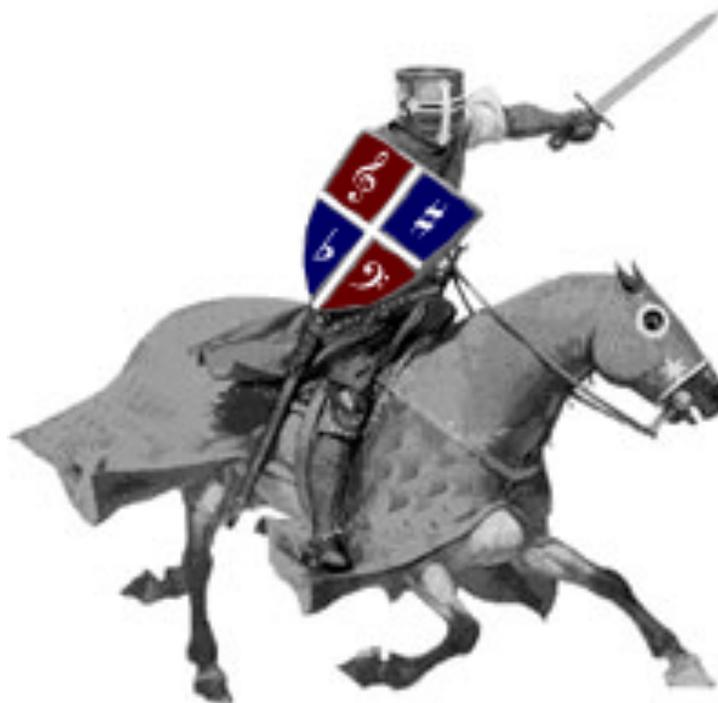


**T.A. HOWARD MIDDLE
SCHOOL**



**BAND
HANDBOOK
2019-2020**

Nathaniel Neugent, Director
Victoria Hitz, Associate Director
(682) 314-1075
www.howardband.com

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the T.A. Howard Middle School Band! Your directors, Mr. Neugent and Ms. Hitz, are very excited that we are a part of such a great band family, school, and community. We hope your summer was fun and relaxing and that you are as excited as we are for school to begin!

In the following pages you should find answers to any and all questions you may have about our band program. Please read this document carefully as we have made a few changes to the handbook's content and layout.

If you have any questions regarding your child, please do not hesitate to call or email us.

Sincerely,



Nathaniel Neugent
Director of Bands



Victoria Hitz
Associate Director of Bands

Nathaniel Neugent is beginning his twelfth year as Director of Bands at Howard MS and his 23rd year of band directing. Under his direction, the T.A. Howard Middle School Honor Band placed 3rd in the TMEA CCC State Honor Band contest in 2019, 2nd in 2017, 7th in 2013, 3rd in 2011, and 5th place in 2009 and 2008. The Honor Band was also selected to perform at the prestigious Midwest International Band Clinic in Chicago, IL in 2017, and was the recipient of the Sudler Silver Cup for being an exemplary middle school band program in 2019. The Howard Honor Band has been recognized 10 times by the National Wind Band Honors award as one of the top middle school bands in the country. Mr. Neugent was previously the Director of Bands at Creekview High School in Carrollton, Texas, where he taught for eight years. He is a graduate of the University of North Texas and Trinity High School, where he was Drum Major for both band programs. He was fortunate to have been a member of his father's own band program during high school. He is active in the Texas band community as a leadership clinician and drill writer. He received his Bachelor of Music from the University of North Texas in Denton.

Victoria Hitz is beginning her fourth year as Associate Director of Bands at Howard MS. Ms. Hitz is a native of Keller, TX where she was a flute section leader, Drum Major, President of the Keller Central High School Marching Band, and principal flute of the Keller Central High School Wind Ensemble. She graduated from high school in 2011 and continued her musical career at the University of Houston. At Houston, Ms. Hitz was a flute section leader, principal flutist of the Symphonic Band and Symphonic Winds, and a member of the internationally-recognized Moores School of Music Wind Ensemble. She studied flute with Houston Ballet and Opera Orchestra flutist, Melissa Suhr, and her music education instructors include John Benzer, David Bertman, and Marion West. Ms. Hitz student taught at Glenda Dawson High and Berry Miller Junior High Schools and graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Houston in 2015.

...for more detailed bios, check out our website at www.howardband.com

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OVERVIEW OF CONCERT ENSEMBLES

All T.A. Howard Bands are ability-based. Students are placed in ensembles based on a comprehensive audition that took place last spring. The ensembles are as follows:

Honor Band

The Honor Band is Howard Middle School's premier performing ensemble and is typically mostly composed of 8th graders. They officially represent the school and perform throughout the year. The Honor Band sets the standard in musicianship, integrity and professionalism at T.A. Howard Middle School. Students place into the Honor Band by exemplifying the expectations listed below and through their Spring audition. To audition into the Honor Band, students must show superior preparation on the material as well as mature fundamentals; the most important of which is characteristic tone quality across the range of their instrument.

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is Howard Middle School's second performing ensemble. They officially represent the school and perform periodically throughout the year. The Symphonic Band is typically composed of approximately half 8th graders and half 7th graders. Students place into the Symphonic Band by embracing the expectations listed below and through their Spring audition. To audition into the Symphonic Band, students must show excellent preparation on the material as well as developing fundamentals that might not quite be ready for the requirements of Honor Band literature.

Honor & Symphonic Band students are expected/required to:

- Enroll in the Wind Ensemble/Percussion Class to further develop fundamentals
- Enroll in weekly Private Lessons (half-scholarships available if necessary)
- Attendance at all Band Events/Performances required by the class
- Practice the required amount (or above if necessary) to maintain growth as a musician, improve fundamentals, and be prepared for all playing tests and performances
- Remain eligible for all extracurricular activities by maintaining a 70 or higher in all classes (Pre-AP classes must be a 60 or higher)
- Attend weekly section rehearsals before or after school
- Audition for the All-District and All-Region Band (All-Region for Symphonic is the director's discretion as to whether you should audition)
- Perform at Solo & Ensemble Contest
- Set the example school-wide as good leaders and ambassadors of our Band program

Honor Band students are encouraged to further outside musical growth by:

- Auditioning for local Wind/Orchestra groups
- Attend Summer Band camps at local colleges

These expectations allow us to attain and maintain a level of musicianship that allows us to play literature significantly above a middle school level. We stress the continued development of fundamentals, tone, technique, range, scales, etc. to perform such literature at a level that allows us to compete with the best players and programs in the state.

Attendance at all band events, as well as any scheduled concert or contest, is strictly required for membership in this ensemble. It is a privilege, not a right, to be in this ensemble. Therefore, if a student is **unable to fulfill attendance, performance, academic, and conduct obligations**, the band directors, parents and counselor will evaluate the situation and **reassignment to a band** with less demanding curricular and extracurricular obligations may result.

Concert Band

Concert Band is Howard Middle School's third performing ensemble. They officially represent the school and perform periodically throughout the year. The Concert Band is typically composed of mostly 7th graders and some 8th graders. Students place into the Concert Band by committing to the expectations listed below and through their Spring audition. Students must show adequate preparation on the material as well as developing fundamentals that may not quite be ready for the requirements of Symphonic Band literature.

Concert Band students are expected/required to:

- Attendance at all Band Events/Performances required by the class
- Practice the required amount (or above if necessary) to maintain growth as a musician, improve fundamentals, and be prepared for all playing tests and performances
- Remain eligible for all extracurricular activities by maintaining a 70 or higher in all classes (Pre-AP classes must be a 60 or higher)
- Attend after school rehearsals leading up to performances to combine Woodwind, Brass, and Percussion
- Perform at Solo & Ensemble Contest
- Show exemplary or improving behavior school-wide as ambassadors of our Band program

Concert Band students are encouraged to:

- Enroll in weekly Private Lessons (half-scholarships available if necessary)
- Audition for the All-District Band (and attend weekly sectionals in preparation)
- Attend Summer Band camps at local colleges

These expectations allow us to work towards a level of musicianship that allows us to play challenging middle school literature at a high quality of performance standard. To stress the continued development of fundamentals, tone, technique, range, scales, etc. we split Concert Band into two classes: Woodwind/Percussion & Brass. Each student should make advancement into a higher band and/or preparation for high school band a top priority.

Attendance at all band events, as well as any scheduled concert or contest is strictly required for membership in this ensemble. It is a privilege, not a right, to be in this ensemble. Therefore, if a student is **unable to fulfill attendance, performance, academic, and conduct obligations**, the band director, parents and counselor will evaluate the situation and **reassignment to another elective** with less demanding curricular and extracurricular obligations may result.

Summit Cadets Winterguard

The Summit Cadets are Howard Middle School's Winterguard and serve as an extension of the Band program at Howard and the Colorguard program at Summit High School. They officially represent the school and perform periodically throughout the spring semester at local NTCA Winterguard Contests. Winterguard in MISD at the middle school level is non-competitive and meant to introduce students to the activity. Auditions are usually held at the beginning of December and rehearse after school from December through March. The Winterguard is open to all students enrolled at Howard MS. Since it is an extension of the Band program, Band students in Winterguard must remain in band for the academic year. There is a \$50 fee to cover costumes and equipment and students must remain academically eligible to perform.

