



The **STALEY BAND** 
BAND HANDBOOK
2023-2024



www.staleyband.org/handbook



www.staleyband.org/hback

Handbook Acknowledgment Form

STALEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
FRISCO ISD
6927 STADIUM LN.
FRISCO TX, 75033

How to use this handbook

The Staley Band Handbook is meant to be a resource for students and parent regarding our grading policies, expectations, and guidelines for success. Please review carefully and let us know if you have any questions over any policies or grading procedures. Communication is key to having a successful year, and we thank you in advance for your continued support!

Staff Welcome Letter

We are thrilled to welcome you and your child to the Staley Band Program. The Staley Band is filled with a variety of activities, performances, and opportunities to help your child develop into a great musician, student, and person! Our goal is to provide each member with a great experience that will help prepare them for not only high school band, but also give them a life long appreciation for music. All the middle school and high school directors, student teachers, lesson staff, clinicians, and judges your child will encounter this year love music and are thrilled to bring out the very best in each of our members!

The Staley Band Handbook is designed to assist you as a parent in understanding the many dimensions of the Band program at Staley Middle School. This document has had many revisions over the years as a result of parent inquiries and for purposes of clarification. This document has been reviewed and approved by administration and is a valuable resource when questions arise related to your child and Band.

Every student is important to the Band Staff and we will strive to provide nothing less than an outstanding musical experience for each child. To accomplish this, it is crucial that every student both understands and upholds his or her responsibilities as a member of the Band. When this happens, students begin to understand how personal responsibility and teamwork can lead to great success.

Please read through this Handbook and help your child understand its contents. Please refer to the website and contents of this Handbook before contacting the directors with procedural questions as you may find the answer you need via one of these sources.

Finally, we would strongly encourage you, the parent, to get involved in the Band program this year. Our greatest asset as teachers is the support we receive at home. Thank you in advance for the hours of practice, attendance at events, and financial commitment your family has made in signing up for Band. The directors feel strongly that your family's decision to participate in Band will have a lifelong positive impact on your child's future. It is going to be an amazing year and we thank you in advance for your continued support!

*Sincerely,
The Staley Band Staff*

Director Contact Information

The best way to contact the Band staff is through email as we are in the classroom and away from our phones and computers the majority of the day. If you or your child has a serious concern, we would encourage you to set up a conference so we can find a solution face to face. We always do our best to return your calls or emails within 24 hours.

Band Website: www.staleyband.org

This is the PRIMARY SOURCE for current information!

sportsYou Code: Beginning Band-UK6BANU3 Advanced Bands– U8Wk4Y9B

Band Office Phone: 469-633-4520 (our conference is 2nd Period)

Staley Phone: 469-633-4500 **Staley Fax:** 469-633-4550

Staley Address: 6927 Stadium Ln. Frisco, TX 75033

Chad Wood, Director of Bands woodc@friscoisd.org

Contact regarding:

*Any general questions about Band, Financial aid, Donations, Student eligibility
Symphonic Band (listed as 'Band A')*

Beginning Band Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, & Tuba

Andi Webb, Assistant Director webband@friscoisd.org

Contact regarding:

Google Classroom, Social Media

Honor Band (listed as 'Band B'), Concert Band (listed as 'Band C')

Beginning Band Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, & Saxophone

Jacob Carter, Percussion Director (MHS) carterja@friscoisd.org

Contact regarding specific percussion questions (equipment, lessons, etc.):

Beginning Band Percussion

Advanced Band Percussion (Concert, Honor, and Symphonic)

David Simon, Director of Bands (FHS) simons@friscoisd.org

Contact regarding all high school info if you will be attending Frisco.

Logan Stalcup Director of Bands (MHS) stalcupl@friscoisd.org

Contact regarding all high school info if you will be attending Memorial.

Grading Policy Overview

The Staley Band follows FISD's policy of every grade being counted as a major grade in the gradebook. That being said— there will be different categories the band staff use for weekly assessments and larger performances. Families are encouraged to monitor your child's grades (in all classes) and let us know if you have any questions.

1) Weekly Grades

This category includes any **written or playing** test for ALL Band students. This is the largest portion of our grade as our preparation has the largest impact on our success.

