
Judson Middle School JSTEM Academy



Band Student Handbook

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WELCOME

Welcome to the Judson Middle School and JSTEM Academy Band Program! The goal of this handbook is to provide information about our band program to you in a detailed manner.

Your child's participation in our band program is beneficial in many ways. Band students are engaged daily in a highly creative performing art that stimulates growth in areas of the human brain that no other discipline can. This growth effortlessly transfers into your student's academic life. In addition, our band students will develop traits such as teamwork, responsibility, dedication, self-discipline, social skills, confidence, leadership, and dependability. Membership in our band program will give all a sense of accomplishment, pride, and respect as the students develop musical and personal skills that will enrich their lives.

The purpose of this handbook is to outline the guidelines and expectations for making this year a success for all involved, and to serve as a guide and resource for students and parents. Both students and their parents should take the time to thoroughly read this handbook. Upon completion, *the contract attached to the back of this handbook should be signed and returned to school, indicating your understanding of these guidelines and expectations.*

****Enrolling in band is a full year course, and students who enroll are expected to commit for the full academic school year****

Contact Information

The directors encourage positive communication and are willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress in band with his/her parents and/or guardians. **The best and fastest way to communicate with a director is through email.**

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WRITE A NOTE

You may send a note with your child. Please include a phone number and/or e-mail address that you can be reached and the best time to reach you.

Remind and Smore

Text to 81010.

Beginner Band: @begbandjag, Symphonic Band: @symbandjag, Honor Band: @honbandjag
Newsletter; Bi-Weekly or Monthly.

Conference Periods

The directors' main conference periods vary and can be found on the JMS teacher website.

Please understand that our communication to you – the parents – is a very high priority for us. We want to take care of concerns and make every situation the best for each student.

Due to sectionals and student help sessions, it is difficult to reach us before or after school. If we are working with students, please understand that they are our priority and deserve our complete attention.

E-MAIL Policy

We will be sending home many updates and communications via email throughout the year. Due to the nature of e-mail, all major concerns will need to be addressed through conferences or phone communication. This is to avoid any misunderstandings or unclear intentions through e-mail communication. Parents are encouraged to use email to get more information or clarification regarding events, or to schedule a parent conference. All email inquiries will be responded to within 24 hours.

Student Communication

Students are also encouraged to communicate with the directors before concerns become issues. They should do this in person at an appropriate time, one on one. Again, clarification and solid communication will keep everything running smoothly the entire year.

Throughout the year, we will be sending information home in the form of letters. Please make every effort to read this information carefully, check calendars often and keep us informed of any conflicts. The sooner we know of a situation, the more options we have in solving problems.

Goals and Objectives

- Organizational skills
- Practice techniques
- Mental and physical discipline
- Citizenship through group endeavors
- Cultural growth
- Value judgment
- Music theory
- Proper instrumental technique
- Life lessons
- Creative self-expression
- Aural skills
- Music appreciation
- Teamwork/social skills
- Performance skills

Conduct Expectations

Band members will observe all procedures set forth by Judson Middle School, JSTEM Academy, and Judson ISD, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

- Any behavior, which is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the band program.
- All students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Judson Middle School & JSTEM Academy Student Handbook. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection of the group.
- Students will follow directors' instructions.
- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area with all necessary equipment at the beginning of rehearsal time.
- Students will keep their hands and feet to themselves.
- Students will not use or play on equipment that they do not own without permission from a director.
- Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument or personal belongings. **"If it's not yours, don't touch!"**
- As part of rehearsal procedure, students should request permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be quiet so that time will be utilized as wisely and efficiently as possible.
- When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsals in progress.
- Students will respect the property of others, and return their equipment to its proper storage place when not in use. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area, and keep said storage area clean and neat in appearance. Students who have difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band hall. Only band music and supplies should be stored in their instrument storage area.
- Students will not deface or mark on music stands, chairs, walls, etc.
- Students will not write on the dry-erase boards or use electronic equipment without permission from a director.
- Students will utilize their assigned storage slot for instrument cases during rehearsals. Cases should not be brought into the rehearsal area unless requested by a director (exceptions: Flute, Clarinet, and Oboe)
- Disruptive behavior may result in the student being removed from rehearsal and given an alternate graded assignment. Repetitive disruption may result in an office referral or removal from the program.

