

BONNETTE JR.
HIGH SCHOOL



BAND HANDBOOK
2008-2009

BONNETTE JR. HIGH SCHOOL BAND



WELCOME

Welcome to the Bonnette Jr. High School Band! We are happy that you have decided to become a part of our band program!

The band staff believes that you, a Bonnette Band member, are a special person! In that regard, we want your band experience to be a very enjoyable and important aspect of your education.

Our immediate goal is to see you grow musically as part of an outstanding band program. We are also here to help you solve many other problems as well as to provide you with the opportunity to develop the life-skills of poise, self discipline, leadership, confidence, group cooperation, responsibility, problem solving, goal setting, self-expression, concentration, self-confidence and esteem, etc. Your music study also offers opportunities for shared family experience including musical event attendance, family music making, performing for and with family and friends. You will also be learning about the lives of composers and the cultural heritage of many civilizations, which should provide a sense of accomplishment and pride for the entire family. Many truly successful people point to their band experience as a major reason for their success in life.

We trust that you and your parents will find this handbook an informative guide. Included are a number of guidelines, requirements, and policies thought to represent the best interests of all band members.

BAND HANDBOOK

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a written policy on the organization and operation of our band program. You are responsible for reading, signing, and returning the form that states you have read and understand the band policies. This is so you will have a greater understanding of your work in band.

BAND HALL REGULATIONS (See Also Fine Arts Code of Conduct)

These rules are for the protection of you, your instrument, and school equipment. Breaking these rules may cause loss of chair, damaged instruments, or disciplinary action by the directors.

1. Only band students may come into the band hall.
2. There will be no playing out of turn or talking during a rehearsal.
3. Absolutely no foods, drink, candy or gum in the band hall.
4. Running or horseplay is not allowed in the band hall.
5. Students are admitted into the director's office by invitation only.
6. ALL DRUM EQUIPMENT IS OFF LIMITS - unless you are a percussionist.
7. Absolutely no horn swapping or using anyone else's instrument.
8. The chairs, music stands, and other equipment are to be used appropriately.

REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO GRADES

1. Keep a pencil in your folder and on your music stand at all times.
2. Be in your seat at the specified time to begin class and remain in your seat during rehearsals.
3. All instruments and music must go home every night.
4. Students must have their instrument, music, and related equipment every day for class.
5. Students must attend and participate in all scheduled performances and rehearsals.
6. Students must remain quiet during chair tryouts and playing tests.
7. Students in the symphonic band must attend rehearsals once a week to be scheduled after or before school.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS - The following instruments may be available through checkout on a limited basis from the school: oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, baritone sax, French horn, euphonium, and tuba.

Students are responsible for care of their instrument and any damage brought about by carelessness or negligence. Leaving your instrument or equipment unattended or abandoned is negligence! Insurance companies do not pay claims in cases of negligence. Students are also not permitted to handle another person's instrument for any reason.

INSURANCE FEE - Any band student using a school owned instrument agrees to pay an insurance fee of \$50.00 on that instrument for the period of one year. This fee, which has a \$150.00 deductible, will limit your liability in the event of a catastrophic accident. . Along with the insurance fee, a student playing a school owned instrument will be responsible for supplying their own mouthpiece, neck strap, ligature, lyre, reeds, and other related equipment.

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES: Band is a performance class! Parents will be notified of upcoming performances during the first week of school and will be allowed to bring a written excuse for previously scheduled conflicts prior to September 1 of each year. Any performances not listed on the calendar will be presented to the students and they will be given an opportunity to check the availability of the date and notify us in writing if they have an activity already scheduled. Students are required to fit their schedules to these events. If a student misses a required performance, they will receive a "0" as a performance grade. Good behavior in public is most important. All rehearsal regulations are in effect during public performances.

CONTESTS: The University Interscholastic League sets rules and regulations that we must comply with in order to compete in most contests. The music contests we will be entering are:

- Solo and Ensemble Contest (February)
- U.I.L. Concert and Sight-reading Contest (April/May)
- DPISD Band Festival (April)

Note: The dates have been provided on the attached calendar but the exact playing time will not be known until the drawing for times takes place, usually two weeks prior to the contest.

PRIVATE LESSONS: The district, for a nominal fee, offers Private lessons. Most lessons will be held after school but some lessons might be available during your band class time. Private lessons offer individualized attention by a specialist on each instrument for a period of 30 minutes once per week. (Lessons requested during the school day will evenly split the time available) Under some circumstances a student working hard to become an outstanding player and not being able to afford private lessons, may apply to the Band Booster Club for help. Please call for information.

MATERIALS FOR BAND

EVERY BAND STUDENT: You must have the following materials **EVERY DAY!**

Pencil
 Notebook (3 Ring Binder) with notebook paper
 Band Book or music

All band students will purchase their own individual practice and method books. All other music is provided for the student and will be returned after use. A 30-minute daily practice is required of each student. For beginning students, a practice record is to be kept daily and must be signed by the parent weekly. This record will be part of the beginning student's six weeks grade.

