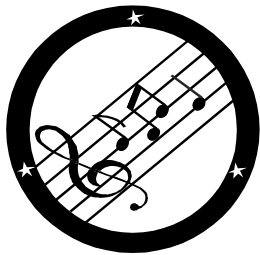


Handbook 2011-2012



For Band Students at
Boles Junior High



Boles Junior High School Bulldog Band
Gordon Hart and Jessica Parker

Dear Parent(s),

Welcome to the Boles Junior High Band. In order to establish the best learning atmosphere for your student, this handbook will act as an introduction. It explains the procedures and requirements applied in our classrooms and rehearsals.

We believe learning is a process involving active participation from the director, student, and parent. We, as directors, work to do our best to motivate our students, and to work with the parents in order to facilitate learning. The parent's role in the education process is to assist us with support of our rules of conduct, and the quality of the work we expect

Certainly it is our goal for each student to experience success when learning to play an instrument. Most importantly, though, we want them to gain a life long appreciation and love for music, as well as respect for hard work. We hope each student leaves our classroom understanding how to read music independently, and how to create the music on their instrument. We focus on fundamental aspects such as tone, intonation, technique, blend, balance, pitch, and rhythmic accuracy. Through successful performance on their instrument, students will develop confidence, self discipline, intrinsic motivation, and how to work together as an ensemble.

We are extremely excited about this upcoming year! If at any time you have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you in advance for your help. We are looking forward to another exciting year.

Sincerely,

Gordon Hart

Jessica Parker

Information

Classroom Expectations:

The Boles Band represents Boles Junior High and its student body everywhere it goes. Therefore, our band members are expected to meet a very high level of behavior. It is important for band students to respect themselves and others, as well as take responsibility for their actions. Students are expected to rehearse at a high level. This entails punctuality, entering the class in an orderly fashion, being prepared with necessary supplies, having music prepared to expected levels, and being focused in rehearsal.

Classroom rules:

1. Anything that interferes with the teaching and learning in the classroom is not acceptable.
2. Students will be expected to demonstrate respect for teachers and peers at all times
3. Students will follow all AISD and Boles Junior High rules
4. Students will have all materials needed for class each day

Consequences:

1. Verbal Warning- Possible student conference after class
2. Parent contact. Lunch and/or afterschool D-hall
3. Parent contact and lowered rehearsal performance grade and/or citizenship grade
4. Referral to Assistant Principal- Parent Phone call
5. Severe discipline problems will be directly referred to an Assistant Principal.

Boles J.H Band Organizations, and Requirements:

Symphonic Band: (1st band, highest level) Students in the Symphonic Band must possess a higher level of musicianship, and demonstrate consistent academic eligibility. They will participate in UIL Concert Contest, weekly section rehearsals, All-City and All-Region auditions, Solo and Ensemble Contest, and all Spirit Band rehearsals and performances (8th grade football and volleyball members are excused). Students must also demonstrate the highest level of rehearsal behavior.

Concert Band: (2nd band) Membership in the Concert band is based on a moderate level of musicianship. Students must demonstrate consistent academic eligibility, and attend weekly section rehearsals during the 2nd semester. The Concert Band will participate in the UIL Concert Contest. Students must attend all Concert Band required rehearsals and performances. 8th grade members must participate in Spirit Band rehearsals and performances. Concert Band students will demonstrate good rehearsal behavior, and an understanding of classroom rules.

Varsity Band: (Woodwind and Brass classes) This class is structured for 2nd or 3rd year band members in need of developing an improved level of musicianship. Beginning instrumentalists are sometimes scheduled into this class, as well as students needing reinforcement of proper rehearsal techniques and behavior. Once members have achieved the expected level of musicianship and behavior, they will have the opportunity to move into one of the performing bands..

Percussion Class: A continuation of 6th grade percussion or for 1st year percussion students.

Spirit Band: This band will perform for pep rallies and football games. Membership consists of all Symphonic Band members, and 8th grade Concert Band members. All other students wishing to participate must attend all Spirit Band rehearsals.

Attendance Policies for Rehearsals and Performances:

Heavy emphasis is placed on attendance. Band members are required to attend all rehearsals and performances for their respective organization. Students with an excused absence from school will be excused from outside school rehearsals. All students present during the school day will be expected to attend after-school rehearsals. Any student with an unexcused absence from a rehearsal should expect a significant grade reduction for the six weeks grading period. Absences will be deemed “excused” at the discretion of the band director on a case by case basis. Please understand that parent calls or letters do not automatically constitute an “excused” absence. An “Absence” must be cleared by the band director, **in advance**, when possible. The following absences are not considered “excused”: excessive homework, trips, birthdays, family gathering, concerts, etc. Please work to schedule medical appointments on days that don’t conflict with special rehearsals and performances. If a conflict cannot be avoided, please contact the director as quickly as possible. Any absence without communication with the director will be considered unexcused. Any unexcused absence for a performance will result in a lowered grade and a possible transfer to a lower band. Band membership is contingent upon consistent attendance to all performances and rehearsals.

