

Cindy Doty, Principal



2008-2009  
Student Handbook

# ***McNeil High School Band***

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The Instrumental Music Code has been written to help students gain the most from their band experience as well as provide guidance to the practical everyday experiences of the band program.

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To create an organization that strives to perform at a quality level, while maintaining unity and fun through common goals. Also, to develop proficient musicians who will have a life long appreciation and/or participation in music.

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## ***I. Mental and physical discipline***

- A. Develop powers of concentration
- B. Memorize music
- C. Learn techniques of preparation as they relate to group and individual performances
- D. Develop self and group discipline

## ***II. Citizenship through group endeavor***

- A. Develop leadership abilities
- B. Develop responsibility
- C. Develop ability to cooperate with others and to work as a team member
- D. Develop diligence

## ***III. Physical conditioning***

- A. Develop strength, stamina, and endurance
- B. Develop coordination

## ***IV. Cultural growth***

Provide opportunities to attain knowledge of music history through performance of various types of instrumental literature.

## ***V. Value Judgments***

Ability to make musical value (as they pertain to a musical setting) judgments through critical listening. The student will recognize quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation.

**VI. Music theory**

- A. Know and use note values and rest
- B. Know and use keys, key signatures, and scales
- C. Know and use musical terms, signs, and symbols
- D. Recognize and tune intervals and harmony
- E. Ear training / listening skills

**VII. Proper instrumental technique**

- A. Care of the instrument
- B. Assume correct posture and playing position
- C. Develop the embouchure / stick grip / hand position
- D. Develop characteristic instrumental tone
- E. Develop proper breathing techniques
- F. Develop technical instrumental proficiency (fingering, articulation, rudiments, scales, etc.)

**VIII. Creative self-expression**

- A. Express oneself in every performance experience
- B. Explore careers

***In addition to the State of Texas guidelines, the McNeil High School Band will strive to:***

- 1. Provide any interested student with opportunities for musical knowledge, musical fellowship, and fun through participation in band.
- 2. Provide for the mental, physical, social, and emotional development of students.
- 3. Instill pride and discipline in each student.
- 4. Provide each student with solo and group endeavors to achieve personal goals and satisfaction.
- 5. Provide basic psychological needs such as recognition, belonging, self-respect, and a feeling of achievement.

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Band Members will observe all policies set forth by the Round Rock Independent School District, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

- 1. All students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times. Display of profanity, temper, flagrant violation of rules, etc., will not be tolerated. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection of the group.
- 2. Students will address all directors/staff by their deserved titles.
- 3. Students will follow director's instructions.
- 4. Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area ready to work at the set rehearsal time.
- 5. Students will bring all equipment including music, pencil, instrument, and all supplies to rehearsals daily. (See detailed supply list for each instrument.)
- 6. Students will keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.
- 7. Students will maintain a high level of good and acceptable behavior.

8. Students will bring no food, drinks, candy or gum in the Band Hall area without permission from a band director.
9. Students will not play on equipment they do not own or have permission from a director to use. Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
10. Students should ask for permission to speak by raising your hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that our time will be utilized wisely.
11. When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.
12. Students will respect the property of others, and return their equipment to its proper storage place when not in use. Each student is responsible for keeping their storage area clean.
13. Students will not enter the directors' offices without permission.
14. Students will not deface, damage or mark on music stands, walls, freshmen, etc.
15. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area , and keep said storage area clean and neat in appearance. Students who demonstrate great difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band hall.
16. Students will utilize their assigned storage slot / locker for instrument cases during rehearsals. Cases should not be brought into rehearsals unless requested by a director.
17. Any behavior, which is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the band program. This especially applies to the actions of student leaders in both public and private events.

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- A. All issued music (including Fundamentals)
  - B. Pencil
  - C. Instrument
  - D. All supplies relative to their instrument.
  - E. All marching related equipment (during marching season):
    1. Drill / chart book
    2. Lyre / folder
    3. All issued music
    4. Other marching equipment as needed.
  - F. Metronome (for home use)

### **Flutes**

- \* Tuning and cleaning rods
- \* Cleaning cloth
- \* Key oil
- \* Approved type instrument
- \* Screwdriver Set

### **Clarinets**

- \* Three good playable reeds. Vandoren V-12 is the approved reed.
- \* Reed guard
- \* Ligature

- \* Proper mouthpiece with cap
- \* Key oil (Case Storage)
- \* Bore oil (Home Storage)
- \* Cleaning swab
- \* Approved type instrument
- \* Cork grease

**Saxes / Low Reeds as applicable**

- \* Three good playable reeds. Vandoren V-16 is the approved reed.
- \* Reed guard
- \* Ligature
- \* Proper mouthpiece (Selmer C star)
- \* Pad and neck saver
- \* Approved type instrument

