



McLEAN BAND

Wind Ensemble (4th Period) Syllabus

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Course Description

The Wind Ensemble is the varsity performing group and is made up of the most advanced musicians at McLean. Students in this band must be 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 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 highly encouraged to audition for the TMEA All-Region and FWISD All-District Honor Bands, and 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, Wind Ensemble students should practice daily and study privately with an approved professional lesson teacher.

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 performance, but will also include homework and in-class tests:

1. Participation (40%) – This includes rehearsal 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 (30%) – 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. This will also include practice cards to be turned in each week, and objective sheets to be turned in once per 6 weeks.
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 list on our website: mcleanmsband.com > Supplies 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, Tarpley Music at 817-736-1633. 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 (provided)
- Foundations of Superior Performance
- Pencil
- Metronome & tuner

Woodwind students:

- follow attached materials sheet

Brass students:

- follow attached materials sheet

Sectionals

Wind Ensemble members will have a mandatory sectional every week from 7:20AM-8:50AM. 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. We will have a professional on your instrument to come in and teach you along with Mrs. Martien. THESE ARE REQUIRED AND SUPER IMPORTANT!!

Performances

We typically do 3 concerts per year—Fall, Winter, and Spring—as well as performances at 1 MMS football game, 1 Paschal High School Football Game, FWISD Band Benchmark, UIL, and the North Texas Festival of Distinction after UIL. As this is a year where we are recording for Honor Band and the Midwest Clinic, we will have an additional recording concert this 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 Wind Ensemble students will be expected to pass off their All District/Region Band, 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 and in sectionals. Music First 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 if you would like to apply for a scholarship. It is HIGHLY encouraged for all Wind Ensemble students to participate in private lessons.

Tutoring Hours

Directors are available by appointment.

Communication

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

Website: www.mcleanmsband.com

Facebook: McLean Bands

Instagram: @mcleanbands

Band App:



Honor Band

The concept of the Honor Band originated during the term of Joe Frank, Sr., who served as Band Division Chair from 1958 to 1960. The purpose was twofold. Many educators believed that through the process of hearing and observing the results of quality teaching, directors could develop their own instructional skills to a higher level. In addition, selection of an honor band in each classification recognized communities and school systems that successfully supported music in education through their instrumental music programs.

Through the years, participation has been active and the recognition of exemplary programs through the Honor Band selection process has become a most sought after goal by many directors. As a result, the quality of honor groups has remained high and the original purpose of growth and development through observation of superior teaching and performance has been addressed annually and maintains its validity. Teachers throughout the state have definitely had the opportunity to learn from master teachers by attending honor band performances and clinics.

In 1958 a set of rules and regulations was developed for the selection of Honor Bands. While these guidelines have been refined on several occasions, the original policies to protect the integrity of the competition have remained intact. Ultimately, however, it is the responsibility of the participating director and administration to maintain the integrity of the Honor Band process. In order for the selection system to accomplish its purpose, all involved must honestly adhere to established procedures and share responsibility for maintaining high ethical standards. In the final analysis, preparation and participation must be consistent with worthwhile educational goals without exploitation of students or the system.

The many outstanding bands that have followed established procedures through the years and emerged as TMEA Honor Bands are evidence of the strength of the concept and regulations. It is the responsibility of all music educators who participate in the honor band selection process to model their preparation and participation after these exemplary programs.

The responsibility for the Honor Band Competition lies solely within the domain of the Band Division Chair. For the sake of clarity, these guidelines are arranged by Region Level, Area Level, State Level, Ranking Procedures for Area and State Levels

North Texas Festival of Distinction

This is the premier festival for Middle School Bands in North Texas! We are the only FWISD school currently who attends. We compete with past Honor Band Finalists every year in our category. This is an amazing opportunity for our students to represent FWISD and the McLean and Paschal Bands. Last year, we placed among the top 11 and also received a Superior Rating! This year, the contest will be held at Haltom and the recording will possibly be used for honor band submissions.

All Region and FWISD District Band Contest

All Region Band is an audition process that involves *hundreds* of students-McLean band students have already been working on their Region Music and scales! The work will culminate in a clinic and concert for Region Band in December.

The process begins with students coming to summer band in August, then sectionals each week (see sectional schedule attachment above) to work on and get assistance with their major scales, plus chromatic and two etudes (or studies) specifically for their instrument. ALL students are expected to attend sectionals as it is mandatory and for a grade. Weekly test scores also help directors determine if a student should continue in the Region Band Process.

ALL Wind Ensemble students are expected to attend, and a small number of Symphonic Band will attend the Region Phase 1 Audition, Region Phase 2 Audition, which is the "Final Round" Region Band Auditions.

Auditions will determine whether a student becomes a member of the All Region Band this year.

All students participating in this All Region Audition process must be passing (70 or higher) in ALL classes for the first six weeks. If you have questions about your students eligibility please contact a director.

It is a great honor to make it into the All Region Band. We have added to the number of McLean students who make it into the All Region Band each year and we hope to increase that number this year to continue the excellence!

Sectional Schedule

Monday:

7:20-8:50 AM: Flute and Bassoon

Tuesday:

7:20-8:50 AM: Trumpet and French Horn

4:30-5:15 PM: Oboe

Wednesday 8/24:

7:20-8:50 AM: Trombone, Clarinets (ALL) and Percussion

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

Thursday 8/25:

7:20-8:50 AM: Euphonium and Tuba

Friday 5/20:

7:20-8:50 AM: Saxophones