

Page Middle School Band Handbook 2006-2007



Mr. De Leon, Band Director
Mr. Pollock, Principal
Ms. Sultenfuss, Vice Principal

Welcome to the Page Middle School Band!

90% of students participating in a performing musical ensemble throughout high school graduate from college! Nationwide, band students also have a higher GPA. Band also offers intrinsic rewards, teaches group cooperation, instills a positive sense of self-worth and is an invaluable preparation for life. Instrumental Music education provides opportunities for all of that while students are learning to play an instrument!

Band probably requires more time outside the school day from more students than any other school activity. Band members are also the students who are most often the high achievers, learn how to manage time, found on the school Academic and Citizenship Honor Rolls, and who grow into well-adjusted young adults. It is also true that few, if any, other activities are more richly rewarding in terms of good fellowship, healthful recreation, and the satisfaction which can come only from a job well done.

This handbook is for Page Middle School Band members and their parents with the hope of giving information regarding the various phases, activities, policies, and regulations of the instrumental music program. All band members and parents are urged to read the entire handbook carefully at the beginning of each school year. Have a great year!

Sincerely,

Jacob P. De Leon
Band Director

BAND PHILOSOPHY

The instrumental music program in our middle school is the first phase of a seven-year program of instruction. It is our hope that participation in the band program will foster better understanding and appreciation of music, and help students carry with them the knowledge, skills, and attitudes which will help to make them more complete members of society.

While it is the individual student's achievement in music that is our primary goal, it is the commitment of all our band members to each other that will allow our program to achieve excellence.

By signing the forms at the end of this handbook you make the following commitments:

1. *to be a member of the band for the entire school year;*
2. *to give your best effort to improve as a musician; and*
3. *to maintain a progressive, positive attitude toward band and school throughout the year.*

BAND STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

No food, gum, and soft drinks permitted

No hats or caps worn inside the band hall

No "horse" playing such as ...running, throwing objects, yelling, knocking chairs/stands/cases over, fighting or harassing others

Keep the band hall clean

Announce all non-band members to Mr. De Leon

Do not leave personal items unattended

Do not leave instrument or music out

No public display of affection

Bring all essential class materials to class

Do not disturb others during rehearsals and class time by talking with friends

Be respectful to others and others' property at all times

Be polite. If assigned to ISS, members may not participate in rehearsals/performances during the day(s) assigned. If subsequent ISS assignments occur, dismissal from the band program may occur at the discretion of the director.

Proper respect for and recognition of other bands during their performances reflect the maturity and class of the group.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

Check the board for any announcements or specific instructions.

All students must be in their assigned seats before the tardy bell rings.

For classes that have not yet started playing on instruments, you will sit in your chair with all essential class materials and listen quietly for director instructions.

For classes that have begun playing on instruments, you will need to have your instrument, music in order, pencil, and highlighter when class begins.

No cases or backpacks will be allowed by your chair. Cases need to be in storage area.

Do not warm up on your own before class unless instructed to do so. The entire band will warm up together at my direction.

Percussionists should set up and have all necessary equipment- sticks, mallets, etc. ready before class begins.

When the director steps on the podium, all talking should stop. Your full attention is expected to be given to the director.

If you have a question, raise your hand. Do not be afraid to ask questions if something is unclear to you.

Students will not be allowed to do other schoolwork during band rehearsals.

Come ready to learn and perform.

TARDINESS TO REHEARSALS OR PERFORMANCES (UNEXCUSED):

1st offense—One band detention (30 minute duration) – students will need to make their own arrangements “to and from” detention.

2nd offense—One band detention (1 hour duration) - students will need to make their own arrangements “to and from” detention.

3rd offense—Suspension from the next performance/activity (Parent will be contacted regarding tardies)

4th offense—Suspension from all extracurricular band activities for one semester

MISCONDUCT GUIDELINES

All members of the Page Middle School Band will behave according to the S.A.I.S.D. code of conduct. Examples of misconduct that will not be tolerated include, but not limited to:

Use of drugs, alcohol, or any tobacco product

Fighting (physical and verbal)

Harassment of other students

Public display of affection in any official band function, band hall or buses

Disrespect of instructors (including substitute teachers), fellow students, or any of the Page Middle School Faculty

Violation of band room expectations, classroom procedures, or disruptive behavior during class or after school rehearsal and functions

Misconduct problems will be handled in the following manner, according to the discretion of Mr. De Leon, and based on the severity of the situation.

Consequence 1: You will be given a verbal warning.

Consequence 2: We will have a student-teacher conference. I will also expect confirmation from you that you will not continue this type of behavior in the future. Detention

Consequence 3: I will call your parents for a phone conference, in which we will discuss your behavior. Detention

Consequence 4: I will send you with a misconduct referral to the counselor. Detention

Consequence 5: I will send you with a misconduct referral to the principal. Detention and possible removal from the Band Program

PERFORMANCES

Attendance is required at all performances and to all pre-scheduled rehearsals. Concerts are extensions of the classroom and are the highlight of the learning process. Please check the band calendar for the dates of the concerts and combined rehearsals. ***Appointments should not be scheduled during band rehearsals or performances. Please check the band calendar and plan accordingly.***

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

The ultimate goal of our program is the development of the individual musician to the limits of his or her potential. To assist in reaching this goal, we strongly recommend participation in the individual, and group competitions offered during the school year.

All-Region tryouts involve the finest students from schools from our region. The music is announced in August and the tryouts are in November. Solo and ensemble competition takes place in February. These events will result in non-competitive ratings and medals or ribbons.

BAND CLASSES

All members of the Band Program are assigned by audition to one of two/three band classes that meet as academic classes. Auditions are held at the end of each school year. Students may be reevaluated again at the end of the 1st Semester. A chart explaining the minimum competencies for each band class is included in this handbook and is only intended as a MINIMUM guideline. Balanced instrumentation within each band is an integral part of the selection process.

SYMPHONIC BAND II

PURPOSE: The Symphonic Band II is an advance performing group with preparation for Symphonic Band I and high school band program as a primary objective. Students will perform at concerts and contests throughout the school year. Students will also have the opportunity to perform at the solo and ensemble contests provided they have met the eligibility requirements. Instrumentation is limited to those who show advanced performance abilities and superior attitudes. Members are selected by audition and must meet the minimum requirements for performance Level II.

UNIFORM: **Black** pants (no jeans), **solid black** shoes, **black** socks, Green band shirt, and a tux shirt, and bow tie, that will be ordered in October.

TEXTS: *All Region Book (optional)
Supplemental Band Books

SYMPHONIC BAND I

PURPOSE: The Symphonic Band I is an advanced **varsity performing group** with preparation for the high school band program as its primary objective. Students will perform at concerts and contests throughout the school year. Students will also have the opportunity to perform at the solo and ensemble contests provided they have met the eligibility requirements. Instrumentation is limited to those who show advanced performance abilities and superior attitudes. Members are selected by audition and must meet the minimum requirements for performance Level II.

UNIFORM: **Black** pants (no jeans), **solid black** shoes, **black** socks, Green band shirt, and a tux shirt, and bow tie, that will be ordered in October.

TEXT: *All Region Book
Supplemental Band Books

PAGE BAND MINIMUM SKILLS CHART

LEVEL L	MINIMUM SKILLS NEEDED TO AUDITION AT THIS LEVEL	BAND CLASS
1	<i>None</i>	<i>Beginners</i>
2	<i>Play the Concert Bb, F, C, G, Db, Ab, Eb scales with no mistakes in four of them. Play a one octave chromatic scale. Sight read with no mistakes in 70% of the measures an exercise that demonstrates eighth-notes and triplets. ACCEPTABLE TONE IS REQUIRED ON ALL EXERCISES.</i>	<i>MS SYMPHONIC I-II</i>

SECTION REHEARSALS SYMPHONIC BAND(S)

Section rehearsal for each section will be scheduled one day per week, either before or after school. Attendance is absolutely required to be a member of the Symphonic band(s). Attendance at section rehearsals is graded. It is the student's responsibility to arrange transportation, etc. Excused absence from a section rehearsal must be made up within one week of the missed rehearsal. Students who are absent from school the day of a section rehearsal are considered excused. Students who have attendance problems will be moved to the non-performing Instrumental Techniques Class.

APPLIED PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

This program is supported by the individual parents who cover the cost of lessons for their children. Lessons are offered during band class or after school. Lessons offered during the day may be slightly shorter than those after school. The SAISD approves all private instructors through, interview and background check. Lesson money will be deposited into the Friends of Fine Arts private lesson account, from which the teachers are paid. All money paid by students/parents is given to the teacher (there is no fee assessed to the teachers).

Private Instruction is offered as enrichment, NOT remedial instruction. It is encouraged for the complete development of each student's potential as a performing musician. LESSONS ARE NOT REQUIRED and students' places in band and their band grades are not judged by participation in private lessons.