Financial Obligations

It is the philosophy of the Jaguar Band that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact the directors.

The Jaguar Band fee is \$25 per year. This fee covers the cost of instrument maintenance, supplies, maintenance of formal concert attire, band polo, music, and band binders.

Fundraising

Participation in fundraising is encouraged, but not required. The fundraiser will be used to defray the trip expenses or program fees. Any other money raised will be used to purchase additional materials and equipment for the Jaguar Band Program.

The JMS/JSTEM Jaguar Bands

Honors Band

Selection into this group is by audition, director recommendation, and demonstration of academic proficiency. Members in this ensemble will participate in the TMEA Region process, Solo and Ensemble Contest, and UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluation. Members of this group will have one section rehearsal/assigned hearing time outside of the school day each week. Additional rehearsals will be scheduled as needed. The Honors Band will give numerous performances both on and off campus. In UIL Activities, this group will be designated the “Varsity” band.

Symphonic Band

Selection into this group is by audition. This group, at varying levels, will participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest, and UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluation. Members of Symphonic Band will have one section rehearsal/assigned hearing time each week outside of the school day. The group will give a variety of performances. In UIL activities, these groups will be designated as the “Non-Varsity” band.

Band Placement

Yearly placement in each band and occasional changes are based on the following criteria:

- Instrumentation needs and limitations
- Eligibility status
- Overall performance and consistent progress
- Attitude and behavior
- Audition

Care of Facilities

- No gum, food or drinks are allowed in the band hall except when authorized by the directors.
- All trash is to be deposited in the wastebaskets provided.
- Acts of vandalism or the willful misuse of school property will be dealt with severely and appropriately. Every band member is responsible to help the directors monitor the facility and control vandalism, which includes but is not limited to writing or carving on walls, destroying music, or breaking school property.
- Use of practice rooms is a privilege which can be revoked if the room is not used properly.
- Due to the heavy student traffic going in and out of the band hall, as well as the possibility of theft of instruments, students not enrolled in band are not allowed in the band hall at any time.

Attendance

In order to have and maintain a high-quality band program, each member's attendance is essential. While the Jaguar band follows all school and district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the Jaguar band. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held outside the school day.

Excused Absence

Absences during the school day will be excused according to district guidelines. Absences from activities held outside the school day will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Absences should be discussed with a director to determine whether or not they will be excused. If the student knows of a schedule problem in advance, discuss the schedule conflict as soon as possible with the directors in order to come up with a solution.

Unexcused Absence

Students with an unexcused absence from any required band performance will receive a 50% test grade; rehearsal/sectional absences receive a 50% daily grade. Concepts learned in group rehearsals, concerts and contests cannot be made up. Students with an unexcused absence to a sectional rehearsal may be required to schedule a make-up lesson with their band director within one week.

Concerts/Performances

Concerts and performances are an integral component of the band curriculum. Students should consult their schedules for dates and times. Each of the concert ensembles will perform at various times throughout the school year and are mandatory. Periodically, the schedule may change and updates will be communicated. For the student, the concert begins at the warm-up.

Punctuality is essential. A general report time will be given for all students. If a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up for all missed work.

Daily Supplies

Each student plans to bring the following items to rehearsals and/or performances. Other items may be added at the discretion of the directors.

- All issued music
- Pencils
- All supplies relative to their instrument
- Black band binder
- Korg TM-50 metronome/tuner
- Korg Contact Microphone Pickup
- Other equipment as needed

Uniform

Each performing band has a required uniform.

- **Honors and Symphonic Band:** The band uniform will consist of a partial tuxedo for boys with dress black shoes and black socks. Ladies are to wear black dress with black tights/hose, black closed-toe dress shoes.
- **Beginning Band:** Jaguar band polo, black dress pants, black skirt/skort, black dress shoes with long black socks.
- **All bands:** Designated Jaguar Band Polo, blue jeans and tennis shoes for informal performances.

****Band polos will be tucked in prior to a performance or band function****

Section Rehearsals

Students in Honors and Symphonic Bands will have weekly section rehearsals with their instrument's section. Section rehearsals are small group instructional sessions to give students the skills needed to meet their goal of growth and success on their instrument. Absences from section rehearsals must be in accordance with the attendance policy. Attendance is required. Any student with a conflict will attend a "make-up" session within one week of absence from a sectional. Section rehearsals are an extension of the classroom and are graded accordingly.

