

2011-2012

SMSBANDHANDBOOK

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CHAD WOOD, DIRECTOR OF BANDS

SHAUN GRAY, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

WWW.STALEYBAND.ORG

How to use the Handbook

This Handbook should be used as a resource for the entire year. Please review it carefully and let the Band Staff know if you have any questions over any policies or grading procedures. Communication is key to having a successful Band program and we thank you in advance for your support!

A Note to Parents

We are very glad to welcome you and your child to the Staley Band Program. The Staley Band is a large program with a variety of activities, performances, and opportunities for your student throughout the year.

The Band Handbook is designed to help you understand the many dimensions of the Staley Band. The Handbook has been revised numerous times over the years as a result of parent inquiries and for purposes of clarification. This document has been reviewed and approved by our administration and will prove 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. In order to accomplish this, it is crucial that every student both understand and uphold his/her responsibilities as a member of the Staley Band. When this happens, students begin to understand how personal responsibility and team work can lead to great success.

Please take the time to read through this Handbook and help your child understand its contents. We strongly recommend that you store this document in a safe place where you can easily access it throughout the year. Please refer to the contents of this Handbook before contacting the directors with a question as you may find the answer you need in the Band Handbook. The directors are always happy to answer questions, but our priority is devoting the maximum amount of our time and energy towards meeting the daily needs of our students.

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 from home. Thank you in advance for the hours of practice 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 effect in your child's future!

Mr. Wood and Mr. Gray
SMS Band Directors

Mr. Wood, Director of Bands

Mr. Wood is in his tenth year at Staley and teaches all beginning brass classes, Symphonic Band, and the Staley Stampede Jazz Ensemble. Under Mr. Wood's leadership, the Staley Band has continued a tradition of excellence and continued to grow both in number and awards. He is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. His greatest college influences were his Band director, Don Hanna and brass instructor, Lawson Hager. During his time at HSU he was principal trombone with the University Band, Tri-Collegiate Orchestra, and The 'World Famous' Cowboy Band. While with the Cowboy Band, Mr. Wood performed in London, Spain, Washington DC (in a Presidential Inaugural parade), and countless other events.

Still an active performer, Mr. wood currently plays lead trombone with the Jazz I.N.C. Big Band, principle trombone with the New Life Symphony Orchestra, and other various groups at his church. Mr. Wood grew up in Kansas (go Jayhawks!) and moved to Rockport-Fulton, Texas in high school. He resides in Frisco with his wife Lesley, their daughter Emily, and their two dogs Macie and Charlie. Mr. and Mrs. Wood are also expecting their second daughter in early December!

Mr. Gray, Assistant Director

Mr. Gray is in his fifth year at Staley and teaches all beginning woodwind classes, Concert Band, Honor Band, and now the Beginning Jazz Ensemble. Mr. Gray earned a Bachelor of Music Education from UNT where he studied clarinet with Dr. Garry Evans and Darryl Coad. His greatest influences are mentors Craig Green & Carlos Neira, along with Dr. Donna Emmanuel, Dennis Fisher, and Dr. Nicholas E. Williams.

Mr. Gray has performed with the Houston Community College Clarinet Choir and UNT's Concert Band, Basketball Band, and Green Brigade Marching Band (serving as drum major in 2005). Mr. Gray also proudly served as Music Director of the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia – Gamma Theta Chapter and has the distinct honor of being the founding president of the North Texas Student Music Educators (NTSME) at UNT. Mr. Gray resides in Carrollton and plays bass clarinet in the Frisco Community Band and its clarinet ensemble.

Contact Information

Band Website: www.staleyBand.org

Mr. Wood: woodc@friscoisd.org

Mr. Gray: grays@friscoisd.org

Band Office: (469) 633-4521

Front Office: (469) 633-4500



You can scan this QR code with your smart phone to be taken to the band website. Be sure to bookmark and check back regularly.

Grading Policy

The six week Band grade is divided into three categories.

40% Performances or Major Grades

40% Tests

20% Materials (Daily Grade Category)

Major Grades Include:

Performances (double weight)

- Punctuality
- Materials
- Performance Attire
- Staying for the entire performance

Sectionals (for 7th/8th grade)

- Same as above
- Occur before or after school.

Note that there may be only one performance for every 5 tests, making each performance a major factor towards the Six Weeks grade.

Test Grades Include:

Playing Tests

- Scale Tests
- Weekly Skills Tests
- Tests in the music
- Chair tests
- Other tests as needed

Written Tests

- Music Theory Tests
- Rhythm Charts

Objective Sheets (6 total)

- Grade based on completion of Objectives
- Parent signature required for communication (**does not affect grade**)

Minor Grades Include:

Materials (weekly)

- 100% materials
- Start with automatic 100 for the week, but lose 10 points per missing item

Participation Grades

Home Access Center

The Band Department strongly encourages all families to take advantage of HAC to stay current with your child's grades (for all classes). If you have any question over a Band grade please do not hesitate to contact your child's director

Academic Eligibility

Band includes activities that are both curricular and extracurricular. In order to participate in any events or activities that are extracurricular, students must be eligible to compete. Academically eligible students should be passing ALL classes at the end of the Six Weeks. If a student is not passing a class he or shee will have an opportunity to regain eligibility by passing **all** classes (not just the class they failed) on the three week Progress Report. NOTE: Students who pass all their classes on a report card **cannot** lose their eligibility based on progress report grades.

