
Mission
Consolidated Independent School District

Junior High Bands



Handbook

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WELCOME

Welcome to one of the Mission CISD JH Bands! It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that we introduce our band program to you in a more detailed manner. Our band programs have established a wonderful tradition of excellence and we are glad you have chosen to be a part of it. Your child's participation in our band program is beneficial in many ways. Band students are engaged daily in a highly creative performing art that stimulates growth in areas of the human brain that no other discipline can. This growth effortlessly transfers into your student's academic life. In addition, our band students will develop traits such as teamwork, responsibility, dedication, self-discipline, social skills, confidence, leadership and dependability. Membership in our band program will give all a sense of accomplishment, pride, and respect as the students develop musical and personal skills that will enrich their lives. The purpose of this handbook is to outline the guidelines and expectations for making this year a success for all involved, and to serve as a guide and resource for students and parents. Both students and their parents should take the time to thoroughly read this handbook. Upon completion, the contract that was distributed to your student during class should be signed and returned to school, indicating your understanding of these guidelines and expectations.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Organizational skills
- Practice techniques
- Mental and physical discipline
- Citizenship through group endeavors
- Cultural growth
- Value judgments
- Music theory
- Proper instrumental technique
- Creative self-expression
- Aural skills
- Teamwork/social skills
- Performance skills
- Music appreciation

CONDUCT AND EXPECTATIONS

Band members will observe all procedures set forth by Mission CISD, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

- Any behavior which is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the band program. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both public and private events.
- All students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with any Mission CISD Rules & Value Codes at all times. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection of the group.
- Students will follow directors' instructions.
- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area with all necessary equipment at the beginning of rehearsal time.
- Students will keep their hands and feet to themselves.
- Students will not use or play on equipment they do not own without permission from a director.
- Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
- Students should request permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that time will be utilized as wisely and efficiently as possible.
- When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.
- Students will respect the property of others, and return their equipment to its proper storage place when not in use. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area, and keep said storage area clean and neat in appearance. Students who have difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band hall.
- Students will not deface or mark on music stands, chairs, walls, etc.
- Students will not write on the dry-erase boards without permission from a director.
- Students will utilize their assigned storage slot/locker for instrument cases during rehearsals. Cases should not be brought into rehearsals unless requested by a director (exceptions: flute, clarinet, and oboe).

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that band member websites are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication such as Facebook, photo sharing, emailing, or texting, etc., appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Members are responsible for their personal websites and postings, as well as posting from or on other students' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include but are not limited to profane, foul, or disrespectful language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, references to alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, and postings (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening towards other MCISD teaching staff or band members, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other bands. Any such incident will result in review by the principal (or designee) and may lead to probation or dismissal from the band. Band members that violate the above guidelines shall be subject to the following:

- Upon confirmation of a first violation, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the website(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal, directors, and band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior.
- Upon confirmation of a second offense, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the website(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal, directors, and band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior. In addition, the student will be suspended from all Band activities for a period of 3 days to 3 weeks.
- Upon confirmation of a third offense, the member will be removed from band.

DUE PROCESS

All Mission CISD students are entitled to due process in accordance with MCISD guidelines. Our goal as a staff is to ensure that all students are treated fairly. Please contact one of the directors if you have any concerns. We will work with you to resolve problems. We are here to provide a quality music education for all our students.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

It is the philosophy of the Mission CISD JH Bands that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact the director.

