



Jamison Middle School
Band Handbook 2026-2027

2506 Woody Road
Pearland, TX 77581



Sam Jamison Middle School

Developing a lifelong love of music through first-class musical experiences

Dan Mullen, Director

Dennis Peña, Brandon Ortega, Josh Hartwell, Assistant Directors

2506 Woody Rd. Pearland, TX 77581

August 19, 2026

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back to a brand new school year, and congratulations on your decision to be a part of the Jamison Middle School Band. We hope that will find our program provides students with the highest levels of musical experiences. This year, we will continue to build upon past successes and reach new heights through high expectations and goals.

Hard-working students, dedicated staff, involved and active parents, and a supportive administration and community all combine to make it possible for the band program to offer outstanding musical opportunities. Our students are expected to set and reach high goals for themselves and their program, and the rewards of meeting those expectations are immeasurable. Our vision is to develop a first-class musical experience through participation in the Jamison Band program. In addition, we are dedicated to helping students grow socially, emotionally, and academically.

This band handbook is an important component of the Jamison Band success plan. It is designed to provide valuable information about the band program. Parents, please read the handbook carefully with your child. You should especially make sure you understand how grades in band will be assessed (page 6) and the fees associated with the program (pages 9 and 14). **You must fill out and sign the forms located at the end of this handbook. These can easily be completed online by scanning the QR Code Below.** Completion of these forms will be a component of the student's first nine-week objectives.

We look forward to working together with all students and parents as we strive towards a successful year. If you should have any questions regarding this handbook or should need to contact us for any reason at all, please do not hesitate to email or call.

Let's have a great year!

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Josh Hartwell
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281-727-1500

General Information

Band Directors

Dan Mullen, Beginner Trombone (1st period), Beginner Horn (2nd period)

Dennis Peña, Beginner Tuba and Euphonium (1st period), Beginner Clarinet (2nd period), Beginner Saxophone (3rd period)

Brandon Ortega, Beginner Oboe and Bassoon (1st period), Beginner Flute (2nd period), Beginner Trumpet (3rd period)

Josh Hartwell, Beginner Percussion (3rd period)

Contacting Us

All of the band directors have offices away from the Jamison campus. We travel to Jamison for our morning classes and finish our day at other locations. Therefore, the best way to reach us is through email or the BAND App. The band directors have a conference period from 3:10-3:55. This is the best time to reach us or to schedule an appointment. **Email/BAND App disclaimer: Every effort is made to respond to communication in less than 24 hours. Our email and BAND App are checked consistently Monday-Friday during business hours. Please do not expect a response between 5pm and 7am.**

Please visit our website for additional information about the band:

<https://jamison.pearlandisd.org/fine-arts-jamison/band/welcome-to-the-sjms-band>

Area Music Stores

Music and Arts
2101 Hwy 35 Byp N, Suite 103/104
Alvin, TX 77571
(281) 585-6731

Music and Arts
19335 Gulf Fwy
Webster, TX 77598
(281) 316-1724

Fleming Musical Instruments and Repair
1401 Yale Street
Houston, TX 77008
(713) 426-3663

The BAND App

Our main form of communication will be through the BAND App, which can be accessed online at www.band.us and through your cell phone. Please scan the appropriate QR Code below for your child's instrument to get signed into the app.



FLUTE



OBOE AND BASSOON



CLARINET



SAXOPHONE



TRUMPET



FRENCH HORN



TROMBONE



TUBA & EUPHONIUM



PERCUSSION

Philosophy

It is the philosophy of the Jamison Bands that music is an integral component of a comprehensive education. We believe in developing independent musicians who can understand and appreciate music for the rest of their lives. The curriculum will help lead students towards comprehensive musicianship, including proficiency in performance skills, listening skills, historical and cultural understanding, and aesthetic awareness.

In order for all students to successfully meet the vision of our philosophy, we have established two band objectives that we will strive towards achieving throughout the year.

- (1) Have each member of the Jamison Bands develop strong musicianship skills; along with a better understanding of proper playing techniques, in order to enhance the musical ability of each member **beyond** what he/she believes is his/her maximum potential.

