



## McLEAN BAND

### Important Telephone Numbers/Email Addresses

Mrs. Sarah Chance, MMS Director of Bands: [sarah.chance@fwisd.org](mailto:sarah.chance@fwisd.org)

Mrs. Cassandra Reinhart, MMS Assistant Director: [cassandra.saucedo@fwisd.org](mailto:cassandra.saucedo@fwisd.org)

Mr. Bryan Wright, Paschal Director of Bands: [bryan.wright@fwisd.org](mailto:bryan.wright@fwisd.org)

Mrs. Lauren Bolton, Percussion Director: [lauren.bolton@fwisd.org](mailto:lauren.bolton@fwisd.org)

McLean Band Hall: (817) 814-5357

Paschal Band Hall: (817) 814-5071

McLean Middle School: (817) 814-5300

3816 Stadium Drive Fort Worth, TX 76109

### Stay in Touch

Website: [www.mcleanmsband.com](http://www.mcleanmsband.com)

Facebook: McLean Bands

Instagram/Twitter: @mcleanbands

The Facebook, Instagram and Remind are resources for directors to share information with students and parents. With over 400 students in 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade band this year, we are not able to consistently keep up with questions that are sent via Facebook, Instagram and Remind. **The best way to get a quick response is by sending us an email.**

**Excellence in everything.  
We are a band family.  
Find a solution.**

### **Commitment**

In order for a performing group to be successful, each member must make a commitment of time, effort and positive attitude. For all school activities, the faculty and administration work together to make sure students have the opportunity to participate in multiple activities. Bands will typically have 2-4 performances per semester. Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band will have weekly sectionals either before or after school.

### **Academic Eligibility**

All academically-eligible students will get to perform at all football games, pep rallies, and contests. However, due to the no-pass/no-play laws in Texas, members of the band who fail one or more classes will not be able to travel or perform with the band. **EACH STUDENT MUST PASS EVERY CLASS EACH 6-WEEKS WITH A GRADE OF 70 OR HIGHER. A GRADE OF 69 OR LOWER IN ANY CLASS WILL MAKE A STUDENT INELIGIBLE FOR ALL BAND ACTIVITIES.**

### **Grades**

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. In determining the band grade there are two areas involved:

1. Participation (50%) – This includes sectional attendance and class participation. Class participation is based on having instrument, equipment, and supplies (such as a pencil) each day in class. Sectional attendance is based on timeliness and preparedness.
2. Performance (50%) – This includes all performances/rehearsals, in class performances, recorded/live playing tests, and written assignments.

### **Insurance of Instruments**

All band members are encouraged to insure their own personal instruments. Insurance policies are available through local music stores, personal articles policies or homeowners insurance policies. Students are welcome to bring their own lock for their band locker, as long as they give the combination to the directors. The band is not responsible for any lost or stolen instruments.

### **Instrument Rental Contracts**

Students and parents will sign a contract holding them accountable for the condition of the instrument and/or uniform that is issued to them. Repair of damages beyond regular wear and tear are the responsibility of each student. There will be a \$80 per year usage fee (payable to FWISD) on school owned instruments.

### **McLean Band Fees**

\$90 Band fees are required of all band members. This covers music, t-shirts, trips, clinicians, food and drink, masterclasses, and audition entry fees throughout the year. Checks should be made to McLean Band Boosters. Payment plans are offered upon request. Please communicate any financial concerns with the directors.

### **Sectionals**

Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band members will have a mandatory sectional every week. Concert Band members are welcome but not required to attend. At these sectionals we will work on individual and ensemble skills to help develop tone, technique, balance and blend. Additional music such as region music, solos, and concert music will be worked on. Attendance will be graded as part of the participation grade.

### **Travel**

Since the band is part of the entire school system, we will operate within the rules set by the school district. All band members will travel to performances on district-provided transportation. No external-speaker stereos are

permitted on the buses. Respect for chaperones and other band members is expected from everyone involved. Disrespect or not obeying the instructions of the chaperones will result in penalties being issued to the student, including being dismissed from the field trip. All school rules apply when traveling with the band.

