



416 FM 1187 South

Aledo, TX 76126

Aledo Middle School Band Handbook

Aledo Independent School District

Joey Qualls – Director – AMS Bands

Simon Bosch – Assistant Director

Michael Robinson – Assistant Director

Olivia Ramirez – Director of Percussion

www.aledomsband.com

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Forward

Today, more than ever, educators and taxpayers examine the worthiness of every course in the curriculum. Does it fulfill the objectives of education?

The Aledo Independent School District recognizes that education should be more than just a means for preparing for a career. The emphasis that has been invested in the arts, and specifically the band programs show the appreciation and importance that music holds for the students of the district.

Music is the most widely used art. Almost everyone listens to music on television, radio, movies or recordings. Central to the appreciation and understanding of music is music performance. The student who has learned to play an instrument will always enjoy music more than if he/she had not. A good band will perform superior and challenging music in order to give its members a worthwhile musical foundation.

The band's purpose is not only to serve the school and community through marching in parades and playing at football games, thus providing entertainment and enhancing school and community spirit, but also to furnish the student with an invaluable experience. The disciplines of a good band are similar to those acquired in athletics. Both develop coordination, cooperation, teamwork and self-discipline to a degree not possible in academic subjects. The band is no haven for a lazy student. It demands and develops concentration essential to success in any subject or endeavor.

Band performance also promotes good health. One pediatrician has said, "If I had my way, all boys and girls would be required to play a wind instrument." One must not forget that superior bands help to develop character, good behavior, and provides students with an ideal outlet for their energies. The band gives students a place "to hang their hat." Everybody needs something of this kind for good mental health and happiness.

In addition to the rewards from discipline and hard work, one also belongs to band because it is fun. There is a genuine exhilaration in making music, in playing a beautiful concert, in being part of a thrilling half-time football show, in leading a parade down Main Street, and in being able to wear a uniform of a band. Astronaut John Glenn was in the band. Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, was a baritone player. President Reagan was the Drum Major of his high school band, and President Clinton, a saxophone player, was a member of the Arkansas All-State Band for three years. David Robinson, NBA great for the San Antonio Spurs, attributes much of his mental quickness and coordination to the study of the keyboard and saxophone. An amazingly high percent of American scientists and people of note have played in a band.

The band directors at Aledo Middle School look forward to preparing your child for a more enriched and fulfilled life. Congratulations to you for giving your child the opportunity to play in the band!

SCHEDULE OF BAND CLASSES

Coming Soon!

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS

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Joey Qualls has been a music educator within the Aledo Band Program since 2005. Mr. Qualls is a graduate of University of Texas at Arlington, where he was a member of the Marching Band, Percussion Ensemble, Winter Drumline, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble. Prior to attending UTA, Mr. Qualls studied at University of North Texas and Navarro College. He was a member of the Revolution Drum and Bugle Corps, where he marched snare drum and was the first age-out in the corps history.

Prior to his current appointment, Mr. Qualls was an assistant band director at Aledo High School and Aledo Middle School, respectively. He also served five years as Aledo's percussion specialist and one year as Director of Percussion. Mr. Qualls' bands have achieved consistent UIL Sweepstakes ratings, as well as unanimous first division ratings and "Best in Class" honors at several area festivals.

Mr. Qualls is an active percussion clinician in the DFW area. His teaching influences include Tom Van Schaik, Dr. Michael Varner, Sandi Rennick, Nathan Ratliff, Joey Carter, Jeff Ausdemore, and Ed Stephan. Mr. Qualls' professional affiliations include Texas Bandmasters' Association, Texas Music Educators' Association, and the Percussive Arts Society.

Mr. Qualls considers himself privileged to teach in Aledo and credits his success to God and to the many mentors, band directors, and teachers that He has placed in his life. It is their influence, knowledge, and passion that motivates him to elevate his students to the highest level of performance possible.

When Mr. Qualls is not at the band hall, he enjoys spending time at the lake or scuba diving with his wife Amy. He also enjoys cycling and photography when he has time.

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Simon Bosch joined the Aledo Middle School band staff in 2014, having previously worked as a freelance musician and teacher in the area. Originally from Colorado, Simon earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Baylor University and a Master's degree in Trumpet Performance from The Florida State University, where he also served as a graduate teaching assistant for the trumpet studio.

A strong advocate for music education, Simon has worked with music students ranging in age from 4 years to college undergraduates throughout central Texas and northwest Florida as a private instructor, band director, adjudicator, and chamber coach. He also has 10 years' experience as a participant in the marching arts. Under his tutelage, Mr. Bosch's students have been very successful in region band and solo contests.

Performing with orchestras, wind bands, and jazz ensembles, Simon has performed at the TMEA, ABA, CBDNA, and ITG conferences. He has made regular appearances in the semifinals and

finals of the National Trumpet Competition, including a first place finish as a member of the Baylor Trumpet Ensemble in 2011. He has received multiple commendations from the International Trumpet Guild including the Young Artist Award in 2006, and scholarships to national and international conferences. Simon has had the pleasure of sharing the stage with numerous acclaimed musicians including Barbara Butler, Ingrid Jensen, Terrell Stafford, Joey Tartell, Peter Erskine, David Sanchez, Rufus Reid, and Michael Weiss. He has also recorded on the Naxos label with the Florida State University Symphony Orchestra, and can be heard on iTunes with the FSU Wind Orchestra's performance of *High Wire* by John Mackey.

In July, 2012 Mr. Bosch married his wife Stephanie, who is a band director in Granbury ISD

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Olivia Ramirez holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Texas Christian University. During her time at TCU, she performed a showcase concert at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC) in Indianapolis with the TCU Percussion Orchestra in 2011, and won the PASIC collegiate marching festival with the TCU Drumline in 2012. She has also had the honor of performing at Carnegie Hall, the Rose Parade, and Superbowl XLV.

In 2014, Mrs. Ramirez participated in a PASIC masterclass presented by world-renowned marimbist, Leigh Howard Stevens. Mrs. Ramirez was a member of the 2011 Boston Crusaders Drum and Bugle Corps and the 2012-2013 Santa Clara Vanguard Drum and Bugle Corps.. She has performed as a PASIC clinician with the 2012 SCV percussion section twice.

For the past two years, Olivia Ramirez served as a private lesson teacher for Aledo ISD. She has also worked with the Colleyville-Heritage HS cluster in Colleyville, TX and the Crossmen Drum and Bugle Corps.

