

# 2020-2021



## **Smith Middle School Band** **Official Handbook**

*Superior Standards ~ Superior Success*

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## **Introduction**

Welcome to the Smith Middle School Band! Learning to play an instrument can be a rewarding and enriching experience. The purpose of this handbook is to provide a written policy on the organization and operation of our band program. Band is a group activity that depends upon the collaborative work of many individuals. The actions of one person will have an effect, either positive or negative, on the entire group. For this reason, we have guidelines that everyone must follow in order that each student may grow as an individual musician and also make a positive contribution to the entire group. It is the goal of the SMS Band Staff to provide every student the opportunity for musical growth through the learning and creating of music. We also expect our students to achieve superiority, not only in band, but also in academics and daily life.

# The Smith Middle School Band

## **WIND ENSEMBLE (WE)**

The Wind Ensemble is the top-performing band at Smith Middle School consisting of students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. This band is known for its success and tradition of superior musicianship. Students obtain membership in this yearlong course following a placement audition with the band directors. The WE gives many performances each year, including Fall, Winter, Mid-Term and Spring Concerts, Ensemble Recital, UIL Contest, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Demonstrations, Picnic in the Park, and a Spring Trip. Members of the WE are expected to audition for the Invitational Honor Band and All-Region Band and participate in the Solo Contest. Students in the WE achieve high standards in the classroom and performance venues.

## **SYMPHONIC BAND (SB)**

The Symphonic Band consists of students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Students obtain membership in this yearlong course following a placement audition with the band directors. The SB gives many performances each year including Fall, Winter, Mid-Term and Spring Concerts, Ensemble Recital, UIL Contest, Picnic in the Park, and a Spring Trip. Members of the SB are expected to participate in the Solo Contest and are encouraged to audition for the All-Region Band. Students in the SB achieve high standards in the classroom and performance venues.

## **CONCERT BAND (CB)**

There is no Concert Band this year.

## **BEGINNING BAND (BB)**

The Beginning Band is made up of students in the Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, and Percussion classes and consists of students primarily in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Students obtain membership in this yearlong course following a placement interview with the band directors. Members of the BB give five performances throughout the year including Winter Recital, Mid-Term and Spring Concerts, Picnic in the Park, and a spring festival. Members of the Beginning Band also participate in the Solo Contest.

## **INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE (IE)**

Instrumental Ensemble is an extra enrichment class for band students enrolled in a 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade performing ensemble. Students in IE focus on individual and small ensemble skills. Some students in IE will also form a Jazz Ensemble (JE). The JE will perform at various times throughout the year.

## **PEP BAND (PB)**

The Pep Band consists of all current members of the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band. The ensemble's primary purpose is to provide school spirit through musical entertainment at SMS pep rallies. The highlight performance of the PB each year is the Middle School Band Night in which the SMS Pep Band combines with the Wheat MS Bands and Cleburne High School Golden Pride at a CHS football game.

# Smith Middle School Bell Schedule and Band Master Schedule

- Period 1 8:00-8:45**  
Intro to Band (specific instrument classes start 2<sup>nd</sup> six weeks)
- Period 2 8:48-9:37**  
Instrumental Ensemble
- Period 3 9:40-10:26**  
Intro to Band (specific instrument classes start 2<sup>nd</sup> six weeks)
- Period 4 10:29-11:15**  
Symphonic Band
- Period 5 11:18-12:18**  
Wind Ensemble
- Period 6 12:21-1:21**  
Percussion – Mr. Bibb  
Lunch
- Period 7 1:24-2:09**  
Conference
- Period 8 2:12-2:57**  
Intro to Band (specific instrument classes start 2<sup>nd</sup> six weeks)
- Period 9 3:00-3:45**  
Intro to Band (specific instrument classes start 2<sup>nd</sup> six weeks)

# HOW TO CONTACT THE DIRECTORS

With many students in the band program, the directors receive a lot of calls and messages. Our goal is to respond to every message in a timely manner.

## **Special Note:**

It may be best for parents to follow this order for communication/information:

Website/Facebook → Email → Phone

*Email will be returned more promptly than a phone message.*

## **By INTERNET**

[www.smithmsband.com](http://www.smithmsband.com)

[www.facebook.com/SmithMSBand](http://www.facebook.com/SmithMSBand)

@smithms\_band on Twitter and Instagram

The band directors utilize the band's Facebook page for immediate information. Please take time to "like" us. The website can be an extremely important vehicle for communication.

## **By EMAIL**

Mr. Hiller: [mhiller@c-isd.com](mailto:mhiller@c-isd.com)

Ms. Ruddick: [jruddick@c-isd.com](mailto:jruddick@c-isd.com)

Mr. Bibb: [mbibb@c-isd.com](mailto:mbibb@c-isd.com)

## **By PHONE**

Smith Middle School Band Hall  
817-202-1531 (office)      817-202-1475 (fax)

## **By MAIL**

Smith Middle School Band  
1710 Country Club Road  
Cleburne, Texas 76033

## **By STUDENT**

You are always welcome to send a note with your child. Please include a phone number or email address where you can be reached. We want to hear from you. Please let us know when we can assist you and your child.

## **By TEXT MESSAGE** (a way to receive information only)

The Smith Band utilizes a one-way texting system, Remind.com, to communicate with our students and parents. All personal information remains completely confidential. Teachers will never see your phone number, nor will you ever see theirs. To subscribe, text the following code to 81010:

Beginning Band text

**@smith-BB**

Symphonic Band text

**@smith-SB**

Wind Ensemble text

**@smith-WE**

Instrumental Ensemble text

**@smith-IE**

## **Note on Texting/Social Media**

The Band Staff does not freely give out our personal phone numbers or social media (Facebook) accounts. Parents that have this information should only use it in emergencies (e.g. overnight trips). Students should not communicate with directors via text messaging or any social media. Directors will accept student communication via email or Skyward messages.