GRADING POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Every six weeks, grades will be determined based on your performance, rehearsal, and practice. The following sections will clearly outline what we expect and how students will be graded in each of the following areas:

- I. PERFORMANCE – 40%
- II. REHEARSAL – 40%
- III. PRACTICE – 20%
- IV. EXTRA CREDIT

I. Performance (40%)

PERFORMANCE GRADES

The average of performance grades count as 40% of the six weeks average. Items included in the Performance Grade are:

- Playing Tests (this includes Chair Tests and Pass-offs)
- Written Work (Theory worksheets & Cornell Notes)
- Public Performances (Concerts or contests, both group and individual)
 - These count in your average twice. If you do not attend a performance and do not have an approved excused absence, two zeroes will be entered into the gradebook. There is no feasible way to duplicate and, therefore, “make-up” a missed performance (see Excused Absences).

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

- A. **Playing Tests:** Students should expect weekly playing tests that will be announced in advance. All Playing Tests are graded using our standardized Performance Objectives. These tests could cover, but are not limited to covering, the following:
 - Daily Drill
 - Scales
 - Counting/Rhythm Exercises
 - Other Technical Exercises
 - Pep Band Tunes
 - A Playing Test is simply for a performance grade but does not effect chair order.
 - Chair Tests are performance grades that rank the sections in order.
 - Pass-offs are a pass/fail standard for a performance grade to encourage students to learn and perform every detail of their music. Students will have multiple opportunities to meet pass-offs standards prior to each performance.
 - All-Region Band audition materials
 - Band music (“your part”)
- B. **Written Work:** Since our curriculum is primarily performance-based, the amount of written work will be minimal. The type of written assignments they will encounter will deal mostly with music theory and/or rhythm concepts.
- C. **Public Performances:** As a band member you are a very important part of a much larger group. When we perform, your participation is vital. When

members are absent, the entire band suffers. Attendance at all public performances is required. Listening to and supporting all the bands at Howard is part of performing. To receive full credit for the performance, students must attend the listening portion of the performance as well.

a. Excused Absences

There are some special circumstances under which we will excuse attendance at a public performance. Whatever the circumstance, we must be notified in advance as soon as possible.

- Death in the family
- Critical family emergency (for example, a car accident)
- Bed-ridden illness (for example, pneumonia)
- Once-in-a-lifetime family event (for example, your grandparents' 50th wedding anniversary)
 - In this case, parents must contact the director as soon as possible, in writing, stating (1) the student's name, (2) the date and time of the conflict, and (3) the specific reason for the conflict. This will allow us to plan ahead to cover the part or solo of the student missing. Please understand, just because a director is notified does not necessarily mean the absence will be excused.

b. Unexcused Absences

An unexcused absence from a public performance could result in any of the following, at the director's discretion:

- Loss of their chair position
- Exclusion from any band party.
- Exclusion from contest trips (Any student that misses a required concert or competition will not go to Schlitterbahn).
- Reassignment to another ensemble.
- Removal from the band program.

According to MISD policy, extracurricular performing groups may establish standards of behavior, including consequences, that are stricter than those for students in general.

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

In addition to teaching individual and ensemble performance techniques, we teach our students about proper concert etiquette. Parents, please help us encourage this. Students who are rude or disruptive will not receive full credit for the performance at the directors' discretion. Following the guidelines below will make concerts an enjoyable experience for everyone.

- Be on time. ("To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late.")
- Make a restroom stop before the concert begins.
- Turn off all cell phones and iPads. Silent mode is not off. Texting during a performance is just as rude as talking. If your cell phone is out, it will be taken up just like school.
- Be silent and stay seated while a band is performing. It is acceptable to enter or exit only in between pieces or ensembles.
- Remain in uniform before and after your performance portion of the concert.
- It is appropriate to applaud when the conductor enters the stage and after each piece has finished (the conductor will indicate when a piece is over).
- Clap when it is appropriate and clap appropriately.
- Yelling, whistling, and other overly enthusiastic noise making, while

appropriate at a rock concert, marching band contest, or even a jazz concert, is **not appropriate** for a Concert Band or Orchestral concert. If it is really outstanding, you should stand up and clap.

- Take all unhappy and crying young siblings out to the foyer until calm. This is a great courtesy to others and will help us make better recordings.

STAGE ETIQUETTE

As a performer, there are some specific things expected while on stage to perform correctly:

- Do not talk while anywhere on the stage (the audience can see you).
- It is inappropriate to acknowledge anyone in the audience at any time.
- While filing into your rows, remain standing until the director has your row sit.
- Adjust your setup (chair, stand, spacing) so it is exactly like our band hall at home.
- After each piece, remain sitting tall in ready position while you accept the audiences' applause. Reach for your music only after the applause has ended.
- Remain in ready position at all times unless the director says otherwise.
- When standing for applause, turn and face the audience holding your instrument and stand tall and still.

II. Rehearsal (40%)

REHEARSAL GRADES

The average of daily rehearsal grades counts as 40% of each six weeks average. Every student will rehearse during every class unless he/she brings **a note from a doctor** describing a medical condition which would prevent his/her participation. If you are well enough to be at school then you are well enough to participate. **After school rehearsals/Sectionals** are Rehearsal Grades but are **weighted twice** given the rarity and importance of these rehearsals.

Students will receive full credit (100 points) for rehearsal when they:

1. Have their materials present and in working order for every rehearsal:
 - a. Instrument
 - b. Mouthpiece, several good reeds, or appropriate sticks/mallets
 - c. Band Binder w/ all music and organized
 - d. Pencil (no pens, have backups)
 - e. Tuner w/clip (for all Brass & Woodwinds)
2. Follow entry & exit procedures outlined in Rehearsal Expectations
3. Actively participate in the rehearsal process by following the etiquette outlined below in Rehearsal Expectations. Lack of attentiveness, talking, or disruptions will adversely affect your rehearsal grade.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

A. At The Beginning of Rehearsal

1. Enter the band hall quietly. You will be asked to exit and reenter if you are not quiet. **DO NOT ENTER AND THEN ASK TO LEAVE;** you will be tardy
2. Deposit your binder in the designated area (shelves in the entry). iPads must be locked in your instrument locker during rehearsal unless otherwise requested by a director. Backpacks, purses, or other bags are not allowed in

the rehearsal space.

3. Spit out gum or anything in your mouth into the trash can by the music slots. No food or drink is allowed into the band hall. You may have a sealed water bottle at your seat.
4. Grab your band binder in one hand and take it to your assigned seat.
5. Get your instrument out of your locker. Only flute/oboe/clarinet cases are allowed to be at your seat; all other cases must be put back in your locker until the end of class. Bring anything you might need to play out of your case: tuner & clip, valve oil, trombone water bottle, reed container, etc.
 - a. Percussion only: Set up your stand first, then all instruments. Next, assist your sectionmates with any instruments and stands, mallet sticks and music are gotten last. Setting up the percussion section is a team effort. Please have all implements you will need with you (keep your stick bag with you and do not share). When setting up percussion equipment, a maximum of 2 percussionists are allowed in the percussion room and Practice 1. All others remain at the door to distribute the equipment to setup positions. Fold covers and put them underneath the instrument.
6. Be seated, remain quiet and do not play until you are instructed to do so.
7. Open your binder to the appropriate page according to the agenda posted on the screen and get your pencil out.
8. All noise and movement should come to a halt after the tardy bell. Anyone not in their seat (or in front of their instrument for percussion) by the end of the tardy bell will be considered tardy for that rehearsal (please see tardy policy on page 13 for consequences).
9. Students will have exactly one minute past the bell to organize & adjust your stand, assemble your tuner and clip, and check your instrument so it is ready to play. Once we have taught a proper individual warmup, and we have learned to enter the room efficiently, then you may begin warming up on your own at this time. Directors will let you know for each class and remove this privilege if it is interfering with proper entry procedures.
10. Have everything you need to be successful during rehearsal with you at your seat when the tardy bell rings. You are not allowed to leave your seat or playing area during rehearsal without permission from a director. Percussion, this means you may not go into the percussion room or the entry hallway without permission after the bell.
11. ***Refrain from asking either director a question before rehearsal.*** We want to create independent thinkers and problem solvers so work to solve problems yourself non-verbally. This also keeps us free to monitor the entry procedures and prepare for the start of rehearsal. After rehearsal or after school is the best time to address the directors with any concerns.

B. During Rehearsal (Etiquette)

The quality of work that a performing ensemble achieves in its rehearsal is the single most important factor in the overall success of the group. Efficient rehearsals produce superior bands. Here are expectations for rehearsal that will contribute to efficient and effective learning:

1. Set a **PROFESSIONAL ATMOSPHERE** that you would expect to find in the Dallas Wind Symphony.
2. Have a **POSITIVE ATTITUDE**. This will go a long way in helping the band reach its potential. Always enter the band hall with a purpose of accomplishing a musical goal. Leave other problems outside of the band hall

and focus on the rehearsal at hand.

3. Have the **RIGHT EQUIPMENT**. This will make the rehearsal go smoother. Have a pencil on your music stand at all times. Marking music will help you remember important information about the piece being prepared. This will be beneficial to you in performance and home practice. Be prepared by having all equipment in proper working condition. This includes reeds, mouthpiece, tuning slides, water bottle, valve oil, batteries in your tuner, etc.
4. Be **ON TIME**. This means **BE EARLY**. Always give yourself enough time to get your instrument and music, put your case away, get to your seat and be in playing position. When in a rush, your focus and concentration are the first things that suffer. This is why the entry procedures are so important to our rehearsal success. Don't rush in the last minute. Use the whole passing period.
5. Always **CHECK THE BOARD/SCREEN** for daily announcements and the rehearsal agenda.
6. Establish and maintain correct **POSTURE** and **HAND POSITION**. Every band member should know the importance of good habits in posture and hand position.
7. **SELF-DISCIPLINE**. There is no such thing as group discipline. A disciplined group occurs when all the individuals in it are self-disciplined at the same time! Rehearsals run smoother when the classroom atmosphere is at a superior focus level. Students can make a big difference in the direction of a rehearsal by following these etiquette guidelines:
 - a. **NO TALKING** during rehearsal. This includes talking about the music and talking to yourself (use your inner monologue!). This includes asking other directors questions.
 - b. **EYES** on the director and not friends throughout the rehearsal. Non-verbal communication can be just as distracting.
 - c. **PICK UP YOUR PENCIL** and be ready to mark your music every time we stop. Do not wait for the director to say, "Please mark that."
 - d. Raise your hand **HIGH and STRAIGHT UP** if you have a question. **SPEAK UP** so that the entire ensemble can hear your question...chances are it will affect them as well. When asking a question, always give your part and measure number first.
 - e. **BE PATIENT** with others and listen to progress taking place.
 - f. Listen to other sections and the instruction occurring if your section is not the current focus. 99% of the time, you can apply what the other section is working on to your own playing or your music.
 - g. Always answer a question with a "yes or no sir" or "yes or no ma'am".
 - h. **CONCENTRATE**. Be ready to move quickly and quietly between tasks. Avoid distractions; **mobile phones/devices are not allowed**.
8. **RESPECT**. When a large group of people work closely together on a daily basis, it is important to have respect for each other and the director in and out of rehearsal. Please be sensitive to the feelings of others in the group. Be polite and treat others as you would want to be treated. This is especially important when hearing individuals so we create a positive atmosphere.

C. At The End of Rehearsal

The director's responsibility is to give you at least 2 minutes at the end of each period to follow the below procedures. On the rare occasion that does not happen, we ask your help in moving as quickly as possible.

1. Push your stand **down and forward first**.

2. Instrument: Woodwinds – **swab** out your instrument, disassemble carefully, and put it in its case in your locker. Do not rush as you could jam your swab or unknowingly bend a key when disassembling your instrument or closing your case.
 Brass – empty your instrument of water, disassemble carefully, and put it in its case in your locker. **Warm down if there is time.**
 Percussion – replace any covers and put your instruments away in their designated areas. **Everyone helps with all instruments**, not just your own. Remember, only 2 people in the percussion room at a time.
3. Grab your band binder in one hand and instrument in the other. **Clean up** any papers or kleenex from your area.
4. Take your iPad and binder and leave the band hall in a respectful manner. The shelves are not your locker. **Stay to the right in the hallway.** DO NOT BLOCK TRAFFIC.
5. As you leave, any **questions for the directors can be addressed then.** This will allow us time to solve the problem and also make sure that you are not late to your next class. We can write you a pass if you are late.

All above procedures apply to Band portables except you are given one minute extra to be in your seat in the portables.

Failure to meet these requirements will result in the following daily deductions:

Action	Consequence
Non-Participation <i>No instrument, mouthpiece, good reeds, etc.</i>	Receive a zero for the day. Meet with director and call parents. <i>If your instrument is in the shop, you must provide a signed note.</i>
Insufficient Participation	Director’s discretion
No Band Binder or Tuner & Clip	Lose 50 points
Gum or food in class	Lose 50 points
No pencil	Lose 20 points
Poor Rehearsal Ettiquite	Lose 10 points per infraction

Repeated lack of proper materials is also considered a discipline concern and will be addressed as such (parent contact, detention, referral, removal).

III. Practice (20%)

PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS

Success in the playing of a musical instrument is determined by the amount and quality of daily practice. Students are expected to practice daily outside of class and private lessons.

1. Practice Learning Logs are put in student **music slots** at the **beginning of each week**. These have the dates for the week to come and will have the student name, band, and music slot number on them. The week before a holiday, you will have two practice learning logs (2nd one on the back).
2. Practice Learning Logs must **remain in the students band binder**.
3. Students should fill out the **minutes and information each night they practice** to keep the most accurate record possible. DO NOT ROUND UP.
4. Parents must review and sign it the night before it is due (usually Sunday). Please take a minute to review it so that the proper time is being spent for

your child to progress in their playing. Strive to not treat it as a simple "permission slip" to simply sign off on, but think of it as an English paper to review. **Practice Learning Logs without a full parent signature will not be accepted.**

5. Practice Logs are due on the **first day of school every week** (usually Monday), regardless of whether the student has band class that day.
6. Per district policy, Practice Logs will be accepted **one day late for a 15 point** deduction and **two days late for a 30 point** deduction. Practice Logs turned in thereafter will not be accepted unless the student was absent. If absent, **attach a note** to your Practice Log saying what days absent with a parent signature.
7. Some practicing is expected over the holiday breaks to ensure at least a maintenance of everything we've work on to date. But we also understand it is vacation time so minute requirements are extra credit for each band. So you will receive two Practice Logs the week before a break: one for the current week (full credit) and one for the holiday week(s) (extra credit).
8. In case of a lost Practice Log, there is a printable generic practice learning log on our website. Use of the online Practice Log must be limited to emergencies and must be dated correctly; **Practice Logs with no dates will not be accepted.** The directors have the **right to refuse the overuse** of the online learning log, as every student receives a personalized learning log in their music slot every week.

**Learning Logs are due the first day of the school week (Monday).
If Monday is a school holiday, then it is due Tuesday.**

PRACTICE GRADES

The average of the weekly practice record grades counts as 20% of the six week average. Students are to turn in a Practice log on the first day of each week to the appropriate box in the entry. We use a unique grading scale for each band. Grading is as follows:

<u>HONOR BAND</u>	<u>SYMPHONIC BAND</u>	<u>CONCERT BAND/ CONCERT II</u>
160+ minutes per week = 110	140+ minutes per week = 110	120+ minutes per week = 110
140-159 minutes = 100	120-139 minutes = 100	100-119 minutes = 100
120-139 minutes = 90	100-119 minutes = 90	80-99 minutes = 90
100-119 minutes = 80	80-99 minutes = 80	60-79 minutes = 80
80-99 minutes = 70	60-79 minutes = 70	40-59 minutes = 70
Less than 80 minutes = 60	Less than 60 minutes = 60	Less than 40 minutes = 60
No parent signature = 0	No parent signature = 0	No parent signature = 0

IV. Extra Credit

Students may receive extra credit for participating in activities that are not required in the above three categories. These activities include:

- Attending or participating in a non-Howard Band, orchestra, or musical performance (15 pts). This includes marching band or DCI events
- Watching the HS band at half time (15 pts.)

Extra credit points are added in the Practice category at the end of each six weeks. **To receive extra credit, staple your ticket stub, program or note signed by a parent to a practice record that you turn in. Make sure your name is legible.** The extra credit will be applied at the end of the 6 weeks it was turned in.



HOWARD BAND LEARNING LOG

Week 1-1: 8/24 - 8/30

NAME	BAND	SLOT	SORT	DO NOT WRITE
Last, First	Honor Band	1	1-1	

PARENT SIGNATURE	DATE SIGNED

Day	Mon 8/24	Tue 8/25	Wed 8/26	Thu 8/27	Fri 8/28	Sat 8/29	Sun 8/30	Grand Total Due: 8/31/15
Min								

What I Did?

When Did I Work On It?

1. Daily Drill	1-1 Emb.	1-1-1: Embouchure Buzzing on Mouthpiece, Head Joint, MP & Barrel, or MP & Neck.	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1-2 Breathing	Stand 1-2-1: Breath Expansion - 3, 5, 7, 1-2-2: Practice Flow breathing Review Goals	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1-3 Whole Notes	1-3-1: Block Concert F/C-4, 8, 12 Review Goals	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1-4 Touching Notes	1-4-3: Touching Notes Sections 1-4-4: Touching Notes-Indiv (1 Section per each day) Concert F Around the room. Assess and feedback on Tone.	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	2-1 Articulation	2-1-1: Articulation 2-1-2: Artic - Whole to trip m. 25 Review Goals	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	3-1 Linear Intervals	3-2-1: Descending Remington 3-2-2: Descend. Rem., Low 3-2-3: Ascending Remington 3-3-4: Descend. Rem., High	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	4-1 Warmup Sets	Flexibility, Range & Technique: Set 1, Options 1-4, add 5-6 Review Goals	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
2. Technique	Scales	Run first 5 Scales Add a scale a day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	Scale Technique (Blue Book)	Con Bb Technique, p. 10 - 96 bpm Scale (3 8va) (both 8va) Mini, SP 1, SP 2	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
4. Pep Tunes	Review 1 Per Day: #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
5. Band Music		March: Write Name, Measure #'s Practice Intro & 1st Strain @ QN = 86	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		2nd Piece:	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
6. Audition Etudes		Count rhythms, write in if needed Lyrical: m. 1-4, QN = 60 Technical: m. 1-4, QN = 60	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

REMEMBER TO FILL OUT THE BACK OF YOUR LEARNING LOG!

