

NIMITZ MIDDLE SCHOOL

ADMIRAL BAND



2025-2026 HANDBOOK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME.....	3
CONTACT INFORMATION.....	3
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS.....	6
DETENTION.....	6
DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP.....	7
FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS.....	7
FUNDRAISING.....	8
CUTTIME PRIVACY NOTICE.....	9
THE NMS BANDS.....	9
BAND PLACEMENT.....	10
CARE OF FACILITIES.....	10
ATTENDANCE.....	11
DAILY SUPPLIES.....	13
GRADING GUIDELINES.....	13
WEEKLY PRACTICE SHEETS.....	15
ASSIGNMENT RECORDINGS.....	15
ELIGIBILITY.....	16
DISTRICT-OWNED INSTRUMENTS.....	16
INSTRUMENT STORAGE AND IDENTIFICATION.....	17
SECTION REHEARSALS.....	18
PRIVATE LESSON PROGRAM.....	19
BRACES AND DENTAL WORK.....	19
UNIFORM GUIDELINES.....	20
CONCERTS/PERFORMANCES.....	20
CONCERT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS.....	21
UIL AND COMPETITIONS.....	22
TRAVEL GUIDELINES.....	22
TRIP CRITERIA.....	23
STUDENT LEADERSHIP.....	24
ALL CITY/ALL REGION BAND GUIDELINES.....	25
SOLO AND ENSEMBLE.....	25
SAFETY.....	25
BAND HALL HOURS.....	26
PARENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP.....	26
BAND PARENT VOLUNTEERS.....	26

Welcome!

Welcome to the Nimitz Middle School Band Program! It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that we introduce our band program to you in a more detailed manner. The NMS band program has established an wonderful tradition of excellence and we are glad you have chosen to be a part of it.

Your child's participation in our band program is beneficial in many ways. Band students are engaged daily in a highly creative performing art that stimulates growth in areas of the human brain that no other discipline can. This growth effortlessly transfers into your student's academic life. In addition, our band students will develop traits such as teamwork, responsibility, dedication, self-discipline, social skills, confidence, leadership, and dependability. Membership in our band program will give all a sense of accomplishment, pride, and respect as the students develop musical and personal skills that will enrich their lives.

The purpose of this handbook is to outline the guidelines and expectations for making this year a success for all involved, and to serve as a guide and resource for students and parents. **Both students and their parents should take the time to thoroughly read this handbook.** Upon completion, the contract that was distributed via Cognito Forms should be signed by parent and student and submitted, indicating your understanding of these guidelines and expectations.

****ENROLLING IN BAND IS A FULL YEAR COURSE, AND STUDENTS WHO ENROLL ARE EXPECTED TO COMMIT FOR THE FULL ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR.****

Contact Information

The directors encourage positive communication and are willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress in band with his/her parents. **The best and fastest way to communicate with a director is through email.**

Jordan Freeman, Band Director
jordan.freeman@ectorcountyisd.org
(432) 456 -2940

Taryn McMillan, Band Director
taryn.mcmillan@ectorcountyisd.org
(432) 456-2953

Channing Freeman, Band Director
channing.freeman@ectorcountyisd.org
(432) 456 -2940

WRITE A NOTE

You may send a note with your child. Please include a phone number and/or e-mail address that you can be reached and the best time to reach you.

CONFERENCE PERIODS

The director's conference period's are as follows: **Please schedule an appointment with a respective director if you would like to meet.**

Jordan Freeman - 9th Period ----- Taryn McMillan - 9th Period ----- Channing Freeman - 9th Period

Please understand that our communication to you - the parents - is a very high priority to us.

We want to take care of concerns and make every situation the best for each student. Please contact us for clarification on any concerns before they become major issues.

Due to sectionals and student help sessions, it is difficult to reach us before or after school. If we are working with students, please understand that they are our highest priority and deserve our complete attention.

Email Policy

We will be sending home many updates and communications via e-mail throughout the year. Due to the nature of e-mail, all major concerns will need to be addressed through conferences or phone communication. This is to avoid any misunderstandings or unclear intentions through email communication. Parents are encouraged to use e-mail to get more information or clarification regarding events, or to schedule a parent conference.