STUDENT AND PARENT RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PRIVATE TEACHER

1. Be prepared for each lesson.
2. Bring a pencil, books, and all other required materials to each lesson.
3. Keep a written assignment for each lesson.
4. Notify the teacher at least 24 hours in advance if you must miss a lesson. Make every attempt to reschedule your lesson or switch with another student. Failure to notify the teacher in advance of a missed lesson constitutes an unexcused absence and must still be paid for.
5. The cost for each lesson is \$15 payable to the Page Middle School Friends of the Fine Arts. Lessons should be paid one month in advance. Excused absences will be rescheduled or credited.
6. Please turn in lesson money on time. Our teachers are professionals who depend on money for lessons for their livelihood.

GRADES AND ATTENDANCE

Performance Grade (50%) including class assignments, section rehearsal assignments, nine week assignments and objectives, and playoffs of performance music.

Participation (30%) including correct marking of music, care and maintenance of instruments, punctuality to rehearsals and performances, attendance at rehearsals and performances.

Practice Reports (20%) Practice reports with 180 minutes per week, properly signed by a parent, turned in on time (Thursday) will result in a 100% grade. Practice reports will be accepted **ONLY ONE DAY LATE** with a 10 point deduction.

Attendance

Students who enroll in other school activities such as athletics, choir, drama, etc., need to plan ahead to avoid schedule conflicts. The band director will work together with the other teachers, coaches, and directors of various activities to give each student every opportunity to be part of other groups. **NON-SCHOOL SPONSORED** activities, teams, organizations, and student jobs may not conflict in any way with the practice/performance schedule of the band.

The band is dependent on all its members. Unlike other classes where individuals may succeed or fail by themselves, band students' successes depend on the full participation of all members. The following attendance policies will affect the student's grades:

- 1) An unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance may result in the removal of a student to a non-performing class. Excuses are accepted only in the event of absence from school or family emergency. **Doctor appointments are not considered excused and therefore should not be scheduled during your regular sectional or class rehearsal time.**
- 2) Section rehearsals missed for any reason must be made up within one week of the missed sectional. Excused absences (see above) may be made up for full credit while unexcused absences may be made up for 50% credit only.

ELIGIBILITY

Most of the work that our students do is either curricular or co-curricular and not subject to eligibility. Curricular and co-curricular activities include free concerts, section rehearsals, concert rehearsals, and private lessons.

Students who participate in extracurricular activities must meet T.E.A. (Texas Education Association) and U.I.L. (University Interscholastic League) eligibility requirements. Students who fail any single class at the end of a nine weeks become INELIGIBLE seven days later. Ineligible students may regain eligibility midway through the nine-weeks period if he/she is passing all courses. Semester grades are not used for eligibility. Activities that are classified as extracurricular for which TEA, UIL, and SAISD Eligibility requirements apply include:

1. Any event for which admission is charged
2. Any event that is inter-school competitive.
3. Any event where ratings are awarded.

Students who become ineligible for Extracurricular function, are still eligible (and required) to attend Curricular or Co-Curricular functions. Ineligible students will be given alternate assignments during contest preparation time. **Students who have chronic eligibility problems will be assigned to a non-performing class where performances will not be affected.**

USE OF SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

A limited number of the more expensive instruments are owned by the SAISD for the purpose of balancing the instrumentation district-wide and maintaining performing bands at every level.

A checkout form will be sent home for parent/guardian signature at the beginning of each school year, which describes the condition of the instrument at that time. It is the responsibility of the student/parent to check over the instrument at that time and understand that the instrument must be returned in the same condition at the end of the year.

PROPERTY CARE

It is very important from the beginning to take care of instruments and supplies because they are so expensive. Please **DO NOT ALLOW ANYONE**, including family members, to play with an instrument. Many instruments have been accidentally damaged by people who did not know how to use the instrument properly. Also, do not place books or notebooks in the instrument case. This will damage the instrument.

If there is anything wrong with the instrument, **DO NOT TRY TO REPAIR IT** on your own. Please bring it to me.

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

If there is damage to the instrument, the student can be charged for the repair or the cost of the instrument.

RECOMMENDED INSTRUMENT LIST

Below is a list of recommended advanced instruments. In most cases, the beginner instruments are adequate for the junior high bands however better quality instruments enable all students to learn more quickly and with greater ease. While there are several brands and models of advanced instruments, SAISD staff recommends the following instruments:

Flute - *Yamaha models 581 or 581-H, Miyazawa 95SR*

Clarinet - *Buffet R-13 (the "Festival" model is not recommended)*

Alto Saxophone - *Selmer SA-80 or Yamaha Pro Model*

Trumpet - *Bach Stradivarius 180-S*

Trombone - *Bach 42-BO*

These can be purchased at many retail stores. Parents are encouraged to seek the help of a private instructor or director before purchasing one of these instruments.

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Certain supplies are necessary to play an instrument correctly and effectively each day. Please

make sure that these items are always at hand when needed.