## BAND MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

The Smith Band Staff believes that hard work, dedication, and discipline lead to superior performances. In turn, we have one general guideline under which the program operates:

If you need to be shown on a piece of paper how to act and what is expected of your behavior while in this class – BAND may not be the place for you!

However, we do have general expectations (\*see page 21 for more) for band students:

1. Band students will always follow the CISD and SMS Student Code of Conduct.
2. Band students are good listeners. Band students will always follow directions the first time they are given and will give proper responses to any directive.
3. When you walk through the band hall door, you should be quiet as you get your instrument and materials out to begin class at the bell. Talking should be kept to a minimum and at a "level 1" volume.
4. Due to the nature of band being a "team" activity, students are expected to start and stop together. Students should play their instruments in class or at band functions only when instructed by a director.
5. At the end of each rehearsal, all students should put their instruments and materials back in their proper place before they leave the band hall. Students should then leave the band hall at the instruction of the director in an orderly fashion.
6. Practice rooms are for practicing only. When you are finished using a practice room, please turn off the lights, leave the room clean of trash, and return music stands and chairs. Practice rooms are a privilege and abuse can lead to loss of that privilege.
7. Band students should take pride in their facilities. They should always make sure they are kept clean and neat. Chairs and music stands should be kept in their proper place.
8. Only band students are allowed in the band hall and practice rooms. For safety and security concerns, do not encourage or allow others in your band hall.
9. For your health and well-being, absolutely no gum, food, candy, or drinks (with the exception of water) are allowed in the band hall. It is dangerous to have anything in your mouth while playing an instrument. Demerits will be issued for violations.
10. All cases will be stored in their assigned locker. Students are responsible for keeping their individual lockers clean and neat.
11. Students are responsible for items they bring into the band hall. Any class books, library books, clothing, etc. that is left at the end of the day will be placed in the school lost and found.
12. Students are allowed to use the band hall phone only after school is over. School policy prohibits student's use of classroom phones during the school day.

13. No one shall play, hold, or otherwise operate or handle another person's instrument. This includes all electronic and percussion equipment around the Band Hall. If it is not yours, do not touch it!!
14. All students will be required to keep a band folder. Music, tests, and worksheets will be kept in the band folder. Other required materials include pencil, paper, and any accessory items needed for the maintenance and use of your instrument.
15. All instruments and materials should go home every day. Instruments shall be picked up before 4:00 p.m. each day. If you should have to leave school early, be sure to come by and pick up your instrument before you leave.
16. Students wishing to come before or stay after school for extra help or practice must have this approved in advance by a director. Do not expect to be able to get in the band hall if a director does not know. The band hall is not open for students to hangout or put away instruments prior to 7:52. Entry into the band facilities is prohibited when a director is not present.
17. Band students will bring to their parents' attention all correspondence that is sent home. Any correspondence that requires a parent signature will be promptly returned to the band directors.
18. Cleburne ISD has invested a large amount of money in the band hall and the equipment therein, which places a huge responsibility of each Smith Band member. Absolutely no running or horseplay in the band hall. Do not handle any equipment without a director's permission.
19. Band Aides are the only students allowed in the band library unless you have permission from a director. Do not remove music from the delicate filing system.
20. Although the band office is meant for business, it is not off limits to students. When the door is open, students are welcome to enter. When the door is closed, do not enter or interrupt the work or business that is taking place. If you have an emergency, please knock and use common sense in regard to how important your concern may be.
21. Cell phones and mobile devices are only allowed at appropriate times when approved by a director. Devices will be confiscated when used inappropriately or at unapproved times.

Smith Band members take pride in themselves, their school, and the organization. Members of the band are considered model students by the SMS faculty and community.

STUDENT PRIDE IS HEAVILY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SMITH MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND  
PROGRAM'S CONTINUED SUCCESS!

### **Rehearsal Etiquette**

In general, following these rules will provide an enriching and creative learning environment for all students:

1. Enter the band hall quietly and read the board for instructions.
2. Be in your seat in rest position with all necessary supplies before the bell.
3. Listen and be responsive.
4. Start and stop together.
5. Return your materials to their appropriate place.
6. Leave the band hall in an orderly fashion when dismissed by the director.

### **Consequences for Negative Behavior**

As a student who has chosen to be a member of the SMS Band, we expect you to act with a superior attitude. At the very first sign of difficulty, we will treat you like an adult and give you the opportunity to correct yourself. In the event that this is unsuccessful, we will be forced to request assistance from your parents. Ultimately, our responsibility as directors is to ensure that those who do comply with expectations are granted every opportunity to learn at the highest possible level, free from distraction.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense – Verbal warning and demerits. Students will be offered the chance to correct their behavior. Students will not earn all possible points for class participation.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense – Alternative assignment. Students will be removed from the regular band setting and given an alternate assignment to complete in order to earn any class participation credit. This is also the step taken when students are not prepared for class or lack necessary materials for appropriate participation.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense – Parent Contact. The director will call or conference with the student's parent in order to correct the behavior. A detention may be given at this time. Students will not be credited any class participation points.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Offense – Office Referral. Students will be referred to SMS administration concerning their behavior. This may lead to:

