

Furlough Middle School Band

1351 Colquitt Rd, Terrell, TX 75160

(972) 563-7501

www.terrellband.org/furlough-ms

www.terrellisd.org/page/fine-arts



2025 - 2026 Band Handbook

2025-2026 FMS BAND HANDBOOK

FORMS REQUIRED TO RETURN or Submit Electronically:

1. **2025 – 2026 Tiger Band Program Participation Form**
2. **Remind Sign-up Acknowledgement**

****Please retain your copy of the Band Handbook. Your student is responsible for all rules and regulations.*

As a member of the Terrell Band Program, you are part of Terrell ISD's most respected school organizations. The success of the band will depend on the LOYALTY, COOPERATION and DEDICATION of each and every member.

The guidelines outlined on the following pages are simple, sound and easy to understand and follow. They reflect years of experience and hours of careful thought and planning. In following them, you are meeting an obligation that you owe to your band, school, community, and most importantly – TO YOURSELF!

BAND PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

- To teach an appreciation and understanding of the performing arts and how music influences and reflects history and culture.
- To teach the importance of self-discipline, cooperation, loyalty, and a respect for others through the dedicated practice of responsibility.
- To cultivate a desire and appreciation for excellence in the performance of any endeavor.
- To teach students how to set individual goals in life and how to accomplish those goals.
- To teach students the skills and tools needed to perform to the best of their ability.

BAND MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY

Cooperate with fellow band members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are part of the band program. Some, but not all, of these duties are listed below. Please note that good judgment and respect should be a forethought of all band members and their actions.

- To strive for their very best in all academic settings at FMS.
- Be regular in attendance and account for all absences.
- Become responsible for and expect to assume the consequences of his/her actions.
- Be personally clean, neat and dress appropriately.
- Have the proper respect for those in authority.
- Be personally responsible for all information regarding band, rehearsals, events and schedules. Be responsible for relaying such information to parents and/or guardians.
- Follow all classroom rules, school handbook, regulations and travel instructions for trips.
- Make a real effort to learn, improve daily, read and play music with insight and musical nuance.
- Be honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music and general school life.
- The school provides a secure environment for the storage of instruments but it is the responsibility of the individual student for their personal and school owned instrument. It is recommended that you make sure that your home or renters insurance covers your personal band instrument. You can purchase insurance from several different providers. If you lose or damage a school instrument, it is your responsibility to repair or replace the instrument.

BAND MEMBER RULES

- Be prepared for rehearsals and performances on time with all necessary supplies, including but not limited to: instrument, music, pencil, appropriate attire, etc.
- Eating, drinking or chewing gum is **not** allowed in the band hall at **any** time. You will be allowed to eat and drink in the entryway if you clean up and use the *outside* trash receptacles.
- Play your own instrument and no one else's, unless with director approval.
- Play your instrument in the right way, time and place.
- Always conduct yourself with honor and integrity. Horseplay and pranks are activities that are not allowed.
- Treat others (students, parents, and staff) and their property with respect.
- Take care of all school property as issued to you, including but not limited to: uniforms, instruments, chairs, stands, mutes, lyres, flip folders, etc.
- **Absences should be reported in advance**, in note form, email or Remind if possible, to be excused. (See attendance) Notification of absence after an event is excusable under extreme circumstances (emergencies). Two or more absences from performances or rehearsals is unacceptable, and will result in failing grades, students placed on alternate status and ultimately dismissal from the program (Director of Bands discretion). Missing UIL Concert & Sightreading for anything other than an emergency (Director of Bands discretion) will lead to automatic dismissal from the program.
- **DRESS CODE:** Band students have a certain dress code for performances. Band students must wear **all-black dress clothes** for performances (concerts, contests, etc), unless specifically told otherwise by band staff.
- Always strive, persevere and maintain a positive attitude toward achieving your goals as a band member during the tough times as well as the good times. **NO ONE IS EXPECTED TO BE PERFECT...BUT EVERYONE IS EXPECTED TO GIVE THEIR ALL!**

BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

Exemplary behavior is expected of all band members at all times. Remember that you are a representative of your band, your band is a representative of your school and your school is a representative of your community.

There is no way to list all the dos and don'ts of being a band member. Common sense must prevail. ***The director of bands reserves the right to exercise the authority to make the final decision regarding disciplinary action/removal from the band program. The removal will be done with the principal's approval.*** The following infractions are some of the more obvious, but not all, that qualify for disciplinary action, and/or immediate removal from the program.

- Any disrespectful behavior such as foul and/or abusive language to students or teachers including social media.
- Excessive tardiness or absences from rehearsals or performances.
- Any misuse or abuse of school property or the property of others.
- Alcohol, smoking or drug use at any school function, at any time. (Alcohol or drug use or any other illegal substance indulgence at any time or activity, school related or otherwise)
- Any action that dishonors or disgraces the Terrell Band Program or the school in any way.
- Other infractions of the rules as stated in the TISD Student Handbook/Student Code of Conduct or as stated in the FMS Band Handbook.
- ***Repeated disregard of Band Member Rules.***
- ***The FMS Student Code of Conduct applies to all band activities.***
- Assignment to DAEP.

Discipline within our band program is a very important reason and contributor to our success. We follow and enforce the rules of the FMS Student Code of Conduct. In certain instances, we may require even more from our students in this area. In addition, we as a program, try to handle discipline in a positive way.

ATTENDANCE

There is no more important criterion for success than ATTENDANCE. Any absence, for whatever reason, results in the student missing the learning that takes place. All absences are to be communicated **TWO WEEKS** in advance via parent signed note, email, or Remind prior to the absence to the director of your student or the head band director as an expected courtesy to the program. Emergency absences should be communicated in a timely manner within reasonable notice. ***Please note that the FMS Band Program holds the right to schedule rehearsals before or after school and on occasional Fridays in order to help prepare for our festivals, performances, and contests. We will schedule these well in advance.***

BAND TRAVEL

Itineraries and instructions regarding travel will be given prior to all trips. All band members will travel to performances, destinations, etc., on school approved transportation. Phones will be allowed on the bus but headphones are required. Phones will not be allowed while in performance settings or warmups. Students may be able to ride home from a performance with parent/guardian if they have turned in their Alternative Travel form prior to the event and upon signing out with a director before leaving. For more information, please refer to the Alternative Travel section below.

Alternative Travel available for students that may need to leave a band event (following the conclusion of the activity) separately from the band transportation. The FMS Band Trip Release form must be turned in at least 24 hours in advance prior to the event in which alternative travel is requested. Only the parent/guardian responsible for the band student is allowed to provide alternative transportation. No siblings, even if over the age of 18, will be allowed to provide this alternative transportation. **Please note that alternative travel requests must be approved by the band director and will only be permitted under special circumstances.**

SCHOOL EQUIPMENT/PROPERTY

Any items issued such as flip folders, lyres, mutes, etc. must be maintained and turned in when requested. If lost, these items must be replaced or paid for. Monies owed to the program will be reported to the school administration for payment if not paid for in a timely fashion.

School instruments are the sole property of Terrell ISD and must be taken care of. The student will also be responsible if the instrument is stolen or damaged by a third party, rain or fire.

FINANCES

The following items must be purchased from the band program for each student to use. **These items are included in the annual band fee of \$30:**

- FMS Tiger Band Shirt
- Essential Elements Book 1 (6th grade)
- Foundations For Superior Performance (7th & 8th Grade)
- Black Band Binder (for band class ONLY)

Students playing a school instrument will pay a \$50 usage fee per year and are financially responsible for any damage to the instrument(s) while using the instrument. Should repairs become necessary, the director will get a quote on repair and have the instrument repaired with the understanding of reimbursement by the student.

GRADING

All FMS classes follow the same grading criteria, Formative (50% of grade) and Summative Grades (50% of grade). Grading at all levels of instrumental music classes (6th – 8th grade) are based on participation and skill development. Students may be graded in the following areas:

Formative Assessments:

Participation Grades, Binder Checks, Worksheets, Pass-Offs, Rehearsal Attendance, Sectional Attendance

Summative Assessments:

Playing Tests, Chair Tests, Performance Attendance, Exam

PARTICIPATION

How the student enters and leaves the band hall.

How the student shows interest and desire to learn in class.

How the student maintains his/her instrument, learning materials and storage area.

How the student and parent maintain practice records.

How the student shows respect for instructors, peers and self.

SKILL

How the student progresses on his/her instrument (tests).

How the student attends rehearsals and performances with emphasis on dress, behavior and promptness.

How the student contributes to the ensemble in skill and attitude as evidenced in performance and behavior.

Grades will be derived from all or some of the requirements below:

Attendance (After/Outside of School)

Sectional, Rehearsal, and Performance Attendance

Weekly Playing Tests

Memorization Tests

Objective Sheets

Written Tests/Assignments

Do not expect a high grade in band if there is a deficiency in any of the above areas. Any student with a reasonable work ethic and a willingness to respect rules and authority will succeed in band regardless of talent and/or aptitude. Chair placement procedures are at the discretion of the directors.

Parent and Student Communication - Web Site, Google Calendars and Remind

Official Website - <http://www.terrellisd.org/page/fine-arts>

Official Band Website - <https://www.terrellband.org/furlough-ms>

Official Band Calendar - This is on the FMS Band Website

Reminds –

To Join Reminds please Text 81010 to join your student's Remind Group Below. Other Reminds will be given in class for specific students to participate in.

