

JOHN HORN HIGH SCHOOL BAND GENERAL INFORMATION 2006-2007

HANDBOOK—

Keep a copy of the handbook in a safe, accessible place at home for you and your parents to refer to.

Students who do not have a signed Confidential Medical Treatment Form, Handbook Acknowledgement Form, or Travel Permission Form on file will not be a part of any extracurricular parts of the band curriculum i.e. trips, marching shows, contests, festivals, etc.

PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE—

Attendance at **ALL** performances is required. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a grade of “0” for a major test grade. Repeated absences from performances will result in dismissal from the performing band. An excused absence from a performance will require that it be made up within the time allotted in the JHHS Student Handbook. If it is not made up, a grade of “0” will result.

REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE—

Attendance is required at **ALL** rehearsals. Any time missed due to an excused absence must be made up within the time allotted in the JHHS Student Handbook or a grade of “0” will result.

Although much advanced planning has gone into our calendar, a rehearsal may need to be called occasionally due to unforeseen circumstances. **WORK WILL ONLY COUNT AS AN EXCUSED ABSENCE IF WE DON'T GIVE YOU AT LEAST 2 WEEKS NOTICE.** Plan ahead and give your employer your band calendar before they make up the schedule!

DRESS REHEARSALS—

For selected “dress rehearsal” the Red Jaguar Band T-Shirt and will be worn with band shoes and black socks. Official JHHS caps will be allowed at these rehearsals.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED—

The following equipment is needed on a daily basis:

Flutes—Tuning rod and swab, breathing tube

Clarinets, Oboes, Saxes, Bassoons—2 good reeds, swab, cork grease, lyre, breathing tube

Brasses—lyre, slide grease, valve/slide oil, mutes, breathing tube

Percussion—Mallets and sticks

It is the student's responsibility to have all equipment at each rehearsal and performance in good working order.

EXCUSED ABSENCES—

The following will be accepted as excused absences:

Illness certified by a parent or doctor in writing.

Medical appointments made before a rehearsal or performance was announced.

Serious illness or death in the family.

In all cases, the director should be notified IN ADVANCE of the absence. In the case of emergencies, notify the director as soon as possible.

If you notify the director with a phone call, please follow up with a note so we can file it and make sure you are not penalized.

PRIVATE LESSONS—

Private lessons are not required to be in band at JHHS. However, through the MISD Music Enrichment Program, we have access to teachers on most instruments and recommend them highly. The students in the more advanced groups are *strongly encouraged* to take private lessons. Included in the back of this book is a form to fill out and return, if you are interested.

PRACTICE—

Practice is ALWAYS NECESSARY! The best way to make practice time more enjoyable and productive is to get a regular habit of everyday practice established. LOOK FOR IMPROVEMENT; don't just "put in your time". When you're playing improves, then all the time practicing will seem worthwhile. A good practice routine includes: warm-up, scales, technique drills, tone study, music and a cool down. NEVER SACRIFICE ACCURACY FOR SPEED. Practice the parts you cannot play well. Practice to be perfect. 4 days a week for 45 minutes to an hour is better than 1 day a week for 2 ½ hours. Refer to the website for the Texas Music Project for suggestions on how to improve on your instrument.

U.I.L. SOLO AND ENSEMBLE-

Solo and Ensemble is an event required of all of our band students. In most cases, an accompanist is required to play for a solo. The band will pay for the entry fees for all students; however the cost of the accompanist will be the responsibility of the student. The cost will vary according to the difficulty level of the solo. Class 1 solos (the hardest) will cost \$30, Class 2 and 3 will cost \$25. If there is a problem with these fees, please call me and arrangements can be made.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS—

School owned instruments are issued to students free of charge upon signing the Instrument Agreement Form. The student is responsible for furnishing a mouthpiece and lyre for that instrument.

Normal wear and tear is covered by the school maintenance budget. **Repair due to abuse or neglect, whether accidental or on purpose, is the responsibility of the student and the student's parents.**

Instruments need to be turned in the same condition it was issued.

UNIFORM—

The band uniform must be worn with pride in its entirety when in public with **all fasteners fastened.**

When the uniform is not being worn it must be on a hanger with a hanging bag over it.

The uniform is to be kept at school and may not be taken home without special permission. The hat, plume, will be kept in the hatbox at school. Keep the gloves and shoes in your locker.

AUDIO AND VIDEO TAPING—

All performances of the JHHS Band will be recorded either on audiotape or on videocassette. In addition, rehearsals will also be recorded as needed for the purpose of improving our instruction.

AUXILIARY TRYOUT REGULATIONS—

It should be understood that the purpose for auxiliary units are to enhance the performance of the band in a visual manner. It is the prerogative of the director to restrict performance when the director deems the performance unsuitable.

Criteria a student must meet in order to try-out are as follows:

The student must audition on the date set by the director. (Exceptions due to illness will be at the discretion of the director.)

Auditions and selection will be the responsibility of certified school staff members.

The number of members in the auxiliary units may vary from year to year, depending on the size of the band and the quality of the auditions.

The director will determine performances and uniforms.

BAND PARENT VOLUNTEERS—

Parents are needed for various tasks throughout the school year. Please fill out the Volunteer List if you are interested in helping the band. Parent Volunteers assist with many things the band needs and chaperone on band trips. The amount of volunteers may far exceed the needs of some areas. **ALL PARENTS ARE WELCOME—** Membership is free.