UNIFORMS

For evening concerts, contest performances, school concerts and Mass Band, students will need to wear a band T-shirt and Khaki dress pants and black shoes. The band T-shirt is purchased through the band. If a student has special circumstances, they should get approval from the director in advance of the performance.

INDIVIDUAL INSTRUMENTS

FLUTES -- required -- tuning rod and pad saver or large handkerchief. The pad saver is strongly suggested and will prolong the life of the flute and pads. The rod is essential to tune the head-joint and use the handkerchief with the polishing cloth

*(A **GOOD** reed is a reed with no chips, cracks, or other defects, and has been broken in. It must allow the performer to make a characteristic sound on their instrument.)*

OBOE -- required -- two good reeds with you at all times, feather or swab. Suggested – reed case.

BASSOON -- required -- two good reeds with you at all times. Suggested -- reed case

CLARINET -- Required: three good reeds with you at all times; swab (handkerchief type swab is suggested), cork grease, key oil, bore oil, and extra swab (wooden clarinets only). MOUTHPIECE – Vandoren 5RV
 ACCEPTABLE REEDS -- Vandoren 2 1/2, LaVoz Medium -- Beginners ONLY
 Vandoren 3, 3 1/2, 4, when recommended by the director.
 Suggested - reed guard and polishing cloth

SAXOPHONES -- required -- four good reeds with you at all times. Neck strap, cork grease, Handkerchief-type swab and polishing cloth. MOUTHPIECE -- Rousseau 4R (alto and tenor) ACCEPTABLE REEDS -- Vandoren 2 1/2, LaVoz Medium -- Beginners ONLY Vandoren 3, 3 1/2, when recommended by the director
 Suggested -- Pad saver, neck saver. This will prolong the life of the pads.

FRENCH HORN -- required -- Rotary valve oil, slide grease (suggested) -- polishing cloth MOUTHPIECE -- Giardinelli C-8

CORNET OR TRUMPET -- required -- valve oil, slide grease (suggested) -- polishing cloth MOUTHPIECE -- Bach 7C

TROMBONE -- required -- slide grease, slide cream, slide oil (suggested) -- polishing cloth, small water bottle (small enough to fit in the case) MOUTHPIECE -- Bach 6 1/2 AL

EUPHONIUM (Baritone) -- required -- valve oil, slide grease (suggested) -- polishing cloth, MOUTHPIECE -- Bach 6 1/2 AL

TUBA -- required -- valve oil, slide grease MOUTHPIECE-- Bach 24AW

PERCUSSION -- Vic Firth SD1 General snare sticks, Malletech-ORB 39 bell mallets (white plastic). CB 700 Percussion Kit with bells (each percussion player must use their own sticks and mallets.) A director must visually inspect other sticks or percussion kits to be acceptable!

BONNETTE JR. HIGH BAND GRADES

Every six weeks grade will be based on the following averages: (If a student misses a grade in one of these areas due to an absence, he/she is responsible for making the grade up within the time allotted in the school handbook)

Band Grading Rubric

	Beginning Band	Concert Band	Symphonic Band
Daily Average	25%	20%	20%
Tests	50%	60%	40%
Performances	15%	20%	20%
Practice Cards	10%	N/A	N/A
Sectionals	N/A	N/A	20%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

1) **DAILY AVERAGE** - Students should have their instrument, reeds, mouthpiece, books, music and a pencil everyday! In addition they should take their instrument home everyday to practice. When a student doesn't have one of the above or leaves their instrument in the band hall, points are deducted from their **Daily Average**. Each student has 6 daily average grades (one every week) per six weeks, which are then averaged together to get their final **Daily Average**. Their **Daily Average** begins each week at 100. When they don't have the proper supplies or leave their instrument at school, they lose 20 points. These points cannot be replaced that week. The **Daily Average** starts over at 100 every week! The majority of my students have a 100 on their **Daily Average** at the end of the six weeks!

2) **TESTS** - These can be either written or performance tests. Performance tests are graded on tone, rhythm, correct notes, steady tempo and intonation. Any grade on a test

below a 70 can be retaken after the child has come and allowed me to work with them on their particular problem. Performance tests are a great indicator of how well a student is doing in every aspect of their playing in band.

3) **PERFORMANCES** - For the **Concert** and **Symphonic** Band students these would include Christmas and Spring Concerts, Combined half-time show, BBQ, Fire Parade, Solo and Ensemble Contest, Pre-UIL Concert, DPISD Band Festival or comparable contest, UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. **Beginning** students have their Christmas and Spring Concerts plus the Potato Dinner in the Spring. There is also a possibility of a festival in late April or May for the 6th grade. The Beginners also have a rehearsal one day before any performance so all classes can practice together.