**Trumpet**

- \* Valve oil (Al Cass or Blue Juice)
- \* Polishing cloth
- \* Mouthpiece
- \* Approved type instrument
- \* Buzz-aid

**French Horn**

- \* Rotary / Valve oil (Al Cass/Blue Juice - Marching Horn)(Holton Rotary - Concert Horn)
- \* Polishing cloth
- \* Approved mouthpiece (Holton Farkas)
- \* Approved type instrument
- \* Buzz-aid

**Trombone**

- \* Slide cream
- \* Polishing Cloth
- \* Mouthpiece
- \* Approved type instrument
- \* Buzz-aid

**Baritone / Euphonium**

- \* Valve oil (Al Cass or Blue Juice)
- \* Mouthpiece (Schilke 51D)
- \* Polishing cloth
- \* Approved type instrument
- \* Buzz-aid

## Tuba

- \* Rotary / Valve Oil (Al Cass or Blue Juice -Valves / Holton - Rotors)
- \* Mouthpiece (Bach 24 AW / Miraphone Rose Model)
- \* Polishing cloth
- \* Approved type instrument
- \* Buzz-aid

## Percussion

- \* Snare - Vic Firth SD1 General (or Nick Patrella models by Cooperman (med. Weight)
- \* Xylophone mallets – Vic Firth M134
- \* Vibes / Marimba mallet – Vic Firth M183 (harder), M181 (softer)
- \* Timpani mallets – Vic Firth T3 Staccato or GEN 6
- \* Marching sticks – Vic Firth Ralph Hardiman
- \* Stick bag
- \* List of approved equipment provided by the percussion instructor.

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The Round Rock Independent School District will provide a limited number of instruments for student use. These instruments include such highly expensive instruments as the Bassoon, Oboe, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba, and general Percussion equipment. This equipment is generally purchased by the school district for student use because of its extremely high value. **Thus, all school owned equipment must be handled with optimum care.** Students failing to care for, or take care of their school issued instrument will lose the privilege to use such instruments. The following is a list of general procedures for school owned instruments:

1. Round Rock Independent School District does not provide insurance for individually or school owned equipment. All students utilizing school owned instruments should provide insurance coverage for the said instrument. ***Students will be held responsible for school owned instruments issued to them. This responsibility will include fire, theft, accidental damage, abuse and general maintenance needed not caused by normal use.***
2. Students and parents must sign an instrument check-out form before the instrument can be used by the student.
3. Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition. Students are expected to maintain their issued instruments accordingly.
4. The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him or her.
5. All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.
6. The Round Rock I.S.D. will assess a fee for rental of school district owned instruments. This will be \$50.00.

## Special Note

School owned instruments are not to be treated as "free" instruments. Basic supplies must still be purchased and repairs must still be made just like personally owned instruments. Please strive to treat these instruments as if they were your own. Most school owned instruments exceed a \$2,000.00 value. ***Since the expense of purchasing, leasing or renting is deterred, students***

***using school owned instruments are strongly encouraged to participate in the private lesson program.***

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The band will frequently travel on both school and commercial busses. Student conduct is expected to be at the highest level on any trip.

1. Students must travel to events and return from events on the bus. Any student wishing to arrive or leave with his / her parent, must notify a director in writing prior to the event. A decision will be rendered based on the circumstances provided.
2. Students must have all necessary forms completed and returned to travel on any trip with the band.
3. While on the bus students will:
  - A. Remain seated at all times
  - B. Sit properly in a forward position
  - C. Keep the bus clear of food, drinks, and debris
  - D. Keep all body parts inside the bus
  - E. Use only approved type / headset radios
  - F. Remain silent when an adult is addressing the bus
  - G. Refrain from loud, boisterous talking, screaming, whistling, etc.
  - H. Refrain from intense public displays of affection.

**Special Note:**

Students are reminded that all performances / concerts start and conclude at the band hall. As a member of the band, you are a representative of your school. Always be on your best behavior. If you are in doubt about an action, DO NOT DO IT ! Your conduct must be such that at no time could it be considered a bad reflection on the school, the band, your home, yourself or the community.

**Chaperones**

Adult chaperones are a great asset for the band program. Proper respect will be shown to all adults associated with the band program at all times.

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The McNeil High School Marching Band is the most visible organization of the instrumental music program. All band students in grades 9-12 will participate in the Marching Band. Students who participate in certain school sponsored varsity level events such as cheerleading, drill team, or football, etc. may be excused from participation at the discretion of the band director. Please note different solutions will be presented for varying situations. Students may also be excused from participation in the marching band for other reasons such as medical complications or physical disabilities. Such exemptions will be at the discretion of the directors.

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Full Band 4:30 - 6:30 P.M.

Full Band 7:00 - 8:30 A.M.

Full Band 7:00 - 8:30 A.M.

