

Hughes Middle School **BAND HANDBOOK**



2021-2022

www.hughesmsband.com

Stephanie Bonebrake, Director
Byron Myles, Associate Director
Jack Baker, Percussion Specialist
(817) 245-0600

OVERVIEW OF ENSEMBLES

All Hughes Bands are ability based. Students are placed in ensembles based on a comprehensive audition that took place last spring. The ensembles in most years are as follows: Honor Band, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band. Percussion Class students are members of the three performing ensembles, but they meet in a separate class as well.

Honor Band

The Honor Band is Hughes Middle School's premier performing ensemble and is composed mostly of 8th graders. They officially represent the school and perform throughout the year. The Honor Band sets the standard in musicianship, integrity and professionalism at Hughes Middle School.

Honor Band students are expected to practice the required amount to maintain growth as a musician and uphold the integrity and standard of this ensemble. As this ensemble represents Hughes in many extracurricular activities, it is required by our state's "No Pass/No Play" law that each student maintain a 70 or higher in all classes (Pre-AP classes must be a 60 or higher). Members in the Honor Band are highly encouraged to enroll in private lessons and are required to attend section rehearsals, audition for the All-District and All-Region Band, perform at Solo & Ensemble Contest and be good leaders in general.

Attendance at all band events, as well as any scheduled concert or contest is strictly required for membership in this ensemble.

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is Hughes Middle School's second performing ensemble. They officially represent the school and perform throughout the year. The Symphonic Band is composed of approximately half 8th graders and half 7th graders.

Symphonic Band students are also expected to practice the required amount to maintain growth as a musician and uphold the integrity and standard of this ensemble. As this ensemble represents Hughes in many extracurricular activities, it is required by our state's "No Pass/No Play" law that each student maintain a 70 or higher in all classes (Pre-AP classes must be a 60 or higher). Symphonic Band students are highly encouraged to take private lessons, attend section and full band rehearsals during the spring semester for UIL music, perform at Solo & Ensemble Contest and follow the standard set by the Honor Band.

Attendance at all band events, as well as any scheduled concert or contest is strictly required for membership in this ensemble.

Concert Band

The Concert Band is Hughes Middle School's third performing ensemble. They officially represent the school and perform throughout the year. The Concert Band is composed mostly of 7th graders.

Concert Band students are expected to practice the required amount to maintain growth as a musician and uphold the integrity and standard of each ensemble. As these ensembles represent Hughes in many extracurricular activities, it is required by our state's "No Pass/No Play" law that each student maintain a 70 or higher in all classes (Pre-AP classes must be a 60 or higher).

The students in this group are expected to perform at Solo & Ensemble Contest in the spring semester. They are also encouraged but not required to attend section rehearsals during the fall if they aspire to audition for All-District or All-Region Band. Prior to each concert, these 3 classes will meet several times to rehearse the Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion together. Most importantly, they are encouraged to take private lessons and follow the standard set by the Honor Band and Symphonic Band.

Attendance at all band events mentioned above, as well as any scheduled concert or contest is strictly required for membership in this ensemble.

Beginning Band

The Beginning Band at Hughes Middle School is made up of students interested in learning an instrument and are primarily 6th grade.

Beginning Band students are expected to practice the required amount to maintain growth as a musician and uphold the integrity and standard of each ensemble. "No Pass/No Play" law that each student maintain a 70 or higher in all classes (Pre-AP classes must be a 60 or higher) is followed with this group as well for any contests they may attend.

The students in this group are expected to perform at Solo & Ensemble Contest in the spring semester.

GRADING POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Every six weeks, grades will be determined based on your performance, rehearsal, and practice. The following sections will clearly outline what we expect and how students will be graded in each of the following areas:

- I. PERFORMANCE
- II. REHEARSAL
- III. PRACTICE
- IV. EXTRA CREDIT

I. Performance

PERFORMANCE GRADES

The average of performance grades count as 50% of the six weeks average. Items included in the Performance Grade are:

- Playing Tests
- Written Work (Theory assignments)
- Public Performances (Concerts or contests, both group and individual)
 - These count in your average twice. If you do not attend a performance and do not have an approved excused absence, two zeroes will be entered into the gradebook. There is no feasible way to duplicate and therefore “make up” a missed performance.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

- A. **Playing Tests:** Students should expect weekly playing tests that will be announced in advance. All Playing Tests are graded using our standardized Performance Objectives. These tests could cover, but are not limited to covering, the following:
 - Daily Drill
 - Scales
 - Counting/Rhythm Exercises
 - Other Technical Exercises
 - A Playing Test is simply for a performance grade but does not effect chair order.
 - Chair Tests are performance grades that rank the sections in order.
 - Pass-offs are a pass/fail standard for a performance grade to encourage students to learn and perform every detail of their music. Students will have multiple opportunities to meet pass-offs standards prior to each performance.
 - Pep Band Tunes
 - All-Region Band audition materials
 - Band music (“your part”)
- B. **Written Work:** Since our curriculum is primarily performance-based, the amount of written work will be minimal. The type of written assignments they will encounter will deal mostly with furthering their knowledge of music theory and rhythm concepts.

