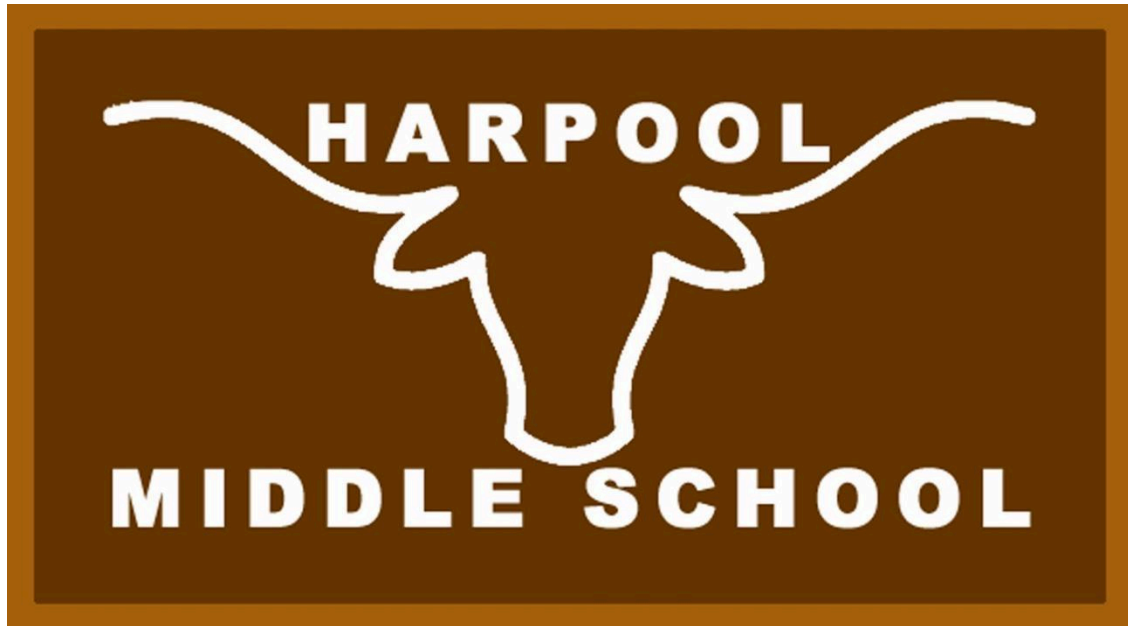


# **BAND HANDBOOK**



**David Dolkos, Director of Bands**  
**Emily Staniszewski, Associate Director of Bands**  
**Colleen Grindle, Principal**  
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**Ashley Ogal, Assistant Principal**

**[www.dentonisd.org/harpoolms/band](http://www.dentonisd.org/harpoolms/band)**

# **2024-2025**

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## Welcome to the 2024-2025 Longhorn Band

Congratulations on being a member of the Harpool Longhorn Band. The Longhorn Band is an extremely exciting organization. We don't want you to miss a second of all the fun. The band program will provide participating students with an enriching, creative, educational, and rewarding experience. This handbook has been prepared for Harpool Longhorn Band students and their parents to inform you of our band's goals, objectives, and policies. The reason for these policies is to build a band program of the highest quality and to give every band student the best instruction possible. All students and parents are expected to read the entire handbook carefully to avoid conflicts with the procedures and rules stated within. We are extremely fortunate to have school board members, administration, faculty, and especially parents who are committed and dedicated to creating and maintaining a band program of the highest quality! If you have any questions or concerns throughout this year, please do not hesitate to contact one of us by either email or telephone or look at our website, <http://www.dentonisd.org/harpoolmsband>

### Harpool Band Goals

- Instill an individual desire to succeed
- Promote cooperation and teamwork
- Promote respect for one another
- Express the aesthetic value of music through performance skills and theory comprehension
- Academically fulfill the state and district requirements for fine arts in the school curriculum

***Great communication is a major key to the success of any organization.***

### How to Contact the Directors

Clear and open communication is important. We also understand that timely communication is also essential. We will make every effort to return every message within 24 hours. In most instances, e-mail is the best way to get a quick message to us.

#### Contact Info

David Dolkos	940-369-1782	<a href="mailto:ddolkos@dentonisd.org">ddolkos@dentonisd.org</a>
Emily Staniszewski	940-369-1783	<a href="mailto:estaniszewski2@dentonisd.org">estaniszewski2@dentonisd.org</a>

### WRITE A NOTE

You may send a note with your child. Please include a phone number and/or e-mail address where you can be reached and the best time to contact you.

**Please understand that our communication to you – the parents – is a very high priority for us.** We want to take care of concerns and make every situation the best for each student. Please contact us for clarification on any concerns before they become major issues. **Due to sectionals and student help sessions, it is difficult to reach us before or after school. If we are working with students, please understand that they are our highest priority and deserve our complete attention.**

### Student Communication

**Students are encouraged to communicate with the directors before concerns become issues.** They should do this in person at an appropriate time, one on one. Again, clarification and solid communication will keep everything running smoothly throughout the entire year. Throughout the year, we will send quite a bit of information home in the form of emails. Please read this information carefully, check calendars often and keep us informed of any conflicts. The sooner we know of a situation, the more options we have in finding solutions.

## Course Descriptions

### **Symphonic Band**

This group is composed of the most advanced seventh and eighth graders in the Harpool Band program. The standards are very high for this group and they play music that is technically and musically challenging. Symphonic Band students are required to participate in all before/after school sectionals, all before or after school rehearsals, and All-District tryouts.

