

# Pearson Band Handbook

## *Frisco Independent School District*

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# **Welcome to the Pearson Middle School Band Family!**

The goal of the Pearson Middle School band staff is to instill a love of music in each student while developing a sound character through hard work, goal setting, risk-taking, cooperation, and responsibility. Band students will have the opportunity each and every day to express themselves individually through music while learning to work as a team to achieve common goals. Our band will truly be a family; many students will make lifelong friends and memories through their experience in the band program.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a written policy on the organization and operation of our band program. The band staff is dedicated to creating a wonderful experience for each and every student in our program. Please read through this handbook with your child and use it as a resource to answer any questions that may arise.

Thank you for allowing us to work with your child every day. We are so excited to begin this new adventure and build traditions with our amazing students and parents!

Sincerely,

Michelle Black & Morgan Jenson

## How to contact us...

Website: [www.pearsonband.com](http://www.pearsonband.com)

By Phone: 469-633-4470 (Black)  
469-633-4455 ext. 74472 (Jenson)

By Email: Mrs. Black - [blackmj@friscoisd.org](mailto:blackmj@friscoisd.org)  
Mr. Jenson - [jensonm@friscoisd.org](mailto:jensonm@friscoisd.org)  
Mr. Baldwin (beginner percussion) - [baldwins@friscoisd.org](mailto:baldwins@friscoisd.org)  
Mr. Overturf (7/8th grade percussion) - [overturfp@friscoisd.org](mailto:overturfp@friscoisd.org)

By Student: You are always more than welcome to send a note with your child. Please include a phone number or email address where you can be reached.

## Grading

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- Major (60%)
  - Performances (see policies below), both live and recorded\*
  - Objective Sheets
  - Playing Tests
- Minor (40%)
  - Sectional participation (see policies below) (CB/SB Only)\*
  - Practice Record (Beginners Only)
  - Theory Assignments / Quizzes
  - Projects

## Attendance

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Attendance is mandatory for all concerts, sectionals, and after school rehearsals.\*

The nature of our activity is such that “make-up assignments” are simply impossible. This is a group performance activity and the success of the group depends on each member being in attendance. The calendar is set at the beginning of the year affording everyone ample opportunity to avoid conflicts. In the event of emergencies, please notify a director in advance – all conflicts will be addressed in a case-by-case basis.

## Concert Policies

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Attendance at concerts and performance activities is required for ALL students and will count as a major grade (see above).\*

If an emergency arises preventing you from attending, please notify us PRIOR to the start time of the concert by leaving a voice message at 469.633.4470. Not having a ride is NOT considered an emergency and will not be excused. Students with excused absences from a concert (emergency situation) will need to present a written note to the director upon returning to school.

\*Please note, for the 2020-2021 school year, allowances will be made for a student missing a performance, sectional, or outside of school rehearsal due to health and safety concerns.

Grades will also be determined based on being on time, having all materials for the concert, and complying with dress expectations (see concert uniform requirements) as follows:

- 100% - on time with all materials and uniforms
- 90% - 1-5 minutes late points
- 80% - 6-10 minutes late
- 70% - 11-15 minutes late
- 60% - 16-29 minutes late
- 50% - More than 30 minutes late

- Forgetting instrument – minus 40 points
- Out of “uniform” – minus 30
- Forgetting music – minus 20 points
- Forgetting accessories – minus 10 points

## Sectionals

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Symphonic and Concert Band ONLY

MORNING SECTIONALS are 7:15 – 8:15 AM  
AFTERNOON SECTIONALS are 3:45 – 4:45 PM

Sectionals are an essential part to a young musician's growth in the 7th and 8th grade. We meet with much smaller groups once a week before or after school. These smaller instrument specific groups allow us to continue to develop fundamental instrument skills as well as give the students more individualized attention. The actual sectional schedule will be determined on 3 different occasions throughout the year based on athletic rosters and game schedules. Every effort will be made to ensure no sectionals are scheduled with as few conflicts with athletic practices as possible.

GRADING PROCEDURES Sectional grades will be given based on participation and preparation. Chair tests and playing tests will be administered during sectionals. Any student who misses a sectional will not receive credit for that assignment until it is made up according to the Pearson Middle School late work policy.\*

\*Please note, for the 2020-2021 school year, allowances will be made for a student missing a performance, sectional, or outside of school rehearsal due to health and safety concerns.

