

Patrick Henry MS

2019-2020 Band Handbook

Mr. Simon Coffman, Head Director

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About Henry MS Band

Welcome to the Patrick Henry Middle School Band Program! It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that we introduce our band program to you in a more detailed manner. The PHMS Band Program has established a wonderful tradition of excellence and we are glad you have chosen to be a part of it.

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, please fill out the signature page, sign, 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.****

Our Mission Statement

The mission of the Henry MS Band is to achieve the highest standards of music education and music performance; facilitate the musical enrichment of the student membership; promote the place and value of music in our community and the significant role music plays in the cultural, intellectual, and social lives of our students; foster fellowship and goodwill among its members; and provide its membership with opportunities for personal growth and leadership.

Director Contact Info

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

Band Office Phone 713-696-2650 ext. 052223

Mr. Simon Coffman - Head Director

simon.coffman@houstonisd.org

MANDATORY BAND PARENT MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

6:45 PM - HENRY MS AUDITORIUM

Class Requirements

Beginning Band

No previous musical experience is required. Classes are divided into like-instrument groups for instructional purposes. See the calendar for required events, rehearsals, and performances.

Students must have:

- an approved instrument, all recommended instrumental accessories, a music stand, and a metronome/tuner.
- all items included in band fee (polo shirt, supplies, etc.)
- Required concert attire

Non-Beginner Bands:

By audition and director recommendation only. Because of the musical demands of these groups, members are expected to exhibit the highest levels of behavioral and academic responsibility. These bands focus on developing and refining the physical and mental skills necessary to perform in a group musical setting.

Students must have:

- an approved instrument, all recommended instrumental accessories, a music stand, and a metronome/tuner.
- all items included in band fee (polo shirt, supplies, etc.)
- Required concert attire

Practice & Commitment Expectations

Playing a musical instrument requires outside practice time. In order to achieve their highest potential, students will need to practice their instrument outside of class and scheduled rehearsals. *Students will be given a check off list of required material that must be passed off every grading period.*

By participating in band you are making a commitment to the other members of your class, to your teachers, to your parents, and to yourself. Band is like a team sport. You must practice consistently to improve yourself and your band. Every member of the band is important. If your band is having a rehearsal or performance, one absent member affects the whole band. It takes an incredible amount of individual and group work to create a successful performance.

With very little exception, our performance calendar for the 2019-2020 school year is finalized. Concert preparation begins months in advance, and missing students adversely impact the group's success. Students missing concerts and contests for vacations or trips are not excused unless we know several months ahead of the event and have given a written response of excusal.

Sectionals

Band will have mandatory sectionals for each section once a week. Sectional times will be decided within the first two weeks of school. Should a student be unable to attend a sectional for any reason, that student must either attend a different sections sectional that same week or schedule an individual listening time with their band director. This will allow the student to make up the missed material, grades, and time.

Grading

The band program will follow the same criteria as Henry Middle School.

40% Daily Grades

Daily Grades Include: supply check(s), attendance at rehearsals, pass-off checklist, in-class work and participation

15% Quiz Grades

Quiz Grades Include: pass-off checklist, weekly playing checks

35% Major Grades

Major Grades Include: performances, playing tests, pass-offs

10% Homework Grades

Homework Grades Include: practice records*, take home assignments

*instruments home every day or practice at school every day.

Band Boosters

The objective of the Henry Band Boosters is to help the band program enrich our children's school experience by providing volunteer help in a variety of ways such as organizing events, raising funds, chaperoning trips and socials, and assisting with school to home communications.

Paperwork will be sent home at the beginning of the year for interested parents to sign up and volunteer with the booster organization. Only parents and guardians of HMS band students are eligible to hold membership in the HMS band boosters, but any interested party may make a donation. If interested, contact one of the band directors.

UIL (No Pass, No Play, No Trip)

In accordance with Texas HB72, all band students must be eligible to participate in extracurricular band activities. These include football games; pep rallies, competitions, contests, and band trips. In order to participate in these extracurricular performances, students must be passing ALL of their classes with a grade of 70 or above. Should a student not be eligible, they may regain their eligibility if they are passing ALL classes on the next progress report.

Students and parents must understand the eligibility rules and ensure students are passing all of their classes all of the time. Should students find themselves struggling in a class, contact the band directors ASAP so a tutor can be found. Academics are a top priority in this band program, no pass; no play is a state law!

Concert Etiquette

Band students will exhibit proper concert behavior during all performances, in either their own band or as an audience member. Students will be graded on their behavior. Concert etiquette is an integral part of music education. Appropriate conduct in formal and informal concert settings is included in the TEKS.

