

NORTH LAMAR BEGINNING BAND HANDBOOK

Congratulations!!

Your child has made a wise decision in choosing band. Band will offer many hours of pleasure as well as a stimulating musical experience. **Please read all of the following information carefully so that you and your child will be aware of the expectations and requirements of being a band member.**

Requirements and Activities

T-Shirts—Band t-shirts are worn for band pictures and all performances. All band students must purchase a shirt, the cost is \$15. We will have a fund raiser in September if you need assistance in purchasing the shirt.

1. **CONCERTS**--All band members will be expected to participate in **one evening class recital and two full-band concerts**. The class recital will occur before the end of the second six weeks. One full-band concert occurs just before the Christmas holidays and the second concert occurs in May. Participation in these performances is **graded** and is equal to a major test grade given in band. Attendance at concerts is required. Absence due to lack of transportation is not an excused absence...please make plans in advance. An absence from a concert will be excused only in the following cases:

- A. the student's illness
- B. family emergency (such as a death in the family)
- C. special arrangements made with the band director at least two weeks in advance of the concert

The students will receive a test grade of **100** for participation in each concert. An **unexcused absence** will result in a test grade of **zero** for that performance.

2. **CLASS**--All students must bring a note from their parent or guardian if their instrument is in the repair shop or if they are too ill to participate in class that day. Discomfort due to recent dental work will be excused if the student brings a note. Forgetting to bring their instrument will **not** be excused and will result in a lower daily grade and slower progress.

3. Since many instrument cases look alike, all instruments brought to school must have the student's name clearly labeled on the case. All students, including those students who are using school instruments, will be held financially responsible for the proper care of their instruments and any equipment checked out to them.

4. Band textbooks will be checked out at school or the student can purchase their own band book. The students will be held financially responsible for the loss or damage to any music and books checked out to them.

5. Each band student will be issued an instrument locker. If a student is using a school-owned instrument, they will also be issued a combination lock and must use it. Students who provide their own instruments may request a lock if they desire. **For the protection of the instruments**, the students will be expected to **keep their instruments in their band lockers** during the school day, **not** in their regular school lockers or any classroom. The student will be held financially responsible for any damage to his or her locker due to misuse. The student will be charged \$5.00 for any lost combination lock checked out to the student during the year.

6. TRIP—The Beginner Band has a contest trip at the end of the year at Canton High School, followed by recreation time at Splash Kingdom water park. This trip is a reward trip for band students for all their hard work and efforts throughout the school year. If a student is a severe discipline problem in the classroom or refuses to comply with our rules and expectations, that student may not be allowed to attend. Parents/guardian will be notified if a student is not allowed to participate in the Canton Festival. (Information about Canton will be sent home next semester).

Rental Instruments

McKay Music Co. in Sulphur Springs offer band instruments to rent on a monthly basis through convenient a rental-purchase plan, so you can rent an instrument for a trial period to see how your child will progress. At the end of the trial period, you can return the instrument without any further obligation, or you can continue payments to buy the instrument. All of the rental money paid up to that time applies to the purchase of the instrument. **McKay Music Company will have a back-to-school instrument and supply display in the Stone M.S. band hall for your convenience. We will inform you of the date and time ASAP.** Beginning instruments will be available to rent at that time along with all instrumental supplies needed. After that, all supplies can be purchased at school from the band directors throughout the school year.

School-Owned Instruments

The school has some instruments available each year for check-out to beginners. During the summer, the school instruments are checked and cleaned at the school's expense. **Once a student checks out a school instrument, the student is then responsible for maintenance and repair (if damage occurs due to neglect or abuse) of the instrument he or she is using.**

SUPPLIES– to be kept fresh throughout the entire school year

All students

- a 1-inch, three-ringed black binder with twenty plastic sheets for sheet music and handouts
- pencils and a pencil bag
- notebook paper
- a band textbook available for purchase or check out at school

Other supplies needed (can be purchased through the school):

Flutes – cleaning rod (should come in instrument case), cleaning swab, polishing cloth

Clarinets - a minimum of **3** good reeds should be kept at all times, cork grease, cleaning swab

Oboe & Bassoon - 2 good reeds should be kept at all times, cork grease, cleaning swab, small bottle to soak reeds (like a medicine bottle)

Saxophones - a minimum of **3** good reeds should be kept at all times, cleaning swab, cork grease, neck strap, polishing cloth

Trumpets - valve oil, tuning slide grease, polishing cloth, cleaning "snake," mouthpiece brush

French Horns - rotary valve oil, tuning slide grease, polishing cloth, cleaning "snake," mouthpiece brush

Trombones - slide oil, tuning slide grease, polishing cloth, cleaning "snake", mouthpiece brush

Baritones/Tubas -- valve oil, tuning slide grease, polishing cloth, cleaning "snake," mouthpiece brush

Percussion – stick bag with sticks and mallets as assigned by Mr. Boyce, practice pad (these can be purchased at www.steveweissmusic.com/category/north-lamar). Bell kits will be checked out through the school.

A folding music stand for practice at home is recommended (not required) to promote good posture and hand position and to facilitate music reading.

Grading

Grades are given in the following areas:

- a. weekly playing tests on assigned music
- b. written music theory tests
- c. concert participation grades
- d. home practice sheet grades signed weekly by parents
- e. daily participation grade

Drop-Out Period

Beginning Band is a full-year course. The students must realize that they are making a commitment toward giving their best sustained effort for one full year of musical study. They will not be allowed to drop the class after the first week of school.

