

Tidwell Middle School
Band Handbook
2021-22



Renee Quinlan, Director of Bands
Rothman Tafel, Assistant Director
John Bingaman, Director of Percussion

Preface

This handbook has been written for the Tidwell Middle School Band members and their parents with the intent of providing information regarding the purpose, procedures, expectations and activities of the band program. **All band students and parents are expected to read the entire handbook carefully to avoid conflicts with the policies stated herein.**

Many of these policies directly correlate with the NISD student code of conduct and handbook.

Philosophy of Instrumental Music

A well-rounded education is enhanced by one of the most basic of all studies – the study of music. Music teaches discipline. Music develops self-confidence. Music gives each student a feeling of pride and accomplishment. Playing in band teaches students the importance of working with others and helps them develop the social skills necessary to be part of a performing organization. Instrumental music engages students in a group activity, which allows them to use their free time constructively. Band instills values: responsibility, purpose and direction, devotion to duty, spirit of cooperation, and sensitivity to beauty. Not all band students become great musicians, but certainly all become more mature, cooperative, self-disciplined and hard working members of society with an appreciation of the arts. Music is a subject which affects all areas of a student's personality. These include the intellectual, physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual and social aspects of a person.

Discipline, pride, and commitment to excellence are important elements of a quality organization. External discipline creates internal discipline. This self-discipline demonstrates each student's own initiative. Pride is having a desire to succeed in what you do while respecting yourself and others around you. It is taking what you do seriously while enjoying what you do. Pride is a state of mind. A person's quality of life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence – whatever their field of endeavor.

TMS Band Web Page

The Band Web Page is a useful site to communicate information from the directors to the students and parents. Please take advantage of this communication tool.

Band website: www.tidwelltitanband.weebly.com

Contact Information

Renee Quinlan renee.quinlan@nisdtx.org

Rothman Tafel rothman.tafel@nisdtx.org

John Bingaman jbingaman@nisdtx.org

Conference Period

5th Period every day; Please email/call us to set up a conference

Band Descriptions & Expectations

There are several performing groups in the band program at Tidwell Middle School. Each group listed below functions as an important part of the entire band program. Bands are divided into three different groups in order to meet the individual needs of each student. Membership in the bands is determined by a thorough audition process to correctly place the student according to his/her own ability and experience level. Auditions will occur in April/May for the following year's band placement.

Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble is the first performing group, which is made up of the most advanced 7th and 8th grade students. Students in this band must be proficient on their instrument and must be willing to commit to regular rehearsal and practice time. The Wind Ensemble students will have one 45 minute sectional rehearsal per week as well as some extra full band rehearsals throughout the year. Students in this band are expected to participate in the scheduled rehearsals, concerts, pep rallies, and contests. In addition, students are required to tryout for the All-District and All-Region Bands and participate in Solo Contest. It is the responsibility of the student and the parent to check the band calendar and incorporate the scheduled events into their family calendar. Wind Ensemble members are encouraged to take part in the NISD Private Lesson Program.

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is the second performing group, which is made up of intermediate/advanced 7th and 8th grade students. Students in this band will have one 45 minute sectional rehearsal per week as well as some extra full band rehearsals throughout the year. Students in this band are expected to participate in the scheduled rehearsals, concerts, pep rallies, and contests. It is required to audition for the All-Star band and encouraged to participate in the All-District and All-Region Bands as well as the Solo contest. It is the

responsibility of the student and the parent to check the band calendar and incorporate the scheduled events into their family calendar. Symphonic members are encouraged to take part in the NISD Private Lesson Program.

Concert Band

The Concert Band is the third performing group, which is made up of intermediate 7th/8th grade students. Concert Band students are expected to take their instrument and band binder home every day! Students in this band will have one 45 minute sectional rehearsal per week as well as some extra full band rehearsals throughout the year. Students in this band are expected to participate in the scheduled rehearsals, concerts, pep rallies, and contests. Concert Band students are encouraged to participate in the Solo and Ensemble contest. It is the responsibility of the student and the parent to check the band calendar and incorporate the scheduled events into their family calendar. Wind Ensemble members are encouraged to take part in the NISD Private Lesson Program.