In her spare time, Mrs. Ramirez loves kickboxing, watching Arrested Development over and over, and spending time with her family.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

As mandated by the Texas University Interscholastic League, any grade below 70 on a six-week report card will deny the student competitive performance privileges for a three or six week period. Because of the adverse affect this problem can have on an individual and the group as a whole, we will always monitor this situation very closely, especially around All-Region, Solo and Ensemble, and U.I.L. Concert and Sight-reading Contest. Parents: we ask that you continue to supervise your child and communicate with their teachers if any grade questions should arise. Students should understand that their grades have a direct influence on other students and peers in their performing group. Every individual in the band plays a vital role as a link in our chain. We strive for NO MISSING LINKS!! Any one individual has the ability to prevent an entire band from performing to its full potential.

Outline of UIL Academic Requirements

1. If a student receives an overall grade below 70 in any subject area at the end of any six-week grading period, that student will become in-eligible for extra-curricular activities starting the Friday following the end of the six-week grading period in which the failing grade was received.
2. A student can regain eligibility on the Friday following the three-week progress report period if the student is passing EVERY class. Please note that in order to regain at the three-week period, the student must not only be passing the class he or she previously failed – GRADES IN EACH CLASS MUST BE 70 OR ABOVE!

Sound Advice for Passing Grades

Each student should develop structure and discipline in their study habits. Here are some common sense ideas to help you maintain good standing in all classes.

1. **PAY ATTENTION:** Do everything you can to try to discover just what it is the teacher is attempting to get across to you. Take notes, follow along in the text, ask pertinent questions, and avoid distractions.
2. **REVIEW DAILY:** Make a habit of reviewing notes on a daily basis to solidify material covered in class. If you do not understand material being taught, make arrangements with the teacher to get one-on-one help.
3. **DO ALL HOMEWORK AND HAND IN ON TIME:** The most frequent reason why students fail a class is the failure to turn in assigned work. This is the **easiest** thing to do correctly. **Do not miss deadlines.**
4. **FAILING TO PREPARE IS PREPARING TO FAIL:** Prepare all tests and projects in a timely manner. In comparison, you would not wait until the night before a major performance or audition to begin practicing. By the same token, you should not wait until the night before a test or project deadline to begin the work. Every teacher at AMS wants to see you succeed. Let's meet them half way!
5. **COURTESY:** Treat all teachers with the same respect that you expect from them. A few simple courtesies will go a long way. Paying attention in class will help your relationship with the teacher. Be careful not to draw negative attention to yourself and follow all classroom rules.
6. **ASK FOR HELP AND EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS.** Make the first move towards this – don't wait.
7. **FOLLOW UP:** If you have a failing grade at the 3 weeks reporting period, make every effort to resolve every grade in question ASAP!
8. **COMMUNICATION:** Don't be afraid to ask your teachers, in a courteous manner, about any questionable grades or when tutorials are held. The teachers are on your side. They want you to pass! Do not procrastinate!

ATTENDANCE

The band is dependent on all its members. Unlike most other classes where individuals are accountable only for their own success, band students' success is, in large part, dependent on the full participation of all those who have made the commitment to be a part. The following attendance policies will affect the student's grades and chance to participate.

Students who enroll in other school activities such as athletics, choir, drama, etc., need to plan ahead to avoid conflicts that cannot be resolved. Ask to receive a complete semester calendar from all your activities so that you can have the maximum amount of time to work out potential schedule conflicts. The band directors will work together with the other teachers, coaches, and directors of various activities to give each student every opportunity to be a part of other groups. The band directors have made a significant effort to have all events on the calendar months in advance. It is our hope that this will eliminate surprise or last minute conflicts.

Any activity which is included in the course is considered **curricular**. Section rehearsals, performances, and clinics, are part of the course requirements and are, therefore, graded activities. Unlike other core classes, it is not possible to make-up a performance or special rehearsal. All absences must be approved in advance by the director. Only conflicts of a serious nature will be considered excused.

Performances are the centerpiece and focus of our program. When missed, the students do not get to experience the fruits of their labor. Every member of our band is important.

DO NOT MISS BAND PERFORMANCES!!

The majority of students who miss events have missed due to the lack of planning or communication. Most all absences can be avoided or excused by planning ahead. Many times a parent's schedule doesn't allow time to transport their student to these events. Please work out a carpooling system with other band families you trust from your neighborhood. The success of our program is directly proportional to the overall attendance rate throughout the year. We can not teach an empty chair, and unlike most sports we do not have a bench.

1. Attendance is required at ALL rehearsals, sectionals, and performances unless otherwise noted on the official CHARMS calendar.
2. Absences and tardies will be excused in the following cases:
 - A. Medical emergency or personal injury/sickness
 - B. Special circumstances deemed excused by the band director
3. Examples of unexcused absences and tardies include, but are not limited to:
 - A. Oversleeping
 - B. Transportation not arranged
 - C. Anything deemed unexcused by the band director
4. Consequences for not attending or being tardy to a required event may result in, but are not limited to:
 - A. Lower chair placement
 - B. Grade deduction
 - C. Written assignment (s) (grade replacement)
 - D. Point System Demerit
5. Consequences for **excessive** absences or tardies (any type) from required events may result in, but are not limited to:
 - A. Loss of performance privilege(s)

- B. Removal from performing ensemble
 - C. Grade deduction
 - D. Written assignment (s) (grade replacement)
 - E. Point System Demerit
6. Communicate tardies and absences via email to the director of your child's ensemble.
 7. **Advance notice (via email) should be given at least three school days for morning and after school rehearsals/sectionals and two weeks for performances. Sometimes advance notice is not possible. Excusable situations include sickness or family emergency.**
 8. **Please make every effort to schedule your child's medical, dental, or other appointments around band activities and class time.**
 9. All band students must abide by the Aledo Middle School attendance policies.

Also See Before/After School Rehearsal/Sectional Grading Policy

AWARDS AND POINT SYSTEM

The AMS Band program utilizes a point-based system whereby students earn points through exhibiting positive habits, behaviors, taking private lessons, maintaining good attendance record at band functions and rehearsals, and meeting performance tasks and goals. Likewise, students can also have award points deducted for various infractions related to behavior, not having supplies, being tardy or unprepared for class. The point system is run through the Charms system and gets updated at the conclusion of each six weeks, and parents and students can track progress of points this way.

Each six weeks, an award points sheet will be given to each student along with a description of each performance-based or non-performance-based assignment. Each student must keep up with their point sheet throughout the six weeks. The sheet will also include a space for parents to fill out any volunteer activities within that time, and private teachers will have a place to document private lessons, as both of these activities help students earn points. Demerits (minus points) will be kept up with using the class binder where each student will have a demerit sheet. If necessary, students will be asked to sign, date, and list the infraction if and when one occurs. Each entry will cause a reduction of band award points at the directors discretion.

At the end of each six weeks, recognition will be given for Band Star (top 50% in child's band) and All-Star (top 25% in child's band). Many of the point-earning activities are self-paced while some are in the context of day to day class or in conjunction with standardized curriculum of which all students are involved.