The first few weeks are the toughest, right after the newness wears off and they realize they are really going to have to practice and work at it diligently to learn to play. Some early problems at this time in the year are very normal. Just encourage them to stick with it and keep trying. If your child continues to experience problems, please call us so we can give them extra help. Our primary goal is for your child to succeed!

Practicing

Success on a musical instrument cannot happen without practice. Practicing is the students' homework in band. Every student will be expected to take his or her instrument home and practice on a daily basis. We recommend a **minimum** of 30 minutes, six days a week of home practice. Some students will need more than that to achieve their musical goals. The student will have specific exercises and songs to practice every day. Each student will be expected to keep a record of each day's assignment and his or her home practice time. The parents will be asked to sign the student's practice sheet at the end of each week.

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. **Respect our rehearsal time** - by being in your seat on time with all necessary equipment needed for rehearsals.
2. **Respect our facilities** – by keeping all gum, candy, food, and drinks out of the band hall and leaving school property alone.

3. Respect yourself – by showing your best posture, playing habits, and best effort at all times.

4. Respect others and their property – by demonstrating good manners to other students and teachers at all times.

5. Respect our group – by listening at all times, playing only at the proper times, and following all instructions given by the directors so we can be the best band we can be.

CONSEQUENCES

1. Conference with student after class
2. Teacher option (removal from rehearsal, detention, written assignment, etc)
3. Conference with parent/guardian
4. Student referred to assistant principal/principal

*****If a student is a severe discipline problem in the classroom or refuses to comply with the rules and expectations, that student may not be allowed to attend the Canton contest and Splash Kingdom in May. Parent/guardian will be notified if a student is not allowed to participate in this festival.**

Parental Support

There is nothing more important to your child's study of music than your sincere support and interest. Please help by attending band concerts, getting involved in the Band Booster Club, encouraging home performances to build confidence, and by helping your child understand that the more he or she practices, the more fun and success will be enjoyed later.

REMIND.COM

All parents and/or students will sign up for **“REMIND”**, a communication program in which information about upcoming band events will be emailed or texted. If students/parents do not have internet or cell phone, a letter with the information will be sent home with the child. Otherwise, all communications will be sent electronically. Instructions on how to sign up for remind.com are in this packet.

Stone MS Band Website

Check the band website often for announcements, calendars, student recognition, etc. Go to www.northlamar.net, scroll over the “Departments” tab on the yellow bar, choose Stone Band.

Calendar of Events

A complete calendar of events is printed in this packet and on the Stone MS Band website.

Parent/Child Handbook Agreement

My child and I have received and read the Beginning Band hand book. We understand that band is a full year obligation. We understand the requirements and expectations of the program and agree to abide by them as stated in the handbook.

Student's Name _____ **Date** _____

Instrument _____ **Band Period/Class** _____

Parent or Guardian's Signature _____

Student's Signature _____

Please designate whether your child's name and picture can be published on the Stone M.S. Band's webpage in band activities by checking one of the following statements:

___ My child's name and picture can be published on the band's webpage.

___ My child's name and picture cannot be published on the band's webpage.

T-Shirt Size – **THESE ARE ADULT SIZES** – please circle one (for youth L or XL, choose XS)

XS S M L XL 2XL 3XL

You may begin paying for t-shirts at any time. The cost is \$15.

BEGINNER AND CONCERT BAND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Put all of these events on your family calendar now
to avoid any conflicts during the year.*

OCT	24	(Tuesday)	BEGINNER BAND recitals (not Concert Band)
NOV	3	(Friday)	Band group and individual pictures
DEC	7	(Thursday)	Christmas Concert
FEB	22	(Thursday)	Percussion Concert
MAY	15	(Tuesday)	Spring Concert <i>(date might change due to STAAR testing)</i>
	17	(Thursday)	Soundpost Music Festival (Contest) @ Canton Splash Kingdom Water Park <i>(date might change due to STAAR testing)</i>
	?	(end of school)	Solo/Ensemble contest in class

STONE MS BAND STUDENT INFORMATION AND MEDICAL RELEASE

Full Name of Student _____ Date of Birth ___/___/___

Instrument _____ Brand _____ Serial # _____ Class Period _____

Student Cell # _____ Student email _____

Complete Address _____

Primary Parent/Guardians' Names _____

Parent/Guardian email _____

Home Phone _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone # _____

Secondary Parent/Guardians' Names _____

Parent/Guardian email _____

Home Phone _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Insurance/Medical Information (REQUIRED FOR ALL BAND TRIPS):

Name of Health Insurance _____ Policy # _____

Name of Policy Holder _____ Relationship to Student _____

Allergies/Prior Surgeries/Significant Health Issues: _____

Current Medications: _____

For band trip purposes only (please circle):

Do band directors have permission to treat headaches? Ibuprofen Tylenol No

Stomach aches with Pepto Bismol? Yes No Minor scrapes/burns with antibiotic ointment? Yes No

By signing this form, I give permission for North Lamar band directors or chaperons to authorize medical treatment for my child by professional medical personnel in case of emergency illness or injury on a band trip. (Signature MUST be witnessed by a Notary.)

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of Notary

Date