FUNDRAISING

There will be fundraisers planned for the school year. Participation by students will be defined by the Head Band Director on each campus. Fundraisers will be used to defray the students' fees and trip expenses. Any other money raised will be used to purchase additional materials and equipment for the MCISD JH Band Programs. Due to budget limitations, this has become a necessity. If the money is not fundraised, then any expenses will be paid to the band department from the family's own financial resources. Below are examples of events/items that will be covered by fundraising:

- Band Trips and Festival fees
- Celebrations and Incentives

A portion of the fundraiser profit may go towards operating expenses for the band program. Operating expenses are defined as expenditures not covered by MCISD budget (items could include, but are not limited to, extra music for concerts, funds to bring in guest clinicians, supplies, technology, instrument accessories, fees and/or deposits for honor band entries and other competitions). Any funds from fundraising will belong to the Mission CISD JH Bands activity accounts and cannot be refunded to a student. If a student raises money and is unable to attend a trip for any reason, the money the student raised becomes property of the Mission CISD JH Band activity account. As per MCISD policy, the funds are good only for the academic year, and are not transferable for students from year to year. If a student leaves the Mission CISD JH Band Program, all money remains in that Mission CISD JH Band's general account. Funds are not reimbursed or distributed to students or their families. Fundraising money can only be applied to the student's expenses. A student cannot fundraise for another student or chaperone. Donations are accepted to help the program. Any funds donated to the Mission CISD JH Band Programs are for expenses other than student fees and trip expenses.

FUNDRAISING (continued)

These include, but are not limited to instrument repair, equipment replacement, helping families in need, and unforeseen expenses that might occur. Personal (out-of-pocket) money used for trips will only be refunded until a set deadline for the trip. After the deadline, the money is non-refundable or transferrable.

MCISD JH BANDS

Varsity Band (UIL Designation; also called the Honor Band)

Selection into this group is by demonstration of academic proficiency. Members in this ensemble will participate in the TMEA Region Band process, Solo and Ensemble Contest, preparations for special possible honor concerts, and UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest. Members of this group will have additional rehearsals/assigned hearing times outside of the school day each week. Additional rehearsals will be scheduled as needed. The Varsity Band will give numerous performances both on and off campus.

Non-Varsity & Sub Non-Varsity Bands (UIL Designation; also called the Symphonic & Concert Bands)

Selection into this group is by demonstration of academic proficiency. These groups, at varying levels, will participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest and UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest. Members of these bands may participate in the TMEA Region Band process. Members of these bands will have additional section rehearsals/assigned hearing times each week outside of the school day. These groups will give a variety of performances.

BAND PLACEMENT

Yearly placement in each band and occasional changes are based on the following criteria:

- Instrumentation needs and limitations
- Eligibility status
- Overall performance and consistent progress
- Attendance at all band functions
- Attitude and behavior
- Audition

Special Note – A student must pass band and have a director's recommendation to be enrolled for the next semester. All band placements will be determined by each campus' Band Directors at the end of the previous school year.

CARE OF FACILITIES

- No gum, food or drinks are allowed in the band hall except when authorized by the directors.
- All trash is to be deposited in the wastebaskets provided.
- Acts of vandalism or the willful misuse of school property will be dealt with severely and appropriately. Every band member is responsible to help the directors monitor the facility and control vandalism, which includes but is not limited to writing or carving on walls, destroying music, or breaking school property.
- Absolutely no student is allowed in the workroom without permission.
- Practice and ensemble rooms are designed for practicing, not social gatherings.
- Please knock on office doors; and, if you are invited in, you may enter. Otherwise, offices are off-limits to students. Students may not use directors' phones without permission.
- The telephone in the band hall may not be used by non-band members. This phone is not to be used for personal calls, but may be used to call parents for rides, etc.
- Students must ask permission to use the phone and all calls will be limited to two minutes.

ATTENDANCE

In order to have and maintain a high quality band program, each member's attendance is essential. While the MCISD JH Bands follow all school and district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the MCISD JH Bands. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held outside of the school day.

Excused Absences during the school day will be excused according to district guidelines. Absences from activities held outside the school day will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Appointments, tutorials etc. are not excuses for absence. Absences due to personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances (approved by director) may be considered for excused status. Students who are ill are required to provide a doctor's note. Students that are competing in other events for the Mission CISD JHs (Games for JH Sports, UIL Event Contests) will be excused, but the time missed from rehearsals may need to be made up; city leagues and other non-school related events will not be counted as excused absences. All absences should be discussed with a director to determine whether or not they will be excused.

