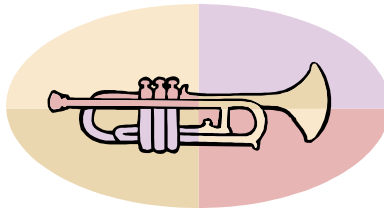


Dr. James P. Terry Middle School

Tiger Band Handbook



“Your future in music begins today!”

Steven R. Lozano – Band Director
Karyn Cummings – Principal

FORWARD

Dear Terry Band Student and Parent,

Welcome to the beginning of a new school year at the newest school in the Mesquite ISD! We are so excited that you have chosen to become a part of the Terry Band. With the opening of a new school, you will be able to establish the traditions of the Band Program. It will be up to you, with the guidance of the directors, to set the bar high for future band students. In order to help you understand your involvement in the Terry Band Program, this handbook has been created for your reference throughout the school year.

The rules outlined on the following pages are simple and sound. Abiding by these policies will fulfill an obligation to your school, to your fellow bandsmen, to your family *and* to yourself. ***Only when every member of the band puts forth 100% effort can a band achieve its goals.***

Please take special notice of the sections dealing with attendance at functions, grading system, eligibility and important dates.

Parents and students are requested to read this entire handbook thoroughly and sign the return page indicating understanding of the expectations presented. Please return page X, signed, by August XX. We appreciate your support and look forward to a fantastic year as we start a new band program together.

Membership in the Terry Tiger Band will be one of the highest honors that a student at Terry MS can earn. This status will be attained through hard work and diligent effort. We want and must have every member's desire to excel and achieve. In return, we will do everything in our power to provide an exciting educational journey through the musical path that lies ahead. There is no limit to what your child can accomplish. There is no measuring what they will obtain in the way of insight and sensitivity through the process of putting together the magnificent performances to come. We are genuinely honored with the chance to mold the students into this great group!

Sincerely,

Steve Lozano Todd Burke Scott Rives Lynn Childers Craig Hill

Band Hall phone number is XXX-XXX-XXXX. The best time to call is between X-X
Email is slozano@mesquiteisd.org

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THE TERRY BAND PROGRAM

The Terry Band Handbook will hopefully give you a good idea about the procedures and policies we will follow. We are breaking new ground and establishing new traditions. We want to make sure that precedents set are of a high standard in regards to performance, academics, behavior and especially – attitude.

When speaking of attitude, we, the directors, want the Terry Band to be defined as an **ATTITUDE**. This attitude fully intends to do better than the previous rehearsal, the previous week, and month and will build upon each year. This attitude is built upon a spirit of cooperation, dedication, enthusiasm and hard work. This attitude will continue to exist through the school year. After all, **BAND IS 90% ATTITUDE AND 10% SKILL!!!!**

BAND PLACEMENT

The Terry Band program this year is unique in that it will consist only of beginning band students. Beginners are those students who have not previously played in band or who have extremely limited band experience. Once students have completed their year of beginning band studies, they will be placed into one of two performing ensembles for the following school year, the Honor or Symphonic Band.

Placement into one of the groups will be determined by audition. Auditions will take place in May for the following school year. The audition will be divided into the following areas:

1. Scales
2. Prepared Music
3. Sightreading



Additionally, during the spring semester, there will be organized a Beginner's Honor Band that will be composed of the top third or top half (depending on enrollment) of each section. This group will meet as a band, not a like instrument class, twice a week before or after school and prepare a festival performance. The goal of this group is to begin exposing the students to the necessary mindset and rehearsal demeanor that a high-caliber band requires.

GRADING POLICY

Your grade in band is given the same way as in any other class, it must be *earned*.

Your grade will be determined by the following:

Objective sheets – each six weeks students will be given a list of objectives to meet for that grading period. Students must demonstrate mastery of the objective in order to pass it and have the teacher sign the corresponding line. Not passing it off is considered a try and the student receives *passing credit* as long as the try is done in good effort, or, there were multiple tries. The objective sheet for the first semester is included in the back of this handbook. These must be signed by a parent and turned in at the end of each six weeks.

