required** to be present during the entire performance, even if their portion of the program is over.*

There may also be other performances that are not listed here, such as: pep rallies, MS football games, and other community events. We will communicate any changes to the calendar through email, in class, and updates on the CHARMS website.

## **Social Activities**

As the year progresses we are planning on have some short social activities to celebrate our progress as a team and band. There is a possibility that we will have a festival trip in the spring.

## **Sectionals**

Advanced Band Students will have a required once a week sectional/tutorial to work with a director. These sectionals are part of our curriculum and worth a grade. Please see the FBISD Fine Arts website for the policy pertaining to rehearsals for more information.

It is important for our success as a band and as individuals to attend these practices.

The official schedule will be posted during the first week of school.

## **Concert Dress**

**Formal:** white tuxedo shirt, *black bowtie and cummerbund (Honor Band only)*, black pants, socks and shoes. (HB, SB, CB)

**Informal:** Band T-shirt and khakis (ALL)

**Dress to Impress:** Your most impressive, dressy clothing (ALL)

***These dress guidelines must be followed, failure to adhere to these guidelines may prevent you from performing and a grade reduction.***

## Grading Policy

The following is the grading policy for all grade levels of band. There are three main categories: skill development, Music as an Art form and participation, each category is broken down to list what types of assignments it includes.

### Skill Development

- Playing Tests
- Practice Records

### Music as an Art Form

- Written tests
- Class work and other written assignments

### Participation

- Sectionals\*
- Auditions and Contests\*\*
- Performances\*\*

\*All sectionals are a major grade

\*\*All band performances are a double major grade

## Band Fees

The following fees are broken down by performing group. These fees are not refundable.

**Honor Band Fees: \$30** – This will cover the band t-shirt, and entry fees for the Region-Band Audition and Solo/Ensemble Contest.

**Note:** for Solo/Ensemble the student will also need to pay \$30 to their piano accompanist in January.

**Symphonic and Concert Band Fees: \$20** – This covers the band t-shirt and entry fee for Solo/Ensemble Contest.

**Note 1:** Some students may also need to pay an additional \$10 if they enter into the Region-Band Audition

**Note 2:** for Solo/Ensemble the student will also need to pay \$30 to their piano accompanist in January.

**Beginner Band Fees: \$10** – This covers the band t-shirt which will be needed for any band field trips and the first band concert.

**Instrument Use Fee: \$80** – Only some students are required by the district to pay this fee. If it applies to you we will contact you with more information.