Unexcused Absence Students with an unexcused absence from any required band activity will receive a zero in the grade book. Rehearsals, concerts, contests, and competitions cannot be made up. Students with an unexcused absence to a sectional rehearsal may be required to schedule a make-up time with their band director within one week.

Concerts/Performances Concerts and performances are an integral component of the band curriculum. Students should consult their schedules for dates and times. Each of the concert ensembles will perform at various times throughout the school year and are mandatory. Periodically, the schedule may change and updates will be communicated. Concerts are considered to have four parts: warm-up, performance, listening, and clean-up. For the student, the concert begins at the warm-up. Punctuality is essential. A concert concludes after the performance site has been cleared of all equipment and directors give permission for students to be dismissed. A general report time will be given for all students. If a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up all missed work.

Performances of the ensembles may include, but are not limited, to the following for 6th through 8th Grade Band Members:

- Pep Rallies
- Campus Performances
- Parades
- Winter Concert
- Spring Concert
- Band Festivals & Trips
- Pre UIL Contest
- UIL Contest
- Region 15 Region Band Auditions
- Solo and Ensemble Contest

Special Note – Students absent from school for any reason or students who are in ISS, OSS, or DAEP on the day of a contest or competition may not participate in that event. Students in ISS may only participate in an event with permission granted by the Head Principal.

DAILY SUPPLIES

Each student must bring the following items to rehearsals and/or performances (other items may be added at the discretion of the directors; directors will provide a specific list of supplies):

- All issued music
- Books (Beginners: Essential Elements for Band; 7th & 8th Graders: Foundations for Superior Performance)
- Pencil and a Pencil Pouch
- Instrument (with case name tag)
- Black band binder (with labeled dividers)
- All supplies relative to their instrument and other equipment as needed.

GRADING GUIDELINES

MCISD JH Band Programs have instructional objectives that relate to the mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for grade level subjects or courses. These objectives are aligned to address the academic skills needed for successful performance in the next grade or next course in a sequence of courses. Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, and other instructional activities are designed so that the student's performance indicates the level of mastery of the instructional objectives. The student's mastery level of these objectives is a major factor in determining the grade for a subject or course. Students will be expected to meet the responsibilities for each band class as determined by the director. Since band is an academic music class with some co-curricular activities attached, the band student's grade will reflect achievement in both curricular and co-curricular areas.

Beginner Band Students General Grading Guidelines

- Daily / Participation 20% Includes: Instrument, Music Supplies, and Class work
- Playing Tests 30% Based on preparation of music, concert attendance, contests
- Written Tests 30% Based on punctuality, accuracy and completion
- Practice Records 20%

7th & 8th Grade Band Students General Grading Guidelines

- Daily / Participation 10% Includes: Instrument, Music Supplies, and Class work
- Tests 40% Includes: Playing, written, and counting
- Extension of Class 30% Includes: Co-curricular events such as concerts and sectionals
- Practice Records 20%

The following items are provided, for both students and parents, as examples of items that may be subject to grading. (additional assignments may be given at the discretion of the director):

- The student will receive a grade for each before or after school sectional or full rehearsal during a grading period.
- The student will be on task and focused during rehearsals. The student will have instrument, music, pencil, and supplies in rehearsals.
- The student will be prepared to play his/her assigned part of the music successfully.
- The student will mark music and take notes as needed.
- The student will be expected to improve individual music skills.
- The student's individual skill development will be evaluated through recorded music tests, individual playing tests, scale tests, and/or written tests.
- The student will be evaluated on improvement of ensemble skills during daily rehearsals.
- The student will be expected to improve his/her performance fundamentals.
- The student will be evaluated for improvement of his/her music fundamentals through daily observation during the "basics" part of each rehearsal and during sectionals.
- The student will be expected to demonstrate correct posture, hand position, embouchure, air production, and articulation as monitored during rehearsals.
- The student will be expected to develop a historical knowledge of the literature relative to their respective instrument.
- The student will receive a grade for each performance during a grading period.