### **McLean Band Boosters**

The McLean Band Boosters Club is a non-profit organization open to anyone with an interest in supporting the McLean Bands. It takes a great deal of parental support to maintain a program of this size and quality. Volunteers are needed to help with field trips, concerts and contests, our spring trip, and band camp. Parent help is always greatly appreciated!

### **Private Lessons**

The single most important factor in the development of a quality band program is the development of the individual player. There are many opportunities in the metroplex area for student musicians to study privately with professionals. There will also be private teaching specialists, on as many instruments as possible, teaching at McLean School. Private lesson instructors will teach as many students as possible. Lessons are thirty minutes once a week and cost the student \$17.00 per lesson. All students are encouraged to take private lessons and can find information on our website: [www.mcleanmsband.com/private-lessons-instructors](http://www.mcleanmsband.com/private-lessons-instructors)

### **Tutoring Hours**

Directors are available Monday from 8:30-9:00 AM or by appointment for tutorials.

### **Individual Activities**

Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band members are required and Concert Band members are encouraged to audition for the All-District Bands. Wind Ensemble members are required and Symphonic Band members are encouraged to audition for the All-Region Bands. If a student makes any of the honor organizations, they are required to participate. All McLean Band members are required to participate in the Solo and Ensemble Competitions, with director approval. The skills learned in these types of musical performances will carry over into the full band experience, and will help to improve the quality of the band's overall performance. The student's successful participation in these individual activities will be weighed heavily when the directors consider each student for promotion to other band classes at the year's end.

### **Band Descriptions and Expectations**

There are several performing groups in the band program at McLean Middle School. Each group listed below functions as an important part of the entire band program. Bands are divided into separate groups in order to meet the individual needs of each student. Membership in the bands is determined by audition to correctly place each student according to his/her own ability and experience level.

#### **Wind Ensemble (5<sup>th</sup> period, Mrs. Chance)**

The Wind Ensemble is the top performing group and is made up of the most advanced musicians at McLean. Students in this band must be proficient or advanced on their instrument and must be willing to commit to regular rehearsal and practice outside of class. Wind Ensemble members will have one sectional rehearsal outside of the school day each week, as well as some before- or after-school rehearsals. Students in this band are expected to participate in scheduled rehearsals, concerts, school events, and contests. In addition, each student will be required to audition for the TMEA All-Region and FWISD All-District Bands and participate in the UIL Solo & Ensemble contest. It is the responsibility of the student and parent to check the band calendar and incorporate the scheduled events into their family calendar. In order to maintain a high level of performance, Wind Ensemble students should practice daily and study privately with an approved professional supplemental lesson teacher. Students who do not meet these standards may be moved to another band class.

### **Symphonic Band (6<sup>th</sup> Period, Mrs. Reinhart)**

The Symphonic Band is an advanced-level performing group. Students in this band will have one sectional rehearsal outside the school day each week, as well as some before- or after-school band rehearsals. Students in this band are expected to participate in all scheduled rehearsals, concerts, pep rallies, and contests. It is required that the Symphonic Band students participate in the FWISD All-District Band tryouts as well as Solo & Ensemble contests, and encouraged that they participate in the TMEA All-Region audition. It is the responsibility of the student and parent to check the band calendar and incorporate the scheduled events into their family calendar. In order to maintain a high level of performance, Symphonic Band students will need to practice daily. It is also recommended that the students participate in the private lesson program. Students who do not meet these standards may be moved to another band class.

### **Concert Band (7<sup>th</sup> Period, Mrs. Chance)**

The Concert Band is the third performing group and is made up of those players who will concentrate on fundamental aspects of their instruments as well as advancing technique. The Concert Band participates in concerts, pep rallies, and FWISD Benchmark Contest. Concert Band members are encouraged to participate in the All-District Band auditions and are required to participate in the Solo & Ensemble contests. It is the responsibility of the student and parent to check the band calendar and incorporate the scheduled events into their family calendar. Concert Band students will need to practice daily. It is also recommended that students participate in the private lesson program. Students who do not meet these standards may be moved to another band class.

