

MCLEAN 6TH GRADE CENTER

3201 South Hills Ave. * Fort Worth, TX 76109 *

817-814-5761 www.mcleanmsband.com



Blue Jay



Band Handbook

2023-2024

McLean 6th Grade Blue Jay Band

Important Telephone Numbers/Email Addresses

Mrs. Traughber	McLean 6 th	817-814-5761	lindsey.traughber@fwisd.org
Mrs. Martien	MMS	817-814-5300	christa.white@fwisd.org
Mr. Gandy	MMS	817-814-5300	jacob.gandy@fwisd.org
Mr. Walker	PHS	817-814-5071	lance.walker@fwisd.org
Mr. Strahan	PHS	817-814-5071	jonathan.strahan@fwisd.org
Mr. Sawyer	PHS	817-814-5071	matt.sawyer@fwisd.org
Mr. Montez	PHS	817-814-5071	zachary.montez@fwisd.org

Private Lesson Staff Email Addresses

Flute	Lauren Davis	lad352@gmail.com
Oboe	Annie Henneke	anniehenneke@gmail.com
Bassoon	Sarah Boyd	highlandbassoon@gmail.com
Clarinet	Reagan Walsh	Reagan.walsh@mavs.uta.edu
Sax	Jason Ellison	jl Ellison@hotmail.com
Trumpet	Justin Telamantez	justin.t.talamontez@gmail.com
Horn	Emily Hines	emily.hines@mavs.uta.edu
Trombone	Mason Hicks	mason4882@gmail.com
Tuba/Euph.	Colin Elmore	colelmore@gmail.com
Percussion	Logan Seith	logan.seith@gmail.com

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Dear Students & Parents,

The McLean and Paschal High music staff along with our administration have put together a set of Music Program Guidelines to provide band students and parents as much information as possible about our Band program. Required guidelines published in this handbook provide general information about our program which we hope you will find helpful.

Students, who begin our Band program in the sixth grade, can look forward to a comprehensive, sequential music education that will take them through the twelfth grade. Our sixth grade and early middle school band programs emphasize a thorough foundation in individual performance fundamentals. In the later middle school years, students have the opportunity to perform in full bands with emphasis placed on developing ensemble concepts and furthering individual skills. Once your student reaches the high school level, he/she will have the opportunity to participate in a wider range of performing ensembles including marching band, as well as individual, community, and national performances.

We are proud of the tradition of excellence that our band program enjoys. With your help and support, we look forward to continuing this tradition of educational excellence in music.

If you have questions regarding the McLean 6th Grade Band guidelines and information contained in this band handbook, please call the band office at 817-814-5761

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lindsey Traugher
Band Director, McLean 6th Grade

PHILOSOPHY OF THE MCLEAN 6th GRADE BAND

The success of the McLean 6th Grade Band centers on pride, commitment to task and the willingness to work hard to achieve a common goal. We do not expect every student in the program to become a virtuoso musician. We do expect every student to establish both short and long term goals for improvement on his/her instrument, to exhibit mature, responsible attitudes and actions at all times, and be willing to contribute to lots of hard work for the benefit of all.

The band program exists to provide an excellent music education for students. This is achieved through individual study and varied performances in many venues, supporting a curriculum which places an emphasis on comprehensive musicianship. Performance opportunities include large ensembles, chamber ensembles and solos. The skills that band students acquire in these activities are directly related to skills necessary for auditions, presentations and interviews in other career fields.

Social skills are also developed. Participation in band enables students to form close friendships within the school through their collaborative efforts and the opportunity to work with their peers as part of a team. As a member of the McLean 6th Grade Band program, students make long-lasting friendships and develop a sense of camaraderie that is unique to our organization. Organizational goals are clearly established, and the students depend heavily on each other to achieve them. As a result, the concepts of responsibility, teamwork and good citizenship will develop as each student experiences the world of music.

The ultimate goal of the program is to produce students who are knowledgeable about music, can perform successfully with confidence, can operate within a structured framework, and can work to develop the skills necessary to continually become a better life long musician.

Band activities are group events that require the commitment of ALL STUDENTS. All group performances require mandatory attendance from each student. We ask each McLean 6th Grade Band Family to make a strong commitment to the Band Calendar. Please communicate with the director if you foresee any conflicts. All students are required to attend the events pertaining to their particular band. Band events may sometimes conflict with other MCLEAN 6TH school events. In that case, the director will work with the parent and student to see that their best interests are met.

Every year is a new challenge – new combinations of personalities and talent, new audiences, new music, new members, and new leadership from section leaders, and officers. By accepting membership in the McLean 6th Grade Band, students agree to perform to the best of their abilities and work together with the band staff to make this year's band the finest musical organization that our combined efforts can produce.

Conduct

- Any organization that has high performance standards must also have high disciplinary standards. The basic behavioral guidelines for students in music activities are taken from the FWISD Student Code of Conduct.
- Students enrolled in the band program are expected to display exemplary behavior at all times. At every performance as a band member, you represent your family, McLean 6th Grade, FWISD and Fort Worth, Texas. Make sure that your actions prove that the McLean 6th Grade Bands are a “class act” in every way.
- Band students are allowed in the Band Hall only while the director is present. Do not disturb anyone if there is a class or sectional in progress. Show every courtesy to the director and students involved.
- Students will not be permitted to use any rehearsal area or school equipment without the director’s permission. The Band Hall is available for use anytime it is not in use by a director.
- Students must have director approval to use the Band Office phone.
- Students are not allowed in the Band Office unless a director is present.
- Only band members are allowed in the Band Hall.
- No one is allowed in the Band Hall prior to 8am daily.

Rehearsal Guidelines

1. Be seated with instrument, music, pencil, and supplies when the tardy bell rings.
2. Show good rehearsal etiquette by being a good team player – study your part quietly while the director works with another section. Remain on task at all times; do not talk or interrupt the focus of a rehearsal.
3. Maintain proper posture at all times, which is important for all players.
4. Be intent on improving your performance skills.
5. Raise your hand and ask questions if you need more individual help.
6. Leave your cases in your locker during rehearsal and your backpacks on the shelves outside band hall
7. Do not leave purses or other valuables unlocked in the band hall.
8. No food, gum or drink is allowed in the band hall or during other rehearsals. We all take pride in keeping our band hall clean and organized.
9. All instruments remain in cases *with latches closed* inside a locker when not in use.
10. Lockers shall remain clean.
11. No food or drink shall be kept in lockers at any time.
12. Disorderly behavior and abusive language will not be tolerated.
13. Please be considerate of directors’ requests for assistance and/or performance of tasks around the band hall.
14. All students will adhere to the FWISD Code of Conduct Handbook.
15. Instruments must be well maintained and in good, working order at all times.

Discipline

If there is a problem with following good conduct/rehearsal guidelines, the following will be procedure for correcting the issue.

1. The issue will be brought to the students attention in class
2. The student will visit with director after class about the issue, parent phone call
3. Conference with student, parent, director, and administrator
4. Office Referral

Grading Policy

It is important to realize that high expectations go hand-in-hand with a fine performing organization and students who do the necessary work to be a contributing member will receive a high grade. During virtual learning, students will have 1 written assignment through google classroom and one recording assignment through Music First or FlipGrid.

*Daily/Team (30%)

Class participation and having equipment.

*Practice Journals/Objective Sheets/Weekly Work (30%)

Practice Journals and Objective Sheets will be assigned on an as needed basis by six weeks. Practice reports are one per week. Objective sheets are one per six weeks. Assigned written work & recordings will also be part of this grade. Assignments will be worked on both in class and home

*Performance Grade (40%)

Playing and written tests over pre-assigned material
Performances/Rehearsals

Unexcused Absences – An unexcused absence from a required performance may result in the suspension of that student from extra-curricular band activities the remainder of the year, removal from the performing ensemble, &/or demotion within the section. The student's band grade would also be affected – for concerts and sectionals missed a performance grade of 0. A written assignment will then be assigned for the student to correct the grade. If for some reason and emergency arises, please notify the director as soon as possible at the band office, 817-814-5761. A written excuse may also be accepted.

If a student's religious beliefs prevent them from performing certain music, an alternate assignment will be given by the director. Please communicate this information to the director so that accommodations may be made for the student.

Dues and Fees

Band Dues: Our optional band dues are \$40 per year, and cover your t-shirt, food and drinks for the year, cost of trips, contest entries, and other items such as new music. Contact your director for information on a payment plan. We ask that all band students pay this due if possible. Dues are paid to the McLean Band Boosters. Cash or check made out to McLean Band Boosters.

Instrument Rental Fee: If you choose to rent your instrument from the school district, the cost is \$80 per year. It may be paid \$80 at once or \$40 per semester. The fee must be accompanied by the instrument rental form at the end of this handbook. Contact your director for information on a payment plan or if in need of financial assistance through a district waiver. Instrument fees are paid directly to the school through the band director or front office in cash.

MUST RENT FROM FWISD: Oboe, Bassoon, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba

OPTION TO RENT FROM FWISD OR MUSIC STORE-It is encouraged to go through a music store as the school has limited quantities of these instruments:**Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone.**

Instruments & Supplies

Personal Instruments:

With all personal instruments, it is strongly recommended that the instrument be insured through your homeowner's policy or private company. The school district will not assume liability for maintenance, loss, repair, or damage of personal instruments. Please make sure your students' instrument has his/her name visible on the case of the instrument (i.e. luggage tag, instrument tag, etc.)