Practice records – the only way to learn, improve and sustain improvement as a beginner and as a young musician is through home practice. A practice record will be maintained and turned in each week. Practice records will be due on Monday of every week. **THIS IS A WEEKLY HOMEWORK GRADE!** A sample practice record is included in this handbook, showing the proper way to fill it out. You will notice on this sample that there is a grading scale on the report. Be advised that the time requirement noted is for the first six weeks. Each new grading period the time requirement will increase. Also, the purpose of the practice record is to develop the **habit of daily practice!** If there are not five consecutive days of practice noted on the record, 10 points will be deducted from the grade. Parents must sign only one week at a time, unsigned records will not be accepted. Students are excused from practice when: they are ill, their instrument is in the shop, or there are unusual circumstances. **The band director must receive a note from a parent and the practice record must be marked appropriately.**



Playing/written exams – most playing tests fall under the objective mastery category. At times, there will be a need to give written tests. Students will be notified in advance as to the content of these exams.

Participation – this is given for your daily participation in class. This includes group as well as individual playing in addition to having your equipment (instrument), all necessary supplies and materials (binder, book, PENCIL, mouthpiece, reeds, oils, mallets, sticks) every day in class.

Performances – will include concerts, solo & ensemble contest, band festivals and eventually all-city band, region band and UIL concert and sight reading contest. All of these events are another part of your grade. Attendance *is mandatory* as part of our TEKS, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills.

Attendance – is a critical part of the student's grade. We will never ask you to arrive at a rehearsal or performance before it is absolutely necessary. So that means when we ask you to be here at 5:30pm, we do not mean 5:35pm. Remember, "TO BE EARLY IS TO BE ON TIME! TO BE ON TIME IS TO BE LATE!" If you show up on time and with the correct equipment you will receive 100. If you fail to show up and it is unexcused, you will receive a 0. If you are late you will receive a 75. Of course, medical emergencies and family crises are excused with a **note from a parent.**

However, any extracurricular activity that is **not** school sponsored (i.e. intramural sports, community meetings, shopping, etc.) will not be excused and the students will receive a 0. We will endeavor to give you accurate start and end times for all of our events. However, due to scheduling conflicts, we ask you to be flexible. (Students *will not* be allowed to leave performances before they are over). In short, **if there is a conflict, please call the bandhall immediately at xxx-xxxx or email .**

ELIGIBILITY

Most of your band activities this year will fall under the realm of being a co-curricular activity. This means that it is part of the lesson plan and you will receive a grade for participation. Activities that take place off-campus and are competitive in nature (solo & ensemble contest, band festivals) are considered extra-curricular and fall under the guidelines of House Bill 72, which is also known as "no pass, no play". In order to participate in any extra-curricular activity a student must have passing grade in all classes. Basically, if we leave the Terry MS building for an activity, you must be eligible.

DAILY REHEARSALS

The following is the guideline to a successful rehearsal. We expect one thing and one thing only! That you work to your potential EVERY DAY! As a result the following is the guideline to a successful rehearsal:

1. When your class meets, come immediately to the band hall and get your instrument out. Be seated and ready to go by the tardy bell.
2. You are disrupting class if you are late.
3. ABSOLUTELY NO GUM, FOOD OR DRINKS WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE BAND HALL!
4. You must have all of your equipment, music and a pencil every day.
5. Students will not play their instruments without permission.
6. Students will not play other student's instruments (including and *especially*, *percussion*).

7. At the end of the day, come to the band hall to get your instrument. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES** does your instrument ever spend the night in the band hall or in your locker. This is for your protection.
8. When your instrument is in the band hall, it must be in its' assigned locker and the lock must be locked.
9. If your instrument is in the repair shop, please bring a note from home. Bring your mouthpiece/reeds because we may have an instrument for you to borrow.
10. Students who do not bring their instrument and supplies to class will have points deducted from their participation grade. They may also be moved down a chair.
11. Leave the band hall cleaner than you found it!
12. Music stands are for music! They are not to be leaned on or abused in any way.
13. If you go home sick, come to the band hall and get your instrument and music before you leave.
14. **Never leave your instrument in your school locker!**
15. Use common sense and maintain a POSITIVE ATTITUDE ALWAYS!

The basic rule of behavior is – DO NOTHING THAT WILL INTERFERE WITH EITHER THE LEARNING OR THE TEACHING OF OUR BAND.

