



McLEAN BAND

Symphonic Band (3rd Period) Syllabus

Mr. Jacob Gandy, MMS Assistant Band Director: jacob.gandy@fwisd.org

Course Description

The Symphonic Band is the non-varsity competitive performing group and is made up of intermediate musicians at McLean. Students in this band must become advanced on their instrument and must be willing to commit to regular rehearsal and practice outside of class. Symphonic Band members will have one sectional rehearsal outside of the school day each week, as well as occasional before or after school full band rehearsals. Students in this band are expected to participate in the scheduled rehearsals, concerts, school events, and contests. In addition, each student will be required to participate in both UIL 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. In order to maintain a high level of performance, Symphonic Band students should practice daily and are highly encouraged to study privately with an approved professional lesson teacher. Symphonic Band students are expected to strive for excellence so that they can experience new levels of musicianship.

Grading

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 major areas involved, participation and performances, but will also include homework and test assignments:

1. **Participation** (30%) – This includes sectional attendance and in-class participation. Class participation is based on having an instrument, equipment, and supplies (such as a pencil) each day in class. Sectional attendance is based on timeliness and preparedness.
2. **Performance** (40%) – This includes all performances/rehearsals for full ensembles, small ensembles, and solos.
3. **Homework** (10%)- This includes any outside of class assignments to be completed, including, but not limited to, pass off recordings, in person pass offs, or written assignments.
4. **Tests** (20%)- These are formative assessments that will happen in class. Students will be allowed to prepare ahead of time and will be graded on their performance in class.

Supplies

Please see our online supply store at <https://ntunemusic.com/product-category/choose-school/mclean-middle-school> for a detailed supply list for each individual instrument. You may purchase supplies online, and they will be delivered to the school free of charge within 1 week (if in stock). You may also contact our music store, N Tune Music, at (817) 441-9003. They have all of the McLean supply lists and can guide you to make the best decision on supplies possible.

ALL STUDENTS:

- Band binder/music
- Foundations for Superior Performance (blue book)
- Pencil
- Metronome & microphone clip attachment
- Flip folder

Woodwind students:

- See Materials Sheet

Brass students:

- See materials sheet

Percussion:

- Mallets (see online)
- Sticks (see online)
- Mallet bag
- Drum pad + stand

Sectionals

Symphonic Band members will have a mandatory sectional every week. 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 also be worked on.

Performances

We typically do 3 concerts per year—Fall, Winter, and Spring—as well as performances at 1 MMS football game, FWISD Band Benchmark, UIL, and a festival contest at the end of the year. We also perform at school functions throughout the year, including pep rallies. Please see the most up to date calendar on our website at mcleanmsband.com

For performances, 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.

Pass Offs

All Symphonic Band students will be expected to pass off their All District/Region, solo, ensemble, and UIL music. Failure to do so may result in the student being withheld from performing with the band in competition. Pass offs are completed on Music First, which may be downloaded as an app OR accessed on Chromebook. Instructions are posted in Google Classroom.

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 25 minutes once a week and cost the student \$20.00 per lesson. All students are encouraged to take private lessons and can find information on our website: www.mcleanmsband.com/private-lessons-instructors. **WE OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS!!!** Please contact Mrs. Martien or Mr. Gandy if you would like to apply for a scholarship.

Tutoring Hours

Directors are available by appointment for tutorials.

Communication

Email: If you do not currently receive our emails, please contact Mr. Gandy or Mrs. Martien to be added to our Charms email list

Website: www.mcleanmsband.com

Facebook: McLean Bands

Instagram/Twitter: @mcleanbands



Band App QR code:

Sectional Schedule

Monday 8/22:

7:20-8:50 AM: SB Trumpet Sectionals

4:30- 5:15 PM: SB Trumpets/ SB Alto Saxophones

Tuesday 8/23:

7:20-8:50 AM:

4:30-5:15 PM: SB Flute Sectionals

Wednesday 8/24:

7:20-8:50 AM: SB French Horns

4:30-5:00 PM: Open Practice/ Region Music Help

Thursday 8/25:

7:20-8:50 AM: SB Clarinets

4:30-5:15 PM: SB Euphoniums and Tuba Sectionals

Friday 8/26:

7:20-8:50 AM: SB Trombones