### **Instrumental Methods (3<sup>rd</sup> Period, Mrs. Reinhart)**

The Instrumental Methods class is centered around developing a solid foundations of fundamentals, music literacy, and rehearsal etiquette. The Instrumental Methods class participates in pep rallies and football game performances, with director permission. Instrumental Methods students are encouraged to participate in the Solo & Ensemble contests. Instrumental Methods students will need to practice daily. It is also recommended that students participate in the private lesson program.

### **Jazz Band (4<sup>th</sup> Period, Mrs. Chance, Mrs. Reinhart, & Mr. Sawyer)**

The Jazz Band class is open to all students in the McLean Band program. You must be in your 2<sup>nd</sup> year of playing, and concurrently enrolled in a performing ensemble (Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Instrumental Methods). Jazz Band students will perform at band concerts, in addition to their performing ensemble. This class is a great place for students with little or no prior experience to start expanding your knowledge of jazz music!

### **Supplies**

The following items are required at every band rehearsal:

ALL STUDENTS: Band binder/music, Foundations for Superior Performance book, pencil, metronome/tuner

\*Brass- valve oil and/or slide grease, microphone pick up for tuner

\*Woodwinds- 3-4 working reeds, swab, microphone pick up for tuner

\*Percussion- Mallets and sticks, mallet bag

Students must have their 3-ring band binder at all rehearsals. Binder costs are included in the yearly band fees and are issued by the band directors. Since we use these folders during some performances, do not put decals, paint, or mark on the outside of your folder. Not having all the above items at every rehearsal (including section rehearsals) can result in points being deducted from the six weeks grade. Again, please speak with directors about any financial concerns.

### **Concert Performance Attendance**

All band students must attend the entire concert. Learning to be a good audience member and supporting the other performers is an important part of the curriculum. Concerts are the equivalent of an exam and students will have their grade lowered if they do not attend the entire concert. Absences from performances are excused only in the event of sickness or family emergency and must be approved in advance (when possible) by the director.

### **Concert Uniform**

All students wear solid black dress pants, solid black dress shirt, and black dress shoes. Gentlemen should wear long black socks with their black dress shoes, and tuck in their black dress shirt with a black belt.

### **Absence Requests**

Students must log all absence requests on [www.mcleanmsband.com](http://www.mcleanmsband.com). The form may be found on the bottom of YOUR ensemble page. Performance conflicts need to be communicated as early as possible, with a minimum of one week in advance. Sectional conflicts need to be communicated at least 24 hours in advance.

### **Unexcused Absences**

An unexcused absence from a required performance may result in the suspension of that student from extracurricular band activities the remainder of the year, removal from the performing ensemble, &/or demotion within the section. The student's band grade will also be affected. Make-up assignments will be offered for missed performances with the highest possible grade being a 70. If an emergency arises, please notify the director as soon as possible.

*If a student's religious beliefs prevent them from performing certain music or wearing our concert uniform, an alternate assignment/dress code will be given by the director. Please communicate this information to the director so that accommodations may be made for the student.*

### **Redo Assignment or Retake Test**

Board Policy allows a student who receives a failing grade on a test or assignment, except for semester exams, the opportunity to redo the assignment or retake the test according to the following parameters:

- The student will be provided an opportunity for tutoring or re-teaching prior to retesting. This may occur during class time, before or after school, or at another time agreed upon by the teacher and student.
- A teacher may require the student to complete missed homework, test corrections, or other items as part of the re-teaching process.
- A student must redo the assignment or retake the test within five school days from the date the assignment or test was returned to the student.
- A teacher may provide longer than five school days if necessary.
- Any retests will be administered on the campus
- The grade the student receives on the redone assignment or retaken test will be no higher than a 70
- A failed semester exam cannot be retaken.

