

Class Recital- (Late December)

This is the first performance for our beginning instrument classes! Since we will have only played our instrument for four months we will have a 'recital' during your child's regular class time. Come join us for fun music and treats as we celebrate the hard work everyone put in their first semester in band!

Solo and Ensemble- (Late April)

This is an individual contest and will involve *every student in the program*. Students are asked to learn a solo and perform for a judge. To make things easier we will give each student will have three solos to choose from. Private lessons are strongly encouraged to help your student prepare for this fun and important event!

Concerts- (February and May)

These events are to showcase your student 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 February and May. February will feature just beginning band and will also have a dinner sponsored by the Band Parent Association. The May concert will feature every student in band at Staley- totaling 4 bands and almost a third of the entire school population!

Please note: Band is a team effort! In many cases your child may be the **ONLY** person playing a vital part in a song. As with any team sport we do not function at our best unless everyone participates. For that reason, any **unexcused** absence at a major concert or performance will result in a parent conference or removal 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!!!

Performance expectations for students

- Be *in your seat* at the start of warm up. (arrive at school 10 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 for Students and Audience

Concerts are display of student's 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 any electronic equipment (cell phones, iPod, etc)
- Do not leave or stand up in the middle of a song
- Do not let young children roam unsupervised
- Take 'fussy' children to the lobby
- Do not talk during the performance
- Only clap, do not yell when the song 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! 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.

- **December/February/May Performances-** Young ladies should wear a dress or blouse and skirt that falls to the knees *when sitting down*. Ladies may also choose to wear dress pants and a blouse. Young men should wear a long sleeve button down shirt and tie with dress pants, and dress shoes. Please do not allow jeans or tennis shoes for any performance. (Holliday attire is recommended for the December recital)

Grading Policy

Six weeks grades will be determined using the following scale:

Materials	25%	Daily Category in eschool
Practice Reports	25%	Major Category in eschool
Tests	<u>50%</u>	Test Category in eschool
	100%	

Student Guidelines

Discipline Policy

We have the following behavior expectations for our students:

- Behave like ladies and gentlemen.
- 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 bandmanship 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.

Reward Trips

Band is one of the hardest (and most rewarding) electives offered! Because our students work so hard we will provide multiple opportunities for them to relax and enjoy a break in our busy calendar. Please note that these are not ‘field trips’ and any student that has not been working or is ineligible (passing ALL classes) will not be allowed to attend our reward trips. Things we look for include; maintaining passing grades, attitude, turning in weekly assignments, and daily material grades.

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

- **Beginning Instrument Classes-** 6 days a week, 20 minutes per session. (1 free day)

Grading Scale

The scale below is for all bands.

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

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 at 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!

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 new sign up list will be posted after school Fridays for the following week. Please remember that private lesson teachers do 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.

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.

Private Lessons

Lessons are never *REQUIRED* to be in band. However, most students will quickly see the benefit lessons have 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.

If you are not sure if you should apply for a scholarship or want just need minor help with payments please contact Mr. Wood (woodc@friscoisd.org)

Band Parents Association

The SMS Band Parents Association 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 band parent association 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!

Beginning Band

Class _____

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