# Band Description and Expectations

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## BEGINNER BAND

- No previous music background required!
- Classes are divided into like instruments and taught in a smaller setting.
- Private lessons are encouraged for all Beginning Band members.
- Students will have four concerts during the school year and are expected to participate in the Beginner Solo Festival in the Spring. They will have a limited number of rehearsals as a full band throughout the year and are indicated on the schedule of events.\*

## CONCERT BAND

- Admission is by audition and is a group of intermediate levels comprised of 7th and 8th graders.
- Students are encouraged to participate in the All-Region Audition learning process.
- Students are required to perform a solo at the Solo and Ensemble Contest.
- Students perform at school concerts, pep rallies, football games, outside competitions, and invitational festivals at the discretion of the directors.
- Private lessons are encouraged, as this is the best way to move into the more advanced bands.
- Students are required to attend a sectional once weekly to further specific instrumental development.\*

## SYMPHONIC BAND

- Admission is by audition and is a group of advanced levels comprised of 7th and 8th graders
- Students are required to participate in the All-Region Audition learning process.
- Students are required to perform a solo and an ensemble at the Solo and Ensemble Contest.
- Students perform at school concerts, pep rallies, football games, outside competitions, and invitational festivals at the discretion of the directors.
- Private lessons are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED for continued individual study as well as help with the more advanced musical demands.
- Students are required to attend a sectional once weekly to further specific instrumental development.\*

\*Please note, for the 2020-2021 school year, allowances will be made for a student missing a performance, sectional, or outside of school rehearsal due to health and safety concerns.

# Course Objectives

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Music is a critical element of human existence with numerous cognitive, emotional, and physiological benefits to those who study it. There have been many studies on the direct correlation of musical understanding to achievement in other academic areas. Participation in an organized musical activity produces the same intrapersonal and interpersonal benefits that have been attributed to team sports and similar activities. In accordance with the national, state and local objectives, students enrolled in band will be expected to demonstrate certain skills at an appropriate level of proficiency throughout the year

- Demonstrate a characteristic tone on their instrument.
- Demonstrate correct posture and playing position for their instrument.
- Demonstrate application of proper instrument care and maintenances.
- Demonstrate knowledge of rhythmic notation and counting/clapping in a variety of meters.
- Demonstrate the ability to tune using aural recognition and electronic measurement.
- Demonstrate the characteristics of self-discipline both in class and outside as they relate to proper practice and execution of skills.
- Perform independently and accurately musical selections of appropriate difficulty.
- Perform expressively a variety of music with different styles and cultural backgrounds.
- Demonstrate appropriate small and large ensemble performance techniques during formal and informal concerts.
- Sight-read music in various keys and meters.
- Use standard notation to indicate meter, rhythm, pitch and dynamics.
- Identify music symbols and terms referring to dynamics, tempo, style, and articulation, and interpret them while performing.
- Demonstrate the ability to work cooperatively and collaboratively with students within a performing group.
- Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate live and recorded musical performances.
- Perform at least 8 major scales and the chromatic scale without errors.
- Demonstrate basic improvisatory skills in music.
- Identify and use criteria for evaluating performances.
- Apply specific criteria to music and offer constructive suggestions for improvement.
- Exhibit proper concert etiquette as an active listener and audience member.

# Class Procedures and Policies

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Classroom behavior greatly impacts each student's learning and growth. Success in performance is directly proportional to success in rehearsals. Effective and efficient rehearsals will lead to a great experience for all students.

The following procedures will be enforced in the Pearson Band Program:

- Respect self, peers, directors, equipment, and facilities at all times.
- Look at the director when they are talking
- Focus on the rehearsal and what is being learned.
- Do not talk during rehearsal. If you have a question, please raise your hand and wait to be called upon.
- Be prepared for each rehearsal. Bring the proper equipment and supplies every day.
- Be prompt for each class, sectional, and rehearsal. Be ready with all supplies, in seat, one minute after the bell.
- Practice your part so that you are ready for the rehearsal both mentally and physically.
- We are a band family and should treat each other in that manner. There will be an immediate referral for the following behaviors: Theft, Fighting, Profanity, Vandalism, Hazing, and or Bullying
- Show the proper care for all equipment. You are responsible for replacing any damaged material.
- No food, drink, gum, or running in the band hall or practice rooms. Take pride in our building and keep it clean and free of damage.
- Students should never leave their instrument unattended and should only handle their OWN instrument. Do not touch other student's instruments or percussion equipment in the band hall unless you are a percussionist who has permission.
- When music is not occurring, consider the band hall a quiet place.
- Only band students are allowed in the band hall.
- Instruments are to go home every night. This is to ensure that assignments are prepared for class and to warrant the investment in an expensive musical instrument. The same consequences will result for instruments left at school as any school rules violation. Accordingly, instruments left at home constitute the same violation.
- Band Lockers are for musical instruments and music folders only. They are not for materials from other classes. You must completely close your locker every day.
- During class, cases should be placed back in band lockers and latches should be closed.
- Each student shall conduct themselves properly at all Band events. We want to always portray a positive image. The character each band member's display has a great effect on the spirit, pride, and reputation of our school and band.
- Communicate effectively and promptly regarding conflicts with the scheduled calendar of events.