- **Beginning Band** assignments: weekly participation/materials grade, *written tests, binder checks, weekly playing tests, vocabulary tests, and concert reflections.*
- **Advanced Band** assignments: weekly participation/materials grade, *weekly sectionals, written tests, binder checks, playing tests, vocabulary tests, and concert reflections.*

2) Performance Grades

This category includes any **REQUIRED PERFORMANCE** (including any rehearsals related to those performances). We generally only have one or two performances in a grading cycle every nine weeks. Every performance will have three separate grades in the gradebook— Attendance/Participation (TEKS 3.B), Concert Etiquette (TEKS 5.A) and Critical Listening (TEKS 5.5). If a student has an unexcused absence three zeros will automatically put them in danger of failing for the six weeks. It is the student's responsibility to communicate any absences and find a make up assignment, although you can not truly make up a live performance, we will help you pass the class.

- **Beginning Band** events in this category include: *October Concert, December Concert, March Concert, May Concert, Spring Solo Concert, and the Spring Audition. Most concerts will include at least one rehearsal which will count as a separate grade.*
- **Advanced Band** events in this category include: *October Concert, High School Combine Night (must attend one of the two), December Concert, All UIL Clinics, All UIL Performances (including Pre-UIL), May Concert, Solo & Ensemble Contest, Spring Audition, and any other performance throughout the year that the Band staff communicate as 'Required'.*

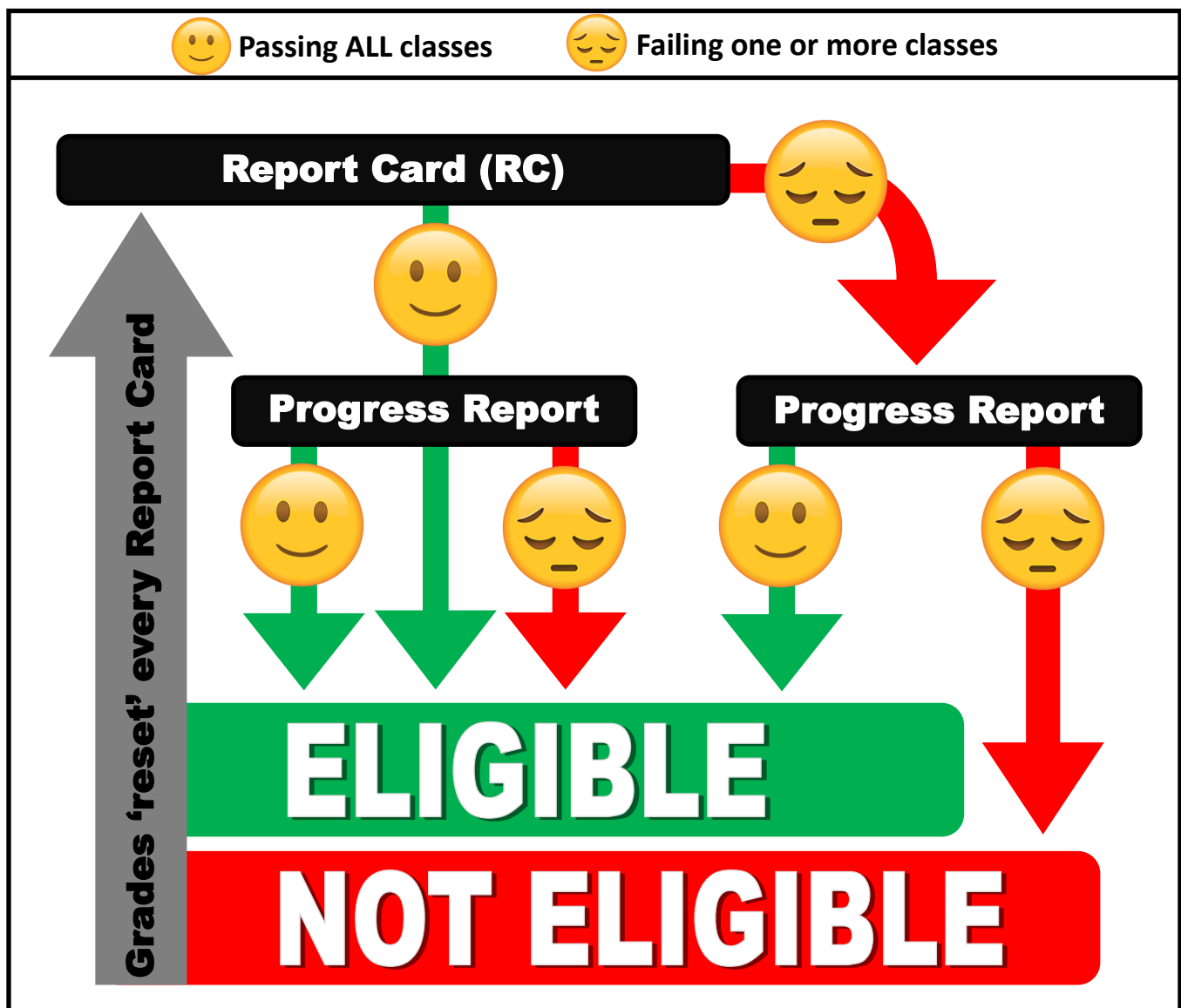
Questions over a grade? Contact your child's director— please note that directors only have access to the classes they are listed as the 'teacher of record'. If you are not sure who teaches your child's class please log on to the Home Access Center (HAC) to review or email Mr. Wood and he will forward your message if needed.