UIL ELIGIBILITY RULES

(NO PASS/NO PLAY)

A student who receives, at the end of any six weeks grading period, a **grade below 70** in any class may not participate in **extracurricular** activities for at least three school weeks. Per MISD policy, **Pre-AP classes** require a grade below a 60 to become ineligible. Competitions (Solo & Ensemble, All-District, All-Region, Pre-UIL, UIL, Schlitterbahn, etc.) that have an entry fee or concerts that charge admission (maybe the Percussion Concert) are activities that are considered extracurricular and therefore subject to UIL rules. UIL also considers performances at football games and pep rallies to also be extracurricular, and therefore ineligible students cannot attend.

However, an ineligible student **may and should still attend every practice and rehearsal**. Rehearsals, even outside of the school day, are considered **cocurricular and non-competitive**. **Concerts** (Fall, Winter, and Spring) are also **cocurricular** and so ineligible students are required to attend as they are part of our stated curriculum and TEKS.

A student who becomes ineligible for competition, can regain their eligibility after the seven calendar-day waiting period has ended following the three weeks progress report by: showing that the student has earned a passing grade (70 or above, 60 or above in Pre-AP) in **ALL** classes (not just the one they failed last six weeks). In other words, a **student can only lose eligibility at the end of the each 6 weeks** grading period, but **can regain eligibility every 3 weeks progress** report. Also understand that the loss of (or regaining of) eligibility always goes into effect after a **one week waiting period** from the end of the grading period in question. Semester averages and exams **DO NOT** affect eligibility.

Unfortunately, there is no flexibility in the interpretation of UIL eligibility rules as it is a Texas state law. Your goal should be to take care of your homework and ask help from your teachers if you are experiencing difficulty within a class. This will enable you to not have to worry about the ins and outs of the UIL rules described above. To help, each of the end of 6 weeks dates are on our band calendar. As stated on Pg. 4-5, continued Academic Ineligibility will result in Academic Probation and eventual removal from an ensemble of the Band program.

CITIZENSHIP & CONSEQUENCES

We have several basic guidelines to be observed at all times in and out of rehearsal in addition to rehearsal and performance etiquette already discussed:

- **No classroom disruptions** (i.e. getting out of seat, talking, passing notes, working on other class work, cellphone/iPad, etc.). Anything that distracts others, including the director, may be considered a disruption.
- **Respect others** and their belongings (do not play others' instruments).
- **No** yelling, running, or horseplay. You are not in Intermediate school.
- **No** food, drinks, gum or candy in the band rooms.
- If you have to enter or exit the band hall at another time, be mindful to not **distract students** from the learning process.
- **Non-band students** (Muggles) are not allowed in the band hall or portables.

This code of conduct is in effect at all band activities on and off campus.

Daily Consequences

If a student chooses to break the code of conduct, they will be issued a warning.

One warning—Self-correction, loss of 10 points from daily rehearsal grade (maximum grade: 90).

Two warnings—Self-correction, loss of additional 10 points from daily rehearsal grade (maximum grade: 80)

Three warnings – Detention and parent contact, loss of additional 10 points from daily rehearsal grade (maximum grade: 70)

Four warnings – Referral to assistant principal’s office, parent contact, and daily rehearsal grade of 0.

Repeat Offenders

Students who receive an average of 2 warnings per rehearsal in a week will receive a detention and possibly a parent conference.

Tardy Policy

Students are expected to be prompt to class and to be in their seat with all their supplies BEFORE THE TARDY BELL RINGS (please see Entry Procedures). Students who are not in their seat when the tardy bell rings will be counted tardy. We will generally give students up to a minute in their seats to finish “setting up” their space to be ready for rehearsal, but **students must be in their seats** with all their materials when the **tardy bell rings**.

Citizenship Grades

Citizenship grades each six weeks will be determined on the following basis:

- ◆E—Student has not received any warnings.
- ◆S—Student has received intermittent warnings but no detentions.
- ◆N—Student has received multiple warnings and at least one band detention.
- ◆U—Student has received an office referral.

Academic/Behavioral Contracts

Behavioral contracts are a result of a significant violation of the MISD student code of conduct and/or a disregard to the behavioral expectations outlined in this handbook. Your continued membership in the Howard Band program will be under review from the time of the violation to the end of the school year. Depending on the severity of the violation, consequences and restrictions may include the following:

- Perform with exemplary behavior and etiquette during all performances & rehearsal regardless of the instructor.
- Maintain daily rehearsal etiquette with a maximum of 2 minor warnings to the above policies.
- Receive zero referrals to the AP’s office from any teacher or administrator.
- Restriction from attending all Howard Band social events (this includes the Schlitterbahn Trip).

Failure to fulfill the stipulations listed above to the directors’ satisfaction will result in immediate and permanent loss of membership within the Howard Band Program.

Academic contracts are a result of becoming Academically Ineligible according to Texas State Law and UIL guidelines during any part of the year. Due to the team nature of participation in Band, our continued membership in the Howard Band program will be under review from the time of ineligibility to the next 6 weeks. In order to maintain membership within the band, the following must happen:

- Pass all classes in 3 weeks on the next Progress Report (60 or higher in Pre-AP, 70 or higher in all other classes).
- Maintain UIL eligibility in all classes for the remainder of the year.

Failure to fulfill the above conditions to the directors’ satisfaction will result in a change of performance band. Continued disregard for classes and eligibility will result in immediate and permanent loss of membership in the Howard Band program.

MISD is implementing a new **Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct** as an addendum to

the MISD Student Code of Conduct. This means that any student in an Extra-Curricular activity including Band, must follow this code of conduct outside of school hours.

Violations are subject but not exclusive to the consequences outlined in the MISD EEC.

Please note that at the Director's discretion, severe violation of the code of conduct or conduct unbecoming of a Howard Band student may result in immediate and permanent removal from the program.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS

Attendance at every sectional is crucial for the individual and section's progress. Therefore, an unexcused absence to a sectional will adversely affect your grade (weighted twice), jeopardize your chair in the ensemble, and leave you behind in the music and on playing tests we do in sectionals. Please try to schedule doctor or other appointments on days other than your sectional day as there is simply no way to make up the section rehearsal. Repeat offenders will be removed from the ensemble.

Though there are only a few direct conflicts, when they occur the **T.A. Howard Band and Athletics programs** will work together to insure that our students involved in both can prioritize which practice to attend and when. Ultimately, it is up to the directors and coaches to make that decision, as timing and importance to both programs have to be weighed. Parents and students must help communicate unforeseen athletics conflicts in advance as much as possible. **Just the same as the coaches, we do not excuse for outside of school athletic events.**

Morning sectionals begin promptly at **7:30 am and end at 8:30 am**. All students attending *must* enter through the back band hall doors and enter between 7:10-7:25. Students must be warming up on their own by 7:20 am. Back doors and band hall doors will be locked at 7:30.

Afternoon sectionals begin promptly at 4:30. Students should come straight to the band hall from their last class and be warming up on their own by the 4:25 bell. If the sectional occurs on a bus duty day for the directors, the sectional will be delayed at least 10 minutes (4:40-5:40).

See below for sectional requirements by band:

Honor Band

- Fall Fundamentals Sectionals (required)
- Ensembles in Nov-Dec
- UIL Sectionals From Jan-Apr (required)

Symphonic Band

- Fall Fundamentals Sectionals (required)
- UIL Sectionals in the spring Jan-Apr (required)

Concert Bands

- Periodic After-School Full Band Rehearsals prior to performances (required)

Fall Fundamental Sectionals & All-District/Region Master class

All Honor Band & Symphonic Band students are required to audition for All-District Band. All-Region auditions are required for Honor Band and strongly encouraged, but not required, for Symphonic Band (directors will help you decide). To enhance skills and focus on instrument specific fundamentals early on in the year, Honor and Symphonic Band members are required to attend fall semester sectionals each week. The Howard Directors will teach these sectionals. The fall Master class Sectionals will happen one day a week during your Band or Wind Ensemble class and will cover the All-Region music in detail as well as reinforce scale preparation that is happening in fundamentals sectionals. Our private lesson staff will teach the All-Region Master classes with the

directors supervising. Fall section rehearsals will begin the second week of school and end after All-Region Auditions.

Honor Band Ensemble Sectionals

After All-Region, Ensembles will be assigned based off **average chair results** in each band. These 4 sectionals are designed to help jumpstart Ensembles for the upcoming Solo & Ensemble contest. Students in more than one ensemble must attend both sectionals. Symphonic & Concert Band Ensembles are started in class. In January, all ensembles must meet once a week to prepare for the contest.

