

Clint Small Middle School Beginner Band Handbook 2016-2017

Directors

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(Spanish translation information)

Para obtener ayuda para conseguir este documento en español o para tener un miembro de nuestro personal traducir la información importante para usted, por favor llame:

Cynthia Diaz 841-6713

This handbook is intended to serve as a source of information and contract for Beginning Band students for the 2016-2017 school year. Please read through the information thoroughly. The Clint Small Middle School bands have a reputation for excellence, and we are confident that this year's students will work to continue that tradition. We look forward to an exciting and rewarding year. A calendar of events is included. Please make us aware of any existing conflicts immediately and avoid scheduling activities on these dates.

Parental Support

There is nothing more important to a child's study of music than the parents' sincere interest. Parents can help by monitoring practice sessions, encouraging home performances, attending concerts, and by helping the student understand that the more he or she practices, the more success and enjoyment will be experienced. Parents are welcome to attend any band class. No advance notice is needed, but all visitors must check in at the school office to get a visitor's badge. Please let us know of any problems so that we can work together for your child's success

Communication/Charms

Our band program uses an online music business software called Charms Office. It is a requirement that every student and parent go to Charms to input their contact information and keep it up to date. You can use Charms to keep in touch with us through email and look for any handouts or band news.

All communication is done through email using the Charms contact information and the band website which is linked under the elective section of Clint Small Middle School's website. Also on Charms will be our calendar of events and access to handouts and financial information. Students without internet access at home need to notify the director so information can be given to them in writing.

www.charmsoffice.com

login: csmallmsband

password: your child's student id (Charms will ask you to update to a new password)

Then edit your contact information.

Expenses

It is our wish that financial difficulties not keep any child from participating in the Clint Small Band program. Please contact us if you are in need of assistance for this reason.

Class Supplies: We will be providing students with a t-shirt, and binder with dividers. Please send a check for these items for \$6. All checks are to be made out to the Clint Small Band (**CSMS BAND**), Please include the student's name on the check in the memo section to help insure accurate accounting. Due Date is Sept 9

Additional class supplies to be acquired on your own:

- **Pencil**

- **Instrument in good working order**
- **Essential Elements Book 1 for your instrument (not percussion)**
- **Percussion uses:**
 - A Fresh Approach to the Snare Drum” by Mark Wessels
 - A Fresh Approach to Mallet Percussion by Mark Wessels

- **Reeds, valve oil, etc**

- **Optional but highly suggested: Tuner/metronome or Tonal Energy App**

Uniforms: Beginning Band members wear the Clint Small Band shirt (purchased from the school) and blue jeans for all performances.

School-Owned Instruments

Tubas, bassoons, euphoniums, F horns, and oboes may be provided by the school. Students using a school-owned instrument are asked to contribute a sum of \$50.00 for the school year to the band fund to pay for instrument repair and cleaning. Instrumental rental can be paid \$50 for the whole year or \$25 per semester. Payment is due by the 3rd week of each semester. Checks are to be made out to the Clint Small Band (**CSMS BAND**).

Fund Raising

All students will be asked to help raise money used for transportation, copy machine rental, equipment/instruments, program printing, festival entry fees, instrument rental trailer, and hiring the clinicians needed to keep the band program running. To do this students are highly encouraged to participate in the September fund raiser. The band keeps approximately 40% of all funds raised through sales. Each student is asked to fund raise \$30.00 **profit** to contribute to the general band fund. About \$70 in item sales will reach the \$30 profit. Donations will gladly be accepted in lieu of participation in the fund raiser.

Course and Grading Policies

Student assessment in band is as follows:

50%	Performances and major playing assignments
20%	Weekly practice reports or journals
20%	Daily work in class, written assignments
10%	Professionalism (class preparedness & posture)

Students enrolled in band are in a year round course through the Fall and Spring semester. Spring schedule changes are not allowed unless there is a behavior or medical issue.

Practice Logs

Practicing is the student's homework in band and is necessary for skills to be mastered. Every student is expected to take his/her instrument home every day and practice regularly. For full credit on the practice report, a student must practice 5-6 days during the week. At the beginning of the semester, students should practice for 10 minute intervals that gradually increase to 20 minutes by the end of Spring. The report must be signed and minutes totaled by a parent and turned in on the first band day of the week. Ten points will be deducted for each class day it is late. **Practice logs will not be accepted after Friday of the week it is due unless the child was absent.**

Professionalism

The development of good musical skills is dependent on each student having his instrument and all necessary materials in class every day. Each day the students are learning not only individual skills but also the cooperative learning skills necessary to be a part of a musical ensemble. The ability to listen attentively and to follow instructions is crucial for a quality performance. Because we stress the importance of these areas of study, a portion of the band grade is based on this. The demonstration of good rehearsal skills is a part of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) required of all students in fine arts.

Concerts

Students must participate in all public performances of the Clint Small Beginning Band. Because performances are the culminating activity for the music curriculum (the equivalent of a unit or semester exam) each member's contribution to the ensemble performance is very important. An unexcused absence will result in a major grade reduction.

In addition to the two major concerts in December and May, the 6th graders have the opportunity to perform with the Austin High School marching band in November during the first half and the half time show. Although this is an optional activity, we highly encourage all 6th graders to attend this event in order to get an idea of what their future can be at the high school level.

Performance Dates:

Austin High Football Game: Nov. 4 at House Park

Holiday Concert: December 13 at Burger Center

Spring Beginner Concert: May 15

Spring Band Festival: May 18

More detailed information about the time of all performances will be given in an email and posted on the website and in charms.

Recitals

In February, beginner students will perform a recital during their band class for parents and relatives. The date of the recital will be announced in a timely manner so relatives can arrange to attend this important event. In the event you cannot attend, we recommend you hold a recital at your own home around the same time so that your child gets used to performing in front of others.

Spring Band Festival at TLU

Each May the beginners travel to a nearby university to perform at a band festival. They will be out of school for part of the day and also end the day at Gatti Town. This trip will be an additional fee to pay for the buses and Gatti Town. Students must be passing their classes in order to be released from school to attend this event with the band.

Classroom Rules and Expectations

*SUCCESS WILL BE A RESULT OF OUR ABILITY TO WORK AS A
TEAM IN AN ORGANIZED AND COOPERATIVE MANNER!*

Class Requirements

- Bring all materials to class every day (instrument, music, pencil, & accessories).
- Be in the classroom when the bell rings. Enter calmly and quietly.
- Be in your seat ready to play two minutes after the bell.
- Be constantly attentive during instruction.
- The teacher dismisses you, not the bell.

Band Hall Rules

- Everyone plays a role in keeping the band hall clean and organized!
- Always store your instrument properly in your instrument locker and keep the door closed.
- Always store your instrument CASE in your locker while you are playing during class. Exceptions: flute, oboe, and clarinet.
- NO GUM, FOOD, CANDY OR DRINK (except water) IN THE BAND HALL AT ANY TIME
- Do not touch school equipment or any instrument other than your own.
- Treat fellow students and their belongings with respect.
- Abusive language will not be tolerated.
- No running, throwing, or any type of horseplay in the fine arts area.
- The directors' office is a place of business. You may enter only with permission. Please knock first.

Other Expectations

- Instruments must be taken home every night unless it is understood that you have a comparable practice instrument at home.
- Any time you are visiting another school or place as a member of the band, remember that you are representing Clint Small Middle School. Act in such a way that you reflect the spirit and pride of Clint Small.

Enrichment Activities

Smart Music: Please go to www.smartmusic.com and check out this amazing practice tool. For only \$40 a year, students receive a subscription to software that can help them practice at home. You may also purchase a microphone so the program can let the student know which mistakes to correct. A demonstration of this software will be given in class.

Private Lessons: Private lessons are available at Clint Small during the school day and after school. The cost of lessons is based on the experience level of the teacher and is between \$18.00-\$22.00 per half hour. You may contact the lesson teachers directly to set up a lesson time. Lesson teachers teach during your child's band class or after school. Contact information is on our website.

Other sources for private instructors are The University of Texas Music Department, Austin School of Music, and some area music stores. The instructors who teach at Clint Small have been screened by us and Human Resources and have been given an information sheet that details expected procedures and standards of instruction.

Clint Small Summer Pep Band: The dates for the Clint Small Band summer session are dependent upon the A.I.S.D. calendar for the following year. **Band Camp dates will be held the first two weeks of August.** During the August camp, students will have a fundamentals review everyday and rehearse the pep band music. The pep band will perform at all fall pep rallies and a few football game performances. Please try to avoid scheduling other summer camps and family vacations during this time if possible. If it is unavoidable, please clear this with Mrs. Mathews.

Summer University Camps: Most universities offer a summer band camp for interested students. These provide a fun way to extend musical skills during the summer months. In this area, the University of Texas - Austin, Baylor University, and Texas State University offer excellent camps.

PLEASE GO BACK TO WEBSITE for Handbook Return Form. (The form will be handed out to students)