

# JACKSON MIDDLE SCHOOL Jaguar Band



*A 2008, 2009, 2011, & 2012 Texas State Honor  
Band Finalist*

Mr. Ed Rios  
Director of Bands  
Mrs. Megan Whitty  
Assistant Director

A full copy of this handbook can be found on our Teacher  
Webpage and the Charms Website

## FORWARD

**"Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts."**

The purpose of this handbook is to serve as a guide and a source of information for students and parents regarding the Jackson Band program. Information, policies and clear expectations are the basis for good human relations and allow the teacher, parent, and students to work together for the greatest benefit of the student. The Jackson Bands work toward excellence and accomplishment. This requires cooperation and dedication from students, parents, directors and teachers. Only when every member of the band puts forth 100% effort can a band achieve its goals in musical achievement and service to school and community.



**It is important that it be shared between parent/guardian, and student and kept as a reference for the entire school year. Please take special notice of the sections dealing with attendance at functions, grading system, uniforms, and important dates.**

**There is one page at the end of the handbook that MUST be returned to Mr. Rios or Mrs. Whitty by September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Please make sure that you have understood, filled out and signed all forms after reading.**

If you have any questions about information covered in the handbook, please contact either Mr. Rios or Mrs. Whitty.

### **How to Contact us:**

Mr. Rios email: [erios@neisd.net](mailto:erios@neisd.net)

Mrs. Whitty email: [mwhitt@neisd.net](mailto:mwhitt@neisd.net)

Jackson Band Hall Phone#: 210-356-4421

(Email is the best form of communication with us)

Membership in the Jackson Band is one of the highest honors a student at Jackson can earn. This status has been attained with an interview or audition. It is vital to the Jackson Band Program that we 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. **We believe in two things in regards to your child:**

- 1) Your child has unlimited potential.
- 2) This potential will never be realized without high goals and expectations and the development of individual responsibility and citizenship.

There is no measuring what your child can obtain in the way of insight and sensitivity through the process of putting together the magnificent performances to come. **Thank you for the opportunity to work with your children. We look forward to guiding their musical journey!**

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**“It is the little details that are vital. Little things make big things happen.”**  
**John Wooden**

## **Band Placement**

Students are placed in one of the following groups, Beginner Band, Honors Band, Symphonic Band, or Concert Band. **STUDENTS IN THE ADVANCED BANDS CAN AND WILL BE PROMOTED OR DEMOTED AT SEMESTER based on performance, reliability, citizenship, academic eligibility and the needs of the total band program.**

It is a privilege, not a right, to be in the Jackson Band Program. This placement has been earned by an interview, past achievement, performance and commitment. No student has been placed in a band class that we do not believe can fulfill all of the required expectations. It is each student's responsibility to maintain membership in good standing in the JMS Band. Changes will occur based on the following:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| *Audition results   | *Poor citizenship  |
| *Missed sectional   | *Lack of effort  |
| *Failure to turn in assignments                           | *Inability to perform at the expected level              |
| *Missed Performance                                       | *Failure to participate in any required function         |
| *Habitual lateness  | *Academic ineligibility in other classes                 |
| *Class disruption   | *Disrespect for any of the directors or guest clinicians |
| *Unacceptable behavior within a Band function of any kind |  |

**Repeat offenses may result in a schedule change or Out of Band, contingent upon individual circumstances.** The rewards for the above behaviors will be many and of life-long benefit. We would hate to think that any of us, as parents, would ever have lower expectations than those presented above for the successful futures of these young students.

### **2017-2018 Extracurricular Student Code of Conduct**

#### Disciplinary Information

*As generally stated in the North East ISD Student-Parent Handbook*

Participation in extracurricular activities represents a position of recognition and often bestows the position of role model upon the student participants. For that reason high standards of behavior are expected from students participating in extracurricular activities.

The opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities is a privilege extended to all students of NEISD. Participation in extracurricular activities places students in a position of recognition and often bestows the position of role model upon the student participants. Students who elect to accept the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities must recognize that they are a representative of the school and District, and will be held to a higher standard of conduct than that applied to other students. This applies to both school-related and non-school related activities. Students are subject to state law, school district policies, school rules and regulations, the organization's requirements, and University Interscholastic League (UIL) rules (if applicable). Students participating in extracurricular

activities who do not meet these standards of appropriate behaviors could be denied participation in the activity.

