



MARAUDER BAND

Sixth Grade Handbook

The Tradition Begins with YOU!

Pete Jodal, Director

Davis Marauder Band Website: staffweb.wylieisd.net/staff/petej

Charms: www.charmsmusic.com

Davis Intermediate School Marauder Band

Sixth Grade Handbook

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Davis Marauder Band! You and your parents are now part of a great Wylie tradition!!

The SUCCESS of our students depends on a three-way partnership between teachers, parents, and students. The teachers will do everything they can to effectively explain, demonstrate, and instill good playing habits. We will provide every opportunity possible for students to experience SUCCESS on their instruments.

I feel strongly that parents need to be involved in the musical lives of their students if meaningful SUCCESS is to occur. Parents cannot practice FOR the students, but they can help students learn to organize their time, and support the efforts of their children in music. We appreciate the investment you have made in your student's musical life! The following handbook is provided to help our band remain enjoyable, efficient, and educational for all of its members. Making expectations clear at the beginning of the school year helps to make this possible. Included in this handbook is a great deal of information necessary to function as a successful Davis band member.

Please take the time to read ALL the information, fill out the forms included, and return the forms to the band directors. Keep the handbook in your band binder for your reference.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year!

Pete Jodal

Director

pete.jodal@wylieisd.net

972-429-3338

The Davis Band program is founded upon the fundamentals of musicianship and citizenship. Our goal is to develop the following qualities of outstanding musicians and exemplary citizens in each of our students:

mental and physical self discipline
physical conditioning
good listening skills
music reading skills
proper playing technique
creative self-expression

self respect and self confidence
respect for adults and peers
cooperation and teamwork
responsibility
leadership
loyalty and school spirit

Many band students in grades 6-12 are involved in multiple activities on their campuses. By organizing time and schedules, band students can enjoy being a part of *that Wylie band* tradition and still participate in athletics, drill team, cheerleading, etc. and also maintain high academic averages, even through junior high and high school years.

PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Parents are encouraged to communicate with directors at any time, and especially when there is a concern about your student's progress/grade or a schedule conflict arises. If you have concerns or comments, please feel free to contact us, either by phone or email. We will make every effort to get back to you within 24 hours. Please note the teacher's name, email address, and phone number below for the instrument that your student plays; this is the teacher to contact with questions about your student's progress and grade in class. Questions about band activities outside of the classroom may be directed to Mr. Jodal.

Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Bassoon, Oboe

Pete Jodal

Director, Davis Intermediate

pete.jodal@wylieisd.net

972-429-3338

Percussion, Clarinet

Lisa Fitts

Director, McMillan Jr. High

lisa.fitts@wylieisd.net

Flute, Saxophone, Oboe, Bassoon

John Denis

Associate Director, McMillan Jr. High

john.denis@wylieisd.net

Band directors communicate information about upcoming activities to parents in several ways:

1. Written information about activities during the current six weeks are on the calendar in the handbook, posted on www.charmsmusic.com and on the band website at staffweb.wylieisd.net/staff/petej
2. Periodic updates and reminders for parents will be emailed to you. This is the most time-efficient method of contacting parents. We promise NOT to fill your email box with junk mail. Please share your email address with us, and update it if it changes. If you do not have email, please check with your student frequently (or check the band binder) for written information that is sent home.
3. **THE DAVIS BAND WEBSITE** includes calendars, current forms and practice records that can be printed from your home or office. Please use this resource if your student has misplaced something that needs to be turned in. You may access our website through the Davis school website, or go to: staffweb.wylieisd.net/staff/petej
4. **CHARMS MUSIC** located @ www.charmsmusic.com will have information about fees paid, updated calendars, information about events, and volunteer sign-ups for events.

GRADES

Students will earn six weeks grades in band based on the following Wylie ISD policy:

60% Minor Grades

Practice records (see below about practice record and late work policies)

Weekly playing assessments played by the student on their instrument

Homework assignments (music theory worksheets with terms and musical vocabulary)

40% Major Grades

Objective Sheets

Playing tests

Written tests

Attendance and participation in public performances

Attendance and participation at after school rehearsals

PLAYING re-tests may be taken multiple times before or after school with a band director (within reason) during any six weeks period. The student's highest test grade will be recorded as the final test score.

