

MIDWAY

MIDDLE SCHOOL



BAND

HANDBOOK

2017-18

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Hewitt, TX 76643

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2017-18 Midway MS Band Calendar

*Changes in the calendar are possible. We will notify you as soon as we become aware of them.
Some performances and events will require academic eligibility to participate.*

AUGUST 2017

21, Monday – School starts; instrument check out; class information

SEPTEMBER 2017

29, Friday - End of 1st six-weeks (grade check)

OCTOBER 2017

6, Friday – 8th gr Band Night/Harker Heights Football game (meet at MS: 6:30)

10, Tuesday – MS/HS Fall Jazz Concert; PAC 7:00pm

NOVEMBER 2017

4, Saturday - MS All-Region Auditions (Host: Midway MS) 9am-4pm

Wind Ensemble students are required to audition for the All-Region band and perform if selected

10, Friday-End of 2nd six-weeks (grade Check)

11, Saturday- MS All-Region Clinic/Concert; Temple HS (All-Day)

20-14-Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER 2017

4, Monday - MS/Int. Winter Concert; PAC; 6:30pm

5, Tuesday- MS/HS Winter Jazz Concert PAC; 7pm

22, Friday- End of 3rd six-weeks; Early Dismissal

25-31- Winter Break

JANURARY 2018

1-7: Winter Break

9, Tuesday, Classes resume

26. Friday, MS All-Region Jazz Auditions; Bonham MS, Temple

FEBRUARY 2018

14-17; Wed.-Fri; TMEA Conference/Convention (All Directors attending)

16, Friday, End of 4th Six-Weeks (check grades)

23; Friday, Midway MS Solo/Ensemble Contest; 4-8pm (required for all students)

27, Tuesday, MS/HS Spring Jazz Concert, HS Theatre 7:00pm

MARCH 2018

5-9 Spring Break

22, Thursday, MS Jazz Band, Temple Jazz Festival, TBA

24, Saturday, MS Jazz Clinic/Concert; Temple Jazz Festival, All Day

27, Tuesday, MS/HS Pre-UIL Concert; PAC; 7:00pm

APRIL 2018

13, Friday-End of 5th Six-Weeks (check grades)

18-19, Wed.-Thurs.; MS UIL Concert/Sight Reading Contest; HS Theatre, TBA

27, Friday; Spring Trip (tentative)

MAY 2018

3, Thursday, MS/Int. Bands Final Spring Concert; PAC; 6:30pm

16-18, Wed.-Fri – 8th grade marching band orientation; Site TBA; 4:00-6:00 pm

Midway MS Bell Schedule/Band Master Schedule

Period 1 8:00-8:45

Conference Period (McLellan, Sanchez)

Period 2 8:49-9:44

Symphonic Band (Sanchez, McLellan)
Band Hall

Period 3 9:49-10:33

Wind Ensemble (McLellan, Sanchez)
Band Hall

Period 4 10:37-11:22

Concert Band (McLellan, Moss, Guel), Band Hall
Jazz Band (Sanchez), Large Ensemble room

Period 5 11:26-12:15

Lunch, Travel to River Valley Intermediate/ HS

Period 5 12:24-1:20

Beginning Trombone (RV); McLellan
HS Band; Sanchez

Period 6 1:24-2:20

Beginning Euphonium/Tuba (McLellan)
HS Band (Sanchez)

Period 7 2:25-3:20

Beginning Trumpets (McLellan)
Beginning Percussion (Sanchez)

Midway MS Band Ensembles

Wind Ensemble (Varsity)

The Wind Ensemble is the top performing ensemble in the Midway MS band department consisting of students in the 7th and 8th grades. This band is known for its success and tradition of superior musicianship. Students obtain membership in the yearlong course following a placement audition the previous year by the band staff. The Wind Ensemble gives many performances each year, including Fall, Winter, Spring Concerts, UIL Concert/Sight-Reading contest, possible recruitment concerts, and a Spring Trip. Members of the Wind Ensemble are expected to audition for the All-Region Band and participate in the Solo Contest. Students in the Wind Ensemble achieve high standards in the classroom and performance venues.

Symphonic Band (Non-Varsity)

The Symphonic Band consists of students in the 7th and 8th grades. This band is known for its success and tradition of superior musicianship. Students obtain membership in the yearlong course following a placement audition the previous year by the band staff. The Symphonic Band gives many performances each year, including Fall, Winter, Spring Concerts, UIL Concert/Sight-Reading contest, possible recruitment concerts, and a Spring Trip. Members of the Symphonic Band are encouraged to audition for the All-Region Band and expected to participate in the Solo Contest. Students in the Symphonic Band achieve high standards in the classroom and performance venues.