4) **PRACTICE CARDS** - This pertains to the **Beginning Band** only. They are responsible for turning in a practice journal every Monday, for the preceding week, signed by their parents. They are graded as follows:

Minutes	Grade
210+	100
180	95
150	85
120	75
90	65
less than 90	50

5) **SECTIONALS**- this pertains to **Symphonic Band** students only. Each section in the band has a 45-minute sectional once a week from September through UIL Concert & Sight-reading Contest. This gives us the opportunity to work on techniques that pertain to a particular instrument or group of instruments without the rest of the band sitting and doing nothing. Students are expected to be on time and any time missed that is unexcused (Like..."I forgot!", etc.) is made up at double the time missed. They can come in before or after school to make up this time. However, it is **much more** productive for the student to be with their section instead of on their own. The student is responsible for making sure that his/her name is marked present at each sectional. An effort will be made to avoid conflicts with athletic practices.

The sectional rehearsals are designed to give each student more individualized attention than is possible during the band period. It is very important to our program that each child attends and prepares for these rehearsals. Each student will receive a grade for participation and a grade for preparation. Any conflicts with this schedule must be approved with the directors before hand. If you have any questions, please call and talk to the directors.

6) **PRACTICE TECHNIQUES** - When student's practice, they sometime play only the "fun" songs, and do not practice the scales and other fundamentals, which make them better players. Make sure that they are practicing scales and practicing in front of a

mirror. They also count practice time as when they have their instrument out of the case, whether they are actually playing it or not. Practice time should only be counted when there is "musical" sound coming out of the instrument.

A suggested schedule of practice is as follows: (this time is best done with a metronome)

- 10 minutes - scales, lip slurs, warm-ups
- 10 minutes - exercises out of the band book, test material
- 10 minutes - band music

This schedule may vary somewhat as different needs or problems arise. However, practicing only band music (the fun stuff) is not what teaches the fundamentals of becoming a good musician. Thirty minutes of practice is the minimum time -- not the maximum time.

The band teachers are pleased and willing to discuss your child's progress in band, as well as answer any questions that you may have. If you need to discuss anything concerning the progress of your child, please feel free to call us at Bonnette Jr. High. The band office number is 832-668-7717 or the school office is 832-668-7700 to leave a message. My e-mail is ddempsey@dpisd.org.

Pride and respect in the Bonnette School Band Program comes from hard work and dedication. Our band program is known as one of the finest beginning through high school band programs around. You should be very proud to be a member of this organization and uphold its outstanding values. Be proud of your band program because you are what make this program outstanding!

Dale Dempsey

Band Director

DETACH THIS PAGE AND RETURN**EMERGENCY TREATMENT FORM**
Bonnette Jr. High Bands

If emergency treatment is required, a representative from the school is authorized to seek emergency care at the nearest medical facility.

Parent Signature

Student name _____

Birthday (month, date, year) _____

Home Phone Number _____

Address _____ Zip code _____

Mother's name _____ Work Phone Number _____

Father's name _____ Work Phone Number _____

Person to be notified if unable to reach parents:

_____ Phone

Allergies

Medical Conditions or Medications

Insurance Company _____ Policy Number _____

My child and I have read and discussed the Bonnette Jr. High Band Handbook and band calendar. We understand the policies, and agree to abide by them. I also agree to have my child at all major performances and the rehearsals for these performances.

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Class Period

BONNETTE BAND CALENDAR 2008-2009

Symphonic and Concert Bands

Sat, Sept 27	11:00a.m.	Band Booster BBQ	DPHS-South
Thurs, Oct 2	4:00 p.m.	All-City Tryouts	DWJH
Sat, Oct 4	10:00 a.m.	Fire Parade	
Sat, Oct 11	8:00 a.m.	Region Orchestra Tryouts	Bonnette
Fri, Oct 24	4:30p.m.	Mass Band Show	Abshire Stadium
Sat, Nov 1	8:00 a.m.	Region Band Tryouts	Bondy Int.
Sat, Nov 8	8:00 a.m.	Reg. Band Clinic/Concert	North Shore HS
Tues, Nov 11	TBA	Veteran's Day Concert	Carpenter/Bonnette
Sat, Dec 13	?	All City Concert	DPHS-North, Mason Aud.
Mon, Dec 15	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Concert	Bonnette
Fri, Jan 23 Sat, Jan 24		Reg.Orch Clinics/Concert	DPHS-South
Thurs, Feb 5	4:00 p.m.	Solo & Ensemble Contest	Fairmont
Thurs Mar 10	???	Pre-UIL Concert	PAC DPHS South
Tues, Mar 31 Wed, Apr 1	TBA	UIL Concert/Sight-reading	Pasadena HS
Tues, May 21	7:00 p.m.	Spring Concert	Bonnette
Fri, May 29	???	Splashtown	

Beginning Band

Thurs, Dec 11	3:30-4:30 p.m.	Beginning Rehearsal	Band Hall
Mon, Dec 15	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Concert	Bonnette
Thurs, Mar 26	3:30-4:30 p.m.	Beginning Rehearsal	Band Hall
Fri, Mar 27	TBA	Band Booster Dinner	DPHS-South
Mon, May 20	3:30-4:30 p.m.	Beginning Rehearsal	Band Hall
Tues, May 21	7:00 p.m.	Spring Concert	Bonnette
Fri, May 29	???	Splashtown	