### **Student Withdrawal or Dismissal from the Band Department**

Occasionally students withdraw from the band program for various reasons such as loss of interest, class schedule conflicts, or other typical reasons that regretfully end their career in band. As difficult as this is for band directors to accept, they do understand that band is not for everyone and that choices sometimes have to be made. This is known as withdrawal from the Band Department. Dismissal from the Band Department occurs when the Director of Bands or the Band Staff in general feel that a student is more of a "contaminator" than a "contributor" and that the welfare of the Band is more important than that particular student's continued involvement in Band. Band Directors will make every effort to resolve negative situations before a student is dismissed, but occasionally, dismissal is inevitable for extreme or repetitious cases of poor attitudes, excessive tardiness or absences, abuse of privileges, disrespect, foul language, stealing, damage to an instrument and/or equipment, insubordination, academic deficiency, or any other case that the Band Director feels is necessary for student dismissal. In such cases, dismissal from the band department is at the discretion of the band staff. In case of a student's dismissal, re-admission to the Band Department is not permitted since continued involvement is necessary for proper development of a Band member's skill and talent. However, if a student withdraws and is in good standing with the Band, Band Directors, and the School Principal, that student may apply to the Band Director for re-admission. Students must remain dedicated loyal members of the organization for the continued success of the Band in Cleburne.

### **Ten Commandments of Band Professionalism**

1. Respect and Treat Others as You Would Like to Be Respected and Treated
2. Do the Right Thing
3. To Be Early Is to Be On Time
4. Keep A First Division Band Hall, Attitude, and Example to Others
5. Always Have the Right Tools to Do the Job
6. Get Over It
7. Make It Work
8. Check Your Ego at the Door
9. Know When to Lead; Know When to Follow; Know the Difference
10. Allow Teaching/Learning to Happen and Encourage All Parties Involved



## Performance Expectations

Band is a performance-based class and, therefore, all performances and rehearsals are mandatory and graded. The student's only opportunity to showcase their knowledge, skills, and talent gained through band is through the performance and concert setting. Occasionally, extra rehearsals and performance opportunities are required in order to enhance a student's knowledge and skills. Please mark the dates listed in the band calendar in this handbook on your family calendar. This will ensure that you will not schedule conflicts with a required event. Students and parents must follow proper procedures in order to be excused from any sectional, rehearsal, or performance.

### **Sectionals (^ see page 21)**

Students in the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band will be required to attend weekly sectionals to further their individual growth and development as a musician. Sectionals begin the second week of school and continue through the end of the year, as needed. A detailed "Sectional Calendar" will be posted in the band hall. Weekly assignments will be graded at sectionals. Every effort is made to avoid individual conflicts when scheduling sectionals. School activities, such as athletics, are considered first in making the schedule. There is no guarantee that a student will not have to miss an athletic practice, but conflicts are worked out between the coaching staff and band directors.

### **Rehearsals**

Band directors often use the term "rehearsal" in describing our regular class. Rehearsals are also defined as extra sessions outside of the school day that are required and graded. There are a handful of required rehearsals outside of the school day for members of the Beginning Band; these take place before each major performance. Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band members have some outside rehearsals. These are usually before a major performance such as UIL. Failure to attend any rehearsal can result in not being able to participate in the performance. Students will not be required to attend any extra rehearsals not currently listed on the Calendar in this handbook unless they are given one-week advance notice. Students will be graded on their timeliness, attendance, preparedness and attitude during rehearsals.

### **Pep Rallies and Football Games**

Pep Rallies and Football Games are required performances for all members of the Pep Band. All members of these ensembles, *including athletes and STUCO*, will perform at every Pep Rally unless excused by a band director. Cheerleaders are excused from Pep Rally performances unless they are not cheering. It should also be noted that, by state law, academic eligibility is required for performances at pep rallies. Grades for Pep Rallies and the Football Game are determined by:

- ✓ Uniform – All students may wear their band shirt on the day of a Pep Rally.
- ✓ Set-up and takedown – It is the responsibility of every band student performing at a pep rally to assist in moving equipment to the gym and back to the band hall. Students are expected to conduct themselves professionally as they come into the band hall to get equipment and return it after the event. Chairs and music stands are to be stacked and placed in their appropriate positions in the band hall.
- ✓ Performance – Students are expected to perform the Fight Song and any other tune for each event. The director reserves the right to request a student not perform if they have failed to appropriately prepare. A student's grade would reflect their non-performance.

### **Concerts**

All concerts are required performances; these include the Fall, Winter, Mid-Term, and Spring Concerts and Ensemble Recital. The exception to this would be if a student were academically ineligible at the time of an "Extra-Curricular" performance. Students will not be required to attend any extra performances not currently listed on the Calendar in this handbook unless they are given two-week advance notice. Students will be graded on their:

- ✓ Attire – It is imperative that students dress appropriately for all concerts. Uniformity is a judged aspect of contests and adds professionalism to every concert. Details on appropriate uniform for all band members can be found in this handbook.
- ✓ Attendance and Timeliness – Students must be on time to every performance and attend for the duration as specified by the band director. Students will not be excused from a performance unless they follow proper procedure.
- ✓ Performance – Students are graded on the quality of their performance and consideration is given to the effort they place in preparing for each concert.
- ✓ Etiquette – Students are expected to behave appropriately during a concert whether they are performing or not. Concert Etiquette Rules can be found in this handbook.