DISCIPLINE

All discipline problems will be handled on an individual basis. A notebook is kept at the front of the room that will be known as the "Book of Discipline". A warning will be when a student is asked to sign the book and write the infraction they have done. For example: 9/15/06 – *Johnny Onenote*, playing out of turn. This establishes that there was a correction of behavior. If a student has signed the book a total of two times, that student will be assigned an after-school detention with the band director and the student's academic team is notified, as well as the parents being notified. A third time to sign the book will result in the academic team being notified for Team Discipline procedures and parent notification. Any infractions thereafter will be referred to the appropriate Vice Principal. To simplify, the basic disciplinary steps are:

1. Warning (sign the book)
2. Second time to sign – detention, parent notification, team notification
3. Third time to sign – team discipline, parent notification
4. Any infraction thereafter is an Administrative Referral

EQUIPMENT

Students are expected to furnish their own instrument with exception to the following school-provided instruments: Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor and Bari Sax, French Horn, Euphonium (Baritone), Tuba and large Percussion instruments. You are responsible for the care and maintenance of your instrument (personal or school) and expected to keep it in excellent working condition.

Students using a school provided instrument will be responsible for any damage to those

instruments that occur through negligence or neglect. All student's instruments will be inspected periodically for a grade.

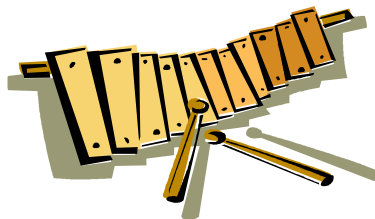
Woodwinds will need at least four working reeds at all times. The preferred single reed brand is *VanDoren*. Students will also need a cloth cleaning swab, mouthpiece brush, cork grease and a reed case. Clarinet students will need a *VanDoren 5RV lyre* mouthpiece. Saxophone students will need a *Selmer Cstar* mouthpiece.



Brass students will need a bottle of valve oil (*Al Cass* is recommended) for the valved instruments, rotor oil for the French Horns and slide lubricant (*Slide-O-Mix* is recommended). French Horn students will also need a leather hand guard for their instrument. A cleaning cloth is recommended for all brass students.



Percussion students will need to furnish their own sticks and mallets. Your percussion kit provides a basic mallet/stick package. Percussion students who continue in band after their beginning year will need: 1 pr. Timpani mallets (general purpose), plastic mallets (Mike Balter black phenolic), 2 prs of drum sticks (SD1 & 5A type) and a stick bag. All school percussion equipment will be kept in good working order. Any equipment that is damaged or school provided mallets that are broken will be replaced at the student's expense.



INSTRUMENT LOCKERS

Each student will be assigned an instrument locker. A combination lock will also be issued. Students may not use their own locks. The combination lock is to be properly locked on the locker ***at all times***. If a student loses the combination lock, a replacement fee of \$10.00 will be charged. Lockers are to be *kept clean at all times!*



LAB FEE

There will be a one-time lab fee of \$7.00 assessed that is due the first six weeks of school. This fee covers the cost of the students' music notebook and supplemental material that is issued the first week of school. It also covers the printing costs of the handbook and the cardstock costs of the practice records. Please complete the form in the back of this handbook and return it along with the acknowledgment, permission and volunteer forms. Make checks payable to Terry MS Band.

UNIFORMS

The uniform for the Terry Band students this year will be our standard dress Terry Band shirt and khaki pants, girls may wear an ankle length khaki skirt. The order form for the band shirt is also attached to the back of the handbook.

Parents may also order shirts to show your spirit and pride in your students and your band. Please return the order form with payment by _____. Make checks payable to Terry MS Band.



INSTRUMENT INSURANCE

You are strongly urged to insure your personal or school instrument. Most of your instrument rental plans have an insurance option. Also, most homeowners insurance policies can add a rider to cover your instrument. This is especially important for the school-owned instruments, **because the district does not carry insurance on these instruments.** Students using a school instrument must fill out an agreement form, have it signed by a parent and return it to the band director. It is the duty of the student playing a school-owned instrument to take the best possible care of that instrument. Any damages through negligence or carelessness will be the responsibility of that student.

STUDENT OFFICERS

Officer elections will be held this first time before the end of the first six weeks. Afterwards, all officer elections will be held in May for the following school year. Officers must be of above average leadership ability; be dependable; show loyalty to the band, loyalty to the director and to the other officers; be of good character; be able to accept responsibility; carry out assigned duties; be able to inspire the best work of the band and do the best work possible.

