



Handbook

2023-2024

Donna Shepard Leadership Academy Band Directors

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Welcome to the Donna Shepard Leadership Academy Mustang Band!

It is with pride and enthusiasm that we introduce the band program to you. We are excited that you have chosen to be a part of this excellent organization that culminates in the award winning Legacy High School Band Program! As a member of the DSLA Band, you represent an outstanding school, and an outstanding band program with high standards of excellence. We look forward to you being a part of the band as we start and carry on its great traditions!

As you sign the form at the end of this handbook, you will be making a commitment that includes:

- ❖ Being a member of the band for the entire school year.
- ❖ Giving your best effort to improve as a musician.
- ❖ Maintaining a progressive, positive attitude toward band and school throughout the year.
- ❖ Attending both curricular performances in December and May

We do not expect every band member to be a virtuoso player and performer, but what we do expect is for all members to give it their 100% effort - every time, all the time!

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- ❖ To instill an individual desire to succeed.
- ❖ To promote cooperation and teamwork.
- ❖ To express the aesthetic value of music through performance skills and theory comprehension.
- ❖ To academically fulfill the state and district requirements for fine arts in the school curriculum.
- ❖ To develop socially through large group interaction.
- ❖ To develop personal and social self discipline.
- ❖ Demonstrate correct posture while playing an instrument.
- ❖ Demonstrate correct embouchure while playing a wind instrument.
- ❖ Demonstrate correct hand and stick position while playing a percussion instrument.
- ❖ To be able to produce a characteristic tone on your instrument.
- ❖ To understand and demonstrate the various articulation markings, such as slurring and tonguing.
- ❖ To be able to clap and count various rhythms that include whole, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, dotted $\frac{1}{4}$, 8th, dotted 8th, 16th, and triplet figures.
- ❖ Develop technical motor skills such as tapping your foot to the beat and clapping rhythms at different tempos.
- ❖ Develop listening skills including intonation.
- ❖ Demonstrate correct knowledge of musical terminology.
- ❖ Develop listening skills within small and large ensembles of like and different instrumentation.
- ❖ To develop technical and musical skills adequate for advancement to the 7th grade level in the Jobe Maverick middle school band program.

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

All Students in the DSLA Band will follow the following behavioral expectations during class and during, before, or after school rehearsals:

- ❖ Students may do nothing to interfere with the teaching or learning in the classroom.
- ❖ Students are to demonstrate respect for themselves, others, and all property at all times.
- ❖ Students are to enter the room on time and are to be prepared to remain in the room at the beginning of class.
- ❖ Students may only handle their own instruments. Leave no instruments unattended.
- ❖ Food, drink, candy, and gum are not permitted in any of the band rehearsal or practice rooms.
- ❖ Students are to keep the rehearsal rooms neat and tidy.
- ❖ Running and/or horseplay are not permitted at any time.

CLASS SCHEDULE

1 st Period	8:30 – 9:15am	DSLA Beginning Trombone – McConnell DSLA Beginning Euphonium/Tuba – Thomas DSLA Beginning Flute – Tschoerner
2 nd Period	9:18 – 10:03am	DSLA Beginning Double Reeds – McConnell DSLA Beginning Clarinet – Tschoerner/Thomas DSLA Beginning Percussion - Vasquez
3 rd Period	10:06 – 10:51am	DSLA Beginning Horn – McConnell DSLA Beginning Saxophone – Tschoerner DSLA Beginning Trumpet - Thomas
4 th Period	10:55 – 12:29pm	Travel/Conference/Lunch
Advisory	12:33 - 12:59pm	Jobe MS Advisory - McConnell/Montoya/Thomas
5 th Period	1:03 – 1:48pm	Jobe MS Honors Band – McConnell (Percussion - Vasquez)
6 th Period	1:52 – 2:37pm	Jobe MS Symphonic Band – Thomas/Tschoerner (Percussion - Vasquez)
7 th Period	2:41 – 3:26pm	Jobe MS Concert Band – Thomas Jobe MS Beginning Band - McConnell/Tschoerner
8 th Period	3:30 – 4:15pm	Team Planning – McConnell/Thomas/Tschoerner

CALENDAR

Winter Concert - 12/12 and approximate rehearsals are either 12/4 or 12/7

Solo Contest - 5/6 - Students are required to participate in the beginner solo competition during the spring semester. Students will be offered assistance in music selection and preparation. This is a district wide contest.