FMS Beginner Band - @fmsbb25

FMS Concert Band - @fmscb25

FMS Symphonic Band - @fmssb25

FMS Honor Band - @fmshb25

SUMMATION

Participation in the Terrell Band Program is dependent upon effort and a true desire to succeed. The rules stated in this handbook are easy to understand. The band directors and administration of TISD feel these rules are fair, just and are in the best interest of the overall Tiger Band Program, school and each individual who participates.

The final decision is yours. There is no place for weakness or complacency in the band! An organization is only as strong as its weakest link. The Terrell Band Program does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or handicap.

Furlough Middle School Band

2025 Fall Performance Calendar



Dates are subject to change and will be notified in advance

August

8/19 - All member parent meeting/Instrument Drive (6PM FMS Cafeteria)

October

10/7 - Home Football Game Performance (Honor Band ONLY)

10/16 - Beginner Recital (Beginner Band ONLY)

November

11/6 - 8th Grade Friday Night Football Game (8th grade ONLY)

11/15 - All-Region Auditions (Selected 7th/8th Grade ONLY)

December

12/9 - FMS Winter Concert (ALL STUDENTS)

If you have any questions or concerns please contact us at:

Head Director: colten.davidson@terrellisd.org

Assistant Director: roderick.boycesr@terrellisd.org

Percussion Director: ashton.carter@terrellisd.org

Furlough Middle School Band

2026 Spring Performance Calendar



Dates are subject to change and will be notified well in advance

January

1/24 - All-Region Clinic & Concert (Honor, Symphonic, & Concert Band ONLY)

February

2/26 - Pre-UIL Concert (Honor and Symphonic Band ONLY)

March

3/5 - Beginner Recital (Beginner Band ONLY)

3/10 or 3/11 - Symphonic Band UIL Concert & Sight Reading Contest

3/10 or 3/11 - Honors Band UIL Concert & Sight Reading Contest

April

4/24 - Solo & Ensemble Contest (ALL FMS Band Members)

May

5/7 - SoundPost Festival/Trip (Beginner Band ONLY)

5/18 - FMS Spring Concert (ALL STUDENTS)

5/21 - Six Flags Trip (Honor, Symphonic, and Concert Band ONLY)

5/22 - District Percussion Concert (Percussionist ONLY)

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2025-2026 TIGER BAND PROGRAM PARTICIPATION FORM

Grade for 2025-2026 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ Sex: M ☐ F ☐ **Shirt Size(Adult Size):** _____

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Student Name _____

Student E-Mail _____ Date of Birth _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Father's Name _____ Father's Cell # _____

Work # _____

Mother's Name _____ Mother's Cell # _____

Work # _____

Primary Parent/Guardian Email Address _____

EMERGENCY INFORMATION (Other persons to call in case of emergency and parents cannot be reached)

Name _____ Relation _____ Phone # _____

Name _____ Relation _____ Phone # _____

Allergies to medicine or other (please list) _____

Any medicine taken regularly (please list) _____

Any medical concerns that should be noted _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RULES & GUIDELINES

The parent/legal guardian and the student must have read all the following regulations and sections and agree to follow the rules and sign below attesting to the fact: Background, Emergency Information, and UIL Marching Band Acknowledgement Form, & Tiger Band Handbook. I permit my child to participate under these conditions. I understand that failure to provide accurate and truthful information on UIL forms could subject the student in question to penalties determined by the UIL. I have completed the information to the best of my knowledge and ability. If, between this date and the beginning of competition, any illness should occur that might limit the student's participation, I agree to notify the school authorities of such illness or injury.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature Date Student Signature Date

TRANSPORTATION RELEASE AND MEDICAL CONSENT FOR TREATMENT

This is to certify that the student named above has been given permission to go on school-sponsored trips to participate in school-sponsored activities under the sponsorship of school personnel. It is hereby agreed that the school will undertake to chaperone the students properly, both in route and at the activity and to take all normal precautions to insure his/her safety and well-being. The student agrees to place himself/herself under the direct supervision of the school sponsor or chaperones and to obey all the necessary instructions to insure safety and well-being. The student further agrees to conduct himself/herself at all times on this trip so as to bring only credit to the school and the band organization. It is understood that the school district shall not be legally liable for injuries to students, except in situations involving the use of a motor vehicle. It is further understood that professional employees shall not be legally liable for actions involving the exercise of discretion of judgment taken with the scope of their duties. It is hereby agreed that permission is granted to personnel to secure emergency medical treatment and release medical information on students who incur illness or injury while on any school sponsored trip under the supervision of school personnel.

Parent/Legal Guardian Date