#### **Symphonic Band, Seventh Grade Objectives**

- Continue to develop the sixth grade objectives.
- Demonstrate ability to clap and count sixteenth notes, triplets, and dotted eighth sixteenth note rhythms
- Develop a technical ability on the instrument through sixteenth notes and triplets
- Further develop listening skills including intonation: the ability to play in the center of the pitch – not sharp or flat
- Learn the art of following a conductor in a large ensemble
- Demonstrate ability to play in different musical styles: staccato, legato, marcato
- Demonstrate knowledge of seven major scales and arpeggios along with the chromatic scale corresponding with All-Region requirements
- Learn performance procedures including stage presence
- Compete in citywide competitions on a seventh grade level
- Understand the consequences of individual actions at a group level
- Advance to the eighth grade level of performance in the Harpool Band Program

#### **Symphonic Band, Eighth Grade Objectives**

- Continue and improve on all sixth and seventh grade objectives
- Comprehend musical phrasing
- Demonstrate knowledge of 12 major scales and arpeggios along with the chromatic scale (full range)
- Increase stage presence and composure while performing before a live audience
- Further develop the ability to compete on a city and region level
- Further develop an awareness of the consequences of personal actions on the whole group
- Advance to the ninth grade level of performance

#### **Symphonic Band Performance Expectations/Requirements:**

These events are not to be considered optional. If there are any questions concerning these events, please contact us as soon as possible. We can provide options, but late notification of conflicts will limit those options. **It is important to realize that Symphonic Band Students are a part of a team, and their individual decisions affect the entire group.**

(These items are graded)

- Pep Rallies (during school day)
- Football Games (parent transportation to and from)
- Winter/Spring Concerts (parent transportation to and from)
- 1 Festival (UIL/ or other local festival – school transportation)
- Festival/UIL Clinics/After School Rehearsals and Concerts
- UIL (during school day – school transportation)
- Practice of 20-40+ minutes daily

- Have all materials daily!
- 45 minute sectional once a week (scheduled around most school conflicts)
- Participation in Solo & Ensemble
- Participation in All-District tryouts
- Participation in All-Region tryouts encouraged

### **Symphonic Band Performance Dress**

**Pep Rallies and Football Games:** Blue Jeans, Band Shirt

**All other performances unless otherwise noted:**

**Boys:** Tuxedo Shirt, Vest, Bow Tie, Black Tuxedo Pants **BOYS MUST PROVIDE:** Plain White Undershirt, Black Socks, Black Dress Shoes, (no sneakers!) No earrings allowed for boys.

**Girls:** Black Dress **GIRLS MUST PROVIDE:** Black Panty Hose, Black Dress Shoes, Heel height less than 2" with wide heels. Women may only wear studs in their ears. No dangling earrings, necklaces, watches, or bracelets. No perfume or cologne is allowed for concerts. Some perfumes and colognes can cause allergic reactions and can affect the health of other students.

### **Shirts**

All Band students must purchase a Harpool Band shirt. The cost of the shirt is included in the student's band fee.

### **Uniform Cleaning**

The cost of uniform cleaning is included in the student's band fees. This covers the cleaning of the pants, tux shirts, vests, bow ties, and dresses after performances. If lost or damaged, replacement fees are \$5.00 for a bow tie, \$10.00 for a vest, and \$20.00 for a shirt.

## **Concert Band**

This ensemble is composed of seventh and eighth graders in our band program. The standards are high for this group and they play music that is challenging. The Concert Band is encouraged to participate in All-District and All-Region Tryouts. Concert Band students are required to participate in all before and after school sectionals, all before and after school rehearsals, and all scheduled performances and festivals.

### **Concert Band, Seventh Grade Objectives**

- Continue to develop the sixth grade objectives
- Demonstrate ability to clap and count sixteenth notes, triplets, and dotted eighth sixteenth note rhythms
- Develop a technical ability on the instrument through sixteenth notes and triplets
- Further develop listening skills including intonation: the ability to play in the center of the pitch – not sharp or flat
- Learn the art of following a conductor in a large ensemble
- Demonstrate ability to play in different musical styles: staccato, legato, marcato
- Demonstrate knowledge of seven major scales and arpeggios along with the chromatic scale corresponding with All-Region requirements.
- Learn performance procedures including stage presence.
- Compete in citywide competitions on a seventh grade level.
- Understand the consequences of individual actions at a group level
- Advance to the eighth grade level of performance in the Harpool Band Program

### **Concert Band, Eighth Grade Objectives**

- Continue and improve on all sixth and seventh grade objectives
- Comprehend musical phrasing
- Demonstrate the knowledge of 12 major scales and arpeggios along with the chromatic scale (full range).
- Increase stage presence and composure while performing before a live audience.
- Further develop the ability to compete on a city and regional level.
- Further develop an awareness of the consequences of personal actions on the whole group.
- Advance to the ninth grade level of performance

### **Concert Band Performance Expectations/Requirements:**

These events are not to be considered optional. If there are any questions concerning these events, please contact us as soon as possible. We can provide options, but late notification of conflicts will limit those options. **It is important to realize that Concert Band Students are a part of a team, and their individual decisions affect the entire group.**

(These items are graded)

- Pep Rallies (during school day)
- Football Games (parent transportation to and from)
- Winter/Spring Concerts (parent transportation to and from)
- 1 Festival (Sandy Lake/UII/or other local festival – school transportation)
- Festival/UII Clinics/After School Rehearsals and Concerts

- UIL depending on eligibility and instrumentation (during school day – school transportation)
- Practice of 20-40+ minutes daily
- Have all materials daily!
- 45 minute sectional once a week (scheduled around most school conflicts)
- Participation in Solo & Ensemble Contest encouraged
- Participation in All-District and All-Region tryouts encouraged

### **Concert Band Performance Dress**

**Pep Rallies and Football Games:** Blue Jeans, Band Shirt

**All other performances unless otherwise noted:**

**Boys:** Tuxedo Shirt, Vest, Bow Tie, Black Tuxedo Pants **BOYS MUST PROVIDE:** Plain White Undershirt, Black Socks, Black Dress Shoes, (no sneakers!) No earrings allowed for boys.

**Girls:** Black Dress **GIRLS MUST PROVIDE:** Black Panty Hose, Black Dress Shoes, Heel height less than 2" with wide heels. Women may only wear studs in their ears. No dangling earrings, necklaces, watches, or bracelets. No perfume or cologne is allowed for concerts. Some perfumes and colognes can cause allergic reactions and can affect the health of other students.

### **Shirts**

All seventh and eighth graders must purchase a Harpool Band shirt. The cost of the shirt is included in the student's band fee.

### **Uniform Cleaning**

The cost of uniform cleaning is included in the student's band fees. This covers the cleaning of the pants, tux shirts, vests, bow ties, and dresses after performances. Replacement fees are \$5.00 for a bow tie, \$10.00 for a vest, and \$20.00 for a shirt.

