

Staley Middle School Frisco ISD



Band Handbook

Band Directors and Contact Information

Communication is the key to running one of the largest programs on the Staley campus. Please provide us with all the information requested and update throughout the year as necessary. Below is all vital contact information.

Band Website www.staleyband.org

Please visit the website for all information concerning your child's Band needs and yearly events. Much of our communication this year will be through the website and bi-monthly email. Please be sure to provide us with a working email address for your family or let us know if you do not have internet service.

Chad Wood, Director of Bands email: woodc@friscoisd.org office: 469.633.4521
Mr. Wood is in his eighth year at Staley and is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene. Mr. Wood teaches Symphonic Band, all beginning brass and percussion classes, and the Beginning Jazz Band. He also assists with Concert Band and Honor Band.

Shaun Gray, Assistant Director of Bands email: grays@friscoisd.org office: 469.633.4520
Mr. Gray is in his third year at Staley and is a graduate of the University of North Texas in Denton. Mr. Gray teaches all beginning woodwinds, Honor Band, and Concert Band and assists with the Symphonic Band. Mr. Gray is also the director of the Staley Stampede Jazz Band.

Additional contact information: Staley front office: 469.633.4500 Staley Fax: 469.633.4550

High School Directors and Information

8th graders will want to be sure to check out the high school band websites regularly!

Frisco High School
www.friscoband.com

Greg Hayes, Director of Bands
HayesG@friscoisd.org
469.633.5530

Tim Golden, Associate Director
GoldenT@friscoisd.org
469.633.5531

Heath Dillard, Percussion Director
DillardH@Friscoisd.org
469.633.5532

Wakeland High School
www.wakelandband.com

Gerry Miller, Director of Bands
MillerG@friscoisd.org
469.633.5730

Arturo Denis, Associate Director
DenisA@Friscoisd.org
4696335731

Sarah Marquez, Associate Director
MarquezS@friscoisd.org
469.633.5755 x25961

Jeremy Gomez, Percussion Director
jgomez@wakelandband.com
469.633.5755 x25759

Band Descriptions

Staley Stampede Jazz Band

The Stampede Jazz Band is the top jazz group at Staley. This group is by audition and will perform at concerts, school events, and local jazz festivals. The Stampede Jazz Band will meet outside the school day and students are expected to attend all rehearsals to perform with the band.

Beginning Jazz Band

Based on need- there may be a second Jazz band beginning in November. This group is open to any interested student and all instrumentation. This group will help prepare students for Stampede Jazz Band and introduce many basic jazz concepts.

Concert Band

Concert Band focuses on fundamentals and ensemble techniques. To achieve maximum potential, its class size is small to allow for more individual instruction. Concert Band students will receive every opportunity Honor Band students receive, however participation is based on meeting the performance standards of Honor Band. Depending on the amount of work for each student, Concert Band will prepare you for either Honor Band or Symphonic Band.

Honor Band

Honor Band focuses on ensemble rehearsal techniques and the elements of performing. This large ensemble relies on teamwork, dedication, and a willingness to learn. Students in Honor Band will build on the fundamentals set forth in Beginning Band or Concert Band. Depending on the work ethic of each student, Honor Band will prepare you for either Symphonic Band or High School Band (8th graders)

Symphonic Band

Symphonic Band is the top performing group at Staley. Symphonic Band is a large ensemble that relies on teamwork, communication, and positive attitude. These elements allow Symphonic Band to perform more advanced literature and the means to introduce higher level musical concepts. Symphonic Band's primary focus is on performing at the highest level possible. Symphonic Band will prepare you for High School Band and beyond!

Performance Opportunities

Please note: Band is a team effort! In many cases your child may be the ONLY person playing a vital part in a piece. For that reason, any **unexcused** absence at a major concert or contest will result in your child either being placed in a lower Band or removed from the program. Thank you for helping us teach our students the value of hard work and dedication to one of the largest student groups at Staley!!! Please be sure to check our calendar often and look for any possible conflicts. The earlier we find conflicts the easier it is to work out a solution!