Spring Concert – 5/16 – approximate rehearsals 5/11 and 5/15

Dates and times subject to change based on Fine Arts approval and venue availability

ATTENDANCE AND CONFLICTS

Attendance at outside of the day rehearsals and performances is required and do receive a grade. Rehearsals and performances are curricular and absences will only be excused for the following reasons:

1. Illness (excused absence from school on the day of the event -- or a doctor's note)
2. Death/Emergency in the immediate family
3. Religious holiday observation

Please contact a band director for ANY conflict.

BAND EQUIPMENT

1. **Instruments** - Your instrument is extremely valuable, and proper care should be taken to maintain its value. Should your instrument need any repairs, you must always check with the director before taking it to the music/repair shop. Never try to repair the instrument by yourself, as you do not have the proper tools or training required. All instruments must have a permanent name tag. No one should play or handle an instrument that does not belong to them.
2. **School Owned Instruments** - Students who play school owned instruments should take the same care as they would their own instrument. These students are required to pay a yearly maintenance fee of \$70.00 to clean and sanitize the instrument at the end of the school year. This fee is nonrefundable. Before school owned instruments are checked out, the fee must be paid, unless other arrangements have been made. This fee does not cover damage by misuse or "accidents". Students using school owned brass instruments (french horn, euphonium, and tuba) would also be required to purchase a mouthpiece and those using a woodwind instrument (oboe or bassoon) will be required to buy reeds. The student must inform the director of any repairs needed immediately! Do not take an instrument that needs repair without discussing it first with your band director.

IMPORTANT! Students are responsible for any loss or damage through neglect or misuse of school-owned property. School instruments are issued to students with the understanding that the instrument will be returned to the school in the same condition in which it was issued. Periodic inspections of school equipment will be made throughout the year to ensure proper care and operation. There will be a charge to repair any damage to a school-owned instrument.

3. Instrument Storage – Students will be assigned an instrument locker in the band hall to keep their instrument during the day. Do not leave or store your instrument in hallways, classrooms, or lockers. The instrument locker is for instruments only. No instruments should be left in lockers overnight or on the weekends. The band directors and school district are not responsible for equipment or instruments left in the slots at any time. Students may use a personal lock if desired but the combination must be given to the directors.

4. Band Hall and Practice Rooms - In order to keep our facilities nice and clean. No gum, candy, food or drink will be allowed in practice rooms or in the Band Hall. Water will be allowed during rehearsals. Some of the practice rooms will be available for before and after school practice. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the practice rooms to fulfill their practice requirements! Non-band students are not allowed in the band hall.

GRADING POLICY

Band is a curricular course. As such, students will be graded on all activities pertaining to the established curriculum for the course in which they are enrolled. Grades in band are calculated on a 100-point scale. A grade of 70 or higher is required to pass each six-weeks grading period. Grades are calculated in the following manner:

Major Grades (20%)

Class Playing Assignments
Written Exams

Performance Grades(30%)

Individual/Group
Performances

Daily Grades (50%)

Written assignments
Daily Class Assessments
Prepared with materials

*Campus grading policies apply for missing or late work.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Donna Shepard Band students are encouraged to take private lessons to enhance their music education. The best way to ensure the success of your band student is to have them enroll in private lessons. Private lessons are specially tailored to fit the specific needs of each and every student, and are administered by professionals on their instrument. We cannot stress enough the importance of these lessons, and we would love every student to be enrolled.

The students who take private lessons will excel to a higher ability level. We have seen that the abilities of our best and most successful band students have been due to their participation in the private lesson program.

