

Dowell MS Band

Beginner Band Handbook

2018-2019



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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.

Dowell Middle School has quickly been recognized as one of the truly outstanding music programs in the state. Through the dedicated work of many people, the tradition associated with this success has grown and flourished within the school and community.

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 its unique position.

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.

Performances

Attendance is expected and required at all performances and rehearsals. Concerts are extensions of the classroom and are the highlights of the learning process! Please check the band calendar for the dates of the concerts and combined rehearsals.

Individual Competitions

The ultimate goal of our program is the development of the individual musician to the limit of his or her potential. To assist in reaching this goal, we strongly recommend participation in the individual competitions and festivals offered during the school year.

Ensemble competition takes place in February, and the Solo competition takes place in May. Both of these events will result in non-competitive ratings and medals or ribbons.

Band Classes

All members of the Band Program are assigned by to an instrument specific class that meets every day. Auditions are held at the end of each school year for placement in one of the more advanced 7th and 8th grade groups. Private Lessons are highly encouraged for each student in the Dowell Band Program, but required for certain instruments.

Wood Winds (Lead Teacher, Tiffany Lisko)
Flute Oboe Bassoon Clarinet Saxophone
Brass (Lead Teacher, Clark Eacker)
Trumpet French Horn Trombone Euphonium Tuba
Percussion (Lead Teacher, Josh Boychuk)

Calendar

Each student will receive an events calendar for the school year. We plan events and performances far enough in advance that we expect everyone to make any necessary arrangements to be present at required performances, trips and competitions. There are very few required events in the the Beginner Band year, so please plan ahead!

Grades and Attendance

Grading in band is based upon participation and playing evaluations done in class. Grades for band students are usually higher than the norm which is understandable, since we have the “cream-of-the-crop” of the student body in the band program. Students belong to to our program because they “want to”, not because they “have to”. Band students receive a summative grade for each performance attended (ex. festivals, concerts, competitions, etc.).

Students will receive additional grades based on daily participation, playing and written tests, objective pass-offs, etc. Playing objectives are a large part of our performance expectations in determining mastery of our music. All students are expected to master the objectives by the given deadlines. Not doing so may result in alteration of parts, or not being able to participate in certain performances or events, and is up to the discretion of the band director.

Students must keep their instrument and equipment in good working order to be able to participate in class. Weekly practice reports are to be maintained and turned in with a parents signature every Wednesday. They will be accepted up to one day late (minus 10 points), and they will not be accepted for credit after two days late.

Eligibility

Here is the short version... Pass all of your classes every classes every 9-weeks so you get to participate in all of the fun stuff in band! Don't pass your classes, and miss out on all of the fun stuff:(

Most of the work that our students do is either curricular or co-curricular and not subject to eligibility. Curricular and co-curricular activities are free concerts, section rehearsals, concert rehearsals, and private lessons.

Students who participate in extracurricular activities must meet T.E.A. (Texas Education Association) and U.I.L. (University Interscholastic League) eligibility requirements. Students who fail any single class at the end of a nine-week period will become ineligible seven days later. Ineligible students do not regain eligibility immediately. They must wait seven calendar days after the end of the grading period. Students may regain eligibility seven calendar days after the end of the three-week grade evaluation period provided the principal and teachers have determined the student is passing all courses. Semester grades are never used for eligibility. Activities that are classified as extracurricular for which T.E.A., U.I.L., and M.I.S.D. eligibility requirements apply include:

1. Any event for which admission is charged.
2. Any event that is inter-school competitive.
3. Any event where ratings are awarded.

Should a band student become ineligible for an extracurricular function, he or she will still be eligible for curricular or co-curricular functions. Ineligible students will be given alternate assignments during contest preparation time. Students who have chronic eligibility problems will be assigned to a non-performing class where performances will not be affected.

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 Dowell Band. Any student who shows an inability to work effectively in class may be re-assigned 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. The General Release form you sign at the end of this Handbook will be in effect throughout the year for trips related to the band. Any student who violates school rules while with the Dowell 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 extra-curricular functions for the remainder of the school year.

Use of School-Owned Instruments

A limited number of the more expensive instruments are owned by the MISD for the purpose of balancing the instrumentation district-wide and maintaining performing bands at every level. There is an annual fee of \$100 for each student playing a school-owned instrument. Depending on availability, we will be able to check out instruments for home use for certain instruments (Tuba, Euphonium, French horn, Bari Sax). There is an additional \$50 fee for students who choose to have a home instrument as well.

A checkout form will be sent home for parent/guardian signature each Fall which describes the condition of the instrument at that time. It is the responsibility of the student/parent to check over the instrument at that time and understand that the instrument must be returned in the same condition at the end of the year. If repairs are necessary during the year, it is the responsibility of the student and parent to deliver the instrument to a repair facility as instructed by the band director, or make arrangement with the director as needed.

Use of Band Hall Facilities

Band students are welcome to use the band hall practice room for practice either before or after school, but you *must* come and ask a director first (no large groups EVER in a practice room, or you will lose the privilege of using the facilities). Sometimes, however the number of available places is limited, since both sectionals and private lessons take place before and after school. Due to the many thousands of dollars worth of musical instruments that are in the band hall, we require that ONLY band students come into the band hall area. Students that are not in band must wait in the hallway or in their designated locations. The Band Hall is a “safe haven” for our band students. We stress to all band students to be responsible and respectful of our beautiful facilities at all times.