Football Games- (September & October)

Only *Symphonic Band* will perform at one 7th grade football game and one 8th grade football game. Besides supporting Staley athletics, this gives the students a small taste of what high school Band is like! Any student participating in Cheer or Football is excused during their game time (we will not conflict with your coaches and sponsors!).

All-Region auditions- (Mid-November)

This is an individual contest involving over 2,000 students from multiple school districts. For some instruments this will be the most difficult music you see all year. We will work on the music with you and help break it down into smaller, more manageable pieces. Private lessons are strongly encouraged as this is an individual contest. *Only students who pass off each section of the music will be allowed to compete.*

Pep Rallies- (October & January)

All Bands play a vital role in every school pep rally. Symphonic Band will perform at the fall pep rally and the combined Concert/Honor Band will perform at the spring pep rally.

Holiday Ensembles- (December)

All Symphonic and percussion students will participate in various ensembles throughout the year. By having these small groups perform is great for developing leadership and teamwork in music.

UIL Concert & Sight-reading Contest- (Late February to the first week in April)

We often refer to UIL season as 'Band TAKS'. While we do not base our success on ratings, any activity involving UIL is very important on our calendar. To prepare for UIL we will have a master class and clinic in which we bring in outside directors and a special rehearsal/performance for parents. Please look at the dates involving UIL and let us know if you have any conflicts as soon as possible.

Solo and Ensemble Contest- (February)

This is the second individual contest and will involve ***every student in the program***. Students are required to learn a solo and perform for a judge. Ensembles may also be selected by the directors and private lesson instructors. All students will receive weekly individual help sessions and private lessons are strongly encouraged for this event.

Concerts

These performances showcase our students and give you a chance to hear the Band's hard work! Please read more about our concerts in our performance guidelines located on the next page. Major concerts will take place in October, December, March, and May. All concerts will begin at 6:30 and last no more than one and a half hours.

Performance expectations

- Be *in your seat* at the start of warm-up. (arrive at school 10 to 15 minutes before warm-up)
- Wear the appropriate attire (see more information below)
- Be an example to the audience in how to act at a concert (see *concert etiquette* below)
- No food or drink allowed at your seat
- We will sit as a group when we are in the audience
- Students will stay for the entire performance to show their support for the other ensembles

Concert Etiquette

Concerts are a display of our students' hard work and we expect audience members (and participants) to follow these general guidelines to ensure everyone has a positive concert experience

- Silence or turn off ALL electronic equipment (cell phones, iPod, etc)
- Do not stand up or leave in the middle of a piece
- Do not let young children roam around and distract others
- Do not talk during the performance
- Only clap, **do not yell** when the piece is finished

Concert Dress Attire

Proper dress attire is required for all Band members participating in concerts and contests throughout the school year. In many cases we are actually judged not on just our sound but how we look! We will have three different concert outfits this year. If you have any problems meeting concert dress please let us know as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for helping our groups put on a professional appearance. ***Please note that dress code is included in all performances. Students who do not meet the required dress will have points deducted.***

- **Pep Band-** mainly for football games, pep-rallies, and all school-day performances we will wear Band T-shirt, jeans, and sneakers.
- **Concert Dress-** concerts at Staley we will wear our Band polo with khaki pants and dress shoes.
- **Formal Dress-** all UIL events and contests we will wear our formal black attire.
 - Girls have three options for our formal dress: 1) A solid black dress that is below the knee. 2) A solid black blouse and skirt that is below the knee *when sitting down*. 3) A solid black blouse with black dress pants. All options include closed toed shoes.
 - Boys are to wear black dress pants, a white long sleeve shirt, dark tie, black socks, and black dress shoes. Please do not wear black denim or tennis shoes (i.e. skate shoes, etc.)