# Discipline

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The directors and fellow members of the Pearson Band will hold each other to high levels of discipline. We believe we have the best and the brightest students in band; discipline problems should be uncommon. The actions of each member of the band program affect the image and performance of the band in the school and the community. If discipline needs to be addressed, the following will occur:

1. Verbal warning
2. Packing up of instrument, reseating, written review assignment of expectations, parent contact
3. Removal from rehearsal, parent contact, band detention
4. Office referral, parent contact

Students are considered to be tardy if not in ready with supplies in seat ONE MINUTE after the tardy bell rings. Tardies will be dealt with in accordance with school policy.

# Academic Eligibility

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Under state law, all students must maintain passing grades in all classes each six weeks to meet eligibility requirements for participation in extra-curricular performance. All contests, festivals, football games and some other off-campus events are considered extra-curricular, which holds the students to this rule. Concerts, section rehearsals and all other rehearsals are curricular and therefore not subject to eligibility rules.

As mandated by the Texas University Interscholastic League, any grade below 70 on a nine-week report card will deny students extra-curricular performance privileges for at least a three week period. This is known as the “No pass, no play rule”. That student’s grade will be reviewed at the end of the 3 week period when IPR’s are issued. At this time, the suspension will be removed if the student’s grade in **every** class is equal to or greater than a 70. There are some specific “grace period” timing issues throughout the year, so if you have specific questions, please ask a director.

Because of the effect this can have on an individual and the group as a whole, we will always monitor grades very closely. Please supervise your child’s grades and communicate with their teachers if any grade questions should arise. Any one individual has the ability to prevent an entire band from performing to its full potential.

## Practice Records (Beginners)

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Practice Records are a way for the students to be accountable for the amount of practice time they put in each week and to develop good practice habits. Remember, practicing is like “homework” for band, and it is important that daily practicing is a part of everyone’s routine.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING EXPECTATIONS CAREFULLY:

- Practice records **MUST** be signed by a parent / guardian on the official practice record. Extra copies can be found online at [www.pearsonband.com](http://www.pearsonband.com) or Canvas.
- Practice Records will be graded on **TUESDAY** of each week.
- Grades for practice records are determined according to the chart on the bottom of the practice record (changes by 9 weeks).
- If a student cannot practice due to extended illness or an instrument in the repair shop, the student should write the words **SICK** or **FIX** in the boxes corresponding to the appropriate days on the practice record and still get a parent signature. Without the parent signature, the student cannot be excused from the assignment.
- Private lessons count as 30-minutes of practice time.
- Late Practice Records will be graded in accordance with Pearson late work policies.

## Practice Routine

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Students who practice effectively are successful! The best way to make practice time more enjoyable and productive is to get into a regular habit of practicing every day. **LOOK FOR IMPROVEMENT!** When playing improves, then all the time spent practicing will seem worthwhile. Remember that band practice is the same as homework for another class.

Please visit <http://practicingsguide.weebly.com> for some great tips and strategies regarding practicing for students and parents!

**REMEMBER:** Regular daily practice is the key to improving on your instrument and contributing positively to our band!! Instruments are **NOT** to be left in your lockers over night! Directors will check for this on a regular basis.

## Private Lessons

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Private lessons are a VITAL ELEMENT in a student's musical life. The opportunity to study privately with a professional musician is one of the most important factors to individual success. Professional teachers, of every instrument, are available to teach during band class, before, or after school. They will be 23-30 minutes in duration and will be \$20 per lesson. Lessons are scheduled, at your convenience, on a "first-come-first-serve" basis. Please visit [www.pearsonband.com](http://www.pearsonband.com) to contact your private teacher.

Individual instruction is extremely beneficial due to the "one on one" teaching environment. These professionals provide detailed, specific, one-on-one instruction tailored for your child. The private lessons teacher is able to design a program that meets each individual's needs and each student is able to progress at his/her own rate of ability. Of the students who make the Texas All-State Band, roughly 97% take private lessons! In the past, the high number of students enrolled in the Private Lessons program throughout the Frisco School District has allowed the Frisco ISD Bands to maintain a high standard of performance. Though optional, please consider private lessons as a necessary part of the band program. Private lessons are very important!

## School-Owned Instruments

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Oboes, bassoons, tenor saxes, bari saxes, bass clarinets, French horns, euphoniums, and tubas are very expensive instruments that are provided for our students by Frisco ISD. There is a non-refundable maintenance fee for school-owned instruments of \$100 per year. This fee will be paid to OnlineSchoolFees during the first two weeks of the school year. This cost covers the summer cleaning and normal adjustments only but does not cover damages done to the instrument beyond normal use. Students who play school-owned instruments should take the same care as they would their own instrument. The student must always inform the director of any repairs needed. If any loss or accidental damage occurs to the instrument checked out to the student, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to pay for the repairs.