The following rules will be followed by parents and students at all times:

- Talking is not permitted on stage or in the audience. It is disrespectful to the performers on stage and audience members.
- Do not leave your seat for any reason during a performance. You will be given ample time to use the restroom and drinking fountain before the concert begins. If you must leave, do so as quietly and inconspicuously as possible (make sure the doors do not slam shut). Leave between songs only.
- No food or drink is allowed on stage, backstage, or in the seating area. This includes water bottles and gum.
- Cell phones must be turned off (not on vibrate or silent) and stowed away. Any student using a cell phone during a performance will have consequences.
- Move between the seating area and stage in quiet, single-file lines. Sit in your assigned seat/row. Do not talk as you enter or exit.
- Support your fellow band members with appropriate applause. Yelling, whistling, shouting names, etc. is not acceptable.
- Set a good example for the audience and other students. Other people may not know how to behave in a concert setting.
- We hope all parents and guests will stay for the concert when bringing a student to a concert. If a student needs to be picked up, please do so in a timely manner. Any student not picked up on time may not be allowed to participate in future WMS activities.
- Students are expected to stay for the entire concert.

Locker Space

Each student will be provided with a specific place (locker or slot on shelf) for their instrument and band materials. Depending on instrument and band, students may be sharing a locker. The lockers and slots are for band materials only, please leave materials for other classes in an appropriate place (backpack, other classroom, etc.). Due to safety concerns, personal locks cannot be used on band lockers. If a personal lock is placed on locker, it will be cut off.

Classroom Expectations

In order to be successful in the Henry Band, there are five guiding principles students should follow: Be Responsible, Always Try, Do Your Best, Cooperate with Others, and Treat Everyone with Respect (including YOURSELF).

Everyone likes to succeed! In order for everyone to succeed in band class, due to the large numbers of students, we have to be very consistent and specific as to how we operate in the band area. Below are the guiding expectations for band hall procedures.

Entering the Band Hall:

1. Level Zero (quiet) upon entering band area
2. Drop back packs off at designated area
3. Gather materials (Instrument without case, supply box, music binder)
4. Put instrument case back in locker and close locker doors
5. Be seated and wait for class to start w/all materials (2 minutes after the bell rings)
6. Questions can be asked when you are seated and have all of your supplies for the day

Class Time Procedures:

1. Level Zero while teaching or playing is happening, Level 3 when asking/answering a question
2. Raise hand and wait to be called on to ask questions
3. Use the restroom before class instead of during class
4. Keep phones out of sight and silent
5. Only play your instrument when instructed to do so

Dismissal Procedures:

1. Level Zero
2. Swab/Empty instrument at locker
3. Put all items away
4. Pick up backpack
5. Line up at main doors on the right side of the hallway for bell

Consequences

Failure to follow classroom expectations will result in consequences per the Patrick Henry Middle School Handbook

Band Director holds the right to remove any child from the band program if deemed necessary by the band directing staff.

Band Fees (2019-2020)

There are some out of pocket expenses that are required in order for your child to have a successful year. Please see below for the expenses below that apply to you:

Beginner Band Fee - \$25

Fee purchases: Band Polo Shirt, Professional Master Class Instruction & Other Misc. Expenses.

Advanced Band Fee - \$25

Fee Purchases: Band Polo Shirt, Solo and Ensemble Fee, Contest Fees, Professional Master Class Instruction & Other Misc. Expenses.

School Owned Instrument Maintenance Fee - \$60/year; Applies to Oboe, Bass Clarinet, Tenor & Bari Saxophone, Bassoon, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba, Percussion, Special Circumstances for other instruments.

Additional Band T-Shirts: \$15/ polo shirt

Payments will be made in four 25% installments, as marked on the band calendar.

Additional Costs

Trips: We work very hard in band and that work deserves a reward at the end of the year. Each band will have the opportunity to take a trip. Unfortunately the band program cannot cover the costs of the trips, so each student going on the trip will need to cover their own costs.

Region Band Entry Fees: Selected students will have an opportunity to participate in the TMEA Region 23 All-Region Band Audition process. There will be a small administrative fee for this audition.