Student Communication

Students are also encouraged to communicate with the directors before concerns become issues. They should do this in person at an appropriate time. Again, clarification and solid communication will keep everything running smoothly throughout the entire year.

Throughout the year, we will be sending quite a bit of information home in the form of letters. Please make every effort to read this information carefully, check calendars often and keep us informed of any conflicts. The sooner we know of a situation, the more options we have in solving problems.

Please visit our website at <http://www.nimitzmsband.com> for more information for students and parents.

The Band App

Students, family, and friends can stay connected with the band by downloading the Band App from the app store! Calendars, newsletter, and other information will be sent out on the Band App. To join the Band App please visit our website [nimitzmsband.com](http://www.nimitzmsband.com)

Goals and Objectives

- Organizational skills
- Practice techniques
- Mental and physical discipline
- Citizenship through group endeavors
- Cultural growth
- Value judgments
- Music Theory
- Proper instrumental technique
- Life Lessons
- Creative self-expression
- Aural skills
- Ethics/10 Ethical principles
- Teamwork/social skills
- Performance skills
- Music appreciation
- Responsibility
- Accountability

Conduct Expectations

Band members will observe all procedures set forth by Ector County ISD, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

- Any behavior which is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the band program. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both public and private events.
- All students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Ten Ethical Principles at all times. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection of the group.

- Students will follow directors' instructions.
- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area with all necessary equipment at the beginning of rehearsal time.
- Students will keep their hands and feet to themselves.
- Students will not use or play on equipment they do not own without permission from a director.
- Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
- Students should request permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that time will be utilized as wisely and efficiently as possible.
- When allowed in the band hall, either before school or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.
- Students will respect the property of others, and return their equipment to its proper storage place when not in use. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area, and keep said storage area clean and neat in appearance. Students who have difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band hall.
- Students will not deface or mark on the music stands, chairs, walls, etc.
- Students will not write on the dry erase boards without permission from a director.
- Students will not make contact with any dry-erase board, bulletin board or mirror hanging in a practice room.
- Students will utilize their assigned storage spot/locker for instrument cases during rehearsals. Cases should not be brought into rehearsals unless requested by a director (exceptions: flute, clarinet, and oboe).

Detention

Detention will be held after school in the band hall on Friday from 4:30PM-5:00PM. Students who are given detention will be expected to serve that week. If there is a conflict, the student and parent need to let a director know and their detention will be rescheduled to the following week. If a student misses their detention without a valid excuse, an additional detention will be added.

Digital Citizenship

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that band member websites are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication such as Snap Chat, ask.fm, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, photo sharing, emailing, or texting, etc., appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Members are responsible for their personal websites/pages and postings, as well as posting from or on other students' websites/pages. The areas of appropriateness will include but are not limited to profane, foul, or disrespectful language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, references to alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, and postings (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening towards other ECISD teaching staff or band members, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other bands. Any such incident will result in review by the principal (or designee) and may lead to probation or dismissal from the band.

Band members that violate the above guidelines shall be subject to the following:

- Upon confirmation of a first violation, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the website(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal, directors, and band members. Parent/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior.
- Upon confirmation of a second offense, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the website(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal, directors, and band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior. In addition, the student will be suspended from all band activities for a period of 3 days to 3 weeks.
- Upon confirmation of a third offense, the member will be removed from band.

Financial Obligations

It is the philosophy of the Nimitz Middle School Band that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact the director.

Fundraising

We have several fundraisers planned for the school year. Participation in fundraiser is encouraged, but not required. Fundraisers will be used to defray the students' fees and trip expenses. Any other money raised will be used to purchase additional materials and equipment for the NMS Band Program. Due to budget limitations, this has become a necessity. If the money is not fundraised, then any expenses will be paid to the band department from the family's own financial resources. Below are estimated events/costs of student activities:

- Band Fee - \$125 for Honor/Symphonic/Concert and \$100 for Beginners
- Instrument Rental Fee - \$75 per semester/\$150 for the entire year. Can be paid in 1 or 2 installments
- Spring Trip Fee - cost TBA

A portion of the fundraiser profit (usually 10%) will go towards operating expenses for the band program. Operating expenses are defined as expenditures not covered by ECISD budget. Our "wish-list" includes, but is not limited to: extra music for concerts, funds to bring in guest clinicians, supplies, technology, sound equipment for the band department, commissioned music, instrument accessories, fees and/or deposits for honor band entries and other competitions.

Fundraising will belong to NMS and ECISD, and cannot be refunded to a student. If a student raises money and is unable to attend a trip for any reason, the money the student raised becomes property of the NMS booster club account. As per ECISD policy, the funds are only good for the academic year and are not transferable for students from year to year.

If a student leaves the NMS Band program, all money remains in the general NMS account. Funds are not reimbursed or distributed to students or their families. Fundraising money can only be applied to the student's expenses. A student cannot fundraise for another student or chaperone.

Donations are accepted to help the program. Any funds donated to the NMS band program are for expenses other than student fees and trip expenses. These include, but are not limited to instrument repair, equipment replacement, helping families in need, and unforeseen expenses that might occur. All donations are greatly appreciated!

CUT TIME

Cut Time is an online data information and communication website that we use to keep members informed about events, practices, and other important updates. Depending on the level of access set by the director or teacher, the website may contain contact information for students and parents, directory information for students, and confidential information such as payments made, account balances, uniforms, grades, practice logs, etc. Users and administrators of the website agree to protect the privacy of the information, and agree not to use any information for non-program related purposes.

The NMS Bands

Honor Band – selection into this group is by audition, director recommendation, and demonstration of academic proficiency. Members in this ensemble will participate in the Region Band process, Solo and Ensemble Contest, preparations for special possible honor concerts, and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Evaluation. Members of this group will have one section rehearsal/assigned hearing time outside of the school day each week, and Tuesday after school rehearsals from 4:30pm-6:30pm starting in the spring. These rehearsals are MANDATORY for Symphonic Band students (see calendar). The Symphonic Band will give numerous performances both on and off campus. In UIL activities, this group will be designated the "Varsity" band.

Symphonic Band – selection into this group is by audition. Members in this ensemble will participate in the Region Band process, Solo and Ensemble Contest, and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Evaluation. Members of this group will have one section rehearsal/assigned hearing time outside of the school day each week, and one after school full band rehearsal every week starting in the spring. Members of the symphonic band will give a variety of performances throughout the year. In UIL activities this group is designated as the "Non-Varsity" band.

Concert Band – selection into this group is by audition. Members in this ensemble will participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Evaluation. Members of the concert band will give a variety of performances throughout the year. In UIL activities this group is designated as the "Sub - Non-Varsity" band.

Students in the band program will be placed in a concert ensemble by audition at the end of the school year, as well as observation throughout the year.

Band Placement

Yearly placement in each band and occasional changes are based on the following criteria:

- Instrument needs and limitations
- Eligibility status
- Overall performance and consistent progress throughout the entire year
- Attendance at ALL band functions
- Attitude and behavior
- Audition

Special note - A student must pass band and have a director's recommendation to be enrolled for the next year. Under a special circumstance that a student does not pass their beginning year, they will be placed back in beginning band. This is to help the student from being overwhelmed in a higher level of band.

Care of Facilities

- No gum, food, or drinks are allowed in the band hall except when authorized by the directors.
- All trash is to be deposited in the wastebaskets provided.
- Acts of vandalism or the willful misuse of school property will be dealt with severely and appropriately. Every band member is responsible to help the directors monitor the facility and control vandalism, which includes but is not limited to writing or carving on walls, destroying music, or breaking school property.
- Absolutely no student is allowed in the sheet music library, percussion room, or upstairs rooms without permission.
- Practice and ensemble rooms are designed for practicing, not social gatherings. There should never be more than 3 students in a practice room at a time. The only exception is the large ensemble room which may fit more at the director's discretion.
- Please knock on office doors; and, if you are invited in, you may enter. Otherwise, offices are off limits to students. Students may not use directors' phones without permission.

- Students should never sit at a teacher's desk.

Attendance

In order to have and maintain a high quality band program, each member's attendance is essential. While the NMS band follows all school and district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the NMS band. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held outside of the school day.