Candidates for band office must have the same qualifications as candidates for student council (see student handbook). The students must interview with the band director and submit a written speech by a set deadline.

Offices are **President, Vice-President, Secretary-Historian, Social chairman and two Librarians.** The band director will reserve the right to remove any officer who is not meeting the above mentioned qualifications.

EVENTS

SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST-

The MISD sponsors a solo and ensemble contest for beginning band students. This contest is held in May at one of the MISD middle schools. All band students are required to participate in this event. The preparation and performance of a solo piece and/or the participation in an ensemble is an important part of your development as a young musician.

BAND TRIPS-

The beginning band students will take a fun trip in the spring. Information regarding specifics will be announced in the spring. Additionally there will be a Band Festival that the beginning band will perform in competition during the spring semester.

CONCERT ETIQUETTE-

Since performance is a major objective of any band, concert etiquette must be learned and practiced.

1. While in the audience, one should remain seated until the end of the performance. Having people walk around is very distracting to the performers and to the other members of the audience.
2. While a group is performing, there should be no talking in order to allow other people to enjoy the concert.
3. At the end of each selection, the audience should applaud. Shouting or whistling is not acceptable.
4. Hats or caps are not appropriate at concerts.
5. Please turn off cell phones and pagers.

PERMISSION FORM

The beginning band students will be making some trips during the school year. To expedite matters, please sign the permission form included in the handbook and return it as soon as possible. This form will be in effect for the entire school year. Parents will always be given written notification prior to any trip.

PRIVATE LESSONS

The success of every outstanding band program depends on the quality of the players as well as the determination of the band students to give that extra effort. In the top middle school band programs across the state, a large number of the students are studying privately with a teacher that is a specialist on their particular instrument. The MISD offers the Music Enrichment Program that has put together a list of quality music teachers that are available for private lessons for your students.

The band directors will always work to give necessary individual attention to each student in order to have a quality program, but it is not always possible to reach each student as often as needed. That is where the value of a private instructor comes in. Lessons can be scheduled before or after school or during class time, that is up to you and the instructor. Private lessons are also very reasonably priced at \$15.00 for a half hour lesson. Partial and full scholarships are available to those in need of financial assistance.

SOCIALS

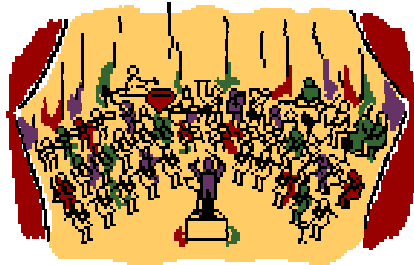
You are probably thinking that this sounds like an awful lot of work and, it is! You are then asking “will we ever have fun?” The answer is YOU BET! Most of what we do in band is fun. We believe that a band that plays together stays together. There will be social functions planned (pizza, skating, swimming, picnics, and more). Remember that a band that works hard together and plays hard together will be very proud of what they accomplish. You will feel the joy of your success and that is what makes band rewarding!

PARENT NOTE

There are many ways that you can give your assistance. As you can imagine, this is a monumental job for one person. Help is always appreciated. If you are interested, fill out the volunteer form and return it as soon as possible.

Next, you will be hearing some interesting sounds from your students. These first sounds can be alarming, but please trust that in time they will get better and by the end of the school year, you will be amazed by the progress of your students. So, please be encouraging during your student's early home practice sessions. This is a critical time in developing the good habit of daily practice.

Lastly, we hope that you will come and hear your child whenever they perform. They are proud of what they do and they want you to share in their success. For those of you who are new to being a band parent we welcome you! Those that are band parent veterans, we are so glad that you are again entrusting your children with us for their musical education. This year we break new ground – a new campus, begin new traditions. It is our goal that your students see this new and exciting journey through, from beginning band all the way to their graduation day at John Horn High School! **YOUR FUTURE IN MUSIC BEGINS TODAY!**



Please return the following forms and fees to the band director as soon as possible. For book keeping purposes, please write separate checks for the different fees. Make checks payable to Terry MS Band.