Home Practice:

PRACTICE IS HOMEWORK! Students are expected to take their instruments home and practice. Practice provides the opportunity to improve the skills introduced in class, as well as the fundamentals of good playing. Remember, students always have something to practice! Parents can ask to hear: band music, scales, solos, and region etudes. We recommend they play for an adult at least once a week.

Regular Rehearsal:

Rehearsals will begin on time each day. Talking is not permitted during rehearsals. Excessive talking will result in a lower rehearsal performance grade, lower citizenship grade, as well as a parent contact. We consider “talking during rehearsal” a serious problem. Students are expected to be prepared and on task.

Grades:

Classroom grades are based on a combination of individual performances of music, scales, region music, and related studies (usually played in front of the class), written work, rehearsal/ performance attendance, everyday rehearsal technique, and weekly playing tests.

Band Hall Use:

Students are not allowed to enter the band hall before 8:45 A.M., or during lunch, unless they have a sectional, private lesson, or a pass from the director. All students are expected to respect the band hall and all property within. Percussionists are the only students allowed to play on the percussion equipment. **NO FOOD, DRINKS, or GUM ALLOWED IN THE BAND HALL.** “Lunch D-halls” will be given starting with the first offense.

Uniforms:

All band students are required to purchase a band polo shirt. It will be worn by Boles Band students as an informal uniform for concerts, pep rallies, football games, and other various activities. They will be sold during summer band and the first few weeks of school. All Symphonic and Concert band members will need a white, long sleeve, dress shirt (bow ties provided). They also need black dress pants, black dress shoes, and black socks. We want to look “professional”, so make sure your hair is done nicely. Ladies need to keep jewelry to a minimum. For example, only stud earrings will be allowed and all necklaces must be hidden.

Instruments:

Please let a director look at an instrument before you send it to the shop. Many times we can fix the problem. Do not attempt to fix the instrument yourself!

School owned instruments are AISD property. The life expectancy for many of the instruments is twenty years. It is a student's responsibility to maintain the instrument in good shape as well as good working order. Damage will be noted before issued, and the student and parent will be responsible financially for any damage to the instrument while it is checked out to them. It is important not to let friends or siblings touch or play your instrument.

Instrument Insurance:

Please check with your personal insurance company regarding coverage of your instrument. Please do not leave your instrument at school overnight. AISD will not be responsible for instruments that are damaged or stolen.

Private Lessons:

AMEP, the "Arlington Music Enrichment Program", is the organizing entity for a district-wide private lesson program. The value of private lessons cannot be overstated. Directors teach classes with multiple numbers of students and instruments. Due to the sheer numbers of students in each class, directors seldom have time for needed individual reinforcement. This need is met by private lesson teachers who are specialists on their instrument. Private teachers are paid by the student directly at \$16 per 25 minute lesson. This is a great investment for the success of your student and the band program in general.

AISD Instrument Rental Policy:

Every student checking out a school owned instrument must sign the instrument loan contract. By signing the contract, the student and parent agree to give the instrument the "best care possible" and assume financial responsibility of the instrument. Fees are established by the school district. School owned wind instruments cost \$150 annually, and Symphonic and Concert band percussion rental is \$100 annually. Payment arrangements are available, please contact the director as needed.

Fund-raising:

The Boles Band sells "Stock Shares." Each share costs \$10. We encourage each student to sell at least 3 stock shares to friends and family. All of the money collected goes to support the Boles Band program. Everyone purchasing a stock share receives a special invitation to our fall "Thank You Concert". The money raised helps buy music, uniform parts, new instruments, and supplies for the band program. We greatly appreciate the parents and students who work hard to help attain these selling goals.

Band Auditions:

Band placements are based on individual performance ability, academic grades, and proven reliability. Students placed in a particular band will be expected to fulfill the requirements for that band. These requirements include the following:

1. Attendance at all sectionals, rehearsals, and performances
2. Ability to maintain appropriate rehearsal discipline
3. Ability to follow all band and school rules
4. Participation in All-City and All-Region Band auditions for Symphonic Band members
5. Ability to maintain academically eligibility
6. Individual performance requirements (scales, studies, audition music, band music)

Directors reserve the right to adjust a student's band assignment at ANY time during the year based on the student's performance.

Dear Parent and Student,

Please remember to read this handbook carefully, and hold on to it for future reference. The contents provide a guideline for a successful year for each student. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Hart or Mrs. Parker. We ask that you sign below stating you and your student have read and understand all of the handbooks contents.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Name Printed

Student Signature