Reward Trips

Band is one of the hardest (and most rewarding) electives offered! To reward our students we offer many opportunities for our students to take a break and have some fun. Please note that these are not 'field trips' and any student that has not been working or is ineligible will not be allowed to attend our reward trips. Things we look for include: maintaining passing grades, attitude, turning in weekly assignments, and sectional attendance. Reward trips this year will include

- 1) Medieval Times
- 2) Six Flags
- 3) Movie Nights
- 4) Main Event
- 5) Other events named later

Grading Policy

Six weeks grades will be determined using the following scale:

| | | |
|------------------|------|---------------------------|
| Performances | 20% | Major Category in eSchool |
| Sectionals | 20% | Minor Category in eschool |
| Practice Reports | 20% | Daily Category in eschool |
| Tests | 40% | Test Category in eschool |
| | 100% | |

Eligibility

All Concert, Honor, and Symphonic Band students are expected to keep grades in other classes at a satisfactory level to meet eligibility requirements for participation at contests and festivals. At the end of every six weeks, we receive an Eligibility Report on our students. If any course average is below 70, the student is considered ineligible to participate in any contest or festival during the following three weeks or until proven eligible. An alternate writing assignment will be given to the student in lieu of the performance grade.

Parents- please know that we are committed to our students passing all their classes. If there is anything we can do to help your student succeed please do not hesitate to ask!

Grade Categories

Performances (20% of overall grade)

- Fall Concert
- Football Games (SB Only)
- All Region (SB and select Honor Band students)
- Holiday Concert
- Pre-UIL Concert
- UIL
- Solo and Ensemble
- Spring Concert

Sectionals (20% of overall grade)

In order for our performances to be a success, we require all students to attend a one-hour sectional per week. This is the only small group time they get this year and we must know any conflicts in advance. We do our best to work around conflicts with the coaches and other teachers. If you have a conflict we cannot work out we ask for 24 hours written notice. Excused sectionals (including absences from school) can be made up on Friday for no grade deductions.

Practice Reports *explained on next page* (20% of overall grade)

Tests (40% of overall grade)

- Scale Tests
- Rhythm Charts
- Written Notes
- Six week projects

Practice Reports and Tips

Student success in Band is directly related to the quality and amount of time spent practicing their instrument. All students are required to turn in a weekly Practice Report. All Practice Reports are due on Monday. If a Practice Report is not turned in during class there will be a 30 point deduction. If a student does not turn in a Practice Report during Tuesday's class time students will receive a 0 for the week. If your student would like to raise their 0 to a 50 they can set up a practice time with a Band director.

Students should use the following codes if unable to practice:

S- Sick (unable to attend school)

OT- Out of town (and unable to take their instrument) p.s. - grandma loves to hear your student's progress...

IS- In Shop (being repaired) Students should also bring a note from a parent to verify that it has been taken in.

FD- Free Day- Students, depending on Band, will be given a certain number of free days.

Band Practice Requirements

- **Concert Band-** 6 days a week, 20 minutes per session. (1 free day)
- **Honor Band-** 5 days a week, 25 minutes per session (2 free days)
- **Symphonic Band-** 4 days a week, 30 minutes per session (3 free days)

Grading Scale for practice reports

The scale below is for Symphonic, Honor, and Concert Bands:

- 100 = More than 120 minutes
- 95 = 120 minutes
- 85 = 100 – 119 minutes
- 75 = 80 - 99
- 65 = Less than 80

If your student leaves his/her Practice Report at school over the weekend, please visit www.staleyband.org and click on the "Schedules and Forms" section to print out a replacement Practice Report for the appropriate class.

Student practice tips

- Turn off anything with a screen (TV, iPod, phone, video games, computer, etc)
- Establish a time and place that you will practice on a consistent basis.
- Keep a journal of your practice time (chart progress)
- Don't just practice what you are good at- practice the hard stuff!
- **USE A METRONOME** (www.metronomeonline.com if you do not have one)
- Break everything down by measure or beat until it is perfect
- Don't practice until you get it right, practice until you can't get it wrong!
- Don't just practice what you are good at- practice the hard stuff! (Yes- I put this on twice!)
-want additional tips? Ask a director for specific questions or exercises!