# Fees

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Due to the unknown of the 2020-2021 school year, we have restructured band fees.

Beginner Band: \$40

Concert Band, Symphonic Band: \$50

Fees cover band shirt (\$10), band binder (\$5), and a Smart Music subscription for each student (\$10). The remainder of the fee (\$15 for beginners, \$25 for Concert and Symphonic Band Students) covers things such as clinicians, Solo and Ensemble entry fees, All-Region entree fees, judges, recording fees, awards, and other miscellaneous program costs throughout the year. Payment is made to Pearson Band Parent Association through Charms.

Please note that in the event we are allowed to attend any competitions or festivals in the spring semester, there may be a separate fee associated with that activity.

Social Event Fees are separate and paid throughout the year.

# Uniform Requirements

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## BEGINNER BAND

The band t-shirt is required and must be purchased by all beginning band members. We will wear it with long blue jeans and closed toed shoes at concerts and performances. Beginner band students will also dress professionally for their Solo Contest in the spring semester. Boys may wear dress pants, polos, khakis, button-down shirts, etc. Ladies may wear dress pants and a blouse or a dress. No jeans, t-shirts, tennis shoes allowed for the solo event. Students must have natural colored hair for all performances.

## SYMPHONIC BAND AND CONCERT BAND

The band t-shirt is required and must be purchased by all Symphonic Band and Concert Band members and will be worn with long blue jeans for informal performances like pep rallies and football games. Students must have natural colored hair for all performances. For formal concerts, Symphonic Band and Concert Band members will need to wear **CONCERT BLACK**: black dress pants, plain black dress shirt, long black dress socks, and black dress shoes (closed-toe, flat).

# Trip Requirements

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## BEGINNER BAND – PERFORMANCE / SOCIAL TRIP

Beginner Band may compete in a music competition in the spring. To be eligible for this trip, students will need to have earned their first-degree black belt for scale karate and be academically eligible (see page 8).

## SYMPHONIC & CONCERT BAND UIL

Symphonic and Concert Band may compete in the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest in the spring. To be eligible for this trip, students will need to have passed off all music for a director and be academically eligible (see page 8).

## ALL SOCIAL TRIPS

We believe that the Pearson Band students are the best! When we go on trips off campus, we want to represent the band and Pearson Middle School to the best of our abilities.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TRIP(S) ARE:

- Students must be academically eligible during the nine weeks immediately prior to the trip
- Students may have no more than three (3) unexcused absences from sectionals. (SB & CB only)
- Students may spend no more than two (2) days in ISS throughout the year.
- Students may have no more than one (1) detentions assigned by any band director.
- Students may have NO unexcused absences from any concert or performance activity.
- Students may not have any outstanding band fees

## Communications – CHARMS, Canvas, Website

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CHARMS is a web-based management system that is used for organization and communication purposes. The email system that is used through CHARMS is the director's main communication tool and will be used frequently. Please access CHARMS at [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com) to make sure your information is up to date:

LOGIN (SCHOOL CODE): pearsonband

PASSWORD: student ID#

SMORE NEWSLETTER - You will receive a weekly smore newsletter containing the information you need to know for events and activities related to band. Please be sure to read over the newsletter carefully as this will replace emails about individual events. The purpose of using a weekly newsletter is to reduce the amount of emails you receive from the band directors and to put all the information you need in one place.

WEBSITE – Please refer to our website for important forms, calendar updates, and other news!  
[www.pearsonband.com](http://www.pearsonband.com)

## Miscellaneous Information

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### LOST AND FOUND

If you left it, and we found it, it WILL be in the lost and found box. Asking us is a waste of your time. If it is not in the lost and found box, we did not find it.

### INSTRUMENT REPAIR

If an instrument is in need of repair, the student should first have a director look at it. Often, the director can make minor repairs and adjustments saving you money.

Please do not approach any instrument with home repair tools. There are countless times that parents and students who mean well cause more harm and more expense than the original repair.

Also, avoid using ANY household materials to clean or lubricate your instrument. WD-40 and motor oil are not designed for instruments. DO NOT give your woodwind instrument a bath!!

### LOCAL MUSIC STORES

Music and Arts 3211 Preston Rd #14, Frisco 972.668.1176 [www.musicarts.com](http://www.musicarts.com)

Williamson Music 1st 6807 Main St., Frisco 469.362.7171 [www.wm1st.com](http://www.wm1st.com)

When choosing a new instrument, please first check with a Pearson band director for recommended brand and model.