

# **Birdville ISD Middle School Band Handbook**

## **Procedures and Policies for Smithfield Middle School**

### **Goals of the BISD Middle School Band Program**

Our educational goals are to develop competent musical performers, promote music appreciation, train future High School Band members, enhance the development of responsibility as a citizen, and foster good self-discipline in members of the BISD band programs. Band provides the opportunity for worthwhile use of leisure time, for an emotional outlet, and for social activity with a family of long lasting friends.

### **Grades**

The grading system is designed to allow students to earn a grade that is indicative of his/her efforts. It rewards responsibility and improvement and encourages a student to be conscientious about his/her commitment. All BISD School grading procedures will be followed. The following are the two categories and the percentages used to calculate a student's grade: Tests – 50% and Daily – 50%.

### **Fees**

There can be costs associated with membership in the band program. These fees cover the cost of materials, uniform items, transportation, and other items necessary for the functioning of the band program. Directors will notify students and parents of necessary fees and make arrangements for adequate time for payment.

### **Before or After School Rehearsals**

Middle school 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students are required to attend rehearsals each week held either before or after school. Attendance at these rehearsals is graded. Absence from these rehearsals will result in a reduction of the student's band grade. Excessive absence can lead to a failing grade and possible removal from the organization. If a student has an excused absence from school on the day of the rehearsal, the student is required to make up the rehearsal time at the director's discretion.

### **Band Field Trips**

Students participating in band field trips are expected to behave in a manner which reflects positively on the band and their school. The district's student code of conduct will be followed at all times. All students must have an Emergency Care Form on file to travel with the band.

### **Academic Eligibility**

Band students are ineligible to participate in extracurricular performances for the nine weeks period immediately following a period in which they earn a grade of 69 or less in any class. Band rehearsals, sectionals, and concerts are curricular and, therefore, are to be attended and graded.

### **Public Performances**

Students are required to be at all performances. The only excuses for missing a performance are: sickness (excused absence from school), death in the immediate family, or permission from a Band Director well in advance of a performance. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a zero as a major test grade with possible other disciplinary actions. Every effort will be made to inform you well in advance of upcoming performances. All major performances for the school year are detailed in the band calendar and on our Charms Office website.

## Uniforms

Each band member will have some type of uniform. Directors will outline uniform needs at the beginning of each year. Some items may be provided by the school and some items will be provided by the student.

## Individual Practice

All band students are required to take their music and instruments home every night, or schedule an individual practice time at school. A minimum of thirty minutes practice each day is required to keep up with assignments given in class. Improving individual musical skills takes time and repetition.

## Private Lesson Program

All BISD Band students have the opportunity to take private lessons taught by qualified private instructors. This is a district wide program that provides high quality enhancement to classroom instruction. Most of our teachers are professional musicians in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and have advanced degrees in the performance of their instruments. Lessons are extremely valuable to the individual student. Private lessons are strongly encouraged for *ALL* students. Financial aid is available. Applications for aid are available from the band director. Students taking private lessons are expected to attend all lessons and display careful preparation. Please visit the private lesson tab on the SMS Band website for more information!

## Equipment / Supplies

A band student cannot excel to his/her potential if their instrument is not in playable condition or they do not have the proper supplies needed to keep the instrument in good condition. Students are responsible for the cost of repairs for school owned instruments. It is strongly recommended that parents insure personal and school instruments. Information on specific insurance for instruments is available from the band director. All students will be issued sheet music, books, and other curricular materials throughout the year. Music that is lost or mutilated will need to be replaced by the student. Students' names should be clearly marked on instrument cases for easy identification.

## Code of Conduct

The Birdville ISD bands follow school policy regarding enforcement of the BISD Extracurricular Honor Code. All students and parents must sign a Commitment and Code of Conduct Form to participate in the BISD Middle School Bands.

## Contact Information

The directors encourage positive communication and are willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress in band with his/her parents. The best and fastest way to communicate with a director is through email.

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