### **Invitational Honor Band/All-Region Band and Auditions**

Every fall, band students across the state prepare for the All-Region Band Audition. Members of the Wind Ensemble are required to prepare the music for this audition and Symphonic Band members are encouraged to do the same. Students auditioning for this prestigious honor are expected to honor the commitments attached to it. Students must earn a "Golden Ticket" after completing an Audition through the Invitational Honor Band. Students earning a position in either band are expected to fulfill the obligation by participating in the respective band.

### **Solo Contest**

Solo Contest affords every member of the SMS Band the opportunity to individually prepare a piece of music to perform for a judge. Students are given a rating and critique of their performance. Due to the great educational benefits our students gain in preparing and performing solos, it is a requirement that they all participate.

### **Procedure To Be Excused From a Rehearsal, Sectional or Performance**

It is very important that every member of an ensemble be present for every rehearsal and performance. Similar to any athletic team, a band cannot, and will not, perform to its best level if all the members are not present. However, the directors realize that, from time to time, a student may be unable to attend a rehearsal or performance. Excusable absences include student illness and death in the family. Unforeseeable family emergencies will be excused on a case-by-case basis.

To be excused from a rehearsal, sectional, or performance, parents must notify the band director in writing (email or note) in advance. A minimum of one-week notification should be given for sectionals and rehearsals and two-week notification should be given for performances that will be missed. *Communication is the key to success and the best way to handle attendance difficulties.*

Please remember that since band is a performance class, **ALL PERFORMANCES ARE REQUIRED**. Students missing a performance are subject to a grade reduction, reassignment in the band or instrument section, restriction from band trips, and possible removal from the band program. *Students that are excused from a performance may be asked to complete a make-up assignment to earn credit for the missed performance. Unexcused absences will not be allotted a make-up assignment and may result in demotion or removal from the band program.*

## ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

### **Importance**

Academic performance is the priority of all CISD faculty. Students must achieve high standards in the classroom in order to be successful as they become adults. Because the band staff shares a belief in high academic standards, we consistently monitor the academic achievement of our students. It is not uncommon for a band director to call parents in regard to their child's performance in band as well as other classes. The band staff also encourages parents to monitor their child's academic performance throughout the year by reviewing progress reports, report cards, Skyward, and by contacting your child's teachers.

### **No Pass/No Play**

While band is considered a curricular activity by the Texas Education Agency, there are occasions when a band event may be considered Extra-Curricular and subject to "No Pass/No Play" (NP/NP) rules. Participation in extra-curricular activities requires that a student pass all subjects in the previous grading period. Examples of extra-curricular activities for band include Pep Rallies, Solo Contest, and Trips. Students should understand that their grades have a direct influence on other students as well as themselves. Every individual in the band plays a vital role as a link in our chain, consequently, when a link is missing – the chain breaks. Any one individual has the ability to prevent an entire band from performing to its full potential. It is the goal of the Band Staff for every band member to maintain academic eligibility.

Curricular activities are not subject to (NP/NP) rules. They are treated as an extension of the classroom and are part of the curriculum as set forth by the state. Examples of curricular activities include sectionals, all rehearsals, UIL\*, and Concerts.

\*As of the 2019-2020 school year, participation in UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluation is no longer subject to NP/NP rules.

### **SOUND ADVICE FOR PASSING GRADES**

Each student should develop structure and discipline in their study habits. Here are some common sense ideas to help you maintain good standing in all classes.

1. **PAY ATTENTION:** Do everything you can to try to discover just what it is the teacher is attempting to get across to you. Take notes, follow along in the text, ask pertinent questions, and avoid distractions.
2. **REVIEW DAILY:** Make a habit of reviewing notes on a daily basis to solidify material covered in class. If you do not understand material being taught, make arrangements with the teacher to get one-on-one help.
3. **DO ALL HOMEWORK AND HAND IT IN ON TIME:** The most frequent reason why students fail a class is the failure to turn in assigned work. This is the easiest thing to fix. Do not miss deadlines.
4. **FAILING TO PREPARE IS PREPARING TO FAIL:** Prepare for all tests and projects in a timely manner. In comparison, you wouldn't wait until the night before a major performance or audition to begin practicing. By the same token, you shouldn't wait until the night before a test or project deadline to begin the work.
5. **COURTESY:** Treat all teachers with the same respect that you expect from them. A few simple courtesies will go a long way. Paying attention in class will help your relationship with the teacher. Be careful not to draw negative attention to yourself and follow all classroom rules. Ask for extra help and extra credit work. Make the first move towards this; don't wait.
6. **FOLLOW UP:** If you have a failing grade at the 3 weeks reporting period, make every effort to resolve every grade in question.
7. **COMMUNICATION:** Don't be afraid to ask your teachers about grades in question or when tutorials are held. The teachers are on your side.

## ***Fees, Supplies, Uniforms and Equipment***

### **Student Accounts**

Each member of the Smith Middle School Band has a band student activity account through the Middle School Band office. Governed by the Band Department, CISD, and UIL, this account is used for all student-related purchases and ordering transactions of band materials, instrument repair, and accessories, as well as band trips. Students and parents are responsible for keeping each student account "in the black." According to UIL, money that is earned through band fundraisers cannot be paid directly to the student or parent. Money cannot be transferred from one student to another except where siblings are concerned.

Upon a student's graduation to high school or withdrawal from band, positive account balances will be transferred to the general band activity account to be used for future band membership needs; money cannot be transferred to the Cleburne High School Band. For special needs, payment plans, and account information, contact the band office. Occasionally, the band office will send account statements home to parents for accounting purposes, and the Principal and Counseling Center will be updated on student account balances at the conclusion of semesters.

Checks should be made payable to: *Smith Band*. They should include accurate information: current address, phone number, Driver's License number, and name of student.