Specifically, striving towards a mastery of proper

- Tone Production
- Tone Quality
- Balance
- Matching Skills
- Articulation

And developing skills in

- Accuracy and Precision
- Style
- Phrasing and Expression

- (2) Have each member of the Jamison Bands understand, develop (through practice), and continually display (through behaviors) our core values for success:

Pride – through discipline and self-confidence

Achievement – through establishing a standard of excellence, commitment to constant self-improvement, and fulfillment of goals while having fun

Cooperation – through friendship, teamwork, and leadership skills

Knowledge – through skill awareness and an understanding of responsibility

Grading Procedures

Minor Grades = 60% of the overall grade

During each grading period, students will be given an **objective sheet** that will detail the requirements for each student to pass-off (play for a grade). The director will evaluate the student's performance and will assign one of four grades, 100%, 90%, 80%, or 60%.

A student who shows mastery of the concept will receive a 100%. A student who has met the pass-off standard with minor mistakes will receive a 90%. A student who has significant errors and room for improvement will receive an 80%. If a director deems that a student has not met the pass-off standard, then a grade of 60% will be given.

All students can reattempt objective assignments to improve their grades. Any student who receives a 60% should arrange to reattempt the objective after practicing to improve his/her grade to passing. Our goal is to have ALL students master every concept.

Major Grades = 40% of the overall grade

1. Weekly Participation Grade

Consists of preparation, effort, daily musicianship skills, and having the required items for class. Students start the week with a grade of 100%, and can lose points based on the following:

- No instrument (or items needed to play the instrument) = minus 20%
- Incomplete binder, no pencil, or missing supplies for the instrument = minus 10%
- Lack of appropriate class participation = minus 10%

2. Music Theory Assignments and Quizzes

Most weeks, students will receive a music theory sheet that will be turned in on Fridays. These sheets are important because they will help students build their musical skills through classroom-guided practice in rhythm and musical theory. Theory quizzes are short, low-stakes quizzes that offer a check for understanding of the theory concepts being taught in class.

3. Practice Logs

Because of the challenging nature of learning a musical instrument, students in beginning band will be expected to practice daily and keep track of their progress. The student grade will be based on the number of days practiced in a week that meet the minimum number of required minutes. Our practice logs will provide a detailed explanation, and we will go over the expectation in class frequently. Parents should sign a practice log every week to verify the home practice. Practice logs are due on Wednesdays and will still receive full credit on Thursdays. Students will lose 10% for a late practice log and an unsigned practice log will receive no credit.

Classroom Rules

- Be Polite
- Be Prepared
- Be Personally Responsible

Consequences

If a student makes a choice not to follow the classroom rules, then he/she chooses to accept the consequences. The first offense will result in the first consequence, and subsequent offenses will follow the consequence hierarchy. An office referral will result immediately in severe cases.

1. Warning
2. Detention and Phone Call Home
3. Office referral

Rehearsal Expectations

The Jamison Bands can achieve to their fullest potential when all students follow the rehearsal expectations. These expectations are designed to help bring the highest level of professionalism to the band hall. Choosing to not follow these expectations will result in a lowered conduct grade and potential disciplinary action.

- Follow directions the first time they are given.
- All students will enter the band hall quietly (No Talking!) and in an orderly manner.
- All students will be prepared for rehearsal no later than one minute after entering the classroom. When a teacher steps on the podium, all students will be ready to begin.
- To get the teacher's attention, raise your hand and wait quietly for a teacher to recognize you.
- All students will dispose of trash, food, gum, and drinks before entering the band hall.
- All students will store their personal belongings and instruments in assigned areas only.
- Always strive towards a professional level of musicianship. Come to rehearsals with all of your music prepared, have all materials at all rehearsals (instrument in working condition, music binder, pencils, accessories), and take pride in your instrument, the band hall, the music, and yourself!
- Because of the expensive instruments and equipment, non-band students are not permitted in the band hall.

