

WEDGWOOD

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Fort Worth Independent School District

Theodore Jarchow-Principal

BAND HANDBOOK

*2011-2012
School Year*

Michael Dawson, Director
Adam Kramer, Director

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Welcome to the Wedgwood Middle School band program. By making it possible for your child to play a musical instrument, you are providing the opportunity for self-expression, creativity and achievement. Numerous studies indicate parental attitude, support and involvement are important factors in a child's ability to successfully learn to play an instrument and to enjoy music.

The following information and guidelines are designed to help you understand the rules and expectations of the Wedgwood Middle School Band Program and to assist you in giving your child the best support possible for his or her musical experience. Like any skill, interest counts far more than talent. With the right support from you, performing music will become a natural part of your child's life.

We would like you to read through this information with your child. Please sign and

return the **Handbook Receipt & Confirmation** page at the back of this handbook to the drop box located in the band hall during the week of August 29th. **No student will be allowed to attend a Wedgwood Band event without turning in the Handbook Receipt and Confirmation.** Keep this handbook and review its content throughout the year and please feel free to give the band directors a call if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support of our program and the encouragement you give your child.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Dawson
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Wedgwood Middle School Band

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GENERAL BAND CLASS INFORMATION

INSTRUMENTS: All band students need to bring their instrument daily to be considered participating. ***Participation is a daily requirement.*** Students will receive a daily grade of zero when they do not have an instrument. Exceptions will only be considered with a parental note.

BAND CLASS MATERIALS: Black 1" three ring binder, 10 sheet protectors, pencil, small mirror (woodwinds & brass only), pencil, highlighter and pencil bag for the binder.

REQUIRED METHOD BOOK: Foundations of Superior Performance by Richard Williams & Jeff King. **Every student must own this book.** This book can be purchased at any music retailer. We have books available at the band hall for \$6.00.

RECOMMENDED ITEMS: Metronome, tuner, instrument cleaning kit, folding music stand (for practicing at home).

REEDS: All clarinet and saxophone players must have at least **5** good reeds in their case at all times. **Reeds are cheaper to purchase by the box.** All bassoon and oboe players should have **3** reeds in their case at all times.

BRASS: Valve oil, tuning slide grease, polishing cloth. For Trombones: Slide cream & spray bottle are required in addition to those items.

VERY IMPORTANT RULE: All students are required to take their instrument and music home each day!!! Your grade and your band depend on it! Make arrangements to get your instrument early if you participate in afterschool activities. Locker checks will be conducted twice every six weeks without notice and will be graded as assignments.

PRACTICING: ALL Wedgwood Band members are expected to practice their instruments EVERY DAY.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENT USAGE FEE

Students who play on school owned instruments are charged a \$30.00 usage fee per semester. You may also pay a one-time \$60.00 fee at the beginning of the year. This will pay to have the instrument cleaned and serviced at the end of the school year. Students who wish to use a school-owned instrument during the summer must pay an additional \$30.00 usage fee. A checkout form describing the condition of the instrument at checkout time will be sent home for parent/guardian signature each semester. 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 school year.

If repairs are necessary during the year, bring the instrument to a director before taking it to a music store. In case of a minor repair, the director may be able to fix it free of charge. When an instrument has serious damage, be sure to show it to a Wedgwood band director so the damage can be assessed and the director could recommend where to take the instrument to be repaired. Students may be responsible for repair costs due to negligence or mis-use.

Please note: If, in the opinion of a Wedgwood director, a school-owned instrument is not being properly maintained or cared for at any time during the year, it is the director's prerogative to remove the instrument from the student's care.

CARE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL BAND INSTRUMENTS

An identification tag **MUST** be attached to the outside of all instrument cases. Affordable luggage tags are available at Wal-Mart. It should include the student's name, address, and phone number. ***Be sure to write down the brand name, model, and serial number of your child's instrument and keep it for your records. You***

may want to store this information in your child's Charms account.

(Information regarding Charms is included in this handbook.)

IMPORTANT: *No one other than your child should handle the instrument.*

INSTRUMENT STORAGE

Instruments are to be kept in the band room in an assigned band locker during the school day. Instruments must be placed in the case and securely latched after every use. The band room is locked when the directors are out of the room.