The vast majority of our spring awards and end-of-year student recognition are decided based upon the point system. Six weeks-based awards can also qualify students for certain reward activities or events throughout the year. In addition, a certain amount of points must be earned in order for a student to be eligible for the spring trip.

Points for **PERFORMANCE-BASED** objectives will be as follows:

- 1st Attempt – this objective was passed off and receives the full amount of band points possible
- 2nd Attempt – this objective was passed off and receives a half the amount of band points possible
- 3rd or Subsequent Attempts – this objective was passed off and receives a 1/4th the amount of band points possible.
- Performance-based grades will be listed as "P" followed by a number on your child's objective

sheet

Points for **NON-PERFORMANCE-BASED** objectives will be one of the following:

- Full Point Credit – this task (i.e. material check, form turn-in) was completed BY the due date and receives the full point credit for this assignment
- No Point Credit – this task was not completed by the due date and receives no point credit
- Non-performance-based grades will be listed as “NP” followed by a number on your child’s objective sheet

For questions regarding band point policy, please contact the director in charge of your child’s band class.

BAND EVENTS DEFINED

All Region Band Auditions

All Region Band Auditions take place in November. All Honor Winds Members and 8th Grade Members of Symphonic Winds are required to prepare the music and scales for this audition. It is expected that these students will participate in the All Region audition pending Golden Ticket Auditions the few weeks leading up to All Region. All Region is encouraged of Symphonic Winds 7th Grade Members and Concert Band members but is not required – students from this group who wish to audition will be expected to attend weekly sectionals and pre-audition as part of the Golden Ticket Auditions.

Students from across our region participate in these auditions. The audition material consists of scales and two prepared pieces. Students are judged by a panel of three to five judges who sit behind a partition to listen to each student perform their music. This process protects student anonymity and the integrity of the audition process. The top students are selected from these auditions and receive the honor of participating in the All Region Band Clinic and Concert. The All Region Clinic and Concert will be held on a Friday (clinic) and Saturday (more clinic and then concert in the afternoon) in December. Selection to the All Region band is one of the highest honors a middle school student can achieve. At AMS, our philosophy emphasizes the improvement each student experiences as a result of participating in the All-Region Band process. Students will be required to play all scales and audition music for the band directors prior to the audition date. This is a major part of the grade of all Symphonic and Concert Band members during the fall semester.

Clinic/After School Rehearsal

A clinic is a band rehearsal held outside of normal school hours. Clinics are usually held in conjunction with the band’s preparation to perform in the various contests and festivals it attends during the spring semester. Well-known, highly respected band directors are brought in to work with the band during a clinic rehearsal. This allows students to be exposed to some of the finest directors in the field, thus augmenting the students’ music education. Clinics also afford the band a more extended rehearsal period to supplement the 40 minutes that the class day offers. Clinics are a very important part of our contest preparation and the musical growth of our students.

Concert

A concert is a non-competitive performance given as part of our curriculum. There is no admission charge. Family members and friends are encouraged to attend. Concerts are a state-mandated part of our curriculum and attendance is required of all students in the participating groups. UIL eligibility rules do not affect a student's participation in free concerts! Concert etiquette is also part of our curriculum. For this reason, band members will be expected to be an attentive audience member for at least one of the other ensembles' portion of the concert.

Contest or Festival

A contest is a competitive performance. All bands participate in several events during the spring semester. These events are: One Pre-UIL Concert and Sight-reading contests, the UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest, and other competitive festival(s) in the weeks following the UIL event (Honor and Symphonic Winds).

Solo Contest

All AMS Band students participate in the Aledo Solo Contest. All students are required to perform a solo with accompaniment (CD or actual live accompanist), however the majority of percussion solos do not require accompaniment. The soloist is generally judged on a scale of I (Superior), II (Excellent), III (Good), IV (Fair), V (Poor). Students that receive high marks are awarded a medal or ribbon.

CHARMS

Charms music is a secure web-based program that will assist the band directors and booster club in communicating, financing, and organization of the Aledo Band program. Please try to keep student and parent/guardian information up-to-date on this program, so you will not miss important emails and announcements. **The official band calendar will also be at this site.**

Log on to www.charmsoffice.com

Locate the "PARENT/STUDENT LOGIN" section of the web page by clicking "Enter" on the top, right hand portion of the Charms website

Login to your child's program account using the following school code:

AledoMSBand

- This will bring up the main parent page. This will allow you to look at your child's program **calendar, see a link the band website, see important updates/posts from the directors, and see a link to email the directors.**
- Clicking on an event on the calendar brings up the details for that event, such as times, attendance requirements and equipment/uniform necessities.
- The password defaults to your child's ID NUMBER, *AISD 6 digit ID number*, unless you have changed it previously. Email sbosch@aledo.k12.tx.us if you forgot this number or if you want us to reset your password. Another more detailed screen appears with even more options to view your student's uniform assignments, music assignments, financial records, forms and inventory. If you choose to change your password, you may do so once you log in the first time using your child's school-issued ID number.

- Two areas in which you can help the director maintain records:
 1. **Student information form** – help make changes to your child’s **student information page** (such as updating phone numbers and email addresses if they change) to help the teacher communicate with you more effectively.
 2. **Payments for fees, trips and deposits to your student’s account.**
- Most importantly, the parent page assists both you and the teacher to communicate with each other. It is **STRONGLY** recommended that you enter at **least** one email address in our online database program, Charms. **Once you make any changes or additions to the student information in Charms make sure you click the UPDATE/Save Changes button.**
- If you are having difficulty accessing CHARMS or utilizing its features, contact Mr. Bosch at sbosch@aledo.k12.tx.us

COMMITMENT

In the Aledo Middle School Band Program, directors and students work together to achieve excellence in all areas. It should be understood that attaining such excellence requires a commitment to practice, both in and out of the band hall. In addition, students should assume that the level of expectation will be raised almost daily in an effort to continue growth and our pursuit of excellence. **In fairness to all members and concert groups in the AMS Band program, it is expected that each student make at least a one year commitment to being active in the program.** Band and performing with others is very much a team activity. Just as quitting a team sport mid-way through the season would be frowned upon, not fulfilling your commitment to the “team” of musicians in band would also not be acceptable. Each student, in addition to the band handbook acknowledgement, will also sign a contract with this stipulation.

CONTACTING THE BAND STAFF

With so many students in the band program, the directors receive many calls and messages. Our goal is to respond to every message in a timely manner. **Email is the primary form of communication and is the best way to contact a director.**

You may e-mail us at the following addresses:

Mr. Qualls- [jqqualls@aledo.k12.tx.us](mailto:jqualls@aledo.k12.tx.us)

Mr. Bosch- sbosch@aledo.k12.tx.us

Mrs. Ramirez- oschlaegel@aledo.k12.tx.us

Aledo Middle School Band Office: 817-441-5197

A General Guide to Getting Answers

The following chart will serve to help you in determining which director will have an answer to your question. If you are unsure of who to direct your question(s) towards, please email Mr. Qualls AND Mr. Bosch.