Eligibility

To be academically eligible students need to pass ALL classes on their Report Card (RC). If a student fails they will have an opportunity to regain their eligibility by passing ALL classes on the Progress Report (IPR). Note that students who pass all their classes on the report card cannot lose their eligibility based on failing progress report grades. Contact Mr. Wood if you have any specific questions regarding your child's eligibility.

To avoid confusion, Band students should **pass all their classes every six weeks!**

- **Extracurricular events** (students must be passing to participate) include: All-Region, solo contests, band competitions, football games, and any event involving travel.
- **Curricular events** (students will participate even if failing a class) include: Concerts, All-Region master classes, UIL, sectionals, and any other event held at Staley.
- **Reward Trips/Parties:** Only students who pass all their classes on the most recent progress report (IPR) or report card (RC) will be allowed to participate at these events.



Weekly Grades

Types of Tests

Band students are evaluated, monitored, and assessed daily in band. Most of the time in class directors will just offer feedback and tips for improvement. Many other times there will be more formal assessments including playing tests, pass offs, and auditions.

- **Playing Tests** will be entered into the gradebook and will typically take place once a week for most band students. In many cases students will take these tests playing 'down the row' in front of their peers, but we will also offer students to perform individually for staff or even upload playing tests to Google Classroom. ALL of our tests are for a grade and we DO NOT assign chairs or rank the students.
- **Pass Offs** are for students to demonstrate required skills to the band staff. These assessments **will not** show up in the grade book. These lines are set up to be either PASS or TRY AGAIN as students who do not succeed will need to practice more and attempt the skill again next time.
- **Auditions** are end of year skill based assessments. Our advanced bands are set up as performance based groups and based on how well students perform, not the grade they are in. All students are required to audition.

Sectionals (*Beginning Band Students should skip this section*)

Students enrolled in Honor and Symphonic band are required to attend one sectional per week. This is our only time to work with small 'like instrument' families.

- **When:** Students will set the schedule with the band staff to try to find a time with the least amount of conflicts. Since our students participate in so many activities this can be difficult, but the band staff will work directly with our coaches and teachers to ensure that there are minimal issues.
- **Sectional Times:** Sectionals before school are from 7:30-8:15. Students should plan to arrive by 7:20 so they have time to uncase and warm up before the start. Sectionals after school are from 3:55-4:40. Students should try to arrive in the band hall by 3:50 to uncase and start warming up.
- **Grading:** Sectional grades are based on attendance and having your music prepared.
- **Attendance:** Sectional attendance is mandatory for all Honor and Symphonic Band students. Students who miss more than 20 minutes, are not prepared, and/or distracting to other students will be dismissed from sectionals and receive a zero in the gradebook.
- **Tutorials/Excused Absences:** We will always work with students so they can attend academic tutorials, athletic games, or other school events. To help us stay organized please let us know as soon as possible if you will miss part or all of a sectional. Teachers are required to provide before and after school options for tutorials/make-up grades. Whenever possible, please try to attend tutorials at a time that does not conflict with the weekly scheduled sectional. Morning tutorial students should report to sectionals and pack up at 7:45 and return the band tutorial pass later that day. Afternoon tutorial students should come to the band hall to remind the band staff where you are, take a band tutorial pass, and return it when you come back to the band hall either later that afternoon or the following day in rehearsal.
- **Athletics:** We have a rich tradition of having between 70-80% of our band participate in athletics. We STRONGLY encourage all our students to 'try everything' in middle school so you can really find what your passion is before high school (obviously we hope it is band!). We will work with the coaches to work out a schedule so you can attend all events necessary. Students will never be placed in the position where they have to choose between band and other Staley activities since the directors will always reach out to the sponsors/coaches to help find a solution. *Athletic games take priority over sectionals and we will work out a dismissal time (or excuse you all together) based on coaches recommendations.*
- **Transportation:** If your child has transportation issues with an assigned sectional time please let us know as soon as possible so we can help find a solution.