### **CHARMS**

The Smith Band Department uses an internet-based program called CHARMS. Charms allows the directors a way to organize student information, equipment, and other information. Along with the director advantages, this program provides parents the opportunity to review their child's student activity account. To access this information:

Go to <http://www.charmsoffice.com/> and click on "Enter" at the top right.

Type "Smithmsband" as the school code under the "Parent/Student" section.

Your initial password is your child's Student ID (lunch code).

You will be asked to change your password upon your first login. You can skip this every time you login. It is important that both student and parents know the password.

After reaching this point, you can view your child's account and other pertinent information. Charms can be reached through the band website.

### **Equipment**

Students are responsible for acquiring and maintaining their own quality instrument. Students using a school-owned instrument are required to pay a yearly usage fee of \$50. Percussionists in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade are required to pay a \$25 yearly usage fee. All students are responsible for the loss, damage, or theft of any instrument in their care.

All band students (with the exception of tubas and some beginning brass) are assigned a locker to store their equipment. Students may choose to secure their items by obtaining a lock for their locker. Only band locks may be used on band lockers. In addition, locks must be used appropriately at all times, or they will be confiscated and a new lock will not be issued. Students wishing to obtain a lock can do so after school.

### **Fundraisers**

The SMS Bands do one or two fundraisers a year. They are not required. However, they can be used to offset the cost of band supplies and trips. The spring fundraiser is used to help raise money for specific band needs rather than individual student fees.

**Supplies**

Students are responsible for having all necessary supplies every day in class. These include their band binder, instrument, pencils, reeds, music, metronome, tuner, and other items. Items that are lost or missing need to be replaced in a timely manner. Failure to have all necessary supplies can negatively affect a student's grade. Many of these items can be purchased through the band office before or after school. Items cannot be purchased during class. Students will be given binders this year. It is their responsibility to maintain them and have them in class. They must replace it if lost or damaged.

**Fees**

Fees this year include instrument usage for percussion and school-owned instruments. Students may purchase a band t-shirt. The cost is to be determined.

**Uniforms (% see page 21)**

The Band t-shirt, along with blue jeans and tennis shoes make up the band's informal uniform. It is the responsibility of all band students to keep their shirt clean and ready for band events. This is the only uniform for the Beginning Band.

~~The Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band will use the band t-shirt as a uniform on occasions such as pep rallies, football games, and band trips. For formal events like concerts and UIL, these students have a more formal uniform. The formal uniform for these ensembles is:~~

- ~~— Band Polo, black dress pants, solid black belt, black dress socks and black dress shoes.~~
- ~~— Athletic footwear and flip-flops are not permitted.~~
- ~~— The polo will be included in your child's band fees. If you have trouble acquiring the other parts of the uniform, please contact a band director immediately.~~

It is very important that students look professional during performances. Therefore, uniforms are part of the grade at all performances. Students lacking any part of their uniform could be asked not to perform by a director and be graded as not performing.

**Instrument Repair**

Students' instruments must be in working condition in order for appropriate band participation. **If there is a problem with your instrument, DO NOT try to fix it on your own. Please inform a band director so that the best solution can be made.** To assist students in repair, they can send an instrument to a repair shop by following this procedure:

- Fill out the Repair Form found on the homepage of the band's website.
- Leave the instrument in the specified area in the band office. Our repairman typically visits once a week.
- When your instrument returns to Smith, your account will appropriately be charged for any work that was done.
- All repair costs are the responsibility of the student. Students using a school-owned instrument must pay a usage fee for these instruments. The usage fee covers the cost of repair for normal usage of an instrument. The usage fee does not cover major repairs due to student negligence.
- Students should communicate with their parents regarding any instrument repair work that must be done.

## Course Objectives

By the end of the school year, each Smith Middle School Band member will be able to:

- Demonstrate proper social development through large group interaction.
- Demonstrate personal and social self-discipline.
- Demonstrate the proper assembly and maintenance techniques of their instrument.
- Demonstrate the proper posture for playing an instrument.
- Demonstrate the proper embouchure for playing his or her specific instrument.
- Demonstrate the correct method of breathing to play a wind instrument.
- Demonstrate the use of proper hand position on his or her specific instrument.
- Demonstrate the ability to produce a good characteristic tone on their specific instrument.
- Identify and demonstrate proper use of various articulation markings.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of rhythms and rhythmic structure.
- Identify and define various musical terminologies.
- Demonstrate an enhancement in discriminatory listening skills.
- Demonstrate the ability to interact responsibly and appropriately within a large group.
- Demonstrate characteristics of good self-discipline as it relates to classroom structure and practice habits.
- Demonstrate the ability to tune his or her specific instrument by use of electronic tuner AND by aural recognition.
- Demonstrate the physical coordination necessary to facilitate technical passages of music.
- Perform a solo.
- Evaluate the quality of a music performance, both live and recorded.

## Grading Procedures

Minor Grades 40%	Major Grades 60%
Grades include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minor Tests (written or playing)</li> <li>- Class Participation/Bandsmanship</li> <li>- Sectional Grades</li> <li>- Practice Reports</li> </ul>	Grades include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Major Tests (written or playing)</li> <li>- Performances</li> </ul> Please note that most performances receive two grades: one for attendance/uniform and the other for performance/etiquette.

### A note on practice reports:

Practice report grades are based on the number of days a student has practiced in one week. Each day of practice is worth 10 points. Extra credit may be earned by practicing more than 5 days (5 points per extra day).