WEEKLY PRACTICE SHEETS

Campuses have the option to implement Weekly Practice Sheets. The rewards of playing a musical instrument increase in direct proportion to the number of hours invested in individual practice. The key is to set aside a designated time every day for practice. Directors will set up a daily schedule to ensure that practice is an important part of your daily studies.

- Practice Sheets are due once a week on a day designated by the Head Band Director or the first day back to school (vacation or sick)
- 120 minutes of practice time per week for 7th & 8th Grade Band Students
- 90 minutes of practice per week for Beginner Band Students
- Signed by parent/guardian
- Can be turned in one day late, 10 points off
- Can be emailed to the Head Band Director
- Extra credit for more than required amount of time

Practice Sheets will NOT be accepted after the 1-day late rule!!

ELIGIBILITY

All MCISD Bands adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and MCISD. Some band activities are designated as extra-curricular. Students participating in these activities are governed by eligibility requirements. A student shall be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the six week period following a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than seventy percent (70%) in any class. Loss of eligibility does not take effect until seven calendar days after the end of the reporting period. Ineligible students are not suspended from practice or rehearsal for extra-curricular activities. The student is not suspended from participation during the period in which school is recessed for the summer or any other vacation time. Students may regain eligibility under certain circumstances. If a student has been suspended as a result of failing, he/she may regain eligibility by passing ALL courses by the Progress Report for that Six Weeks. Reinstatement of eligibility would occur seven days after the three-week progress report period (see TEA/UIIL Side by Side). The eligibility law does not affect activities that are considered curricular components of any course. Examples of these activities are all rehearsals and performances that take place as a regular extension of classroom instruction. Any performance that is competitive in nature or for which admission is charged is deemed extra-curricular. In addition to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and MCISD above, students are required to pass the 5th six-weeks and must not receive an in-school suspension placement during the spring semester in order to attend the spring trip. If the school trip is five school days after the 6th Six Weeks Progress Report, a student may re-gain eligibility for the trip if all of their grades are at or above a 70% average.

DISTRICT-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

MCISD provides a limited number of instruments for student use. This equipment is generally purchased by the school district for student use because of its expense. Thus, all district-owned instruments and equipment must be handled with care. Students failing to take proper care of their issued-out, district-owned instruments and equipment may lose the privilege of using such instruments. The following is a list of general procedures for district-owned instruments:

- If possible, students who play large instruments and are dependent upon MCISD buses may be issued one instrument for home use and one for school use. This will be at the discretion of the directors and will be based on instrument availability and transportation needs. Students may be given designated practice days if they cannot take their instruments home in order to meet their practicing requirements.
- MCISD does not provide insurance for individually owned or district-owned equipment. Students will be held responsible for damage caused to any and all district-owned instruments and equipment, whether it has been assigned to them or another student. Students and parents must sign an instrument checkout form before the student can use a district-owned instrument.
- All instruments and equipment will be issued in good condition. Students are expected to maintain their issued instruments and equipment accordingly.
- The band member is financially responsible for all instruments and equipment checked out to him or her.
- All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.
- Any mouthpieces, locks, or accessories provided by Mission CISD to students will need to be replaced if lost or damaged.

Special Note – District-owned instruments are not to be treated as "free" instruments. Basic supplies must still be purchased and repairs must still be made. Please treat these instruments as if they were your own. Most district-owned instruments exceed \$2,500 in value.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE AND IDENTIFICATION

Instrument lockers are to be used for instrumental storage ONLY!! Each student is assigned a specific locker, which is to be kept clean. Instruments are to be put in their cases, and the cases kept closed and latched while in the storage area. NO INSTRUMENTS ARE TO BE KEPT IN LOCKERS OVERNIGHT. Sixth grade students will begin to consistently bring their instruments home as soon as their band director instructs them to do so. FOR YOUR SECURITY, ALWAYS LOCK YOUR LOCKER! Band students need to keep their instruments and supplies locked in the lockers whenever not in use or left unattended. It is suggested that all personal instruments have the proper insurance coverage. Instruments ARE NOT insured by Mission CISD. There will be consequences for any student whose instrument is brought to us by another student, teacher, etc. -- whether it is found on or off school property.