Weekly Grades Continued

Participation Grade

Student participation deductions are on a case by case basis and the Band staff will follow the campus plan regarding discipline. If a student is having their grade lowered due to refusal to participate we will communicate directly with the student and parents before any changes are made in the grade book. Since directors rarely have problems with students not wanting to participate, this participation grade is rolled into the weekly material grade.

Material Grade

The material/supply portion of this grade category is based on bringing the necessary items needed for class every day. Students begin every week with a 100 and 10 points are deducted everyday they are missing something. This grade resets back to a 100 every week!

They include:

- **Pencil** (*most common deduction– keep Band pencil that never leaves your case.*)
- **Band Binder** (*includes all music or books needed for rehearsal*)
- **Supplies** (*different for each instrument/class. Can include tuner, oil, grease, swabs, etc.*)
- **Instrument*** and all parts needed to play (*mouthpiece, reed, mallets, etc.*) *-20 points!

Note that students who regularly forget their instrument will be asked to call home and may be assigned a lunch detention.

Progress Journals (PJ)

Progress Journals will be graded based on students writing director led goals every day. Directors will check every three weeks that students are participating. Note that grades are not based on time practiced or parent signatures– we are looking for participation and regular practice. Students who are not playing regularly outside of class will likely not perform as well on their playing and counting tests– which accounts for 75% of their 3 week progress check grade (3 playing tests and 1 PJ grade).

Rehearsals

This grade also includes any rehearsals or sectionals that take place outside of the school day. Students who regularly do not have items needed in class (three failing participation grades in a row) will have a conference with the Band staff and a parent.

If your child is missing something due to something out of their control (like you were not able to make it to the store to buy more reeds) please send them with a note so we are aware of the situation. Special circumstances regarding materials will be handled on an individual case by case basis. If you are unable to get the needed supplies please let us know so we can assist.

Performance Grades

Performance Policy

Performing is the primary purpose of being in band! Every event very important for your child to pass band. Each event in this category has a webpage that outlines the requirements of the performance. Performances and rehearsals in this category will be graded on;

1. Attendance & Participation– arriving at correct time with all materials needed to perform as outlined in the paperwork or website information.
2. Concert Etiquette- Wearing appropriate and correct concert attire and behavior as a performer both in the warm up room, in transition, and on stage
3. Critical Listening Grade– All major performances will have a written listening assignment. All students will need to complete to the best of their ability as we review and set goals for future performances.

Again, we stress that we prepare for weeks for every performance and any student who has an unexcused absence from a performance will be in danger of failing Band for that grading period.

- Most group performances will begin at 6:30 and last about an hour, but times vary depending on the number of groups performing.
- Some individual performances (Solo Contest and All-Region) will allow for personal time frames and will not be assigned until two weeks before the contest. Please reserve the entire contest block in your schedule and we will communicate your child's time when available.
- Students will need to arrive early to warm up before all performances. In general, the 'call time' for the musicians will be thirty minutes before the concert begins.
- All performances are free to the public, although some performances might feature an optional fundraising event before or after the concert.

Concert Attire

Band students are judged not only on how they play but also on appearance. We strive to not only as one but to present a unified look whenever possible. Concert attire will be outlined on the specific web page for each event.

Advanced Bands:

- **'Pep Band Attire'**: Blue Band t-shirt, jeans, and tennis shoes with any color socks.
- **'Concert Black Attire'**: black performance polo, black dress pants, black socks, and black closed toed shoes. Please try to refrain from any other colors on your shoes. Note that flip flops, white socks, jeans, or shoes with less than 80% black on them will result in a lower grade.

Beginning Band:

- **Concert attire:** Beginning Band is all about learning our instrument. Since our main focus in in class our performances will always include our Blue Band T-shirt, Jeans, and any type of closed toed shoes (no flip flops).
- **Solo Contest:** Students are invited to dress up for their individual performance, but are also welcome to wear their band t-shirt and jeans. If you choose to dress up young ladies need to be sure that their dress/skirt goes just past the knees *when sitting down*. Young men should wear dress pants, a long sleeve button up shirt with tie, and dress shoes. Ladies should wear a long dress (past the knees) or dress shirt and skirt (past the knees). Ladies who cannot find a long enough dress are encouraged to wear dress pants.

Families who cannot meet the required dress should let the directors know in advance so they can work out a solution. Also– we are happy to accept gently used black dress pants and black dress shoes of all sizes (boys and girls) that your child has outgrown!

Performance Grade Category Continued

Call Times

All performances will require an earlier 'call time' for musicians. Usually this will be thirty minutes before the performance and allow the students to warm-up together before taking the stage. In addition, there may also be additional rehearsals outside the school day to help your child's ensemble prepare. Rehearsals and call times are part of the performance grade and attendance is mandatory. Specific call times and rehearsal schedules can be found on the event webpage. If you are not sure where to find information please view the hardcopy of our calendar that was passed out at the start of the year or add a backslash (/month) to the end of our website to be taken to a list of events for that month. For example: www.staleyband.org/august

Conflicts & Absence Procedures

Performances are live events that cannot be made up. Every Band member works daily towards our goals and every member of the ensemble is vital to our success. If your student needs to miss a performance they will need to let their director know via the 'Band Absence Request Form' found on our website at www.staleyband.org/barf (hardcopies are also available in the band hall) at least **twenty four hours in advance for rehearsals and two weeks for performances**. This will allow time for the Band staff to reassign music if needed. Families are encouraged to check our calendar and website regularly and contact the Band staff immediately if you see any conflicts.

Excused Absences: Below are the most common excused absences

- Illness (full day absence from school is automatically excused)
- Family emergency (illness, death, etc.)
- Excused absence from school (confirmed with Data Clerk)
- Religious observance
- School-related schedule conflict (that cannot be worked out by the directors)
- Other events or activities that are previously approved by a director

Students who have an excused absence (or family emergency) are still required to fill out the 'Performance Absence Request' when possible. We understand that in some circumstances you will not be able to communicate prior to the missed event. If this is the case please be sure to send your child with a note (or email) when your child returns to class. We do not want to put undue burden on your child by asking why they missed a major event if there was a sensitive family emergency.

Unexcused absences: Below are the most common unexcused absences

- Outside of school events that were not communicated ahead of time
- Students who were at school the day of and the day following the missed event. *Please bring a doctor's note if you were told by a physician not to attend one of our events but were allowed to attend school.*
- School activities that were not communicated and do not conflict with our schedule
- Transportation arrangements (please give the directors a chance to help)

Any missed event without prior communication will result in a lowered grade, loss of privileges, and/or reassignment to a different part or role within the Band, including the role of spectator. If students miss multiple events they may be moved to a lower Band or asked to leave the program. Many times circumstances may be out of the student's control, so communication between the adults is key. Thank you for checking the calendar and website often.

Thank you in advance for being proactive in your communication with the Band Staff regarding all Band events on the calendar and website! Be sure to refer to the website for the most current information.

Class & Concert Etiquette

Student Class Etiquette

Our behavior in class (along with personal practice) is vital to our success as an ensemble. A Band will never perform better than it rehearses, and efficient rehearsals will lead to successful Bands. There are a number of key factors that will help insure the success of our Band program. These factors include;

- 1) Have all materials
- 2) Be in your seat when the FIRST bell rings.
- 3) Talking: Level 2 entering and getting ready before the bell, Level 0 after the bell
- 4) Question: Raise your hand
- 5) Restroom? Raise your hand with your fingers crossed (sign language 'R')
- 6) Need another director during class? Hold up a thumbs up. This can be for individual help, instrument concerns, or missing materials.
- 7) At the end of rehearsal push your stand down and straighten up your chair. Some periods may also be asked to assist with setting up or breaking down the Band hall. Every member of the class is expected to participate in getting the room prepared.