Parent practice tips

- Support your budding musician! The more they practice the better they get.
- Encourage the same routine every day (after dinner, or when they get home from school)
- Ask them what they are working on (if they say 'I dunno' feel free to ask us!)
- Double check that they are actually practicing the amount they are putting on their Practice Report!

Student Guidelines

Discipline Policy

We have the following behavior expectations for our students:

- Behave like ladies and gentlemen.
- Be polite.
- Speak ONLY with permission.
- Be seated with all materials when the bell rings.
- No gum, food or drink in the Band Hall.

Consequences for not behaving in this manner will be:

- First offense: Verbal warning from teacher.
- Second offense: Conference between teacher and student.
- Third offense: Detention assigned and phone call to parent.
- Fourth offense: Office referral.

This is a daily process. Students will start with a “clean slate” every rehearsal. However, if a student receives more than two detentions in a six weeks or the equivalent thereof for the year, he/she may not be allowed to attend non-competition trips. **Reoccurring behavior problems may result in removal from the Band program.**

Here are several examples of the fine Bandsmanship traits that we would like for our students to exhibit.

- Students should make a genuine effort to learn and improve daily in rehearsal
- ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST WORK!
- Students should have the proper respect for those in authority and for each other.
- Students need to follow all classroom rules and school regulations.
- Students should cooperate with fellow Band members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are part of the Band program.

Band Leadership Team

This is a student group to help encourage strong leadership and sense of community within the Band. There are some positions that will be assigned by the Band directors and others that will be based on application and student vote. Leadership members must be dependable, loyal to the Band, of good character, responsible, strong leaders, pass all classes, and be able to motivate the rest of the Band through their enthusiastic example.

Students will vote on officers that have tuned in an application and have met the basic requirements of the Band director. Positions available include President, Vice-President, Secretary, Librarian(s), and ‘Crew’ Chief.

Positions are open to any band member with the exception of President who must be an 8th grader to apply.

Band Hall Guidelines

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

Practice Room sign up- to help avoid confusion we ask that students sign up for practice room use. We have multiple rooms available and the sign up list will be posted on Fridays after school for the following week. Please remember that private lesson teachers take priority over the sign up sheet and you should find a Band director if your room is unavailable so they can find another place for you to practice.

Before/After School Procedures- All students are expected to take their instruments home EVERYDAY. All students should report to the cafeteria in the morning with their instrument until they are dismissed at 8:30 (before the other students).

Chairs and Stands- Students should not move chairs or stands unless they have permission.

Practice Rooms should have two chairs and one stand when you leave. If you cannot practice at home you can use our rooms- however, you need to sign up to reserve a room. (If more than two people are practicing in a room without permission you cannot count that time as practice time)

Office Area- Students are not allowed in the office, workroom, storage area, music library, or repair room without permission.

Instrument Cages- Cages are used to store instruments. Please do not put food, library books, trash, or your friends in the cages! Any one breaking these rules or not respecting the instrument storage area will be assigned an automatic detention.

Exterior Door- No one should use the exterior door without permission. We need to supervise almost two hundred students before and after school and it is too difficult to watch two entry/exit locations. Anyone using the exterior door without permission will be assigned a detention.

Private Lessons

Lessons are never *REQUIRED* to be in Band – just **strongly encouraged** and **highly recommended!** However, most students have seen the benefit lessons have had in themselves or their friends. Our goal is to have 90% of all Band students to be involved in private lessons. We have set this goal for the following reasons;

- 1) There is less individual time in the upper performing groups, lessons remedy that problem!
- 2) Our lesson staff is **OUTSTANDING**. Most have a graduate degree in performance and a few are even working towards their doctorate of performance. *What a great opportunity to work one on one with professional musicians!*
- 3) Lessons meets student needs in four very specific ways;
 - a. More opportunities to ask questions that you have with your music
 - b. It fills in the holes of anything missed during group instruction
 - c. It helps 'catch students up' if they are falling behind
 - d. It keeps fast paced students from getting bored

Scholarships- If you are interested in lessons but not sure about the financial commitment there are scholarships available! Our Band Parent Association budgets thousands of dollars each year to help students take advantage of this program. Scholarships are based on need and only serious applicants should apply.