Excused Absence

Absences during the school day will be excused according to district guidelines. Absences from activities held outside the school day will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Appointments, tutorials etc. are not excuses for absence. Absences due to personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances (approved by the director) may be considered for excused status. Students who are continually ill may be required to provide a doctor's note releasing them from participation. Absences should be discussed with a director to determine whether or not they will be excused. Some excused absences may still result in removal from a concert performance, contest, or trip. An excuse absence from a sectional may still require a make-up sectional at the discretion of the director.

Unexcused Absence

Students with an unexcused absence from any required band activity will receive a zero in the gradebook. In some cases, students may be required to attend a like-instrument sectional before their next sectional, or the zero stays. Rehearsals, concerts, contests, and competitions cannot be made up. Students with an unexcused absence to a section rehearsal may be required to schedule a make-up time with their band director within one week. Absences should be discussed with a director to determine whether or not they will be excused or unexcused. (See Sectional Policy for Unexcused Absences)

Concerts/Performances

Concerts and performances are an integral component of the band curriculum. Students should consult their band calendars for dates and times. Each of the concert ensembles will perform at various times

throughout the school year and are MANDATORY. Periodically, the schedule may change and updates will be communicated. Concerts are considered to have three parts: warm-up, performance, and listening. For the student, the concert begins at the warm-up. Punctuality is essential. A concert concludes after the last group has performed and directors give permission for students to be dismissed. A general report time will be given for all students. If a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up all missed work.

Performances of the ensembles will include but are not limited to the following in 7th/8th grade.

- Lawn Concert
- MOJO Night @Permian Football Game
- Fall Concert
- All City/All Region Band Auditions – All City and All Region Band Auditions are a requirement for all Honor band AND Symphonic Band students. This is a large portion of the preparation in the fall, as this helps to develop player's individual performance abilities.
- Christmas Parade
- Winter Concert
- Solo and Ensemble Contest
- Cabaret Concert
- Pre UIL Contest
- UIL Contest
- Spring Trip Concert
- Other events as scheduled

Performances of the ensembles will include but are not limited to the following in 6th grade:

- Beginner Demonstration Concert
- Winter Concert
- Spring Concert
- Solo and Ensemble Contest
- End of Year Band Festival
- Other events as scheduled

Special Note – Students who have an unexcused absence from school for any reason or students who are in alternative placement on the day of a concert, contest, or competition may not participate and will receive the grade of a 0.

Daily Supplies

Every day each student should plan to bring the following items to rehearsal and/or performances. Other items may be added at the discretion of the directors.

- All issued music
- Pencils and Highlighters
- Instrument (with case name tag)
- All supplies relative to their instrument
- Black band binder (with labeled dividers) – provided
- Korg TM-40 or TM-50 metronome/tuner
- Korg Contact Microphone Pickup
- Other equipment as needed

For supplies specific to your instrument, refer to <http://www.nimitzmsband.com/>

Grading Guidelines

ECISD band programs have instructional objectives that relate to the mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for grade level subjects or courses. These objectives are aligned to address the academic skills needed for successful performance in the next grade or next course in a sequence of courses.

Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, and other instructional activities are designed so that the student's performance indicates the level of mastery of the instructional objectives. The student's mastery level of these objectives is a major factor in determining the grade for a subject or course.

Students will be expected to meet the responsibilities for each band class as determined by the director. Since band is an academic music class with some extra curricular activities attached, the band student's grade will reflect achievement in both curricular and extracurricular areas.

General Grading Guidelines for 6th Grade Band

Students will be graded on the following scale:

- **Major Grades** **45%**

Includes: Participation, instrument, music supplies, attitude, performance attendance, required rehearsals

- **Daily Grades** **35%**

Includes: Playing tests, pass-offs

- **Quizzes** **20%**

Includes: Practice records, in class worksheets

General Grading Guidelines for Performing Groups

- **Major Grades** **45%**

Includes: Co-curricular events such as concerts and sectionals.

- **Daily Grades** **35%**

Includes: Participation, pass-offs

- **Quizzes** **20%**

Includes: Playing assignments

The following list is provided to give students and parents examples of items that may be subject to grading. Additional assignments may be given at the discretion of the director.

- The student will receive a grade for each before or after school sectional or full rehearsal during a grading period.
- The student will be on task and focused during rehearsals.
- The student will have instrument, music, pencil, and supplies in rehearsals.
- The student will be prepared to play his/her part successfully.
- The student will mark music and take notes as needed.
- The student will be expected to improve individual music skills.
- The student's individual skill development will be evaluated through recorded music tests, individual playing tests, scale tests, and/or written tests.
- The student will be evaluated on improvement of ensemble skills during daily rehearsals.
- The student will be expected to improve his/her performance fundamentals.
- The student will be evaluated for improvement of his/her music fundamentals through daily observation during the "basics" part of each rehearsal and during sectionals.
- The student will be expected to demonstrate correct posture, hand position, embouchure, air production, and articulation as monitored during rehearsals.
- The student will be expected to develop a historical knowledge of the literature relative to their respective instrument.
- The student will receive a grade for each performance during a grading period.

Weekly Practice Sheets(Beginners Only)

The rewards of playing a musical instrument increase in direct proportion to the number of hours invested in individual practice. The key is to set aside a designated time every day for practice. Set up a daily schedule to ensure that practice is an important part of your daily studies.

- Due every Thursday or the first day back to school (vacation or sick)
- 150 minutes of practice time per week through October and 180 minutes of practice time per week for the rest of the year
- Must be signed by a parent/guardian
- Can be turned in one day late for 10 points off
- Can be emailed to the directors
- Extra credit for more than the required amount of time

Assignment Recordings

Students will be asked to submit recordings for assignments throughout the year. These recording assignments will allow the directors to see how each student is developing individually, and will help meet individual student needs.

If technology or internet is not available at home please let the directors know. We have computer equipment available for students to use before and after school.

Eligibility

All ECISD Bands adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and ECISD. Some band activities are designated as extra-curricular. Students participating in these activities are governed by eligibility requirements. A student shall be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the nine week period following a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than a 70 in any class. Loss of eligibility does not take effect until seven days after the end of the reporting period. Ineligible students are not suspended from practice or rehearsal for extra-curricular activities. The student is not suspended from participation during the period in which school is recessed for the summer or any other vacation time. Students may regain eligibility under certain circumstances. If a student has been suspended as a result of failing, he/she may regain eligibility by passing ALL courses by the third week of the following grading period. Reinstate of eligibility would occur seven days after the three-week progress report period (see TEA/UIL Side by Side).

The eligibility law does not affect activities that are considered curricular components of any course. Examples of these activities are all rehearsals and performances that take place as a regular extension of classroom instruction. Any performance that is competitive in nature or for which admission is charged is deemed extra-curricular.

In addition to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and ECISD above, students are required to pass the 3rd nine weeks and must not receive an in-school suspension placement during the spring semester in order to attend the spring trip.

District-Owned Instruments

ECISD provides a limited number of instruments for student use. These instruments include the bassoon, oboe, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, horn, euphonium, tuba, and general percussion equipment. This equipment is generally purchased by the school district for student use because of its expense. Thus, all district-owned equipment must be handled with care. Students failing to take proper care of their district-owned instruments may lose the privilege of using such instruments.

The following is a list of general procedures for district-owned instruments:

- If possible, students who play large instruments and are dependent upon ECISD buses may be issued one instrument for home use and one for school use. This will be at the discretion of the directors and will be based on instrument availability and transportation needs.
- Students will be held responsible for damage caused to all district-owned instruments issued to them. Students and parents must sign an instrument checkout form before the student can use an instrument.
- Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition. Students are expected to maintain their issued instruments accordingly.
- The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him or her.
- All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.
- A \$100 rental fee (\$50 per semester) will be charged for summer cleaning and maintenance of district-owned instruments.
- District-owned instruments should not be taken outside of the United States.

Special note – District-owned instruments are not to be treated as “free” instruments. Basic supplies must still be purchased and repairs must still be made. Please treat these instruments as if they were your own. Most district-owned instruments exceed \$2000 in value.

Instrument Storage and Identification

Instrument lockers are to be used for instrumental storage ONLY!! Each student is assigned a specific locker, which is to be kept clean. Locks will be provided. Instruments are to be put in their cases, and the cases kept closed and latched while in the storage area. NO INSTRUMENTS ARE TO BE KEPT IN LOCKERS OVERNIGHT OR

OVER THE WEEKENDS. Sixth grade students will begin to consistently bring their instruments home as soon as their band director instructs them. **FOR YOUR SECURITY, ALWAYS LOCK YOUR LOCKER!**

Band students will take home their instruments and band binder **every evening**. Students are expected to practice regularly outside of band class and private lessons.

Students are **not** allowed to leave their instrument unattended at any time. **There will be consequences for any student whose instrument is brought to us by another student, teacher, etc. -whether it is found on or off school property.**

Section Rehearsals

All Honor Band and Symphonic band members will have at least one weekly section rehearsal with their band's section. Students are expected to be punctual and prepared. Absence from section rehearsals must be in accordance with the attendance policy. Students must make every effort to attend. Section rehearsals are an extension of the classroom and are graded accordingly. Section rehearsal schedules may be found on the band website or by contacting the student's director.

****It is imperative that each sectional begin on time with everyone in attendance. Students who miss a sectional will not receive credit for participation. Please be aware of your child's sectional day/time and make every effort to assure that he/she is on time and ready to learn!**
Please do not schedule dentist, doctor, or any other appointments during your child's sectional. It will cause him/her to fall behind the rest of the group.**

An **excused absence** can be made up by individual practice for one hour or attending a similar instrument sectional (with director approval).

An **unexcused absence** can be made up by individual practice in the band hall for two hours. In some cases, students may be required to attend a like instrument sectional before their next scheduled sectional, or the 0 stays.

Students who miss a sectional (excused or unexcused) have one week after they return to school to make up the missed sectional. After a week, the absence will be considered unexcused and a grade of zero will be recorded.

Unexcused absences will result in student and parent notification. Three unexcused absences (regardless of whether the time is made up) will result in removal from the competition group until all competitions are finished.

Students will be on task and focused during section rehearsals. Students are expected to come prepared. Coming unprepared to a sectional will result in a zero for that week's sectional assignment.

Private Lesson Program

This is a cluster wide program that provides a high quality enhancement to classroom instruction. Most of our teachers are professional musicians in the Midland/Odessa area and have advanced degrees in the performance of their instrument. Lessons are extremely valuable to the individual student.

- ALL students are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to take individualized private instruction.
- Teachers are screened and interviewed by the district.
- Lessons will be given weekly during band classes, before, and after school.
- If there is a need for before/after school lessons, every effort will be made to schedule private lessons at times that do not conflict with sectionals or other activities.
- Detailed information on the private lesson program will be distributed to the band students.

Please visit the private lesson tab on the NMS Band website for more information!

Braces and Dental Work

Due to the nature of performance, your child's participation (or lack thereof) can have a significant impact on the overall success of the other students in their band or ensemble. When it comes to braces and dental work, we ask that you please contact a director in advance and take into account the band calendar and performance obligations, especially those in the spring (i.e. UIL Contest, Solo and Ensemble Contest, and Festival performances). The band calendar can be found with this handbook and on the band website. Optimal times for braces and dental work would be the beginning of summer.

Uniform Guidelines

Formal uniform for Honor/Symphonic/Concert Band members:

Students will be required to wear concert black. No jewelry should be worn with this uniform. Hair accessories should not be distracting from the uniform or performance, and must be the same color as their hair.

Concert Black for Men - Long sleeve all black shirt, black pants, calf high black socks, all black shoes(no other color at all)

Concert Black for Women - Minimum 3/4 sleeve all black shirt, black socks/hose, close toed all black shoes

In-formal uniform for Honor/Symphonic/Concert Band members:

Students will be required to wear the provided Nimitz Band Shirt, and standard attire khaki pants. The shirt must be tucked in. Please make sure to purchase these items before the first concert.

Uniform for Beginner Band members:

Students will be required to wear the provided Nimitz Band shirt and standard attire khaki PANTS. The shirt must be tucked in. Please make sure that your child owns a pair of khaki pants. **Shorts will not be allowed.**

ALL BAND STUDENTS – HAIR: For purposes of uniformity in appearance at performances and competitions, members must have a well-groomed hairstyle that is a natural color. Hair should not cover their eyes. A member may not participate in any school or public performance with any part of his or her head shaved or with her hair dyed to any unnatural color (i.e. fluorescent or psychedelic colors). Members can have their head shaved if it is their entire head.

Concerts/Performances

Concerts and performances are frequent with all bands. Students should consult their calendars for dates and times. Periodically, the schedule will change and updates will be sent home and posted on the NMS Band website.

- Concerts are considered to have three parts: warm-up, performance, and listening.
- The concert begins for the student at the warm-up. **Punctuality is essential!!** A concert concludes when the last group performs and the directors have given permission for students to be dismissed. A general report time will be given for all students.
- All concerts are a group effort, thus, **ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED!!**
- All concerts are an extension of the classroom and will be graded accordingly.
- Students should be punctual and prepared for each performance/concert.
- In the event a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up all missed work!
- The appropriate dress for all concerts will be a dress uniform (see Uniform Guidelines).

Concert Behavior Expectations

Band students will exhibit proper concert behavior during all performances, in either their own band or as an audience member. Students will be graded on their behavior. Concert etiquette is an integral part of music education. Appropriate conduct in formal and informal concert settings is included in the TEKS.

The following rules will be followed by parents and students at all times:

- Talking is not permitted on stage or in the audience. It is disrespectful to the performers on stage and audience members.
- Do not distract the performing band in any way.
- Do not leave your seat for any reason during a performance. You will be given ample time to use the restroom and drinking fountain before a concert begins. If you must leave, do so as quietly and inconspicuously as possible (make sure the doors do not slam shut). Leave between songs only.
- No food or drink is allowed on stage, backstage, or in the seating area. This includes water bottles and gum.

- Cell phones must be turned off (not on vibrate or silent) and stowed away. Any student using a cell phone during a performance may have consequences.
- Move between the seating area and stage in quiet single-file lines. Sit in your assigned seat/row. Do not talk as you enter or exit.
- Support your fellow band members with appropriate applause.
- Set a good example for the audience and other students. Other people may not know how to behave in a concert setting.
- We hope all parents and guests stay for the concert when bringing a student to a concert. If a student needs to be picked up, please do so in a timely manner.
- Students are expected to stay for the entire concert.

UIL and Competitions

Participation in UIL Concert and Sight Reading Evaluation in April is mandatory for all Honor Band, Symphonic Band , and Concert Band students.

Students participating in Solo and Ensemble, All City and All Region band auditions, UIL Concert and Sight Reading Evaluation, any music festival/contest, and the spring trip must follow all of the eligibility requirements under the Texas Education Agency, University Interscholastic League and ECISD eligibility rules.

Travel Guidelines

The band will frequently travel on either school buses or commercial buses. Students are expected to conduct themselves at the highest level on any trip.

Students who have been subject to school-level discipline in the course of the school year may be deemed ineligible to participate in non-UIL field trips, at the discretion of the director and/or campus administration. Students must travel to events and return from events on the bus. Any student wishing to arrive or leave with his/her parent must notify a director in writing with parent signature, prior to the event. A trip change form must also be filled out and signed by the principal. Permission will be granted or denied based on the circumstances of the occasion.

Students must have all necessary forms (Medical/Travel Release) completed and on file with the band office to travel on any trip with the band.

While on the bus students will:

- Remain seated at all times.
- Sit properly in a forward position.
- Keep the bus clear of food, drinks, and debris.
- Keep all body parts inside the bus.
- Use only approved type/headset radios (no audible speakers).
- Remain silent when addressed by an adult on the bus.
- Refrain from loud, boisterous talking, singing, screaming, whistling, inappropriate jokes, etc.
- No public displays of affection.

Special note

As a member of the band, you are a representative of your school. Always be on your best behavior. If you are in doubt about an action, do not do it! Your conduct at all times should be considered a good reflection on the school, the band, your home, yourself, and the community.