## **Beginning Band**

In the beginning band classes students will learn from basic to more advanced skills of how to play their individual instrument. At the end of their sixth grade year they will audition for the Symphonic and Concert Bands. Beginning band students are required to participate in all scheduled performances, all before and after school rehearsals, and the Spring Band Festival.

### **Beginning Band Objectives**

- Demonstrate correct posture while playing an instrument
- Demonstrate correct embouchure while playing a wind instrument
- Demonstrate correct hand and stick position while playing a percussion instrument
- Be able to produce a characteristic tone on your instrument
- Understand and demonstrate various articulation markings; slurring and tonguing
- Clap and count various rhythms that include whole, half, quarter, dotted quarter, and eighth notes
- Play seven major scales and arpeggios at least one octave and the chromatic scale
- Develop technical motor skills such as tapping your toe to the beat and clapping rhythms at different tempos
- Develop listening skills including intonation: the ability to play in the center of the pitch – not sharp or flat
- Demonstrate correct knowledge of musical terms
- Develop listening skills within small and large ensembles of alike and different instruments
- Develop socially through large-group interaction
- Develop personal and social self-discipline
- Achieve technical and musical skills adequate for advancement to the seventh grade level in the Harpool Band Program

### **Beginner Band Performance Expectations/Requirements**

These events are not to be considered optional. If there are any questions concerning these events, please contact us as soon as possible. We can provide options, but late notification of conflicts will limit those options. **It is important to realize that Beginning Band Students are a part of a team, and their individual decisions affect the entire group.**

(These items are graded)

- Winter and Spring Concerts
- After School Rehearsals before each concert
- Participation in Solo & Ensemble encouraged
- Practice Record of 20-30+ minutes daily
- Have all materials daily

### **Beginning Band Performance Dress**

Band Shirt and School appropriate Blue Jeans

All sixth graders are required to buy a Harpool Band T-shirt. The cost of the shirt is included in the student's band fee.

Students may be required to dress formally for special events.

## Jazz Band

This ensemble is for seventh and eighth graders interested in playing in the group. Music is played from the big band, Be-Bop, swing, and rock eras.

### Jazz Band Performance Expectations/Requirements

Before, During, and After School rehearsal as needed for performances. Practice of 20-40+ minutes daily.

### Performance Dress for Jazz Band

#### Winter/Spring Concerts

**Boys:** Tuxedo Shirt, Vest, Bow Tie, Black Tuxedo Pants BOYS MUST PROVIDE: Plain White Undershirt, Black Socks, Black Dress Shoes, (no sneakers!) No earrings allowed for boys.

**Girls:** Black Dress GIRLS MUST PROVIDE: Black Panty Hose, Black Dress Shoes, Heel height less than 2" with wide heels. Women may only wear studs in their ears. No dangling earrings, necklaces, watches, or bracelets. No perfume or cologne is allowed for concerts. Some perfumes and colognes can cause allergic reactions and can affect the health of other students.

#### All other concerts/festivals

Blue Jeans or Khaki Pants and Band Shirt

Festivals – Blue Jeans, Band Shirt

## Required Band Books and Materials

**All Beginning (6<sup>th</sup> grade) Brass and Woodwind Students:** Essential Elements for your specific instrument.

**Symphonic and Concert Band (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade):** *Foundations for Superior Performance* for your instrument.

**Flip Folders & Lyres** Symphonic and Concert Band members must purchase a flip folder and lyre that is used at pep rallies and football games. Frequent supply checks will be made in class. If a student does not have all their materials when a check is done, they may be moved down to last chair, points may be marked off their daily participation grade, a detention may be given, and/or parents or guardians may be contacted.

#### All Flutes

Cleaning/tuning rod, soft cloth/swab

#### All Reed Instruments

Minimum of 3 good playable reeds, reed guard (case), cork grease, and a swab for cleaning

#### All Brass Instruments

Soft cloth for cleaning, valve oil, slide grease, a cleaning snake, mouthpiece brush, and a water spray bottle for trombones

#### All Percussion

Each percussion student will be provided with a list of recommended mallets and sticks to be purchased each year and continuing through high school. 7/8th will need at least two sets of snare sticks, 1 set of vibraphone mallets, and a mallet bag. They can have more of each, but check with a director as to which particular ones to purchase. Also students may look into purchasing a set of general use timpani sticks.

**All students** are expected to provide a box of tissue as well as the appropriate supplies for their instrument.

- Instrument
- Pencil
- \_\_\_ Music
- \_\_\_ Band book(s)
- Any handouts and/or notes given to you in class

**Band books may be purchased online on Amazon and various other websites as well as these local retailers:**

**Music and Arts: 360 E. FM 3040, Suite 820 Lewisville, TX 75067 Phone: (972) 315-8400**

**Pender's Music in Denton located at the corner of Elm and Stroud St. 940-382-7124**

**\*\*\*Your books must be purchased and brought to class by the week of September 5th\*\*\***

## School Owned Instruments

There is a maintenance fee of \$125 charged to all school owned instruments. These funds are used to do any up-keep on the instruments as needed (cleanings, repairs due to normal wear and tear, etc.). Any repairs due to students mishandling or neglecting the instrument will be charged extra to the student (dents, stuck valves due to irregular oiling, valve mechanism damaged due to mishandling, foreign objects found in the instrument, etc.)

## Instrument Repairs

The goal of our district directors is to have instruments in proper playing condition at all times to maximize mastery of instructional objectives. A representative from Music and Arts Company and Dr. Sound will call on Denton ISD secondary campuses weekly to pick up instruments for needed repairs in order to minimize lost instructional/rehearsal time. If parents purchase rental insurance from the company, repairs are made at no charge and the instrument is returned to the campus as quickly as possible. For those without rental insurance, parents will be notified in advance by the company of any repair exceeding \$50.00. As stated in the contractual agreement, rental instruments from Music and Arts remain the property of the company until the purchase option has been exercised. The representative may pick up the company's instrument from the campus in case of delinquent payment after all other attempts to reach the parents or guardians have failed.

## Student Fees

### **Student Activity Fee for the entire year is due by September 9.**

Please make checks payable to **HARPOOL BAND**. *Online payment for this fee should be available soon!*

**Symphonic & Concert Bands:** \$90 for the year

**Beginning Band Members:** \$75 for the year

These activity fees help to fund your SmartMusic account, band shirt, binder, general student supplies, travel, and MUCH more!