Full Band 7:00 - 8:30 A.M.

Decision based on contest schedules and football games. Check the calendar at charmsmusic.com

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### **Primary Marchers**

Students will earn a primary marching position through an audition. Those who earn a position in the marching band will carry the designation of primary marcher. A primary marcher is a student who:

1. Successfully completes the memorization requirement for music by the appropriate time.
2. Demonstrates high quality marching skills.
3. Is punctual in report times.
4. Is present at all rehearsals and performances.
5. Maintains academic eligibility.

### **Alternates/Non-Competitive Squad (NCS)**

Alternates are students who substitute with certain primary marchers or march in the designated NCS drill. Alternates will meet the same requirements of primary marchers, and they will be given various opportunities to march in both rehearsals and performances. The position of alternate will be utilized for those students who display difficulty in meeting the criteria of a primary marcher.

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### **Color Guard / Percussion – Captains**

Color guard and percussion captains will be selected through an interview and audition process. These positions will be utilized for specific needs as they pertain to the special needs of the color guard and percussion sections. ***The jurisdiction of the color guard and percussion captains is not confined to their sections. They are leaders for the entire band.***

### **Rank Leaders**

Rank leaders will be selected by an application process and chosen on the basis of past examples of behavior that the directors deem suitable for a leadership role. Rank leaders will be used in the instruction of marching skills as well as the general marching drill. Rank leaders will serve the marching season for which they are selected.

### **Drum Major(s)**

Drum major(s) will be selected through the drum major audition process. Drum majors will be used in the instruction of marching skills as well as the general marching drill. The drum major will be the field commander and conductor for the marching ensemble. Drum majors will be selected by an audition process that will involve teaching, quality marching skills, use of vocal commands and conducting skills. Drum majors will serve the marching season for which they are selected. In the event an underclassman is selected as drum major, he/she must reenter the selection process the next school year.

### **Special Note :**

Please see conduct expectation in all sections pertaining to general conduct of students as well as band leadership positions.

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In order to have and maintain a high quality marching band, attendance from all members is essential. The following guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the marching band.

### **Roll Check**

Roll check will be promptly at the start of rehearsal and in the attendance block.

### **Tardiness**

Students not in the attendance block at the appropriate time will be marked tardy.

### **Excused Tardiness**

Tardiness will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Tutorials, appointments, etc. will not be an excuse for tardiness unless prior arrangements are made and approved.

### **Unexcused Tardiness**

Students who have more than one unexcused tardy shall be subject to one of the following consequences:

1. Loss of spot as a primary marcher.
2. Loss of marching privilege (for one game) at a football game.
3. Students who are tardy will be subject to a reprimand at the discretion of the directors.

\* All consequences will be issued at the discretion of the band directors.

### **Absence**

A tardy will be converted to a mark of "absence" 20 minutes after the rehearsal begins. ***Any student with more than one absence in a week (excused or unexcused) will not perform at halftime of that week's game.***

### **Excused Absence**

Absences will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Appointments, tutorials etc. will not be an excuse for absence. Personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, and serious problems will be considered as an excused absence. Students who are continually ill, may need to provide a doctor's note releasing them for participation in order to insure the well being of the child and to reduce band director concerns. If in doubt, an absence should be checked with a director. Special note: \_\_\_\_\_

### Unexcused Absence

Students who have an unexcused absence will be subject to one of the following consequences:

1. Loss of spot as a primary marcher.
2. Loss of marching privilege for one game.
3. Loss of attendance privilege at one game.
4. Removal from the marching band and loss of physical education credit.
5. Making up double the missed rehearsal time within the next five (5) school days.

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The primary performances of the marching band will be at the football games. The marching band will also perform at various competitive marching festivals, the U.I.L. Marching Contest, as well as local and national parades.

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1. **Report Time** : this will be the designated time at which all members should be at the high school or set location. Students should have all attire and necessary items for the designated performance prior to the report time.
  2. **Load Time** : this will be the designated time at which all members should be on the appropriate bus with all equipment loaded. (ALL EQUIPMENT WILL BE CHECKED BY THE SECTION LEADERS. STUDENTS WITHOUT APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT WILL BE SENT HOME AND AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE RECORDED.)
  3. **Return Time** : this will be the time of return to the band hall.

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Music inspection will occur before all football games and marching band performances that will utilize music which is not part of the field / competition show. Students will be asked to display music, lyre (if appropriate), and flip folder. Students who do not pass music inspection will not be allowed to perform.

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Prior to student departure for a marching band performance, students must pass a uniform inspection. In order to board the bus, students must have complete uniform, music, flip folder, and other components for the marching performance.