- **Extracurricular events** (*students must be passing to participate*) include: All-Region, Solo & Ensemble contest, Band competitions, UIL events, football games, and any event involving travel.
- **Curricular events** (*students will participate even if failing a class*) include: Concerts at Staley, All-Region master classes, UIL clinics, Sectionals, and any other event held at Staley.
- **Reward Trips/Practice Parties:** Only students who are passing ALL their classes will be allowed to attend.

Any performance or Sectional will count as a **major grade** in the grade book. Combined, these two events will make up 40% of each students' Band grade.

Sectionals (7th/8th grade only)

Sectionals include any required time outside of the school day needed to prepare for a performance. Sectional grades will be based on;

1. Materials (15% of total grade)
2. Attendance (30% of total grade)
3. Preparation (55% of total grade)

For more information see the Sectional page found later in this Handbook.

Performances

On average there will be one or two major performances in a Six Weeks for 7th and 8th graders. Beginning Band members will have fewer performances as the main focus is learning the instrument. Beginning Band will have five major performance opportunities.

All performances will count as a "double weighted" grade in the grade book.

- Most performances will begin at 6:30 and last about an hour. (NOTE: The spring Concert features all performing groups in the Staley Band and will last around an hour and a half)
- Students will need to be at the school early to warm up before the performance.
- All performances are free to the public, although some performances may feature an optional fundraising event before the concert.
- Performances will be graded on;
 1. Attendance & punctuation
 2. 100% materials (Instrument, books, music, tuners, pencil, etc.)
 3. Concert Attire (changes depending on the performance)
 4. Behavior during the concert
 5. Staying for the **entire concert** (unless previous arrangements were made with Mr. Wood)

Concert Attire

Bands are judged not only on how well they play but also on our appearance. Concert attire will be explained in the paperwork leading up to any major event. Families who cannot meet the required dress should communicate so to the directors in advance so they can work out a solution.

NOTE: Due to performing on a stage, young ladies should **always** have a dress or skirt that touches the knee **when sitting down**. (longer than regular school dress code) Girls who cannot find the required dress length should wear dress pants.

Any playing test, written test, or Objective Sheet will count as a **test grade** in the grade book. Combined, these three activities will account for 40% of the overall Band grade for the year.

Playing Tests

Playing Tests are any test in which a Band student demonstrates knowledge of skills through the playing of his/her instrument. Playing tests can include rhythm, counting/clapping, or a selection of music. In some cases students will be ranked according to their playing test grade. These 'chair tests' are identical to regular playing tests with the exception of the assigned seats at the conclusion of the test. Students are always welcome to ask a director or private lesson teacher for additional help before any test. The optional help session will be based on the schedule of both the teacher and student.

Students who cannot perform an assigned test at a passing level will be given an opportunity to perform the test again after the opportunity to practice or study another day or two. **Students are responsible for setting up a time to retest with the directors before or after school.**

Written Tests

Written tests are any test in which a Band student demonstrates knowledge of skills through writing. Written tests include, but are not limited to:

- End of Six Weeks tests
- Music Theory worksheets
- Rhythm pages
- Concept Sheets
- Assigned research papers

Objective Sheets

Students will receive one Objective Sheet per Six Weeks listing the goals that need to be passed off. The Objective Sheet will count as a **double weight** grade in the Test category. Objective grades are based on completion of the listed goals and the student has **the entire** Six Weeks cycle to pass off all items. (NOTE: Director's initials signify completion) Students will be given opportunities to pass off objectives during class. However, students who are not able to successfully complete their objectives during class may need to arrange for a time to perform them for a Band director before or after school.

Objective Sheets will be kept in the students' Band binders and we encourage parents to review the Objective Sheets periodically to monitor and encourage their progress. All objectives are to be initialed by a Band director unless otherwise noted. In some cases, the student's private lesson teachers can initial completed objectives. Objective Sheets are DUE at the end of each Six Weeks grading period. Students who lose their Objective Sheet need to let their director know immediately so s/he can acquire a new one.

Only Objective Sheets that have been **signed by a parent** will be accepted at the end of the Six Weeks. Parent signatures do not factor into the grade, but serve as a vital form of communication in regards to your student's progress in Band every Six Weeks.

Any material or participation grade will count as a **minor grade** in the grade book. Combined, these two will account for 20% of the overall Band grade for the year.

Material Grade

Every Band student will begin each week with an automatic 100 for their Material grade. Students will lose ten points per required item needed for class. Not all items will be checked every day.

- The following materials will be counted towards the weekly material grade.
 - Instrument and all parts associated with it (mouthpieces, reeds, mallets, etc.)
 - Pencil (pens or mechanical pencils without lead do not count)
 - Band Binder (including all materials that should be in the binder)
 - Music and required Band books
- Students may borrow a pencil or music book with no penalty if asked **BEFORE** the bell rings.
- Families who cannot supply all the needed materials are strongly encouraged to fill out a Staley Band Financial Aid packet or contact your child's director. In these cases the student's grade will not be affected if they do not have the required materials.

No Instrument Procedures:

- Students without an instrument or parts of their instrument (sticks/mallets for percussionists) cannot participate in class. For this reason it is vital that all students come to class prepared to play.
- Students who do not have an instrument in class should still try to participate by fingering on a pencil or on their knee

Broken Instruments:

- If your instrument is broken or cannot play please first make your director aware of the problem. If a director cannot fix the issue we will ask that your family take it into the shop.
- When you drop off your instrument at the music store, **get all your supplies** out of the case and ask for a loaner instrument. If one is not supplied ask the Band Staff if there is another instrument that you can borrow until yours is returned.

'I forgot' Instruments:

- When instruments are left in the car or at home students can try to arrange for a parent to drop it off at school before their Band time. For this to be successful the student must remember at least a half hour before their Band time.
- Students whose instruments are delivered before the start of class will not lose ten points on their weekly material grade.
- **Students are still expected to participate in class– even if they cannot play!**

Participation Grade

Participation grades will be given based on a Band member's level of involvement during class.

- Participation grades will be used in conjunction with material grades and may be assigned to help students raise their grade who struggle with bringing the necessary materials for class.
- Students who refuse to participate in class or take a test will automatically receive a zero in the minor grade category for that week.

Rehearsal Etiquette

Success in performance is directly proportional to success in rehearsal. 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;

- All Band students should have a pencil for marking the music (pens are not acceptable)
- Students should have their instrument and all materials ready by the first bell for the period.
- Students should not talk during instruction, while the Band is playing, or during the transition from one piece of music to the next. (students always need permission to speak)
- At the end of rehearsals students should push their stands down and take all materials with them.

Concert Etiquette

Concerts are the culmination of much student effort and are necessary to meet state, district, and school requirements for Band. More importantly, concerts are an opportunity for students to demonstrate their talents for an appreciative audience. For this reason, it is very important that both students and listeners observe appropriate concert etiquette during any musical performance. Please review the following guidelines prior to our first concert:

Basic Etiquette

- Dress appropriately for the performance. Concerts are formal events unless noted otherwise.
- **Turn off or silence** all cell phones and electronics that could make noise during the performance.
- Food and drink should never be brought into a performance area.
- Refrain from talking while the director is on the stage.
- Only enter or leave the seating area during applause.
- 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.
- Only applaud at performances— yelling or whistling is never appropriate in a concert setting.

‘When to clap’

Students and directors have worked very hard for each performance and gratefully value your approval as demonstrated by your applause. The following are some guidelines to consider in recognizing a quality performance:

- It is appropriate and polite to applaud as the conductor approaches the podium.
- During a multi-movement work, applaud at the conclusion of the final movement. (This will be indicated when the conductor puts his baton down)
- Do not applaud for soloists during a full Band concert performance, however, it is appropriate to applaud for soloists during a Jazz Ensemble performance.
- Avoid shouting, heckling, or whistling during applause.
- For an exceptional performance, it is always appreciated when the audience stands in applause following the final selection. This is known as a standing ovation.

Absence Procedures

Unlike many other academic classes, it is not possible to make up missed content in performance-based classes. As it will be stated numerous times in this Handbook, students are expected to attend all scheduled Band rehearsals and performances. Band is an interdependent organization and every student is important to our success, but we cannot teach or perform at a high level with empty chairs.

An alternate assignments will be given to students who are absent from class in order to satisfy grade requirements, but there is no substitute for the experience gained from performing as an ensemble. Students who miss a performance will be asked to write a critique of the recording of the performance. When a recording is unavailable the band directors will provide a similar performance recording for critique.

Excused Absences: If it is absolutely necessary to miss a performance, a written note signed by a parent must be presented to the director **before the performance.** (an email from a parent constitutes written notification.. **The note should include the specific reason** (along with dates and times) for the absence or it will be automatically considered unexcused.

Excused absences include:

- Illness (absent from school)
- Family emergency (illness, death, etc.)
- Excused absence from school
- Religious observance
- School-related schedule conflict (that cannot be worked out by the directors)
- Other events or activities that are previously approved by Mr. Wood.

These events are automatically excused even without advanced warning. Please communicate with the Band Staff when it is convenient for your family so we are aware of the absence and do not dock your student's grade.

Unexcused absences: Any missed event without prior communication may 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.

Unexcused absences include:

- School activities (that do not conflict)
- Transportation arrangements (please give the directors a chance to help)
- Non-school events that were not communicated in time

Unforeseen circumstances: In the event of a sudden illness or family emergency immediately prior to a rehearsal or performance, the student should call (or e-mail) his or her director and leave a message. A written note meeting the same criteria as stated above should then be brought to the director following the performance.

Non-Emergency Appointments: Whenever possible, **please do not schedule appointments during your child's Band class, Sectionals, or performances.** Also note that major dental work immediately before a performance/contest will greatly affect the 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.

Thank you in advance for being proactive in your communication with the Band Staff regarding all Band events on the calendar!

The Band’s success is 100% dependant on individual Band member practice. It is through consistent practice and setting (and achieving) personal goals that students develop their musical abilities properly.

Practice Journal

The Staley Band uses a system of goals and journaling to chart student progress. Students will be given a Practice Journal each week on Friday and students are to fill their practice routine as they practice through the following week. Things to write on the Journal include; checking off goals (that were written in class), total time practiced, and the journal of what you practiced (including warm up and specific exercises). On Thursday students should add their time for the week and get a parent signature in preparation for showing their director in class on Friday.

The Practice Journal is not intended to let the director know whether or not a student has been practicing as we can usually tell by each student’s performance in class. The purpose of the Practice Journal is to involve the student and his/her parent in the practice process and to provide accountability for the completion of the required work. Furthermore, the Staley Band Practice Journal can teach students goal setting, how to journal, and self-responsibility.

Below is an example of a correctly completed Practice Journal.

The example Practice Journal is for Tuesday. It has a table with two columns: 'Goals' and 'Journal'. The 'Goals' column has five rows, each with a checkmark and a goal description. The 'Journal' column has five rows with corresponding descriptions of what was practiced. At the bottom right of the journal is a box containing the number '30'. Surrounding the journal are several callout boxes with dashed borders and arrows pointing to specific parts of the journal.

Tuesday	✓	Longtone 2	Air Exercise
	✓	Line 45 (test Thursday)	Longtone 2
	✓	Holst-mm. 45-60	Slurs
	✓	Bb Scale	Bb, C Scale
	✓	D Scale (half note)	Line 45 (3x)
			Holst Suite- mm. 45-78 (5x)
			Longtones
			30

Check off goals that were assigned (points to checkmarks)

Do not check off goals you did not accomplish. You can come back another day to check them off. (points to empty row)

When a goal is not assigned students should write in their own goal. (points to empty row)

‘Journal’ everything you practiced (in order). You can ‘plan ahead’ and follow the plan or write what you did immediately after you finish. (points to journal entries)

At the end of the week be sure to add in your time and get your parents signature. (points to time box)

Write in the total time you practiced. Remember it is more important to achieve your playing goals than to log a large number of time. (points to time box)

Practice Journal Grading

Practice Journals will not be counted towards the students overall grade in the grade book. However, every grade and performance in Band is a direct reflection on the amount of individual time spent practicing. **Students who practice are successful in Band!** Although there will not be a column in the grade book for practicing, there will be a line on the Objective Sheets denoting practice time. To achieve a director initial the students will need to keep up with their Practice Journals and turn them in at the end of the Six Weeks. There will also be a “Practice Party” at the end of the second, fourth, and sixth Six Weeks for students who are achieving their goals and making satisfactory progress in Band.

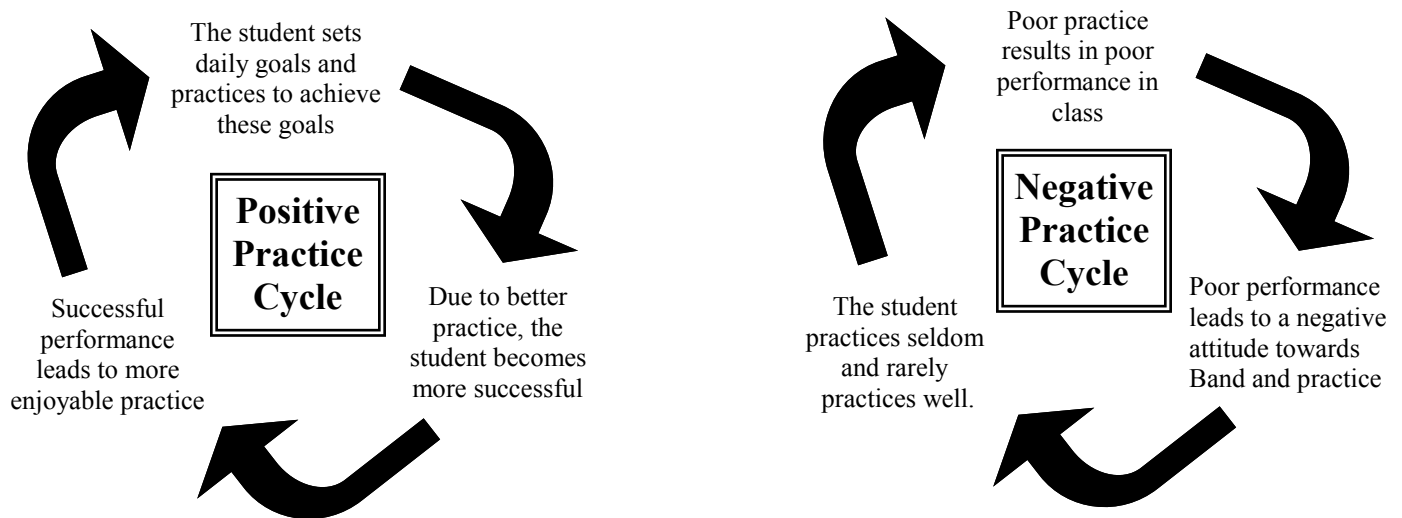
Please take the time to sign your student’s Practice Journal each week. Signing the weekly Practice Journal serves as a reminder to your student that you support them by validating their hard work every week. **This is the #1 way to stay involved in your child’s progress!!!**

Practice Journals will be checked every FRIDAY during class

Quality Practice

Character education is a top priority in our Band program. Please promote integrity in your child by only signing an accurately completed Practice Journal each week. Do not sign blank Practice Journals in advance or Practice Journals without your child’s name on it. A quality practice session is typically a minimum of 30 minutes of uninterrupted, focused practice time. Beginning Band will start the year with a much smaller amount of suggested practice and slowly build towards their ideal practice time. Student time is not as important as being able to perform the assigned goals. If a student is not achieving the grades or chairs that they want they should increase their practice time or discuss their progress with a director. Many times students are focused on the amount of time they are practicing instead of focusing on efficient, quality practice minutes.

The directors understand that students occasionally lose interest in practicing. During these low points, it is both the directors’ and the parents’ responsibility to help motivate the student to continue practicing until their interest returns. Some parents are concerned that “forcing” their child to practice will negatively affect their attitude toward music. This is untrue, however, since the single most detrimental influence on a child’s attitude toward music is their inability to perform successfully. Lessening of practice time only perpetuates this negative cycle which is illustrated below along with the practice cycles.



Positive practice habits will reinforce good performance skills. Negative practice habits will reinforce poor performance skills. It is important that students understand how to practice correctly and that they apply this knowledge in their daily practice routine. As a parent, ask your child to show you their practice goals for this day. This simple task will do a great deal to promote good practice habits. Remember, students who practice incorrectly are still practicing– they are reinforcing incorrect notes and bad habits. Please help your child reinforce positive habits that will lead them towards success!

Pre-Practice Checklist for a productive practice session

- Music
- Pencil
- Electronics turned off
- Goals
- Journal Plan...

During Practice Checklist

- Repeat trouble spots
- MARK** mistakes and write questions
- check off goals and journal

Post-Practice Checklist

- Fill in Practice Journal
- Mark total time
- Get parent signature on Thursday Night

Sectionals (7th/8th grade only)

What are Sectionals?: This is the only time this year we will meet in small instrument groups. Similar to Beginning Band classes, we focus only on issues related to your instrument. Our Band's success each year depends on having everyone participate in Sectionals- please do not miss!!!!

When: All students will have one Sectional a week. We will change Sectional schedules throughout the year to help avoid as many conflicts as possible. In addition, we will work closely with the coaching and teaching staff so your child never has to 'choose' what to do. While Sectional times vary between Bands, the general times for morning Sectionals are **7:30-8:20** and afternoon Sectionals are **3:45-4:35**. Students should arrive at least 5 minutes before to prepare and be picked up no later than 15 minutes after the finish of after school Sectionals.

Band Doors: For safety reasons, we ask that all students be dropped off and picked up in front of the Band Hall. The exterior Band Hall door will be unlocked at 7:20 for morning Sectionals and locked at 7:30. If your student arrives for morning sectionals after 7:30 they should use the cafeteria entrance and come down the ramp to the band hall. After school, please be sure to have your student picked up no later than 10 minutes after the end of afternoon Sectionals.

Conflicts? We understand that occasionally there will be an unavoidable conflict. If you know of a conflict you should let your director know as soon as possible! Sectional attendance is mandatory and we ask for a note in writing at least 24 hours in advance to be excused. For any student who misses Sectionals (excused, unexcused, or absent) there will be **Make-Up Sectionals** Friday mornings.

Grading: Sectional grades are based on materials, attendance, and being prepared.

15% Materials: All students need their music, instrument, and a PENCIL!

30% Attendance: students should arrive 5 minutes before the start of their Sectional time. Students will have one point deducted per minute (beginning at 7:30 or 4:10) they are late up to 15 minutes (5 minutes = 5 points). If a student has an ***unexcused absence*** they will have an automatic 30 point deduction. Students with excused absences will not have any points deducted but will need to come to Make-Up Sectionals to receive full credit for that week's Sectional grade.

55% Preparation: Students will have 'homework' from one week to the next. The Sectional grade will reflect how well you prepared on the assigned material. *If a student does not fully understand an assignment or needs additional help you can ask a director ANYTIME! Do not wait until the next Sectional!*

Tutorials/Excused absences: We will always work with students so they can attend academic tutorials or 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. Academic teachers are required to provide before and after school options for tutorials/ make-up grades. Whenever possible, please try to attend tutorials or make up grades at a time that does not conflict with the weekly scheduled Sectional.