All sponsors and coaches of extracurricular activities, clubs and organizations including, but not limited to, interscholastic athletics, marching band, etc., are to adopt and enforce standards of behavior. These standards/ expectations will be higher than the District-developed Student Code of Conduct and may be a condition of membership or participation in the activity. Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time, on or off school property. As previously stated, extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time, on or off school property. Behavior standards shall be approved by the principal and the superintendent before they are communicated to students. Students shall be informed of any extracurricular behavior standards at the beginning of each school year. Extracurricular activities, such as, but not limited to, athletics, marching band, pep organizations, where the students report for workouts or practices prior to the actual beginning of classes will provide the behavior standards at the time of the first workout or practice. Students and their parents/guardians shall sign and return to the sponsor or coach a statement that they have read the extracurricular behavior standards and consent to them as a condition of participation in the activity. Students who have not returned the statement of extracurricular standards will not be permitted to participate in the activity of the organization. Organizational standards of conduct of an extracurricular activity are independent of the Student Code of Conduct. However, violations of these standards of conduct may result in independent disciplinary actions if they are also violations of the Student Code of Conduct.

Students may be removed from participation in extracurricular activities or may be excluded from school honors for violation of organizational standards of conduct of an extracurricular activity or for violation of the Student Code of Conduct [North East Policy FNC (Local)]. Students are subject to being placed on probation, being suspended, and/ or being removed, depending on the specific circumstances of the violation of the Student Code of Conduct if:

- \* The coach or sponsor of the extracurricular organization determines that the conduct of students have a negative effect on the morale or discipline of other participants in the activity; and/or
- \* The coach or sponsor of the extracurricular organization determines that the conduct of students have an incidental, but real, adverse impact on the reputation of their organization, school, or the school district.

The conduct standard will be higher for students already on probation for a violation of the Student Code of Conduct than for those who are in good standing as a member of the team or organization at the time a violation occurs. Violations of the Student Code of Conduct that pertain to serious and/or persistent misbehavior will be grounds for immediate dismissal from the program when students are already on probation.

Students who participate in a University Interscholastic League competition shall be suspended from participating in any extracurricular activity sponsored or sanctioned by the school district or the University Interscholastic League if they do not meet the academic requirements developed by the University Interscholastic League and approved by the State Board of Education. Currently students who receive a grade lower than a 70 on a scale of

100 after a grade evaluation period in any academic class other than an identified honors or advanced class, will be suspended from the activity. A suspension does not last beyond the end of a school year. The grade evaluation period means the nine-week grade reporting period, or the grade-reporting period thereafter, in the case of a district with a grade-reporting period longer than six weeks. The North East ISD grade reporting period is nine-weeks. However, for eligibility purposes the UIL requires that grades be checked after the first six-weeks of a new school year and then again at the school district grade reporting period if it is nine-weeks or longer. Until the suspension is removed or the school year ends, the school shall review the grades of students suspended under this policy at the end of each three week period following the date on which the suspension began. At the time of the review, the suspension is removed if their grade in each class, other than in an identified honors or advanced class, is equal to or greater than the equivalent of 70 on a scale of 100. The principal and each of their teachers shall make the determination concerning the students' grade. During the suspension from extracurricular activity, students may practice or rehearse with other students for an extracurricular activity but may not participate in a competition or other public performance.

“Individuals play the game, but teams beat the odds.” U.S. Navy Seal Team

## General Band Hall Conduct Expectations

All band members will observe all policies set forth by Jackson Middle School as well as the following:

1. Enter the Band Hall courteously and orderly
2. Follow the director's instructions the first time they are given
3. Be in assigned seat ready to learn at the set time. (Students will be considered tardy if they are not seated in proper chairs and ready to rehearse when the directors are ready to begin.)
4. Band members must bring the following to every rehearsal:
  - a. Instrument with supplies (oil, reeds, swabs, mouthpiece, mutes, etc.)
  - b. Black band binder (provided at the beginning of the school year)
  - c. All music (this includes all sheet music and band book)
  - d. Pencil, eraser and highlighter
5. Students will **NOT** play their instrument without permission and a proper warm up.
6. Students will **NOT PLAY OTHER STUDENTS' INSTRUMENTS**
7. Only percussionists touch percussion equipment.
8. Ask for permission to be speak by **raising hand and waiting for permission to speak.**
9. When in the band hall, do not disturb any ongoing rehearsals.
10. Music stands are for music. They are not to be leaned on or misused in any way.
11. If your instrument is in the shop, bring a note from home. We may be able to supply a temporary instrument. Attendance to sectionals and clinics is still mandatory.
12. Band Hall lockers are for band equipment only. They must be locked at all times.
13. Bring your instrument to school and take it home every day.
14. **NO non-band students in the band hall EVER!**
15. Be on time.... Always

## Discipline

We expect that all Jackson Band Members have exemplary behavior. Classroom behavior violations include the following:

- Disruption of Class
- Tardiness
- Failure to bring ALL necessary equipment/supplies
- Disrespect to teacher, students, and faculty
- Chewing gum or food

### Consequences

1. Verbal warning
2. After school detention
3. Re-examination of placement within the band program or dropped from band

**The basic rule of behavior is** - Do nothing that will interfere with either the learning or teaching of our band. Remember the teacher has the right to teach and the students have the right to learn.