Beginning Band

The Beginner Band is a fundamental class designed for beginning 6th grade students. Students will meet in like-instrument classes and will learn the necessary skills for instrumental performance. The Beginner Band is intended as a training ground to prepare each student to participate in one of the 2 performing bands the following year. Students will learn many musical and instrumental concepts and will perform scales, music and band literature throughout the year. The Beginning Band will also perform at the fall, winter and spring concerts as well as participate in a contest for Beginning Bands in the spring. Band members will have 3-4 before or after school rehearsals as a full band in preparation for concerts and contests. Students are also encouraged to participate in a Solo Contest at the end of the Spring Semester. It is recommended that each student practices an average of 20-30 minutes per day. Private lessons are available and highly recommended by the directors.

Classroom Policies

Tidwell MS Rules:

1. Take care of yourself
2. Take care of others (peers and adults)
3. Take care of our school

Additional TMS Band Rehearsal Guidelines:

1. Look at the director when he/she is talking.
2. Do not talk during rehearsal.
3. Respect your fellow band members and directors.
4. Be prepared for each rehearsal.

5. Communicate effectively and promptly regarding conflicts with the schedule calendar of events.

Consequences:

The Tidwell Titan Band discipline policy is as follows. Each infraction will result in the student filling out the Student Discipline/ Missing Supply Google form at the time of the infraction. In this form, the student will provide their first and last name, student ID number, and class period. They will then check all infractions that apply for the situation. The infractions include:

- Tardy
- Missing Instrument
- Missing Supplies
- Excessive Talking
- Forget Pencil
- Reeds- Missing/Chipped
- Disrespectful actions towards self or others.
- Disrespecting Band Equipment
- Cell Phone Use
- Hoodie or Hat in Rehearsal

Along with filling out the Google form, each infraction will result in a consequence.

The 1st infraction will result in a warning.

The 2nd infraction will result in a Teacher/ Student conference.

The 3rd infraction will result in a phone call home.

The 4th infraction will result in Parent/ Teacher/ Student conference.

The 5th infraction will result in an AP conference.

MULTIPLE DISCIPLINE ISSUES WITH ANY TIDWELL BAND STUDENT MAY RESULT IN THE FOLLOWING: removal from a performance, removal from a band social event, removal from a competition, or removal from the band program (at director discretion).

Earned Band Events

There are 2 band events a student must earn the right to attend. *Semester 1: Band Holiday Party and Semester 2: Hawaiian Falls Trip.* If a student receives a severe school infraction during the semester of the event, the student may be removed from the invitation list for that event and cannot attend the event. The student will have a clean slate the next semester for the next event.

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance and participation is important for your daily progress and development. Participation in rehearsals and performances outside normal school hours is a required part of the band program. Absences for personal illness and other extenuating circumstances are sometimes unavoidable. When possible, the parents should give advance notice to the director of any absence. Un-excused absences from class or from any rehearsal or performance may result in a lowered grade or a zero for that performance. Remember – YOU are an important part of the band and other depend on you!

Band Grading Policy

The Band program's grading policies will adhere to the NISD grading policies.

Extra Credit will be given for attending any approved instrumental performance.

Grades Include:

1. Objective Sheet, Practice Reports, Assignment Sheets and Weekly Daily Grades
2. Playing Tests – These will take place during the student's band class, weekly sectional, and occasionally extra rehearsals or as a recording online.
3. Occasional written tests or worksheets.
4. Performance/Concerts/Contests/Clinics/Before-After School Rehearsals

Practice Records Grades:

Your practice report is designed to help you establish an organized routine for daily practice. A practice report is NOT needed to be able to tell whether you have practiced or not! How you improve from day to day and week to week reveals your practice habits and work ethic. Honesty is the best policy concerning practice time. It is helpful for parents to be involved in the student's practice time and progress. Your encouragement and support is important for their success.

1. Write down the total number of minutes per week.
2. A parent must sign the practice report for a grade.
3. Turn in your practice report every Wednesday.
4. 10 points will be deducted for late practice reports on the following day.
5. All time outside of class may be counted on your practice report. For example: private lessons, sectionals, extra rehearsals, concerts, clinics, contests, etc.

Practice Guidelines for Parents

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

Time Schedule

A half-hour a day is the recommended practice time 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 PM every evening because it's practice time – kids need time for fun and relaxation just as adults do. If the situation allows, 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, metronome and 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 criticisms. 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. He is learning to use his facial muscles in a different way and his 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!