Community Events

One great advantage of being in Band is that we add to the tradition and visibility of Staley Middle School. To help further the Bands' visibility there will be optional community events scheduled this year. Students are not required to participate but will receive additional credit if they choose to do so. The two main projects this year will be a coat/can drive in December and Relay for Life in the spring. Last year the Staley Band raised hundreds of pounds of food, clothes, and thousands of dollars for the American Cancer Society. Please be on the lookout for more information on these important functions and we hope you and your child can participate.

Student Awards

Student of the Week- Each week one outstanding student will be chosen from the over two hundred students in band. To even be considered for this award, students need to have completed all assignments for the week (on time) and demonstrate positive leadership characteristics both in and outside the Band Hall. Students can receive the award multiple times and the students will be named on Friday during their class time.

At the end of the month there **may** be one student that will be given an award for Band Student of the Month. This award can be chosen from the weekly candidates or anyone doing an exceptional job that did not receive the weekly recognition. This award will only be given if a student has clearly exceeded all expectations for an extended period of time.

Band Parents Association

The SMS Band Parents Association (SMSBPA) is a support network for the SMS Band program. It is comprised of parents of sixth, seventh and eighth grade Band students. The organization works closely with the Band directors to help coordinate fund raising events and Band activities. The SMSBPA provides workers for the concession stand at middle school football games, bakers and workers for fund-raiser dinners, as well as chaperones for off-campus activities. We strongly encourage you and your family to join and get involved with this vital group!

Thank you again for your continued support! Please do not hesitate to email or call if you have any questions. We look forward to another fun and successful year!

Information page due Friday, August 28

Staley Band Information and Handbook Acknowledgment

Please PRINT all information and take special care when filling in email information.

PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

Handbook Acknowledgment

By signing and dating below I acknowledge that I have read and fully understand the Staley Middle School Band Handbook. I agree to abide by all rules and regulations stated in the handbook.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Please check here if you DO NOT want your information passed along to the high school band staff. All information shared will be used for official band purposes and will be helpful in keeping students aware of opportunities throughout the year (performances, audition information, etc.)

Please check if your family is on the district 'student directory information legislative update'. This is the list that keeps your student's picture from appearing in any district information (like our website, slide show, etc.)

Student Information

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Grade _____ School Team _____ Birthday _____

Future HS (circle one) FHS WHS Don't Know Other _____

Previous Elementary Rogers Bright Other _____

T-Shirt Size (circle one- all sizes are adult) S M L XL XXL

Primary Address _____ Address 2 (if you need multiple mailers) _____

Student Cell Phone (optional) for emergency use only _____

Student Email (optional) _____

List any food allergies or conditions we should know about _____

Instrument Info (if you cannot find the info please leave blank)

Band Instrument _____ Instrument Serial # _____

Instrument Brand _____ Instrument Model _____

Mouthpiece Brand/Size _____ School owned instrument (circle one) Yes No

Parent Information on the back side

Parent Contact Information

Please print names of Parents or Guardians: _____

Phone

Phone 1 _____ Mother Father Other _____

This Number is: Home Cell Work Other _____

Phone 2 _____ Mother Father Other _____

This Number is: Home Cell Work Other _____

Phone 3 _____ Mother Father Other _____

This Number is: Home Cell Work Other _____

Primary Contact # is: Phone 1 Phone 2 Phone 3

(This is the first number we will send call in the event of an emergency)

Email *Please print carefully!*

Email 1 _____ Mother Father Other _____

This email is: Personal Work

Email 2 _____ Mother Father Other _____

This email is: Personal Work

Email 3 _____ Mother Father Other _____

This email is: Personal Work Other _____

Check addresses you would like us to send information to: Email 1 Email 2 Email 3

(This is the only email we will send the BPA newsletter and concert information to)

List any additional information you feel that the band staff need to know below.

PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 28