**“Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy.” ~ Beethoven**

## Charms

The Jackson band program uses a computer program called CHARMS. It is available online from any computer as long as there is an internet connection. This program allows the directors and parents to have a better line of communication and allow the parents to have better access to information regarding your child’s activities. The CHARMS handout is available on our teacher webpage with instructions to log on. A full calendar is available through charms as well as important documents. The students will be given a tutorial on how to activate their individual accounts during class at the beginning of the school year.

## Grades

Grading in band is based on the **Five P’s**:

### **Participation, Preparation, Practice, Performance, and Playing Tests**

Daily participation grades consist of active involvement in class and advance preparation for class: this includes having a pencil, a binder with dividers, correctly numbered and marked music, and a well-maintained instrument. All of these items WILL be checked WEEKLY! It is ESSENTIAL to practice your instrument EVERY DAY! This is the time we put the skills we learn during class time into use so that we become better musicians. Students may re-take playing tests as many times as they want within that current 9 weeks grading period until they receive the grade that they want. Re-testing will occur before or after school at the Director’s convenience. All grades will be weighted evenly with the exception of concerts/contests in which two grades will be given, one for the performance and one for proper attire.

### **ALL STUDENTS NEED THE FOLLOWING FOR CLASS PARTICIPATION AND A PASSING GRADE:**

- Instrument
- Required music/book with all music numbered
- 1-inch, black 3-ring binder
- Pencil and highlighter
- Working equipment
- Necessary reeds, sticks, mallets, maintenance items, etc.

**Students will not receive a passing grade without the above materials.**

## Lockers

All students will have a designated place to store their instrument during the school day. For those instruments that can be stored in a locker, the student will be issued a locker. It is the student’s responsibility to lock the lock before class, during class, and after class to insure that their assigned lock stays with their locker. Only school owned instruments will be issued a school lock. All students with personal instruments must provide their own lock.

**\*\*\*It is the student’s responsibility to keep their instruments locked in their lockers throughout the day. The band will not be responsible for lost or stolen items.\*\*\***



**“Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to accomplish uncommon results.”**

**Andrew Carnegie**

## **Time Schedule**

A **half-hour a day** is the amount of practice time recommended for the average student. Practicing at the same time every day is good, but some flexibility should be built into this schedule. Don't bring the world to a halt at 6:30 p.m. every evening because it's practice time. Kids need time for fun and relaxation just as adults do. If the situation merits, reschedule the practice session to an earlier or later time. **Learning how to practice is an important part of playing an instrument!**

## **Private Lessons**

Private lessons are **highly recommended**. Although band instruction is good, there is no substitute for one on-one instruction by a professional on that individual's instrument. A list of private lesson teachers is available from the directors.

NEISD does supply private instructors at a lower cost. These instructors are all approved by the district and have extensive teaching backgrounds. They come to the campus and give lessons during class. If private lessons are still not an option then after school one-on-one help with Mr. Rios will be available. Arrangements can be made to schedule lessons by phone, e-mail, or conference.

## **Sectionals – Advanced Bands ONLY**

All members of the **Honors/Symphonic Band** will have one weekly sectional in the Fall and Spring. Morning sectionals begin promptly at **7:00 A.M.** Grades are given for each sectional. If you are late, you will NOT earn full credit. **THIS IS A MAJOR PART OF THE GRADE! These sectionals are very difficult to makeup.**

The only excuse for a missing sectional is illness or a doctor's appointment. If the student is going to be at school for the day, then they need to be at morning sectional. Oversleeping is NOT an excuse. Please refer to the sectional schedule below and try to schedule doctor appointments, if at all possible, on other days.

## **Eligibility – Advanced Bands ONLY**

All Band members who earn a grade in ANY class below 70 will be unable to participate in contests, concerts and functions that occur off campus for the duration of 9 weeks. **THIS IS A STATE LAW! No Honors Band members can be ineligible!** Band placement may be affected by eligibility.

