

# Sam Jamison Middle School Band

Welcome to what looks to be a fantastic year for the Sam Jamison Band! We are so proud and excited that you have chosen band as your elective this year! We trust that this decision will be a fun and enriching experience for everyone involved. The following handbook provides as much information as possible about the Sam Jamison Band Program. Parents, please do not hesitate to give us a call or send an e-mail to us if you have any questions. Since all of the Sam Jamison band directors travel between campuses the most convenient way to contact us is via e-mail or by phone in the PJH-South Band Hall at 281-727-1523.

Please take time to read the handbook thoroughly. The last few pages contain a **Jamison Band Student Information Sheet**. Please scan the QR code at the end of this packet acknowledging you received this information and letting us know your child T Shirt Size.

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Sam Jamison Middle School Band Staff

## Jamison Band Expectations

In addition to the Sam Jamison MS and PISD classroom guidelines, the following band hall guidelines apply:

1. Respect the band hall furniture and electrical equipment. Writing on the dry-erase board, music stands, risers, and or chairs is **strictly prohibited**. Do not touch the metronome or tuner for any reason.
2. Only percussionists have permission to touch the percussion equipment, unless otherwise instructed by a band director.
3. Do not touch another student's instrument, even with his/her permission. This expectation carries outside of the band hall as well.
4. For your protection, as well as for practice, your instrument should be taken home every day once we begin playing (tentatively the week of Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>). The band hall is open before and after school for students to drop off and pick up their instruments.
5. Treat all directors and fellow band members with courtesy and respect.
6. Have all materials and be ready for instruction at the start of class, you will not be allowed to retrieve items for band from your homeroom or locker.

Consequences for misbehavior include:

1. Warning.
2. Conference with director and a parent contact.
3. Detention
4. Office Referral.
5. Exclusion from Band Events or Activities.
6. Serious offenses will be dealt with as outlined in the PISD Student Code of Conduct. Serious offenses warrant an immediate office referral.

Rewards for good behavior

1. Positive comment and/or note to the student.
2. Positive comment and/or note to the parent.
3. Special Recognition
4. Prizes and Privileges

Through membership in an organization, a SJMS Band Member represents the band program in every action that he or she makes. **All band members are expected to behave with the utmost character and as leaders in every endeavor.**

## **JMS Band Grading Policy**

**Daily Grade examples include, however are not limited to:**

1. Weekly Practice Records: Students will be required to fill out weekly practice logs to complete the assignments given by their teacher. These logs will require a parent signature and will not start until a few weeks into the school year.
2. ERS (Ensemble Rehearsal Sills): One ERS Grade is given for each week of the school year. Each student earns 20 points a day for having all their materials and taking their equipment home. At the end of the week, if the student has taken care of his or her business, they receive a 100 for the week. Each time during the week a student forgets their materials or does not take his or her instrument home, they lose 20 points for the day.
3. Worksheets: Students will be asked to complete worksheets to work on theory at times. Much of this will be done in class but some may need to be completed at home.
4. Playing Grades: Students may be assessed on a certain music passage for a daily grade at times.

## Major Test Grades

1. Playing test: At least four playing tests will be given each nine weeks in class.
2. Written Test: A few times a year we will do a written test covering the music theory that has been covered in class.
3. All Major Performances: We will have two performances this year tentatively set for **December 7<sup>th</sup>** and **April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00pm at PJH-South**. There will be one required after school rehearsal for each concert a few days earlier held after school at Jamison.

## Instrument Maintenance and Repair

Regular cleaning and maintenance of the instrument by the student will prevent many common problems. However, if a repair must be done, **do not try to fix the instrument on your own!** Contact the band director immediately. If your child's director cannot fix the problem, they will contact you and get you information about having the instrument repaired. If you are on a rental plan with a music company most repairs are free. Instruments are usually sent in and returned at least once a week.

## School Owned Instruments

### (Oboe, Bassoon, French Horn, Euphonium and Tuba)

All students playing a school owned instrument are required to pay a \$50 rental fee for each semester. This fee will cover annual cleaning and upkeep. **Each student is financially responsible for any damage incurred while the instrument is checked out to them.** This fee will be assessed though charms.

Since these students are playing on a school owned instrument, we highly encourage our school owned instrument families to take advantage of the private lesson program.

## Private Lessons

Private lessons are one-on-one instruction with a master teacher of a certain instrument made available through PISD. Lessons are 30 minutes and are held after school (some lessons are during the school day). Private lessons enhance and build upon what the child is learning in the music class. PRIVATE LESSONS ARE FOR ANY LEVEL – ANY GRADE STUDENT – from the student with the highest musical ability to the student who still may be struggling in certain areas of their playing (or even a beginner). The private lesson instructor evaluates where that student is in their musical development and pushes them further ahead. (However, students do not need to worry that they will move ahead of the class and be bored.) Private lessons work on an

individual's needs, strengths, and weaknesses. What a great advantage to receive individual help coming from a class of 30 – 60 students! Students work on sound, technique, building range, and learning all notes on their instrument. Older students receive help on scales and All – Region music. All students have the opportunity to work on solo music. Registration forms for lessons and more details will be sent home with each student. **Student that play school owned instruments (Oboe, Bassoon, French Horn, Euphonium and Tuba) are highly encouraged take advantage of the private lesson program.** More details about lessons and a registration form are included at the end of this packet. You can also find the details about private lessons on the PISD Fine Arts web page ([www.pearlandisd.org](http://www.pearlandisd.org), [under departments click on Fine Arts.](#))

## **Braces and Orthodontics**

Braces are a fact of life for many students. The directors ask the parents to **please keep us up-to-date with dental plans involving your child's teeth.** Braces may affect your child's playing to a degree for a short time and we, as teachers, need to prepare for that with your child. Please keep your child's performance schedule in mind when arranging the appointments for getting braces.

## **Insurance**

Insurance is highly recommended to anyone who owns a musical instrument. If you do not have it, it is recommended you acquire insurance through a music store or other venue.

## **Acknowledgement**

Please scan the QR code below to acknowledge you received this information and to give us your child's t shirt size.