Students will have the opportunity to retest on WRITTEN tests ONE time only. The original grade and the retest grade will be averaged to determine the student's final test score. Students must retest within two weeks of the original test date.

Retesting will not be done during class time. Students should make arrangements to see a director before or after school.

PRACTICE RECORDS

Practice records are an essential part of progress and success for a student on an instrument. Students and parents share responsibilities for these important assignments. The student has the responsibility to practice and record this time on a daily basis. The students are to total the minutes for the week, figure the grade correctly, and sign the practice record. At that time Parents are to sign the practice record. to validate the practice time. Practice records are not accepted unless they have a parent signature. (In the event of an extended parent absence, the signature of an adult responsible for the student is acceptable.)

Practice records will be due **every Tuesday** throughout the school year, beginning with the second week of school. If a student is absent on Tuesday, the practice record will be due on the day he/she returns to school.

When practice records/homework ARE NOT turned in on time, the following will apply:

Consequences for Late Practice Records (Homework)

ALL PRACTICE RECORDS MUST BE SIGNED BY A STUDENT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN

Turn in one day late: -10 points off grade earned

Turn in two days late: -20 points off grade earned

Third day late: **zero** is recorded in grade book, made up in evening school if student seeks the opportunity.

If the band student should have a problem with late practice records continuously the following will take place:

First Late Practice Record

Encouraged to turn in on time next time

Second Late Practice Record

Parent Contact

Third & Subsequent Late Practice Records

Parent Contact + 30 minute DETENTION

ZEROES FOR PRACTICE RECORDS NOT TURNED IN CAN ONLY BE MADE UP IN EVENING SCHOOL. THE STUDENT OR PARENT MAY REQUEST EVENING SCHOOL AS AN OPTION TO MAKE UP THE GRADE. ONLY TWO PRACTICE RECORDS CAN BE MADE UP PER SIX WEEKS FOR A HIGH OF 70.

PRACTICE

You should practice only on the days you eat.

Practice is fun, but sometimes challenging, and ALWAYS NECESSARY. It is a fundamental part of learning anything new, as well as maintaining what one can already do. Much like athletics, practice in band develops and conditions muscles. The best way to make practice more enjoyable and productive is to get in a regular habit of practice.

Each day in band class an assignment is given for home practice. The most effective home practice is based on a daily half-hour (shorter time at the beginning of the year) of quality work. Make certain you listen for improvement – don't just "put in time." Setting short-term, reachable goals can create some instant success where achieving long-term goals may seem impossible.

Practice Environment

- **We suggest that you and your child mutually agree on a practice time and a special area designated for their uninterrupted practice.** You may even ask them to play for you, which provides an opportunity for encouragement.
- A QUIET, well lit room is necessary. Avoid distractions such as radio, TV, etc.
- Students should sit on a firm chair with no arms and ALWAYS use a music stand. Percussionists should always stand when they play.
- Most practice should be done with an audible metronome.

Practice Habits

Many times students experience difficulties because they do not know how to practice. Some suggestions for successful practice have been included below.

- Practice daily. Persistence = results!
- Warm up properly (just as you do in band class) at the beginning of each practice session.
- Concentrate on producing your best tone quality – TONE IS ALWAYS TOP PRIORITY.
- Always practice with correct hand position and posture.
- IMPROVE YOUR BASIC MUSICAL SKILLS – long tones, lip slurs, scales, arpeggios, technical exercises, and rhythm counting should be practiced every night. **These exercises should make up most of your practice time since these skills transfer to ANYTHING and EVERYTHING you play.**
- Practice the things that are difficult. It makes no sense to spend a lot of time practicing things you can already play well.
- Never sacrifice accuracy for speed. If you are having trouble with something, slow it down! When you can play it well slowly, increase the speed a little at a time.
- Practice SMALL sections (1-4 measures at a time). Seek to improve them, and then add the small pieces together. Small goals add up very quickly to HUGE SUCCESS!

Students are encouraged to **practice at least 5 days per week**. Directors will set minimum weekly practice goals for each six weeks. This time will increase gradually through the first semester because it takes time to build up muscle endurance.

Practice records will often have information about upcoming events and practice suggestions on them, as well as the practice requirements and grading scale for that six weeks. Please take the time to read this information at the beginning of each six weeks. A sample practice record is included at the back of this handbook.