Do not let what you can't do interfere with what you can do."  
John Wooden

## **JACKSON BAND UNIFORMS**

### **HONORS, SYMPHONIC, AND CONCERT BAND**

All Advanced Band members will need to have:

- BLACK DRESS SLACKS (No Capri Pants, No Skinny Jeans, No Black Jeans)
- BLACK DRESS BELT
- BLACK SOCKS NO WHITE SOCKS EVER!
- BLACK DRESS SHOES (NO OPEN TOE SHOES, NO SANDALS, NO BLACK TENNIS SHOES)
- A LONG SLEEVED WHITE TUXEDO SHIRT
- BOW TIE

Honors band members will be issued a vest for the school year for formal concerts. It is the student's responsibility to turn in the same vest at the end of the year (with the corresponding number on the vest). Lost vest fees are \$50.

### **Band Shirts**

All band members need to possess a Jackson Band Shirt. The band shirt will be included in the new Jackson Band fee, which will be discussed with students at the beginning of the school year. The shirt will serve as the casual uniform for the band. It will be worn at spaghetti dinner, elementary school concerts, functions held in conjunction with Lee H.S., Churchill H.S. and other events. TBA Date for Band Fee

**“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit.”  
Aristotle**

## **School-Owned Instruments**

There will be an NEISD instrument fee of \$30 for all school-owned instruments. (This includes advanced percussionists) These funds will be placed in the district instrument repair budget for Jackson MS and be used to help offset repair expenses incurred by **normal wear and tear.**

**It is not designed to cover costs from damage (i.e. dents, broken parts) or loss of instrument due to theft/misplacement, etc. This type of repair is the responsibility of the student who is using the instrument.** A registration form must be completed and returned with parent signature. Students will not be allowed to play in class until the form and fee is turned in. Please contact the directors if there are any questions. **If at all possible**, students playing large instruments will be issued one instrument for home use and one for school use.

**If an instrument is damaged due to any other form other than normal wear and tear, the student will be responsible for that fee. NO EXCEPTIONS**

Insurance is strongly recommended. (See below) Each instrument issued will be in good playing condition. Students are expected and required to keep the instruments clean and in top condition. Basic supplies must be purchased and repairs must be made just like personally owned instruments. Remember, most school-owned instruments exceed a value of \$3000.00.

## **Insurance**

You are strongly encouraged to insure personal and school instruments. The district does not carry insurance on school-owned instruments. Some homeowner policies cover band instruments even if they are school owned. The band directors have insurance forms available from *Music Agency, Inc.* Phone # 1-800-421-1283. [www.musicagency.com](http://www.musicagency.com)

## **Region Band – Advanced Band ONLY**

All Honors Band members are **required** to present the quality of the Jackson Band program by auditioning for acceptance into the Region XII Middle School Band. This is primarily what sectional time is spent towards in the fall.

**Auditions are Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Harris MS. Students are responsible for arranging transportation to and from the host school.**

## **Spaghetti Fundraiser Dinner & Silent Auction**

The band program will continue its tradition of hosting a band dinner & silent auction in the Jackson Cafeteria. All band members will provide the entertainment and students will have the opportunity to sell tickets.

**Dinner & Silent Auction Fundraiser Date TBA**

**“As good as I am, I’m nothing without my band.”  
Steven Tyler (Lead Singer for Aerosmith)**

## **UIL Concert & Sightreading Contest**

The Honors Band and Symphonic Band will compete in UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest in the spring. It is important that the students are eligible for this contest and attend their weekly sectional for this contest. **UIL is March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> for Symphonic Band and Honors Band. Times and Location TBA**

## **Band Trip – Advanced Band ONLY**

All advanced Band Members will have the opportunity to attend our annual band trip. The date is TBA. Details will be sent home at a later date.

## **Solo & Ensemble Contest**

All band members may elect to participate in solo and ensemble contest. Most Jackson students will be accompanied by a CD. This is truly a unique opportunity for each student to express and improve his/her musicianship. Solo and Ensemble Contest Date and Location TBA

## **Band Parent Volunteering**

Of course we would love for you to help us in any way you can. You must be cleared by NEISD to help volunteer. Simply complete these steps to be cleared and receive a volunteer #:

- Visit [www.neisd.net](http://www.neisd.net)
- Click “Volunteers/Mentors”
- Click “Volunteer Criminal History Record Check” and submit

We also have our “Band Parent Volunteer Form” in this packet to fill out so our band parent PTA Liaison can contact you throughout the year.