Parents can evaluate practice sessions by asking:

1. What is your assignment for today?
2. Am I hearing the same daily warm up each day? It is important to play the same daily warm up and drill we do in class before beginning the assigned material.
3. Am I hearing music that they can already play, or am I hearing attempts at new material?
4. Is the tone quality becoming more characteristic of the instrument, or is the tone harsh, unmusical, and unpleasant?
5. 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!

Practice Guidelines for Students

IT'S HOW YOU PRACTICE THAT 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 that the playing of your instrument comes through development of coordination, just like any athlete. Patience is a virtue for the ambitious player.

1. Warm up correctly. Concentrate on tone quality and embouchure during the long tone warm ups.
2. Set a goal for the practice session. Don't try to do too much in one setting.
3. Isolate a problem or a section in a piece of music. Repeat is over and over many times – just like shooting baskets in the basketball goal. Practice it slowly at first, then gradually build up the speed using a metronome.
4. Repetition of a problem area reinforces muscle and mental memory.
5. Practice involves learning and reinforcing areas that are difficult. 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.
6. Structure your practice session to get the most benefit out of your time!

EXAMPLE OF A STRUCTURED 30 MINUTE PRACTICE SESSION:

<u>Material practiced</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Warm up and daily drill	10	Fundamental Development
New Material and assignments	10	Develop new technique
Previous and continuing material	5	Improvement of fingers/tone
Personal music choices	5	Fun!!

Your practice session will vary depending on the assignments. The more consistent you are with your practice time, structure, and climate, the better your results will be. Efficient use of time is important in your busy schedule!

Eligibility Requirements

Band Students are ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities for the nine weeks period immediately following a grade of 69 or less in ANY subject. However, if after 3 weeks, that student is passing ALL of his classes, he becomes eligible at the end of the 4th week. This “no pass-no play” rule affects all extracurricular events such as football performances and competitions. Band rehearsals, sectionals, and concerts are an extension of classroom activities, not extracurricular, so the “no pass-no play” rule does not apply. Students are required to attend these events. For certain contests and performances, the directors may require students to “pass off” the music in order to participate in the event.

Students have a responsibility to pass their classes and be eligible for band concerts and contests. Each student plays a vital role in the band and we are dependent upon each other for success! It has been our experience that most students who fail a class are simply not turning in their work.

Sectionals

Section rehearsals are important in a quality band program. Small group work with like instruments ensure adequate individual attention and section development. All *Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band* members are required to attend one 60 minute section rehearsal per week. During these sectionals students will work on the fundamental skills of their instrument, practice difficult sections of the band music, learn the All-District and All-Region music, and have their chair tests on these areas. Most of their objective sheet assessments will be done in sectionals.

Section rehearsal days will be scheduled during the first week of school. In order to accommodate the student athletes, sectional days and times may need to change at the beginning of each new sport. Every attempt will be made to schedule around athletic games and other school activities.

Please try to schedule doctors' appointments, etc at times that do no conflict with section rehearsals. In unavoidable conflicts occur, please communicate these conflicts promptly in writing along with a verbal explanation from the student and/or parent. Communication is vital to your success in the program.

If an absence from a sectional is unavoidable, the student may make arrangements to make up their sectional by attending another sectional that would be appropriate for their instrument. Communication is still necessary.

Class Materials

1. Instrument with appropriate supplies.
2. Every student is expected to have a pencil on his or her stand at all times. Marking music helps students learn faster and increases productivity.
3. Band binder/folder including all books, daily drills, and music.

Supplies

All students are required to have the appropriate supplies for their instrument. A list of appropriate supplies for each instrument will be provided for each student. Supplies may be purchased from a music store of your choice. We are fortunate to have a local music company in our area where you can purchase instruments and supplies.