Parental Responsibilities

- Take an active interest in the musical study of your child. This may include finding recordings of professional musicians on their instruments (The directors will be more than happy to assist), to asking your child to perform something for you, to simply checking to see if they are practicing and keeping their instrument in good order.
- Help your child to be prepared, on time, and organized.
- Establish a regular, dedicated time and space for your child to practice.
- Help your child to keep their instrument in good working order, but NEVER attempt to repair the instrument at home!
- Mark your calendar with band events for the year. If there is an unavoidable conflict please communicate to the directors in a timely manner.
- Immediately communicate any issues or concerns with the band staff.
- Attend performances.
- Volunteer!

Fundraising

Throughout the year we will provide students with exposure to master performers, master teachers, musical experiences above and beyond those possible in class, and many other extras. In order to help cover the costs associated with these (and not just charge higher band fees), we will have a few fundraisers throughout the year. It is expected that each and every band student will participate in each fundraiser.

Concert Attire

Beginning Band Uniform (6th Grade) – Band Polo & Khaki Pants (no holes!) with closed toe shoes (no sandals/flip-flops)(Girls should wear flats). Shirt should be tucked in at all times with a belt. No excessive jewelry.

***All articles in the concert attire are subject to the director's discretion**

Concert/Symphonic Bands (7th & 8th Grades):

Informal Concert Attire: Pep Rallies, Football Games etc.

Band Polo & Khaki Pants (no holes!) with closed toe shoes (no sandals/flip-flops)(Girls should wear flats). Shirt should be tucked in at all times with a belt. No excessive jewelry.

Formal Concert Attire: Concerts, UIL, Spring Contests etc.

School Concerts/Performances: Band Polo, Khaki Pants (no jeans), black belt, black dress shoes (no tennis shoes), black socks, shirt tucked in with belt.

UIL/Spring Contests: Band Polo, Khaki Pants (no jeans), black dress shoes (no tennis shoes), black socks.

Pants Examples: Long Solid Black Pants (No Skirts or Jeans). With Black Belt



Shoe Examples: Solid Black Dress Shoes (Girls should wear flats). With Black Socks.



***All articles in the concert attire are subject to director's discretion**

STAY INFORMED

We will use the following ways to send information out for parents, students and the community.

REMININD 101

Remind 101 will allow us to send messages directly to you and your student's phones. These messages will include schedule reminders, alerts for return times for trips and concerts, etc.

Beginner Band

- Text the number 81010
 - Message: @phbegband

Advanced Band

- Text the number 81010
 - Message: @phadvband

SOCIAL MEDIA

<https://facebook.com/patrickhenrymsband>

<https://twitter.com/henrymsband>

<https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/173011>

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENT MEDIA CONSENT AND RELEASE FORM

This release allows the Houston Independent School District (HISD) to print, photograph, and record my child for use in efforts to promote HISD's activities and achievements. The consent includes allowing my child to be included and/or featured in materials to train teachers and/or increase public awareness of HISD schools through digital and print media including: newspaper, radio, TV, websites, blogs, and social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.), DVDs, displays, and brochures. This release includes the use of my child's work, name, image, and/or voice.

- ☐ I attest that I am the parent or guardian of _____ and **I GIVE** HISD and its employees and representatives permission to print, photograph, and record my child for use in electronic, digital, and printed media.
- ☐ I attest that I am the parent or guardian of _____ and **I DO NOT GIVE** HISD and its employees and representatives permission to print, photograph, and record my child for use in audio, video, film or any other electronic, digital, or printed media.

I agree to release the Houston Independent School District, its past, present and future trustees, officers, employees, representatives, and agents, from any and all liability, claims, demands, and causes of action arising out of the use of this material.

I certify that I have read this document and fully understand its terms and conditions. I also understand that I may withdraw consent at any time by sending a written request to the principal of my child's school.

PLEASE PRINT

Name of child _____ Grade _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Name of parent or guardian _____

School _____

Signature of parent or guardian _____

Date _____ Phone Number _____

Handbook Signature Page

In each section below, please initial each line and sign at the bottom of the page.

Completing and returning this page is your first test grade of the year!

_____ I have read and understand the general information section of the handbook, including class and grade requirements, practice expectations, and the use of school instruments and facilities.

_____ I understand that all scheduled rehearsals and performances are required and graded. I understand that missing a scheduled rehearsal or performance may affect my grade, my chair, or my band placement.

_____ I understand that when using a school-owned instrument, I am responsible for the \$60 rental fee. This fee helps offset the cost of cleaning and general maintenance. I understand that it does not cover dents, scratches, or any other damage caused by neglect or mishandling. I agree to pay for any repairs outside of what would be considered “normal wear and tear.”

Student Name - Printed

Parent/Guardian Name - Printed

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature