

**Nolan Middle School**

**Mustang Band**

**2023-2024 Handbook**

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# Welcome

Welcome to the Nolan Middle School Band Program! We are excited to have you be a part of our growing and successful program. In the Mustang Band we believe in striving to be the best people and musicians we can be. We are student musicians and believe in being students first. In our program, you will not only learn how to read music and play an instrument, but you will also learn how to work hard while developing perseverance, self-discipline, accountability, and teamwork.

The purpose of this handbook is to give you a brief overview of what to expect and to see some of the expectations that will be asked of you.

Welcome again and Go Mustangs!

**Contact Information**

Community and communication are an important factor in a student’s success. We welcome communication with students and parents alike to make sure you get the best possible experience and to help each student succeed. If you need to contact us for any reason, our information is:

**Johan Rodriguez**

Email: johan.rodriguez@killeenisd.org

Phone #: 254-336-1156

**Joshua Poling**

Email: Joshua.poling@killeenisd.org

Phone #: 254-336-1156

# Band Classes

## Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble is our top performing ensemble. They are our varsity band, are comprised of students who uphold the ideals of the Mustang Band, made it through our audition process, and have completed a year of Beginning Band. Students in Wind Ensemble are expected to maintain a positive behavior both in and out of the band hall. They are expected to bring all materials to class every day and follow the rules and procedures to have productive rehearsals. **Students in Wind Ensemble are required to attend all performances**, prepare to perform and/or audition for region band and solo and ensemble. They perform at UIL concert and sight reading in which they perform for a rating to see how much they have grown. Our ultimate goal is to prepare each student for high school band and to have them grow as musicians. A student may be moved to Symphonic Band at any grading period due to behavior, grades, participation, attendance, attitude, and overall classroom readiness and musical progression.

## Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is our non-Varsity group. It is made up of students who have completed a year of beginning band. Students in Symphonic Band uphold the ideals of the Mustang band and are expected to maintain a positive behavior both in and out of the band hall. They are expected to bring all materials to class every day and follow the rules and procedures to have productive rehearsals. **Students in Symphonic Band are required to attend all performances** and will be heavily encouraged to prepare to perform and/or audition for region band and Solo and Ensemble. They perform at UIL concert and sight reading in which they perform for a rating to see how much they have grown. Our ultimate goal is to prepare each student for Wind Ensemble and high school band and have them grow as musicians. A student may be moved to Wind Ensemble after any grading period due to behavior, grades, participation, attendance, attitude, and overall classroom readiness, and musical progression.

## Beginning Band

Beginning Band is for students who have had none to minimal experience in Band and who want to learn an instrument. We begin the journey with learning how to read music and by the end of the year they will be playing music, making characteristic sounds on their individual instruments, and playing as a group. The big performances they will have are the winter concert in December, Solo and Ensemble in April, and the Spring Concert in May. **These are required performances for each student**. Students in beginning band will learn what it means to be in the Mustang Band and will uphold those ideals. They are expected to bring all materials to class every day and follow the rules and procedures of not just my classroom but all classes of Nolan Middle School. As a band member, our students are expected to be the leaders of our school and to lead by example. Our ultimate goal is to make each student a pillar of their school communities and to prepare them for future band endeavors as they continue throughout their time here in Nolan Middle School and on wards in High School. Classes are separated by instrument type: Percussion, Low Brass, High Brass, Flute and Oboe, and Reeds.

# Supplies

## Instruments

All students **MUST** have an instrument in order to be successful in this program. **The school does have instruments that are available to checked out. However, we are VERY limited on how many we lend to the students.** The distribution of instruments belonging to NMS will be left to the discretion of the Band Directors. Therefore, the best option is for each student to rent or buy their instrument from the local music shops. Two leading stores are **Music and Arts** and **Better Than New Band Repair**. These stores offer competitive prices that are meant to be easy on the budget while setting your student up for success in Band. Listed below, you will find instruments that **MUST** be rented or purchased for your child.

**Flute**

**Clarinet**

**Alto Saxophone**

**Trumpet**

**Trombone**

**Percussion Bell Kit**

Please contact the directors at johan.rodriguez@killeenisd.org or joshua.poling@killeenisd.org with any concerns regarding the renting of instruments.

## Other Supplies

All students need to bring these to class every day.

* Instrument (In working condition)
* Mouthpiece, Ligature, Reeds (at least 3 working reeds recommended)
* Sticks and mallets (Percussion)
* Black Band Binder
* All music
* Pencil, Pencil, Pencil
* Valve Oil (Brass instruments)
* Slide Lubricant (Trombones)
* Cork grease (Clarinet, Saxophone)

# Instrument and Supply Vendors

**Music and Arts**

212 W Veterans Memorial Blvd

Harker Heights, TX 76548

(254) 699-2263

www.musicarts.com

**Better Than New Band Repair**

1402 Chisholm Trail Rd

Round Rock, TX 78681

(512)388-7774

www.btnbandrepair.com

**Woodwind and Brasswind**

(800) 348-5003

www.wwbw.com

# Band Uniform

In band we **require** a white long sleeve button up shirt, solid Black Dress pants, solid Black Socks, and solid Black Dress Shoes for all performances. Jeans, joggers, and crocs are **NOT** acceptable. Not being in the correct uniform may cause the student to have their grade for the concert reduced or they may even be asked to sit out of the performance. Any changes in uniform will be communicated ahead of time.

**Attendance**

We are a performance-based group; therefore, a major portion of our grade is our performances. We are a team, you can’t play football without the quarterback. In Band, we are all the quarterback and when one of us misses, it affects the team. Our expectation is that each student will make every rehearsal and every performance. Unlike sports, we only get one opportunity to perform and then we move on to the next concert, so attendance is very important. I understand that we are human and sometimes there may be scheduling conflicts. If an emergency happens, email us, and the student can do an alternate assignment. With the exception of immediate emergency, all absences are asked to be given 24 hours in advanced if your student would be missing a performance. All absences and their labels are up to the discretion of the directors.

# Sectionals

Every UIL performing student (Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band) must attend at least one school sectional every week. Sectionals go from 3:30 – 4:30 PM and are instrument specific. The schedule for which days specific instruments are meeting will be released the week before we begin sectionals in order to minimize conflict the student activities. Sectionals are an opportunity for each student to get more opportunities for individualized instruction and to better prepare for performances. If a student is absent on their weekly sectional day, then they may come and practice during another time in the week.

# Band Hall Hours

The band hall will be open Monday through Thursday until 4:30 PM starting on the 2nd week of school. Whether there is a sectional or not, all students are welcomed to come practice or study. If the band hall needs to close earlier than 4:30, we will communicate this to the students.

# Practicing

Practicing is a vital part to improvement in anything in life and for a student to improve in band, they must practice their instrument. A part of the students grades are our weekly practice records. The minimum practice record requirements for a 100 are that students must practice 5 days a week for a minimum time totaling 1 hour, we suggest 12 or more minutes a day, and a parent/guardian signature verifying the times on the practice records are correct. The students are highly encouraged to practice more than that as well. These will be turned in at the beginning of every week. Things that count as practice are playing their instrument, counting and practicing rhythms, identifying note names, and listening to professional on their instrument. All times counted as practice are time that happen outside of the school day which means all sectionals can be added to the practice record.

Practice Rooms will remain locked and if a student wishes to use a practice room, they must get permission from a director first. Practice rooms are to be used for practicing only.

# Extra Credit

Students will be able to earn extra credit at any point throughout the year. If a student goes to any band/orchestra/choir performance that is not their own and brings us back a program within a week from the performance, they will be given 10 points to their lowest grade. This is limited to one program per performance. Also, if students practice on holidays/breaks, they will receive extra credit points.

# Grading Policies

Students will be graded on many things throughout the school year. One of our main grades will come from practice records. Students must turn in a signed practice record at the start of each week. A non-signed practice record will result in 15 points to be taken off that week’s practice record grade. In order to earn a 100 on a practice record a student must practice 5 days a week for a minimum of 1 hour and get a signature. Another grade we will have is a weekly Rehearsal Etiquette grade which will constitute students displaying proper rehearsal practices in order to allow the class to obtain success. A big part of this grade is having a working instrument every day in class. If a student does not have their instrument or it is not in working order, then students can have up to a 50 point deduction of this grade. Students will have to play and count rhythm assessments in class to demonstrate mastery of the concepts being taught; these can look like weekly playing and counting tests for beginners, pass offs of their music for upper-level courses, and other assessments as we see are needed. For the upper-level band courses such as Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble, failure to pass off a song may lead to a student having to do an alternate assignment, and they may lose the ability to participate in a performance. All previously stated work can be made up at any point in the 9 weeks for full credit by coming in before or after school. It is the students responsibility to set up a time to make up the assignment and attend. We will always take the highest grade. If a student misses a practice record grade, they can make it up by doubling the practice time the next week or attending 2 afterschool practices. The final type of grade your student will have, is a concert grade. We are a performance-based class and therefore all our concerts are graded and mandatory for all students. Students can be excused and given an alternative assignment in rare situations, however, failure to attend a concert or displaying poor concert etiquette may result in students getting a 0 for that performance grade. Any alternative assignment must be completed and turned in 10 days after the event that was missed. Other grades may be taken away or added as seen fit by the directors. Feel free to reach out at any time with questions.

**Student Expectations**

The band hall is a safe space for students to get to express themselves and learn. For this to continue and be efficient and successful, students must follow expectations. The following policies are in place not just for the protection of your child, but also for the expensive equipment that is handled on a daily basis.