Attendance Policy

Unlike most other academic classes, it is not possible to make up missed content in band because of the performance nature of our events and the group participation that is required. Because of this, all students are expected to be in attendance for all events. All of the required events are considered curricular, and are therefore a part of the student's grade.

The band calendar includes all of the dates for required performances, rehearsals, and events. We ask that you review this calendar carefully and consider any conflicts you may have. We work hard to put our completed calendar out early to help families work out scheduling. Adjustments and additions to the calendar will be avoided if possible, and will be given out in writing as soon as possible.

Excused absences from a required event will be granted in emergency situations (such as serious illness of the student or death in the family). A band director should be contacted as soon as possible in these rare cases. Request for excusal from an event can be made in writing not less than 2 weeks before the event. Please consider that the following will not be considered valid reasons for missing a required event:

- Jobs or work around the house
- Medical/Dental appointments (please schedule these around our calendar)
- No ride (Work out a carpool situation if needed. If you anticipate that this may be a problem, please contact a director, and we will work to make arrangements)
- Non-school activities
- Others as deemed by a director

If a student is unexcused from a required event, the following consequences may result:

- Lowered chair placement
- Grade of zero for the event
- Ineligibility for the Spring Trip
- Make up work as the director sees fit

In the event that a student has a conflict with a separate school function, the band directors, appropriate teachers, students, and parents will all work together to find the best resolution. We work closely with the staff at Jamison to avoid these conflicts. If it is agreed that a student will miss a band event for a school function, the student will be excused from the band event and will make up the missing grade as the director sees fit so as to ensure that the student has fulfilled the necessary requirements for the class.

MakeMusic Cloud Interactive Software

Want to give your child a leg-up in band? Want to help your child's practice be more successful and interesting? There is a fantastic online software program called MakeMusic Cloud to help students achieve at a higher level. The program allows students to play along with accompaniments, see the music they are playing on the screen, and get instant feedback on their level of success. To learn more about this amazing software, simply go to <https://www.makemusic.com/>. You can try out to program for free for 30 days and an individual account is just \$60 for the year. The book we use in class (and so many other pieces of music) is built into the program and we highly recommend investing in this tool!

Fundraising and Student Fees

The Jamison Band will participate in a fall fundraiser to help offset the cost of many of the items needed to run our band program. Students are highly encouraged to participate. **Due to state law, the proceeds of the fundraiser must benefit all students.** We will use the proceeds from our fundraiser to lower the cost of our spring trip, pay for entry fees for contests, and to bring in highly qualified clinicians to work with our students. It will also be used to fund our annual band extravaganza.

All students are charged an annual band fee of \$20 which will cover the cost of our band shirt, and to help purchase music and supplies needed for our program. Students who are using a **school owned instrument** (oboe, bassoon, French horn, euphonium, and tuba) are charged a district fee of **\$60/semester** to utilize and maintain school property. These fees will be applied in Skyward, and payment can be made via online payment in Skyward or by cash or check made out to Jamison Middle School. **All students will be responsible for payment to their piano accompanist** for the solo and ensemble contest (likely \$25-30, see page 11 for details).

Trip Policy

Each spring, the Jamison Bands travel on a fun trip as a reward to the students. All students are encouraged to attend. To attend the trip, the following requirements must be met:

- Pay for the cost of the trip which is expected to be approximately \$35 (dependent on our fundraiser profit). A deadline to have the trip paid in full will be set as the details become available but anticipate approximately April 1st.
- Must have all band fees paid.
- Must be passing all classes on the report card before the trip.
- Must have all forms turned in.
- **No unexcused absence from a performance**
- Students who are seen as a discipline problem may be removed from eligibility on the trip at the director's discretion. Students who have excessive office referrals, or who have been an excessive disturbance at previous school functions will be removed. Any student with an out of school suspension or PACE placement are not permitted to attend. Anyone with an ISS placement will need an individual parent chaperone (the parent must pay in full). Also, students who are referred to the office by a substitute teacher during band class may become ineligible.

Eligibility

Academic eligibility is a Texas state law (Texas Education Code 33.081) and applies to many band performances. As such, band students are subject to the “No Pass, No Play” rule. If a student fails a class on a report card/grade check, then the student will be ineligible for ANY extracurricular activities for the following grading period. Students will still be eligible to perform at concerts or other events that are a part of the standard curriculum for the class. It is possible for a student to regain eligibility if, at the following progress report date, the student is passing ALL of his/her classes. All students have a responsibility to pass all classes and be eligible for band concerts and contests. Students failing classes place an unwelcome burden upon the other students in the band and the band director to compensate for their absence from an important event. All students play a vital role in our success!

Instrument Liability

Students should be taking their instruments home every evening during the school year. At no time is the band program, Jamison Middle School, or Pearland ISD responsible for any items that are lost and/or misplaced. Parents are encouraged to keep a record of the instrument serial number and have insurance coverage in the event of severe damage or loss. Pearland ISD is not responsible in such cases.

End of Year Band Placements

Most of our beginning band students choose to continue in band at Pearland Junior High South. At the junior high level, student move from instrument specific classes to full band classes. The band directors work hard to place all students in the band where they can be most successful. Placements are made at the end of the school year for the start of the next school year. All sixth-grade students will be placed into one of four bands based on the following criteria:

- Musical ability
- Attitude
- Classroom demeanor
- Work ethic
- Organizational skills and personal responsibility
- Commitment to before/after school rehearsals and performances
- Academics in all classes

Daily Supplies

ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING EVERY DAY: (1) Their instrument, ready to play, (2) music binder. Students should have a metronome, which will be used for home practice. In addition, students are required to also have the following supplies with them every day, according to their instruments.

Flute

- ___ Silk swab
- ___ Tuning rod
- ___ Pneumo Pro
- ___ Thumbport

Oboe and Bassoon

- ___ At least 4 good reeds
- ___ Reed case
- ___ Silk swab (2 for bassoon)
- ___ Cork grease
- ___ Film or prescription canister

Clarinet

- ___ Vandoren 5rv Lyre mouthpiece
- ___ Vandoren M/O Ligature
- ___ At least 4 good reeds
- ___ Reed case
- ___ Silk swab
- ___ Cork grease
- ___ Mouthpiece cushion & thumb rest

Saxophone

- ___ Vandoren Optimum AL3
- ___ Vandoren M/O Ligature
- ___ At least 4 good reeds
- ___ Reed case
- ___ Silk swab
- ___ Cork grease
- ___ Neck strap (cloth preferred)
- ___ Mouthpiece Cushion and Thumb Rest

Trumpet

- ___ Bach 5c mouthpiece
- ___ Valve oil
- ___ Selmer slide grease
- ___ BERP

Horn

- ___ Farkas MDC mouthpiece
- ___ Valve oil
- ___ Rotor oil
- ___ Selmer slide grease
- ___ BERP

Trombone

- ___ Schilke 50 Mouthpiece
- ___ Selmer slide grease
- ___ Yamaha Slide Lubricant
- ___ Spray Bottle
- ___ BERP

Tuba and Euphonium

- ___ Schilke 50 Mouthpiece(Euph)
- ___ Conn Helleberg Mouthpiece (Tuba)
- ___ Valve oil
- ___ Selmer slide grease
- ___ BERP

Percussion Daily Supplies

General Supplies

- ____ 2" Black 3-Ring Binder with 5 dividers, and a pencil bag (Provided by the Band)
(Sections of the binder are Information, Theory, Daily Drill, Technique, Music)
- ____ At least two pencils and one highlighter (Keep in the pencil bag)
- ____ Metronome (On Stage GTA7000 recommended) or free metronome app on your device
- ____ Luggage tag on your stick bag with your name
- ____ Titan portable music stand (kept at home for practice)
- ____ "A Fresh Approach to Snare Drum" Book
- ____ "A Fresh Approach to Mallet Percussion" Book