In addition to participation grade reductions, Students who regularly do not meet ensemble expectations may be assigned to observe performances (sit in the audience instead of playing), re-assigned to a lower Band, or asked to leave the Band program. Any participation concerns will be communicated to parents well before any of these actions take place.

General Concert Etiquette

Concerts are an opportunity for students to demonstrate their talents for an appreciative audience. For this reason, it is important that both performers and the audience observe appropriate concert etiquette during any performance. For each performance we would like parent volunteers to help us monitor the students waiting to perform. Below are the general guidelines that should be reviewed prior to each concert:

- Dress appropriately for the performance (see the specific event details on the band website)
- Audience members should **Silence** all cell phones (you are encouraged to take videos/pictures)
- Avoid texting during a performance.
- If you are video recording during a performance be mindful of those behind you.
- Food and drink are not allowed in the performance area. (lower section at Staley)
- Refrain from talking while the director is on the stage.
- Only enter or leave the seating area during applause. If necessary, close the door quietly.
- Do not take flash photographs while the group is playing (before and after is fine).
- Crying or fussy children should be taken to the lobby area.
- Families are welcome to present their performer or directors with flowers or a small gift after the performance in recognition of their hard work in preparing for the concert. (Students also appreciate quick trips for ice cream after the performance to express your gratitude!)

Cell Phone Use

Many students/performers have their own devices. We encourage performers to act responsibly.

- **Rehearsals:** We follow Staley's policy that devices should be off and in backpacks. If we see a phone out we will collect it and turn it into the office. *Parents— please do not text your student during class as we will still collect it since they are not following school policies.*
- **Concerts:** Students **MAY NOT** have their phones during performances. If they bring their phone they should leave it in their case when they assemble their instrument. If they are worried about leaving their phone behind they can turn it off and give it to their parents to hold until after the performance.

Band Hall Guidelines

The Band Hall is a great place at Staley! Many students spend a great deal of time in the Band hall and it feels like their 'home away from home'. While the Band staff enjoy having students in the Band hall (especially if they are practicing!) there are guidelines that must be followed.

- **Band Hall Hours**– The Band hall is open by 7:30am and closes by 5:00pm. Students are welcome to use the facilities any time a Band director is present.
- **Practice Rooms**- Students are encouraged to use our practice rooms! If the rooms become too busy we may ask students to sign up ahead of time. Please remember that private lesson teachers or Staley music staff may ask a student to give up their room at any time for any reason. If you cannot find a place to practice ask a director for help. *Note that there should NEVER be one boy and one girl in a practice room alone.*
- **Before/After School Procedures**
 - Before School: When students arrive to school they should drop their instrument off in the band hall before reporting to the café/gym. Boys athletics should go directly to practice and you will have a chance to drop off your instrument after your athletic period. Only students who have a morning sectional should use our external door before school.
 - After School: Students should visit their locker first and then come to the band hall to get their instrument. Our exterior door is OPEN at the end of the day and students are all encouraged to exit directly outside after getting their instrument. All students are expected to take their instruments home EVERY-DAY! If you have two instruments (that are not assigned by a director) please let your child's director know as we check the instrument cages every day before we leave. Girls athletics should come to get their instrument before they go to athletics as the band hall may be locked once your practice ends.
- **Chairs and Stands**- Students should not move chairs or stands unless they have permission. To help the Band staff we ask that all students push their stand down when they are finished using them. NEVER write on a stand or use a stand as a desk.
- **Office Areas**- Students are not allowed in the band office, storage area, music library, or repair room without permission.
- **Instrument Cages**- Cages are used to store instruments and Band binders. Items that should **not** be in the cages include; food of ANY kind (including lunches), library books, trash, and other students. All cages should be closed **and** locked when not in use to avoid injury to other students as well as protection of their supplies. Students who do not meet these rules will lose points on their participation grade and can lose cage privileges if no improvement is shown.
- **Cage Locks**– You are allowed to bring a personal combination lock for their instrument cage, but must give the directors the combo BEFORE placing it on your cage.
- **Band Hallway**- the hallway leading to the Band hall is one of the busiest places in all of Staley! To help traffic flow students are asked to stay on the right side of the hallway and carry any instruments or school supplies in front of them. Students are also asked to not stop and talk to their friends in the hallway.
- **Non-Band Students**- Students not enrolled in Band are not allowed in the Band Hall unless they have a directors permission. If you travel home with a non-band friend they should meet you outside next to our exterior door after school. This is to protect our instruments and help the Band staff monitor the room. Band students who bring their non-Band friends into the Band hall may receive a deduction on their weekly participation grade.