<p>Mr. Qualls jqualls@aledo.k12.tx.us</p>	<p>Mr. Bosch sbosch@aledo.k12.tx.us</p>	<p>Mrs. Ramirez oschlaegel@aledo.k12.tx.us</p>
<p>All-Region Calendar Fees/Money Forms Honor Winds General Inquiry Trips/Itineraries Uniforms Volunteers</p>	<p>Concert Band General Inquiry Charms Issues Inventory (including Locks/Lockers) Music Library Private Lessons Practice Recording Grading Solo and Ensemble Symphonic Winds General Inquiry</p>	<p>Anything PERCUSSION</p>

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

Audience manners are based on respect for performers and for others in the audience. Unfortunately, young people in today's society are seldom exposed to formal concert situations and are often not aware of the standards of appropriate behavior. By following these guidelines you can set a proper example for our students and will make the concert more enjoyable for all. Thank you for your assistance.

1. Avoid entering or leaving the venue during a performance. If you find this necessary, move only between pieces.
2. Applause is welcomed, but whistling or cheering is considered inappropriate for a formal concert.
3. Talking is inappropriate during a performance. Young children who are talking or crying must be escorted from the performance area.
4. Attention should be directed to the performing group at all times.
5. All cell phones, pagers and other electronic devices should be turned off. This can be very distracting and ruin a band's performance and recording.
6. In true formal concert etiquette, photography is strictly prohibited. In the middle school setting we understand parents would like to have pictures for their memoirs so we urge you to use the following guidelines. No flash photography during the band's performance, flashes are distracting to the performing band members and to the audience. If you would like to use flash photography please do so before or after the performance.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Develop a life long love of music and a recognition of its importance in helping enrich the human experience.
- Develop self and group discipline through preparation and practicing of instrumental music.
- Develop leadership skills, responsibility, diligence, and an ability to cooperate with others as a team member.
- Develop strength, stamina, endurance and coordination.
- Develop an ability to make musical value judgments through critical listening. The student shall be provided opportunities to recognize quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation.
- Develop skills in using and understanding note values, rests, key signatures, scales, musical terms, signs, and symbols.
- Develop the ability to recognize and tune intervals, unisons, harmony, and to develop discriminate listening skills.
- Develop proper instrumental technique, care for instrument, correct posture and playing position, embouchure, good tone, correct breathing, technical proficiency, and rhythmic skill.
- Develop instrumental technique in finger/tongue coordination, intonation, musical phrasing, dynamic control, rhythmic skills, and articulation.
- Develop music reading skills, hand/eye coordination, and to interpret in sound, musical symbols and terms from the printed page.
- Develop musical sensitivity through performance of music as well as listening to music. The student shall be provided opportunities to internalize generally accepted authentic performance styles and techniques in music played and heard.
- Evaluate the quality of musical performance the student shall be provided opportunities to evaluate progress toward self-established musical goals, evaluate solo and group rehearsals and performances, and recognize quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation.
- Develop creative self-expression in every performance experience and explore possible careers in music.
- Exhibit concert etiquette as an informed, actively involved listener during varied live performances.

DAILY INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE

Following a consistent, daily practice schedule is essential to student progress. Parents: PLEASE encourage your child to adopt a schedule of 30 minutes per day, seven days per week. **Past experience has shown us that students who are practicing and making noticeable progress on their instruments are more likely to enjoy band than those who do not practice.** Keep the following guidelines in mind when establishing a practice routine:

1. Practice for results, not just for the sake of “putting in time.”(NO TIMERS PLEASE)
2. Keep distractions to a minimum: no radio or TV while practicing.
3. Set up a daily schedule and stick to it. Treat practice as part of your homework.
4. Always use a metronome AND tap your toe! This greatly enhances your sense of pulse.
5. Always use a music stand. This helps avoid the formation of bad habits.
6. Try to follow a daily routine:
 - a. **Warm-up exercises used in class each day**
 - i. Fundamentals (such as scales or exercises)
 - ii. Review material covered in class that day
 - b. **Practice assigned material**
 - i. Work ahead in book or music to material not yet covered
 - ii. Practice private lesson material or other material assigned by the band director
7. 30 minutes a day will be much more beneficial to the student than trying to make up by doing longer chunks of time every few days.
8. Fill out your online practice journal during each practice session. Practice journal will be graded on a weekly basis and must be submitted through CHARMS by midnight Sunday of the current practice week. The practice week will begin on Monday and conclude on Sunday. **There will be a “30” point grade deduction if it is late. If not received by Friday the week after, a “0” will be entered.** Students can offset a “0” by earning up to 20 bonus points for extra practice on other weeks. No bonus is offered for practice records submitted late.
9. Parents should monitor practice and attest that the student is submitting his time honestly. Academic dishonesty will result in severe consequences at the discretion of directors. **It is recommended that parents NOT enter students’ time in Charms but instead use this opportunity to help the student be responsible for their grade in band. “Please excuse Suzy’s practice time this week, as I forgot to enter it for her,” is something we want to avoid. Thank you.**
10. All late practice should be submitted by completing the Late Practice Form: <https://secure.jotformpro.com/form/41336934724962> by the Friday after the Sunday due date. You will receive an confirmation email once your form is submitted. Emailing directly to a band director has a high risk of getting overlooked.
11. **No internet to submit your child’s practice through Charms?** Please let a director know so that a paper form can be provided for your child to record their minutes. Paper forms will be due each Monday during class and will adhere to the same grading guidelines as those submitted via the internet.

The charts on the following pages show the practice grading scale that will be used to calculate each student’s weekly practice grade according to the band they are in.