- C. **Public Performances:** As a band member you are a very important part of a much larger group. When we perform, your participation is vital. When members are absent, the entire band suffers. Attendance at all public performances is required. Listening to and supporting all the bands at Hughes is part of performing. To receive full credit for the performance, students must attend the listening portion of the performance as well.

a. **Excused Absences**

There are some special circumstances under which we will excuse attendance at a public performance. Whatever the circumstance, we must be notified as soon as possible.

- Death in the family
- Critical family emergency (for example, a car accident)
- Bed-ridden illness (for example, pneumonia)
- Once-in-a-lifetime family event (for example, your grandparents' 50th wedding anniversary)
 - In this case, parents must contact the director as soon as possible, in writing, stating (1) the student's name, (2) the date and time of the conflict, and (3) the specific reason for the conflict. This will allow us to plan ahead to cover the part or solo of the student missing. Please understand, just because a director is notified does not necessarily mean the absence will be excused.

b. **Unexcused Absences**

An unexcused absence from a public performance could result in any of the following, at the director's discretion:

- Loss of their chair position
- Exclusion from any band party.
- Exclusion from contest trips (Any student that misses a required concert or competition will not go on band trip.)
- Reassignment to another ensemble.
- Removal from the band program.

According to BISD policy, extracurricular performing groups may establish standards of behavior, including consequences, that are stricter than those for students in general.

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

In addition to teaching individual and ensemble performance techniques, we teach our students about proper concert etiquette. Parents, please help us encourage this. Students who are rude or disruptive will not receive full credit for the performance at the directors' discretion. Following the guidelines below will make concerts an enjoyable experience for everyone.

- Be on time. (To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late.)
- Make a restroom stop before the concert begins.
- Turn off all cell phones and pagers. Silent mode is not off. Texting during a performance is just as rude as talking. If your cell phone is out, it will be taken up.
- Be silent and stay seated while a band is performing. It is acceptable to enter or exit only in between pieces or ensembles.
- Remain in uniform before and after your performance portion of the concert.
- It is appropriate to applaud when the conductor enters the stage and after each piece has finished (the conductor will indicate when a piece is over).
- Clap when it is appropriate and clap appropriately.

- Yelling, whistling, and other overly enthusiastic noise-making, while appropriate at a rock concert, marching band contest, or even a jazz concert, is **not appropriate** for a Concert Band or Orchestral concert. If it is really outstanding, you should stand up and clap.
- Take all unhappy and crying young siblings out to the foyer until calm. This is a great courtesy to others and will help us make better recordings.

STAGE ETIQUETTE

As a performer, there are some specific things expected while on stage to perform correctly:

- Do not talk while anywhere on the stage (they can see you).
- It is inappropriate to acknowledge anyone in the audience at any time.
- While filing into your rows, remain standing until the director has your row sit.
- Adjust your setup (chair, stand, spacing) so it is exactly like our band hall at home.
- After each piece, remain sitting tall in ready position while you accept the audiences' applause. Reach for your music only after the applause has ended.
- Remain in ready position at all times unless the director says otherwise.
- When standing for applause, turn and face the audience holding your instrument and stand tall and still.

II. Rehearsal

REHEARSAL GRADES

The average of daily rehearsal grades counts as 50% of each six weeks average. Every student will rehearse during every class unless he/she brings a note from a doctor describing a medical condition which would prevent his/her participation. If you are well enough to be at school then you are well enough to participate. After school rehearsals/Sectionals are Rehearsal Grades but are weighted twice given the rarity and importance of these rehearsals.