Band Calendar

Along with this Handbook, each student will receive a calendar of Band activities for the school year. All attempts are made to provide accurate information, but some adjustments to this calendar may have to be made during the school year. The directors will provide updated information to students as soon as possible should the need arise. Students will be responsible for informing their parents of any changes to the calendar in a timely manner. Students are required to participate in all required Band activities unless noted otherwise. Absences are only excused in accordance with established district criteria. Conflicts with non-school activities (sporting events, etc.) are not excusable reasons for missing a scheduled activity. Parents are encouraged to plan ahead to resolve any conflicts with scheduled Band activities. Unexcused absences from a required activity can result in a lowering of the student's grade and/or disciplinary action depending on the circumstances. Many individual events (All-Region Band auditions and Solo and Ensemble Contest) allow for flexibility in scheduling for each student. Visit with your child's director if you anticipate a schedule conflict with one of these events.

In addition to the Band calendar the Band Staff will send out monthly updates and e-mail reminders regarding upcoming activities. If you are not receiving any communication from the Band Department (a minimum of twice a month) please contact a director as we may have the incorrect contact information.

Student Conduct

All students in the Staley Band will follow the following behavioral expectations during class and during all rehearsals before or after school:

- Students may do nothing to interfere with the teaching or learning in the classroom.
- Students are to demonstrate respect for themselves, others, and all property at all times.
- Students may only handle their own instruments. Leave no instrument unattended.
- Food, drink, candy, and gum are not permitted in any of the Band rehearsal rooms.
- Running and/or horseplay are not permitted at any time.
- Students are to enter and exit the room in a quiet and calm manner.

Consequences for Misbehavior

Misbehavior will be handled according to district and campus policy. In addition to standard disciplinary measures, Band students may lose playing privileges or be demoted in chair or Band placement as a result of misbehavior. Students are reminded that Band is most enjoyable when everyone is participating and achieving, so we hope that behavioral problems will be kept to an absolute minimum.

SMSBPA (Band Boosters)

The most important component to all aspects of a successful Band program is **parental support**. We are very fortunate at Staley to have the Staley Middle School Band Parent Association (SMSBPA) in place and already working to support our students. This booster group provides support through the following activities;

- Event Chaperones
- Financial Aid (lesson scholarships, supplies, and fees)
- Clinicians and Consultants for the Bands
- Clerical Help
- Student Awards and Incentives
- Organization and funding of reward trips.
- Materials and student enrichment opportunities not covered by the school district

Every parent of a Staley Band member is encouraged to join the BPA. The yearly fees are paid per family (not member) and help cover a wide variety of operating costs. General membership meetings will be held throughout the school year with many meetings taking place before major concert events. Only the SMSBPA Executive Board meets monthly.

All parents are encouraged to volunteer as there are multiple ways you can get involved. The Band program has many facets and the directors and SMSBPA board would love to have your help!

Fundraising

Band is a curricular course that does 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 for the benefit of the students in the Staley Band program. Since the money raised benefits all students we hope that all Band families will get involved. For those who are interested, **donations are gladly accepted in lieu of participating in fundraising**. More information about fundraising procedures will be sent home at the start of our fundraising drive.

In addition to the major fundraiser the SMSBPA sponsors, there will be multiple small events meant to help raise funds for the Band. These events are meant to be easy ways to raise money for the Band program. Events include;

- Weekly football game concession stand
- Fundraising dinners before concerts
- Silent auctions
- Spirit Nights at local restaurants
- School wide 'Kiss-o-grams' and 'Hat Day'
- Hosting a school dance
- And many more!

Again, we need as many parents to get involved as possible! You can contact the BPA directly (information found on the Band website) or your child's director to get involved.

Band Leadership Team (BLT)

The Band Leadership Team (or BLT) consists of students who apply and are selected by either director approval or student vote. Positions include President, Vice-President, Secretary, Librarian, Crew Chief, Historian, and Section Leader. BLT members are expected to be an example for all Band members and provide support for not only the Band directors, but the other Band members as well.

The BLT meets with the directors regularly to help out, provide ideas, and brainstorm about any number of Band related issues. **ALL BAND STUDENTS** are encouraged to help whether they are on the BLT or not. For more information look on the BLT page on the Band website.

Student Awards

There are multiple opportunities for Band members to gain individual recognition throughout the year. To earn these awards students will need to demonstrate strong playing skills, excellent citizenship, and diligent effort both inside and outside the classroom. Possible individual awards include;

- **All-Region Band Member**– Open to all 7th and 8th graders, students can earn a spot in the All-Region Band through multiple auditions. All-Region Band Members will participate in a concert (with the other AR Band members) and receive a medal.
- **Solo and Ensemble ‘First Division’**- All students (6th-8th grade) who learn and perform a solo at an ‘excellent’ level will receive a first division.
- **Exemplary & Outstanding Soloist**– All students (6th-8th grade) who participate in Solo and Ensemble can earn a ‘top award’ for being the best soloist in the room. One ‘Exemplary Soloist’ certificate is given to the top soloist in the room and two ‘Outstanding Soloist’ certificates are given to the two runner ups for the room.
- **Staley Awards Night**– All students are eligible to receive a pin at the end of the year award ceremony. Each director will award one Beginning Band pin and one Advanced Band pin (for a total of four Band awards). SMS Award pin may or may not be given in conjunction with the SMS Band All-Star Award.
- **Band ‘All Star Award’**- One Honor and one Symphonic Band student will earn the ‘All Star Award’ at the end of the year. The engraved trophy is given to the student who best exemplifies being a Staley Band Member. The All Star award represents the full year of work and to be considered for the trophy 7th and 8th grade students should;
 - Be eligible all year (passing all classes)
 - Participate in every required event on the Calendar
 - Complete weekly Practice Journals
 - Obtain all objective initials
 - Attend all Sectionals (7th/8th grade)
 - Be an outstanding ‘Band citizen’
 - Lead by example
- **Other awards**– There may be small awards given throughout the year to both individuals and sections.

The Staley Band is committed to making Band a possibility for any interested students. If your family is concerned about the additional costs of Band the SMSBPA can help! .

Financial Aid

At Staley Middle School we want everyone who is interested in Band to be able to play an instrument. We understand that for many families this is difficult for various reasons – many of which are out of the family’s control. This is the reason why we offer multiple programs to assist financially through the SMSBPA. These programs include

- Instrument Rental Costs
- Band Supply Costs (including Band Fees)
- Private Lesson Scholarship.
- Student Work Program (Band Hall Hero)
- And many more!

Please note these options are for families that could not participate in Band unless they receive additional help. SMSBPA scholarships **are not** meant to help offset the cost of ‘select’ activities or to give families time to decide if ‘Band is right for them’. The Band staff and parent volunteers work hard to raise money for the SMSBPA and we are more than willing to help out financially. That being said, we appreciate your families careful consideration before applying.

For more information please review the SMSBPA Financial Aid Application form.

Band Hall Heroes (BHH)

Band Hall Heroes (BHH) is a student work program that: 1) helps cover the cost of Band, 2) gives students an opportunity to gain hours for community oriented groups like NJHS, and 3) instills a deeper commitment to the Band program by having student ‘earn’ their supplies or financial support.

Students who participate in the program work before or after school under the supervision of the Band staff. The average amount of time given to students is five hours per semester or ten hours for the total year. Students enrolled in the **financial aid** program or **private lesson scholarship** program are required to participate in BHH.

For more information please review the Band Hall Hero form or contact Mr. Wood.

Private Lesson Scholarships

The SMSBPA offers scholarships to help offset the cost of private lessons. Scholarships will be awarded based on need, availability, and merit. If a scholarship is awarded, satisfactory progress must be maintained in lessons as well as a total of ten hours of ‘Band Hall Hero’ service is to be given during the year (five hours per semester).

The SMSBPA scholarship covers HALF of lesson costs.

For more information please review the Private Lesson Scholarship form or contact Mr. Gray.

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. As students progress in Band, there is less time for individual instruction. Beginning Band students
2. Our lesson staff is **OUTSTANDING**. Most have a graduate degree in performance and some teachers have been awarded their doctorate in performance. *What a great opportunity to work one on one with professional musicians!*
3. Lessons meets student needs in four very specific ways;
 - **More opportunities to ask questions** that you have with your music
 - Lessons **strengthen the fundamentals** on their specific instrument
 - Students who fall behind can **get caught up**
 - It allows **fast paced** students to work ahead of the class

Scholarships- If you are interested in lessons but unsure about the financial commitment **there are scholarships available** that pay for half of the total lesson cost! 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. *Note that any student receiving a lesson scholarship is required to participate in the Band Hall Hero (work program) to remain eligible for their scholarship.*

Cost– FISD sets the lesson rate for our private lesson staff. The current rate is \$16 per half hour lesson. Students awarded a lesson scholarship can choose to take weekly lessons (paying \$8 per lesson) or take a lesson every other week (paying nothing).

Available times– Lessons can take place during school, or before or after school, depending on the teacher. Times are assigned in order of contact, so parents are encouraged to call as soon as possible to reserve a slot.

Scheduling lessons– lessons are scheduled directly through the lesson staff. Please contact the teachers directly below.