PERFORMANCES

Sixth grade band students will have two major concerts during the school year – one toward the end of each semester. Because our students meet in classes of like instruments, an after school rehearsal of all students together will be required to prepare for each performance. The dates of these rehearsals and concerts will be set well in advance, and parents will be notified in writing. Because performances are a part of the state-mandated curriculum for band, **these rehearsals and performances will be required of each student, and a grade of “0” will be given for unexcused absences.**

An excused absence from a performance or concert rehearsal will require the same criteria as an excused absence from school – personal illness, religious holiday, or a major family medical emergency verified by a parent phone call. It is the responsibility of each band member to arrange his/her schedule in order to attend these events. **A parent should contact the student’s band director if a major scheduling conflict arises.**

ELIGIBILITY

Texas is famous for its “no pass, no play” law; however, it applies to competitions, festivals, and extra-curricular activities ONLY. **All students are eligible for concerts** scheduled on campus or at a high school campus (if necessary). In the event that the sixth grade band performs at a music festival outside the school district (such as Sandy Lake), students must maintain an average of **70 or higher in every class** in order to travel and perform with the band. Students must also meet eligibility requirements to participate in the Marauder Solo Festival.

PERFORMANCE DRESS CODE

The following uniform is required of all band students for public performances:

Band polo shirt (ordered through Mr. Jodal around the 3rd week of school)

Khaki pants (these should meet school district dress code – Dockers style)

Tennis/Athletic Shoes (as plain as possible)

PRIVATE LESSONS

We are fortunate to be able to offer our students at Davis Intermediate School the opportunity to take private lessons from highly qualified professional musicians who are experts on their instruments. The fees for private lessons are set by the school district at **\$17.00** per one weekly 25-30 minute lesson (Fees may vary for lessons taken off campus). Band directors maintain a list of teachers who have been approved to teach in the district.

Even though private study is not a requirement for participation in the band program, many students take advantage of this excellent opportunity. Private lesson teachers can teach precisely to the individual student's needs, as opposed to the classroom setting where the band director must teach to the level of the majority of the class. Additionally, band directors work very closely with the private lesson staff in evaluating and monitoring each student's progress. *Participation in private lessons by as many students as possible is strongly encouraged.*

Lessons are scheduled by our private teachers at school when possible, and during class if the schedule permits. Lessons may also be scheduled before or after school. Payment for lessons is made directly to the lesson teacher according to his/her payment policy. **Lessons are scheduled by the private lesson teachers on a first come, first served basis.** Students who wish to take private lessons should turn in a lesson request form and/or talk to a band director.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Start Up

Every band member will need the following supplies in August. Directors purchase these and package them so that each student has the correct materials ready for class. The cost for these is \$50.00 or \$60.00 for percussion students due to two method books. Once issued, these supplies are for students to keep and use in their *band* binders. **THESE SUPPLIES ARE SEPARATE FROM THE SUPPLIES FOR THE INSTRUMENTS.**

Beginning band method book(s)

Binder

Pencil bag

Pencils

Highlighter

Mirror

Polo shirt with embroidered logo to be worn at all performances

Use/Upkeep of School-Owned Instruments

The following instruments are furnished to students at no expense: oboe, bassoon, French horn, euphonium, and tuba. **Students will be responsible for maintaining the instrument in good working order, and having it professionally cleaned at the end of the year.** This may be done by the instrument repair facility at Williamson's Music in Plano, or you may pay the school directly (\$45) and we will have it done for you. In addition, any repair for damages beyond normal wear may be charged to the student responsible. Students who play brass instruments may be charged \$10 per cent for damages incurred during the school year.

Individually-Owned Instruments

Students who play flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and percussion must furnish their own instruments (percussionists use a percussion kit and sticks/mallets). These instruments are not provided or maintained by Wylie ISD. The success of a student can be adversely affected by an instrument of poor quality, or one that needs repair. We do have a list of preferred brands for each instrument. Please talk to a band director if you have questions about instrument rentals, purchases and/or repair.

As a student becomes a more advanced musician, a more professional model instrument may be desirable. In many cases, professional quality instruments are purchased during seventh grade, and in most cases, by the eighth or ninth grade. Band directors and private lesson teachers can assist you in making the decision about what instrument is best suited for your child.