Students will receive full credit (100 points) for rehearsal when they:

1. Have their materials present and in working order for every rehearsal:
 - a. Instrument
 - b. Mouthpiece, several good reeds, or appropriate sticks/mallets
 - c. Band Binder w/ all music and organized
 - d. Pencil (no pens)
 - e. Tuner w/clip (for all students)
2. Follow entry & exit procedures outlined in Rehearsal Expectations
3. Actively Participate in the rehearsal process by following the etiquette outlined below in Rehearsal Expectations. Lack of attentiveness, talking, or disruptions will adversely effect your rehearsal grade.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

A. At The Beginning of Rehearsal

1. Enter the band hall quietly. You will be asked to exit and reenter if you are not quiet.
2. Deposit your backpack in the designated area (shelves in the entry). Backpacks, purses, or other bags are not allowed in the rehearsal space.
3. Spit out gum or anything in your mouth into the trash can by the music slots. No food or drink is allowed into the band hall.
4. Grab your band binder in one hand, music stand in the other hand and take them to your assigned seat.
5. Get your instrument out of your locker. Only flute, oboe, and clarinet cases are allowed to be at your seat; all other cases must be put back in your locker until the end of class. Bring anything you might need to play out of your case: tuner & clip, valve oil, trombone water bottle, reeds, etc.
 - a. Percussion only: Set up your stand first, instrument next, then assist your sectionmates with instruments and stands. Setting up the percussion section is a team effort. Please have all implements you will need with you (keep your stick bag with you and do not share). When setting up percussion equipment, a maximum of 2 percussionists are allowed in the percussion room. All others remain at the door to distribute the equipment to setup positions.
6. Be seated, remain quiet and do not play until you are instructed to do so.
7. Organize your music according to the agenda posted on the whiteboard and get your pencil out.
8. All noise and movement should come to a halt after the tardy bell. Anyone not in their seat (or in front of their instrument for percussion) by the end of the tardy bell will be considered tardy for that rehearsal (please see tardy policy on page 13 for consequences).
9. Students will have exactly one minute past the bell to organize & adjust your stand, assemble your tuner and clip, and check your instrument so it is ready to play.
10. Have everything you need to be successful during rehearsal with you at your seat when the tardy bell rings. You are not allowed to leave your seat or playing area during rehearsal without permission from a director.

B. During Rehearsal (ETIQUETTE)

The quality of work that a performing ensemble achieves in its rehearsal is the single most important factor in the overall success of the group. Efficient rehearsals produce superior bands. Here are expectations for rehearsal that will contribute to efficient and effective learning:

1. Have a **POSITIVE ATTITUDE**. This will go a long way in helping the band reach its potential. Always enter the band hall with a purpose of accomplishing a musical goal. Leave other problems outside of the band hall and focus on the rehearsal at hand.
2. Have the **RIGHT EQUIPMENT**. This will make the rehearsal go smoother. Have a pencil on your music stand at all times. Marking music will help you remember important information about the piece being prepared. This will be beneficial to you in performance and home practice. Be prepared by having all equipment in proper working condition. This includes reeds, mouthpieces, tuning slides, water bottle, valve oil, etc.
3. Be **ON TIME**. Always give yourself enough time to get your instrument and music, put your case away, get to your seat and be in playing position. When in a rush, your focus and concentration are the first things that suffer. This is why the entry procedures are so important to our rehearsal success.
4. Always **CHECK THE BOARD** for daily announcements and the rehearsal agenda.

5. Establish and maintain correct **POSTURE** and **HAND POSITION**. Every band member should know the importance of good habits in posture and hand position. Be responsible for maintaining a high level of professionalism in playing your instrument.
6. **SELF-DISCIPLINE**. There is no such thing as group discipline. A disciplined group occurs when all the individuals in it are self-disciplined at the same time! Rehearsals run smoother when the classroom atmosphere is at a superior focus level. Students can make a big difference in the direction of a rehearsal by following these etiquette guidelines:
 - a. No talking during rehearsal. This includes talking about the music and talking to yourself (use your inner monologue!).
 - b. Eyes on the director throughout the rehearsal. Non-verbal communication can be just as distracting.
 - c. Pick up your pencil and be ready to mark your music every time we stop. Do not wait for the director to say, "Please mark that."
 - d. Raise your hand **HIGH and STRAIGHT UP** if you have a question. Speak up so that the entire ensemble can hear your question...chances are it will affect them as well.
 - e. Be patient with others and listen to progress taking place.
 - f. Listen to other sections and the instruction occurring if your section is not the current focus. 99% of the time, you can apply what the other section is working on to your own playing or your music.
 - g. Always answer a question with a "yes or no sir" or "yes or no ma'am".
 - h. Concentrate. Be ready to move quickly and quietly between tasks.
7. **RESPECT**. When a large group of people work closely together on a daily basis, it is important to have respect for each other and the director in and out of rehearsal. Please be sensitive to the feelings of others in the group. Be polite and treat others as you would want to be treated. This is especially important during playing tests.

C. At The End of Rehearsal

The director's responsibility is to give you at least 2 minutes at the end of each period to follow the below procedures. On the rare occasion that does not happen, we ask your help in moving as quickly as possible.

1. Instrument First: Woodwinds – swab out your instrument, disassemble carefully, and put it in its case in your locker. Do not rush as you could jam your swab or unknowingly bend a key when disassembling your instrument or closing your case.
 Brass – empty your instrument of water, disassemble carefully, and put it in its case in your locker.
 Percussion – replace any covers and put your instruments away in their designated areas.
Everyone helps with all instruments, not just your own. Remember, only 2 people in the percussion room at a time.
2. Leave the band hall in a respectful manner. The shelves are not your locker.
3. As you leave, any questions for the directors can be addressed then. This will allow us time to solve the problem and also make sure that you are not late to your next class.

III. Practice

PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS

Success in the playing of a musical instrument is determined by the amount and quality of daily practice. Students are expected to practice daily outside of class and private lessons.

1. Practice records will be due and graded every Monday.
2. Practice records must remain in the rear view window of each student's band binder.
3. Students should fill out the minutes and information each night they practice to keep the most accurate record possible. DO NOT ROUND.
4. Parents must review and sign it the night before it is due. Please take a minute to review it so that the proper time is being spent for your child to progress in their playing. Strive to not treat it as a simple "permission slip" to simply sign off on, but think of it as an English paper to review.
Practice records without a full signature will not be accepted.
5. Practice records are due on Wednesday of school every week regardless of whether the student has band class that day.
6. Per district policy, practice records will be accepted one day late for a 15 point deduction, 2 days late for a 30 point deduction. Practice records turned in thereafter will not be accepted unless the student was absent.
7. In case of a lost practice record, there is a printable generic practice record on our website. Use of the online practice record must be limited to emergencies and must be dated correctly; **practice records with no dates will not be accepted.** The directors have the right to refuse the overuse of the online practice record, as every student receives a personalized practice record in their music slot every week.

Practice Records are due every Monday.

PRACTICE GRADES

The average of the weekly practice record grades counts as 50% of the six week average. Students are to turn in a Practice Record on the first day of each week to the appropriate box in the entry. We use a unique grading scale for each band. Grading is as follows:

<u>HONOR BAND</u>	<u>SYMPHONIC BAND</u>	<u>CONCERT/BEGINNING BAND</u>
160+ minutes per week = 110	140+ minutes per week = 110	120+ minutes per week = 110
140-159 minutes = 100	120-139 minutes = 100	100-119 minutes = 100
120-139 minutes = 90	100-119 minutes = 90	80-99 minutes = 90
100-119 minutes = 80	80-99 minutes = 80	60-79 minutes = 80
80-99 minutes = 70	60-79 minutes = 70	40-59 minutes = 70
Less than 80 minutes = 60	Less than 60 minutes = 60	Less than 40 minutes = 60
No parent signature = 0	No parent signature = 0	No parent signature = 0

IV. Extra Credit

Students may receive extra credit for participating in activities that are not required in the above three categories. These activities include:

- Attending or participating in a non-Hughes concert (15 pts.)
 - Includes marching band contests or DCI events
- Watching the HS band at half time (15 pts.)

Extra credit points are added in the Practice category at the end of each six weeks. **To receive extra credit, staple your ticket stub, program or note signed by a parent to a practice record that you turn in. Make sure your name is legible.** The extra credit will be applied at the end of the 6 weeks it was turned in.

UIL ELIGIBILITY RULES

(NO PASS/NO PLAY)

A student who receives, at the end of any six weeks grading period, a **grade below 70** in any class may not participate in **extracurricular** activities for at least three school weeks. Per BISD policy, **Pre-AP classes** require a grade below a 60 to become ineligible. Competitions (ex: Solo & Ensemble, All-District, All-Region, Pre-UIL, UIL) that have an entry fee or concerts that charge admission (such as the Percussion Concert) are activities that are considered extracurricular and therefore subject to UIL rules. UIL also considers performances at football games and pep rallies to also be extracurricular, and therefore ineligible students cannot attend.

However, an ineligible student may still practice or rehearse. Rehearsals, even outside of the school day, are considered **cocurricular and non-competitive**. Concerts (Fall, Winter, and Spring) are cocurricular and so ineligible students are required to attend as they are part of our stated curriculum and TEKS.