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Students who play large instruments such as Percussion, Tuba, Euphonium, Trombone, French Horn, Trumpet, Sax, Low Reeds etc. shall be allowed to transport their instrument on the instrument truck. All others will transport their instruments in the bus. Students will be responsible for seeing that their instrument is in the proper location at the designated time stated by the loading crew captain. Students

will also be responsible to see that their instrument is picked up and stored correctly upon the unloading of the instrument truck. Students who display difficulty in following the loading and unloading procedures may lose the privilege of utilizing the instrument truck and be charged a maintenance fee.

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The loading crew captain will designate the appropriate area for all instruments. Students should insure that their instrument is in the proper place. Cases should be closed and secure. Instruments in the wrong area may be overlooked and not loaded.

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The loading crew captain will designate the unloading area. Students should uncase the instrument and leave cases in the appropriate area. Unloading should be done in a timely, efficient manner.

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The football game is viewed as a performance of the band program. Such performance includes all aspects of the game from arrival to departure.

1. Students will arrive at the set report time. Students will load and be prepared to travel at the set load time.
2. Students will load the buses with all equipment needed for the performance. The rank leaders will inspect all students boarding buses prior to departure. Students not meeting uniform, music, and loading guidelines will receive a reasonable punishment at the discretion of the directors.
3. Upon arrival at the performance area, students will don all uniform components and prepare equipment for unloading. Students will unload busses when instructed to do so by a chaperone or director.
4. Students will report to the entrance formation for final inspection. Students will march in to drum cadence upon instruction from a drum major or director.
5. Students will report to seating area. Students will remain standing until all band members have arrived and are prepared to be seated. Students will sit when instructed by a drum major or director. (Students will sit in assigned section. Students will remain in that section at all times.)
6. Students will remain in the band seating section at all times during the game. Drinks will be provided by the band parent organization. Students will refrain from accepting food or drinks from parents, relatives, or friends.
7. When the schedule permits, students will take their restroom break before the game; otherwise the directors will release students by class. When receiving a restroom break, students must proceed directly to the restroom and return quickly. Restroom breaks will not be granted in the second quarter of a football game.
8. Students will be given water after the half time performance. No other food or drinks are acceptable during the game.
9. Students will be expected to listen for and watch the directors and drum majors during the game. Students will need to be prepared to perform at all times.
10. Students will refrain from playing their instruments on an individual basis. The band will perform as a group or with approved small ensembles.
11. At the appropriate time, the band will be dismissed from the stands for the half-time performance. At this time, the band must move quickly, quietly, and efficiently to the appropriate

- area. Students will need to be focused on the directors and drum majors instructions.
12. At the conclusion of the half-time performance, students will return to the stands and continue in the stand performance throughout the remainder of the game.
  13. During the 3rd quarter, we will participate in the good sportsmanship procedures of officer meetings and introductions. The band president will create a schedule of which student leaders participate in this event.
  14. At the conclusion of the game, students will load busses quickly and efficiently.
  15. Upon return to the band hall, students will insure that all personal items, uniforms and instruments are placed in the proper storage areas.

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***Students are expected to follow the listed uniform guidelines. No variations will be allowed.***

### **GENERAL**

1. Band uniforms will be issued on “Everything Day” during summer band camp. Band uniforms will be stored at school in the uniform storage area.
2. Students will be held financially responsible for the uniform and its components.

### **ISSUE AND RETURN**

1. Students will pick up uniforms from the storage room by 5:00pm on game days. At this time the storage room will close.
2. Students should follow the posted pick up/return guidelines. Students who do not follow these guidelines will be sent to the end of the pick up / return line.
3. Students will be issued a uniform number. This number should be memorized or recorded in a readily accessible location. Students will use this number to pick up their uniform from the storage room.

### **DONNING THE UNIFORM**

1. Always wear and treat your uniform with pride. The uniform should be worn as a complete unit at all times when in public. The only exception to this will be when a director instructs you that you may remove your hat and/or coat. The band t-shirt is to be worn under your uniform. The band shirt will be part of pre-performance inspections.
2. You must wear approved black band shoes and black socks (student purchases).
3. Jewelry, hair ribbons, and bright colored nail polish etc. is unacceptable while in uniform. These items hinder the uniform appearance of the band.
4. Band students with long hair will need to put it up under their hat during performances.
5. Consumption of food and / or drinks while in uniform without permission is prohibited.

### **ALTERATIONS and CARE**

1. Never cut any material from the band uniform. Hem your pants so that the crease does not "break" when you are standing straight up with your band shoes on. The pant leg should come to the top of the band shoe.

2. Keep the collar hooked while hanging to retain the shape of the coat. Always hang the pants by the crease.
3. Label your uniform bag, and tape your name under your hat brim.

### **UNIFORM COSTS**

If a uniform part is damaged beyond repair or lost, the student will be responsible for the replacement costs.

