

# Handbook 2009-2010



For Band Students at  
Boles Junior High



Boles Junior High School Bulldog Band  
Bob Seligson 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 and explain the procedures and requirements which will be applied in our classrooms and rehearsals.

We believe that learning is a process which takes active participation among the director, student, and parent. For this reason, we as directors must do our best to be prepared 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 by supporting our rules of conduct and the quality of work expected.

It is our goal to have each student be successful in learning to play an instrument, but most importantly, we want them to gain a life long appreciation and love for music. Your student will leave our classroom with an understanding of how to read music independently and how to create the music on their instrument. We will focus on fundamental aspects such as tone, intonation, technique, blend, balance, pitch, and rhythmic accuracy. Through successful performance on their instrument students are taught confidence, self discipline, intrinsic motivation, and how to work together as a team to make music 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,

Bob Seligson

Jessica Parker

# Information

## Classroom Expectations:

The Boles Band represents Boles Junior High and its student body everywhere it goes. Therefore, the band members must behave in a manner becoming to a performance organization of the highest quality. It is important for band students to respect themselves and others, as well as take responsibility for their actions. Students will be expected to rehearse at a high level. This entails being punctual, entering in a quite orderly fashion, being prepared with supplies, having music prepared to expectation levels, and being focused in rehearsal.

## Classroom rules:

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

## Consequences:

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

## Rehearsals and Performances:

A heavy emphasis will be placed on attendance. All band members are required to attend all rehearsals and performances. Students who have an excused absence from school will be excused from outside school rehearsals. All students that are present during the school day will be expected to attend outside school rehearsals. Any student who has an unexcused absence from any rehearsal should expect a significant grade reduction for the six weeks. Absences will be deemed as “excused” at the discretion of the band director on a case by case basis. Please be aware that just because the parent calls or sends a letter that that does not automatically constitute an “excused” absence. Absences must be cleared by the band director in ADVANCE of the absence if possible. The following absences will NOT be excused: doctor’s appointment (in most cases), excessive homework, trip, birthday, family gathering, concerts, etc. Please schedule doctors appointments on non rehearsal and performance days. If there is a conflict that cannot be avoided, please contact the director as soon as you are aware of the conflict. Any absence without communication with the director will be considered unexcused regardless of the reason. Any unexcused absence to a performance will result in a lowered grade and possible move to a lower band. Membership in band is contingent upon attendance to all performances.

## Practice:

PRACTICE IS HOMEWORK! Students are expected to take their instruments home and practice six days a week. Practice provides the opportunity to improve on skills introduced in class, as well as 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.

### **Sectional Rehearsals:**

Sectionals are for all Symphonic and Concert band members. Sectionals attendance is 30% of the final six weeks grade.

### **Regular Rehearsal:**

Rehearsals will begin on time each day. Talking is not permitted in rehearsal. We are here to work! Excessive talking will result in a lower rehearsal performance grade, lower citizenship grade, as well as parent contact. We take this rule very seriously. Students are expected to be prepared and on task.

### **Grades:**

Grades are based on individual performance of music, scales, region music, and related studies (usually played in front of the class), written work, rehearsal/ performance attendance, practice records, and everyday rehearsal technique. This is how each area is weighted for the final six weeks grade.

Sectional attendance – 30%

Homework - 30%

Test- 20 %

Rehearsal Performance - 20%

### **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.

### **Uniforms:**

All band parents are required to purchase band t-shirt. They will be sold at registration and the first weeks of school. All Symphonic and Concert band members will need a white button down dress shirt (bow ties provided). They also need black pant (not jeans), as well as 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!

Regarding school owned instruments: These instruments are AISD property. They have to be used for many years to come as instruments for future students. It is the student's responsibility to keep 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 for financially for any damage to the instrument while it is checked out to them. It is important not to let friends or siblings to touch or play your instrument.

### **Instrument Insurance:**

Please check with your insurance company regarding the 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, Arlington Music Enrichment Program, is a fancy title for private lessons. The value of private lessons cannot be overstated. The directors teach classes on fundamentals, but due to the sheer number of students, rarely do they get the needed “one on one” time with each student. This need is met by private lesson teachers who are specialist on their instrument. Private teachers are paid by the student directly at \$16 per 25 minute lesson. This is only \$64 a month, and is a great investment for the success of your student and the band program in general.

**AISD Instrument Rental Policy:**

Every student that checks out a school owned instrument must sign the blue 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 \$120 annually, and Symphonic and Concert band percussion rental is \$80 annually. Payment arrangements are available, please contact the director. Please remember , any fee acquired by the student becomes the financial responsibility of the parent.

**Fund-raising:**

The Boles Band sells “Stock Shares.” Each share cost \$10. We encourage each student to sell at least 3 stock shares to friends and family. All of the money collected goes to the Boles band program. Everyone who purchases a stock share receives a special invitation to our Winter Thank You Concert for being patrons of our band. 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:**

Auditions will be held at the end of each semester. 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: Attendance to sectionals, rehearsals, and performances . Ability to maintain rehearsal discipline. Ability to follow all band and school rules. Ability to remain academically eligible . Individual performance requirements (scales, studies, audition music, band music)

Directors reserve the right to move students up or down a band at ANY time during the year based on student performance.

Dear Parent and Student,

Please remember to read this handbook carefully and hold on to it for future reference. All of its contents help provide a successful year for your student. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. We ask that you sign below stating that you and your student have read and understand all of the handbooks contents.

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Parent Signature

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Date

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Student Name Printed

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Student Signature