The student who becomes ineligible for competition, regains their eligibility after the seven calendar-day waiting period has ended following the three weeks progress report showing that the student has earned a passing grade (70 or above, 60 or above in Pre-AP) in **ALL** classes (not just the one they failed last six weeks). In other words, a student can only lose eligibility at the end of the each 6 weeks grading period, but can regain eligibility every 3 weeks progress report. Also understand that the loss of (or regaining of) eligibility always goes into effect after a one week waiting period from the end of the grading period in question. Semester averages and exams do NOT affect eligibility.

Unfortunately, there is no flexibility in the interpretation of UIL eligibility rules as it is a Texas state law. Your goal should be to take care of your homework and ask help from your teachers if you are experiencing difficulty within a class. This will enable you to not have to worry about the ins and outs of the UIL rules described above. To help, each of the end of 6 weeks dates are on our band calendar.

CITIZENSHIP & CONSEQUENCES

We have seven basic guidelines to be observed at all times. To have efficient and productive rehearsals, it's important for you to always act your best.

- No classroom disruptions (i.e. getting out of seat, talking, passing notes, working on other class work, etc.). Anything that distracts others, including the director, may be considered a disruption.
- Respect others and their belongings (don't play others' instruments).
- No yelling, running, or horseplay.
- No food, drinks, gum or candy.
- Bring your instrument, music, band supplies and planner to every class. Only these things are allowed at your seat.
- Be in your seat ready to play when class starts.
- Pencil, pencil, pencil, pencil, pencil!!!

This code of conduct is in effect at all band activities on and off campus.

Daily Consequences

If a student chooses to break the code of conduct during rehearsal, they will be issued a warning.

- *1st offense: Verbal warning*
- *2nd offense: Parent Contact*
- *3rd offense: Parent Conference*
- *4th offense: Band Hall Detention*
- *5th offense: Office referral*
- *6th offense: Parent conference, possible change of band due to behavior*

Tardy Policy

Students are expected to be prompt to class inside the band hall door before the TARDY BELL RINGS (please see Entry Procedures). Students who are not in their seat when the tardy bell rings will be counted tardy. We will generally give students up to a minute in their seats to finish "setting up" their space to be ready for rehearsal, but students must be in the band hall when the tardy bell rings, then have 60 seconds to be seated with instrument and supplies ready to start class.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS

Attendance at every sectional is crucial for the individual and section’s progress. Therefore, an unexcused absence to a sectional will adversely affect your grade (weighted twice), jeopardize your chair in the ensemble, and leave you behind in the music and on playing tests we do in sectionals. Please try to schedule doctor or other appointments on days other than your sectional day as there is simply no way to make up the section rehearsal.

Though there are only a few direct conflicts, when they occur the Hughes Band and Athletics programs will work together to ensure that our students involved in both can prioritize which practice to attend and when. Ultimately, it is up to the directors and coaches to make that decision, as timing and importance to both programs have to be weighed. Parents and students must help communicate unforeseen athletics conflicts in advance as much as possible. Just the same as the coaches, we do not excuse for outside of school athletic events.

Morning sectionals begin promptly at **7:15 am and end at 8:00 am**. All students attending *must* enter through the back band hall doors and enter at 7:10am.

See below for sectional requirements by band:

Honor Band

All-Region Sectionals in the fall
UIL Sectionals Jan-Apr

Symphonic Band

All-Region Sectionals in the fall
UIL Sectionals in the spring

Concert Band

After School Full Band
Rehearsals prior to performances (required)

All-Region Sectionals

As mentioned in the ensemble expectations, all Honor Band and Symphonic Band students are required to attend sectionals each week during the fall semester. All other band students are encouraged to attend these sectionals if they aspire to audition for All-District or All-Region auditions. The fall semester sectionals will cover the All-Region music and scales.

FALL SECTIONALS ARE CURRENTLY ON HOLD.

UIL Sectionals

During the spring semester, all students in Honor and Symphonic Band are required to attend sectionals and any full band rehearsals in preparation for their UIL contest music. Spring section rehearsals will begin the first Monday of January and end after UIL in April.

INSTRUMENT & MUSIC STORAGE

Students will be assigned an instrument storage locker and music slot. Your instrument should never stay overnight in the band hall. It is imperative that both your instrument and music binder be clearly labeled with your name. When storing these items, please remember that only band students are welcome in the band hall. Do not bring non-band friends in or even through the band hall.