Concert Band Practice Record Grading Scale									
Minutes	Grade	Minutes	Grade	Minutes	Grade	Minutes	Grade	Minutes	Grade
150	100	106	71	62	41	18	12	Bonus Points	
149	99	105	70	61	41	17	11	190	120
148	99	104	69	60	40	16	11	189	119
147	98	103	69	59	39	15	10	188	118
146	97	102	68	58	39	14	9	187	118
145	97	101	67	57	38	13	9	186	117
144	96	100	67	56	37	12	8	185	117
143	95	99	66	55	37	11	7	184	116
142	95	98	65	54	36	10	7	183	116
141	94	97	65	53	35	9	6	182	115
140	93	96	64	52	35	8	5	181	115
139	93	95	63	51	34	7	5	180	114
138	92	94	63	50	33	6	4	179	114
137	91	93	62	49	33	5	3	178	113
136	91	92	61	48	32	4	3	177	113
135	90	91	61	47	31	3	2	176	112
134	89	90	60	46	31	2	1	175	112
133	89	89	59	45	30	1	1	174	111
132	88	88	59	44	29	0	0	173	111
131	87	87	58	43	29			172	110
130	87	86	57	42	28			171	110
129	86	85	57	41	27			170	109
128	85	84	56	40	27			169	109
127	85	83	55	39	26			168	108
126	84	82	55	38	25			167	108
125	83	81	54	37	25			166	107
124	83	80	53	36	24			165	107
123	82	79	53	35	23			164	106
122	81	78	52	34	23			163	106
121	81	77	51	33	22			162	105
120	80	76	51	32	21			161	105
119	79	75	50	31	21			160	104
118	79	74	49	30	20			159	104
117	78	73	49	29	19			158	103
116	77	72	48	28	19			157	103
115	77	71	47	27	18			156	103
114	76	70	47	26	17			155	102
113	75	69	46	25	17			154	102
112	75	68	45	24	16			153	101
111	74	67	45	23	15			152	101
110	73	66	44	22	15			151	101
109	73	65	43	21	14			150	100
108	72	64	43	20	13				
107	71	63	42	19	13				

Symphonic Winds Practice Record Grading Scale									
Minutes	Grade	Minutes	Grade	Minutes	Grade	Minutes	Grade	Minutes	Grade
180	100	134	74	88	49	42	23	Bonus Points	
179	99	133	74	87	48	41	23	220	120
178	99	132	73	86	48	40	22	219	120
177	98	131	73	85	47	39	22	218	120
176	98	130	72	84	47	38	21	217	120
175	97	129	72	83	46	37	21	216	120
174	97	128	71	82	46	36	20	215	119
173	96	127	71	81	45	35	19	214	119
172	96	126	70	80	44	34	19	213	118
171	95	125	69	79	44	33	18	212	118
170	94	124	69	78	43	32	18	211	117
169	94	123	68	77	43	31	17	210	117
168	93	122	68	76	42	30	17	209	116
167	93	121	67	75	42	29	16	208	116
166	92	120	67	74	41	28	16	207	115
165	92	119	66	73	41	27	15	206	114
164	91	118	66	72	40	26	14	205	114
163	91	117	65	71	39	25	14	204	113
162	90	116	64	70	39	24	13	203	113
161	89	115	64	69	38	23	13	202	112
160	89	114	63	68	38	22	12	201	112
159	88	113	63	67	37	21	12	200	111
158	88	112	62	66	37	20	11	199	111
157	87	111	62	65	36	19	11	198	110
156	87	110	61	64	36	18	10	197	109
155	86	109	61	63	35	17	9	196	109
154	86	108	60	62	34	16	9	195	108
153	85	107	59	61	34	15	8	194	108
152	84	106	59	60	33	14	8	193	107
151	84	105	58	59	33	13	7	192	107
150	83	104	58	58	32	12	7	191	106
149	83	103	57	57	32	11	6	190	106
148	82	102	57	56	31	10	6	189	105
147	82	101	56	55	31	9	5	188	104
146	81	100	56	54	30	8	4	187	104
145	81	99	55	53	29	7	4	186	103
144	80	98	54	52	29	6	3	185	103
143	79	97	54	51	28	5	3	184	102
142	79	96	53	50	28	4	2	183	102
141	78	95	53	49	27	3	2	182	101
140	78	94	52	48	27	2	1	181	101
139	77	93	52	47	26	1	1	180	100
138	77	92	51	46	26				
137	76	91	51	45	25				
136	76	90	50	44	24				
135	75	89	49	43	24				

Honor Winds Practice Record Grading Scale									
Minutes	Grade	Minutes	Grade	Minutes	Grade	Minutes	Grade	Minutes	Grade
210	100	159	76	108	51	57	27	6	3
209	100	158	75	107	51	56	27	5	2
208	99	157	75	106	50	55	26	4	2
207	99	156	74	105	50	54	26	3	1
206	98	155	74	104	50	53	25	2	1
205	98	154	73	103	49	52	25	1	0
204	97	153	73	102	49	51	24	Bonus Points	
203	97	152	72	101	48	50	24	250	120
202	96	151	72	100	48	49	23	249	119
201	96	150	71	99	47	48	23	248	118
200	95	149	71	98	47	47	22	247	118
199	95	148	70	97	46	46	22	246	117
198	94	147	70	96	46	45	21	245	117
197	94	146	70	95	45	44	21	244	116
196	93	145	69	94	45	43	20	243	116
195	93	144	69	93	44	42	20	242	115
194	92	143	68	92	44	41	20	241	115
193	92	142	68	91	43	40	19	240	114
192	91	141	67	90	43	39	19	239	114
191	91	140	67	89	42	38	18	238	113
190	90	139	66	88	42	37	18	237	113
189	90	138	66	87	41	36	17	236	112
188	90	137	65	86	41	35	17	235	112
187	89	136	65	85	40	34	16	234	111
186	89	135	64	84	40	33	16	233	111
185	88	134	64	83	40	32	15	232	110
184	88	133	63	82	39	31	15	231	110
183	87	132	63	81	39	30	14	230	110
182	87	131	62	80	38	29	14	229	109
181	86	130	62	79	38	28	13	228	109
180	86	129	61	78	37	27	13	227	108
179	85	128	61	77	37	26	12	226	108
178	85	127	60	76	36	25	12	225	107
177	84	126	60	75	36	24	11	224	107
176	84	125	60	74	35	23	11	223	106
175	83	124	59	73	35	22	10	222	106
174	83	123	59	72	34	21	10	221	105
173	82	122	58	71	34	20	10	220	105
172	82	121	58	70	33	19	9	219	104
171	81	120	57	69	33	18	9	218	104
170	81	119	57	68	32	17	8	217	103
169	80	118	56	67	32	16	8	216	103
168	80	117	56	66	31	15	7	215	102
167	80	116	55	65	31	14	7	214	102
166	79	115	55	64	30	13	6	213	101
165	79	114	54	63	30	12	6	212	101
164	78	113	54	62	30	11	5	211	100
163	78	112	53	61	29	10	5	210	100
162	77	111	53	60	29	9	4		
161	77	110	52	59	28	8	4		
160	76	109	52	58	28	7	3		

DENTAL WORK

Please consult with a band director before making appointments for major dental work. This would include getting braces on or off or any kind of oral surgery involving the lips, mouth, or throat. We realize that schedules sometimes cannot be changed and sometimes these procedures are unavoidable, but it is important to note that these procedures are likely to have a negative impact on the affected student's playing for a considerable amount of time afterwards.

GRADING POLICY

25% Performances

All performances are marked on the calendar as mandatory events. These events cannot be made up. See **Attendance Policy**. Some playing tests, mock auditions, or participation in solo or ensemble competitions may also count as performances at the discretion of the band director.