REHEARSALS (BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL)

All students will have at least one weekly rehearsal with their section or together in a full band setting. Students are expected to be punctual and prepared. Absence(s) from section rehearsals must be in accordance with the attendance policy. Students must make every effort to attend. Rehearsals are an extension of the classroom and are graded accordingly. Rehearsal schedules may be found by contacting the student's director. It is imperative that each rehearsal begin on time with everyone in attendance. Students who miss a rehearsal will not receive credit for participation. Please be aware of your child's rehearsal day & time and make every effort to assure that he/she is on time and ready to learn! Please do not schedule dentist, doctor, or any other appointments during your child's rehearsal because it will cause him/her to fall behind the rest of the group. An excused absence can be made up attending a similar instrument's rehearsal (with director approval). Students who miss a rehearsal (excused or unexcused) have one week after they return to school to make up the missed rehearsal. After a week, the absence will be considered unexcused and a grade of zero will be recorded. Unexcused absences will result in student and parent notification. Three unexcused absences (regardless of whether the time is made up) may result in removal from the competition group until all competitions are finished.

HEARING TIMES AND MUSIC PLAY-OFFS

In addition to sectionals, students in the Mission CISD JH Bands may also be required to have a five to seven minute hearing time each week; these times may also be known as Music Play-Offs. This will allow for testing outside of class or sectional time, and will provide the student with one-on-one time with a director. The hearing times will also allow the directors the opportunity to see how each student is developing individually, and will help meet individual needs. Students may select the hearing times and days. Times will be available before / after school on most days or possible during part of a student's designated lunch period (students will be given the proper amount of time to eat if they come in during their lunch period). It is our intention to work with the other organizations in the school. Please find out about all school responsibilities as soon as possible, so that we can do our best to work around other schedules. The SmartMusic computer program will also be used to help hear & evaluate the students' progress on a regular basis.

BRACE AND DENTAL WORK

Due to the nature of performance, your child being able to participate in the Mission CISD JH Bands can have a significant impact on the overall success of the other students in their band or ensemble. When it comes to braces and dental work, we ask that you please contact a director in advance and take into account the band calendar and performance obligations, especially those in the Spring Semester (UIL Contest, Solo and Ensemble Contest, etc.). Please refer to your campus' Band Calendar. Optimal times for braces and dental work would be the beginning of summer.

It is recommended that students with braces purchase the Morgan Brace Bumper (found at www.morganbumper.com) to help guarantee maximum success while wearing braces.

UNIFORM GUIDELINES

UIL Uniform

Students may be issued a UIL/Concert Jacket and/or Polo Shirt. Students that are issued designated polo shirt will wear it under the UIL/Concert Jacket. Students will also be required to purchase black slacks, black dress belt, black dress socks, and black dress shoes for UIL (no tennis shoes/sandals, jeans/denim, or white athletics socks). Students will be responsible for care and maintenance of UIL/Concert Jackets and any other issues UIL Uniform items while in the student's possession. Students will be responsible for replacing any lost or damaged items that has been issued to them as part of their UIL Uniform.

Uniforms for other performance

Directors will designate uniforms for all other performances. Students and parents will be made aware of these uniforms prior to all performances.

CONCERTS AND PERFORMANCES

Concerts and performances are frequent with all bands. Students should consult their schedules for dates and times. Periodically, the schedule will change and updates will be sent home.

- Concerts are considered to have four parts: warm-up, performance, listening, and clean-up.
- The concert begins for the student at the warm-up. Punctuality is essential. A concert concludes after the performance site has been cleared of all equipment and directors give permission for students to be dismissed. A general report time will be given for all students.
- All concerts are a group effort, therefore, **attendance is required.**
- All concerts are an extension of the classroom and will be graded accordingly.
- Students should be punctual and prepared for each performance/concert.
- In the event a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up all missed work!