UIL Sectionals

During the spring semester, all students in Honor and Symphonic Band are required to attend sectionals and any full band rehearsals in preparation for their UIL contest music. Spring section rehearsals will begin the first Monday of January and end after UIL in April.

After School Full Band Rehearsals

Since the **Concert Bands** do not meet for any weekly outside of school sectionals, it is essential that the entire concert band rehearses together twice before each concert from 4:30–5:45 pm. Any conflicts with athletics practices or games will be addressed ahead of time and worked out between the coaches and directors. Please see the band calendar for specific dates. Spring dates may be changed as we approach in order to avoid conflicts with athletics events. Honor and Symphonic Band may have an occasional before or after school Full Rehearsal due to schedule conflicts, holidays, contests, etc.

Parents of Concert Band students: We have very few after school practices with Concert Band. Therefore, every practice is crucial and any absence must fit our attendance policy to be “excused” if they miss. Also, please make sure they have a ride home promptly at 5:45 pm. If you know work or traffic will be a problem, please plan ahead for them to get a ride.

BAND CLASS SCHEDULE (STILL TENTATIVE)

7:30 – 8:30	Before-school Sectionals
8:35 – 8:45	Drop off instrument, binder, practice record
8:45 – 9:30	1 Conference
9:34 – 10:34	2 Symphonic Band Wind Ensemble/Percussion Advisory
10:38 – 11:23	3 Symphonic Band
11:27 – 11:57	A Lunch
12:01 – 12:59	4 Honor Band Wind Ensemble/Percussion
1:03 – 1:48	5 Honor Band
1:52 – 2:37	6 Concert Band
2:41 – 3:26	7 Concert Band Wind Ensemble
3:30 – 4:15	8 Team/CTIS Beginners
4:15 – 4:25	Pickup instrument & binder
4:30 – 5:30	After school Sectional

INSTRUMENT & MUSIC STORAGE

Students will be assigned an instrument storage locker and music slot. Some students will have to share an instrument locker due to lack of large slots. Your instrument should never stay overnight in the band hall. Due to in-class storage of iPads inside instrument lockers, we will **provide locks on instrument lockers**. It is imperative that both your instrument and music binder be clearly labeled with your name. When storing these items, please remember that only band students are welcome in the band hall. Do not allow non-band friends to handle your instrument or binder!

ALL INSTRUMENT CASES AND MUSIC MUST BE CLEARLY LABELED WITH THE STUDENT'S NAME ON THE OUTSIDE WITH THE LUGGAGE TAG WE PROVIDE. School-owned instruments will have two tags.

We recommend that all instruments have some form of **insurance coverage**. Both School-owned when checked out, and personal instruments, are **not insured by Howard Middle School** or the Mansfield Independent School District. The **Anderson Group** (formerly the Music Agency) offers affordable instrument-specific insurance for just this purpose. Record all instrument make, model and serial numbers at home and with the directors for identification. We can help but are **not responsible** for lost or stolen instruments.

BEFORE SCHOOL

- Proceed to the gym or cafeteria with your instrument. Large instruments must be placed down at the front of the bleachers (gym) or on stage (cafeteria). Please stay with your instrument and do not let other students touch or carry it. Do not forget it in the gym or cafeteria!
- You may enter the band hall **only after the 8:35 bell rings**.
- Put your music binder away in your assigned slot. You may only store your music here (**not your instrument slot**).
- Put your instrument away in your assigned locker. You may only store your instrument here. iPads must stay in your instrument locker during band class.
- Only those students involved in morning sectionals or private lessons may enter the band hall before this time. You must enter through the back band hall doors, not the hallway doors. Anyone breaking this rule will receive an immediate detention. Repeat offenders will receive a referral.

AFTER SCHOOL

- You have until 4:22 to visit the band hall to pick up your instrument and music. If you ride a bus, you may leave through the back doors into the cafeteria...but cannot exit the back doors.
- Please stay with your instrument and **do not let other students** touch it.
- All instruments need to go home every day (except tuba and bari sax) even if you will not be in town for the weekend. This is a security measure.
- We **check instrument slots every afternoon** and will not accept practice records from students who leave their instrument at school.
- If you have **after school athletics**, you still need to get your instrument at 4:15 (or before the last period) and take it the locker room. The coaches will allow you to store it there. **Please wait** until after school practice has started.
- Please be aware of sectionals and rehearsal that occur after school.

BAND BINDER SETUP

Band binders are provided to every band student as part of the registration fee in the fall. The binder comes with a set of eight dividers and a Howard Band pencil bag. Students are expected to keep their binders clean and organized all year. The binder should be set up as follows:

Front View Pocket: Howard Band personal cover page

Inside Pocket: Stand Sign

In Binder Rings:

- Current Learning Log
- Table of Contents
- Band Calendar

Behind Dividers:

1. Daily Drill
2. Technique
 - Foundations for Superior Performance Book
3. Ensemble Ex.
4. Pep Tunes
5. Band Music (Hon, Sym, or Con)
6. Etudes, Solos, & Private Lessons
7. Theory, Cornell Notes, & Misc. Handouts
8. Handbook, Fingering Chart, Old Learning Logs

Back Pocket: Nothing 😊

Back View Pocket: Most Recent Handout to go home to parents

Since the binder is provided for you (and part of your registration cost), you are expected to maintain it throughout the year. If you lose any portion of it, you must replace it immediately.

Lost Band Binder (includes blue book, dividers, and pencil bag)

\$15 for winds, \$18 for percussionists

\$2 for New Binder only (you still have all the contents)

Lost Foundations Book - \$7 for winds, \$10 for percussionists

Lost Pencil Bag - \$5

Lost Sheet Music (per page): \$0.25

Pay with cash

INSTRUMENT REPAIR & MAINTENANCE

You are expected to maintain your instrument in top playing condition. However, you and your parents are urged not to attempt repairs on your own. Before taking an instrument to a shop, have the director check to see if repairs are necessary. In many cases, the directors or even private teacher may be able to make the repairs. If it is decided that an instrument needs repairs from a professional shop, you have two choices: you may take it to a repair shop yourself, or you can send it in by way of the directors. Either way, **you are responsible for the cost of the repair.** *(The school-owned instrument fee is used for maintenance and repair at the end of the year.)* Also, note that a music store representative from Music & Arts and Forte Repair come by the school each week. Instruments repaired through Forte are usually returned in 1-2 days!

We highly recommend using Forte Repair for all repairs due to their low cost and speed of repair. Mr. Lents can make minor repairs often on the same day if we are told first thing in the morning and he is much cheaper. The large music stores usually take up to a week to finish repairs. If you have a rental agreement with them, they should provide a loaner instrument while yours is being repaired. **Students must get parent approval prior to repairs being done.**

You must bring a note from your parents if your instrument is in the shop...or it's a zero for the day!

LOCAL MUSIC STORES

Forte Repair (817) 929-7586

Forte Instrument Repair
6510 Topaz Dr.
Arlington, TX 76001
www.forterepair.com
info@forterepair.com

Mr. E's Music (817) 419-0353

1108 W. Arbrook Suite
100 Arlington, TX. 76015
<http://www.mr-e-music.com>

Music Arts Centers (817) 466-8696

On the east side of the Arlington
Highlands Shopping Center
4000 Five Points Blvd. #129
Arlington, TX
www.musicarts.com

Rivard Brothers (817) 459-2263

2425 W. Arkansas Ln.
Arlington, TX

INSTRUMENT SUPPLIES EXPECTATIONS

You are expected to maintain your supplies and **quality Reeds** at all times. This includes the **required Tuner & Clip** for every student. If your Tuner is out of **batteries**, we sell them for \$1. If your Tuner or Clip **breaks**, you are expected to **replace it that week.** Clarinet & Saxophone students are expected to maintain and rotate between **4 good reeds** at all times. Oboe & Bassoon should rotate between **3 reeds.** You should **buy new ones** when you drop below that. We do not recommend store-bought reeds for Oboe & Bassoon.

ALL SUPPLIES can be ordered at **discount** through our Music & Arts rep. Simply submit the following form with a check made out to Music & Arts (or cash in an envelope w/your name and what it is for). Supplies usually arrive in 1 week.

Howard Band Supply List 2019-20

Name: _____

All Students must have a working Metronome/Tuner, Clip, Wire Stand...or purchase one in May. All others supplies can be purchased now or in August.

You only need to purchase what you don't have, have run out of, or are now missing. Some Optional items are included as well.

Make Checks Payable to Music & Arts

ALL INSTRUMENTS

Has		Order	Given
	Korg TM-50 Tuner/Metronome	\$25.00	
	Korg Tuner Clip (microphone) CM-200 **Percussionists do not need the clip	\$10.00	
	Wire Music Stand (GOES HOME)	\$10.00	

You only need to purchase what you don't have, have run out of, or are now missing. Some Optional items are included as well.