50% Participation (Student Responsibility)

The participation portion of the grade is made up of, but not limited to:

- **Mandatory extra rehearsals/clinics** – This subcategory applies mostly to Honor Winds, but Symphonic and Concert may have a clinic or two that takes place outside of the school day during the spring semester. Expect these to occur around concert and competition dates. See your CHARMS calendar for details. Also, see **Before/After School Rehearsal/Sectional Grading Policy**.
- **Weekly Participation** – Students will be graded on having supplies, instrument, music and general preparation during class. Supply checks will be given at random. It is important that students have all materials daily in class, in order to fully participate.
- **Practice records (in Charms)** – See “Daily Practice” for a breakdown and charts concerning practice journal grades.
- **Mandatory sectionals – Honor and Symphonic Winds** members have a mandatory 1-hour sectional per week. Students will pass-off objectives (see below) and perform chair tests during these sectionals, so it is imperative that students attend. Concert Band members are encouraged to attend non-band specific sectionals (i.e., All-Region help) but will not normally be expected or required to attend a weekly sectional. Also, see **Before/After School Rehearsal/Sectional Grading Policy** below.

25% Playing/Chair Test

Playing/Chair tests can be anything that relates to a student's success on the instrument.

- ✓ Tonal Studies – specific fundamentals include posture, hand position, breathing, etc.
- ✓ Breathing Exercises
- ✓ Technique/Scale-based Exercises
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Fundamental Routine Exercises (taken from the daily drills for band)
- ✓ Written Assignments
- ✓ Instrument Maintenance Check

Before/After School Rehearsal or Sectional Grading Policy

1. As per UIL Rules, a student cannot fail band solely on lack of participation in before or after school rehearsals/sectionals. However, after school rehearsals/sectionals do receive grades that make up part of the “Participation” category of your child’s band grade (50%)
2. An email should be sent to your child’s band director in the event of any **absence**, excused or unexcused. This email should be sent in advance (voice mails or phone calls are not acceptable). If circumstances do not permit advance notice, the parent must submit their email within one day after the absence.

Excused absence with email sent to appropriate director=no grade; (this is not a zero, just a non-grade).

Unexcused absence with email to appropriate director=a grade of 50 is entered

Unexcused absence without email sent to appropriate director=a grade of “0” is entered.
3. An email should be sent to your child’s band director in the event of any **tardy**, excused or unexcused. This email should be sent in advance. If circumstances do not permit advance notice, the parent must submit their email at the time of tardy

Excused tardy = (documentation received before tardy or special circumstances exist-as determined by the director) = no penalty or grade reduction

Unexcused tardy (documentation received at time of tardy or later) = grade reduction to a “75” for that rehearsal/sectional.

Unexcused tardy with no documentation = reduction to “50” for that rehearsal
4. Please provide proper details when submitting your form. Without the proper documentation, determining excused or non-excused tardies or absences becomes very difficult. It is not the Aledo ISD Band policy to know your personal business, but without proper documentation it makes it hard to be consistent as a band without a reason for the tardy or absence.

An example of unacceptable documentation:
“Stuff came up.”

Example of proper documentation:
“Tyler is still recovering from his stomach virus.”
5. **Please do not skip morning rehearsals/sectionals due to illness and then attend school as you normally would. We understand student attendance is a huge priority, but this sends a poor message to other band students.**
6. **Whether or not absences or tardies are excused or unexcused is at the discretion of the band directors.**

For questions regarding the before/after school rehearsal grading policy and grades associated with attendance at extra rehearsals and sectionals, please contact the director in charge of your child’s band class – see “Contacting the Band Staff” for more information.

IMAGE AND TRIP BEHAVIOR

Aledo MS Band Image

It is the expectation of the directors and administration that the AMS Band will develop a reputation as one of the finest band programs in Texas. We strive to acquire the highest standards of performance and stage presence. It is very important to maintain a positive image at all times. The AMS Band represents the faculty and student body of Aledo Middle School, as well as the city of Aledo and surrounding areas. As ambassadors of our school and community, AMS Band members always make every effort to be courteous and respectful. We understand that we never get a second chance to make a first impression. It is important to be courteous to other performing ensembles. Many times the AMS Band will be in performance situations with other bands and organizations. It is imperative that we treat other ensembles with respect and dignity. We expect our students to refrain from negative or derogatory statements. **When in formal uniform in public, students must remain completely in uniform; that is: shirt tucked in and buttoned all the way up, bow tie fastened, and vest worn properly. When in formal uniform, students should refrain from running, climbing and horse-play.**

Bus Procedures and Behavior

1. Students may only ride their assigned bus and must be seated at their assigned seat. Roll will be taken before each departure and buses will not leave until every student is accounted for.
2. Each bus will have a parent or director sponsor. The sponsor is to be obeyed without question and treated with utmost respect, as is the bus driver.
3. Failure to obey instructions given by directors, bus driver or sponsors will be considered a major disciplinary offense and may result in referral to a principal and/or exclusion from future band activities.
4. Keep hands inside bus at all times.
5. Keep the bus clean.
6. Only food and drinks approved by director will be allowed.
7. No "jam" boxes. Only music equipment with earphones.
8. Keep language clean.
9. Refrain from loud or obnoxious behavior.
10. When the bus reaches its destination, remain seated and wait for instructions from the directors.
11. Always be aware of the departure time and do not arrive late!

PRIVATE LESSONS

Aledo Music Enrichment Program (AMEP)

It is the goal of the Aledo Middle School Band to provide the very best learning experience for each student. One of these experiences is the opportunity for a student to study privately with a professional instrumentalist. This enrichment opportunity is available to all band students at our campus.

Although it is not mandatory to study privately, LESSONS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED.

The individual attention that the student receives generally improves the student's musical enjoyment, motivation to practice, performance level, and overall self-image. As you might imagine, lessons also have

a positive effect on the band in which the student participates. The key to success with this opportunity is to start early and continue throughout the year. The private lesson instructors are exceptional teachers and performers on their instruments and are carefully selected by the band directors. They work closely with directors and students to improve the performance and understanding of their instrument and music. For the convenience of students and parents, private lessons can be arranged before and after school or during class time (depending on the teacher's schedule). Your participation in the AMEP will allow Aledo band program to continue its rich tradition of sharing outstanding musical performances.

Lessons will vary in cost depending on the teacher's credentials, degrees, experience etc. Private lessons will be once a week before, during, or after school for durations of thirty minutes. The cost of an average private lesson is \$17.00-\$25.00. Lessons can be paid for on the first lesson of each month or on a weekly basis. The number of lessons in a month varies, so please coordinate payments with the private instructor. **NO LESSONS WILL BE GIVEN IF PAYMENT IS NOT MADE.** Excused absences (illness, emergency, etc.) will be made up or credit given to future lessons. Unexcused absences will not be made up nor will refunds be made. To avoid any complications, please give private instructors a 24-hour notice if the student is unable to make a scheduled lesson time.