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Students in the band program will be placed in a concert ensemble by audition. The concert ensembles will be:

Wind Ensemble  
Symphonic Band  
Concert Band  
Varsity Band

To be selected into the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, or Varsity Band students must:

1. Participate in the audition process.
2. Have successful participation in the marching band.

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Each of the concert ensembles will perform at various times throughout the school year. Students are expected to participate in the performances of their assigned ensemble. Failure to participate in either rehearsals or performances will definitely lower students' grades and will result in student removal from the organization at the discretion of the band directors. (See general attendance policies.) Performances of the concert ensembles will include but are not limited to the following:

- Holiday Concert
- Recital Night
- Spring Concert
- Band Festivals / Pre U.I.L. Contest
- U.I.L. Contest

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Concerts and performances are frequent with all bands. Students should consult their schedules for dates and times. Periodically, the schedule will change and updates will be sent home. Concerts are considered to have three parts: warm-up, performance, and listening. Punctuality is essential. A concert concludes when the last group performs and directors have given permission for students to be dismissed. A general report time will be given for all students.

1. All concerts are a group effort, thus, attendance is required.
2. All concerts are an extension of the classroom and will be graded accordingly.
3. Students should be punctual and prepared for each performance / concert.
4. In the event a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is

- responsible to make up all missed work!
5. The appropriate dress for all concerts will be a dress uniform. (See Uniforms.)
  6. Students are expected to stay the entire concert.

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In order to have and maintain high quality concert ensembles, attendance from all members is essential.

**Roll Check**

Roll check will be promptly at the start of rehearsal.

**Tardiness**

Students not seated at the appropriate time will receive a mark of tardy.

**Excused Tardiness**

Tardiness will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Tutorials, appointments, etc. will not be an excuse for tardiness unless prior arrangements are made and approved.

**Unexcused Tardiness**

Students who have more than one unexcused tardy shall make up missed time at a time to be arranged by the director.

**Absence**

Students not seated at the appropriate time or those not tardy will be marked absent.

**Excused Absence**

Absences will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Appointments, tutorials, etc. will not be an excuse for absence. Personal illness, death in the family, and serious problems will be considered excused absences. Students who are continually ill, may need to provide a doctor's note in order to insure the well being of the child and to reduce band director concerns. If in doubt, this should be checked with a director.

**Special Note**

**Unexcused Absence**

Students who have an unexcused absence will be expected to make missed time up at the discretion of the director. Also, a student may lose his/her position in the band for such absences.

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Students will have a weekly section rehearsal for the fundamentals of instrument technique, region music preparation, and solo and ensemble preparation. Section rehearsals will begin at the conclusion of the marching season. These are separate from all other rehearsals.

All students in the Wind Ensemble, and Symphonic and Concert bands will have a weekly section rehearsal. Students are expected to be punctual and prepared on a week by week basis. Absence from section rehearsals must be in accordance with the attendance policy. Students must make every effort to attend. Section rehearsals are an extension of the classroom and are graded accordingly.

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1. All Wind Ensemble students will audition for All - Region Band. Symphonic Band students will be expected to prepare at least portions of this music. Extra credit will be given to Symphonic and Concert Band students for auditioning. The student will prepare the music and then the directors will listen to the student and determine if the preparation is at a level high enough to audition and receive the extra credit.
2. All Symphonic and Concert Band students are strongly encouraged to audition.
3. Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band students will be graded on preparation for this event.
4. Any person who is fortunate to be selected will attend all rehearsals and the performance.

***It is quite an honor to be selected to the All Region Band. Hundreds of students throughout the region will audition. Even if you are not selected, the experience you receive by preparing will enhance your musical ability and education!***

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1. All Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band members will prepare and perform a solo. All Concert and Varsity Band members in the band program are strongly encouraged to participate as well.
2. Grades will be issued for Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band for preparation and participation in the Solo and Ensemble process.
3. Students must use an approved accompanist. The accompanist fee is \$40.00

***\* See Appendices I, II, and III for rehearsal suggestions.***

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1. Many band activities are designated by the state as extra-curricular. These activities are therefore governed by the state laws regarding participation. The state law is such that a student shall be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the six week period following a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than seventy in any one class. However, the student may not be suspended from participation during the period in which school is recessed for the summer. Also, students are not suspended from practice or rehearsal of extra-curricular activities.
2. Students may regain eligibility under certain circumstances. If a student has been suspended as a result of failing, he / she may regain eligibility by passing courses in the third week of the affected grading period. Thus, he may regain eligibility at the conclusion of the 4th week of the suspension period.
3. A few band activities are designated by the state as co-curricular. These activities are those which occur on campus, and are a natural extension of the learning taken place in the classroom.

Examples of this type of activity are the public concerts which are presented at McNeil High School or the RRISD Performing Arts Center. These activities are not governed by the state eligibility law.

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Students will be graded on the following scale:

\* **Daily / Participation** **40%**

Includes: Instrument, Music Supplies, Concentration, Class work, Section rehearsals, etc.