**“Teamwork is working together-even when apart.” Unknown**

# PHOTO RELEASE CONSENT FORM

The directors are sending this consent form to inform and request permission for your student's photo/image to be published on our Band's website, brochures, and recruiting video. The Jackson Band has been a proud institution of Jackson, NEISD, and San Antonio as a premier band program. We are always proud to showcase our program to our cluster elementary and high schools.

As you are aware, there are potential dangers associated with posting of photos or images on web sites since global access to the Internet does not allow us to control who may access such information. These dangers have always existed; however, we believe that sharing the smiles, action, and overall atmosphere helps keep Jackson and the Band a strong program with many proud alum and eager potential members.

Please initial one of the following choices:

\_\_\_\_\_ **I/We GRANT** permission for this student's photo/image and name to be published on Band Advertisement and/or Website

\_\_\_\_\_ **I/We DO NOT GRANT** permission for this student's photo/image and name to be published on Band Advertisement and/or Website.

Student's Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Print name of Parent/Guardian: (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: (Sign)

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### PARENT TRAVEL CONSENT FORM

This form consents participation in **School-Sanctioned** activities during **2017-2018** school year as a member of the W. W. Jackson Middle School Band

Faculty Sponsors: Mr. Edwardo Rios & Mrs. Megan Whitty

Student : \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative Adult: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

The above-named student has my consent to travel to and/or from each event participated in by this organization during the school year including all errands and activities related to duties of and assignments made to members enrolled in the W. W. Jackson Middle School Band class. The mode of transportation may be NEISD school bus, commercial charter bus, or walking.

I understand that the student will always be chaperoned/supervised while en route or while participating in these activities. Students, even though off-campus, are still subject to all school rules and regulations when participating in W. W. Jackson Band activities. I understand that any student who does not conduct himself/herself properly may be (i) sent home at the parent's expense, (ii) prohibited from participating in future activities of this or any other school organization and (iii) subjected to other appropriate disciplinary measures.

I agree to, and hereby, release North East Independent School District and its trustees, employees, sponsors/directors, and volunteers from legal responsibility from liability resulting from any activities of this organization, including liability caused by or related to the negligence of any such party.

In case of emergency and with the approval of the sponsor/director or another NEISD employee, I give my approval and authorization for first aid treatment and any medical treatment by local physicians and/or hospital including surgical procedures. I agree to accept responsibility for payment of all charges incurred during this medical treatment.

Additional medical information or comments: \_\_\_\_\_

This form must be signed and returned to the sponsor/directors before the student will be permitted to participate in ANY off-campus activities of this organization.

Date

Signature of Parent

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

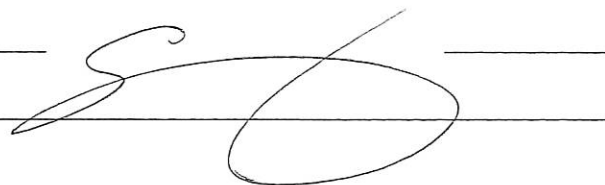
Signature of Sponsor

Signature of Student

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Principal:



\_\_\_\_\_

**Remember:**

1. Handbook Forms with Student and Parent Signatures are due by Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
2. Instrument Maintenance Fees (for NEISD instruments only) due **ASAP** for checkout

**RETURN ALL SIGNED FORMS BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>!!!!!!!**

The intention of this handbook is to set guidelines and standards for the successful operation of the JACKSON MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS. In signing this page, you and your child signify that you both understand the contents of this handbook, and agree to abide by them. **PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO DISCIPLINE, GRADING, AND PLACEMENT POLICIES!!! THIS MUST BE RETURNED BY SEPTEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>.**

Thank you very much for your continued support.

STUDENT SIGNATURE:

\_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE:

\_\_\_\_\_

**YES!** Please add my email(s) to your address book for e-mail notices regarding any information on the Jackson MS Band:

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

NORTH EAST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
STUDENT - PARENT AGREEMENT  
2017-2018

THE COACH, SPONSOR, DIRECTOR, AND/OR TEACHER HAS REVIEWED EXTRACURRICULAR POLICIES & PROCEDURES RELATED TO THE *STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT*.

I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO THE *STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT* AND ALL OTHER RULES AND GUIDELINES PRESENTED.

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF STUDENT (PRINTED): \_\_\_\_\_

55555

SIGNATURE OF PARENT / GUARDIAN: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PARENT / GUARDIAN (PRINTED): \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*This form is to be kept on file by the teacher, sponsor, director, or coach for one (1) calendar year.*