Band Shirt and Concert Attire

All band students are required to have a current band shirt as part of their uniform. Band shirts will be worn at select performances throughout the year. The shirt will be distributed in September after all band fees have been collected. For some more formal performances, students will be asked to wear more professional attire. “Dress to impress in your Sunday best!”. We will communicate ahead of time what the dress requirements are for upcoming performances and events.

Private Lessons

The McKinney I.S.D. Fine Arts Department offers each student a chance to study privately with the finest graduate and professional musicians in the Dallas area!

Private lessons are not considered remedial tutoring. EVERYONE benefits from private instruction! Lessons are for students who are already doing well and gives them the opportunity to further their musical development in a one-on-one setting, but it is also for students that feel they might benefit with private coaching on certain aspects of their instrument. Each lesson will be tailored specifically towards that students and whatever their personal needs are (no two students are alike). One of the pitfalls of teaching a large class of musicians is the lack of individual attention needed for student growth and private lessons aid in meeting this need.

Students that enroll in private lessons often end up moving quicker through the music and become our more advanced musicians in the Band!

Lessons are approximately 30-minute sessions taught once a week. The cost is only \$20 per week (we get a BIG discount through the district:). Lessons may be taken during band class or before/after school. Lesson payments should be given directly to the lesson teacher and should be paid on a monthly basis (some months may have fewer school weeks than others). Lesson teachers have the right to stop or discontinue lessons if they are not paid in a timely manner. This is their full time job so you must be respectful of their time and dedication to your child. Please contact a director if you are ever needing to inquire about financial assistance with private lessons throughout the year. We can help!

Please fill out the attached form at the end of this handbook, and we will get you and your child connected with one of our fabulous lesson teachers!

For the most up to date list of private teachers, please visit www.dowellband.org.

Dowell MS Band

2018-2019 Handbook Agreement Form

Please read the Dowell Middle School Band Handbook carefully and sign below:

"We have read the Dowell Middle School Band Handbook and our student has permission to participate in band and all band activities within the guidelines as stated."

"I have read the Dowell Middle School Band Handbook and agree to abide by all policies stated. I realize that failure to follow policies or directions will result in disciplinary action that could lead to dismissal from the Band and Band classes."

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Student Printed Name

Date

Travel Release

Name of Student: _____

RELEASE made by: _____

RELEASE made on: _____

RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS: _____
(circle one: parent or legal guardian)

(address, city, state, zip code)

_____ day of _____ 20_____ (day) (month) (year)

McKinney INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

RETURN TO SCHOOL BY: August 31, 2018
Parent Permission for Educational Field Trip

The student, and the undersigned parent or legal guardian of the above-named student, in consideration of the right to attend: All Dowell MS Band Events for the 2018-2019 School Year

to the extent permitted by law, do hereby release and forever discharge the McKinney Independent School District, (hereinafter the "District") its agents, employees and officers from all claims, demands, actions, right of action, which I may have or which my heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns may have or claim to have against the District which arise out of or are in any way connected with personal injuries, known or unknown, and injuries to property, real or personal, caused by or arising out of, the above described educational field trip. I understand that every reasonable effort will be made to contact me in the event of acute illness or other emergency requiring medical attention. However, if I cannot be reached, I hereby authorize the District to transport or authorize the transport by ambulance of my child to the nearest medical care facility and to authorize any and all necessary medical treatment arising from said emergency. I understand that any and all costs incurred as a result of above-mentioned medical care will remain my responsibility. I further understand that these costs may include, but are not limited to, ambulance, private physician, clinic, hospital, dentist, or other urgent care personnel. I, the undersigned, have read this entire release and understand that the terms contained herein are contractual. Further, I consent to medical treatment according to the terms of this agreement and accept responsibility for all costs incurred. I understand that failure to return this form will act as lack of consent for participation and student will not be allowed to participate in field trip. I execute this voluntarily and with full knowledge of its significance.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Date and Year _____ **Daytime contact number** _____

Private Lessons

PARENT or GUARDIAN AGREEMENT

I have read the information regarding the supplemental music lesson program offered by the McKinney ISD approved music specialists. I hereby agree to the following statements concerning the program specifications.

1. We/I will provide a monthly check made out to the private instructor for the agreed amount of \$20.00 per lesson. My child will send the check directly to the private instructor.
2. We/I will call the private instructor at least 24 hours in advance of any absence. The instructor will deal with special circumstances on an individual basis.
3. We/I understand that the supplemental music program is voluntary and participation in the program will not affect the grade my child earns in his or her band class.
4. We/I understand that enrollment in the program is a commitment to a minimum study period of one semester at 25 minutes per lesson. Lessons may be discontinued at the semester break *only* with written notification to Mrs. Lisko, Mr. Eacker or Mr. Boychuk.
5. I understand and agree that the McKinney Independent School District, the Dowell Middle School band staff/directors, nor the Dowell Band Parent Organization (BPO) are not responsible or liable in any matter, whether in tort or in contract, concerning the supplemental music program.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THIS ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR YOUR CHILD!

PRINTED STUDENT NAME

Instrument / Class Period

Check one of the following:

_____ **YES**, we want our child to be scheduled for private lesson instruction.

*Our child would like to continue with the following teacher _____

_____ No, we are not interested in private lessons for our child at this time.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Student Signature _____