



# HANDBOOK

## WELCOME TO BAND!

Being a part of band is an investment in your child's future. **Music teaches students responsibility, teamwork, 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. 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 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 of the time. This promotes a sense of student ownership. We teach how rewarding teamwork can be through performances.

## CONNECT WITH US

**Website:** [www.westwoodjhband.com](http://www.westwoodjhband.com)

**Mrs. Icossipentarhos:** [amelia.icossipentarhos@risd.org](mailto:amelia.icossipentarhos@risd.org)

**Mr. Hinojosa:** [nathan.hinojosa@risd.org](mailto:nathan.hinojosa@risd.org)

**Talking Points text message reminder service:** text **621112** to **510-216-7919**

OR download the Talking Points app and use the code **FJNPFT**

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# **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

## **Q: What costs are associated with band?**

A: Every 6th grade band student pays a \$30 band fee at the beginning of the year. This fee covers their band t-shirt, their band binder, their pencil pouch, music purchased for their use, and supplies throughout the year. All students will pay for their instrument and its supplies; each instrument is different, and all of that information is on our instrument supply list pages. Students who need financial assistance will need to fill out a payment plan form to spread out the payments for these supplies over time. Contact a band teacher to begin this process.

## **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. Parents can pay their student's band fee with cash, check made out to RABC, or online using Presto software; the invitation to this software will be emailed to parents at the beginning of the year. When students bring money or checks to school, we provide them with an envelope to fill out and hand to us for organizational purposes.

## **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. Tubists and percussionists are the only students who will be provided a "school" instrument so that they don't have to transport their extra-large cases on a daily basis.

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

A: In sixth grade, we do not require consistent time after school. The expectation of practice time is 50 minutes per week (less than 10 minutes a day, 5 times a week.) The entire year's after-school events will be published on your student's band calendar, which will be found on the back of their band binder and on our website. We should have all of next year's dates available by the end of May, and we will post them.

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

A: We hope that by providing this calendar, we can be notified of potential absences with much notice. Band is a team sport, and when a student is absent, it truly makes a difference! When students miss rehearsals or start-up 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 teacher weeks in advance. Being ill requires a doctor's note, just as an absence from school does. Social events are optional.

## **Q: What should my student wear for performances?**

A: For all performances, students will wear their Westwood Band t-shirt (included in their band fee). 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.)

# 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.

## **OBOES, BASSOONS, FRENCH HORNS, EUPHONIUMS, & TUBAS**

Students who are playing these instruments will obtain their instrument through RISD. These instruments 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, students pay a yearly rental/cleaning fee of \$100. Parents can pay online using Presto or by cash or a check made out to RABC.

## **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 Amazon, etc., please check with the directors so that we can ensure its quality will match that of your student.

**THESE INSTRUMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE:** FirstAct, Erich, Vito, Prelude, Eastman, Glory, Mending, & Amazon brands. **WHEN THESE INSTRUMENTS BREAK, NO MUSIC STORE WILL REPAIR THEM. DO NOT PURCHASE THESE INSTRUMENTS.**

## **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.

# MUSIC STORE CONTACT INFORMATION

**BROOK MAYS MUSIC | [www.brookmays.com](http://www.brookmays.com) | 972-233-9633**

**BOCAL MAJORITY | [www.bocalmajority.com](http://www.bocalmajority.com) | 214-377-8278**

# **BAND EXPECTATIONS**

## **PROCEDURES**

- Every day, students will
  - Bring their instrument and band binder to class
  - Take their instrument home
  - Fill out their practice minutes
  - Have a pencil
- Students will turn in assignments
- Students will complete Maintenance Monday on their instrument each week

## **EQUIPMENT**

- Students will be respectful of the chairs, stands, stage floors, tables, and instruments that are entrusted to them.
- Students will take care of the locker/shelf space they are given.
- Only percussionists will touch percussion equipment.
- No food, drink, candy, or gum are allowed during band class.

## **BEHAVIOR**

- Students will be respectful in their behavior, demeanor, and language to their directors and to each other.
- Students will not be allowed to attend social events if they do not attend their required start-up classes, rehearsals, and performances.
- Students will put the needs of the group before their own needs.

**Participation in band is a privilege. Students who choose not to follow the expectations above choose the following consequences**

- Receive a Behavior Form
- Meet with the band teachers
- Receive a parent e-mail home
- Participate in a parent/student/teacher/principal conference
- Removal from the band program