Concert Band (Sub-Non Varsity)

The Concert Band consists of students in the 7th and 8th grades. Students obtain membership in the yearlong course following a placement audition the previous year by the band staff as well as new students to the band program that desire to learn to play an instrument with no previous experience. The Concert Band gives many performances each year, including Fall, Winter, Spring Concerts, UIL Concert/Sight-Reading contest, possible recruitment concerts, and a Spring Trip. Members of the Concert Band are expected to participate in the Solo Contest. Students in the Concert Band achieve high standards in the classroom and performance venues.

Jazz Band

The Jazz Band is open to 8th gr wind/rhythm section musicians with previous back ground on their specific instrument. Woodwind players that are wanting to double on saxophone are encouraged with approval from the band staff. The Jazz program gives students a unique musical experience in different styles of playing and genres. The Jazz Band gives many performances each year including: Fall, Winter, Spring, and end of the year. In addition, students enrolled in the jazz class will be expected to audition for the MS All-Region Jazz band in the Spring and participate in the Temple Jazz Festival in March.

Performance Attendance

It is not possible to make-up a performance. Attendance at all performances is **mandatory**. All absences must be approved, if at all possible, in advance by the directors. Only conflicts of a serious nature will be considered.

If you absolutely must miss an activity due to an unavoidable conflict or family emergency, a written request, phone call, or e-mail by parent or guardian will be needed preferably BEFORE the band performance. Please submit the request in a timely manner. Requests will be reviewed and excused at the directors' discretion.

Every member of our band is important. One missing member is like a missing link in a chain. You are important

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the school year, each Midway Middle School Band member will be able to:

- Demonstrate proper social development through large group interaction.
- Demonstrate personal and social self-discipline.
- Demonstrate the proper assembly and maintenance techniques of their instrument.
- Demonstrate the proper posture for playing an instrument.
- Demonstrate the proper embouchure for playing his or her specific instrument.
- Demonstrate the correct method of breathing to play a wind instrument.
- Demonstrate the use of proper hand position on his or her specific instrument.
- Demonstrate the ability to produce a good characteristic tone on their specific instrument.
- Identify and demonstrate proper use of various articulation markings.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of rhythms and rhythmic structure.
- Identify and define various musical terminologies.
- Demonstrate an enhancement in discriminatory listening skills.
- Demonstrate the ability to interact responsibly and appropriately within a large group.
- Demonstrate characteristics of good self-discipline as it relates to classroom structure and practice habits.
- Demonstrate the ability to tune his or her specific instrument by use of electronic tuner AND by aural recognition.
- Demonstrate the physical coordination necessary to facilitate technical passages of music.
- Perform a solo.
- Evaluate the quality of a music performance, both live and recorded.

Classroom Procedures

1. Come into the Band Hall in a quiet/respectful manner.
2. Get your instrument/music/ and other supplies and sit in assigned seat.
3. Stop and Start Together.
4. Listen to instructions and respond in an appropriate manner.
5. At the end of rehearsal, put your instrument, music, supplies away in proper place.
6. Leave the Band Hall in a quiet/orderly fashion.

The success of our program is directly proportional to the overall attendance rate throughout the year. **Please make every effort to schedule your medical, dental, or other appointments around band activities and class time.**

A note about **dental appointments & braces**: If at all possible, please check the band calendar for performances, auditions, contests, festival, etc. before scheduling these kinds of appointments. Students work very hard in preparation for these events and sometimes he/she cannot participate after dental/braces work has been done.

Band Events Defined

All Region Band Auditions for Seventh & Eighth Graders (Required for Wind Ensemble)

Students from nearby school districts participate in these auditions. The audition consists of five memorized major scales, a memorized chromatic scale, and two prepared pieces (NOT memorized).

Students are judged by a panel of three to five judges who sit behind a partition to listen to each student perform their music. This process protects student anonymity and the integrity of the audition process.

Top students are selected from these auditions and receive the honor of participating in the All Region Band Clinic and Concert. Selection to the All Region band is one of the highest honors a middle school student can achieve. *Our philosophy emphasizes the improvement each student experiences as a result of participating in the All-Region Band process not necessarily “making” the All-Region Band!*

Before or After School Rehearsal/Sectional: A special rehearsal held outside of normal school hours. Each section meets by themselves for a 50-minute time frame, one section per week. These practices are required and grades are given for participation. Sectionals will be a part of the Wind Ensemble curriculum with a specific schedule of days/times to be given out at a later date.