The minimum required length of a day of practice varies depending on the band of membership:

Beginning Band – starts the year at 10 minutes and builds to 25 minutes

Concert Band and Symphonic Band – 25 minutes

Wind Ensemble – 30 minutes

A session will not count if a student has not reached the minimum length.

## Student Leadership

The Smith Band relies on student members for its success. The hard work of band students is what has led to a tradition of great performances. Likewise, the band relies on student leaders to assist the directors in its success. There are a few ways students can assist the directors in leadership roles.

### **Band Aides**

Band Aides are 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students that are taking an additional band period and are appointed by the band directors. When possible, their "band aide" class is scheduled at the same time as the beginning band class that corresponds with the instrument they play. These students assist the directors in many capacities including mentoring younger band students, making copies, filing music, and other duties. Band Aides are capable of making copies and accessing music in the band library. There is a Band Aide commitment form that each of these students must sign.

### **Band Officers**

Each officer is considered a leader and is required to pass all classes all of the time and demonstrate exemplary conduct. The officer positions are Band Representative, Section Leaders, and Band Managers. Any officer that fails to perform their duties in a responsible manner are subject to impeachment and replacement by the band directors.

Band Representative – will be elected by popular vote to represent the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band. They will:

- Check attendance daily and mark it in the attendance binder.
- Assist the directors in developing the highest level of musicianship, spirit and conduct.
- Maintain an orderly band hall.
- Assist the directors, when needed.

Section Leaders – may be appointed by the band directors and will:

- Take attendance of their section.
- Assist the directors in developing the highest level of musicianship, spirit and conduct.
- Ensure all section members have all necessary music, supplies, and equipment.
- Maintain an orderly band hall.

Band Managers – may be appointed by the band directors and will:

- Maintain an orderly band hall.
- Help load and move all equipment and music for all performances.

## Parent Help

The SMS Band is always looking for help from parents in supporting different events and activities. If you believe you will be able to assist us this year, please check one of the appropriate boxes on the "Student Information Form." You will be asked to complete a CISD Criminal History Background Check in order to assist, in most cases. In some cases, the district may require a fingerprint record search through the Texas Department of Public Safety.

# Music Enrichment Program

## **INTRODUCTION**

The CISD Music Enrichment Program (MEP) offers opportunities for students to receive supplemental instruction from a specialist with extensive knowledge of their specific instrument. An emphasis is placed on nurturing the independent thinking and individual performance skills critical to the development of maturing musicians. The focus of instruction is based on acquiring refined levels of technical proficiency and sight-reading in tandem with the attainment of advanced performance techniques and musical interpretation.

The band staff is often asked by parents whether participation in the Music Enrichment Program is appropriate for their child and the answer is a resounding "YES!" You should think of our MEP instructors like "personal trainers." People visit personal trainers for several reasons: to improve their overall health, to build upon on strengths, to focus on weaknesses in need of improvement, and to maintain wellness with a specialist. MEP instructors can do the same in assisting your child. They serve to improve students' overall musical skills, foster their strengths, identify and improve upon weaknesses, and provide continuous, student-specific support. In other words, ALL STUDENTS will benefit from participation in the MEP.

The importance of the music enrichment program cannot be overstated. While participation is not required, it is strongly encouraged. ***The time each week that your child would spend with a specialist on his/her instrument is infinitely more important than the approximate 5 hours the student spends with a band director during class!***

## **SCHEDULE AND LOCATION**

It is recommended that students receive one lesson per week. Lessons will be scheduled before or after school or during the student's band class time on the student's home campus. It is sometimes possible for instructors to coordinate with the band staff to arrange an altered band class and lunch schedule that would allow the student a lesson time during their lunch period.

The student will inform their instructor of all performance and rehearsal requirements for the band, which would result in any interruption of lessons. In some cases, before or after school lessons will be scheduled at Cleburne High School.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Students are expected to make every effort to attend each lesson, and are not to miss school or schedule medical, dental, or other similar appointments on lesson days. Excused absences will be defined as a medical emergency, significant illness, or death in the family. Unexcused absences will be defined as medical appointments, work, oversleeping, or family travel. To avoid any complications, please give MEP Instructors at least 24-hours notice if the student is unable to attend a scheduled lesson. Notification of a student absence less than 24 hours before the lesson or no notification at all will result in an unexcused absence. Excused absences will be rescheduled or credit will be applied towards future lessons. Unexcused absences will **not** be refunded.

The Cleburne ISD MEP Instructors are expected to maintain a consistent teaching schedule. In the event of an instructor's absence, lessons will be rescheduled or credit will be applied towards future lessons. Students, parents, and band staff will receive at least 24-hours notice of an anticipated absence. Notification of an emergency absence will be communicated to students, parents, and band staff as early as possible.



**PAYMENT**

The CISD Music Enrichment Program rate is \$17 per lesson. A lesson is defined as half of the student's band class or, if scheduled before or after school, 30-minutes time. In some instances, 1-hour lessons may be scheduled, for which the instructor will determine an appropriate fee. Cash or checks made payable to the instructor will be accepted.

Please keep in mind that each of our MEP instructors account for the income of lesson payments when establishing their monthly budgets. As such, it is required that the monthly fee be paid in full at the first lesson of the month unless otherwise specified by the instructor. The number of lessons in each month varies, so please coordinate payments with your private instructor. **No lessons will be given if payment is not made in advance.**

**BEGINNING BAND "BUDDY LESSONS"**

Beginning band students in the Smith MS and Wheat MS band programs are eligible to participate in the "buddy lesson" program. Buddy lessons are intended to encourage young students to participate in the music enrichment program in pairs. The rate for a buddy lesson is \$10 per student per lesson, to be paid monthly at the first lesson of month.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

The CISD band staff works to make these available to any student wishing to enroll in the MEP. In some cases, partial scholarships are available for students in need. Please contact your band director for more information.