- WOODWINDS:**
1. soft, lint-free cloth
 2. cork grease (clarinets and saxophones)
 3. cloth swab (clarinets and flutes)
 4. at least 2 good recommended brand reeds at all times.
(It is more economical to purchase reeds by the box rather than individually)
 5. reed guard
 6. metronome (Suggestion: Seiko DM-20) (optional)
 7. folding music stand (optional)
 8. black 1" ring notebook with dividers

- BRASS:**
1. valve oil (cornets/trumpets, euphoniums, tubas)
 2. tuning slide grease (Selmer Tuning Slide Grease)
 3. trombontine or Slide-O-Mix brand slide cream and spray bottle
(trombones only)
 4. mute for brass instrument (as called for in our music) (optional)
 5. flexible cleaning snake
 6. mouthpiece brush
 7. metronome (Suggestion: Seiko DM-20) (optional)
 8. folding music stand (optional)
 9. black 1" ring notebook with dividers

PERCUSSION: *A list of percussion equipment and supplies will be given to students in class.*

BAND SHIRT

All band students are required to have a current band shirt as part of their uniform. Band shirts will be worn at less formal performances throughout the year. Band Shirts will be compatible with the current SAISD Dress Code and may be worn anytime. The cost of the band shirt is approximately \$15-22 (to be announced at the beginning of the school year).

TUX SHIRT

A uniform tux shirt will be ordered for each symphonic band member in October in order to have them by our first formal concert in December. Tux shirts will be approximately \$12.00-15.00. (Returning students who already have the Band Shirt and tux shirt do not need to purchase new shirts unless they no longer fit.)

“PRIDE MAKES A DIFFERENCE!”

Page Middle School Friends of Fine Arts

The Page Middle School Friends of Fine Arts provides much of the budget for Page Band

Students. It earns these funds primarily through fundraisers. Every band parent and friend of the Band is invited to join the Page Middle School Friends of Fine Arts at the beginning of each school year. Dues are payable at any meeting or by sending a check to school with your band student (\$5 per family). The Friends of Fine Arts (FOFA) operations are run with volunteers who help throughout the year.

Please return with the other Handbook Forms.

Page Middle School Friends of Fine Arts Enrollment Form

Page Middle School Friends of Fine Arts encourage all band parents to become involved in the Friends of Fine Arts organization. The page Middle School Friends of Fine Arts conduct may fundraisers throughout the year. The funds raised through these fundraiser are used to purchase sheet music, equipment and supplies, lesson scholarships, needed for the Page Middle School Band. We also show our support by attending other Band activities. Our children put a lot of hard work into the band program and we want them to know we support them.

Membership is \$5.00 per family. Please fill out the form below and return it to the band director of organization treasurer.

Parent Name

Address

City

Zip

Home Phone

Work Phone

Student Name(s)

School

Grade

Page MIDDLE SCHOOLBAND
2006-2007 Enrollment and Information Sheet
Please Print

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Grade _____

Instrument _____

Brand of Instrument _____

Model _____

Serial # _____

Home Mailing Address _____

City _____

Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Father/Guardian's Name _____

Work Phone _____

Mother/Guardian's Name _____

Work Phone _____

Parent Email Address(s) _____

Cell Phone _____

Private Lesson Teacher (if applicable) _____

PLEASE READ THE HANDBOOK CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING BELOW

"We have read the Page Middle School Band Handbook and our student has permission to participate in band and all band activities within the guidelines as stated."

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

"I have read the Page Middle School Band Handbook and agree to abide by all policies stated. I understand that failure to follow policies or directions may result in disciplinary actions that could lead to dismissal from the Page Band."

Student Signature

Date

GENERAL RELEASE

I the undersigned, for the purpose of enabling _____, a minor, to
Student Name
participate in the following school functions: *ALL Page MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND ACTIVITIES*

AND TRIPS DURING THE 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR, do hereby release and authorize the San Antonio Independent School District, its employees, representatives or agents as follows:

1. You are hereby released from any and all liability or claims, present or future, known or unknown, of every kind, character or description, that may be created by or arising out of, either directly or indirectly, said school function.
2. In the event accident, injury or illness necessitates medical attention, you are specifically authorized and give sole discretion to obtain such medical attention at such place and from such person or persons as your sole judgment shall determine necessary.
3. You are further authorized and given sole discretion to administer such disciplinary action as you may determine necessary within school policy, including but in no way limited to your authority to return said student home at any time during the duration of the trip.

I have read this release and understand its terms. I execute voluntarily with full knowledge of its significance, and with the intention of binding myself.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Print Name

SURVEY

Student Name: _____ Class Period: _____