Make Checks Payable to Music & Arts

Has		Order	Given
	FLUTE		
	Silk Flute Swab	\$7.00	
	Tuning Rod	\$4.00	
	Polishing Cloth-Silver	\$6.00	

Has		Order	Given
	OBOE		
	Singing Dog Reed Med.-1 (must have a min of 3 at all times) (Reeds from Private Teacher are preferred)	\$15.00	
	Protec Reed Case (holds 8 reeds)	\$16.00	
	Silk Oboe Swab	\$7.00	
	Small Water Container	\$9.00	
	Cork Grease	\$2.00	

Has		Order	Given
	BASSOON		
	Singing Dog Reed Med.-1 (strap must have a min of 3 at all times) (Reeds from Private Teacher are preferred)	\$11.00	
	Protec Reed Case (holds 5 reeds)	\$19.00	
	Silk Bassoon Swab	\$8.00	
	Small Water Container	\$9.00	
	Cork Grease	\$2.00	

Has		Order	Given
	CLARINET		
	Rovner Ligature w/ Cap or...	\$30.00	
	Mouthpiece Cap only	\$4.00	
	Vandoren Reeds - 10 (#3 or #3.5) or...	\$26.00	
	Vandoren V12 Reeds - 10 (#3 or #3.5)	\$35.00	
	Neckstrap - BG Clarinet Support Strap	\$25.00	
	Silk Clarinet Swab	\$14.00	
	Reed Case (holds 4 reeds)	\$4.00	
	M13 Lyre Mouthpiece (step up by 8th grade)	\$101.00	
	Vandoren Optimum Ligature & Cap (opt stepup)	\$90.00	

Has		Order	Given
	BASS CLARINET		
	Vandoren Reeds - 5 (#3 or #3.5) or...	\$24.00	
	Vandoren V12 Reeds - 5 (#3 or #3.5)	\$25.00	
	Neckstrap - BG Clarinet Support Strap	\$25.00	
	Reed Case (holds 4 reeds)	\$4.00	
	Silk Swab	\$16.00	

Has		Order	Given
	ALTO SAXOPHONE		
	Rovner Ligature & Cap or...	\$30.00	
	Mouthpiece Cap only	\$4.00	
	Vandoren Reeds - 10 (#3 or #3.5) or...	\$32.00	
	Vandoren V12 Reeds - 10 (#3 or #3.5)	\$38.00	
	Neck Strap - Neotech black swivel hook	\$22.00	
	Silk Saxophone Swab	\$10.00	
	Reed Case (holds 4 reeds)	\$4.00	
	Vandoren Optimum MP (stepup by 8th grade)	\$121.00	
	Vandoren Optimum Ligature & Cap (stepup)	\$90.00	

Has		Order	Given
	TENOR SAXOPHONE		
	Vandoren Reeds - 5 (#3 or #3.5)	\$24.00	
	Vandoren V12 Reeds - 5 (#3 or #3.5)	\$25.00	
	Neck Strap - Neotech black swivel hook	\$22.00	
	Silk Saxophone Swab	\$17.00	
	Reed Case (holds 4 reeds)	\$4.00	

Has		Order	Given
	BARI SAXOPHONE		
	Vandoren Reeds - 5 (#3 or #3.5)	\$36.00	
	Neck Strap - Neotech Super Harness	\$45.00	
	Silk Saxophone Swab	\$20.00	
	Reed Case (holds 4 reeds)	\$2.00	

Has		Order	Given
	ALL BRASS		
	BERP - Optional for All Brass (Buzz Extension & Resistance Piece)	\$19.00	

Has		Order	Given
	TRUMPET		
	Bach 5C Mouthpiece	\$56.00	
	Valve Oil (Ultra Pure)	\$5.00	
	Slide Oil (Ultra Pure Light)	\$3.00	
	Cleaning Snake	\$7.00	
	Polishing Cloth - Silver or Brass?	\$6.00	
	Mouthpiece Brush	\$2.00	
	Bach 3B Mouthpiece (stepup by 8th grade)	\$56.00	

Has		Order	Given
	HORN		
	Farkas MDC Mouthpiece	\$59.00	
	Valve Oil (Ultra Pure)	\$5.00	
	Slide Oil (Ultra Pure Light)	\$3.00	
	Cleaning Snake	\$7.00	
	Polishing Cloth - Silver or Brass?	\$6.00	
	Mouthpiece Brush	\$2.00	
	Schilke 29 (Step-up by 7th grade)	\$59.00	

Has		Order	Given
	TROMBONE		
	Bach 6 1/2 AL Mouthpiece Sm Shank	\$71.00	
	Trombotine Slide cream	\$4.00	
	Small Spray Water Bottle	\$2.00	
	Cleaning Snake	\$8.00	
	Slide Grease	\$3.00	
	Polishing Cloth - Silver or Brass?	\$6.00	
	Mouthpiece Brush	\$2.00	
	Bach 5G Mouthpiece (stepup by 7th grade)	\$73.00	

Has		Order	Given
	EUPHONIUM		
	Bach 6 1/2 AL Mouthpiece Sm Shank	\$71.00	
	Cleaning Snake	\$14.00	
	Valve Oil	\$5.00	
	Slide Grease	\$3.00	
	Polishing Cloth - Silver or Brass?	\$6.00	
	Mouthpiece Brush	\$2.00	
	Schilke 51D Mouthpiece (stepup by 7th grade)	\$73.00	

Has		Order	Given
	TUBA		
	Conn Helleberg Mouthpiece (stepup)	\$79.00	
	Tuba Mouthpiece Pouch	\$9.00	
	Valve Oil	\$5.00	
	Slide Grease	\$3.00	
	Polishing Cloth - Silver or Brass?	\$6.00	
	Mouthpiece Brush	\$2.00	

Has		Order	Given
	ALL PERCUSSION		
	Practice Pad: Innovative CP-1	\$40.00	
	Stick Bag: Innovative SB-3	\$18.00	
	Drumline Sticks (included in Percussion Fee)	\$20.00	
	Snare Sticks: IP-LD	\$12.00	
	Marimba: IP 300 Med-Hard mallets	\$43.00	
	Timpani: IP CT-4 Med-Hard	\$37.00	
	Bells: IP OS-4 hard plastic mallets	\$32.00	
	Vibes: IP AA-25	\$47.00	
	Pitch Pipe for Timpani	\$20.00	
	Large Stick Bag: IP MB3 (optional upgrade)	\$61.00	

June
August
January

Make Checks out to Music and Arts Turn in to a director with check or cash.

STEP-UP INSTRUMENTS

Many students decide that band is more than just a hobby or elective and would like to advance their talent. One of the most significant changes you can make is the decision to purchase a step-up instrument. **Each year we have students that outgrow their beginner instruments and mouthpieces** (which are designed for small 6th graders). In most cases, students reach a point where their beginner instrument is actually holding back their progress as a musician. It is then time to consider purchasing a step-up instrument.

Directors make careful decisions when recommending step-up instrument models. We try to find the most accessible instrument for all students. When all students have the same step-up instrument model and mouthpiece, it is much easier to tune and match tone quality. It is also our intent to try to aid you in finding that final instrument purchase that will carry the student throughout their band experience while maintaining its resale value. We do recommend, if possible, keeping the beginning instrument for the high school marching band. *Never* take a professional model instrument out in the elements...especially the woodwinds!

Prices vary everywhere you shop. It is a good idea to purchase a new instrument from a known, reputable dealer that offers purchase options, maintenance plans and warranties. Use caution when shopping through newspaper ads, pawn shops and the internet. In addition, some of the "super stores" have begun to carry instruments as well. These are typically low level beginner instruments that most repair shops cannot find parts for and will not repair.

The following recommendations are good choices for upgrades:

Flute

1. Yamaha YFL-677H
2. Yamaha YFL-577H
3. Yamaha YFL-472

Clarinet

1. Buffet R13
2. Buffet Festival

Alto Sax

1. Yamaha YAS-62III
2. Yamaha YAS-82ZII

Trumpet

1. Bach Stradivarius 37
2. Yamaha Xeno

Trombone

1. Bach 42AF
2. Eastman by Shires

Please note that some instruments will require a new mouthpiece purchase as well.

Please feel free to contact the directors for more assistance in this major decision. We will be holding a professional instrument drive at Music & Arts this fall and spring for your convenience. This is the best place to try multiple makes, models, and prices. The date will be announced at a later date.

PERFORMANCE & TRIP PROCEDURES

Where applicable, students will ride the bus to events. The district policy is to take buses to all events outside of MISD (All-Region Auditions, UIL, etc.). We will also take buses to group performances within MISD. Students must provide their own ride to individual competitions within MISD (All-District Auditions & Concert, Solo & Ensemble, etc.). Students and parents sign a transportation release form at Band Registration that covers all band events for the year.

The following are our **Howard Band Bus policies**. They are designed to ensure safe and efficient travel:

- To allow the adults and drivers to communicate, talking is not permitted when boarding the bus or while in parking lots.
- Talking is permitted while we are driving but it must stay at an "inside voice" level (hence no singing or shouting).
- Students must get instantly quiet when an adult addresses them at any time on the trip.
- Sitting or lying down in the aisle is strictly prohibited! You must sit in a seat.
- Windows must stay closed at all times unless the AC is not working and the driver or chaperone permits you to. All body parts must stay inside.
- All music/videos must be played through headphones and not be audible by those next to you.
- Cell phone use is permitted only when we are rolling as long as an adult is not addressing the bus. If an adult addresses the bus, you must hang up immediately... you may call them right back.

