

J.T. Hutchinson
Middle School Band
Handbook 2017-2018



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Band Philosophy

The instrumental music program in our middle schools is the first phase of a seven-year program of instruction. It is our hope that participation in the band program will foster better understanding and appreciation of music and help students carry with them the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will help them throughout their academic career.

While it is the individual student's achievement in music that is our primary goal, it is the commitment of all band members to each other that has allowed our program to achieve its unique position.

By signing the forms at the end of this handbook, you will be making a commitment that includes the following:

1. You will be a member of the band for the entire school year.
2. You will give your best effort to improve as a musician.
3. You will maintain a progressive, positive attitude toward band and school throughout the year.

Performances

Attendance is expected at all performances and all pre-scheduled rehearsals. ***Concerts are extensions of the classroom and are the highlights of the learning process.*** Please check the band calendar for the dates of the concerts and combined rehearsals. ***Routine doctor appointments should not be scheduled during band rehearsals or performances. Please check the band calendar and plan accordingly.***

We believe a Performance represents a "Unit Test" much in the same way a unit is tested in every other class. This test covers many chapters, lessons, ideas, and concepts a student must master in order to be proficient on his/her instrument.

Individual Competitions

The ultimate goal of our program is the development of the individual musician to the limit of his or her potential. To assist in reaching this goal, we strongly recommend and for some, require participation in the individual competitions and festivals offered during the school year.

All-Region tryouts involve the finest students from schools in our region. The music is announced in August and the tryouts are in November. These tryouts will be mandatory to maintain membership in the Honors Band and is strongly encouraged for members of the Concert Band. Band Solo and Ensemble takes place in May. This event will result in noncompetitive ratings and medals.

Supplies

Each band class will receive a detailed list of required materials and supplies at the beginning of the year. These supplies should be obtained by August 24th for Honors and Concert Band members and August 29th for Beginner Band Members.

These supplies are vital to the success of each student and will help tremendously with day to day organization.

Fees

1. Members using school owned instruments, including percussionists, will be assessed a one-time rental fee of \$20.
2. All members will pay a one-time activity/supply fee of \$35. This fee helps to provide music and other necessary supplies throughout the course of the year.

Band Classes

All members of the Band Program are assigned by audition to a band class that meets as an academic class. Auditions are held at the end of each school year. Students may be re-evaluated again at the end of the Fall Semester. Balanced instrumentation within each band is an integral part of the selection process. Private lessons are highly encouraged for each student in the J.T. Hutchinson Band Program.

Concert Band

The Concert Band is an intermediate performing group with preparation for the Honors Band and high school band program is the primary objective. Students will perform at concerts and contests throughout the school year. Students will also have the opportunity to perform at the solo and ensemble contests provided they have met the eligibility requirements. Instrumentation is limited to those who show advanced performance abilities and superior attitudes.

Uniform: JT Hutchinson Band Shirt (will be ordered through the school)
Black Socks and Black Shoes
Solid black Dress Pants (provided)
White Button-Up Dress Shirt (provided)
Tie (provided)
Green Band Jacket (provided)
Black Formal Dress (provided for female members)
Textbook: 1" Black Notebook and 5 Dividers (Information, Warm Up, Scales, Music, Tools)

Honors Band

The Honors Band is an advanced performing group with preparation for the high school band program as a primary objective. Students will perform at concerts and contests throughout the school year. Students will also have the opportunity to perform at the solo and ensemble contests provided they have met the eligibility requirements. Instrumentation is limited to those who show advanced performance abilities and superior attitudes. Members are selected by audition.

Uniform: JT Hutchinson Band Shirt (will be ordered through the school)
Solid Black Socks and Shoes
Solid Black Dress Pants (provided)
White Button-Up Dress Shirt (provided)
Bow tie (provided)
Green Band Jacket (provided)
Black Formal Dress (provided for female members)
Textbook: 1" Back Binder and 5 Dividers (Information, Warm Up, Scales, Music, Tools)

Beginning Band

The Beginning Band is a performing group focused on providing students with the skills necessary to continue on to the Concert Band, or Honors Band. Students will have the opportunity to perform at the solo and ensemble contest provided they meet eligibility requirements. There is no prior experience required for this group.

Uniform: JT Hutchinson Band Shirt (will be ordered through the school)
Blue Jeans (not shorts)
Textbook: Assigned Instrument Specific Book and 5-Minute Theory Book 1
1" Black Notebook and Dividers

Instrumental Ensemble

Instrumental Ensemble is a non-performing ensemble that allows students time for individual practice and work with chamber ensembles. Weekly personal practice plans will be required of each student enrolled in this course.

Uniform (details)

The following must be provided as the uniform for all Beginning Band, Concert Band, and Honors Band members:

- JT Hutchinson Band Shirt (purchased through the school for \$20)
- Blue Jean Pants (no shorts)

The following **must be provided** as part of the formal concert uniform for all Concert Band and Honors Band members:

- Solid Black dress socks
- Solid Black dress shoes (no sneakers)
- Solid Black flats –for female members (no heels)

The following **will be provided by the school** as part of the formal concert uniform for Concert Band and Honors Band members:

- White Tuxedo Shirt (for male members)
- Black Dress Pants (for male members)
- Green Band Jacket
- Tie
- Black Formal Dresses (for female members)

Grades and Attendance

Other activities must not interfere with the rehearsal and performance schedules that are given at the beginning of the school year. Students who enroll in other school activities, such as athletics, choir, drama, etc., need to plan ahead to avoid conflicts that cannot be resolved. The band directors will work with other teachers, coaches, and directors of various activities to give each student every opportunity to be part of other groups. Non-school sponsored activities, teams or organizations, must not conflict in any way with the practice/performance schedule of the band.

An unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance **will result in a grade deduction**. Excuses are only accepted in the event of absence from school or family emergency. **Not having a ride is not an acceptable excuse for missing a rehearsal/performance. Schedules are given far enough in advance for arrangements to be made.**

Remember that all performances are required and are scheduled well in advance to allow students and their families to plan on attendance.

In determining the band grade each six weeks, the following areas will comprise the average:

Performances (see above)

Three major grades will be given for each required performance. These will be comprised of Attendance, Uniform, and Conduct.

Objective Tests

Students will be supplied with a list of weekly objectives each six weeks that will be played for a director in class. These objectives will be graded with a 5 category rubric based on mastery. Students must obtain a “check” in all 5 categories in order to master the objective. If an “X” is received in any category the Objective has not been mastered must be made up. Objectives that are not mastered on the first attempt may be replayed at any time during the six weeks for full credit as many times as necessary. Once Objectives have been mastered, a grade of 100 will be received. Objectives retakes may be played for either director before or after school.

Participation

Students are required to bring their necessary materials to class each and follow the instructions given by their director.

Weekly Quizzes (Beginning Band)

Music theory quizzes will be administered each week based on the 5 Minute Theory lessons that are completed in class.

Eligibility

Most of the work that our students do is curricular and not subject to eligibility. Curricular activities are free concerts, concert rehearsals, and private lessons.

Students who participate in extracurricular activities must meet T.E.A. (Texas Education Association) and U.I.L. (University Interscholastic League) eligibility requirements. Students who fail any single class at the end of a six-week period will become ineligible seven days later. Ineligible students do not regain eligibility immediately. They must wait seven calendar days after the end of the grading period. Students may regain eligibility seven calendar days after the end of the three-week grade evaluation period provided the principal and teachers have determined the student is passing all courses. Semester grades are never used for eligibility. Activities that are classified as extracurricular for which T.E.A., U.I.L., and LISD eligibility requirements apply include any events for which admission is charged, are interscholastically competitive, or at which ratings are awarded.

Should a band student become ineligible for an extracurricular function, he or she will still be eligible for curricular functions. Ineligible students will be given alternate assignments during contest preparation time.

Student Discipline and Behavior

Discipline is a quality that must come from the individual. As such, each student is responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the J.T. Hutchinson Band. Any student who shows an inability to work effectively in class may be re-assigned to another class at the discretion of the Band Director/Administration.

As a school group, band members are governed by school and school board policies anytime they are together for any band function whether it involves all students or only one. The form you sign at the end of this Handbook will be in effect throughout the year for trips related to the Band.

Any student who violates school rules while with the J.T. Hutchinson Band will be subject to all usual school disciplinary procedures. In addition, those students will be subject to dismissal and may not continue to perform or travel with the band.

Concert Etiquette

1. Remove all hats upon entering the performance hall.
2. No food or drink is permitted at any time.
- 3. Turn off all cell phones, pagers, and watch alarms.**
4. Audience members are asked to remain quiet during the performance. Remember that the acoustics that allow you to enjoy the performance also enhance extraneous noise in the theatre.
5. Recordings are made of most performances, so if bringing small children, please sit near an exit or on the aisle in case you have to leave suddenly.
6. Remain seated. Do not leave or enter the auditorium while a group is performing. If you absolutely must leave before a group is finished, please wait and do so only between selections.
7. Applaud the performers on stage after a selection but not between movements of a song. In a formal concert setting, **whistling and shouting are inappropriate.**

Severe disruptions of a performance or class will be referred to the office immediately and will not receive the benefit of a warning.

Use of School-Owned Instruments

A limited number of the more expensive instruments are owned by the LISD for the purpose of balancing the instrumentation district-wide and maintaining performing bands at every level.

A checkout form will be sent home for parent/guardian signature each fall which describes the condition of the instrument at that time. It is the responsibility of the student/parent to check over the instrument at that time and understand that the instrument must be returned in the same condition at the end of the year. If repairs are necessary during the year, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the band director so that the instrument may be transported for repair.

If, in the opinion of a LISD director, a school-owned instrument is not being properly maintained or cared for at anytime of the school year, it is the director's prerogative to remove the instrument from the student's care.

Fundraising

Each year we will provide fundraising opportunities for all band students. These fundraisers are recommended but not required.

Applied Private Instruction

The JT Hutchinson Band is fortunate enough to have access to private instruction from many of the finest musicians in Lubbock. The program is supported by individual parents who cover the cost of lessons for their children. Lessons are offered during band class or after school. Lessons offered during the day may be slightly shorter than those after school. We approve all private instructors through audition, interview, and background check.

Private instruction is offered as enrichment, NOT remedial instruction. It is encouraged for the complete development of each student's potential as a performing musician.

Student and Parent Responsibility to the Private Teacher

1. Be prepared for each lesson
2. Bring a pencil, books and all other required materials to each lesson.
3. Keep a written assignment for each lesson.
4. Notify the teacher at least 24 hours in advance if you must miss a lesson. Make every attempt to reschedule your lesson or switch with another student. Failure to notify the teacher in advance of a missed lesson constitutes an unexcused absence and must still be paid for.
5. Please turn in lesson money on time. Our teachers depend on money for lessons for their livelihood.