Chaperones

Adult chaperones must be ECISD approved volunteers and are a great asset to the band program. Students will treat them as an extension of the band staff. Proper respect will be shown to all adults at all times. If your parent is interested in serving as a chaperone, please go to the following website:

www.ectorcountyisd.org

Trip Criteria

Every year the band takes a trip in April/May. This trip rewards the students for all of their hard work throughout the school year. In order to participate in these trips, the students must do the following:

1. Students must pass the 3rd nine weeks with a 70 or higher in every class.
2. Turn in their medical release forms and permission slips (turned in at the beginning of the school year).
3. Must attend UIL Contest (Symphonic Band/Concert Band)
4. Must attend scheduled sectionals/practices.
5. Must attend Solo/Ensemble Contest
6. Perform all competition music at designated metronome marking to a director at or above 90%. This includes correct notes, rhythms, intonation, and dynamics. Students may be required to perform music more than once. All music must be performed to a director by a scheduled date.
7. Cannot have received an office referral at any time from a band director during the semester in which the trip occurs.
8. Cannot have received more than two office referrals from any teacher or administrator during the semester in which the trip occurs.
9. Any serious discipline offense may be cause for exclusion from the trip (including, but not limited to ISS/Suspension).

Student Leadership>Loading Crew

The middle school band programs in Ector County ISD provide many opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills. Student may audition and/or apply for both selected officer positions and elected officer positions. In this manner, students can serve their band program and refine skills which they will be able to use in other school organizations, as well as in their future careers. Audition criterion is selected at the discretion of the directors and is communicated to the students. A student may not hold two positions. The directors evaluate all selected officer candidates based on their performance both during the audition and throughout the school year. At all times, student leaders are expected to be positive role models for all band members. Please see Conduct Expectation #1 (pages 5&6) pertaining to general conduct of students as well as student leadership positions.

All City/All Region Band Guidelines

- All Honor Band AND Symphonic Band members will audition for All-City Band. Those who make All-City will then be required to try out for All-Region band.
- Students will be graded on preparation for this event.

- Any person who is selected will attend all rehearsals and the performance of the All-Region band. Check your calendar for dates.

It is quite an honor to be selected to the All-Region Band. Hundreds of students throughout the region will audition. Even if you are not selected, the experience you will receive by preparing will enhance your musical ability and education!

Solo and Ensemble

All band members will prepare and perform a solo and an ensemble unless other permission is granted.

Grades will be issued for preparation and participation in the solo and ensemble process. Accompanists will be provided by the band directors.

Please remember that participation in the Solo and Ensemble Contest does affect trip eligibility.

Safety

Due to heavy student traffic going in and out of the band hall, as well as the possibility of theft of instruments, students not enrolled in the NMS band are not allowed in the band hall at any time. Friends of the NMS band members may wait outside the band hall to accompany their band friend to another location.

Band Hall Hours

The band hall normally opens for section rehearsals at 7:00am, and closes at 6:00pm, except on Fridays or the day before a holiday – in which case the band hall will close at 4:30pm. The band hall may be open for private lessons or sectionals as needed by the private lesson teachers or directors.

Sectionals will be held from 7:00am-8:00am before school and from 4:30pm-5:30pm after school. On days when no sectionals are being held, the band hall will be open from 8:00am-4:30pm. When students are in the band hall, they must be practicing or assisting a director.

Parent Drop-off and Pick-up

Parents must make arrangements for transportation of their children to and from section rehearsals, and to and from the band hall during trips and special events. Lack of transportation will not be an accepted excuse for missing a band function.

For the safety of all involved, students must go home after the band hall closes. Parents, please be aware that the main office will be closed before sectionals end. Family transportation and car pools are ways to help your child get home safely and in a timely manner.

After school, students will come to the band hall and pick up their instrument and will walk around to the school designated student pick-up area. If a student cannot be picked up right after school, they may wait only in the band hall as long as they do not disturb the rehearsal taking place. After 5:00pm students may be picked up from the back band hall door. If you are waiting on your student in the parking lot, please use a parking spot to ensure a constant flow of traffic through the parking lot.

Band Parent Volunteers

Parents, please get involved with the booster club! There are many different areas we could use your assistance in. All band volunteers must fill out the ECISD district volunteer form and be approved by the school district. For more information, contact Krystal Lee:

kmann5383@gmail.com