ALL INSTRUMENT CASES AND MUSIC MUST BE CLEARLY LABELED WITH THE STUDENT'S NAME ON THE OUTSIDE WITH A LUGGAGE TAG.

We recommend that all instruments have some form of insurance coverage. Both School-owned when checked out, and personal instruments, are not insured by Hughes Middle School or the Burleson Independent School District. The Music Agency offers affordable instrument-specific insurance for just this purpose. Record all instrument make, model and serial numbers at home and with the directors for identification.

BEFORE SCHOOL

- Proceed to the band hall with your instrument prior to going to the cafeteria or 1st period class.
- You may enter the band hall **only after the 7:45am bell rings unless attending a sectional.**
- Put your music binder away in your assigned slot. You may only store your music here.
- Put your instrument away in your assigned locker. You may only store your instrument here.
- Only those students involved in morning sectionals or private lessons may enter the band hall before this time. You must enter through the back band hall doors, not the hallway doors.

AFTER SCHOOL

- You have until 4:00pm to visit the band hall to pick up your instrument and music. Please be prompt.
- Please stay with your instrument and do not let other students touch or carry it.
- All instruments need to go home every day (except tuba and bari sax) even if you will not be in town for the weekend. This is a security measure.
- We check instrument slots every Friday afternoon and will not except practice records from students who leave their instrument at school.
- Please be courteous of meetings and private lessons that occur in the band hall after school.

INSTRUMENT REPAIR & MAINTENANCE

You are expected to maintain your instrument in top playing condition. However, you and your parents are urged not to attempt repairs on your own. Before taking an instrument to a shop, have the director check to see if repairs are necessary. In many cases, Mrs. Bonebrake or Mr. Myles may be able to make the repairs. If it is decided that an instrument does need repairs from a professional shop, you have two choices: you may take it to a repair shop yourself, or you can send it in by way of the directors. Either way, you are responsible for the cost of the repair. The school-owned instrument fee is used for maintenance and repair at the end of the year.

You must bring a note from your parents if your instrument is in the shop. Students should have a band director check their instrument PRIOR TO taking to the music store for repair. Often simple repairs can be done at school at no cost.

BAND BINDER SETUP

All Hughes band students will receive a **black 1.5 " clear view 3-ring binder**. The binder will have five dividers and a pencil bag. Students are expected to keep their binders clean and organized all year. The binder should be set up as follows:

Front View Pocket: Hughes Band personal cover page

Inside Pocket: Most Recent Handout to go home to parents, Stand Sign

In Binder Rings:

- Table of Contents
- Band Calendar

Behind Dividers:

1. Daily Drill
Rhythm Ex/Chorales
2. Pep Tunes
Band Music (Hon, Sym, or Con)
3. Handouts & Theory
4. Private Lessons, Etudes, Solos
5. Handbook
Old Practice Records

Back Pocket: Nothing 😊

STEP-UP INSTRUMENTS

Many students decide that band is more than just a hobby or elective and would like to advance their talent. One of the most significant changes you can make is the decision to purchase a step-up instrument. **Each year we have students that outgrow their beginner instruments and mouthpieces** (which are designed for small 6th graders). In most cases, students reach a point where their beginner instrument is actually holding back their progress as a musician. It is then time to consider purchasing a step-up instrument.

Directors make careful decisions when recommending step-up instrument models. We try to find the most accessible instrument to all students. When all students have the same step-up instrument model and mouthpiece, it is much easier to tune and match tone quality. It is also our intent to try to aid you in finding that final instrument purchase that will carry the student throughout their band experience while maintaining its resale value. We do recommend, if possible, keeping the beginning instrument for the high school marching band. *Never* take a professional model instrument out in the elements!

Prices vary everywhere you shop. It is a good idea to purchase a new instrument from a known, reputable dealer that offers purchase options, maintenance plans and warranties. Use caution when shopping through newspaper ads, pawn shops and the internet. In addition, some of the "super stores" have begun to carry instruments as well. These are typically low level beginner instruments that most repair shops cannot find parts for and will not repair.

The following recommendations are good choices for upgrades:

Flute

1. Yamaha YFL 674H
2. Yamaha YFL 481H

Alto Sax

1. Selmer Super Action 80
2. Yamaha 62II

Clarinet

1. Buffet R13
2. Buffet Festival

Trumpet

1. Bach Stradivarius 37
2. Yamaha Xeno

Trombone

1. Eastman by Shires
2. Bach 42BO
3. Shires Pro Select PSAG47W (or PSAY47W)

Please note that some instruments will require a new mouthpiece purchase as well.