BAND PLACEMENT

Students are placed in a band class according to their level of ability and commitment. Students will be evaluated at various times throughout the school year. Directors will consider moving a student to an appropriate band based on any significant changes in ability, commitment or motivation. Students who struggle academically may need to be placed in a band that has limited performance and rehearsal responsibilities in order to allow them more time for studying and to attend tutorials.

BAND SHIRTS AND UNIFORMS

Information will be sent home in the beginning of the school year and will be posted on our band website (www.wedgwoodband.com) regarding uniform needs and band shirts.

The purpose of wearing a uniform is for every student to look alike. Please adhere to the following uniform guidelines. Formal concert attire for all Wedgwood Band members will be as follows:

- White button down dress shirt (Long Sleeve)
- Black dress pant/slacks. (No denim, vinyl or leather)
- Black dress shoes (Girls shoes must be closed-toe only)
- Black socks or Black "Knee-highs"
- A black belt is preferred

Dress shoes are required. No tennis shoes. No "Flip-Flops." Girls must wear closed-toe shoes with socks or black nylons. No skin should show around the ankles or toes.

If your child wishes to wear a white under shirt, be sure it is white with no lettering or designs that can be visible through the dress shirt material.

All students will have their uniform reviewed prior to the start of the Winter Concert. More information will be provided later in the school year.

ATTENDANCE POLICY/GRADES/TESTING

The band is dependent on all its members. Unlike other classes where students may

succeed or fail independent of others, the band's success relies on the participation of everyone.

Grades are weighted as follows:

Sectionals	30%
Performances (Concerts, Contest, Playing Tests)	30%
Class Participation/Assignments	40%

All sectionals, extra-rehearsals and performances are graded. Absences will be excused only in the following cases: medical emergency or personal injury, death in the family, or religious holiday (**same as school policy**). An unexcused absence from a performance, rehearsal, or sectional will result in a grade of a zero.

PLEASE NOTE: There are not many ways for a student to receive a failing grade. If you miss practices or performances, a failing grade will be earned.

All band students must participate in class each day with all required materials. If a student does not bring his/her instrument or materials to class, this will result in a grade of a zero.

Woodwind players need to make sure they have proper reeds. Not having a "playable" reed will be unexcused and the participation grade will be lowered.

Students will be given at least one playing test each six weeks. Testing will occur during classes as well as before and after school and during sectional rehearsals.

Students who enroll in other activities, such as athletics, cheerleading, UIL Academics, 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, organizations and student jobs must not conflict in any way with the practice/performance schedule of the band.

NOTE TO PARENTS: We know schedules are busy for everyone, but please make an effort to be at your child's performances. **A child always plays better when they know someone they care about is listening.**

A calendar is included in this handbook informing you of performances and events for the entire year. The calendar is also available on our website, www.wedgwoodband.com. Sometimes we are asked to perform on short notice and students will be given an update if necessary.

SECTIONAL REHEARSALS AND FULL BAND REHEARSALS

Section rehearsals for each section will be scheduled one day per week, either before or

after school for the students in the Concert (1st Period) and Symphonic Band. Sectionals are small group rehearsals that allow your child to get detailed instruction that covers fundamental and advanced instrumental techniques, All-Region materials, band music, solo and ensemble music, chair tests, etc. Attendance is mandatory to be a member of the Symphonic Band and Concert Band.

Additional full band rehearsals will be scheduled before or after school. These rehearsals will usually include contest music preparation and developing sightreading skills. At least two weeks notice will be given for any extra sectionals or rehearsals.

BAND & ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Students who participate in extracurricular activities must meet T.E.A. (Texas Education Association) and U.I.L. (University Interscholastic League) eligibility requirements. **"NO PASS...NO PLAY"**

Eligibility to perform in extracurricular activities is gained by a student passing all classes on a report card. Students who fail any single class on a report card will become INELIGIBLE seven days later. Ineligible students do not regain eligibility immediately. Students may regain eligibility seven calendar days after the end of the three-week grade evaluation period provided the student is passing all courses. Semester grades are never used for eligibility.

VERY IMPORTANT:

All students must be academically eligible to participate in the Spring Band Trip. We will only be able to give a 50% refund of the cost of the trip if a student is not able to attend due to eligibility.