Instrument Supplies

- ____ Snare Drum Sticks (IP-LD)
- ____ Vibraphone Mallets (IP-RS251)
- ____ Marimba Mallets (IP-3105B)
- ____ Timpani Mallets (IP-GTX-5)
- ____ Snare Drum Pad (Salyers Double Sided)
- ____ Practice Pad Stand (Gibraltar 8706-EX)
- ____ Mallet/Stick Bag (IP-MB1)
- ____ Practice mallet instrument (kept at home for practice)

Music Binders (Provided by the Band)

All students are required to have a black, two-inch, 3-ring binder to organize their band music. Since music serves as our textbook for the class, students should have their binder every day in class and should take them home each day for home practice. All binders should include:

- Pencil bag with at least two pencils and a highlighter
- 5 dividers to organize materials in sections
- All music given by directors
- Lost music must be replaced (see a director).

Instrument Repair

Occasionally, it is necessary for a student's instrument to be put into the shop for repairs. If your child thinks there is something wrong with his/her instrument, make sure that one of the directors has checked it out **BEFORE** you take it to a repair shop. We can take care of some simple repairs in the band hall.

If you are renting the instrument through a music company, repairs should be done through that company. In this case, the repairs will often be completed at no charge to you and a loaner instrument may be provided.

If your child is using a school owned instrument (oboe, bassoon, French horn, euphonium, or tuba), please **do not** take the instrument to the repair shop. Instead, alert your child's director.

Please do not attempt to repair your child's instrument, as only a trained professional can safely and effectively repair instruments

Beginner Solo Festival

Development of solo playing is vital to a student's musical experience. All students will be required to participate in a solo festival (see the calendar for dates). Students will be assigned appropriate level music and will be required to work on their own and during class with a director. Performances will take place with a piano accompanist (fee required) and will be a component of the student's grade for the class.

Concert Uniforms

During the beginning band year, the students will have one uniform for most performances. The beginning band shirt and a pair of jeans will serve as our concert dress. All students should wear appropriate footwear. No flip flops or crocs will be allowed.

Chain of Command

The Pearland ISD Fine Arts Department asks that as parents, you assist us in resolving questions or concerns about your child by following a chain of command. Your first step in communication should always begin with the teacher of record. If you are unable to resolve your question or concern, it is then proper to move up the chain to the next level. Skipping over levels or moving to administration quickly often leads to confusion and places a burden on more people than is often necessary. The chain of command is listed below, and we greatly appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

- Teacher of Record
- Dan Mullen, Director of Bands, Pearland Junior High South School
- Assistant Principals and Principals
- Upper administration

Fees Summary

For families who like to plan ahead financially, below is a list of fees/activities that will require money throughout the year. Other events may be added as necessary but will be communicated in a timely manner.

Payments can be made in cash, check to Jamison Middle School, or online through Skyward. If paying by cash, **please have exact change**, as we do not keep cash on hand.

<i>Fee Name</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Band Fee	Covers band shirt, music, supplies	\$20	September 25, 2026
School Owned Instrument Usage	For oboe, bassoon, French horn, euphonium, and tuba students	\$60/semester	December 18, 2026 May 3, 2027 (Earlier is appreciated)
Accompanist	For solo and ensemble performance. Payment directly to accompanist.	Anticipated \$25	March 19, 2027
Spring Trip	For all interested students	Anticipated \$35 dependent on success of fundraiser	Approximate date is April 1, 2027

The following pages contain the schedule of events and important forms for the student to turn in to a director. These pages should be removed from the handbook. Please keep the calendar at home and coordinate it with your family calendar.

We do our very best to have an accurate calendar but they are subject to changes because of school events. In the event of a change, we will communicate as soon as possible.

In some cases, times are approximate, and more information will be communicated as it becomes available.

The first part of this handbook should be placed in the information section of the student's band binder so that it can be referenced as needed.