Insurance for Instruments

School owned instruments are insured by the school district ONLY when in use on campus or at a school activity. Privately owned or rented instruments are NOT covered by school district insurance. It is recommended that families either purchase instrument insurance or attach the instrument's serial number to their homeowners or renters policy. This will protect any liability that a student and family may have in case of loss or damage to an instrument.

Repair of Instruments

When a student feels his instrument is not working properly, the instrument should be brought to a band director FIRST.

Most of the time, directors are able to diagnose and make minor repairs and adjustments, saving the parent a trip to the music store and preventing the student from losing valuable playing time in class. If the director cannot fix the instrument, the student will be given instructions about how and where to have it repaired. When it has been taken to a repair facility, we ask that parents send a note with the student letting us know that it is in a repair shop, and when the student expects to have it back in class. This will prevent loss of points from the student's daily participation grade.

Fundraising

The Davis band will have one fundraiser each year. It will occur the second semester. Students and parents are not required to participate; however, we strongly encourage every family to assist with this project. Monies raised through this project will be used to help fund activities and summer band camp scholarships for band students, and to purchase additional equipment for the band department

LOCKERS AND LOCKS

Band hall lockers and combination locks for instruments and supplies will be assigned to all band students the first week of the school year. Students should understand that the only way to keep personal items secured is to keep the locker locked at all times. **Students WILL NOT store instruments or band binders in their regular school lockers.**

DAILY PROCEDURES

Most class procedures can be summed up with the following “P”s:

Punctuality. Be on time.

Preparation. Have all materials with you for class.

Politeness. Be courteous to others – students and adults.

Practice. Do your homework!

Starting Class. Students are expected to be in their seats with instrument and all needed materials one minute after the designated class start time. This is extremely important to prevent loss of class time – students taking too long to prepare for class keep the entire class from achieving its goals.

During Class. Listen carefully, and participate in all class activities. Treat others with respect, treat teachers with respect, and treat yourself with respect. When you disrupt class, you are not only cheating YOURSELF, you are cheating your classmates. These types of disruptions will not be tolerated. Inappropriate attitudes, comments, and behaviors will be dealt with swiftly in order to insure the right of other students to learn, and the right of the teacher to teach.

If a student forgets his/her instrument or the instrument is being repaired, he/she will be expected to finger on a pencil and participate as fully as possible (some participation points may be lost for the day).

Ending Class. Students will be dismissed by the teacher (NOT THE CLOCK) every day. All instruments and materials need to be put up properly and CAREFULLY, and locked in the student’s band locker. Teachers will allow time for this at the end of class.

After School. When school is out, students may pick up instruments and binders. Please try to do this quickly because section rehearsals begin immediately after school.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR DAVIS BAND MEMBERS

1. Respectful behavior and appropriate language are expected at all times.
2. Any behavior which is not conducive to good citizenship and respect for others may result in the student’s dismissal from the band program. Displays of temper, profanity, flagrant violation of rules, etc. will not be tolerated.
3. Food, drink, candy, and/or gum are not allowed in the band hall.
4. For security reasons, only band students are allowed in the band hall at any time of the day. Please cooperate by having non-band friends meet you outside.
5. Practice rooms are to be used only for practice or private lessons (NOT socializing and academic homework!). Students are welcome to use the practice rooms to practice, but need to ask permission from a band director first.
6. Students are not allowed in the band office without permission. PLEASE KNOCK BEFORE ENTERING. The telephone in the band hall is for business use. Only under special circumstances will students be allowed to use the band hall phone. Rides after school should be prearranged.
7. Do not touch or use any school owned equipment such as metronomes, stereo equipment, percussion instruments, tuner, computer, telephone, etc. without permission from a director.
8. Defacing or damaging any part of the band hall or equipment (including music stands) will not be tolerated.
9. Students are not to touch, handle, or use any instruments or belongings other than their own.

10. All instruments are to remain in cases with latches closed and stored in assigned locker when not in use.
11. Students are solely responsible for the care, maintenance, and safety of their assigned equipment and personal items. Keep them locked in your locker when you are not using them.
12. All paper and trash should be discarded in trash cans ONLY.
13. Please be considerate of directors' requests for assistance and/or small tasks around the band hall.

I appreciate the opportunity to teach your child, and look forward to sharing this first year of Band with all of you!

Best regards,

Pete Jodal

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