\* **Performance** **20%**

Includes: Curricular events such as concerts and section rehearsals, Evidence of practice, improvement shown, evidence of personal initiative in seeking to improve skills, etc.

\* **Tests/Assessments** **30%**

Includes: Taped playing tests, playing tests in sectionals/class, hearings, written assignments, special projects, evaluations of other performances, etc.

\* **Extra Credit** (All-Region, solo/ensemble (if applicable), orchestra, etc.)

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SKILLS ASSESSMENT

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ TEKS Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ Selection: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Scale(s)   
  Etude   
  Excerpt   
  Solo   
  Ensemble   
  Sightreading

### A) MELODIC ACCURACY

- all pitches/notes accurately
- most pitches/notes accurately
- many pitches accurately
- numerous inaccurate pitches/notes
- mostly inaccurate notes/pitches

### B) RHYTHMIC ACCURACY

- accurate rhythms throughout
- nearly accurate, but lacks precise interpretation
- many rhythmic patterns accurate, but lacks precision
- many rhythmic patterns incorrect/inconsistent
- most rhythmic patterns inaccurate/incorrect

### C) TECHNIQUE/ARTICULATION

(mark all that apply)

- appropriate and accurate tonguing
- appropriate slurs as marked
- appropriate accents as marked
- appropriate ornamentation as marked
- appropriate length of notes (markings, styles)

### D) TONE

- full, rich in all ranges and registers all of the time
- good in most ranges, but distorts occasionally
- some flaws in production, thin, unfocused, or forced
- several major flaws in production
- no characteristic tone production

### E) INTONATION

- accurate throughout in all ranges/registers
- accurate, but some minimal adjustment problems
- mostly accurate, but no adjustment on problem notes
- some sense of pitch, but no attempt to make adjustments

### F) TEMPO

- is accurate and consistent with markings/requirements
- near the marked/required tempo, without detracting
- not as marked/required, but consistent
- inconsistent, rushing, dragging, inaccurate
- not accurate or consistent

### G) INTERPRETATION

- highest level of musicality, expression
- high level of musicality, some inconsistencies
- moderate level of musicality/understanding
- limited musicality, limited understanding
- lacks musicality or understanding

### TOTAL SCORE (100 possible)

A+B+C+D+E+F+G x 2 = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature

### COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS:

**STUDENT VERIFICATION:**  
I have studied this evaluation.

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature

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As a band member, you are expected to display above average conduct at all times! This is not limited to band activities, but encompasses daily classroom and campus behavior. Failure to maintain good conduct will result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the band director.

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This is a district wide program that provides a high quality enhancement to classroom instruction. Teachers are all specialists on their instrument. Most of our teachers are professional musicians in the Austin area, and have advanced degrees in the performance of their instruments. Lessons are extremely valuable to the individual student and are highly encouraged.

1. **ALL** students are ENCOURAGED to take individualized private instruction.
2. Teachers are provided by the district.
3. Lessons will be given weekly.
4. Detailed information is available on the private lesson program.

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### **Everything Day**

Everything Day will be held on one of the Saturdays during Summer Band Camp. This is the day when all students are fitted for marching uniforms and band fees are assessed.

### **Required Fees**

All marching band students must have the approved shoes-no exceptions.

To be worn with marching uniform (excluding percussionists). .

Will be worn at all games.

The T-shirt that is worn underneath the marching uniform that is decorated with this year's show theme.

Covers dry cleaning of marching and concert uniforms for the entire school year.

All students who play on district owned instruments must pay an annual fee to RRISD for the use of the instrument(s).

These will be such supplies as lyres, flip folders, etc. Costs will vary from year to year.

### **Optional Fees**

Catered meals provided for students on marching band performance days.

Used to store and protect uniform and belongings when traveling.

Buzz-aids are brass contraptions that wrap around the mouthpiece shank and aid the player buzzing in the mouthpiece while holding their instrument.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POLICY

It is the policy of the McNeil High School Band that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. Financial arrangements can be made with Mr. Ancelet for those students who are in need of such considerations.

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Band leadership elections will be held during the last six weeks of the school year. Band leadership positions are open to all students in the band program. The band leadership shall serve as an advisory / action body for numerous band functions. The leadership shall assist the band directors and band students in planning, preparing, and operating band functions. The band leadership will meet as needed. The following is a list of offices with included responsibilities.

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The class reps will be the voting voice of their class membership at band officer meetings.

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The historian will be responsible for keeping an accurate record, both written and pictorial, of all band events. The historian should have a good camera and possess excellent writing skills. The historian will present a scrapbook to the band at the end of the school year.

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The secretary will be responsible for many areas. The secretary will assist the band directors in collecting fund raising materials, data entry, assisting in the band library, maintaining bulletin boards, and numerous special assignments.