BUS SEATING—

Before the first trip of the year, we will sign you up for buses. You will ride this bus on all trips during the fall semester. You may sit on any seat, but you must remain in the same seat for that trip unless an adult sponsor moves you. If they ask you to move, you need to comply immediately. Trips in the spring will have new bus lists.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—

Included in this handbook is a list of all performances and rehearsals that are known at this time. This allows plenty of notice for plans to be made around them. Dates that become available later will be included in the monthly calendars that are sent home. Any changes or additions will be reviewed in class. All events that have at least two weeks notice are required. **Notices of upcoming events will be provided to you by e-mail.**

CHAIR PLACEMENT AND CHALLENGES—

Chair placement tryouts for the Fall bands are held in the previous May. Chair placement will be redone at the end of every six weeks according to grade average in band.

Challenges can be done at any time by filling out the Challenge Form. A Challenge will consist of music of the director's choice and there must be at least a 72 hour notice to the person being challenged. Challenges are one chair at a time and you may have only one challenge pending at a time. **FAILURE TO ACCEPT A CHALLENGE WILL RESULT IN THE AUTOMATIC FORFEITURE OF THE CHAIR.**

CHAPERONES—

All parents who would like to be a chaperone for band trips must have a Criminal Record Check Form on file with the school district. These must be turned in at least 2 weeks prior to your first trip. We encourage all parents to travel with us, but please sign up in advance so we can make sure there is room.

FUND RAISING—

Fund raisers are a way for students to earn money needed for trips and festivals so it doesn't have to come from your own pocket. The money earned is deposited in the Band Activity Fund and is property of MISD. Each student receives credit for the portion of the profit that they earn. **Any product returns are deducted for that student's share of the profit.**

HANGING BAGS—

Hanging bags for the uniforms will be issued to each student for the use on your uniform. They are the property of the band and must be turned in at the end of the year. Whenever we travel, your uniform is to be on a hanger and in the hanging bag. The hanging bags are numbered and you will be expected to return the exact one that was issued to you.

LOCKERS—

A locker in the band locker room will be issued to all band students. Items stored in this locker include: instrument, band notebook, marching shoes, band shoes and official band attire. **Items for other classes should be kept at home or in your backpack.** Food items found in lockers (drink cans or bottles, food wrappers, food) will result in an **automatic detention.** Band lockers are under the same rules as school lockers as described in the Student Handbook. **YOUR LOCKER IS TO BE LOCKED WITH THE BAND ISSUED LOCK AT ALL TIMES. Do not give out your combination to anyone. The safety of your possessions is your responsibility—KEEP IT LOCKED!** A penalty may be assessed to students who repeatedly leave their locker unlocked.

MONEY—

All money that a student turns in for fundraising, trips, band equipment and supplies will need to be receipted. If you turn in fundraising money or pay for anything—*make sure you get a receipt.*

The only exception to this rule is small goods such as reeds and oils. In this case, the merchandise will be your receipt.

TAPE TEST—

Tape test will be assigned periodically throughout the year. It is preferable for you to tape these at home so you can do it over and over until it is your best effort. However, many of you may not have a tape recorder. We have several tape recorders in the Band Hall that may be used by any student who wishes to tape their tests at school. If a student tapes their test at school it is also permissible to do it over and over until you are satisfied. I would strongly suggest that you not wait until the last minute to tape your tests at school, as there might be a significant number of students wanting to do it and only a few recorders.

IF FOR ANY REASON THE TAPE TEST ISN'T GRADABLE, YOU WILL BE ASKED TO PERFORM YOUR TEST AGAIN FOR A DIRECTOR LIVE DURING CLASS. THIS ALSO APPLIES TO ANY SUSPICIOUS TAPES.

TRAVELING UNIFORMS—

This year the traveling uniforms will be our band show shirt/or red shirt and shorts. These shall be worn on all trips unless specified by Mr. Burke. Not wearing the proper attire on trips will be subject to the band discipline plan and in certain cases might keep you from participating on the trip.

TRIP CONDUCT—

BAND MEMBERS WILL RIDE TO AND FROM ALL PERFORMANCES ON THEIR ASSIGNED BUS. Exceptions will be made for the return trip only with written notification from the parent. Students will be allowed to leave only with a parent and a director must SEE the parent take the student.

All instructions given by the directors while on a trip must be followed to the letter. While we are in the public eye, our behavior must be at its best, as we are representing our school and our band.

Noise on the bus is not only annoying to fellow passengers, but may also be distracting to the driver. Excessive noise will not be allowed.

Walkman type radios and stereos with headphones are the only type of sound equipment allowed. ANYTHING YOU TAKE IS AT YOUR OWN RISK!! Any sound equipment found outside the buses (in the stands, warm-up, etc.) will be confiscated and kept until a parent can pick them up. This can also result in the suspension of having any ipods, walkman stereos allowed on band trips. Multiple offences will result in having the equipment sent to the office as per school policy.

Improper behavior while on trips is subject to the consequences of school policy. If the offence is severe enough, that student might not be allowed on subsequent trips, or possibly, removed from the program.

WRITTEN TEST—

Written test will be given throughout the year on various information given in band class i.e. the band handbook, music theory, scales, etc. Six weeks exams also contain written portions.