During-school lessons will be determined by each teacher's schedule and campus schedule. **NOTE: Not all students will be afforded the opportunity to have their lessons during class.** For this reason, most teachers will offer time before or after school. **The majority of after-school private lessons will be held at the ninth grade campus.** The AMS band hall will be open each morning by 7am for the convenience of lesson teachers and their students. Depending on teacher availability and schedule, some lessons may take place at AMS in the afternoons as well.

If you are interested in enrolling your child or for more information about our lesson teachers and other general information regarding the AMEP program, please visit the middle school band website (www.aledomsband.com) and click on the private lessons link under "Parent Resources." Follow the instructions given.

In order to participate the students are expected to apply themselves, maintain good attendance, and be prepared for each lesson.

For questions regarding your child's participation in Private Lessons, please contact Mr. Qualls at iqualls@aledo.k12.tx.us

REQUIRED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES

The following items are required of ALL AMS Band students. These items are integral to the instruction your child is receiving in class. Without these supplies, your child will have difficulty completing assignments and continuing his/her improvement. Most of these items will be used on a daily basis for home practice and school rehearsals. They are also likely to be used in sectionals and private lessons. Some of the items (notated accordingly) were required at your child's previous campus. If your child has lost these items, you will need to purchase them again. Also, several of these items are new requirements that are purchased by the band through your band fee. Your student owns these items once they are handed out and should keep up with them. If lost, these items will need to be replaced at your cost.

1. Instrument in good working condition. All students must have an identification tag (student provided) on each case. **Required in high school.**
2. Reed players (oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon and saxophone) must have 3 playable reeds in their possession at all times (student provides) – Students are encouraged to buy in larger quantities for a better price (music store/internet). **Required in high school.**
3. Brass (minus Tuba) players must have a BERP on their instrument for all rehearsals and sectionals (student provides). This item can be purchased at the music store – we recommend you take your instrument with you, so that the appropriate size can be fitted to your instrument. Cost: \$20.

Required in high school.

4. Breather – this ½ inch non-threaded ball valve PVC is used as a breathing tool (previously required at McAnally and AMS). This item can be replaced if lost. This can be purchased from any hardware store. Replacement Fee/Cost: \$4. **Required in high school.**
5. KORG TM-40 with pick-up – this item was previously required. This item can be bought from the music store. Replacement Cost: approx. \$45. **Required in high school.**
6. Band Binder – with mesh pencil pouch and dividers (provided through band fee). This item can be replaced if lost. The band will keep a small stock of these for this purpose. Replacement Fee: \$15-20
7. Pencils – ALWAYS!
8. Portable Music Stand (previously required). This item should stay home and be used for student practice. The music stand will prevent the student from having to contort his/her body to see the music, thus forming bad habits. This item can be purchased from the music store. **Required in high school.**
9. Brass Student Accessories – All brass students should have valve oil, cleaning snake, tuning slide grease, and a mouthpiece brush. In addition, trombone students should also have trombotine (slide cream) and a slide sprayer. All of these items were required previously and can be purchased from the music store if necessary. **Required in high school.**
10. Woodwind Student Accessories
 - a. Flute players should have a cleaning rod, and handkerchief swab
 - b. Oboe players should have an oboe swab, reed case, and a reed soaker with clip
 - c. Clarinet players should have a silk handkerchief swab, reed guard, cork grease, and neck strap
 - d. Bassoon players should have a bassoon swab, reed case, reed soaker with clip, and seat strap
 - e. Saxophone players should have a pad saver, reed guard, cork grease, and neck strap
 - f. **All required in high school**
11. Percussion Student Supplies – supply list and information can be obtained by contacting Olivia Ramirez, percussion coordinator. oschlaegel@aledo.k12.tx.us
12. Solo Book – Concert Band and Symphonic Winds students only. Comes with CD for at home practice of solo for solo contest (February). This item will be provided through the band fee.
13. CHARMS subscription (provided through band fee) – this is the band’s communication and organizational database used to keep parents up-to-date on virtually all things band. Students will also be able to submit recordings and assignments through the recording studio function.
14. Computer Microphone (previously required) – this item is used to record the student assignments in the recording studio function in CHARMS. The band has a small stock of these microphones, and they can also be purchased from the music store. Replacement Fee/Cost: \$15
15. Foundations of Superior Performance Book – this item is provided to incoming 7th graders through your band fee. If a student loses his/her copy, it can be replaced. 8th grade students should still have theirs from the previous year. This book can be purchased from the music store. Replacement Cost: varies – \$8-12. **Required in high school.**
16. 10-15 Page protectors (for music in binders).

RULES, GUIDELINES, AND EXPECTATIONS

Band Hall Rules

1. Food or drink is not allowed in the band hall AT ANY TIME.
2. Running, screaming, or otherwise disruptive behavior is not allowed AT ANY TIME.
3. Do not play an instrument other than your own.
4. Your locker is to be locked when you are not in rehearsal.
5. The band hall is to be cleared once sectionals begin each morning and afternoon unless you have a lesson, a session with a director, or are practicing alone in a practice room.
6. Never interrupt a sectional or rehearsal. If you need to pick up or put away your instrument, do it quietly!

Rehearsal Rules

1. Talking, fidgeting, or otherwise disruptive behavior is not allowed.
2. Be seated with all necessary supplies by the tardy bell.
3. Stay focused and learn “in the moment.”
4. Stay seated unless you’ve been given permission otherwise.
5. The director, not the bell, will dismiss the class

AMS Band Students...

1. Maintain a strong work ethic and positive attitude in all classes
2. Are introspective and value honesty
3. Understand the importance of effective communication
4. Are organized and know how to manage their time
5. Display a high quality of character and are models for all students to follow

AMS Ensemble Members...

1. Know that “SET” is defined as being completely still, mentally focused, and physically prepared to produce the best sound possible, individually and as a group
2. Always perform with proper posture, instrument carriage, hand position, good breathing fundamentals, and toe tap
3. Are discerning LISTENERS while performing
4. Always PERFORM in rehearsal - not just “play”
5. Know that daily individual practice is a key ingredient to group and continued individual success

AMS Band Directors...

1. Have high standards and expectations and motivate students to achieve
2. Do not believe in limitation when it comes to student or group ability
3. Never accept less than their students’ best
4. Believe that honesty is critical to student empowerment, improvement, and success
5. Teach the whole student and provide firm but fair guidance

Disciplinary Consequences

Violation of the rules and expectations outlined in this handbook may result in one or more of the following actions:

- Verbal warning
- Time-out (may include a writing assignment) resulting in loss of band award points
- Parent contact
- Referral to principal's office
- Parent conference
- Removal of band privileges, including reward events and/or Spring Trip
- Removal from Band
- Severe behavioral problems will result in an immediate referral to principal's office

Band Specific Requirements

The chart on the following page is a general guideline of the requirements for each band at AMS. In addition, other guidelines and expectations can be found on the band contract that each student signs at the beginning of each year. These contracts are also posted on the upper band hall bulletin board.