Description of band names

Our calendar uses the terms "Green," "Red," "Wind Ensemble," and "Symphonic Winds," to describe the different band names that will be used this year. Because of the size of the beginning band, it is not practical to combine the entire group together for performances. The bands are split into two groups for each performance. For the winter concert, the band is randomly split into the "Red," and "Green," bands (Christmas Colors!) Your child will only need to attend the rehearsal for his/her band. In the spring semester, the bands will be divided (ability based) into the "Wind Ensemble" and "Symphonic Winds." This will allow us to select music that is most appropriate for the students. Ability-based groupings are made in the best interest of the students and are based off the musical progression of each student. Placements into the bands will be announced in late November for the winter concert and in March for the spring concert and spring contest.

Jamison 2026-2027 Band Calendar

Event Name	Date
Fundraiser Set-up	9/15/2026
Fundraiser Kick-Off	9/24/2026
Band Extravaganza	10/30/2026
Jamison Winter Concert Rehearsal	12/16/2026
Jamison Winter Concert	12/17/2026
Jamison Solo and Ensemble	3/20/2027
Jamison Spring Concert Rehearsal	TBA (April)
Shadow Creek Showcase	4/24/2027
Jamison Spring Concert	5/10/2027

The following pages are hard copies of the required forms for band. **These can easily be completed online by scanning the QR Code below:**



Please complete forms no later than
Wednesday, August 26th.

Volunteer Opportunities

By completing the form below and agreeing to help, you will be added to our contact list for volunteers. **No commitments need to be made at this point.** If you have questions or would like more information on opportunities please contact Dan Mullen at mullend@pearlandisd.org

Student Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

_____ **YES!** I am interested in helping the band as an active volunteer/chaperone for events.

_____ **No** thank you I am not available.

Student/Parent Information Sheet

Student Name _____

Student Grade _____ Student Instrument _____

Student T Shirt Size (circle one) Youth L S M L XL XXL

Adult 1 Name _____

Relation to Student _____

Phone number _____

Email Address _____

Adult 2 Name _____

Relation to Student _____

Phone number _____

Email Address _____

For any adult who wishes to purchase a band shirt, please check here _____ and indicate your size below

OPTIONAL Adult T Shirt Size (circle one) S M L XL XXL XXXL

Private Lessons

Private lessons are one on one time for students with a master teacher of that instrument. Lessons are 25 - 30 minutes long and are held mostly in class or possibly before/after school. Private lessons work on an individual's needs, strengths, and weaknesses. Whether a student is struggling and needs extra help, or is excelling, private lessons offer a great benefit to individual musicianship.

All students are strongly encouraged to participate in the lesson program, but it is a district expectation for students who play a school owned instrument (Oboe, Bassoon, French Horn, Euphonium and Tuba).

Private lessons are \$25-30/lesson depending on the experience of the teacher. Payments will be made directly to the lesson teacher. If you are interested in lessons but have a financial hardship, please reach out to a director.

If you have any other questions regarding private lesson enrollment, please refer to the following website: <https://www.pearlandisd.org/departments/fine-arts/private-lesson-program>.

If you are interested in private lessons, please scan the QR code and complete the form:

Private Lesson Interest Form 26-27



Band Contract

Students and Parents acknowledge and accept the responsibilities of being in the band program when placing their initials and signature on this form.

We acknowledge and accept the responsibilities as summarized below:

(Students and Parents, please initial each line)

1. We have signed up for the BAND app as we are aware that it is the main form of communication about the Jamison Band program. _____
2. We understand the grading policy. _____
3. We understand the expectations of the class and the importance of professionalism in the band program. _____
4. We have reviewed the band calendar of events, understand the splitting of the beginning band for concerts, and agree to the attendance policy for required events. _____
5. We understand the trip policy. _____
6. We understand that there are required band fees as outlined on pages 9 and 14 of this handbook. _____
7. We understand the Chain of Command for the band department. _____
8. We understand that there will be daily practice assignments and that there is a responsibility to complete a weekly practice log signed by a parent and turned in by the student each week. _____
9. We understand that the directors may photograph/video at performances, social events, and rehearsals for recruitment and student enrichment purposes and to build pride in its organization. _____

We have received, reviewed, and understand the policies and guidelines in the Jamison Middle School Band Handbook.

Student Name (please print)

Parent Name (please print)

Student Signature

Parent Signature