

**G.W. Carver Middle School
Panther Band
2023-2024 Band Handbook**



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G.W. Carver Middle School Band Master Schedule

Class Period	Time	Band Schedule
1 st Period	8:30-9:26	Beginner Band
2 nd Period	9:29-10:18	Varsity Band
3 rd Period	10:21-11:10	Beginner Band
4 th Period	11:13-12:02	Beginner Band
5 th Period	12:35-1:24	Conference
6 th Period	1:27-2:16	WIN
7 th Period	2:19-3:08	Non-Varsity Band
8 th Period	3:11-4:00	Beginner Band

Grading Policy

Grades are assigned for the band class and any other activity related to band.

DAILY GRADES = 40 %

- Class participation – every day, students must have their instruments, music and pencils at every rehearsal and show maximum effort to earn the best grade possible.

- Written homework

- Home, morning, or after school practice

- Concerts, performances, and auditions in and outside of the school day

MAJOR GRADES (TEST GRADES) = 50 %

- Playing and written tests

It is the student's responsibility to turn in all assignments, prepare for auditions, and make scheduled events.

PRACTICE GRADE=10%

*Students must practice a minimum of an hour or more a week outside of class time.

They need to come in during zero hour, after school or take it home. If they take it home during the week it must be twice (Mon-Thurs) or take it for the weekend. Students must sign in/out **every time** when they take it home or when they come in to practice.

CONDUCT/CITIZENSHIP GRADE – the following behaviors will be evaluated daily and will be the basis for calculating the conduct/citizenship grade: Focus, Preparedness (having supplies), and Following Classroom Rules/Procedures

EXTRA CREDIT – there will be opportunities throughout the year to earn extra credit.

Performance Policy

With our limited practice time, it is imperative that we make the most of each rehearsal. As a member of the Indian Spring MS Band you have an obligation to your fellow band members to be at all rehearsals on time, to be prepared, and to have all necessary equipment.

- ✓ Attendance is required at all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances
- ✓ All performances and competitions are co-curricular and are considered an extension of classroom work. Therefore, attendance at performances and practices outside the school day is a part of the students' six weeks average. You will receive a zero if you do not show up for a performance.
- ✓ Students that do not show up for the Winter and Spring Concerts **will not** be allowed to go on the end of the year trip. If you miss a concert, you must have an excuse from a parent in writing **3 days** after the concert. The directors will decide to excuse or not excuse the absence. You will also be given an alternate written assignment if you miss the concert so that you can receive a passing grade. If you fail to do the assignment, you may fail for the six week period.
- ✓ If there is a conflict with the Band Calendar, please let the band directors know as soon as possible.

Tardy Policy

- ✓ Any student that shows up to class tardy will receive a tardy slip. Students are considered tardy if they are not in the room by the time the tardy bell rings (within reason). All students that are tardy will be documented in the attendance system (where your parents can access and see them).
- ✓ If a student has a pass they must make sure that the directors are aware of it and that it is in our possession. Please make sure you and the teacher's name is clear on the pass.
- ✓ After a student shows a pattern of being tardy in a six week period, the following consequences will be enforced.
 - < 3 - Warning
 - 4 - Call home
 - 5 - All of the above w/Lunch Detention
 - 6 - All of the above w/Meeting with grade level AP
 - 7 - All of the above w/Meeting with Mr. Lewis
 - 8 - All of the above w/No longer access to band hall

Eligibility

I will do everything I can to encourage students to pass their classes. Many of the activities in which the band student participates require them to maintain passing grades

(70 or above) in all school classes. This requirement to pass all classes is mandated by House Bill 72. If a student fails even one class, they will be ineligible to participate in activities like UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest, Region Honor Band, Solo and Ensemble Contest, and Band festivals. **All students are eligible to play in the school concerts that are given throughout the school year. Students receive a grade for concert participation and a grade for audience participation.**

Materials Needed for Class

Each student should have the following items at their seats at every rehearsal:

- School mandated technology (chromebook)
- A sharpened pencil
- Instrument
- Valve oil, slide grease for brass, one small water bottle for trombones
- Black 1 inch binder and sheet protectors (about 10)
- At least two working reeds and a swab for woodwinds
- Sticks and mallets for percussion. At no time should these items be on the floor.

From time to time during the school year, you will receive a materials grade. If you have all of the above items, you will receive a daily grade of an A.

You can purchase these items at one of the following music stores:

Guitar Center
4314 West Waco Dr.
Waco, Texas 76710
254-751-1312

Tarpley Music Company
1300 Lake Air Dr. Ste 1
Waco, Texas 76710
254-235-1127

Music and Math Studio
100 Midway Center, Ste C
Woodway, Texas 76712
254-235-6662

Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the Band Member

- Be on time to all rehearsals and performances.
 - Follow rehearsal procedures.
 - Come to the rehearsal with a good attitude.
 - Make a real effort to improve on a daily basis and establish a good practice routine.
 - At the end of the rehearsal, put all materials in their proper place.
 - Maintain a strong academic standing in all course work.
 - Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions. Admit when you're wrong.
 - Have proper respect for yourself and those in authority.
 - Read and play music with insight – have musical expectations.
- *Attend all tutoring rehearsals.

Parents' Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of every parent and guardian to see that the policies outlined in the handbook are followed and that the forms in the back are signed and returned. Each parent is responsible for the attendance of his or her child at all band functions.

Parent Involvement is Key!

- Show an interest in the musical study of your child.
- Arrange a regular time for your child to practice and find a quiet place where he or she can practice without interruption.
- Listen to performances of practice material when asked to do so.

Band Discipline Procedures

Each student is an individual and will be disciplined accordingly in line with the school policy. Possible consequences include, but are not limited to: in-class detentions, time-outs, parent contact, before/after school detentions, office referrals.

Illegal Activities

Vandalism (destruction of property belonging to students, teachers or the school) and theft are examples of the most serious offenses to occur in a band hall or to band equipment. In such a case an office referral will be made, parents will be notified and restitution will be necessary. Students participating in illegal behaviors will be removed from the band program. Any illegal behavior may be reported to the local law enforcement authorities.

Band Uniform

The Carver MS Band Uniform is something you should always wear with pride. Students are to be in full uniform directly before, during and after all performances. A professional look is very important, especially at competitions, as judges count behavior and appearance in the band's overall rating. Participation in the program and wearing the uniform is reserved for those who earn that privilege.

Minimal Uniform

- Blue Band T-Shirt w/Blue jeans and tennis shoes

Concert/Formal Uniform (Concert/Contests)

- Blue Polo w/Black pants (black jeans are okay) and black shoes

Traveling

- All band members will ride the bus going to and coming from the event. Parents may take students home after the event, but **MUST** make contact with a director before doing so. Exceptions to this rule require written personal requests by the parents prior to the event.
- Students will be assigned to a specific bus prior to departure. Riding on a bus other than the one assigned is not permitted and will result in a consequence.
- Students are required to obey the driver, directors, and chaperones in charge.
- Waco ISD prohibits loud talking, inappropriate language, standing in aisles, or sitting on the back of the seats while on the buses. Nothing is permitted to hang out of or be thrown from the windows.
- No food or drinks are allowed on the buses unless approved by the directors.

- Public displays of affection are not permitted on the bus. Band directors, bus drivers, and chaperones will enforce this.
- Instruments and other equipment will be carried on the bus. Every band member is responsible for his/her own instrument and equipment. Percussion will be assigned an instrument they are responsible for.
- Students must be seated while the bus is in motion (NO SWITCHING seats).
- If a conversation can be heard in the front of the bus, it is too loud.
- Please keep the buses clean; pick up after yourselves and *always thank the driver*.

Competitions/Festivals

Competitions and festivals are special events in which we get to perform for a sophisticated audience and very competent judges. We are there to do our best – not to win. If we do our best, everything will take care of itself. Specific information is given prior to competitions as to directions, departure, and anticipated return time. All parents are encouraged to attend competitions and support the band. Students may use the band phone to call parents for rides following a trip. Parents, please come immediately when called.