FWISD MIDDLE SCHOOL DISTRICT-BAND & T.M.E.A ALL-REGION BAND AUDITIONS

In October, all Symphonic Band (Varsity) members will audition for the FWISD Middle School Honor Band. This audition requires preparation of the audition music and scales. The audition will count as a performance grade for those six weeks. In November, students who are adequately prepared will be invited to try out for the Texas Music Educators Association Region Honors Band. In both of these auditions students will be competing against other middle school band students. These bands are similar to an "All-Star" team. All students who are selected to the District or All-Region Band are required to be present at the rehearsals and performance. See the band calendar for performance dates and locations.

SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST

Students are given an opportunity to compete individually on their instruments.

F.W.I.S.D. will be hosting its Annual Solo Contest for students to have an opportunity to improve their skills and be awarded a medal for outstanding performance. The student fee will be \$6.00 to cover the cost of adjudication and medals. See the band calendar for details.

BAND FESTIVALS/UII/EVALUATION

Symphonic Band and Concert Band "A" will participate in contests/evaluations in the spring semester. Most of these contests/evaluations consist not only of a prepared performance, but also sightreading. ***Students must be academically eligible to participate in these or any other contest we may attend.***

DAILY PRACTICE

Music achievement requires effort over a period of time. It is important for you to encourage your child to be consistent. Most of us want instant gratification, but students who are consistent and hard-working always persevere and accomplish their goals. Instruments must go home everyday!

STUDENT DISCIPLINE AND BEHAVIOR

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual. As such, each student is responsible for his or her actions as a member of the Wedgwood Band.

Discipline and using proper manners and language are important at all times. We have been fortunate in the past several years to be guests at many performances and festivals, including several events at the Bass Performance Hall. When we are off campus we are always representing our school and our band program. It is extremely important that we always act appropriately. A student who has infractions on file in the office for the current school year may lose their opportunity to go to a performance based on the opinion of the director.

If an incident does occur during any band related activity, parents will be notified immediately. The severity of the incident will determine what action will be taken. Any student who violates school rules while with the Wedgwood Band will be subject to all usual school disciplinary procedures. Your child's action(s) could result in the loss of participation on future trips and possible removal from the band.

Students who receive an infraction for what the director or principal consider a major offense (i.e. fighting, drug possession/use, bullying, etc.) will lose all off-campus privileges with the band for the remainder of the school year. This includes the band trip.

FUNDRAISERS

Participation in any and all fundraisers is voluntary. We have a variety of moneymaking projects scheduled for the school year. At least 50% of the profit a student earns will be placed in an "account" for your child and can be used for band expenses, trips,

uniform, instrument fee, etc. The remaining % of the profit will be placed in the general fund and be used for group projects. We can set up accounts for parents/guardians if they plan on going on the spring trip as a chaperone. Any money left over in an account after a student/parent withdraws or graduates to high school will be placed in the Wedgwood Band general fund. Checks are preferred and should be made out to Wedgwood Band Boosters.

BAND WEBSITE AND CHARMS

www.wedgwoodband.com

The website is our primary form of communication to band students and parents. On the website, you will find the current band calendar, links to music stores, director information, charms information, recent news and revisions to the calendar, and several other features.

“Charms” is a website database provided to us by the school district. Each student has an account and it is important to keep your personal information updated so that you will receive communications from us. Instructions on how to access and use “Charms” is available on our web-site.

Please do not hesitate to call or email if you have any questions or concerns (817) 814-8257. We look forward to working with you and your child this school year.

Handbook Receipt & Confirmation

Wedgwood Middle School Band

This form must be signed and turned in to the drop box located in the band hall during the week of August 29th. No student will be allowed to attend a Wedgwood Band event without turning in the Handbook Receipt and Confirmation.

I have received and reviewed the Wedgwood MS Band Handbook for the 2011-2012 school year. I understand the information provided and agree to abide by the requirements and rules stated in the handbook.

Student Name (print)_____

Parent/Guardian Signature_____

Date of Signature_____

Parent Contact Information

Please fill out for easy parent contact.

Parent(s) Name_____

Home Phone#_____ Cell Phone #_____

Email Address(es)_____

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