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Will receive assignments as dictated by the school year. The vice president will assist the president in the execution of his/her duties.

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The president shall be charged with ensuring proper operations of the band leadership. The president shall prepare a weekly meeting agenda and preside over all band leadership meetings. The president shall be responsible for assisting other leadership members in their areas. The president will have numerous special assignments and should be an extremely dedicated band member.

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The librarians will be responsible for the operations of the band library. The librarians will copy and distribute parts to all members of the band. There will be at least one librarian for each band class.

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The uniform managers will be responsible for the efficient and effective operations of the uniform room in all events requiring the use of band uniforms. The uniform managers will supervise uniform inspection of the band members.

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Instrument managers will be responsible for assisting with the checking out of district owned instruments. Instrument managers will also assist in recording inventory of all district owned instruments at McNeil HS.

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The loading crew captain will be responsible for efficient and effective loading of all band equipment when the band is traveling.

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Drum Majors and Rank leaders will be considered part of the band leadership on an advisory basis.

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A student must earn a grand total of 50 points in one school year to qualify for a letter jacket from the McNeil High School Band. Points may be earned in the following manner:

**25 Points** (Non-cumulative)

- Selection into and performance with the TMEA All Region Band or Orchestra.
- Selection into the TMEA All Area Band or Orchestra.

**15 Points**

- One complete year of successful participation in both concert and marching band. Loss of eligibility will remove point credit for this portion. (Cumulative)
- Superior (First Division) rating of a solo at the UIL State S / E Contest. (Non-Cumulative)
- Superior (First Division) rating of an ensemble at the UIL State S / E Contest. (Non-Cumulative)

**10 Points** (Non-Cumulative)

- Superior (First Division) rating of a Class ONE or TWO solo at the UIL Solo Contest.
- Superior (First Division) rating of a Class ONE or TWO ensemble at the UIL S / E Contest.
- Excellent (Second Division) rating of a solo at the UIL State Solo / Ensemble Contest.

**5 Points** (Non-Cumulative)

- Excellent (Second Division) rating of a Class ONE or TWO solo at the UIL Solo Contest.
- Participation in UIL Full Orchestra
- Participation in Jazz Band class

Recognition points for rank leaders and band leadership officers at the discretion of the band director.

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A color guard member needs to accumulate 30 points to earn a letter jacket. Color Guard can accumulate points toward letter jacket in the following manner:

**7.5 points** (Cumulative) Marching Guard (Fall semester)

(Loss of eligibility may remove point credit for this portion.)

**7.5 points** (Cumulative) Indoor Guard (Spring semester)

(Loss of eligibility may remove point credit for this portion.)

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When you play a solo or region music,

. Further, you must perform and practice the music accurately and precisely. By following the steps listed below, you achieve a high level of performance.

Make sure that each note has a clear and good sound. Good sound is achieved by maintaining good air support and a firm embouchure. Strive to keep your facial muscles still as you play. Make the best possible sound every time you play your horn!

. Make sure that each rhythm is counted correctly. Make sure that you maintain a steady slow tempo when learning your solo. ***USE A METRONOME!***

One half of the correct tempo is a good starting tempo. For instance, if a selection is marked 120 beats per minute, then a good beginning tempo is 60. Once you can accurately play all notes and rhythms at half the tempo, the tempo should be increased by 10 beats per minute, per week. If the tempo is not marked, a director or private teacher will be glad to give you a tempo marking.

. For instance, make sure you are aware of accented notes, staccato notes, legato notes, slurs, and non-slurred notes. Articulation and achieving the correct style go hand in hand.

. Make sure that you are aware of crescendos, diminuendos, volume marking (***f, ff, p, mp***, etc.), and any other listed change in volume. It is a good idea to highlight dynamic markings with a color that will catch your attention as you play.

***\* Lastly, it is important that your music be practiced daily with all of the above items in place.*** You must play with the best possible sound on your instrument each and every time that you perform or practice!! High level work is difficult!! A little hard work will go a long way. Remember, hard work guarantees nothing, but without it, you do not stand a chance for top performance!

An organized approach to practicing makes the most efficient use of your practice time. Having a plan and/or daily goals is crucial. Be sure you have the tools you need with you: metronome, tuner, pencil. Practice in a good environment—one that will encourage concentration.

3 sessions daily (frequent breaks are important)

should be done in the morning

- Long Tones – develops steady sound, air
- Lip Slurs (Brass) – VERY IMPORTANT! Lip vibration has to be constant. Develops flexibility, dynamic control, range.
- Articulation – Back of tongue very important: must be down and relaxed to get enough air and relaxed air. Effects tone quality.
- Technique
- Scales – Foundation of all tonal music. Develops range, consistency, technique. Work on all forms (major, minor, modes, whole tone, etc.)