AMS Band Variables 2015-16	Concert Band	Symphonic Winds	Honor Winds
Band Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Majority 7th grade ✓ Good basic musical skills ✓ Most are not in private lessons ✓ A good option for students who are highly involved and committed to <u>multiple</u> non-school sponsored activities (ex. Select/club sports, competitive cheer and dance, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Historically equal parts 7th and 8th grade ✓ Above average musical skills ✓ Around 60% in private lessons ✓ A good option for students who have <u>no more than 1</u> non-school sponsored activity going on during the same season and can manage their time well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Majority 8th grade ✓ Advanced musical skills – above expectation for grade level ✓ Around 95% in private lessons ✓ A good option for students who have limited outside of school commitments or otherwise have excellent time management skills
Amount of “At Home” Practice Required for a “100” on Practice Record	150 minutes per week (same as 6 th grade)	180 minutes per week	210 minutes per week
Sectional Rehearsals (ex. Clarinets only, trombones only, etc.)	Optional Before/After School	Once per week, before or after school for 1 hour	Once per week, before or after school for 1 hour
Full Band Rehearsals or Clinics (Before or After School)	1-2 before or after school clinics PER YEAR (Spring Semester)	1-2 before or after school clinics PER YEAR (Spring Semester)	1 weekly, before or after school rehearsal per week (Starting in mid November and ending beginning of May)
Required Group Concert Performances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Extravabandza (Fall) ✓ Winter Concert (December) ✓ Auction Concert (January) ✓ Pre-UIL Concert (Spring) ✓ Spring Awards Concert (May) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Extravabandza (Fall) ✓ Winter Concert (December) ✓ Auction Concert (January) ✓ Pre-UIL Concert (Spring) ✓ Spring Awards Concert (May) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Extravabandza (Fall) ✓ Fall Concert (October) ✓ Winter Concert (December) ✓ Auction Concert (January) ✓ Pre-UIL Concert (Spring) ✓ Spring Awards Concert (May)
Individual Competition: Participation in All-Region Auditions (Fall)	Optional	Recommended, required for 8 th grade students in this band (7 th Grade w/ Director and/or Private Teacher Approval)	Required
Individual Competition: Participation in Solo Contest (February)	Required (in class performance may substitute)	Required (in class performance may substitute)	Required
Group Competition (March/April): Required Full Band Competitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ UIL Concert and Sightreading – 1 Contest in March or April 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ UIL Concert and Sightreading – one Contest in March or April ✓ One Possible Invitational Festival in DFW area (April/May) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ UIL Concert and Sightreading – one Contest in March or April ✓ No more than 3 Invitational Festivals in DFW area (April/May)
Spring Trip (May)	Optional	Optional	Optional
Social Events (Varied)	Optional	Optional	Optional

SECTION REHEARSALS

Honor and Symphonic Winds members are required to attend a 60 minute sectional rehearsal once per week (see official CHARMS schedule). It is during sectional time that playing tests and initial objective pass-offs are administered. Students will receive more individualized instruction on material covered in band and will be given specific information on how to improve their skills on their specific instrument. Sectional rehearsals are the single most critical factor to the success of the bands, and attendance is very important. **Please do not schedule appointments (i.e. orthodontia etc.) during section rehearsal time.** Tutorials for other classes are built into the morning schedule so that students do not have to miss sectionals (tutorial time is from 8-8:30 every morning). The schedule will be posted during the first week of each semester or sooner. This schedule may change to help facilitate athletics and unexpected conflicts. The CHARMS calendar will be updated with any changes to this schedule.

Section rehearsals are optional for Concert Band during the fall.

SPRING TRIP

Each April or May, the band will take a one day or overnight spring trip. A trip company is used to take care of setting up the trip and establishing an agreeable itinerary. The details and pay schedule will be established, announced, and agreed upon via a contract that the parent or guardian must sign in order for their child to participate. This event is subject to state eligibility rules. Ineligible students will not be allowed to attend and monies cannot be refunded. All students must attain a certain award point level in order to participate. In addition, the band directors reserve the right to deny a student participation in the spring trip for violations of this handbook or his/her contract with the band.

School rules will apply on any trip the band takes, including the spring trip. Violation of school rules or special rules in place for the spring trip will result in the parent being called to pick up their child immediately.

Chaperones for the Spring Trip will be decided based upon previous volunteering experience. Priority will be given to parents who have shown a consistent interest and commitment to volunteering for other past band events. Chaperones will not have their own child in their group and are not guaranteed to even ride on the same bus. Since chaperones go for a reduced rate, they are considered “worker bees” for the spring trip and thus are more of a chaperone than a “parent” for this event. Parents should not volunteer for this event if these terms are not agreeable to them.

UNIFORMS

There are two possible uniforms worn by band members for performances. These uniforms range from informal to formal and will contribute to the overall presentation and appearance of the band for the concerts and functions.

Informal Uniform

Band fees paid at the beginning of the year will cover the cost of an AMS Band t-shirt used for the informal uniform. Specific wearing guidelines will be announced prior to the event, but generally this shirt will be worn with nice jeans and tennis shoes. The shirt is to be tucked in at all times while the band is in the public eye.

Formal Uniform

The band issues a formal uniform consisting of a white tuxedo shirt, black tuxedo pants, a vest, and a bow tie to each student. **It is the parents' responsibility to provide black socks and black dress shoes to complete the formal uniform.** The uniform is unisex. When in public, shirts must remain tucked in at all times, bow ties fastened, and vests completely buttoned up. The only time it is acceptable to be out of uniform is when the student has received permission from a band director. These uniforms must be returned by the due date (announced later). **The uniform is to be returned with a receipt showing that a professional cleaner has dry-cleaned and pressed the uniform prior to return.** If for any reason the uniform or part of the uniform is not returned, the parent/student will be responsible to pay for replacement of these items.

In addition, accessories, with the exception of stud earrings and/or simple necklaces, should not be worn at any time in formal uniform. All hair should be out of the eyes and not covering the face (use pins, if necessary). Students with hair that extends past the collar should use a clip, bow, or pony tail holder to keep the hair from touching the collar. Hair bows, clips, and other hair-holding accessories should be black in color – no other colors are allowed.

PLEASE NOTE: The above uniform guidelines are not meant to infringe on the student's right of personal self-expression. They are designed to maintain uniformity among the members of the band. The directors take these guidelines very seriously, as should the student members of the band. Failure to comply with the above guidelines can result in a student being removed from the performance in question and/or future performances resulting in a lower band grade.