

MCKINNEY NORTH BAND

<http://www.mnhsband.org/>



BAND HANDBOOK

McKinney North High School

2550 Wilmeth Rd - McKinney, TX 75071

FOREWORD

Welcome to McKinney North High School and the award-winning “McKinney North Band”! You are now a member of an award-winning band family known nationwide for a tradition of excellence. You are joining the ranks of students with 18 years of consecutive UIL Sweepstakes, State Marching Contest Participation, TMEA Honor Band Finalist recognition, dozens of All-State Musicians, WGI Finalist participation, and much more.

The following handbook is provided to ensure the McKinney North Band program will be an enjoyable, educational, and life-changing experience for all its members. Band members are required to follow the policies, rules, and regulations of McKinney ISD, McKinney North High School, and the McKinney North Band Program

This handbook contains the program's general rules and information concerning academics, UIL, equipment, program offerings, private lessons, band facilities, uniforms, attendance, communication, scheduling, and much more!

The band directors have the authority to suspend or amend policies at any time if deemed necessary to the best interest of the overall McKinney North Band program.

If more information or clarification is needed, see the contact info below for the Band Staff. Feel free to call or email.

BAND STAFF

Gary Williams - Director of Bands - gawilliams@mckinneyisd.net

Connor Vaughn - Assistant Director - cvaughn@mckinneyisd.net

Michael Reed - Director of Percussion - mcreed@mckinneyisd.net

Cierra Coffee - Director of Color Guard - ccoffee@mckinneyisd.net

BAND LEADERSHIP TEAM

Cultivating leadership skills within each student is a primary focus of the band program. Each student is encouraged to develop team and leadership skills that will add to their success in high school and beyond.

We at McKinney North High School have outstanding student leaders. These students are invaluable to the success of the band program.

Leadership Roles include Drum Majors, Section Leaders, Logistics, Librarians.

Leaders are selected based on:

- Successful completion of the drum major and leadership training sessions
- Musicianship and leadership skills as displayed throughout the year in band
- Behavior
- Punctuality
- Band and academic grades
- Recommendations
- Essays
- Participation/Success in band-related activities

ELIGIBILITY

If a student is deemed ineligible at any time during the year, the student must meet the requirements as outlined in the MISD Student Handbook to regain eligibility. If eligibility cannot be verified, a student will remain ineligible until the verification is confirmed with an administrator or designated representative.

Students experiencing academic problems are encouraged to take part in peer tutoring, as well as school tutoring from the high school faculty.

ATTENDANCE

Due to limited rehearsal time, we must make the most of each rehearsal. Each member of the McKinney North Band has an obligation to fellow members to be at all rehearsals on time, prepared, and with all necessary equipment.

- All band students must abide by the McKinney North High School attendance policies.
- Attendance is required at all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances.
- Absences and tardies will be excused in the following cases:
 - Medical emergency or personal injury
 - Death in the family
- Examples of unexcused absences and tardies include but are not limited to:
 - Work
 - Vacation
 - Over-Sleeping
 - Transportation not arranged
- If an absence is anticipated, please follow the following procedure:
 - Email Head Director - gawilliams@mckinneyisd.net
 - Email Assistant Director - Winds - cvaughn@mckinneyisd.net
Percussion - mcreed@mckinneyisd.net,
Colorguard - ccoffee@mckinneyisd.net
 - Include why the student is absent and an estimated return date.
 - Fill out the Absence Request form linked in the Band App.
- Tardies of more than 15 minutes are considered an unexcused absence
- Unexcused absences and tardies may result, but are not limited to:
 - Grade Reduction
 - Make-up Assignments
 - Loss of performance status
 - Expulsion from the Band Program
- Roll Check
 - Every band function will begin with a roll check.
 - You must be in your assigned position or you will be considered absent
 - Inside (concert rehearsal): seated in rehearsal setup
 - Outside (marching rehearsal): position in marching block

MNHS BAND STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

As a band member, you are expected to display exemplary conduct at all times. This is not limited to band activities but encompasses daily classroom and campus behavior. Failure to maintain exemplary conduct will result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the band director. Students who continually have discipline problems in and/or outside the band may be dismissed from the program. All Students and Parents will sign the MNHS Band ACCOUNTABILITY POLICY, to be handed out in the Summer, which goes into more specifics of expectations and consequences.

Band members will observe all policies set forth by the McKinney Independent School District in addition to the following as they pertain to the band setting:

- All students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times. Displays of profanity, temper, flagrant violations of rules, etc., will not be tolerated. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection of the group.
- Students will be respectful to all other students, band staff, and volunteers.
- Students will follow the director's instructions.
- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area, ready to work at the set rehearsal time.
- Students will bring all equipment including pencils, tuners, music, instruments, and all supplies to rehearsals daily.
- Students will keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.
- Students will not play on equipment they do not own or have permission from a director to use. Students are not to touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
- When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.
- Students will not enter the directors' offices without permission.
- Students will not deface or mark on music stands, walls, freshmen, etc.
- Cell Phones will stay in cases/lockers/backpacks during rehearsal, performance or football games.
- Stay on top of homework and studies - The "No Pass No Play" rule/law is in effect.
- The use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or nicotine products (including but not limited to Vapes) is strictly forbidden
- PDA is not permitted

Violations of the MISD, MNHS, or MNHS Band Conduct will result in consequences per the MNHS Band Accountability Policy including, but not limited to:

- Demerit given to the student
- Conference with Student
- Conference with Parent(s)/Guardian(s)
- Conference with School Administrators
- Probationary contract with conditions for remaining in band
- Expulsion from the band program

BAND HALL RULES

- Food, Gum, or Drinks (other than water) are prohibited in the bandhall. Discard or consume before entering
- Practice rooms are for practicing, pass-offs, or private lessons
- Cases are to be placed in lockers during rehearsal
- Personal items are not to be stored in the Library, offices, practice rooms, or instrument storage areas. The Band Department assumes no responsibility for personal items stored in the Band Hall.
- Lockers are free of trash and clutter
- Non-percussionists will remain out of the percussion room unless instructed otherwise
- Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area/locker and keep said storage area clean and neat in appearance.
- Chairs, stands, or other band hall equipment is to remain in the band hall unless otherwise instructed
- Respect equipment owned by the school and other students
- Students will not bring food or drinks (other than water) in all Band Hall areas.
- No School Owned Instruments are to be used or taken home without permission from the Band Directors.

GRADING POLICY

- Attendance at rehearsals, sectionals, and performances (*see attendance policy*)
- Daily class grades
- Playing tests
 - Assigned materials, scales, excerpts, all-region, etc.
 - Chair tests, auditions, etc.
- Performances
 - Concerts
 - Football games
 - Marching contests
- Mid-Term Exam
- Final Exam
- Other assignments as deemed necessary

BAND UNIFORM

Provided by the School

Marching Season

- Marching Jacket & Shirt
- Marching Pants
- Gauntlets
- Hat (Shako)
- Poncho

Concert Season

- Concert Dress (Ladies)
- Tux Jacket and Pants (Gentleman)
- Cummerbund (Gentlemen)

Provided by the Student

Marching Season

- Khaki Shorts
- Black Marching Shoes
- Long, solid black socks
- Band Polo Shirt

Concert Season

- Tux Shirt (Gentlemen)
- Bowtie (Gentlemen)
- Dress Shoes (Everyone)

UNIFORM POLICY

While in uniform, the following rules are in effect:

- Respect the uniform
- Food is only to be consumed (in uniform) when instructed
- To protect the fabric - No Hairspray or Body Spray (Axe, OldSpice, etc.)
- No Public Displays of Affection
- After a performance, the uniform must be hung up properly (you will be taught how to do this) and NOTHING other than the pants/tops left in the garment bag unless specified.
 - Uniforms will be checked in at the end of the performance day. To speed this process up, please hang the uniform up correctly the first time.

Replacement Cost of Uniform Parts (students are responsible for lost or damaged parts):

- Marching Jacket - \$Market
- Marching Pants - \$85
- Hanger - \$8.00
- Poncho - \$15.00

FOOTBALL GAME POLICY

- Transit
 - When buses are provided, all students are expected to ride the bus to and from the event. Exemptions occur when students and their parent/guardian request permission before the event. The final decision is at the discretion of the directors/principal
 - Students are expected to be a “class act” on the bus, respecting other students, the driver, and chaperones throughout the journey
 - Public Display of Affection (PDA) is prohibited on buses and official band functions
- At the game
 - Students are expected to remain in their assigned spot during the game
 - Students are not permitted to play their instrument at random, only with the full band or at the discretion of the band director
 - Only band students and chaperones are permitted in the band section
 - Students are not permitted to eat in the stands (or uniform)
 - The primary objective of the band is to support the football team. Students are encouraged to cheer, dance, and get excited through the game!

LETTER JACKET

Letter Jackets (MISD POLICY) Students are eligible for a letter upon completion of one of the following criteria:

- Perform in the All-Region Band
- Earn a Division I rating at the MISD Ensemble Contest
- Earn a Division 1 rating at the MISD Solo Contest
- Earn a Division I rating at Winterguard Solo Contest
- Participate in 2 UIL Marching and 2 UIL Concert & Sightreading Contests
 - Winterguard can substitute C&SR for 2 State Championships
- Complete 6 Semesters in band or color guard

Qualifiers will be given an opportunity to be fitted and pay for the official jacket in the Spring Semester. Jackets are usually delivered early the following Fall.

INSTRUMENT RENTAL

McKinney Independent School District provides the following instruments:

- Piccolo
- Oboe
- Bassoon
- Bass Clarinet
- Tenor Saxophone
- Baritone Saxophone
- Trumpet/Marching only
- Euphonium/Marching Baritone
- Tuba/Sousaphone
- Bass Trombone
- Horn/Mellophone
- Percussion

The fee for instrument rental:

Marching Instruments - \$50 per year

Concert Instruments - \$100 per year

Percussion - \$150 per year

This fee provides funds for instrument repair, replacement, and maintenance.

Instruments will be inspected periodically. Students are financially responsible for damage to instruments issued to them. If an instrument is damaged, please don't hesitate to bring it to a band director. 9 times out of 10, we will be able to fix the problem.

PRIVATE LESSONS

- Private lesson instructors are selected by MISD and the Band Staff
- Instructors are highly trained - likely with multiple degrees in their field
- Private lessons are highly encouraged for Honors and Symphonic (1 and 2) Bands
- Lessons are \$24 for 25-30 min