Bells Music Shop
536 Keller Pkwy # B
Keller, Texas
(817) 337-7900

Band Equipment

1. Student Instruments – Your instrument is extremely valuable and proper care should be taken to maintain its value. Should your instrument be in need of repair, you must always consult with a director before taking it to the repair shop. Never try to repair an instrument yourself. All instruments must have a permanent nametag on the case handle. No one should play or handle an instrument that does not belong to him/her.
2. School Owned Instruments – Students who play a school owned instrument should take the same care as they would their own instrument. These students, as well as 7th and 8th grade percussion students are required to pay a semester maintenance fee of \$50.00 (\$100 per year). The student is liable for damage due to negligence, carelessness or loss. The student must always inform the director of any repairs needed.
3. Instrument Lockers – Each student will be assigned an instrument locker to keep his/her instrument in during the school day. These bins should be used for instrument and folder storage only (not for other school books). Locks are not provided nor recommended, but if a student wishes to put a combination lock on his locker, he must provide the director with a copy of the combination for reference. Please keep your lockers NEAT and CLEAN! No instrument should be left in the lockers on weeknights or weekends. This is a security measure for the safety of your instrument as well as the home practice requirement.
4. Music and Folders – Show the proper respect and care for your music and folder. All markings on the music should be done in pencil and/or highlighter. Do not lose your music.
5. Band Hall and Practice Rooms – These are your rooms and they should reflect your attitude towards the band program. Show respect and pride by keeping them neat and clean. No food, soft drinks, or gum is allowed in the band hall. Water bottles will be allowed during rehearsals and class.
6. Chairs and Stands – The chairs in the band hall are for sitting only. Please keep all four legs on the floor and do not lean back in the chair. The band hall chairs are set the way the directors need them for classes each day. Please do not move chairs or stands unless you are told to do so. Music stands are for holding music only. They are not a desk. Always put the stands on the stand racks correctly when you are asked to put stands away.

Band Member's Responsibilities

1. Follow all TMS Band rules as well as all school rules. Learn to accept the consequences of your behavior.
2. Learn to work well with others to enhance individual and group progress.
3. Have the proper respect for those in authority and for your classmates.
4. Show the proper respect and care for all band equipment, music, and instruments.
5. Regular practice is your responsibility in order for daily progress. Set a realistic goal for yourself and work to achieve success.
6. You are responsible to be at all band concerts and performances. Keep your calendar in an important place so you may refer to it often. Remember you are an important part of the band.
7. Make a real effort to learn and improve daily. Build a habit of success. Remember, it is more important to make consistent improvement, not to be the best.
8. It is expected that each student conduct himself properly with regard to his/her actions, manners, and dress. The appearance of the band at pep rallies, football games, and other public performances is very important. Every effort is made to make sure that the Tidwell Titan Band portrays a positive image. The impression that the band makes has a great deal to do with the spirit, pride, and reputation of our school and our band. Each student must do his/her part to make our image a favorable one to the community.

Pep Rallies

The Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band will combine and perform together at all pep rallies. Many students are involved in sports, cheerleading, dance and other activities. If a band student is required to perform with another group, then he/she will not be required to perform with the band. On occasion, there will be opportunities for a student to perform in both groups. All band students are required to perform at pep rallies.

Pep Rally Procedures:

1. Dress in your band t-shirt. Wear your band shirt for the entire school day to promote school spirit and band pride.
2. Bring your binder with all music and your instrument. You are responsible for helping put away chairs and stands at the end of the pep rally. Percussionists are responsible for hauling percussion equipment to and from the gym.
3. Sometimes you may be dismissed from class early to set up and warm up together before the pep rally begins.
4. Come to the band hall to get your equipment and head directly to the gym. Do not play on your instrument until you are told to do so.
5. It is important that you watch the conductor and listen to instructions carefully throughout the course of the pep rally as it will be noisy and there will be lots of distractions.
6. You may not make inappropriate noises on your instruments. You may only play on your instruments when it is time for the band to do so. Please don't interrupt others' performances.
7. All band students are expected to participate in the pep rallies. A pep rally is a required performance and grades will be given for all performances. Cheerleaders will perform on the feature song only. Athletes will perform the entire pep rally, but may join their team when called to do so.
8. Have fun! Support your school by being enthusiastic and giving a good performance!

Bus and Travel Rules

1. When you are dismissed to the bus, walk quietly, do not run.
2. Excessive noise on the bus is not appropriate. Do not use loud voices.
3. Do not move from your seat or stand up while the bus is moving.
4. Keep your hands and feet inside the bus at all times.
5. No gum or food is allowed on the bus.
6. ipods and mp3 players must be used with headphones and kept at an appropriate volume.
7. As we approach the destination, listen for instructions from a director or chaperone.
8. Unload the bus only when a director or chaperone dismisses you.
9. All students must ride to and from the event on the bus. Students who need to request a ride with their parents need to get director approval and send a written note prior to the day of the trip.
10. Always be courteous to drivers, chaperones, and other passengers.
11. Tell the bus driver thank you as you exit the bus for the day.