School Owned Instruments:

McLean 6th Grade furnishes the following instruments for students use: Oboe, Bassoon, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba, and all Concert Percussion instruments – THIS DOES NOT include sticks/mallets, reeds, mouthpieces, maintenance, & cleaning supplies.

The instrument usage fee is \$80 for the school year (due Friday, August 23rd). This is a very minimal fee considering that most of the school owned instruments cost several thousand dollars each. The student is responsible for maintaining the instrument to the best of his/her ability. Any excess damage beyond normal use may result in a fine to cover the repair cost of the instrument. All students are expected to treat school instruments as if they were their own. The "Band Fee" & /or Fundraising Funds will not go towards instrument rental.

Instrument Lockers/Shelves:

All band students will be assigned an instrument shelf/storage area for storage of their instrument. Students are to keep only their instrument and music in the shelf. Students must not keep clothing, shoes, school books, binders, food, or drinks in the band hall. Directors will remove any of these items at their discretion.

6th Grade Band Supplies

All necessary supplies are listed on students specific instrument supply sheet. This can be found at <http://www.mcleanmsband.com/supply-lists.html>

Uniforms

- Tucked in Band T-Shirt (Purchased from MCLEAN 6TH Band as part of the Band Fees)
- Blue JEANS
- Sneakers
- NOTE: Band T-Shirt must be tucked in at all times.
- At Winter Concert , Beginning Band Benchmark, and Spring Awards Concert-Uniform will be Sunday Best-no jeans, shorts, athletic shoes, or tshirts.

The Uniform will be required when representing our school, concerts, and contests. Our bands are evaluated on their uniformity of dress. It is essential for all students to be dressed appropriately. Each student is responsible for acquiring the uniform components.

Home Practice

It is important to develop consistent practice habits. Parent support and guidance are the key factors in establishing a regular practice schedule. The most effective home practice is based on the following:

1. 20-30 minutes of QUALITY practice time daily.
2. Parent/student MUTUALLY agreed daily practice time.

3. Parent/student MUTUALLY agreed special practice area in your home.
4. Positive reinforcement from parents and siblings.

Home practice is expected and required. The physical demands and muscle memory of producing a QUALITY sound, playing with clean technical accuracy, and the reading of music notation will be strengthened over time ONLY through CONSISTENT, DAILY PRACTICE. **No instrument is to spend the night in the band hall.** Please refer to the “DAILY ROUTINE” in each student’s notebook for more information.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are designed to benefit all band students. Private study is designed to assist students further themselves in their musical ability. I still take private lessons as often as possible. Students already performing will gain great strength from the advanced pace and more challenging material the lesson instructor can provide. Students receive weekly “one on one” attention that is not always possible in a large band class. They learn more about their instrument, are challenged further, and tend to gain immense self-confidence from the lesson experience. **There is no better way for your musician to help themselves and the McLean 6th Grade Band than by consistently participating in weekly private study.** Please return the *Private Lesson Form* so the director may assist in pairing you with a qualified instructor. Lessons occur once a week and the FWISD approved rate for private lessons is \$18 a half-hour.

Transportation

Itineraries will be distributed for all McLean 6th Grade Band events. Parents, please pick up your band members at the scheduled time. As specified by the itinerary, McLean 6th Grade Band members travel together to events by bus. Parents who wish to take their band member home must provide advance written notification.

A student may only be released to his or her own parent or guardian. Relatives, siblings, neighbors, etc. may not take your son or daughter home from an off campus activity.

Pursuant to FWISD Board Policy, parents or guardians should be able to show a photo ID to the director before a student is released, and may be asked to “sign out” the student.

Please make sure that your student always has a ride home if they desire to stay after school and practice. The Band Hall will lock daily at 5pm.

Parent Volunteers/Chaperones

There will be multiple opportunities during the school year that the band will need volunteers or chaperones to help with different tasks or trips.

Fundraisers:

The band booster organization plans fundraisers throughout the summer and school year. These fundraisers are to fulfill the needs of the band including, but not limited to the Spring Trip, small instruments, private instruction, music, percussion equipment, instrument repair, contest entry fees, clinicians, etc. To be able to meet the needs of such a successful and cutting edge program, a lot of money needs to be raised and this requires the team effort of ALL parents and ALL students working together to achieve one common goal. There will be important fundraisers throughout the year that will require the participation of every student and many parents. You will be kept well informed about these fundraisers as they come up.