**ENROLLMENT**

Although strongly recommended, participation in the Music Enrichment Program is strictly optional. Students who do not participate in the MEP will not be penalized in grading, chair placement, or band placement.

To enroll in the MEP, complete the attached form and turn it in to your band director ASAP. Lesson schedules are determined in part on a first come, first served basis. It is expected that, once enrolled, students continue to participate in the MEP through the end of the school year. Termination of lessons by student, private instructor, or band director will be in writing to all three parties.

**QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS**

Questions regarding the assignment of a private instructor should be directed to the band director. Questions concerning the lesson schedule, number of lessons, or payment should be directed to the private instructor.

For information regarding the CISD Band Music Enrichment Program, please contact Brock Feller, MEP Coordinator and CHS Associate Band Director.

Office: 817-202-1229

E-mail: bfeller@c-isd.com

# Miscellaneous

## **Schedule Changes**

As mentioned earlier, all band classes are yearlong courses. Every member is expected to fulfill all requirements of their respective band class, including yearlong enrollment. Schedule changes out of band to alternative courses will not be allowed after the first week of school. However, special consideration may be given at the discretion of the band director or principal.

There are times when a student may need to be placed in a different ensemble other than the one in which they originally obtained membership. The band directors determine such schedule changes with consideration given to the best placement for the student, as well as the needs of the ensemble.

For example, a student that begins the year in Concert Band, but has developed the necessary skills to become a member of the Symphonic Band *may* have their schedule changed as determined by the band directors and the needs of Symphonic Band. Another example of a permissible schedule change might involve a student in the Wind Ensemble who cannot fulfill the requirements of that band. That student might be placed in another band based on the best placement for the student and the needs of the band program.

## **Bus Trips and Behavior**

Transporting a large band from one place to another is not an easy task. It is imperative that students abide by all school and band rules in order to make each trip a pleasant experience for everyone involved. It is very important to maintain a positive image at all times because you not only represent the band, but also the faculty and student body at Smith Middle School. As ambassadors for our school, strive to behave like good ladies and gentlemen at all times. You will never get a second chance to make a good first impression. In general, students will be given guidelines and procedures to follow before any trips are made.

## **Concert Etiquette**

It is our goal to make every performance for our students memorable, enjoyable, and educational. To help us, we would like to share some rules of proper concert etiquette with you so you may prepare your family properly before a concert:

- Please enter the performance *quietly* and *quickly* find a seat.
- Latecomers should *wait* to find a seat at the first convenient pause in the music.
- Please *refrain from talking* during the performance.
- Please *refrain from taking flash photographs* as flashbulbs and the click of shutters distracts the musicians and other audience members. Feel free to take pictures between pieces or before and after the concert.
- Be sure the audible electronic signal on your pager and cell phone is *switched off* during the concert. This is not only embarrassing to you, but is very distracting from an enjoyable performance.
- Audience members who must leave during the concert should only do so during applause.
- If you have a young person with you, please *keep them quiet*. We understand that you are here to listen to the performance. However, it is extremely disturbing to those performing when a baby begins to cry or a child talks.

**Practice Tips**

1. Have a plan. Know what you are going to practice and how long you will spend on each item. Do not just plan one day at a time. Set goals for each week, month, and year. Write those goals down and put them where you will see them often.
2. Avoid distractions. Practice in a quiet place so you can focus. Try not to practice while watching TV or listening to the radio or mp3 player.
3. When and for how long? Practice time should be at least the minimum for your session on your practice card per day, even on weekends. If you are still not tired after your minimum time, push yourself and see how long you can go.

Other suggestions: Always use correct posture – Use a mirror so you can see your embouchure and correct any bad habits quickly – Have your written plan nearby and check off things as you accomplish them – Use a metronome – Do not push yourself too far – When your facial muscles are hurting, do not be afraid to take a short rest before you continue your practice session - your muscles will hurt some because you are building them up, but the more often you practice, the more you will know when it is time to rest.

What to practice? After a good warm-up of long-tones and scales, work challenging passages of your band music, breaking it down into small segments and putting them together into longer pieces as you can play it successfully. DO NOT practice music incorrectly or with an instrument that is not functioning properly. This is worse than not practicing at all! Practicing bad habits teaches bad habits. Additional material for practice time is in fundamental repetition through the playing of scales, arpeggios, and other technical elements that train your eyes, mind, and fingers for good fast muscle memory. Check in the band office for information on approved and appropriate literature for each instrument. Finally, practice practicing! Get into a good habit of playing everyday by playing every day! Professional musicians did not become professional overnight...it takes years to develop musicianship and you never totally "get there." Even professional musicians are constantly working to make their best better.

**Practice Reports and Illness or Absence**

Practice reports are due every Monday. If a student is absent on the day a practice report is due, it is their responsibility to turn it in the next day they are present. Otherwise, the student will not receive credit for practicing.

If a student is too ill to practice, they must mark "Ill" on the practice report for the day they did not practice. This will help ensure that the band directors do not penalize a student for being sick.

**Special Note Concerning Orthodontia**

Many students during the course of middle school need to get braces or have other orthodontic work done. For many instruments, and to varying degrees, braces can impede playing ability. It can be a frustrating time for the student. If your child is going to get braces, please speak to a director first so that we can properly address the issue with them.