(We will notify students and parents when will be able to hold sections)

Eligibility

All Jaguar Bands adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA, UIL, JISD, and JMS/JSTEM Academy. Some band activities are designated as extra-curricular. Students participating in UIL activities are governed by eligibility requirements. A student shall be suspended from participation in all UIL activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the six week period following a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than 70 in any class. Loss of eligibility does not take effect until seven days after the

end of the reporting period. Ineligible students are not suspended from practice or rehearsal for UIL activities.

Students may regain eligibility under certain circumstances. If a student has been suspended as a result of failing, he/she may regain eligibility by passing ALL courses by the third week of the following grading period. Reinstatement of eligibility would occur seven days after the three-week progress report period.

The eligibility law does not affect activities that are considered curricular components of any course (band concerts). Examples of these activities are all rehearsals and performances that take place as a regular extension of classroom instruction. Any performance that is competitive in nature or for which admission is charged is deemed extra-curricular, and eligibility rules apply.

Grading Policy

DAILY/QUIZZES GRADES – 60%

- Weekly Sectional grade (Advanced Bands only)
- Class Participation
- Weekly Playing
- Equipment and Band Binder check
- Practice Records

TEST GRADES – 40%

- Playing Evaluations/Music Pass-Offs
- Written/online assignments
- Performances
- Rehearsals

Band Equipment

Student Instruments

Individually owned instruments are the responsibility of the student; JMS/JSTEM or JISD will not be responsible for loss or damage that occurs to a privately-owned instrument.

School-Owned Instruments

The school provides some of the larger, more expensive instruments. Students are responsible for the care and daily maintenance of the instruments and are expected to keep them in excellent playing condition. School owned instruments are being issued in new, excellent, good or fair condition. Once the student has their instrument, it is his/her responsibility to keep it in playing condition throughout the school year and return it in the same or better condition. This includes the condition of the case. Rough handling will shorten the life and destroy the appearance of the case and diminish the it's effectiveness in protecting the instrument. JISD has a \$60 usage fee per year (\$30 per semester) for the use of school instruments and students are responsible for keeping the instrument in working condition and servicing the instrument at the end of the school

year. Prior to the annual inventory/audit, the instrument will be checked by a director for playing condition and repair damage caused by the students. All students and parents will be required to fill out and return a form stating that you will be responsible for the condition of the instrument. Students who do not have the instrument usage agreement form on file by September 1st will not be able to continue to use the instrument until the form is turned in. Any student who does not have an instrument will receive an elective change form and be removed from the Jaguar Band organization. All instrument cases must have a tag with the student's name on it.

Instrument Storage Lockers

Each student will be given a locker for storage of their instruments during the school day. Lockers must be locked with locks provided at all times. Students may bring their instrument to the band hall before school and may pick up their instrument after school before going to bus. Their locker is for instruments and band related supplies **ONLY**. All cases must be latched and in their locker when not in use.

Discipline Techniques:

The purpose of discipline is to help students improve themselves and learn from each situation. This list of techniques is not intended to be a list of progressive sanctions.

1. Oral correction
2. Preferential seating
3. Counseling by director
4. Removal from rehearsal; alternate graded assignment
5. Parent-director conference
6. Behavioral Contract
7. Withdrawal from privileges, such as participation in class, or an incentive activity
8. Dismissal from program

Performance Conduct

Any display of inappropriate conduct, rude or disrespectful behavior, physically or verbally abusive behavior before or during a competition will result in the student being suspended from the competition. In addition, inappropriate behavior after the competition will result in student discipline. At the discretion of the director and/or administration, depending on the seriousness of the incident, could result in the student being suspended from future contests, performances, or dismissal from the program.

School-sponsored Trips

Students participating in school-sponsored trips are expected to ride the transportation provided by the school to and from the event. As approved by the principal, directors may establish procedures by which exceptions may be granted. Students will need to be eligible and have no office referrals to be able to attend school-sponsored trips. We will also need chaperones from time to time. If you would like to volunteer to be a chaperone, please contact Mr. Juarez at mjuarez@judsonisd.org.