

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 three classes of 6th grade meeting three times a week, two 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 mouthpiece brush.

PERCUSSION PLAYERS: Each percussionist shall provide their own snare drum, bell kit, practice pad, a pair of snare drum sticks (5B), and a pair of rubber mallets (example - Vic Firth M131). 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 FUNDRAISER

There will be a band fee of \$50 for new students or those who need a new band shirt. This covers the band shirt, the method book, and all of the registration fees that occur during the course of a school year. Returning students, or those who already have the current band shirt have a band fee of \$30. Make all checks payable to HMS Band Boosters. The deadline for band fees is **Friday, August 19**. This does not take the place of your fundraiser. There will be a one-time fundraiser of a tax-deductible donation. You will receive information regarding this at a later date.

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 15, 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:

7th Grade: December 12, 2011 and May 10, 2012

6th Grade: December 13, 2011 and May 14, 2012

HELP SESSIONS AND STUDENT ENSEMBLES

Help sessions are designed to allow all students the opportunity to receive extra help after school. From beginners to advanced students, all will be able to work independently, collaboratively, or with director's assistance on music and skills they wish to improve. During the help session, student can also form small ensembles (woodwind choirs, brass ensembles, etc.) with director's assistance. Help sessions will begin at the end of August and run through October. Time spent in help sessions or student ensembles **will** count toward practice records.

HONOR BAND, AND JAZZ BAND

Both Honor Band and Jazz Band are open to all students based on auditions. Jazz Band auditions will be held in October and Honor Band auditions will be held in November. The rehearsals for these groups will be held after school from 2:00 until 3:30 and most 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 given.** Books, notes and other class work must be set aside.
- RULE #4** **Treat peers 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
3. Conduct & Parent Notification
4. Conduct mark & Detention
5. Conduct mark & Parent conference
6. Conduct mark & Office referral

*Severe behavior results in immediate referral to office. *

Positive Consequences:

1. Verbal praise
2. Letters home / e-mails
3. Phone call to parent
4. Teacher choice

Conduct: **E** - 0 - 1 conduct marks
 S - 2 - 4 conduct marks
 N - 5 - 6 conduct marks
 U - 7 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, with the exception of the after school help sessions in the fall. Practice time is exclusive to the instrument the student performs in band class (for example, piano lessons do not count as practice time for the practice record).