<u>INSTRUMENT</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
Flute	Angelica Nuby	940-300-1953	angelicaf flute@aol.com
Oboe	Erin Edwards	806-584-7558	oboezone@gmail.com
Clarinet	LoriAnn Nohre	972-523-0206	loriann@ipnohre.net
Bassoon	Andrew Wojciechowski (Wo-jo-how-ski)	817-673-9470	out86cold@gmail.com
Saxophone	Ryan Duhon	214-207-4481	ryanduhon@gmail.com
Trumpet	Michelle Glasscock	812-650-2677	mglassco4@gmail.com
Horn	Jason Hofmeister	940-536-8508	jhofmeister1@gmail.com
Low Brass	Michael Wharton	619-212-6471	wharbone@gmail.com
Percussion	Andy Pruyne	972-681-9186	andy.pruyne@gmail.com

Recommended Instruments

School owned instruments include;

Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Sax, Bari Sax, Horn, Euphonium, and Tuba
(parents will not purchase or rent the instrument from the music store)

FLUTE: *Beginner & Intermediate:* Jupiter 711RBSO w/ B-foot and Offset G key or ***Beginner:*** Yamaha 281

CLARINET: Buffet E-11 or Jupiter Model 931N

Mouthpiece: Vandoren M13 Lyre w/ Rovner “Dark” ligature and bite pad

ALTO SAXOPHONE: *Beginner:* Yamaha YAS-23 ***Intermediate:*** Yamaha 475 or Yamaha 62

Mouthpiece: Vandoren Optimum AL3 or Selmer C* w/ Rovner “Dark” ligature and bite pad

TRUMPET: King 601 or Yamaha YTR 2335 TH with 1st valve saddle (King, Yamaha, or Bach brands preferred)

Mouthpiece: Bach 5B mouthpiece

TROMBONE: Conn Model 50H or Yamaha Model YSL 356

Mouthpiece: Bach 6 ½ AL mouthpiece

PERCUSSION

MPM Practice Marimba from Marimba Warehouse or similar practice Marimba (3 octave with 1 ¾” bars)

Students that cannot rent a practice marimba will need to practice regularly in the Band Hall on our school owned instruments.

Remo 8” Practice Pad (RT-00XX-00)

Remo Practice Pad Stand (Remo ST-1000-10)

For a complete list of recommended instruments and supplies please contact a Band director.

Instrument Upgrades

Students will eventually ‘outgrow’ their instruments. Beginner level instruments are not meant to be played on all through middle school. While these instruments are ideal for 6th grade they will eventually slow your students progress due to the limitations that are build in to the basic models.

When your family is interested in upgrading your instrument (usually during 7th or 8th grade) please contact a Band director before purchasing anything. Instrument models and brands are always changing (similar to cars) and we want to help your family make a solid choice that will last!

Note there are deals to find! While the Band staff is always weary of online deals we are happy to look over what you find (even playing it for you before you fully commit). Again, if your family does not know exactly what you are looking for it can be a daunting task looking for a new instrument. We are happy to help your family in any way possible!

NOTE: All school instruments are automatically upgraded each year!

Band Facility 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 a few guidelines that must be followed.

Band Hall Hours– The Band Hall is usually open by 7:15am and closes by 5:30pm. Students are welcome to use the facilities any time a Band director is present.

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 directly to the cafeteria in the morning with their instrument until they are dismissed (before the other students who do not have an instrument).

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.

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) *NOTE: Only percussion students are allowed to sign up for or be in the Percussion Practice room or Percussion Ensemble room.*

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.

Items that should **not** be in the cages include;

- Food of ANY kind (including lunches)
- Library books
- Trash
- Other students

Any one breaking these rules or not respecting the instrument storage area will be assigned an automatic detention. Students will need to keep their instrument cages **clean** and should always keep their cage **closed** when not in use.

Locks– Students are allowed to bring a personal lock for their instrument cage, but must give the combination to Mr. Gray before they attach the lock. *NOTE: The Band Hall is locked any time a Band director is not present. Also, the instrument storage room is locked at the end of the day meaning there are a total of three locked doors guarding instruments (school, Band Hall, and instrument storage room).*

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

TAKE PRIDE IN THE BAND HALL!

Event Descriptions

Concert, Honor, & Symphonic Band Members

Football Games- (September & October)

Symphonic and Honor 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-

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. If there is only one pep rally both Bands will perform.

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- (January)

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.

Beginning Band Members

Solo and Ensemble Contest- (January)

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.

Student Name: _____ Instrument: _____

Band (circle): BB CB HB SB Period (circle): 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Please initial next to each statement below to indicate your understanding of each item.

Student	Parent	Expectation of Policy
_____	_____	1. I have received a Staley Band Calendar of Events
_____	_____	2. I understand that I am expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances. (p.5)
_____	_____	3. I understand that concert attire is part of calculating performance grades.
_____	_____	4. I understand the absence and excused absence policy (p.5)
_____	_____	5. I understand the expectations of behavior and etiquette (p. 8)
_____	_____	6. I understand the procedures for calculating grades in Band (p. 4)
_____	_____	7. I understand the Practice Journal procedures (p. 10-11)
_____	_____	8. I am aware of the FISD Private Lesson Program and my opportunity to enroll in private lessons (p. 17)
_____	_____	9. I am aware of the Financial Aid program and other programs available through the Band Parent Organization. (p. 14-16)

My child is interested in private lessons Yes No Not at this time
If yes please contact the lesson teacher for your instrument directly to set up a lesson date and time. (p. 17)

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Mr. Wood Signature

Mr. Gray Signature

Please contact your child’s band director or refer to the band website if you have any questions over the handbook.

www.staleyband.org

