

Clint Small Jr. Middle School

Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Winds, & Symphonic Band

2016-2017 Handbook

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:

a Cynthia Diaz 841-6713

This handbook is intended to serve as a source of information and contract for the 2016-2017 school year. Please read through all 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 posted on the website. Please make us aware of any existing conflicts immediately and avoid scheduling activities on those 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 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 (it will ask you then to create a new password)

Then input your contact information.

UIL Eligibility

All students in the 7th and 8th grade bands will be performing in events that require the students to be eligible in order to perform. Students who continue to keep their grades up each 6 weeks will have no problem meeting this requirement. It is our hope that each student takes this seriously since losing any instrumentalist in our bands can cause performance issues that affect the whole ensemble.

Expenses/Uniforms

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

Required class supplies acquired on your own

- **Pencil**
- **Instrument in good working order**
- **Reeds, valve oil, etc**
- **Black 1" binder with dividers**
- **Optional but highly suggested: Tuner/metronome (or app)**
- **Combination Lock for your locker**

Informal Uniforms

All students will need a pair of tennis shoes and blue jeans to wear with the Clint Small Band shirt, which is purchased from the school. The informal uniform will be worn at pep rallies, football games, and other less formal performances. If you need a new shirt the cost of the shirt is \$5. List your size on the return form to indicate if you need a new shirt. Our t-shirt design this year will be the same.

Formal Uniforms

For all concert and contest performances the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Winds, and Symphonic Band will wear the formal uniform consisting of the following:

Gentlemen or Ladies who wish to wear pants

- Black Dress pants obtained on your own. No jeans or cargo pants. Pleat or flat front with a straight leg.
- Black Belt obtained on your own
- Black Dress shoes/socks obtained on your own
- Male dress shirts will be ordered through the band (**\$20 paid to the band**)
- Tie. Band program will provide this. If not returned, a \$12 fee is charged.

Ladies who want to wear a dress

- Black Concert Dress cost approximately **\$65.00** ordered through the band.
- Black Dress shoes obtained on your own

*Parent help is needed to size the females and males for this order the second week of school. Please contact Mrs. Mathews if you are able to help.

Water Containers for Pep Band

All students in the pep band must provide their own reusable water container for football games. We suggest a one quart container that includes a strap for easy carrying. Students should arrive at the game with water/ice in their container and their name clearly labeled. We hope to do our part in protecting the environment and reducing cost by not providing plastic water bottles. Students cannot share a container!

Optional Expenses

Band Activity/Trip

Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Winds, and Symphonic Band Ensemble members will have the opportunity to play at a music festival out of town in the spring. If so, the activity/trip fee for these students will be calculated and information provided to all parents when the figures are available. All students who wish to participate in this trip must be up to date on band fees and have contributed to the fund raiser. Band trip will be announced the end of September.

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. These slots will fill quickly, so please contact our private lesson staff soon to save a spot. Our lesson staff contact information is on the 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 the administration.

Instrument Rental

The school may provide instruments such as tubas, bassoons, euphoniums, F horns, and oboes. Students using a school-owned instrument are asked to contribute a sum of \$50.00 for the school year to the band fund (summer is an additional \$25). Percussionists are asked to contribute \$50.00 for the year since most of the school-owned percussion instruments are used on a daily basis and will need to be repaired and heads replaced. This fee can be paid at once or in two \$25 payments by the 3rd week of each semester. Students must supply their own reeds, valve oil, mallets, etc

Fund Raising

All students will be asked to help raise money used for transportation, supplies, festival entry fees, equipment/instruments, copy machine rental, computer software renewal, and hiring clinician/judges needed to keep the band program running and successful. To do this students are highly encouraged to participate in the September fundraiser. The band keeps approximately 40% of all funds raised through sales. Each student is asked to fund raise \$40.00 **profit** to contribute to the general band fund. Therefore, you would have to sell \$100 worth of items to reach \$40 in profit. Donations will gladly be accepted in lieu of participation in the fund raiser. Any profit over \$40 can be put towards band fees or the spring trip.