Help keep our facilities as nice as possible! We are the original and there is no other band hall/stage like ours in the entire district!

Expenses

Private Lessons (optional)

ALL STUDENTS are encouraged to enroll in private lessons! This is a great opportunity to work with a professional musician one-on-one on a weekly basis. Unlike tutorials, lessons allow students to not only catch up-but also provides them with chances to work ahead. Our professional lesson staff work closely with the Band directors and have their own curriculum that builds upon what we are doing in class. The district set rate for lessons is \$23 per lesson and more information can be found at www.staleyband.org/lessons

Forms and Fees (required)

Every Band member is required to pay a 'fee' at the start of the year. This fee covers expenses throughout the year that the district does not cover. The Staley Band Staff strive to make band affordable and fun for everyone by continually having the lowest fees in the district.

- **Form 1– Band Fee:** This is our fee to cover operating expenses not provided by the district. Instead of asking you to send \$3 here and \$2 there, we roll everything into one \$50 sum. *If your family is enrolled in the Fisd Free and Reduced Lunch program you are asked to only pay \$15.*
- **Form 2– Uniform Fee:** Band students have one of two uniforms they will be asked to wear at every performance.
 - 1) The T-shirt is for all band members and is the same each year. Returning members are welcome to wear their shirt last year if it still fits and is in good shape. T-shirts are \$10 each *and \$5 if your family is enrolled in the Fisd Free and Reduced Lunch program.*
 - 2) The black performance polo is only for members of Concert, Honor, and Symphonic Band. Returning members are welcome to wear their polo they had last year if it still fits and is in good shape. Polos are \$22 each *and \$11 if your family is enrolled in the Fisd Free and Reduced Lunch Program.*
- **Form 3– SMSBPA Enrollment:** The Staley Middle School Band Parent Association (SMSBPA) is our booster organization that comes along side the band staff to offer additional support to the program. There is a \$10 membership fee (*no free and reduced discount as this fee is optional*) and we encourage all families to not only join, but look for ways to volunteer and get involved!

Form 4– Instrument Usage (required for some)

Students who play a school owned instrument (typically Oboe, Bassoon, Tenor Sax, Bari Sax, Horn, Euphonium, & Tuba) have a \$100 usage fee that can be paid at the start of the year or broken into two \$50 installments at the start of each semester. This fee will provide you with an instrument to use for the school year and through summer (unless you are moving up to high school). Note that any damage outside of normal wear and tear is still the responsibility of the family using the instrument. Your director will give you the paperwork if needed.

Financial Aid

Financial Aid is available for families enrolled in FISD's Free and Reduced lunch program (it is for MUCH more than just meals). Once you complete the application it takes a few days to process and the directors can confirm with our administration. Approved families can cut their band fee, uniform fee, and instrument usage fee in HALF.

Please note that our Band Parent Association helps cover the remaining costs– not FISD. If at all possible, please consider joining this group or volunteering at one of our many events.

We are committed to making band affordable to all! If the reduced fees are still a huge burden for your family please let Mr. Wood

Get Connected

Social Media

- **Follow us!** The Staley Band is going to have an active social media presence. Please be sure to follow or like us @StaleyBand or #StaleyBand on Facebook & Instagram. We also encourage you to help spread the great things your students are doing! Be sure to tag and share #StaleyBand and @friscofinearts when you attend one of the many events in Frisco ISD.
- **sportsYou**– Since so many families already use sportsYou for athletics we will also be using it for messaging and sending out quick text reminders for the year. All band members and families are encouraged to download the app (available for iOS and Android) and use the following code to join the class:
 - Beginning Band- **UK6BANU3**
 - Symphonic, Honor, & Concert Band- **U8WK4Y9B**
- **Pictures** of our students will be appearing on our feeds. We will follow the district guidelines and be sure to NOT post any photos of families who have opted out of all directory information, but if you would like us to NOT include your child in any of our posts please let us know as we will do our absolute best to honor your wishes. Contact us directly if you would like us to not include your child, otherwise we will follow the district guidelines.

