

Dowell MS Band

7th/8th grade 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 musical 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 all pre-scheduled rehearsals (this includes sectionals 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. Missed performances cannot be "made-up" if missed, and a student will not receive credit for the missed performance. *Exceptions will only be considered in an emergency situation, and will be at the discretion of the directors. Please see the MISD Fine Arts Grading Policy.

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.

All-Region tryouts involve the finest students from schools in our region. The music is announced in August and the tryouts are in November. 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 audition to one of three band classes that meet as academic classes. Auditions are held at the end of each school year. Some students may be re-evaluated again at the end of the Fall Semester (at the discretion of the director). Balanced instrumentation within each band is an integral part of the selection process. Private Lessons are highly encouraged for each student in the Dowell Band Program.

Wind Ensemble (Lead Teacher, Tiffany Lisko) 3rd period 10:37-11:30

The Wind Ensemble is an advanced performing group with preparation for the high school band program as a primary objective. Students will perform at concerts and contests throughout the school year. Students in this group participate in the All-Region audition process in the fall, and the UIL Concert & Sight-reading evaluation in the Spring, as well as other location music festivals. Students will also have the opportunity to perform at the solo and ensemble contests provided they have met the eligibility requirements. Instrumentation is limited to those who show advanced performance abilities and superior attitudes. Members are selected by audition.

Uniform: Dowell Band shirt (will be ordered through the school) Solid black dress pants, solid black socks and dress shoes, white Tux shirt and black bow tie (shirt and tie will be ordered through the school)

Symphonic Band (Lead Teacher, Clark Eacker) 2nd period 9:40-10:33

The Symphonic Band is an advanced performing group with preparation for the Wind Ensemble and the high school band program as primary objectives. Students will perform at concerts and contests throughout the school year. Students in this group participate in the UIL Concert & Sight-reading evaluation in the Spring, as well as other location music festivals. They will also have the opportunity to perform at the solo and ensemble contests provided they have met the eligibility requirements. Instrumentation is limited to those who show advanced performance abilities and superior attitudes. Members are selected by audition.

Uniform: Dowell Band shirt (will be ordered through the school) Solid black dress pants, solid black socks and dress shoes, white Tux shirt and black bow tie (shirt and tie will be ordered through the school)

Concert Band (Lead Teacher, Tiffany Lisko) 6th period 1:50-2:40

The Concert Band is an advanced performing group with preparation for the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Bands as well as the high school band program as primary objectives. Students will perform at concerts and contests throughout the school year. Students will also have the opportunity to perform at the solo and ensemble contests provided they have met the eligibility requirements. Instrumentation is limited to those who show advanced performance abilities and superior attitudes. Members are selected by audition.

Uniform: Dowell Band shirt (will be ordered through the school) Solid black dress pants, solid black socks and dress shoes, Tux shirt and bow tie (will be ordered through the school)

Section Rehearsals *for Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Bands*

Section rehearsals will be scheduled one day per week, either before or after school for one hour. Attendance is absolutely required to be a member of the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band. The section rehearsals will be graded and are part of the student's average. Every effort will be made to work around the schedule needs for each student. It is the student's responsibility to arrange transportation. If a section rehearsal needs to be made up, it must be completed within one week of the missed rehearsal, or the student will not receive credit. A student must make-up a missed sectional, even if the absence is considered excused. Regular attendance is from every member is crucial to the success of the group!

Grades and Attendance

Work schedules and other activities must not interfere with the rehearsal and performance schedules that are given at the beginning of the school year. Students who enroll in other school activities, such as athletics, choir, drama, etc., need to plan ahead to avoid conflicts that cannot be resolved. The band directors will work with other teachers, coaches, and directors of various activities to give each student every opportunity to be part of other groups. Non-school sponsored activities, teams, organizations, and student jobs must not conflict in any way with the practice/performance schedule of the band.

The following attendance policies will affect student grades:

1. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance. Excuses are only accepted in the event of absence from school (with doctor's note turned into the school) or family emergency. Approval is at the discretion of the director.
2. Section rehearsals missed for any reason (excused or unexcused) must be made up within one week of the missed sectional. Excused absences (see above) may be made up for full credit, while unexcused absences may be made up for 70% credit only.

In determining the band grade each nine weeks, two areas will comprise the average:

Performance Grade (70%) including class assignments, section rehearsal assignments, nine-week assignments and objectives, and playoffs of performance music.

Check Your Calendars! Routine doctor and dental appointments are not considered excused and therefore should not be scheduled during your regular sectional time.

Participation Grade

(30%) including correct marking of music, care and maintenance of instruments, punctuality at rehearsals and performances, and attendance at rehearsals and performances. Practice Reports including 180 minutes of practice per week, properly signed by a parent/guardian and turned in on Monday, will result in full credit. Practice reports will be accepted only two days late with a 10-point deduction each day.

Eligibility

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.

Recommended Instrument List

Below is a list of recommended advanced instruments. In most cases, beginner instruments are adequate for junior high bands; however, better quality instruments enable students to learn more quickly and with greater ease. While there are several brands and models of advanced instruments, those listed are recommended by the MISD staff as the best quality:

Flute

Miyazawa 95SR, Miyazawa (Lyric 2 model) Yamaha models 584 or 684 -H
Haynes AF800BOF

Clarinet

Buffet R-13

Alto Saxophone

Selmer SA-80 Series 2
Yamaha YAS-875 EX Custom Series

Trumpet

Bach Stradivarius LT180S37 Eastman ETR821S
Yamaha Xeno

Trombone

Bach42BO
Getzen Custom 3047 AFR

These can be purchased at many retail stores. The so-called "pro-model" instruments (which are actually geared towards advanced MS and HS students) are often discounted as much as 35%- 40% for cash purchases. Parents are encouraged to seek the help of a private instructor or director before purchasing one of these instruments. There are some other

models that are wonderful step-up instruments, but please consult a director or private teacher before committing to any major purchase.

Band Shirt and Tux Shirt

All band students are required to have a current band shirt as part of their uniform. Band shirts will be worn at all pep rallies and other less formal performances throughout the year. The shirt will be distributed in September. After all band fees have been collected.

A uniform tux shirt and bow tie will be ordered for each student at the beginning of the year so as to have them by the first formal concert in December, and then later for competition concerts in the spring time.

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. They 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 be struggling with certain aspects of their instrument. EVERYONE benefits from private instruction! 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 (that is a BIG discount through MISD). 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).

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 2017-2018 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 _____