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Bonebrake or Mr. Myles for more assistance in this major decision.

PERFORMANCE & TRIP PROCEDURES

Where applicable, students will ride the bus to events. The district policy is to take buses to all events outside of BISD (All-Region Auditions, UIL, etc). We will also take buses to group performances within BISD. Students must provide their own ride to individual competitions within BISD (Mass Band Night, All-District Auditions & Concert, Solo & Ensemble, etc.). Students and parents sign a transportation release form at Band Registration that covers all band events for the year.

The following are our **Hughes Band Bus policies**. They are designed to ensure safe and efficient travel:

- To allow the adults and drivers to communicate, talking is not permitted when boarding the bus or while in parking lots.
- Talking is permitted while we are rolling but it must stay at an “inside voice” level (hence no singing or shouting).
- Students must get instantly quiet when an adult addresses them at any time on the trip.
- Sitting or lying down in the aisle is strictly prohibited! You must sit in a seat.
- All music must be played through headphones and not be audible by those next to you.
- Cell phone use is permitted only when we are rolling as long as an adult is not addressing the bus. If an adult addresses the bus, you must hang up immediately...you can call them right back.

If parents wish to take their student with them after any event, you must use the following procedure:

- A. The directors must have a note before the event from the parents noting that the student will not be riding the bus back to Hughes.
- B. The student and parent must check-out with a Hughes director or trip chaperone before leaving. This is for the student’s safety.

In all cases, the directors will publish an approximate ending time for each event. Your student’s directors want to go home to their families and should not have to wait for parents to pick up their student from band events. **Please be courteous and be on time.** Do not depend on having your student call upon our return or when they are ready to go home. **The Burleson ISD Police will be called in the case of a student left after a band event for an unreasonable amount of time.**

BAND PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

The visual impression we make at a performance is very important. It is imperative for all students to look and act their best. We have two looks: formal performance attire and casual performance attire.

FORMAL PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

- Black long sleeved button up shirt *NEW to 2021-2011 (purchase through school)
- White undershirt
- Black dress pants (plain black; no pinstripes or other designs)
- Black closed toe dress shoes (solid black, no designs or additional colors)
- Black LONG dress socks or nylons
- Black Belt

Replacement for lost uniform pieces is the responsibility of the student. Students will remain in their formal concert uniform until the conclusion of the entire concert.

CASUAL PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

- Hughes Band shirt
- Blue jeans (not shorts)
- Athletic shoes with socks (no flip flops/sandals/Crocs)

Those students not dressed accordingly will be excluded from performing and receive the penalties for non-performance (this includes not going on the band trip).

Parents, we would also like to mention that you may purchase t-shirts for yourselves as well. It's always wonderful to see parents supporting us in this way. When we have an outing, it helps our students to find you when needed and at contests, it shows you for the superb band parents you are.

EVENT DETAILS

Prior to each event we will give each student a handout detailing specific information. Please be on the lookout for these handouts about a week before every event.

HIGH SCHOOL MASS BAND NIGHT

Typically each year we join the Burluson High School band for a football game. This is a great opportunity for middle school students to get a taste of what high school band is really like. They play with the band in the stands, socialize with band members, and then enjoy watching the halftime show! Due to the uncertainty of the Fall semester, we will be unable to offer this opportunity this semester.

ALL-DISTRICT BAND

Our students also have the opportunity to audition for the BISD All-District Band. This is required for Honor Band students and encouraged for all other 8th graders and open to all second year band students. Students who are accepted into the band will get to learn fun new music and play in a concert with other successful band students from the entire region. This year, the audition will be an audio recording instead of live audition.

ALL-REGION BAND

Our students also have the opportunity to audition for the TMEA Region 30 All-Region Band. This is required for Honor Band students and encouraged for all other 8th graders, and open to all second year band students. Students who are accepted into the band will get to learn fun new music and play in a concert with other successful band students from the entire region. This year, the audition will be an audio recording instead of live audition.

WINTER CONCERT

Our Winter Concert will allow us to highlight each of the bands playing a bit more serious concert literature along with a few holiday favorites.

SOLO/ENSEMBLE

All students are required to perform a solo with live or recorded piano accompaniment at the BISD Solo/Ensemble contest typically held on the first Saturday of February. Directors and/or private lesson teachers will assist students in choosing a solo to play. The entry fee for the contest is covered by BISD!