(Also sight-reading and transposition)

- Work on lessons assignments or elements of your playing that need improvement.
  - Do not just “play” – this is the time to really work to improve your playing.
  - Chunking (BIG – small – BIG)
  - Work backwards
  - Play short passages on mouthpiece w/ buzz-aid (Brass). Helps isolate lip pitch vibration and to center the notes.
  - Excerpts – work on them the same way, but LISTEN to the pieces before you start so you know how they are supposed to sound.
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- This is your reward for putting in the work in the previous 2 sessions.
  - This is also the reason for all the work on fundamentals and etudes. You must have the technique, facility, and ability to be able to music.
  - Don’t just “play” – keep working on fundamentals so that the music comes through, not your playing problems.
  - Have a plan – know what you want to hear.
  - Be expressive. Work on really saying something through your playing.
  - Exaggerate your musical ideas to get them across.
  - Allow yourself to enjoy what you are playing.

It is better to practice 1-2 hours everyday than it is to practice 2-4 hours every other day. Regular, daily practice produces better, more consistent results.

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## ***Practicing!!***

***by Mike Fischer***  
***Baylor University School of Music***

Playing any musical instrument well takes work. You must practice daily and develop a sense of pride in your musical endeavors. Studying with a qualified private teacher will certainly be to your advantage. So, ask your band director about the Private Lesson Program in your school.

Warming up correctly prepares our entire body for a productive practice session. It especially relaxes and stretches our embouchure muscles for the upcoming session.

### ***Exercises***

1. Breathing (We play instruments, so we must practice taking deep and relaxed breaths.)
2. Mouthpiece Buzzing (5 - 10 minutes of buzzing before you play the instrument)
3. Long Tones
4. (Woodwinds) - Embouchure exercises

Daily routines allow the musician to focus his attention on proper breathing, tone production, and articulations needed for playing.

### ***Exercises***

- 1.
2. Lip Slurs
3. Upper/Lower Registers
4. Scales
5. (Woodwinds) - Finger coordination exercises

### ***Specific needs of individual***

1. Tonguing, multiple tonguing, slurring, range, tone, breathing, etc.
- 2.

This portion of your practice time is aimed at fixing specific problems in your band music, solos, private lesson materials, etc.

### ***Achieving Results***

- 1.
2. Have a reasonable goal to achieve each day.
3. Work on the sections that you are having problems playing. Practice a difficult measure until you can play it correctly several times in a row. Then add another measure until you can play both measures correctly several times in a row. Continue this routine until you have worked out the difficult parts.

4. Slow down.
- 5.
6. Use a metronome.
7. Use a tuner.
8. Be patient.

### ***Technique Development***

1. The metronome is a very important tool for playing fast.
2. Begin very slowly and learn the notes.
3. Don't be afraid to                    the metronome                    . (You must be able to walk before you run.)
4. Practice the difficult passages away from the instrument by fingering the notes and tonguing the rhythms.                    Alternate the fingering and tonguing technique with practicing the music on the instrument.                    you can play the passage two or three times in a row without any mistakes, increase the tempo by three to five beats. Then, work on the passage again until you can play it two or three times in a row without any mistakes. Continue this method every day until you can play the passages at the desired speed.
5.                    Learning and playing two to four measures correctly is a much smarter method of developing fast technique than playing eight to sixteen measures incorrectly.

### ***Ear Training***

Sit at a piano or electronic keyboard with your instrument and music. Play music on the piano and try it on your instrument.

### ***Range Development (Brass)***

#### **A. Playing Higher and Higher**

Practice Scales: Start on a lower scale and play it up and down. Then, play the next higher scale. Continue ascending through the scales until you reach your limit. Then, when you think you can't go any higher, try one or two more scales. You may surprise yourself and play a higher scale. Eventually, you                    increase your high register.

#### **B. Playing Lower and Lower**

Do the opposite of Playing Higher and Higher: Start on a higher scale and play it down and up. Then, play the next lower scale. Continue descending through the scales until you reach your limit. Then, when you think you can't go any lower, try one or two more scales.

Performing your music from beginning to end without stopping builds the physical endurance required for playing that particular piece. It also enables you to become familiar with the complete work and see how the phrases fit together.

We spend a lot of time and effort learning to how play our instruments and it is enjoyable to play, so take time to have fun.

1. Breathe slowly and deeply two or three times before you begin.
2. Perform your music for family and friends.
3. Perform your music for the band directors and private teachers.
4. Practice performing in similar situations.
  - A. If you will be performing on stage with hot lights, practice in a hot room or wear a heavy coat while practicing.
  - B. Wear your performance attire during a practice session.
5. Eliminate unnecessary worries.
  - A. Empty all tuning slides before entering stage
  - B. Oil the valves regularly
  - C. Have reeds available
  - D. Make sure all pads and keys are in good and working order.