PERFORMANCE LOCATIONS

- Mission HS Fine Arts Auditorium
- Mission Veterans Memorial HS Fine Arts Auditorium
- JH Campus Gymnasiums
- Other Locations (To Be Announced)

CONCERT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Band students will exhibit proper concert behavior during all performances, in either their own band or as an audience member. Students will be graded on their behavior. Concert etiquette is an integral part of music education. Appropriate conduct in formal and informal concert settings is included in the TEKS. The following rules will be followed at all times:

- Talking is not permitted on stage or in the audience. It is disrespectful to the performers on stage and audience members.
- Do not distract the performing band in any way.
- Do not leave your seat for any reason during a performance. You will be given ample time to use the restroom and drinking fountain before a concert begins. If you must leave, do so as quietly and inconspicuously as possible (make sure the doors do not slam shut). Leave between songs only.
- No food or drink is allowed on stage, backstage, or in the seating area. This includes water bottles and gum.
- Cell phones must be turned off (not on vibrate or silent) and put away. Any student using a cell phone during a performance may have consequences.
- Move between the seating area and stage in quiet, single-file lines. Sit in your assigned seat/row. Do not talk as you enter or exit.
- Support your fellow band members with appropriate applause. Yelling, whistling, shouting names, etc. is not acceptable.
- Set a good example for the audience and other students. Other people may not know how to behave in a concert setting.
- We hope all parents and guests will stay for the concert when bringing a student to a concert. If a student needs to be picked up, please do so in a timely manner. Any student not picked up on time may not be allowed to participate in future MCISD JH Band activities.
- Students are expected to stay for the entire concert.

UIL AND COMPETITIONS

Participation in UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest in March is mandatory for all qualifying 7th and 8th Grade Band Students. Students participating in Solo and Ensemble, All-Region Band Auditions, UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest, any music festival/contest, and the spring trip must follow all of the eligibility requirements under the Texas Education Agency, University Interscholastic League ([www.UIL.utexas.edu](http://www UIL.utexas.edu).) and MCISD eligibility rules .

TRAVEL GUIDELINES

The band will frequently travel on either school buses or commercial buses. Students are expected to conduct themselves at the highest level of behavior on any trip. Students who have been subjected to school-level discipline during the course of the school year may be deemed ineligible to participate in non-UIL field trips, at the discretion of the director and/or campus administration. Students must travel to events and return from events on the bus. Any student wishing to arrive or leave with his/her parent must notify a director in writing with parent signature, prior to the event. Permission will be granted or denied based on the circumstances of the occasion. Students must have all necessary forms (MCISD Medical/Travel Release) completed and on file with the band office to travel on any trip with the band. For the safety of all involved, while on the bus students will:

- Remain seated at all times.
- Sit properly in a forward position and not block the aisle way.
- Keep the bus clear of food, drinks, and debris.
- Keep all body parts inside the bus.
- Windows shall remain closed at all times.
- When allowed, use only approved type/headset radios (no speakers).
- Remain silent and attentive when addressed by an adult on the bus.
- Refrain from loud, boisterous talking, singing, screaming, whistling, inappropriate jokes, etc.
- No public displays of affection of any kind.

Special Note: As a member of the band, you are a representative of your school. Always be on your best behavior. If you are in doubt about an action, do not do it! Your conduct at all times should be considered a good reflection on the school, the band, your home, yourself, and the community.

Chaperones: Adult chaperones must be MCISD Approved Volunteers and are a great asset to the band program. Students will treat them as an extension of the band staff. Proper respect will be shown to all adults at all times. If your parent is interested in serving as a chaperone, please speak to a Mission JH Band Director to find out how to be an approved volunteer.