Get Involved!

Fundraising

Band is a curricular course that had many additional events and activities throughout the year. In order to provide the financial resources for these activities, the Band participates in one major fundraising activity in the fall. All money raised is used to directly benefit the students in the Staley Band program. For those who are interested, donations are gladly accepted in lieu of participating in fundraiser. More information about fundraising procedures will be sent home at the start of our fundraising drive at the end of September.

In addition to the major fundraiser the SMSBPA sponsors, there will be multiple events meant to help raise funds for the Band. All parents are encouraged to volunteer at least once this school year. We cannot make all these events happen without you!

- Event Raffles
- Spirit Nights at local restaurants
- School wide 'Valentine-grams'
- Spring Silent Auction
- And many more!

Ways to help

In many cases there is great parent involvement at both the elementary and high school and a drop off for middle school. We hope to avoid that and keep everyone active in some of the most important and formative years of your child's education. Some of the most beneficial ways are listed below.

- **Donate your time:** we have football concessions, performance monitors, trip chaperones, and many other ways you can help! This is THE MOST valuable resource we need.
- **Gift cards:** our BPA can use gift cards to purchase food, instrument supplies, and many other necessary things throughout the year. This helps ease our operating costs and any amount is greatly appreciated. Most common places include: any music store, Costco, any office supply store, home depot.
- **Donate Consumables:** Colored paper reams, pencils, music supplies, etc.
- **Personal Sponsorships:** You can purchase supplies for a student or even sponsor a child for private lessons for the year! Contact a director for more information.
- **Corporate Sponsorships:** If your company would like to sponsor the Band please let us know! There are many ways companies can help between donations, matching funds, or sponsoring an event. We will gladly put your information on our programs and website!
- **Boxtops for education:** We will gladly accept your boxtops! Send any clipped boxtops with your child to turn in on a weekly/monthly basis.
- **More ways** are always being developed! If you have an idea to help— please let us know!

Calendar and Dental Work

Communication & Calendar Options

The Staley Band is one of the busiest organizations on campus! Communication is key to help things run smoothly and for all students to achieve at the highest level. To help our families stay aware of upcoming events we will communicate the following ways:

- 1) We can provide a hard copy of a calendar if needed– but keep in mind there may be changes throughout the year.
- 2) Families can view our google calendar at www.staleyband.org/calendar or just look at the bottom ‘upcoming events’ section on the home page of our website.
- 3) We will be updating our social media feeds at least once a week.
- 4) We will be sending weekly a ‘Band Notes’ newsletter via email every week. If you do not receive emails or would prefer to receive them on a different account please let us know. We primarily use eSchool to send out emails– so please be sure to check your junk folders or even update your contact information with the district if you are not receiving anything.

In addition to these four elements, our most valuable communication tool is our *students!* Please ask them regularly what is going on. Typically we will discuss upcoming events on a daily basis as they get closer. If they are not able to communicate what is going on in band please let us know as this is a valuable skill they will need to learn before high school and we are happy to help them learn strategies to get organized and communicate effectively.

Don't forget to fill out the Band Absence Request Form if you are (or were) absent or missed an event. This can be found on the individual event page (#3 above) and also be sure to look at the 'Conflicts and Absences' section of this handbook.

Non-Emergency Appointments/Dental Work

With regards to calendar, please be aware that major dental work before a performance could greatly affect your student's ability to participate. Your child plays a vital role in the ensemble and we need 100% attendance in both rehearsals and concerts whenever possible. We understand that sometimes this cannot be avoided, but if at all possible families are welcome to discuss the best times in the academic year to have major dental work.

*It is going to be a great year and we are so glad your child has chosen to be in band this year.
We thank you in advance for your support and look forward to great things!*