PRE-UIL

This event will give the bands a chance to practice for the UIL Concert/Sightreading Contest. Pre-UIL typically occurs the last week of March or the first week of April.

UIL CONCERT/SIGHTREADING CONTEST

UIL is the governing body for all interscholastic competition in the state of Texas. The music division hosts our Region Concert & Sightreading contest each spring. This contest serves as our yearly snapshot of the progress of our program and serves as fine art's closest analogy of assessment to the STAAR test. Each band will perform three contest selections and stage and then learn and perform a piece they have never seen before. **UIL is by far the most important performance of the year for each band participating.**

BAND BOOSTERS/FUNDRAISERS

BISD is very generous in supporting the band programs in our district. However, as in all quickly growing districts, it is simply not possible for the district to fund all of the enrichment activities that we feel are a vital part of your child's musical education. For this reason, the Hughes Band participates in fundraising activities with our Band Booster Organization. Some activities supported by our fundraisers are registration fees and transportation costs for non-UIL events, private lesson scholarships, clinicians, equipment and many other activities.

On average, the cost of each child participating in all band activities is approximately \$150-\$200 per year. In order for all our students to get the full band experience without being a financial burden, we ask that as many parents and students as possible participate in the band fundraiser. We do not maintain individual student accounts. All raised funds will benefit the band as a whole. We understand that not all parents wish for their children to participate in fundraisers and the Hughes Band respects that decision. Please keep in mind, however, the cost of each child's participation in our program and support the band in any way you feel possible.

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL BAND PROGRAM

Students:

1. Always conduct yourself in a manner that brings credit to you, your family, your community, and your school. You should be a positive reflection of Hughes Middle School.
2. Be loyal, honest, courteous and sportsmanlike in all dealings with your band directors, fellow band members, chaperones, academic teachers and the competition. Adult volunteers are available to assist you. They should receive your complete cooperation and respect. Always watch, listen and cooperate with adult and student leaders during band functions.
3. Be consistent and prompt to all rehearsals and be ready to put forth committed effort to accomplish excellence. Be at the right place, at the right time for all band activities with the right equipment, attire and attitude. "To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late. To be late is unacceptable."
4. Special care should be taken to see that all personal and school property is properly maintained. Place identification tags on all items. NEVER leave your instrument unattended. No one shall play, hold, or otherwise operate or handle another person's instrument.
5. Practice sufficiently to be prepared to rehearse and perform at the highest level according to your capabilities. Be prepared with all necessary materials every time you come to band.
6. The primary use of the band hall is for rehearsals. Never do anything that would interrupt a rehearsal. Practice rooms are for practicing only.
7. Only band students are allowed in the band hall.
8. Students are responsible for keeping their individual lockers clean and neat. Only instruments are allowed in the instrument cages. Everyone will assist with keeping the band hall clean and neat as well. Cleaning is everyone's responsibility!
9. Students are expected to practice daily outside of band class and private lessons.
10. **Students need to bring to their parents' attention all correspondence that is sent home. Any correspondence that requires a parent signature is to be returned to the band directors promptly.**

Parents:

1. Show an interest in your student's study of music.
2. Find a regular time and a quiet place for your student to practice.
3. Keep your student's instrument in proper working order. See that they have good reeds, valve oil, or other instrument supplies as needed. It is suggested that all personal instruments have some form of insurance coverage. Personal instruments are not insured by Hughes Middle School or BISD. Record serial numbers for home records and identification. Independent insurance information is available from your student's director.
4. Help your student keep an accurate practice record each week and then sign it.
5. Help your student understand the importance of being prepared and on time for class.
6. Give the gift of private lessons to your student.
7. Keep a schedule of band activities in a prominent place to help avoid conflicts.
8. Ask your student to play for you. With regular practice, you should see a difference.
9. See that your student takes his/her instrument and music to school and home again.
10. Volunteer time for your student's band program. Parental involvement is a key to student success.
11. See that your student keeps up with all their academic studies and makes up work missed while absent.
12. Attend your student's performances.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Communication is essential for the success of our band program. If you have a question or concern about the program, there are multiple ways to seek help. First of all, ask your student if they received any pertinent documents that they were supposed to pass on to you. The directors will periodically send out email as deadlines and events approach. Please make sure that we have your current email address.

Hughes Band Hall (817) 245-0600

Stephanie Bonebrake Stephanie.Bonebrake@bisdmail.net

Byron Myles Byron.Myles@bisdmail.net

Jack Baker Jack.Baker@bisdmail.net