1. Students will walk in calmly.
2. Students will put instruments together quickly and put cases back in their band lockers.
3. Students will keep hands, feet, and all objects to themselves.
4. Students will not bring food or drinks into the band hall, with the exception of water.
5. Students will have all electronic devices put away.
6. Students will only play on their instrument.
7. Students will only use their assigned band lockers.
8. Students will help keep the band hall clean and organized.
9. All cases will be closed correctly, and all instruments will be stored correctly.
10. Students will arrive on time.
11. Students will remain silent during the class period unless permission has been given.
12. Students will only play when directed to play.
13. Students must raise their hand if they have a question.
14. All gum and food will be disposed of in the trashcans.

# Consequences

For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Which means, when you decide to break a rule there will be consequences. The consequences will range in severity based on the offence and/or the frequency of the offense. The consequences that can be issued are but not limited to warnings, student-teacher conference, parent contact, alternative assignments, office referrals, etc. Again, every student has the right to learn and feel safe and that should never be impeded, your safety is our number 1 concern.

# Concert Etiquette

Students and parents at some point will most likely attend a concert. Here are some pointers to making you an ideal audience member and make sure we can all enjoy the hard work we do.

1. Remove all non-religious headgear.
2. Have a seat quickly.
3. Do not call out your child/friend’s name.
4. Silence all electronic devices.
5. When the performance begins, please remain quiet. If you are with children and they begin to cry, please take them outside until they calm down, and then re-enter quietly at the start of the next piece.
6. Applaud only once the song has ended.
7. Do not for any reason, come onto the stage with, or be around, the ensemble.

# Travel Policies

It is in the nature of extra-curricular activities to need to travel from time to time. When traveling, to ensure the safety of everyone, we have a few regulations that must be followed.

1. **Students must obey the adults that are present on the trip the first time they are asked to do so.**
2. **Students are to ride the bus they are assigned to and must follow ALL directions.**
3. **Students are not to wonder off on their own.**
4. **Make sure you have everything you need: instruments, music, uniform, etc.**
5. **Students can leave with an adult if the Director has a written note, email, etc. and the director sees you leave with the adult.**
6. **All rules in the student code of conduct are followed.**

Remember that you are representing Nolan Middle School and the Nolan Middle School Mustang Band. Carry yourself well and with pride.

**NMS BAND CALANDER 2023 - 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Event** | **Group** | **Time** | **Location** |
| **9-26-23** | **Spirit Spectacular** | **Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band** | **6:00 PM** | **Leo Buckley Stadium** |
| **10-7-23** | **Region Camp** | **7th & 8th grade**  **participating Band**  **Member** | **9:00 AM – 1:00 PM** | **Nolan Middle School** |
| **10-23-23** | **Fall Concert** | **Symphonic & Wind Ensemble** | **6:30 PM** | **HHHS Auditorium** |
| **10-26-23** | **8th Grade Night for**  **HHHS** | **8th Grade Members** | **TBD** | **Leo Buckley Stadium** |
| **11-4-23** | **Region Auditions** | **7th & 8th grade participating member** | **7:00 AM – 3 PM** | **Smith Middle School** |
| **11-9-23 - 11-10-23** | **Region Clinic and Concert** | **Band Members who made it** | **TBD** | **Copperas Cove High School** |
| **12-6-22** | **Winter Concert** | **All Band Students** | **6:30 PM** | **HHHS Auditorium** |
| **2-21-23 –**  **2-23-23** | **Pre-UIL** | **Symphonic & Wind Ensemble** | **TBD** | **Chaparral High School** |
| **3-5-23 – 3-6-23** | **UIL** | **Symphonic & Wind Ensemble** | **TBD** | **Chaparral High School** |
| 4-22-23 | **Solo & Ensemble** | **All Eligible Band**  **Members** | **8 AM – 5 PM** | **Liberty Hill Middle School** |
| **5-11-23** | **KISD All Star Band** | **Select Students** | **TBD** | **Temple College** |
| **5-13-23** | **Spring Concert** | **All Bands** | **6:30 PM** | **HHHS Auditorium** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

\*End times are based on how long the event may take.

\*\*All dates and times are subject to change

\*\*\*Events may be added or removed

# Contact Information

**Student Name**

## Parent/Guardian 1 (Primary Contact)

**Parent/Guardian Name**

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**Street Address**

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**City, State, Zip**

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**Cell Phone Work Phone Home Phone**

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**Email Address**

## Parent/Guardian 2 (Primary Contact)

**Parent/Guardian Name**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Cell Phone Work Phone Home Phone**

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**Email Address**

**\*\*\*All information is confidential and will only stay with me. This is just to ensure I can contact you if a situation arises.**

## Student Shirt Size (Check one)

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Adult Extra Small**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Adult Small**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Adult Medium**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Adult Large**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Adult XL**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Adult XXL**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Adult XXXL**

**Receipt of Handbook and Acknowledgement of Terms**

**We, the parent/guardian and student, have received and read the handbook in its entirety. We understand and agree to all policies, procedures, and expectations outlined in the handbook.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Name**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Signature Date**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Name**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Signature Date**