Practice

Students are responsible for a week or more of practice outside of class time. It is 20% of the total band grade.

Here is a suggested plan of study:

- Pick a set time each day
- Use a tuner and metronome if available.
- Increase dynamic range (work on pianissimo)
- Use our daily warm-ups and think “tone”
- Increase endurance (15 minutes of full-tone playing)
- Play some form of scales at every practice session.
 - Increase range (with good tone)
- Work on technique (articulations, accents, etc.)
- Practice sight-reading
- ALWAYS practice playing with good tone and posture, reading above and below notes, playing with musical shaping, etc.

Mandatory Tutoring for all Varsity Band members

This is mandatory with no exceptions. Students may or may not be excused by contacting Mr. Boswell directly before the scheduled tutoring time. You can find the schedule in our chronological calendar attached below. The mandatory tutoring will start the second week of school.

School-Owned Instrument Usage Fee

Each student who uses a school-owned instrument is completely responsible for the care of the instrument. A \$50 usage fee will be assessed for the school year. This may be broken into smaller scheduled payments throughout the school year (please see the director). This fee will help offset all trips, student meal requests, transportation, and

registration fees. If an instrument is damaged due to negligence, the student is responsible for the entire cost. An instrument check-out form must be filled out and on file with the director for the student to use the school-owned instrument. If you are unable to pay the \$50 fee, then 9 hours of community service after school in the band room (except Wednesdays) will also be an alternate option.

Use of the Band Facilities

Band Room

The use of band facilities before, after, and during school is a privilege. Students who abuse the facility will be disciplined accordingly. Any abuse or damage will be considered vandalism.

- **No outside students (non-band members) are permitted in the band room**, except for business with the directors.
- There will be no horseplay.
- All percussion equipment is off limits to anyone not specifically designated to use them.
- There will be no storing of personal items – the band room is not a locker!
- No food, gum, candy, or drinks are allowed in the band facilities, except at times designated by the directors.
- Keep instruments in cases, with latches closed, and in your assigned area when not in use.
- Instrument storage areas must be kept clean and neat.
- No items shall be left on the floor of the band hall.
- Band hall chairs and stands are not to be removed from the room unless requested by a director.
- Students are not to sit or stand on director podium or stool, or touch the director's things.
- Students may not stand or walk on chairs, crawl/hide inside storage lockers, lean on or write on music stands, lean on or sit on or jump over instruments or cases.
- Periodic inspections will be made of school-owned instruments. Each student is financially responsible for any damage that occurs during the time it has been issued to him or her.

Band Office and Office Phone

The band office is private and is not to be entered by any student without permission from a director. All students should keep in mind that this is a place of business. Knock first! Use of the telephone should be only for band events and is not for personal use. *Ask permission before using the phone!*

Band Fundraisers

G.W. Carver MS Band is allowed to fundraise during the school year. The profits raised go to support the bands' expenditures such as transportation, trips, awards, instruments, contest fees, clinicians, social functions and many other things. There will be consequences if money is not turned in a timely manner. We will have the following fundraisers this year.

Fall - Athletic Concessions/Fancloth

Spring - Athletic Concessions/World's Finest Chocolate

Contract of Mutual Consent (please fill out & return ASAP)

I, the undersigned student, accept membership in the G.W. Carver Middle School Band and understand I am responsible for all policies set forth in the band handbook. I fully agree to carry out my responsibilities to the very best of my ability.

Student signature

Date

Printed student name

Student Phone Number

I, the undersigned parent or guardian, have read and understand the policies as set forth in the band handbook. I also grant full permission for my child to be an active member of the G.W. Carver Middle School Band. In addition, my child has full permission to attend all band functions.

Furthermore, I understand that I must meet all financial obligations (or community service) and attend all band performances that my schedule allows. If I cannot attend, another family member or friend of the family will attend.

Parent signature

Date

Printed parent name

Parent Phone Number

Band Chaperones (for trips and other needs). Please check one.

- Yes I am able to help out if it works with my schedule this school year.
- No I will not be able to help with any events this school year.