

Westwood Band Handbook

NORTHWOOD HILLS ELEMENTARY, SPRING CREEK ELEMENTARY, SPRING VALLEY ELEMENTARY,
HAMILTON PARK PACESETTER MAGNET, CAROLYN BUKHAIR ELEMENTARY

WELCOME TO BAND!

Being a part of band is an investment in your child's future. In Texas alone there are 6 times more scholarships given for music than all of athletics combined. Music teaches students responsibility, teamwork, a new skill, and how to succeed. These skills are important not just for elementary school or even high school, but for your child's life. Band can be one of the most rewarding experiences of your child's educational experience - it is a multi-year process, not a one-year fad. Students and parents need to consider personal schedules and family commitments through the coming years as you begin this musical commitment. While we eagerly anticipate seeing these students perform their first demonstration concert this fall, we also envision them as members of the bands that perform in the newly renovated RHS Auditorium, at contests and concerts, and on the football field on Friday nights!

The Westwood Warrior Band is a positive force in our community and an encouraging environment for our students. The band is the largest school organization at Westwood and Richardson High School. Your student's self-confidence and social aptitude will increase significantly as they learn to play an instrument and learn to work hard to master a new skill.

A NEW SKILL

Band is a level playing field; almost no one has played before. Learning this skill can reap many benefits, including scholarships throughout your student's school career.

LEARN TO SUCCEED

We demand responsibility, student ownership, and teach students how to practice "smarter, not harder." We teach students to problem-solve before they get to junior high.

WORK AS A TEAM

There is no bench in band - everyone plays, all the time. This promotes a sense of student ownership. We show how rewarding teamwork can be through performances.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How do I make sure my student is enrolled in band?

A: The band directors will take care of contacting the sixth grade teachers and counselors to ensure that your student is enrolled in band. Students who do not have supplies by the end of the first week of school will be removed from band class, as they will fall behind quickly.

Q: When does band class occur?

A: Band class meets during the school day. All schools meet at different times.

Q: Where will my student keep their instrument at school?

A: All of our schools have special shelving for our students' instruments to be placed before school begins. Students will be taking their instrument back and forth to school every day; we do suggest luggage carts for some students who walk to school and have larger instruments. We do not have "extra" home instruments to distribute.

Q: Does band require a lot of time outside of school?

A: In sixth grade, we do not require consistent time after school. See our calendar at the end of this packet for detailed information on events.

Q: What if my student can't attend an event?

A: Band is a team sport, and when a student is absent, it truly makes a difference! When students miss rehearsals or master classes, they miss information and may feel as if they are behind their peers. We completely understand that students are involved in many activities and want to work with them to be engaged in all of those activities. To begin to teach students about real life expectations, we ask that if a student must miss an event, they bring a note from a parent or have their parent e-mail a band director at least a week in advance. Social events are optional and do not require a note.

Q: How does my student pay for social events, instrument rental, and other expenses?

A: Students need to return money and applicable forms together and on time. All checks can be made out to RABC (Richardson Area Band Club) and cash and money orders are accepted. We cannot accept credit or debit cards at this time. When students bring money to school, we provide them an envelope to fill out and hand to us for bookkeeping purposes.

Q: How is my student graded in band?

A: Band is a curricular class, and as such is attached to a grade that will appear on their report cards. Concerts, concert rehearsals, and playing tests are major grades, and signed weekly syllabi, written theory work, and participation in class are a daily grade. Students who show up, turn in their syllabi, and have their supplies will receive a "4" (the highest they can receive) in band.

What should my student wear for performances?

A: For all performances, students will wear their Westwood Band t-shirt and jeans/jean shorts. The only exception is solo contest, when we ask students to dress nicely (no jeans, t-shirts, or tennis shoes; what one might wear to church or a wedding; polos, khakis, and school-appropriate dresses are encouraged.

DRUM CLUB

Drum Club is part of the Richardson High School area percussion curriculum. All beginning percussionists rehearse once a week at Richardson High School where they will work on percussion-specific skills to help supplement their everyday band class. They will also work toward other performance opportunities beyond that of the beginning band.