1. Parent/Student acknowledgment page-Lab fee and form
2. Parent Volunteer form
3. Travel consent form
4. Band Shirt order form

Please keep the following forms for future reference:

1. Calendar
2. Handbook
3. Practice Record example form
4. Objective Sheet example

PARENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

PLEASE RETURN BY AUGUST 25, 2006

The intention of this Handbook is to set guidelines and standards for the successful operation of the TERRY MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND. In signing this page, you and your child signify that you both understand the contents of this Handbook and agree to abide by it. **THIS MUST BE RETURNED BY AUGUST 25, 2006.** Thank you, very much for your support of the Terry MS Band program.

STUDENT

SIGNATURE _____

PARENT

SIGNATURE _____

LAB FEE.

A one time lab fee of \$7.00 will be assessed. Please turn this in at this same time that the acknowledgment form is turned in. Make checks payable to Terry MS Band. The lab fee covers the costs of binders, supplemental materials, cardstock for practice reports.

Fee _____

Check _____

Cash _____

TERRY BAND SHIRT ORDER FORM

The band shirts will be a royal blue polo with a logo on the left front. Uniform for all performance events for this year will be the band shirt and khaki pants for boys, band shirt and khaki pants or skirt (tea length) for girls. The cost for the band shirt is **\$15.00**. 2XL and 3XL sizes will be two dollars more (**17.00**). Please be advised that shirts **are adult sized.** Parents may purchase additional shirts for themselves. Please make checks payable (separate from Lab Fee) to Terry MS Band.

Please indicate size and quantity:

S_____

M_____

L_____

XL_____

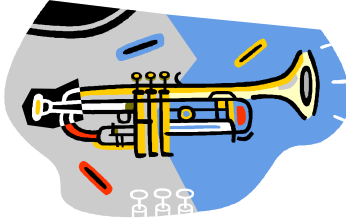
2XL_____

3XL_____

STUDENT'S NAME_____

TOTAL NUMBER OF SHIRTS ORDERED_____

TOTAL AMOUNT TURNED IN_____



TERRY BEGINNER BAND PRACTICE REPORT

Name_____Band_____

Instrument_____

Practice reports are due every Monday and must be signed by a parent. Practice reports **will only be accepted one day late** with a deduction of 10 points. There must be **five consecutive days of practice for full credit.**

GRADING SCALE:					
EXCELLENT/GOOD		FAIR/POOR		UNACCEPTABLE	
Minutes:	Grade:	Minutes:	Grade:	Minutes:	Grade:
100 and over.....	110	50 to 59.....	86	30 to 39.....	68
72 to 90.....	100	40 to 49.....	78	0 to 29.....	50
60 to 71.....	94				

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total Minutes	Parent Signature	Weekly Grade
	8/15 <i>12</i>	8/16 <i>15</i>	8/17 <i>10</i>	8/18 <i>15</i>	8/19 <i>12</i>	8/20 <i>10</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>Mrs. Onenote</i>	<i>100</i>
8/21	8/22	8/23	8/24	8/25	8/26	8/27			
8/28	8/29	8/30	8/31	9/1	9/2	9/3			
9/4	9/5	9/6	9/7	9/8	9/9	9/10			
9/11	9/12	9/13	9/14	9/15	9/16	9/17			

9/18	9/19	9/20	9/21	9/22	9/23	9/24			
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Important Dates:

Practice Tips

Just a word about this thing called “practice”. How to practice and how much to practice varies with each student. Some need more than others in order to learn their assignment. Successful students find that it is very helpful to have a systematic program of “practice”. They schedule their “music time” in their daily activities in such a manner that they have as little outside disturbance as possible.

Select a time of day that will be as free as possible from interruptions. Try to use the SAME TIME EVERY DAY – “rain or shine”. Choose a place where you will be as free as possible from distractions such as TV, improper temperatures, poor light, or noises.

Have your objective in mind. What are you going to do? How much are you going to do? How are you going to accomplish it?

- 1. Set yourself a goal. “I am going to learn this much in X number of minutes.**
- 2. Play through that much of the exercise.**
- 3. Listen and find your mistakes. Go over those few measures as many as 20 or 30 times or until you know how that you can play a finished product.
DON'T PRACTICE MISTAKES – ELIMINATE THEM!**
- 4. Now, go back to the beginning and test yourself. See if you can start at the beginning and play through those troublesome spots without stopping, hesitating, slowing down, or missing rhythms.**
- 5. Next, add dynamics, slurs, musical emphasis, breath marks and make music out of the notes.**
- 6. Woodwinds, check your reed position. Everyone, check your instrument and be sure it is in good playing condition**



Terry MS
Beginner Band Objective Checklist
Level 1 Objectives- 1st Semester

Name _____ Instrument _____

You must get your teacher's initials on each line.