Rules specific to our Schlitterbahn Trip:

- Students will sign up in advance for a bus seat on one of 4 buses (A, B, C, D). The directors will determine after you sign up the order of the buses traveling (1, 2, 3, 4) after sign-up is complete.
- You may trade seats once we are driving, but must return to your assigned seats for attendance purposes when we stop or when we board to depart again.
- Girls must sit next to girls and guys next to guys at all times.
- All movies played will be designated by the directors and will be PG or G since not all of our students are 13 or over.
- Student wishing to ride home with their parents and not on the bus must have a Transportation Release form sign and on file before the trip departure.

If parents wish to take their student with them after any event, you must use the following procedure:

- A. The directors must have a note before the event from the parents noting that the student will not be riding the bus back to Howard.
- B. The student and parent must check out with a Howard director or trip chaperone before leaving. This is for the student's safety.

In all cases, the directors will publish an approximate ending time for each event. The directors want to go home to their families and should not have to wait for parents to pick up their student from band events. **Please be courteous and be on time.** Do not depend on having your student call upon our return or when they are ready to go home. **The Mansfield ISD Police will be called in the case of a student left after a band event for more than 30 minutes. They will ask that the student be removed from the program.**

When parking in the back at Howard and waiting for our return, please do not park in the bus lane. It makes it difficult for our buses to park, students to disembark from the bus and also unload all our equipment. Parents should park on the sides of the building when waiting for our return.

BAND PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

The visual impression we make at a performance is very important. It is imperative for all students to look and act their best. We have two looks: formal performance attire and casual performance attire.

FORMAL PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

- White tuxedo shirt (\$15) pre-ordered at Band Registration
- White undershirt (boys and girls)
- Black dress pants (plain black; no pinstripes; no skirts; no leggings)
- Black closed toe shoes
- Black socks or nylons/pantyhose
- Bowtie (provided by school and checked out at Registration, \$8 if lost or broken)
- Cummerbund (provided by school and checked out at Registration, \$12 if lost or broken)

We pass out ties and cummerbunds during the fall semester to each student. Each student will be responsible for bringing it with their uniform to performances. The replacement cost for lost or damaged ties/cummerbunds will be \$20.00. Tuxedo shirts purchased at Registration will be sized and delivered prior to the Winter Concert. If your student's shirt does not fit after that, you will be responsible for replacing it from Al's Formalware. We do have donated used shirts but don't have every size. Students are to remain in their formal concert uniform until the conclusion of the entire concert to receive full credit.

CASUAL PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

- Howard Band shirt, tucked in (\$12) ordered at Band Registration
- Blue jeans (no shorts [except for Summit Band Night in August])
- Athletic shoes with socks (no flip flops/sandals/Crocs)

Students that are not dressed accordingly will be excluded from performing and receive the penalties for non-performance (this includes not going to Schlitterbahn).

Parents, we would also like to mention that you may purchase t-shirts for yourselves at Band Registration. It's always wonderful to see parents supporting us in this way. It helps our students find you when needed at band events and also shows what superb band parents you are.

EVENT DETAILS

Prior to each event we will give each student a handout detailing specific information. Please be on the lookout for these handouts about a week before every event. We also email them out when published so make sure you are on our Charms email list. Below is a listing of our main events that happen each year in calendar order.

FALL CONCERT & DANCE/PARTY

Our Fall Concert and Dance will be on different dates due to the availability of MISD facilities. The concert will take place in the middle of October and will feature a mixture of pep band music, standard literature and a few Halloween tunes by each band. Depending upon the development of each band, different bands may perform a different number of songs. This concert, like all of our concerts, is a required event. The dance will be held in the Howard Cafeteria usually on the last Thursday of October (see band calendar). All band students are invited to join us for dancing, food, and fun! The dance is optional but lots of fun ... and yes, you can wear school-appropriate costumes! Non-band students are not allowed.

8TH GRADE FOOTBALL GAME

We will all perform in the stands at the Summit HS Stadium to see our Howard Knights face a district opponent during September or October (see band calendar). We will provide transportation to and from the game, but parents are encouraged to come and enjoy the game as well! 8th grader football players will trade off playing with the band when they aren't playing in a game (A/B team). 7th grade Football players are excused from performing with the band as their game is at a different site.

HIGH SCHOOL BAND NIGHTS

We perform once with the Summit HS high school band at a HS football game. This is a great opportunity for middle school students to get a taste of what high school band is really like. They will play with the band in the stands, socialize with band members, and then enjoy watching the halftime show! Pizza is provided afterward. We will provide more information about this after the year starts. With Howard being the main feeder school for Summit, we take the entire band to one Summit HS game. The few 8th grade students we have zoned to Legacy will also have the opportunity to participate at the Legacy game with Worley & Jobe band kids as well.

ALL-DISTRICT BAND

Is an **ALL-STAR BAND** made up of the best players in MISD. Our students have the opportunity to audition for the MISD All-District Band. This audition usually takes place on a Saturday in October. This audition is mandatory for Honor Band and Symphonic Band members. Students who are accepted into the All-District Band will get to learn fun new music and play in a concert with other successful band students from Coble, Jobe, Jones, Wester, and Worley in January.

ALL-REGION BAND

Is an **ALL-STAR BAND** made up of the best players in Mansfield, Arlington, and Fort Worth ISD's. Our students also have the opportunity to audition for the TMEA Region 5 All-Region Band in November. There are two Phases to this audition (Thursday & Saturday). This is required for all Honor Band students and encouraged for others who have attended the sectionals and played well at All-District

Auditions. Students who are accepted into the All-Region Band will get to learn fun new music and play in a concert with the best players in the Region on the first Saturday of December at the Willie Pigg Auditorium. Being accepted into this ensemble is the most prestigious individual award a middle school band student can achieve!

WINTER CONCERT

Our Winter Concert will allow us to highlight each of the bands playing a bit more serious concert literature along with a few holiday favorites. This concert is always held within the first two weeks of December each year. Depending upon availability of MISD facilities, this concert may take place at a local church.

SOLO/ENSEMBLE

All students are required to perform a solo with live piano accompaniment at the MISD Solo/Ensemble contest held on the first Saturday of February (see band calendar). Directors and/or private lesson teachers will assist students in choosing a solo to play. The entry fee for the contest is covered by MISD! However, Brass and Woodwind players are required to use a live accompanist for their performance. Accompanist rehearsals will begin after President's Day and will rehearse two times before, during, and after school for two weeks. To make it easy, we help setup accompanists for the kids and also setup rehearsal schedules for them. The standard cost is \$35 (\$10 per rehearsal & \$15 for the performance). Financial assistance is available upon request so that all students can participate. Students may find and use their own accompanists but we need to know this by the first week of January. Percussionists typically prepare two solos (Snare & Marimba). Students are required to perform in a small ensemble as well.

PRE-UIL

This event will give the bands a chance to practice for the UIL Concert/Sightreading Contest. Pre-UIL occurs the last week of March or the first week of April. We will provide transportation to the event, and parents will pick up their students afterwards. This year's contest should be held at the MISD Performing Arts Center.

UIL CONCERT/SIGHTREADING CONTEST

UIL is the governing body for all interscholastic competition in the state of Texas. The music division hosts our Region Concert & Sightreading Contest each spring. This contest serves as the yearly snapshot of the progress made in our program and serves as fine art's closest analogy of assessment to the TAKS test. Each band will perform three contest selections on stage and then learn and perform a piece they have never seen before for the sightreading portion. **UIL is by far the most important performance of the year for each band participating.** UIL contest usually occurs the second or third week of April and we encourage all parents to attend. These will be the most refined performances of the year for our bands. We will provide transportation to and from.

SPRING CONCERT

Our Spring Concert is our final large concert of the year at either the Willie Pigg or MISD Center for Performing Arts. Each band will play a combination of their UIL contest music and new pieces, and we will give out a few awards. Given the amount of literature our kids have prepared, this will be our longest concert of the year so plan for a long but fun night!

SPRING TRIP (TO SCHLITTERBAHN)

For those of you that are new to the Howard Band program, we go to the Schlitterbahn Music Festival every year in May. Not only have we had a great time swimming and riding all the water rides, but we have also done very well at the music contest winning Best Band multiple years in a row! Here are the trip participation guidelines for all students to begin working towards. All Howard Band students are eligible to go on this trip with the following exceptions:

1. Students who are **absent from required band concerts or competitions** during the course of the school year. (Don't forget, you must dress appropriately in order to perform and still be eligible for this trip.)
2. Students who are **ineligible to play at UIL** (this trip is their reward for a successful UIL performance).
3. Students who are **failing ANY classes** at the end of the **fifth six weeks**. This is the state "no pass, no play" law.
4. Students who have made a **"U" in conduct in band** during the 1st-5th six weeks or had consistent behavioral problems throughout the year.
5. Students who fail to meet the performance requirements on their particular instrument.