Code of Conduct

*Our code of conduct directly reflects the NISD Student Handbook and Code of Conduct.
All students must abide by NISD rules and regulations.*

Dress Code for Performances

It is important to look proud, project a positive first and lasting impression, and portray a sincere respect for the audience and public. We want to represent Tidwell Middle School with a professional, organized appearance any time we perform.

Uniforms:

For Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band members – In keeping with a professional look, the performing bands will wear a white tuxedo shirt, black tuxedo pants, bowtie, and cummerbund for guys. Girls will wear black dresses. While the school will provide the shirt, pants, bowtie, cummerbund, and black dresses, the student will need to provide their own black dress shoes and socks.

Concert Dress for Beginning Band members –

Boys: slacks, collared shirt, dress socks and shoes

Girls: dresses or nice slacks and blouse with dress shoes

Casual Dress:

For all bands – The Band t-shirt and jeans are the required dress for all pep rallies, elementary tour performances, and any other event that does not require more formal attire.

At the end of the year, the student is responsible for dry cleaning uniform and all parts before returning to the band program.

Concert Etiquette

We are making an effort to teach our students about good audience manners. Audience manners are based upon respect for the performers and for others in the audience and are nothing more than expressions of courtesy. Unfortunately, young people in today's society are seldom exposed to formal concert situations and are often not aware of these standards for appropriate behavior.

By following these guidelines you can set a proper example for our students and will make the concert more enjoyable for all. Thank you for your assistance.

1. Avoid entering or leaving the room during a performance. If absolutely necessary to do so, move only between selections.
2. Applause is welcomed, but whistling or cheering is considered inappropriate for a formal concert.
3. Talking should be avoided during a performance.
4. Attention should be directed to the performer at all times.
5. Please turn off cell phones.

Be respectful to any performing group as they have worked hard in their preparation for the concert.

Byron Nelson Band Booster Club

We are fortunate to have a cluster wide band booster organization. By virtue of having a child in the band program. The main objective of the Byron Nelson Band Booster Club is to provide funds and support for the various projects in our cluster's band programs. Some of these projects will include private lesson scholarships, social activities, guest clinicians, music and supplies to fit the bands' needs. It takes a great deal of work and cooperation from parents at all levels to accomplish our goals. We appreciate your help and support whenever possible. You – the parents – make it happen for your children!

Bryon Nelson Band Directors

The Tidwell Band is extremely fortunate to feed into a wonderful band program at Bryon Nelson. Due to great team teaching philosophies shared by the directors, your child will get to interact with the Bryon Nelson High School directors on a weekly basis. These directors graciously make time in their busy schedules to come down to the middle schools to help teach beginner classes and the 7th and 8th grade band classes.

BNHS Band Directors:

Mr. Jed Weeks, Director of Bands

Mr. Michael Moore, Assistant Directors

Mr. John Bingaman, Director of Percussion

Private Lessons

Private lessons are available through the band program to ALL band students. Individual instruction is extremely beneficial due to the one on one teaching environment. The private lesson instructor is able to design a program that meets each individual's needs and each student is able to progress at his/her own rate of ability.

Professional teachers on each instrument will be available to teach these lessons during band class, or before/after school. Lessons will be scheduled at your convenience on a first come basis. Students will be taught once a week. Most lessons are 30 minutes. Please know that if you schedule a lesson during your child's band class time, it may have to be a 22 minute lesson due to 44 minute class periods. Private lessons for all NISD students are \$20.

As we build a quality band program at Tidwell, much of the success will be attributed to the private lesson program and the superior private lesson instructors that will teach our students. Private lesson are not required, but are strongly recommended.

Tidwell Middle School Band Schedule

- 1st period – Flute/Trombone**
- 2nd period – Concert Band**
- 3rd period – Wind Ensemble**
- 4th period – Symphonic Band**
- 5th period – Percussion**
- 6th period – Oboe/Bassoon/Euphonium/Tuba**
- 7th period – Saxophone/Trumpet**
- 8th period – Clarinet/Horn**

Got music?

“In all things, there is one common connection. A link like no other, and that is music. Music is an art to express what cannot be put into words, but cannot remain silent. Music influences everything including the way we think, act, and speak. Everything in life has music to it, you just have to search to find it sometimes. I truly believe that deep down, whether we know it or not, we are all musicians.”

**Adam Coffman
June 24, 1980-August 18, 2004**