WHO: All 6th grade percussionists

WHEN: Wednesdays, 4:30 - 5:30 PM

WHERE: Richardson High School Percussion Room

WHAT TO BRING: Percussion kit, all supplies, a pencil, and a great attitude!

Please contact David Schmuck with any questions - david.schmuck@risd.org

PRIVATE LESSONS

The Supplemental Music Lesson Program in the Richardson Independent School District is a wonderful opportunity available for your child. Supplemental music lessons are a chance for students to receive one-on-one instruction with some of the finest professional teachers and players in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. With the large number of students in the Westwood band program, we simply do not have enough time to spend with each individual student every day. Private Music Lessons offer the student a chance to go beyond the parameters of the classroom setting. Lessons are \$18.00 each and there are usually four lessons per month (one lesson per week.) Lessons will be scheduled by communication with the private lesson teacher; they're great at working with your schedule. Our best students participate in private lessons! If you have difficulty communicating with a teacher, let a band director know and we will be glad to help you.

INSTRUMENT	INSTRUCTOR NAME	INSTRUCTOR PHONE	INSTRUCTOR E-MAIL
FLUTE	JAMIE MILLER	214-886-9936	jeb.miller@sbcglobal.net
OBOE	CECI LAGARENNE	214-942-1309	cecioboe@sbcglobal.net
CLARINET	KANDYCE NELSON	972-238-1922	kandynelson@dcccd.edu
CLARINET	SEBASTIAN GRADY	214-207-2912	sebastiangrady@yahoo.com
SAXOPHONE	SEAN MURPHY	724-766-4521	seanmurphysaxophone@gmail.com
SAXOPHONE	ROY ALLEN	214-850-5437	rx2430@dcccd.edu
FRENCH HORN	JOHN MCALESTER	405-923-5300	jbmac91@gmail.com
TRUMPET	SHAUN ABRAHAM	940-368-8931	mycloud360@icloud.com
TROMBONE	SCOTT NGUYEN	972-832-3268	scottnguyen0@gmail.com
EUPHONIUM	COREY DURHAM	410-693-4356	c.durham.tuba@gmail.com
TUBA	COREY DURHAM	410-693-4356	c.durham.tuba@gmail.com
PERCUSSION	ROLAND MUZQUIZ	214-668-7558	roland.muzquiz@risd.org

INSTRUMENTS & SUPPLIES

Every instrument has a list of supplies that need to be purchased to accompany your instrument. These supplies ensure that your student can properly perform on and care for their instrument. Please see our band website for the supply lists for each instrument.

FINANCIAL AID FOR INSTRUMENTS

For families who are in financial need, the band directors may be able to help you with obtaining an instrument or the required supplies. We do have a few instruments in our inventory that would normally be rented through a music store (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, & trombone.) Contact your band director directly to discuss your options and possibilities. Finances should not prevent a student from being involved in the band program.

FLUTES, CLARINETS, SAXOPHONES, TRUMPETS, & TROMBONES

Students who are playing these instruments will need to obtain an instrument from Brook Mays, Williamson Music 1st, or another local music store. The instruments rented from the music store are recommended by the band staff. We as music educators take instrument selection very seriously and advise and encourage parents and students to follow the instrument selection guidelines. A student playing on an instrument that is not of proper quality will result in the student becoming frustrated with their lack of success. If your student is planning on using an instrument from a family member, found on Ebay, etc., please check with the directors so that we can ensure its quality will match that of your student.

OBOES, BASSOONS, FRENCH HORNS, EUPHONIUMS, & TUBAS

Students who are playing these instruments will obtain their instrument through RISD. These instruments in general are more expensive; therefore, they are provided by the district in order to make the rental process more affordable. These instruments are used, but are thoroughly cleaned and sanitized each summer before entering the hands of a student in the fall. In order for these instruments to be properly cleaned and repaired, you will be asked to pay a yearly rental/cleaning fee of \$100. If your students' instrument requires repair throughout the year, it will be sent to the music store for repair through the band directors.

MUSIC STORE CONTACT INFORMATION

BROOK MAYS MUSIC | www.brookmays.com | 972-233-9633

WILLIAMSON MUSIC 1st | www.wm1st.com | 972-516-1331

LONE STAR PERCUSSION | www.lonestarpercussion.com | 866-792-0143