Our district does not provide funding for this trip. Therefore, we will be doing 2-3 fundraisers in order to try to help fund the trip. Hopefully our fundraising will help pay for a portion of the trip (entry fees to Schlitterbahn and the contest, two catered meals, and charter buses). Students and parents will have to pay whatever is left. So. . . *start saving now!* This is not an overnight trip but it is a very long, one-day trip. We will need many chaperones. It is a costly trip for our band unless everyone does his or her part on the fundraisers.

The date for the Schlitterbahn trip is TENTATIVELY the 1st Saturday in MAY.

OTHER SPRING CONTESTS & CONCERTS

Our Honor Band and sometimes Symphonic Band will often attend additional local contests in May to get one more recording/competitive opportunity (especially on Honor Band years). Local contests include: Ovation Festivals, Beach Within Reach, Lone Star Classic, etc.

MARK OF EXCELLENCE/NATIONAL WIND BAND HONORS CONTEST

This contest seeks to recognize and award outstanding achievement in performance by high school and middle school bands. The project gathers entries from throughout the United States and provides valuable feedback for all entrants. A unique competitive environment is created that allows ensembles to compare their performance quality to that of other outstanding groups from across the country. This contest is every year and allows us to submit a mastered CD of their best recording of two of their three UIL pieces. Those CD's are judges against the best CCC size middle schools across the entire United States! The judges include the best University Band Directors from across the country. They then select the top 10% of the bands as "National Winners". As mentioned above, with Texas having the strongest band programs in the country, most of the winners are from Texas. The winner receives a trophy and their music is published on a professional CD that is mailed to all the participants. The T.A. Howard Honor Band has placed in the top 10% the last six times consecutively! For more info: <http://www.foundationformusiceducation.org/mark-of-excellence>

MIDWEST INTERNATIONAL BAND & ORCHESTRA CLINIC

The Midwest Clinic in Chicago, IL is the largest International Music Convention that takes place each December. Midwest showcases performances by the best bands and orchestras from around the world. School bands can apply to perform the following year by submitting a recording of two of your UIL pieces prior to Spring Break. That recording is judge against the best bands in the country who have applied to perform.

TMEA STATE HONOR BAND CONTEST

Texas Music Educators Association holds the largest Music Convention in the world that takes place each February. The Honor Band Contest allows TMEA to showcase performances by the best bands in each classification every other year. Texas bands can apply to compete the following year by submitting a recording of your UIL pieces from four recording opportunities throughout the spring. That recording is judge against the best bands in the state with only two bands advancing from Region to Area to State. The top 14 bands that reach the State level are judge during the summer and the winner is announced at the TBA summer convention.

FUNDRAISERS

MISD is very generous in supporting the band programs in our district. However, as in all quickly growing districts, it is simply not possible for the district to fund all of the enrichment activities that we feel are a vital part of your child's musical education. For this reason, the Howard Band participates in fundraising activities. Some activities supported by our fundraisers are registration fees and transportation costs for non-UIL events, the spring trip to New Braunfels, private lesson scholarships, clinicians, equipment and many other activities.

On average, the cost of each child participating in all band activities is approximately \$150-\$200 per year. In order for all our students to get the full band experience without it being a financial burden, we ask that as many parents and students as possible participate in the band fundraiser. We do not maintain individual student accounts. All raised funds will benefit the band as a whole. We understand that not all parents wish for their children to participate in fundraisers and the Howard Band respects that decision. Please keep in mind, however, the cost of each child's participation in our program and support the band in any way you feel possible.

Fundraiser Dates

- #1 Cookie Dough – 2nd & 3rd week of school
- #2 Butter Braids – 1st & 2nd week of November
- #3 Popcorn – 3rd & 4th week of January

CHARMS MUSIC OFFICE

Charms is our online music office manager. It allows us to keep track of most student data and communication in one location. After registration, parents and students can view student data, calendar, finances, and parents can volunteer to help at events through Charms.

1. To to www.charmsoffice.com
2. Mouse over "ENTER" in the upper right and choose "Parents/Students/Members"
3. Enter our school code: HowardMSBand
4. In the "Student Area Password" field, enter the student's MISD Student ID number.
5. A page of icons will appear. Clicking on these icons will give you access to the different areas of the Parent/Student area of Charms.

BRACES AND ORTHODONTIC WORK

Braces and other Orthodontic work can wreak havoc on your student's embouchure causing tone quality, response, range, and endurance issues. While it affects every wind instrument adversely, as a general rule, the smaller the mouthpiece or reed, the more drastically it will cause problems and the longer the recovery time will be. This can cause unneeded stress on a band student, especially as they are preparing for a particular performance. It can also jeopardize the band's performance as we pick our music based on the strengths of our players and any orthodontic work can change that.

So we ask you to **time your orthodontic work to the band calendar** as best you can. The best time to have major work (Braces or Expanders ON or OFF) would be **over the summer or the winter break**. Spring break is NOT a good time as we are just weeks away from UIL Contest.

This gives our students enough time to retrain their embouchure before any major performances. Private lessons are also a big key to recovery as the braces will require re-learning how to play. Also note that getting them off can cause just as big of an adjustment. **Invisalign Braces are the least intrusive** so please consider them if your child is serious about maintaining their level of playing.

We would also like to note that **getting them tightened right before a big performance** can be detrimental as well. So please refer to our calendar of performances and book your appointments accordingly. Trust us, orthodontists will understand when you tell them you play an instrument. For more information, or if you have questions, please contact the directors.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Communication is essential for the success of our band program. If you have a question or concern about the program, there are multiple ways to seek help. First of all, ask your student if they received any pertinent documents that they were supposed to pass on to you. The directors will periodically send out email updates as deadlines and events approach. Please make sure that we have your current email address. You can also check the Howard Band Website for information regarding upcoming events or to download lost forms, or contact the directors directly by either calling the band hall or through email.

Howard Band Website www.howardband.com

Howard Band Hall (682) 314-1075

Nathaniel Neugent NathanielNeugent@misdmail.org

Victoria Hitz VictoriaHitz@misdmail.org

Shawn Hart ShawnHart@misdmail.org

If for any reason you need to get in touch with one of the other directors in our cluster, here are their school front office numbers:

Summit High School (682) 314-0800
Chris Kanicki, Cris Garcia, Shawn Hart

Legacy High School (682) 314-0600
Andrew Nance, Chris Vasquez

Cross Timbers Intermediate School (817) 299-3560
Cathi McFaul, Nicki Neugent

PRIVATE LESSON TEACHERS

As emphasized in our Ensemble Expectations, private lessons are a huge part of our program. With larger classes compared to 6th grade beginner band, private lessons give the students a consistent one-on-one experience with an approved professional on their specific instrument. The more they progress, lessons become more important to the growth of each individual, each band, and the entire program. We encourage every student to consider lessons even if they have not taken in the past. We also encourage you to communicate with the directors regarding any questions or concerns about lessons.

Flute

Ellen Kaner
817-691-7198
EKaner@aol.com

Elizabeth Kidd
817-673-8264
2kidds@sbcglobal.net

Nicole Neugent
214-529-3658
Neugentn@gmail.com

Oboe/Bassoon

Tirzah Holland
817-703-4983
TKEH397@aol.com

Clarinet

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EKaner@aol.com

Nick Lopez
214-282-8498
Nicholas.a.lopez@tcu.edu

Saxophone

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Trumpet

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Cathi McFaul
817-564-1399
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Horn

Janet Nye
817-319-2244
embouchure@sbcglobal.net

Trombone

Jay Hatler
503-970-4602
jayhatler@gmail.com

All Low Brass

Dylan Toombs
214-499-4328
dctoombs@gmail.com

Mark Finley
214-649-1307
fourfinleys@gmail.com

Percussion

Shawn Hart
817-925-7856
ShawnHart@misdmail.org

FEE SUMMARY

Here is a list fees that you can expect throughout this year. The list is not all-inclusive and is only meant to give you an idea of what is coming.

REGISTRATION (check made out to Howard Band)

- Registration Fee - \$30 (t-shirt, binder, dividers, pencil bag, labels, luggage tags, etc.)
- Tux Shirt - \$15
- School Owned Instrument Usage Fee - \$60 for woodwinds & brass, \$40 for percussion
- Hawaiian Falls Party (optional) - \$15 each

EVENT FEES TO ANTICIPATE (paid as the event approaches)

- All-Region Audition - \$10
- Live Piano Accompanist Fee - \$35 (unless you have your own)
 - Make check out to your accompanist
- Schlitterbahn Trip Cost - \$110-\$120
 - Final cost will be dependent upon fundraising and will be announced before Spring Break

MISCELLANEOUS

- AAA Batteries - \$1 for 2 batteries
- Lost Band Binder (includes blue book, dividers, and pencil bag) - \$15 for winds, \$18 for percussionists
- New Band Binder (binder only) - \$2
- Lost Blue Book - \$7 for winds, \$10 for percussionists
- Lost Sheet Music (per page): \$0.25
 - Pay with cash
- Lost Pencil Bag - \$5
- Lost Bow Tie - \$8
- Lost Cummerbund - \$12
- Lost Lock - \$25 (they are a custom series)
- Private Lesson (per lesson): \$17
 - Make checks out to your private teacher