



2008-09 Handbook
6th Grade Instrumental Music

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WELCOME 6TH GRADE BAND MEMBERS

Attention Parents and 6th Grade Band Members:

Welcome to the Heritage Middle School Band! Our goal is to make your child's band opportunity one of the most educational, meaningful, musical, enjoyable, and rewarding experiences while at HMS! This is the official handbook for the Band Class. It is very important to read all of the major sections of the handbook and bring forth any questions or concerns as soon as possible. Please review all sections of information **with your child at home**.

Recent studies point out how music performance classes can "make one smarter, sharper, and an all around better student." This is due to the self-discipline encountered daily: **Practice and problem solving, Concentration, Dedication, Organization, Responsibility, and Teamwork**. Parent interest, support, and daily encouragement are also needed if a child is to succeed in the above. What is MOST important from the beginning is a steady, **consistent practice time be established** at home - much as you would for your child's homework. (example: after dinner, before dinner, from 7:00-7:20 p.m., half hour before bed, etc...) Like homework, a **routine increases the chance for success**.

When you have read through the entire handbook, parents and students should fill out the **Band Information Form and return it to school with your band fee by Sept. 1st**. Please keep the booklet at home for future reference should any questions arise during the year. Additionally, feel free to contact us via email at school. We will do all we can to respond as soon as is possible.

This is a very exciting time and we are looking forward to a wonderful new school year!

Larry Dickens, larryd@wcs.edu

King King, kevink1@wcs.edu



PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATIONS

One of the first opportunities to meet during the new school year will be **OPEN HOUSE** on **August 24th**.

Informational letters, invitations, reminder letters for upcoming activities, etc. will also be given to your child to take home from time to time. Effective communication is essential for success! Feel free to periodically check the school web-site for any announcements concerning band. The web address for the HMS Band is www.wcs.edu/hms/band.htm

THE BAND SCHEDULE

6th grade band class meets every day during the first 9 weeks. The remainder of the year the 6th grade band will meet only 3 days a week. This will allow band students to participate in other related arts classes. Such a schedule will place a greater emphasis on at-home practice.

All rehearsing will be done exclusively during the school day. The only *after* school commitments in 6th grade band are the winter and spring concerts. **There will be NO rehearsals scheduled outside of school hours.**

BAND ROOM DAILY RULES & REHEARSAL CONDUCT

1. Sit in your assigned row and seat
2. Play **ONLY** when **DIRECTED** (always stop on cutoff cues)
3. Want to speak? Please raise your hand
4. **NO CHEWING GUM**, food, or open drink containers.
5. Be respectful of other students
6. Respect school property and personal belongings
7. Give 100 percent in class

Proper rehearsal conduct is defined by the following statement:

“all things each individual does during each moment that contributes to a smooth rehearsal.

DAILY PREPARATION FOR BAND CLASS

The following is the typical expected checklist when reporting to band class each day:

- 1) Band Instrument and supplies inside the case (extra reeds, cork grease, blue juice, slide oil, etc..)
- 2) Music Folder (provided by Music and Arts, Inc.)
- 3) a pencil with an eraser
- 4) any handouts, worksheets, or sheet music

A classroom set of method books will stay in the band room for classroom use only.

GRADING

A student's grade in band class is comprised of three types of grades:

- 1) **Participation & Preparedness**
- 2) **Written assignments & Quizzes**
- 3) **Performance tests**

The main goal of the grades is to provide you and your student proper feedback to better determine if the amount of practice at home should be adjusted.

INSTRUMENT CARE AND MAINTENANCE

It is the responsibility of the student to keep his/her instrument in proper working condition. Proper assembly and maintenance of the instrument can prevent damage and loss of instructional time. Throughout the year the instructors will demonstrate proper methods for keeping the instruments in working condition.

Most importantly, do not let another student hold/play your instrument, and do not ask to hold/play another student's instrument. The sharing of instruments is not allowed in order to prevent hurt feelings from accidental damage. **NO ONE TOUCHES A PERCUSSION INSTRUMENT EXCEPT PERCUSSIONISTS!!!!** This is not intended to be disrespectful in any way. For some reason everyone thinks of the school owned percussion equipment as their own.

Lastly, if you purchase/rent an instrument there are four things to remember:

- 1 – keep a name tag on the outside of the case with the student's name and phone number
- 2 - send the make, model, and serial number to your home-owner's insurance
(*your personal instrument is not covered by Williamson County Schools insurance*)
- 3 – keep the make, model, and serial number in a safe place at home
- 4 – soft instrument cases are cool but not very protective (maybe later)

BAND FEE

This year the 6th grade band fee is \$35. **This fee along with your band information sheet is due by Sept. 1.** Not only does this fee provide the monies to operate the band program, it also prevents the need for a fundraiser. In addition to music and various supplies needed for the band class, each student will receive a band shirt at the beginning of the year.

SMART MUSIC

SmartMusic is a software program that the students will use at home to practice and take assessments. SmartMusic requires a yearly subscription of \$25.50.

Instructions for downloading SmartMusic are available on the band website at www.wcs.edu/hms/band.htm

DO NOT PURCHASE YOUR SMART MUSIC SUBSCRIPTION UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY THE BAND DIRECTORS.

CONCERT DRESS CODE AND ETTIQUETTE

In order to prevent additional costs, the required dress for concerts is . . .

SOMETHING NICE . . . NO JEANS!

We ask all band students to stay for the entire concert. It is good for the 6th grade band to hear a live performance of another band. It is equally as good for the 7th and 8th grade to remember where they once were and how far they have come. We will have lessons in proper concert behavior and etiquette. It is up to you(the student) to behave correctly when you are not performing.

6th GRADE BAND CALENDAR

OPEN HOUSE	Monday, August 24th
BAND FEE DUE	Tuesday, September 1st
WINTER CONCERT	Thursday, December 3rd at 7:00 pm
SPRING CONCERT	Thursday, May 6th at 7:00 pm

BAND INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

STUDENT NAME _____ **Grade** _____

Home Phone number _____

Home Address _____

PARENTS' NAMES OR legal guardians: (please use your first AND last names below)

Mr. _____ **work/cell phone** _____

Mrs. _____ **work/cell phone** _____

PARENT'S E-MAIL ADDRESS

“We have gone over all information in this handbook packet and agree to all requirements, procedures, and expectations of the class.”

SIGNED: STUDENT _____

PARENT _____

Date of Signatures _____