

MARY LILLARD INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Leopard Band Handbook 2021 - 2022



On the web at:

<http://leopardband.weebly.com>

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Welcome to the Leopard Band!

We are excited that you have chosen to become part of this AWARD WINNING organization!

The success of any organization is dependent on the spirit, pride, teamwork, dedication and cooperation of its members. Certain rules, policies and procedures are necessary so that the overall goals of the group are met and the welfare of each individual member is best served.

The Leopard Band is divided into like-instrument classes for the purpose of teaching the basic fundamentals of playing a band instrument including good tone production, technical skills, musical expression, and knowledge of basic music theory. Our goal this year is to provide each band student the necessary knowledge and experience to be successful in band during middle school and beyond.

By accepting membership in the Leopard Band, you agree to perform to the best of your abilities and work together with all the members of the band in making this year's band the finest musical organization that we can be. We do not expect every band member to be a virtuoso player and performer, but what we do expect is for all members to give 100% effort – every time, all the time!

As you sign the forms at the end of this handbook you will be making a commitment that includes:

- ♪ Being a member of the band for the entire school year and attend all required band events
- ♪ Following the policies and procedures of the Leopard Band
- ♪ Giving your best effort to improve as a musician
- ♪ Maintaining a progressive, positive attitude toward band and school throughout the year

Leopard Band Uniform

The band uniform consists of the Leopard Band t-shirt, blue jeans, and athletic shoes. The t-shirt is specially designed each year for our band, and every student is required to own one. An order form is included in this Handbook. *Financial Aid is available to those students requesting it.*

Leopard Band Performances

Attendance at all performances and at all pre-scheduled rehearsals listed below is required, unless stated otherwise in pre-performance communication.

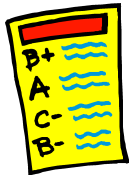
Concerts and performances are extensions of the classroom and are the highlight of the learning process. An excuse for absence will only be accepted in the event of illness with doctor's note, or a major family emergency. A phone call or a note from parent to director is expected for a missed rehearsal or performance. The rehearsal or concert may or may not be excused at the discretion of the director. Students receive two grades for each performance – one for Participation, and another for their standard of Performance. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a "0" both as a Performance grade and a Participation grade.

Please note that a student who must miss a performance because of a non-school sponsored athletic events will not be excused. This includes “Select” sport team activities.

Leopard Band Calendar of Events

| Date | Event | Time | Location |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| December 2, 2021 | Winter Concert | 6:00pm | Willie Pigg Auditorium |
| Date TBD (Sometime in late Feb/early March most likely) | Solo Contest | TBD | TBD |
| November 30, 2021 May 5, 2022 May 12, 2022 | Rehearsals for Contest/Concerts | 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. | MLIS Cafeteria |
| May 13, 2022 | NRH ₂ O Band Contest | During School | NRH ₂ O Water Park |
| May 16, 2022 | Spring Concert | 6:00 p.m. | Mansfield ISD Center for the Performing Arts |

The above dates are subject to change. There may be additional band activities added to the calendar. Every effort will be made to communicate changes and/or additions in advance.



Leopard Band Grading Policy

All six week band grades will be determined using the following criteria:

🎵 30% Performances

- ✓ Attending all required rehearsals and performances outlined in the Band Calendar of Events. **An unexcused absence from a required performance will result in a “0” (zero) in this category.**

🎵 50% Daily Participation – 100 Points per week divided among days attended

- 🎵 Has Instrument
- 🎵 Has Pencil
- 🎵 Has Working Binder and Supplies
- 🎵 Bring Home Instrument *Each Day*
- 🎵 Rehearsal Preparation – Students are accountable for practice assignments given during band classes. Students are expected to be able to show reasonable progress toward these practice assignments when asked to play in class.

Some possible ways for loss of grade each day are outlined below:

- ✓ Missing pencil/music/band binder out of order or broken – 10 point deduction
- ✓ Missing Instrument – 20 point deduction. *Missing instruments due to documented repair will cause **no** loss in points with parent or repair shop note.*
- ✓ Failure to take home instrument – 5 Point deduction
- ✓ Off Task Behavior
 - ✓ 1st time off task – 5 points
 - ✓ 2nd time off task – 10 additional points
 - ✓ 3rd time off task – instrument will be put away; 5 additional point deduction.

Appropriate behavior means the student is on task, and is making a reasonable effort to perform the music that has been assigned in class. The student is also expected to do what the teacher asks of them.

An unexcused absence from a required after school rehearsal will result in a “0” (zero) in this category, and may not be allowed to participate in concerts/performances.

An unexcused absence from a required performance will result in a “0” (zero) in this category.

🎵 20% Tests, Projects, and Practice Records

- ✓ Playing Tests-Credit given for grade earned
- ✓ Theory Assignments
- ✓ Scales– Pass/Fail-Some credit given for attempting
- ✓ Concert Performance
- ✓ Filling out practice records available in class or on the band website. The record is due on the first school day of **each** week

All playing tests may be made up by playing for the director *before or after school or through Canvas*. Full credit may be earned until the end of the grading period the test was given.