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. Exceptions to this are athletic students on game nights or illness.
- 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.

Course and Grading Policies

Student assessment in band is as follows:

50%	Performances and major playing assignments
20%	Weekly practice journals
20%	Sectionals & 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.

Practicing Record/Journal

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 as much as possible and practice regularly. Students may practice before or after school, during lunch, or advisory if they request a pass. Students will receive the following guidelines for recording their practice time:

Wind Ensemble Journal

- The emphasis is on consistent and regular practice with specific goals to meet. The amount of minutes are not necessary to record.
- The journal must be signed and sessions totaled by a parent and turned in on the first day of the week.
- Ten points will be deducted for each class day that it is late. Unless a student was absent, journals after Friday will not be accepted. Keep your journal in your binder and record what you worked on after each session. You may also use your agenda notebook.
- Sectional attendance is graded separately and is not added to the practice report.
- Journal expectations will be handed out the first week of school.

Symphonic Winds and Symphonic Band Practice Reports

- We recommend students practice 10-15 minutes on the day they have band class and 30-35 minutes on the other days.
- The report must be signed and minutes/days totaled by a parent and turned in on the first day of the week.
- Ten points will be deducted for each class day that it is late. Look at the top of the weekly practice report for details on grading. Practice reports will not be accepted after Friday of the week it is due unless a student was absent.
- Sectional attendance is graded separately and is not added to the practice report.

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.

Rehearsals & Sectionals

Attendance at all scheduled full band rehearsals and sectional rehearsals scheduled outside of the school day is required. Advance notice of the weekly schedule will always be given ahead of time from your child's ensemble director and will be emailed to parents. Conflicts due to illness or family emergency will of course be excused with written communication from the parent. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with the teacher in advance of any potential conflict with other Clint Small activities so that a solution to the conflict may be found. Many Clint Small Band students are involved in sports and other school organizations.

Concerts

Students are required to perform in all public performances of the Clint Small Band Program. Performances are the culminating activity for the music curriculum (the equivalent of a unit or semester exam) and each member's contribution to the ensemble performance is highly crucial. An unexcused absence will result in a major grade reduction. Consistent absences from major performances will result in dismissal from the band program. If you need assistance with transportation to any event, please contact your director immediately so they can help you.

Please consult the online calendar for all required performances. Other dates may be added or adjusted with appropriate notice. Failure to consult the calendar will not be considered an excused absence from a performance.

Enrichment Activities

All band students will have opportunities throughout the school year to participate in activities that extend their musical skills and experiences.

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 and give them access to 1,000's of music publications to learn. 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 strongly encouraged. Having the opportunity to work individually on a weekly basis with an instrumental expert can contribute greatly to a student's success.

Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) All-District/All-Region Band & All-Region Orchestra/All-Region Jazz Band: Students may compete with other middle school students throughout the region for placement in the All-Region Bands and All-Region Orchestras. This is an excellent opportunity for students to experience participation in an ensemble comprised of the best students in central Texas. These ensembles are conducted by highly respected teacher-conductors and are wonderful experiences for our outstanding students. **All members of the Wind Ensemble are required to audition unless other arrangements have been made with Mrs. Mathews.** Symphonic Winds and Symphonic Band members have the option to perform and prepare the music to the best of their abilities. Audition is in November.

Solo and Ensemble Contest: All students in the 7th & 8th grade bands are expected to prepare and perform a solo for an adjudicator. Soloists can use the smart music accompaniment or hire a live pianist. Ensembles can enter as well. This contest is in late Spring.

Clint Small Jazz Ensemble: Participation in this group is by audition/teacher recommendation and is a course offering on the Clint Small student choice sheet. It is a two-semester (full year) course. Auditions will take place in February for placement in the Jazz Ensemble for the following academic year. Wind and percussion members are required to be in band to perform with the jazz ensemble.

Clint Small Summer 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 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, Baylor University and Texas State University offer excellent camps. Enrollment is limited, however. As information becomes available, we will provide it to you.

PLEASE GO BACK TO WEBSITE FOR RETURN FORM INFORMATION. Return Form is handed out.