

Houston Middle Band Policies and Information

This year promises to be a rewarding year for the HMS Band Program and I am glad that you have chosen to be part of it. There are four classes of 6th grade meeting three times a week, three classes of 7th grade meeting three times a week, as well as two classes for 8th grade meeting three times a week. Many talented students are enrolled in these classes and I am looking forward to a successful year!

MATERIALS NEEDED

REED PLAYERS: These students will need to have a working instrument suitable for a school music program. The students are responsible to have three good reeds at all times. **Please Replace Broken or Worn Reeds.** Students will also need a reed guard, cork grease and swab for drying the instrument.

BRASS PLAYERS: These students will need to have a working instrument suitable for a school music program. Students will need valve oil or slide oil and a mouth piece brush.

PERCUSSION PLAYERS: Each percussionist shall provide their own snare drum, bell kit, practice pad, a pair of snare drum sticks, and a pair of rubber mallets. A stick bag is recommended.

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS: Those students using school-owned instruments should purchase their own mouthpiece.

**HMS OR HMS BAND BOOSTERS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR
LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS.**

BAND WEBPAGE <http://www.mustangmusic.org>

This website has all letters, calendars, and forms that are sent home throughout the year. Additionally, this site has the All-West and Honor Band audition music. Please check it regularly.

BAND FEE AND FUND RAISER

There will be a band fee of \$50. This covers the band shirt, the method book, and all of the registration fees that occur during the course of a school year. All students will receive a newly designed band shirt this year and thus everyone is responsible for the \$50. This fee only covers standard operational costs. Make all checks payable to HMS Band Boosters. The deadline for band fees is **Friday, August 21**. This does not take the place of your fund raiser. There will be a one time fund raiser of a tax deductible donation. You will receive information regarding this at a later date. **There is no door to door selling.**

CONCERTS

There are two concerts for this school year, both being held at Germantown Performing Arts Centre. The dates for the concerts are as follows:

DECEMBER 14, 6:00 P.M. WINTER CONCERT
MAY 17, 6:00 P.M. SPRING CONCERT

MANDATORY AFTER-SCHOOL PRACTICES

In order to prepare for our concerts, there are two mandatory practices that students must attend and will receive a grade. The dates are as follows:

8th Grade: December 7, 2009 and May 10, 2010
7th Grade: December 8, 2009 and May 11, 2010
6th Grade: December 10, 2009 and May 13, 2010

MARCHING BAND, DRUMLINE, HONOR BAND, AND JAZZ BAND

Marching Band will be in the fall semester, while Honor Band and Jazz Band will be in the spring semester. Marching Band is open to all students who can perform at a level equal to at least one year's progress. This is determined by the director. It is encouraged that all 7th and 8th grade students participate in Marching Band. This group is open to 6th grade students that have at least one year's experience on their instrument with an audition. Drumline is part of Marching Band and will have additional rehearsals. Drumline is audition based.

Both Honor Band and Jazz Band are open to all students based on auditions held in December. All of the rehearsals for these groups will be held after school from 2:00 until 3:30. Most of the rehearsals will be on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. These days are subject to change. All students that participate will receive a calendar of the rehearsals.

BAND RULES AND PARTICIPATION CRITERIA

- RULE #1** **Arrive to class on time and with all necessary materials.** You must be seated and ready with all equipment when the teacher begins instruction.
- RULE #2** **Keep hands, feet, and objects to self.** Avoid unnecessary talking or playing without permission. Be attentive during rehearsal.
- RULE #3** **Follow directions first time give.** Books, notes and other class work must be set aside.
- RULE #4** **Treat peer and staff with respect.** Take care of all school and personal property. Do not chew gum or eat snacks in the band room. Keep your area neat.

Consequences:

1. Verbal Warning
2. Conduct mark issued
3. Student/Teacher Conference
4. Parent Call
5. Detention
6. Disciplinary Referral (severe clause)

Positive Consequences:

1. Verbal Praise
2. Letters Home
3. Parent Call

Conduct: **E**-No conduct marks
 S-One conduct marks
 N-Two conduct marks
 U-Three or more conduct marks

These marks accumulate throughout each 9 weeks.

BAND GRADES

Band grades will be based on individual playing tests and written quizzes. The remaining portion of the grade is derived from class participation, practice records, and performances. Separate conduct grades will be issued.

AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM A PERFORMANCE WILL RESULT IN THE GRADE BEING LOWERED TWO LETTER GRADES. Absence will only be excused if the absence is due to illness, death in the family, or any other reason approved by Mr. Turner, prior to the concert. Only written excuses from a parent will be accepted.

Practice records: Students are required to keep a daily practice record signed weekly by a parent or guardian. Failure to have the Practice Record signed will result in the grade lowered one letter. Practice records will be checked weekly.

Weekly Practice Times
A - 60 or more minutes/week
B - 50 minutes/week
C - 40 minutes/week
D - 30 minutes/week
F - less than 30 minutes/week

Practice time may include any practice on the band instrument. (band music and private lesson music) Practice time does not include instructional time with Mr. Turner. Practice time is exclusive to the instrument the student performs in band class (piano lessons do not count to practice time for this grade).