If you are interested in signing your child up for lessons, please indicate it on the contract page

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

Informal Concert Attire (all band students)

- Band shirt
- Jeans
- Athletic or street shoes (no flip-flops)

Formal Concert Attire - for the winter concert

- All black clothing, socks, shoes

SPECIAL TRIP

One of the highlights of our program is the opportunity to participate in a special trip at or near the end of the school year.

Beginning band students will have the opportunity to travel to and compete in a special band festival. Students must meet the following criteria to be eligible for the special festival trip:

- Pass off music assignments required for participation
- Attend all scheduled Festival Band rehearsals, exceptions for excused absences (illness, etc.) See attendance policy on page 6.
- Receive no office referrals in band all year.
- Spend no days in ISS all year.
- Maintain a positive attitude.

All band students will have the opportunity to spend a day at a water park at the end of the school year providing the following conditions are met:

- The student has no unexcused absences from any performance.
- The student has not missed any rehearsals due to placement in ISS.
- The student has received no office referrals in band.
- The student maintained a positive, cooperative attitude throughout the year.

RECOMMENDED INSTRUMENTS AND ACCESSORIES

Personal Instruments: With all personal instruments, it is strongly recommended that the instrument be insured through your homeowner's policy or private company.

School Owned Instruments: MISD furnishes the following instruments for students use: Oboe, Bassoon, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba, and all Concert Percussion instruments – THIS DOES NOT include practice pads/sticks/mallets. MISD will assess an annual required District Instrument Maintenance fee of \$70 for school owned wind and percussion. Students & Parents will sign a contract regarding the condition and repair of the school owned instrument annually.

FLUTE

Yamaha 261, 262, **or** 361 *with* Offset G
Cleaning/Tuning Rod
Silk cloth/Handkerchief

CLARINET

Buffet Crampon E11 Bb Clarinet
Vandoren M30 **or** M13 Mouthpiece
Bonade Bb Clar. Inverted Ligature (metal)
Vandoren #3 reeds (blue box)
Silk Clarinet Swab
Reed Guard (4 slot minimum)

OBOE/BASSOON (\$70 YEARLY MISD FEE)

School Provides Instrument
Reed Case (3 slot minimum)
Silk Cleaning Swab
3 Reeds <https://www.wildflowerreeds.com/shop>
(oboe)
3 Reeds
<https://bocalmajoritystore.com/reed-subscriptions/>
(bassoon)

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Yamaha YAS 23 Alto Saxophone
Vandoren AL 3 Optimum Mouthpiece Bonade
Alto Sax Inverted Ligature (metal)
Vandoren #3 reeds (blue box)
Neotech or Padded Neck Strap
Reed guard (4 slot minimum)
Silk Swab

TRUMPET

Yamaha 2335 **or** Yamaha 4335 Trumpet
Bach 5C Mouthpiece
Al Cass Valve Oil
Mouthpiece Brush
Polishing Cloth

FRENCH HORN (\$70 YEARLY MISD FEE)

School provided instrument
Schilke 31 mouthpiece
Monster Oil Synthetic Lite Rotor Oil
Mouthpiece brush
Polishing Cloth

TROMBONE

King 606 or Yamaha YSL 356 **or**
King 3BF Legend Series (trigger)
Schilke 51D Mouthpiece
Slide-o-Mix - single black topped bottle only
Mouthpiece brush
Small Spray Water Bottle
Polishing Cloth

EUPHONIUM (\$70 YEARLY MISD FEE)

School provided instrument
Schilke 51D Mouthpiece
Al Cass Valve Oil
Mouthpiece brush
Polishing cloth

TUBA (\$70 YEARLY MISD FEE)

School provided instrument
Conn-Helleberg 7B Mouthpiece
Al Cass Valve Oil
Mouthpiece brush
Polishing cloth

PERCUSSION

Vater Chop Builder 12 inch Double Sided **or**
Off World 12" Practice Pad
Snare Height Practice Pad Stand w Basket Standard
Vic Firth SD1 General Snare Drum Sticks
Vic Firth M123 Marimba Mallets (1 pair)
Lone Star Jumbo Percussion Mallet Bag