Concert: A concert is a non-competitive performance. There is no admission charge. Family members and friends are encouraged to attend. Concerts are a major part of our curriculum that is graded and attendance is required of all students in the participating groups. All students are eligible to participate in concerts as academically eligibility is not required.

Contest or Festival: A contest or festival is a competitive performance. Students must be academically eligible* to participate.

Solo and Ensemble Contest: All band students who are academically eligible* *will participate* in Solo and Ensemble Contest. The performers are evaluated by a single judge with a specific criteria for their age/ability level.

***Academic Eligibility**

As mandated by the Texas University Interscholastic League, any grade below 70 on a six-week report card will deny a student competitive performance privileges for a three or six week period. Because of the adverse effect this problem can have on an individual and the group as a whole, we will monitor this situation around All-Region, Solo and Ensemble Contest, and U.I.L. Concert and Sight-reading Contest.

Parents, we ask that you continue to supervise your child and communicate with their teachers if any grade questions should arise. Students should understand that their grades have a direct influence on other students as well as themselves. Every individual in the band plays a vital role as a link in our chain.

Outline of UIL Academic Requirements (no pass, no play)

1. If a student receives a grade below 70 in any subject, that student will become in-eligible for extra-curricular activities starting on the Friday following the end of the six-week grading period in which the failing grade was received.
2. A student can regain eligibility on the Friday following the 3-week grading period if the student is passing EVERY class and receives no remark of "currently failing" on his/her 3-week progress report.

Grading

Evaluation Grades: (40%)

Major Concert performances includes: Attendance; performance, attire, concert etiquette

Major Playing Exams: End of Grading period, 100 points total

Application Grades: (30%)

Weekly playing Tests (100 points total); Sectional participation

Practice Grades: (30%)

Daily Work : 20/25 points earned a day for positive participation and students having necessary supplies (i.e. instrument, music, reeds, valve oil, pencil, etc.)

-All students start with "0" and can earn as much as 20 points daily (5 days a Week; 25 points/day-4 days a week; etc.)

-POINTS ARE NEVER DEDUCTED!

Helpful Tips for Success

1) PRACTICE

Following a consistent, daily practice schedule is essential for a student to progress at an acceptable rate on his or her instrument. Parents, encourage your child to adopt a schedule of 30 minutes per day, at least five days per week.

1. Have goals when you practice
2. Eliminate distractions
3. Set up a daily schedule and stick to it
4. Always use a metronome
5. Always use a music stand

2) ALWAYS BE PREPARED FOR CLASS

1. Instrument
2. Band Binder with Band Book
3. Pencil
4. Reeds and mouthpieces

3) PRIVATE LESSONS

See **Music Enrichment Forms** included:

4) DENTAL APPOINTMENTS AND BRACES:

If at all possible, please check the band calendar for performances, auditions, contests, festival, etc. before scheduling these kinds of appointments

Class Materials & Instrument Repairs

- All students **MUST** have a 1-inch 3 ring binder; pockets inside (plastic cover on front to put ensemble name provided by director) with 20 clear sheet protectors. Band Method books and music will be provided to the students.
- A #2 pencil is also needed for every rehearsal. There will be periodic “pencil checks” for a grade.
- Additional supplies for specific instruments such as reeds, valve oil, cork grease, etc. will also need to be provided by the student.
- Wind players will need to purchase a chromatic tuner/mic for rehearsals. Students can purchase these through the band department for \$25.00
Make checks payable to: **Midway MS Band**
- Percussion students will be given a packet about specific supplies needed for them.

If you think your personally owned instrument is in need of repair, let a director look at it instrument **BEFORE** it goes to the shop. It may save you some money and time. The directors do have some experience with minor instrument repairing. Please bring a parent note if your personal instrument is in the shop being repaired.

School owned instruments that are in need of repair must be given to band directors. Parents and students are not authorized to take school-owned instruments to a repair shop.

School-owned Instruments

- All students playing an instrument owned by Midway ISD will be required to pay an instrument usage/maintenance fee of **\$50 per year**.
- The fee is intended to help offset a small part of the normal repair and upkeep cost of these expensive school owned instruments: *Euphonium, Tuba, French Horn, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Sax, Bari Sax, Oboe, and Bassoon*. Students are responsible for the cost of the excessive damage, loss and/or replacement of the instrument that occurs while in their care. Fees are due by the third week of school.
- Checks may be made out to: **Midway MS Band**
- All fees are non-refundable. If a student moves or is no longer part of the band program, they will not receive a refund. All band students that use a school-owned instrument will be responsible for paying the full fee regardless of the enrollment date.