1. _____ Demonstrate/ describe proper playing position for your instrument. (Written quiz)
2. _____ Demonstrate/ describe the proper embouchure set for your instrument. (Written quiz)
3. _____ Demonstrate attack-sustain-release by holding a note eight counts.

The following exercises must be played with a good tone in order to pass the objective.

4. _____ Line 14- demonstrates ability to play whole notes, whole rests, half notes, and half rests.
5. _____ Line 22- demonstrates ability to play half notes and quarter notes.
6. _____ Line 29- demonstrates ability to play whole, half, quarter notes/rests and a fermata.
7. _____ Line 35- demonstrates technical ability over a five note range.
8. _____ Line 43- demonstrates technical ability in intervals over a six note range.

9. _____ Line 49- demonstrates ability to play mixed quarter and eighth note rhythms.

Vocabulary and Theory Skills:

_____ Note Reading Test 1 (Handout)

_____ Rhythm Test 1 (Rhythm Grid page 1)

_____ General Skills Test 1 (Buzzing, clarinet doodles, etc.)

James Terry Middle School
Tiger Band
EMERGENCY TREATMENT RELEASE

I _____,

the parent and/or legal guardian

of _____, a minor, hereby acknowledge that said minor is presently under my care, custody, and control. I hereby give my child, the above noted minor, my express permission to **TRAVEL WITH THE JAMES TERRY MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND**. I further expressly grant my permission for my child to participate in all activities. I understand the students will be as closely chaperoned as possible during these band activities. I release the school from any and all liabilities.

In the event there arises an emergency necessitating medical attention for my child, **I do hereby authorize that treatment be given by qualified and licensed medical personnel**. I understand I will be notified as quickly as possible and that all expenses incurred in treatment will be assumed by my insurance or by me. Should medical attention be needed, I hereby authorize directors and/or chaperones to administer aid until said qualified and licensed medical personnel arrive.

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Bus. Phone _____

Signature (parent and/or guardian)

School Year 2006-2007

Date turned in _____

Tiger Band
CONFIDENTIAL MEDICAL INFORMATION

Family Doctor _____

Telephone _____

Hospitalization: Company _____

Policy Number/Group Number _____

List pertinent medical information applicable to allergies, nervous disorders, heart trouble, diabetes, epilepsy, etc. Indicate any medication or drugs to which the student is allergic:

List any regular medication the student is taking

List any other information which may be helpful

Current immunization status:

Tetanus_____ Polio_____

Two other local contacts in case of emergency:

Name_____ Telephone_____

Name_____ Telephone_____

Calendar

August –

15, Tuesday – First day of School
20, Sunday – Terry MS Dedication
22, Tuesday – Middle School early release

September –

5-7, Campaign week for Officer elections
8, Friday – Officer election day
Social event, To be announced

October –

2, Monday – Fair Day (holiday)
12, Thursday – Demonstration Concert! 6:30 pm followed by 1st annual potluck supper
16, Monday – Staff Development (student holiday)
18, Wednesday – UIL Marching Contest @ Memorial Stadium. Support the John Horn HS Jaguar Band
25, Wednesday – Early release, all campuses

November –

Attend Dallas Wind Symphony Concert @ Meyerson Symphony Center, date to be determined.

December –

Social event to be planned by band officers
7, Thursday or 8, Friday – Winter Concert, 6:30 pm
19, Tuesday – Early release, begin Winter Holiday

January –

4, Thursday – First day of Spring semester
15, Monday – Dr. Martin Luther King Day, school holiday
25 & 26, Thursday & Friday – Host 9th grade All-Region Band

February –

2 – Friday, Staff Development (student holiday)
Social event to be planned by band officers

March –

8, Thursday – Demonstration concert, 6:30 pm
WORK!

April –

WORK HARDER!

Social event to be planned by band officers

May –

1, Tuesday – beginner solo & ensemble contest @ Agnew MS (all eligible students expected to participate)

4 or 18, Friday – Hurricane Harbor or Sandy Lake festival

11, Friday – Beginning Band concert festival @ Kimbrough MS

17 or 18, Thursday or Friday – spring concert, 6:30 pm