### **School-Owned Instrument Maintenance Fee for the entire year is due by October 4.**

Please make checks payable to **HARPOOL BAND**. *Online payment for this fee should be available soon!*

**Percussion, Brass and Woodwind Students:** \$125.00 for the year

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Percussion Students:** \$50.00 for the year

Fees can be fundraised. If there is still a need for assistance please contact us so we can look at options with you.

## Before School Procedures

Every morning when you arrive at school, put your instrument in your band locker and then go outside and wait for the bell to ring. If a sectional is going on, enter quietly and do not disturb the sectional. If you decide to stay in the band hall in the morning you must be practicing in a practice room.

## After School Procedures

- You must take your instrument home every day.
- Failure to do so may result in points off your six weeks grade.
- You are expected to practice a minimum of 20 - 30 minutes, five times a week
- If you want to use a practice room to practice before or after school, you must clear it with one of the directors before you use the room.
- Do not hang around the building after school.
- The only band students allowed to be in the band hall after school are those who have sectionals, private lessons, are helping the directors, or those who are individually practicing in a practice room.

## Tuba Students

Due to the number of tuba students in our band and the number of tubas we actually own, some tuba students may not be able to have a tuba at home and a tuba at school. Since this is the case, these students will need to make arrangements with the directors to come in before or after school to individually practice their tuba. Tuba students need to make arrangements to get their tuba home over the weekend to practice. Sixth grade tuba players are required to turn in a practice journal every week.



## Band Equipment and Facilities

Once instruments are assigned and delivered, they become the student's responsibility. While at school, the instrument should be placed in the student's assigned locker to prevent any tampering or theft. No one should handle/play an instrument that does not belong to him/her. **This includes percussion equipment.**

### Student Instruments

Your instrument is extremely valuable and proper care should be taken to keep the instrument in great playing condition. Should your instrument need repair, inform the director. Never try to repair an instrument yourself. Most instruments require specific tools and skills to repair. All instruments need to have a permanent nametag on the case handle.

### School-Owned/Fee Waiver Instruments

Students who use school-owned/fee waiver instruments should take the same care as they would their own instrument. We would like to keep these instruments in working order as long as possible. Students using school instruments, including, 7/8th grade percussion, are required by the DISD to pay an instrument usage fee.

- Beginner Percussion is \$50.00 per year.
- 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> percussion and all other school instruments are \$125 per year.
- The student is liable for damage to school/fee waiver instruments due to negligence, carelessness, or loss.
- The student must always inform the director of any necessary repairs.

### Instrument Lockers

Each student will be assigned an instrument locker to keep their band materials in during the school day. Please keep lockers neat and clean. No instrument should be left in the band hall overnight or on weekends/holidays. These lockers are used as a storage space for the students, but will not have a lock. Please do not leave valuables in this space.

### Music and Folders

- Please take care of your music and folder.
- Put your name on your folder and all of your music
- All markings on your music should be done in pencil.

### Band Hall and Practice Rooms

These are your facilities and they should reflect your attitude towards the band program.

- Show respect to each other by keeping all these areas neat and clean.
- No food, soft drinks, or gum will be allowed in any practice room or the band hall.
- Since there are so many people in and out of the band hall each day, we need your help to ensure that it stays clean and that these rules are followed.
- Some of the practice rooms will be available for before and after school practice.
- Students are encouraged to take advantage of the practice rooms to fulfill their practice requirements.

### Director's Office

The office is the director's work area. Please do not come into the office without director consent. The telephone is for office use. Students will only be allowed to use the phone in cases of emergencies with the director's permission. There is a phone located in the main building for student use.

### Chairs/Stands

The chairs are for sitting only. Please keep all four legs on the floor. The band hall and large ensemble room chairs are set up for the largest class. Please do not remove chairs from the rows. Music stands are for holding music only. They are expensive to replace and can be broken easily by leaning or doing homework on them. Please help keep these for a long time by taking care of them now.

## Grading Policies/Procedures

### Attendance

Students are expected to participate in band rehearsals and activities that are scheduled outside of the school day. Aside from receiving a grade for their attendance, these extra rehearsals help develop each person's playing ability. They are also the culmination of what the students have learned in class. We understand that absences for personal illness and other extenuating circumstances are sometimes unavoidable. When possible, parents/guardians should give advance notice to one of the directors. Unexcused absences from class or any rehearsal or performance may result in a lowered grade or a zero for that particular event. Please make every effort not to schedule doctor's appointments, etc. during sectionals, rehearsals, and performances. Each student plays a valuable part in the band and we are dependent on each other for success. Remember – each person is an important part of the band program and cannot be replaced. Communication of attendance conflicts is an important skill for students to develop. Development of this skill requires the continued assistance of the parents/guardians and the directors. Please remember that it is always a good idea to have a written and verbal communication plan. *The main office does not tell the directors the details of a student's absence or if it will be prolonged. Please call the band hall to notify the directors of all absences.* Excused absences are given on an individual basis. If a student is absent from school or has a doctor's excuse, they are excused for the rehearsal /sectional/performance. Please notify one of the directors if your child is sick or in cases of emergencies. Students are still required to make up the sectional or performance grade. Each director will notify students of all special rehearsals and all scheduled performances at least two weeks in advance (except in rare emergencies). Students are expected to notify parents. Parents may also call the band hall or check our website. In the event that a student belongs to a non-Harpool organization which may be appearing or rehearsing at the same time, the HMS Band will take preference. Most groups respect and encourage this policy. Conflicts with other HMS organizations will be resolved by one of the directors, if given enough advance notice.

## Tardy Policy

All students are expected to be on time to every class. We will give you one minute after the bell rings to be in your chair with all supplies out and instrument put together. If this is not done in the time given you may be counted tardy.

### Tardy Consequences:

- Ticket taken
- Detention
- E-mail or phone call to parents
- Excessive tardiness may lead to an office referral

## **Band students are given weekly grades. Your band grade is determined by the following:**

### **Beginning Band**

#### **Summative Assessment (Performance/Product)**

##### **Major Summative– 60%**

###### **Performances**

Sixth grade students will have a winter recital, a spring concert, solos and ensemble contest, and compete at the Sandy Lake Band Festival in Carrollton or another local festival. All performances are required and graded.

###### **Performance Tests/Objectives**

Sixth graders will have major playing tests/objectives periodically during the quarter. These tests are designed to allow the directors to accurately determine a child's progress. At times chairs will be assigned

###### **After School Rehearsals**

Two or three after school rehearsals will occur as a concert or contest approaches. These rehearsals are required and graded.

##### **Minor Summative**

###### **Weekly Playing Tests, Written Quizzes**

Sixth graders will have minor playing tests/objectives periodically during the week. These tests are designed to allow the directors to accurately determine a child's progress. At times chairs will be assigned. These tests may or may not be announced previous to the actual test day.

### **Categories and Grade Percentages for Concert/Symphonic Band**

#### **Summative Assessment (Performance/Product)**

**Major Summative– 60%****Performances**

- Concerts
- Contests
- Playing tests
- Written tests
- Before/after school full band rehearsals/clinics
- Solo and ensemble contest
- All City/Region Tryouts
- Sectionals - Sectional rehearsals are a very important part in creating a quality band. This type of small group work with like instrument groupings ensures not only enough individual attention, but also sectional development. During these sectionals students will work on items that require more individual attention like: improving their fundamental skills on their instrument, practice difficult sections of their band music, learn various audition music (All-City/All-Region), and have chair tests. In trying to accommodate for HMS sports and cheerleading, the sectional schedule may change at the beginning of each new sport. We will do everything possible to schedule around athletic events and other school activities. Symphonic and Concert band students will have weekly sectionals beginning during the first six weeks period. These sectionals will be held before or after school, one day a week, for 50 minutes. Each sectional is required and graded. If unavoidable conflicts occur, please contact a director as soon as possible. Communication is the key! Usually it is most helpful to communicate these conflicts in writing as well as verbally. If an absence is unavoidable, the sectional grade should be made up by attending another like instrument sectional or by scheduling a separate time with one of the directors, during the week of the absence. Your communication to one of the directors is still necessary. If you miss a sectional due to an excused absence (absent from school, family emergency, athletic game, etc.) you have one week to make up the sectional grade.
- Daily quizzes

**Minor Summative – 40%****Weekly Playing Tests, Written Quizzes**

Concert/Symphonic Band members will have minor playing tests/objectives periodically during the week. These tests are designed to allow the directors to accurately determine a child's progress. At times chairs will be assigned. These tests may or may not be announced previous to the actual test day.

**Please Note:** If a student misses a sectional they must have a note prior to the absence or immediately following, then the director will determine if the absence is excused or not. Also, you must let the directors know when you will make up your sectional. An unexcused absence will result in an automatic zero and cannot be made up. Please do not schedule appointments during your child's sectional time if at all possible. **Parents: If you have difficulty getting your child to regular sectionals, please notify the directors as soon as possible**

**Pep Rally/Assembly Procedures**

- HMS holds pep rallies/assemblies throughout the year.
- Correct dress is required to participate with the band.
- Once you are dismissed from class, come straight to the band hall, get your things, and report immediately to the gym.
- Bring your flip folder, all pep band music, lyre, and instrument.
- If your instrument does not use a lyre, you are responsible for bringing a stand to and from the gym. All Concert/Symphonic Band members are expected to participate in the pep rallies.
- It is a required performance and grades will be given for all performances and proper dress.

**Performance Etiquette**

- Arrive on time and with proper attire.
- Always arrive at least 30 minutes prior to listed performance time.
- Always maintain professional stage presence when performing (including football games.)
- When listening to groups perform, do not talk and never leave your seat during a performance.
- Be supportive of all groups performing.

**Failure to follow these rules will result in a significant lowering of your six weeks performance/test grade.**

**You represent the Harpool Band at all times!!  
Please do so in a positive manner!!**

## **Practice Guidelines**

### **For All Band Parents**

Your child's progress in band will depend a great deal on what is achieved during daily home practice sessions. Learning takes place in school, but proficiency is gained at home. You can use the following guidelines to help your child at home.

#### **Time Schedule**

30 minutes per day is the minimum amount of practice time recommended for the average student.

Practicing at the same time every day is good, but some flexibility should be built into this schedule.

Don't bring the world to a halt at 6:30 p.m. every evening because it's practice time - kids need time for fun and relaxation just as adults do. If the situation merits, reschedule the practice session to an earlier or later time.

#### **Climate**

Practicing should be done in an area that is free of distractions away from the TV, radio, stereo, and family traffic. Good lighting, a straight-backed chair, mirror, metronome, and a music stand are definite assets. Reed players should have several reeds available during the practice session.

#### **Encouragement**

- Spend some time listening to your child practice.
- Offer constructive feedback.
- You do not need to be a former band member or musician to be able to hear improvement.
- Encourage them to play assignments and tests for you.
- Each time the student plays for a friend or relative, it helps them to feel more comfortable with a performance or competitive event.
- Is your child progressing?  
For the beginning band student, the field of instrumental music is new for your child.
- They are learning to use their facial muscles in a different way and their breathing apparatus for a different purpose.

There is a new language of symbols (notes) that require the use of his mind and body to translate this into musical sounds. All this takes time. Even parents, who have had former instrumental experience, have probably forgotten the struggle of producing those first few notes and songs.

#### **Parents can evaluate practice sessions by asking:**

- What is your assignment today
- Am I hearing the same daily warm up each day
- It is important to play the same daily warm up and drill before beginning the assigned material.
- Am I hearing music that they can already play, or am I hearing attempts at new material?
- Is the tone quality becoming more characteristic of the instrument, or is the tone harsh, unmusical, and unpleasant?
- Does the familiar tune or exercise move along steadily with some sort of fluent rhythm, or is it halting and jerky with no steady rhythm?
- Learning how to practice is an important part of playing an instrument.

### **For All Band Students**

#### **How You Practice Counts**

Incorrect habits are sometimes more easily developed than correct habits, and a habit is hard to change so think when you practice.

- Avoid simply going through the motions! Remember, the playing of your instrument comes through development of coordination, just like any athlete.
- Patience is a virtue of an ambitious player.
- Warm up correctly.
- Each instrument should have a separate warm up for home practice that differs from the band warm up.
- Use a mirror and concentrate on tone quality and embouchure during the long tone warm ups.
- Set a goal for the practice session.
- Don't try to do too much at one sitting.
- Isolate a problem or a section in a piece of music.
- It may be a rhythm, a measure, or a line of music.
- Repeat it over and over many times - just like shooting baskets in the basketball goal.
- Practice it slowly at first, and then gradually build up the speed using a metronome.
- Before you finish the practice session, play the difficult measures with the rest of the line or exercise.
- Repetition of a problem area reinforces muscle and mental memory.
- In difficult technical passages, change the rhythms and articulations in the practice session to develop even, accurate, and fluid technique.
- Practice involves learning and reinforcing areas that are difficult for the student.
- Practice, therefore, is not always fun because you must play music that you have not yet mastered.
- Try to end each practice session with something that is fun to play and that has already been mastered.
- Structure your practice session to get the most benefit out of your time.

**Example of A Structured 60 Minute Practice Session**

Material Practiced	Time	Goal
Warm up and daily drill: tones, scales, arpeggios, breath control, thirds, etc. embouchure, technique, tonguing	20	Fundamentals: tone, long
New material and assignments	15	Develop new technique, increase range, expand capability of student
Previous/continuing material	15	Improvement of finger dexterity, tonguing, tone, musicality, etc.
Personal music choices	10	Enjoyment!

The more consistent you are with practice time, structure, and climate, the better your results!

## **Event Explanations: a description of some of the events students will participate in.**

### **Symphonic and Concert Band Event Explanations**

**All-District Band Auditions** – Students prepare two etudes, 9 scales plus their chromatic scale and work on sight reading. They take these items and audition against students from other Denton ISD middle schools. These auditions will be scheduled so that the student performs anonymously in a room with judges only. They will perform 2 scales, their chromatic scale, a portion of each etude and then they will sight read. The judges will score each student on these items and rank them based on those scores.

**Phased Audition** – Some instruments have so many students that they have a “pre-audition” before they rank the students. This first audition is simply pass or fail. Students passing will go to **Phase II** and be ranked with the other Phase II students. (Ex. 140 clarinets audition and about 70 will be ranked in Phase II)

**All-Region Band Auditions** – This is a very similar process to All-District Auditions, and uses the same music. This audition includes all of the schools in Region 2. There will be considerably more students auditioning for these groups.

**\* Both the All-District and All-Region auditions are great for teaching the students about goal setting, performance standards, their true potential, diligence, and performance mentality.**

**All-District Band Clinic and Concert** – The students selected for the All-District Band will practice together for a day and then put on a concert in the evening. This is a great chance for our students to perform with talented students from other schools, as well as get great instruction from a high level clinician. This concert is an honor and should be treated as a very special event.

**All-Region Band Clinic and Concert** – Very similar to the All-District Clinic and Concert but with the students who made the All-Region Band.

**Solo & Ensemble Contest** – This is one of the best events of the year for developing student’s personal playing ability and their confidence. Students will perform a solo with piano accompaniment. They will rehearse with the accompanist twice before the contest. Students will also develop playing skills in small ensembles. This is great for developing dependability and trust among people in their sections. They will receive comments and a rating from a judge.

**Band Pre-U.I.L.** – This is a practice concert for the actual U.I.L. performance. We will practice going through the entire procedures before the contest at the end of March. Judges will make comments on sheets and on tapes to help us better prepare for the U.I.L. Contest.

**U.I.L. Concert and Sight-reading Evaluation** – This contest is the state-judged contest in which groups compete against the standard set by the state. Bands will be rated on a scale of I to V with I being the best. Bands perform 3 pieces (2 selected from the U.I.L. list and 1 march) to perform at this contest and will receive ratings from 3 concert judges based on that performance. They will conclude the contest by reading a piece of music that they have never seen before. Each band has 7 minutes to look at the piece of music and receive instruction from their director. They cannot play or sing the piece until they actually perform it. They will receive ratings from 3 sight-reading judges based on that performance. (So six ratings overall)

**Band Festivals** – These are similar to U.I.L. in form without the sight-reading. Bands will again be judged by 3 judges, but will also be ranked against other groups in their classification. This is a great opportunity to perform in great concert settings. Concert and Symphonic Band Students must participate in U.I.L. to be eligible for Peak Music Festival.

**Reward Trips**– Concert and Symphonic Band students will travel to a determined location for a reward trip (possibly overnight). All students must meet eligibility requirements, including attending U.I.L. and Peak Music Festival.

## Beginning Band Event Explanations

**Solo & Ensemble Contest** – This is one of the best events of the year for developing student’s personal playing ability and their confidence. Students will perform a solo with piano accompaniment. They will rehearse with the accompanist twice before the contest. Students will also develop playing skills in small ensembles. This is great for developing dependability and trust among people in their sections. They will receive comments and a rating from a judge.

**Band Festivals** – These are similar to U.I.L. in form without the sight-reading. Bands will again be judged by 3 judges, but will also be ranked against other groups in their classification. This is a great opportunity to perform in great concert settings.

## Rehearsal Etiquette

The quality of work that a performing ensemble accomplishes during its rehearsal is an extremely important factor in the overall success of the group. Efficient rehearsals and classes produce SUPERIOR musicians and bands. There are a few factors that will contribute to great classes on a daily basis.

- **A POSITIVE ATTITUDE** will go a long way in helping everyone in the band class reach their potential. Always enter the band hall with the purpose of accomplishing a musical goal or goals. Allow yourself to focus solely on the task at hand. **Self-discipline plays a large role in determining your attitude.**
- **THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT** will make rehearsal go smoother. HAVE A PENCIL on your stand in every band class. Marking music can help you remember important information about the piece being prepared. This will help you in your home practice. Your instrument and accessories should be in working order. **This is your responsibility.** Make sure you take care of instrument maintenance and reeds BEFORE coming to class.
- **RESPECT:** When a large group of people work closely together on a daily basis, it is important to be very respectful of every person involved in and outside of the classroom. Work with each other in the group and treat others as you would like to be treated.

## Academic Eligibility

Band activities are divided into two categories: 1) Co-Curricular 2) Extra-Curricular.

- Co-Curricular activities are not subject to the “no- pass, no-play” rule.
- They are treated as class requirements.
- Attendance is mandatory, regardless of the students’ grades in other classes.
- Examples of co-curricular activities: Winter/Spring Concerts, after school rehearsals, clinics, sectionals, etc.
- Extra-curricular activities are subject to the “no-pass, no-play” rule.
- Examples are: Pep Rallies, Football Games, Festivals, UIL, 6 Flags and other “reward” field trips.
- To participate in one of these activities the student needs to pass all classes.
- A student is ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities for the 6 weeks period immediately following a grade of 69 or below in any subject.
- However, if after 3 weeks, that student is passing all of his classes, they become eligible at the end of the 4th week.
- Students have a responsibility to pass their classes to be eligible for extra-curricular band activities.
- Each student plays a vital role in the band.
- We are dependent on each student for success.
- It has been our experience that the most common reason for failing a class has been not turning in homework.
- **Students placed in ISSC will not be able to attend any reward field trips.**

As most of you are aware, a single grade below a 70 on your report card will make you ineligible for competitive or performance activities for a 3 or 6 weeks period. This situation has obvious adverse effects on both the individual and the group. Communication with teachers about any grades in question is an essential part of academic success. Students should understand that their grades have a direct impact on the other students in the ensemble. Every individual in the band plays a vital role as a link in our chain; consequently, when a link is missing, the chain breaks. Here are a few helpful hints to academic success:

- 1. DEVELOP YOUR LISTENING SKILLS:** Do all that you can to truly understand the material each teacher presents. Take notes, follow along in the text, ask pertinent questions, and avoid distractions.
- 2. REVIEW DAILY:** Make a habit of reviewing notes on a daily basis to better understand the material covered in class. Evaluate your knowledge of the material, and ask for help if needed.
- 3. TURN IN ALL HOMEWORK ON TIME:** Simply put, the number 1 reason students fail is because of incomplete or late assignments. This is easy to fix. Do not miss deadlines.
- 4. FAILING TO PREPARE IS PREPARING TO FAIL:** Prepare for tests and projects in a timely manner. Just as you wouldn't begin practicing for a concert the day before, you should not begin studying the day before a test either.
- 5. COURTESY:** Treat all teachers with the same respect you would expect from them. A few simply courtesies will go a long way. Paying attention in class will help you avoid any negative attention during class.
- 6. PROACTIVITY:** Ask for extra help and extra credit work. Make the first move. Do not wait until the last minute, or for the teacher to offer.
- 7. FOLLOW UP:** If you have a failing grade at the 3 week period, make every effort to resolve every grade in question. (btw – you should know your grade in all classes at all times.)
- 8. COMMUNICATION:** Do not be afraid to ask your teachers about grades in question, or when tutorials are held. The teachers are on your side. Let them know you honestly want to do well in their class, and they will help you do so. Always be in the right place, at the right time, with the right equipment, and the right attitude.

## Band Hall Expectations & Guidelines

- 1) Attitude – It is important that the environment we work in is a positive one that will allow each student to succeed. Every student should have a positive approach and a helpful attitude with regard to band class. This attitude should spill into their other classes and daily lives.
- 2) Listening – Each student should work to be an aggressive listener. Listening is a valuable tool both in the classroom and in life. Students should make good eye contact with anyone (director, teacher, parent, etc.) who is addressing them. They should focus on fully understanding each instruction or concept presented to them. If understanding is not reached, they should ask appropriate questions at the appropriate time.
- 3) Band students will always follow directions the first time they are given.
- 4) When you walk through the band hall doors, quickly get your materials out and be ready to begin class at the bell. Please enter the room in a calm manner -- talking should be done outside in the hall. At the "one-minute" bell, the band hall should be silent.
- 5) Students should remain quiet in class, raise their hand and wait to be acknowledged before speaking. Shouting out creates confusion and can get the class off task. Students should ask pertinent questions at appropriate times.
- 6) Band students will be respectful to others. Students should speak in a courteous tone; keep hands, feet, and objects to themselves; and allow for a quiet classroom atmosphere at all times.
- 7) When dropping off or picking up your instrument, please be aware of sectionals in progress and do not disturb the students in those sectionals. Once your instrument is put away, head to the cafeteria to wait for 1st period.
- 8) The practice room hallway is to be used only by those using the practice rooms or waiting for private lessons. Before and after school the band hall and practice rooms are areas of work and practice. These areas are NOT visiting areas. Remember, we share these facilities with both the choir and the orchestra.
- 9) When using the practice rooms before or after school, only four people will be allowed in the large ensemble rooms, and only two people will be allowed in the small practice rooms at a time. Practice rooms are only for music practice. Homework can be done in the cafeteria or in a calm part of the band hall.
- 10) All band students are encouraged to use the band hall and practice room facilities. Band members are also encouraged to keep these rooms neat and clean. In addition, students should be courteous to all Harpool band, orchestra and choir directors, private lesson teachers and other adults in the practice facilities.
- 11) When getting your instrument from your storage slot, take your case to your designated area to setup your instrument. DO NOT STAND AROUND THE INSTRUMENT SLOTS TALKING AND TRYING TO PUT YOUR INSTRUMENT TOGETHER. There is not enough room or time.
- 12) For your health and well-being, absolutely NO gum or candy is allowed in the band hall or practice room area. It is dangerous to have ANYTHING in your mouth while playing a wind instrument. It is also a sign of respect for the band hall. Chewing Gum in the band hall will result in a detention.

13) No one shall hold, play, or otherwise operate or handle another person's instrument. This is for health reasons as well as instrument repair reasons. IF IT DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU, DON'T TOUCH IT!! EACH BAND STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS/HER OWN INSTRUMENT!

14) Only Harpool Band Students are allowed in the band hall. This is for security and traffic flow concerns. Friends may wait in the main hallway for you. It is the responsibility of the band members to maintain this expectation.

15) Instrument storage slots are to be used for instrumental storage ONLY!! Slots are made available to all students and this area is to be kept clean. Instruments are to be put in their cases. Cases should be closed and latched while in the storage area. NO INSTRUMENTS ARE TO BE KEPT IN THE STORAGE SLOTS OVERNIGHT OR OVER THE WEEKENDS. SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS WILL BEGIN TO CONSISTENTLY BRING THEIR INSTRUMENTS HOME AS SOON AS THEY ARE INSTRUCTED BY THEIR BAND DIRECTOR.

16) Band students will take home their instruments and band binders every evening. Students are expected to practice regularly outside of band class and private lessons.

17) It is suggested that all personal instruments have the proper insurance coverage. Instruments ARE NOT insured by Harpool Middle School or Denton Independent School District.

19) All band students will be required to keep a band notebook. They will also need pencils, highlighters, and all accessory items for their instruments as outlined by the band directors. Such items as class notes, tests, band rules, and various handouts will be kept in the band notebook.

20) Band students should play their instruments in class and at band functions only when instructed to do so by a director. We do not play individually unless instructed to do so. This includes concerts, football games and pep rallies.

20) We will give out information in the form of handouts. Band students will bring all such correspondence home and bring it to their parent's attention. Any correspondence that requires a parent signature should be returned to the band directors promptly. Students will receive a grade for the return of these handouts.

21) Students are not allowed to leave their instrument unattended at any time. 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.

22) Band students will show pride in their organization by always wearing their band uniform in a complete and correct manner. Band shirts must be tucked in, even if worn outside of band functions!

**These expectations are meant to protect you and your equipment, and to ensure that the Harpool Band is the best it can be!!**

**Consequences may include any of the following:**

- 1) Verbal warning/Tickets Taken
- 2) Student / Teacher Conference
- 3) Call home
- 4) Parent conference
- 5) Behavior Contract

## **Band Officers**

Band officers are an important part of the Band Program. All officers must be approved by the directors.

All positions are based on:

- Regular attendance in class, sectionals, and performances
- Dedication to the band program (knowing individual parts)
- Behavior in all classes and during performances criteria
- Students who discontinue showing the following traits will be removed from their position.

## **Officers and Duties**

### **President**

A Symphonic Band 7/8th grader who demonstrates the above qualities

Responsibilities include:

- Maintaining moral among the other officers and band
- Setting up social events
- Calling chaperones
- Sending Thank You notes
- Keeping the band hall/practice rooms clean
- Assisting the band directors
- Being a leader for the band program and the school

### **Vice-President**

A Symphonic Band 7/8th grader who demonstrates the above qualities

Responsibilities include:

- Assisting the President in setting up social events
- Calling chaperones
- Sending Thank You notes



- Keeping the band hall/practice rooms clean
- Assisting the band directors
- Being a leader for the band program and the school

**Secretary**

A 7/8th grader who demonstrates the above qualities

Responsibilities include:

- Assisting setting up social events
- Calling chaperones
- Sending Thank you notes
- Keeping the band hall/practice rooms clean
- Writing down important ideas discussed in the meetings
- Assisting the band directors
- Being a leader for the band program and the school

**Treasurer**

A 7/8th grader who demonstrates the above qualities

Responsibilities include:

- Assisting setting up social events
- Calling chaperones
- Sending Thank you notes
- Keeping the band hall/practice rooms clean
- Representing the band in signing for purchases
- Assisting the band directors (particularly with fundraisers)
- Being a leader for the band program and the school

**Historian**

A 7/8th grader who demonstrates the above qualities

Responsibilities include:

- Assisting setting up social events
- Calling chaperones
- Sending Thank you notes
- Keeping the band hall/practice rooms clean
- Making a scrapbook for the year
- Being a leader for the band program and the school

**Librarian**

A 7/8th grader who demonstrates the above qualities

Responsibilities include:

- Assisting setting up social events
- Calling chaperones
- Sending Thank you notes
- Keeping the band hall/practice rooms clean
- Organizing the music library
- Entering data into CHARMS
- Being a leader for the band program and the school

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Representative**

A 6th grader from each beginner class who demonstrates the above qualities

Responsibilities include:

- Assisting setting up social events
- Calling chaperones
- Sending Thank you notes
- Keeping the band hall/practice rooms clean
- Being a leader for the band program and the school

**Fundraisers**

- Fundraisers are a vital part of maintaining a successful program. We will have one per semester.
- All students need to raise a minimum of \$60.00.
- Money will help cover our large band expenses (private lesson scholarships, student meals for contests and festivals, etc).

- If you would rather your child did not participate in the fundraiser, you may instead write a check or send cash in the amount of \$60.00 to cover your child's portion of these band expenses.
- Please make checks payable to **HARPOOL BAND**.

## Personal Training (Private Lessons)

Personal Training sessions are extremely beneficial for your child. Besides individual daily practice, training sessions are the most helpful thing for your band student. Lessons are one time a week for half of a class period. All private lesson teachers hired by any Denton school have been through an interview and approval process. The teachers are high quality, professional musicians that teach around Denton and the Metroplex. Private lessons are available to all band students. This type of one on one instruction will be extremely beneficial for your student. The lesson teacher will be able to customize the time with each student to meet that student's needs, whether they are advanced to basic. Lesson times are available before school, after school, and during the student's band class. Lessons are scheduled on a first come, first serve basis. Students will receive one lesson per week. Students are also able to take "buddy lessons;" a combined lesson with two students who split the cost and the share the lesson. These lessons are not required, but they are highly recommended. They will make a tremendous difference in the success of each student and the entire band program.

### Student/Parent Private Lessons Responsibilities

- Be fully prepared at each lesson.
- Bring pencil and all materials necessary for each lesson.
- Keep a written assignment for each lesson.
- Let the private teacher know if you need help with audition/band music.
- Notify the private teacher 24 hours in advance if you need to reschedule your lesson.
- If you do not give the instructor a 24 hour notice, you will still be required to pay for the lesson.
- If the student is absent from school, please make every effort to contact the private teacher before the lesson, or contact one of the directors.
- **Private lesson checks should be made payable to each individual teacher.**

Thank you for including band as a part of your child's education!

We are looking forward to an outstanding year of music making.

We hope that all of our band parents will be involved in our band activities.

If we can do anything to make your child's band experience more rewarding, please contact us.

As your band directors we are committed to lead by example and we will strive to be the best teachers we can be on a daily basis at Harpool Middle School. Every day we will do our best to treat each student with respect, dignity, and fairness.

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