Students will not be denied from playing an instrument because they are unable to pay this fee. Contact the band director if you need assistance.

Band Hall and Practice Rooms

These are your rooms to use! Show respect and pride by keeping them neat and clean.

1. No food, drinks, or gum allowed in band hall or ensemble/practice rooms.
2. Keep band locker clean and neat.
3. No writing on stands, chairs, walls, lockers, lapboards, etc.
4. Only band students are allowed in the band hall at any time.

Instrument Storage

Each student will have a locker assigned for their instrument and band supplies. Students will be issued a combination lock from the band department. Lockers are for storage of instruments and music **only**. Please keep schoolbooks, coats, athletic wear, etc. in other appropriate locations.

Uniforms

ALL BANDS

All Bands will be wearing “all black” for formal performances. Band T-Shirts will be worn for smaller, informal settings. T-Shirt price is: **\$10.00**. *8th gr. will be wearing these T-shirts for MS Band Night at the HS football game on 10/6.*

T-Shirt Money due by Friday, September 8.

Students will supply their own:

- BLACK PLAIN FRONT PANTS. NO JEANS AND NO CARGO POCKETS.
- SOLID BLACK CLOSED TOE SHOE WITH
- BLACK SOCKS THAT COVER THE ANKLES OR BLACK KNEE HIGHS.
- BLACK BUTTON-DOWN SHIRT (Guys), BLOUSE (Girls) FOR THE TOP, (guys will need a neck-tie for some performances)
- GIRLS MAY WEAR A BLACK, FULL LENGTH DRESS AS WELL

Spring Trip

To be able to participate in the end of the year band students must:

1. Be academically eligible during the grading period of the trip– This is an extracurricular trip, therefore students must have passed all classes (70+) on the six-weeks report card, prior to the trip.
2. Return a signed permission slip, filled out completely.
3. **Be present and perform at all major/formal performances. These performances are graded and participation is mandatory.**

Major/Formal Performances include but are not limited to: Fall Concert, Region Band Concert, Winter Concert, Solo and Ensemble Contest, Pre UIL Concert, UIL Competition and Spring Concert.

One “**excused**” absence may not be held against the student’s trip eligibility. A second missed major/formal performance will result in the loss of the privilege of participating in the Spring Trip.

4. Have settled all financial obligations to the fine arts organization and to the school before the trip.
5. Have met behavior standards:
 - Zero Suspensions: Not in DAEP for the entire school year
 - Second semester only: Less than four (4) days of ISS and Disciplinary Saturday School combined.
 - Directors, counselors, and/or principals will determine who is eligible to make the trip. Any habitually disruptive student may be subject to exclusion.

Extracurricular Activity Restrictions and Code of Conduct

Before you go on any activity with the band, please read and understand the **Extracurricular Activity Restrictions and Code of Conduct** as reprinted from the Texas Education Code found in the Midway Middle School Student Handbook.

Consequences For Negative Behavior

As a student who has chosen to be a member of the MMS Band, we expect you to act with a superior attitude. At the very first sign of difficulty, we will treat you like an adult and give you the opportunity to correct yourself. In the event this is unsuccessful, we will be forced to request assistance from your parents. Ultimately, our responsibility as directors is to ensure that those who do comply with expectations are granted every opportunity to learn at the highest possible level, free from distraction.

1st Offense – Verbal warning. Students will be offered the chance to correct their behavior. Students will not earn all possible points for class participation.

2nd Offense – Removal from ensemble setting. Students will be removed from the regular band setting and placed in another part of the room where there are few distractions. Students are still expected to participate in the rehearsal. Few class participation points earned

3rd Offense – Parent Contact. The director will call or conference with the student's parent or guardian. Students will earn very few class participation points for that day. Student put on behavior contract.

4th Offense – Office Referral/Parent Contact: Students will be referred to MMS administration concerning their behavior. This may lead to removal from the band program!

Midway Band Backers

There is a Band Booster organization. Information about this parent group is available at www.midwayband.org. MS Band Parents are invited to be a part of this organization.

New Band Web Page!

There is a new web for all the MS and HS bands this year!
The address is: [**midwayband.org**](http://midwayband.org)

On the upper right side of the home page is a link to MS band information. You will find an updated calendar and many other forms or additional information needed for your student. The handbook is uploaded to the page as well as well as all the all of the forms included in the packet.