### **Makeup Work Because of Absence (All Grade Levels)**

For any class missed, the teacher may assign the student makeup work based on the instructional objectives for the subject or course and the needs of the individual student in mastering the essential knowledge and skills or in meeting subject or course requirements. A student will be responsible for obtaining and completing the makeup work in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified by the teacher. The student shall be allowed no less than one day for each day absent, but may be allowed more time depending on the assignment and at the teacher's discretion. A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher will receive a grade of zero for the assignment. A student is encouraged to speak with his or her teacher if the student knows of an absence ahead of time, including absences for extracurricular activities, so that the teacher and student may plan any work that can be completed before or shortly after the absence. A student will be permitted to make up tests and to turn in projects due in any class missed because of absence. Teachers may assign a late penalty to any long-term project in accordance with time lines approved by the principal and previously communicated to students.

**Handbook Acknowledgement Form**

I have received a hard or electronic copy of the 2019-2020 McLean Middle School Band Handbook.

I understand that I am responsible for the policies and requirements outlined in the 2019-2020 McLean Middle School Band Handbook.

I will do my best to uphold the standards and principals of the McLean Middle School Band and fulfill my commitment to the organization of which I am a part.

I will act as a responsible, committed band member and citizen while representing our school and community.

I understand that I am required to attend rehearsals/performances outside the school day.

I understand that there are financial obligations required for participation in the McLean Middle School Band.

I have checked the band calendar and will notify the directors immediately of any conflicts.

STUDENT PRINTED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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I have received a hard or electronic copy of the 2019-2020 McLean Middle School Band Handbook.

I understand that my child is responsible for the policies and requirements outlined in the 2018-2019 McLean Middle School Band Handbook.

I will make certain that my child strives to uphold the standards and principals of the McLean Middle School Band and fulfill their commitment to the organization.

I will make certain that my child acts as a responsible, committed band member and citizen while representing McLean Middle School and the surrounding community.

I understand that my child is required to attend rehearsals/performances outside of the school day.

I understand that there are financial obligations required for participation in the McLean Middle School Band.

PARENT PRINTED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Social Media Guidelines**

As a member of the McLean Band, you represent the group at all times, including on social media platforms. It is expected that you hold yourself and the group to the highest of standards. Any instances of slander, hate speech, cyber bullying, or other inappropriate comments directed towards individual members or sections of the band, the band as a whole, or its directors and staff will not be tolerated and may result in dismissal from the band program.

In an effort to guide social media practices, including group chats, we suggest the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. Social media websites are not a place where you can say and do whatever you want without consequences.

\_\_\_\_\_ Think twice before posting. If you would not want your parents, family, teachers, or boss to see your post, do not post it!

\_\_\_\_\_ The internet is permanent. Even if you delete something, it still exists somewhere.

\_\_\_\_\_ Remember many different audiences will see your posts, including fans, alumni, band members, parents, staff, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ Do not post comments that you would not speak about openly person to person.

\_\_\_\_\_ Remember that directors and staff are aware of what you post on social media. Eventually, we will hear about it.

\_\_\_\_\_ Keep in mind that potential employers and colleges use social media websites to screen candidates. Your career path can be directly impacted by your actions on social media websites.

\_\_\_\_\_ Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image that you can be proud of years from now.

**I have read and do accept the "Social Media Guidelines"**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name



**Fort Worth Independent School District  
Parent Permission, Release, and Indemnity Trips Form**

I hereby certify that my son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Pupil)

has my permission to participate in the trips of the \_\_\_\_\_  
(Class or Sponsoring Group)

throughout the 2017-2018 School Year, including but not limited to football games, contests and band trips.

To the best of my knowledge, he or she is physically fit to engage in such activity and is not suffering from any disease or injury.

I agree and do hereby waive and release all claims against the FWISD and any teacher, employee, or other person engaged in the activity in question and agree to hold them harmless from any and all liability relating to my son or daughter for any personal injury or illness that may be suffered or any loss of property that may occur to my son or daughter.

It is understood that no child will be allowed to participate in this activity until this form is signed by his or her parent or guardian.

Signed at \_\_\_\_\_, Texas, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
(city) (date) (month) (year)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Parent or Guardian )

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Zip Code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Telephone Number)