Classroom Behavior

Citizenship grade, (E, S, N, U) will be given in band as in other academic subjects and is a reflection of your child's behavior and attitude in the classroom and during performances. Expectations are:

- Proper respect will be shown to the director and peers at all times.
- Proper care will be shown with all school-owned material (instruments, music, other equipment, etc.).
- Teacher expectations are for quiet and orderly classes, rehearsals, and performances.
- Students are to play their instrument only when directed by the teacher.
- Students are not to touch or play another student's instrument.
- Running, horseplay, or any such activity is prohibited at all times in the band hall.

Consequences for disregarding band conduct guidelines will be assigned according to school discipline policy. Extreme and persistent discipline issues may result in removal from the band if deemed necessary by parent and director conference. A student who is assigned to AC (In-school suspension) from any class during a period leading up to, and including, the day of a band event may or may not be able to attend the event at the discretion of a band director and/or administrator.

Eligibility Requirements - "No Pass-No Play"

For participation in some of the scheduled band activities this year, students must meet eligibility requirements in accordance with TEA (Texas Education Association) and UIL (University Interscholastic League) rules. These extra-curricular activities are the **Spring Band Competition** and the **Solo & Ensemble Contest**, both which take place in the spring semester. These rules are often referred to as "No Pass – No Play", and they apply to all extra-curricular activities throughout a student's school career, including school-sponsored athletic activities and band. Band programs throughout the state are bound by law to follow these rules for grades 6 - 12.

The "No Pass – No Play" rules state that a student must pass every course on a given Report Card with at least 70%, in order to be eligible for extra-curricular activities occurring during the **following six-weeks**. A student who is determined to be ineligible may **regain** eligibility by meeting the previous requirements at the 3rd week point of the following Six Weeks, provided the Progress Report occurs before the date of the event. Semester grades are never used for eligibility. Students will be notified of their eligibility status by their teacher in a timely-manner before a "No Pass – No Play" event.

Additionally, the Leopard Band has a policy that students must receive a conduct grade of "E" or "S" in their band class the previous Six Weeks to reach eligibility status. A student who is assigned to AC (In-school suspension) from any class in the weeks up to or on the day of an event may or may not be able to attend the event at the discretion of school administrators and band directors. Attendance for the Spring Competition also requires students to have passed all performance objectives as outlined by their band director.

Note: Ineligible students are not allowed to participate in performance or travel with the band at TEA/UIL sponsored events.

Leopard Band Required Supplies

Band students will need the following supplies in addition to their instrument and instrument accessories:

1. 2" **black**, hardcover 3-ring binder with pockets
2. 5 binder dividers
3. 3 sharpened pencils
4. Pencil pouch
5. Band T-Shirt



Private Lessons

The Mansfield ISD Band Program offers private instruction from some of the finest professional musicians in the DFW area. Private lessons are offered as enrichment, not as remedial instruction. As a general rule, those students who take private lessons become leaders in the band due to the individualized instruction they receive from our private lesson staff. We highly recommend private lessons for the complete development of each student's potential as a musician, but they are not required.

Lessons are 20-25 minutes in length and are taken once a week during band class or before or after school. However, lessons that are taken during class may be several minutes shorter due to the length of the class period. The cost for a 20-25 minute lesson is \$20.00.

For more information about private lessons, including names and contact information of our private lesson teachers, please check the Leopard Band website. This website is updated throughout the year with current lesson teachers, phone numbers and email information. Each has been selected by an interview and audition process which includes a complete background check. Only these teachers may teach in our school facilities. These teachers are not employed by MISD, but are rather independent contractors, most of whom make their living completely through teaching private lessons. A list of our current private lessons teachers is also provided at the end of this packet. **You may contact a teacher directly to set up lessons.**

School Owned Instruments

A limited number of the more expensive band instruments are owned by MISD for the purpose of balancing the instrumentation district-wide and maintaining performing bands at every level. These instruments include oboe, bassoon, French horn, euphonium, tuba, bass clarinet, tenor and baritone saxophones. There is a yearly non-refundable maintenance fee of **\$70.00** for each student playing a school-owned instrument due at the start of each school year. This fee is used to offset the cost of yearly maintenance done each summer. Please note that this \$70.00 fee does not cover damage by misuse or accidents – fault or no-fault. Students using school-owned brass instruments (French horn, euphonium, baritone and tuba) will be required to purchase a mouthpiece, separate from this fee.

IMPORTANT! Students and parents are financially responsible for any loss or damage caused through *neglect* or *misuse* of school-owned property. School instruments are issued to students with the understanding that the instrument will be returned to the school in the same condition in which it was issued. Periodic inspections of school equipment will be made throughout the year to insure proper care and operation. There will be a charge to repair any damage to a school-owned instrument.

Mansfield ISD **is not responsible** for any **lost or stolen** instrument while on the school premises. We recommend that you check with your insurance agent to determine if your child's school-owned instrument is covered by your home-owner's or renter's insurance. A separate insurance policy may be purchased which may cover school-owned instruments – check the band website for more information.

An Instrument Check-out form will be handed out separately to those students who play school-owned instruments for parent/guardian signature, which describes the condition of the instrument and outlines the policies for school-owned instruments.