TRIP CRITERIA

Every year the band takes a trip in April/May. This trip rewards the students for all of their hard work throughout the school year. In order to participate in these trips, the students must do the following:

- Students must pass the 5th Six Weeks Report Card with a 70% or higher in every class (students will need to regain eligibility on the 6th Six Weeks Progress Report if the trip is five days or more after the Progress Report).
- Turn in their medical release forms and permission slips.
- Must perform with their Mission CISD JH Band at all designated required performances.
- Must compete with designated band at UIL Contest (7th & 8th Grade).
- Must attend MCISD Solo & Ensemble Contest.
- Could not have been sent to DAEP at any time during the school year.
- Could not have received an office referral any time from a band director during the semester in which the trip occurs.
- Could not have received more than two office referrals from any teacher or administrator during the semester in which the trip occurs.
- Any serious discipline offense may be cause for exclusion from the trip (including, but not limited to ISS/Suspension).

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The JH Band Programs in Mission CISD may provide many opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills. Students may audition and/or apply for both selected officer positions and elected officer positions. In this manner, students can serve their band program and refine skills which they will be able to use in other school organizations, as well as in their future careers. Audition criterion is selected at the discretion of the directors and is communicated to the students. The directors evaluate all selected officer candidates based on their performance both during the audition and throughout the school year. At all times, student leaders are expected to be positive role models for all band members.

ALL-REGION BAND GUIDELINES

- All Honor Band Students will audition for the All-Region (All-Valley) Band.
- All other band students are encouraged to prepare for and audition if the preparation of their music is at a high performance level. Decisions to audition by these students will be on a case-by-case basis.
- Students will be graded on preparation for this event.
- Any person who is selected will attend all rehearsals and the performance of the All-Region Band. (Check your calendar for dates.)

It is quite an honor to be selected to the All-Region Band. Hundreds of students throughout the region will audition. Even if you are not selected, the experience you receive by preparing will strongly enhance your musical ability and education!

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

All band members will prepare and perform a solo. Students may also be asked perform in an ensemble by their Head Band Director. Grades will be issued for preparation and participation in the solo and ensemble process. Students will use MakeMusic® SmartMusic® Program (“piano part”) to accompany their solo. Please remember that participation in the MCISD Solo and Ensemble Contest does impact trip eligibility.

SAFETY

Due to the heavy student traffic going in and out of the band hall, as well as the possibility of theft of instruments, students not enrolled in the Mission CISD JH Bands are not allowed in the band hall at any time. Friends of the Mission CISD JH Band Members may wait outside the band hall to accompany their band friend to another location.

BAND HALL HOURS

The band hall normally opens for section rehearsals before and after school. Times will be designated by Band Directors. The band hall may be open for private lessons as needed by the Band Directors. Times may be adjusted if needed by Band Directors, depending on upcoming contests and performances.

PARENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Parents must make arrangements for transportation of their children to and from section rehearsals, and to/from the Band Hall during trips and special events. Lack of transportation will not be an accepted excuse for missing a band function. To ensure the safety of their children, parents are encouraged to have a plan for drop-off and pick-up of students in a timely manner for all band events. For the safety of all involved, students must go home after the band hall closes. Parents, please be aware that the main office will be closed before sectionals end. Family transportation and car pools are ways to help your child get home safely and in a timely manner.

BAND PARENT VOLUNTEERS

The Mission CISD JH Bands do not have booster programs of its own, but if you have the desire and time, we do have band parent volunteers who assist the students and directors with various tasks. All band volunteers must be approved by the school district. If you are a parent that is interested in being a volunteer, please speak to a Mission CISD JH Band Director to find out how to be an approved volunteer. Thank you for your help ahead of time!

ITEMS TO KEEP AND OTHERS TO SIGN AND RETURN

If you visit the websites (listed below) for your child's school, you will find two files. One file has four (4) pages that need to be SIGNED and RETURNED BY STUDENTS and PARENTS by Friday, September 2, 2016.

The items that need to be returned are:

- Handbook Signature Page
- Parent Waiver and Release Form
- Student Medical Information Form
- Student Database Information Form

The second file has two (2) pages for the campus' specific Contact Information & Calendar, which need to be kept at your house or linked to your internet browsers.

Thank you, in advance, for taking care of this!

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