Because orthodontia affects playing ability for many students, please try to schedule appointments so that they do not create conflicts with performances. For example, DO NOT get the braces put on or taken off for at least TWO WEEKS before a concert. DO NOT get braces tightened for at least TWO DAYS before a concert. Your attention to our schedule will ensure that your child is able to perform to the best of their ability on those important days.

**Instrument Protection and Insurance**

All students are assigned an instrument locker (except tubas, some beginning brass, and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade percussion) to keep their instrument during the school day. Students are expected to place their instrument in their locker before school and take it home after school everyday. Students wishing for more security may request a band issued lock for their locker. Only band issued locks may be used on an instrument locker (no personal locks are allowed). Locks should be secured at all times unless a student is taking out or putting away their instrument.

It is highly recommended that all students add their personal instrument to their homeowner's or renter's insurance policy. Most insurance companies will allow music instruments to be added to policies to cover theft, major damage, or loss. Please check with your insurance agent for specific details. It is also recommended that you keep a picture, along with a record of the instrument's serial number, with other pertinent family information.

There are specific insurance companies that deal with musical instruments. They typically offers services for protection against theft, major damage, and loss of a musical instrument. Two such companies are Clarion ([www.clarionins.com](http://www.clarionins.com)) and the Anderson Group ([www.anderson-group.com](http://www.anderson-group.com)). Please note that CISD has no connection with either company.

**Chromebooks and Other Devices**

Students are only allowed to use electronic devices when directors grant permission. Otherwise, they should be off and invisible. Chromebooks will be used on occasion for projects.

Warnings will not be given. If a student is using a device inappropriately or at prohibited times, the device will be confiscated. Use of a mobile device applies to sectionals and after school rehearsals, too; devices can only be used when permission is given.

**A Note on the Use of Cell Phones and other Electronic Devices**

The band staff understands the importance of students keeping parents informed about where they are at all times. This should be done prior to a student attending a before- or after-school rehearsal or sectional. Students using cell phones to make or receive calls or text messages interrupts the learning of others. Students using a cell phone during before- or after-school rehearsals and sectionals will have their phone confiscated in the same manner as if it happened during the school day. Again, it is the student's responsibility to communicate with their parents/ride the start and end times of rehearsals and sectionals prior to attending them.

In addition, band directors reserve the right to not allow cell phones and other electronic devices when the band travels.

**Beginning Band Semester Check**

In December, each member of the Beginning Band will complete a simple assessment on items they have learned. The purpose of the assessment is to ensure that students are on track for success in the second semester. Students that show significant deficits of learning will be asked to change their schedule to a new elective for the upcoming semester.

# Special for 2020-2021

**Due to the circumstances of this year, there are a few unique things:**

**\*Band Member Expectations:**

- Students are expected to wear masks at all times when not playing instruments.
- Students should use hand sanitizer upon entering the band hall.
- Students should remain in their designated chair/area while in class.

**^ Performance Expectations:**

Open Practice Sessions (OPS)

In lieu of sectionals for this year, we will be holding **required/graded OPS for all Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble students**. OPS are available on Tuesday and Thursday in the morning (7:00-7:45) and afternoon (4:00-5:00). Students must attend one of these each week (they may attend as many as they like, but are required to attend one). With the flexibility in choosing when to attend, students can select a day/time that has no conflict with their athletic schedule.

**% Uniform:**


The uniform for this year will be the band t-shirt and jeans. The cost of the short is to be determined.

For any formal concerts this year, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will dress in "Sunday Best." The minimum definition of "Sunday Best" is:

- Your best top that is not a t-shirt, jersey, or hoodie (a nice polo, button down shirt, or shirt with a collar is appropriate).
- Your best bottoms that are not shorts or jeans/pants with holes (khakis or solid colored pants are best).
- Your best pair of shoes that are not open-toe or have holes.

# Smith Middle School Band

## 2020-2021 Calendar

<b>August</b>	31 – First Day of School
<b>September</b>	7 – Labor Day/School Holiday 14 – OPS begins for 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> graders 21 – Beginning Band Parent Zoom Meeting at 6:00pm 21 – 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band Parent Zoom Meeting at 7:00pm
<b>October</b>	5 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> 6 weeks begins 8 & 9 – Parent Conferences 12 – Columbus Day/School Holiday TBD – Fall Concert/Presentation (WE/SB)
<b>November</b>	9 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> 6 weeks begins 23-27 – Thanksgiving Holidays
<b>December</b>	12 – Beginning Band Recitals (during class) 18 – Last day of Semester/Early Release TBD – All Region Auditions (these will be held virtually; students will record) TBD – SMS Winter Concert/Presentation (WE/SB)
<b>January</b>	5 – 4 <sup>th</sup> 6 Weeks Begins 18 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day/School Holiday
<b>February</b>	15 – 5 <sup>th</sup> 6 weeks begins 18 & 19 – Parent Conferences
<b>March</b>	10-11 – UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest at Cleburne HS  15-19 – Spring Break
<b>April</b>	2 – Good Friday/School Holiday 12 – 6 <sup>th</sup> 6 weeks begins
<b>May</b>	28 – Last Day of School/Early Release

 indicates academic eligibility is required for participation.

All dates are tentative and subject to change or cancellation. Please try your best to work out any conflicts with any of the above dates in advance.

*The success of our band program is directly proportional to your level of commitment. We appreciate all you do to make the Smith Band program a quality organization and a wonderful place to be.*

With many uncertainties for this year, we will notify parents and students of any major performances or events to be added with at least 2 weeks' notice.