

McMillen Golden Roar Band

2025-2026 STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

FORWARD

Welcome to McMillen High School and the award-winning Golden Roar Band. In our short history we have achieved an enviable record of performance and spirit in our school and area. The band has achieved awards in UIL (Division I Ratings in Marching, Concert, Sight-reading) as well as top honors in festivals in the DFW area and San Antonio.

Each of you are the reason that we maintain a tradition of excellence and fun. This handbook is designed as a policy and procedure guide for both students and parents. For further information, please call or email the MHS Band Staff at: travis.harris@pisd.edu or at 469.752.8697 and lindsay.barnhill@pisd.edu

Travis Harris	Director of Bands, Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Jazz Band
Lindsay Barnhill	Assistant Director, Symphonic Band
Kristine Lepow	Color Guard Instructor Percussion Instructor

1. Participation in Band

- a. All students must abide by the Plano ISD [Student Code of Conduct](#) as well as the [Extracurricular Activity Conduct Statement](#).
- b. Breaking school rules or the law will result in consequences listed below at the discretion of band directors.
- c. Students and Parents must prioritize attendance at all rehearsals, performances, and contests. You may find our schedule using the **calendar** linked on our [Band Website](#). (We also send weekly emails using the email used for registration on membership toolkit).
- d. Students must be in good financial standing, or have an approved payment plan set up with the Band Booster Treasurer. Please contact a director if you have any questions regarding finances.
- e. Students must meet the expectations of the Band Program as well as the expectations outlined for their specific band class (see below).
- f. Participation in marching band is an expectation of being in a band class. Any exceptions must be approved by directors.
- g. Most performances in the Fall fall under the “**No Pass, No Play**” rule that will determine a student’s level of participation. Students must maintain a 70 or higher in all eligible on-level courses. There are instances that students may participate even if they are ineligible, such as non-competitive, on-campus events and UIL Concert & Sight-reading Contest. Directors regularly check grades to help our students BEFORE the time of the grade checks. Both students and parents will be notified if the student becomes ineligible. Make sure your contact information (phone & email) is current on the membership toolkit and with Plano ISD.
- h. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 30 minutes per day, six days a week. There are no practice reports at the high school level, but consistent practice is the only way to build musical skills. Students will be tested often to demonstrate musical skill mastery.
- i. We do expect students with a cell phone to use certain apps such as UDB, Band App, Remind, Google Classroom, etc. Appropriate technology use is expected both during and outside of rehearsals.

2. Attendance Policy

- a. **Remember: *To be early is to be on time!* Being on time consists of being in the designated area with all needed materials (instrument, music, pencil, sticks, mallets, tuner, reeds, mutes, flags, etc.) and ready to participate at the beginning of each rehearsal. The directors will set a time clearly defining expectations when and where the student should be in order to begin rehearsal.**
- b. Students not ready to participate or not in the designated area are considered tardy.
- c. Any student tardy to a rehearsal or sectional must complete any missed group assignments before they can rehearse with the rest of the band (Example: If everyone takes a lap at the start of rehearsal, being tardy does not exempt any student from completing this)
- d. Tardies of more than 15 minutes are considered an unexcused absence.
- e. Excessive tardies or absences may result in removal from performance(s), part reassignment, drill reassignment or suspension from band.
- f. **If students are not able to attend a band event, students are primarily responsible for communicating with directors. For an absence to be considered excused, directors will need parent communication as well.** If an absence is deemed "excused," the student may avoid any consequence as listed below. Unexcused absences are documented throughout the year, and CAN affect future placement/assignment in the MHS Band program.
- g. Non school related activities are not considered excused absences unless excused by directors prior to the event.

3. Marching Band Expectations

- a. Students must follow the Attendance Policy.
- b. Students should wear a white colored shirt and athletic shoes to all rehearsals unless specified otherwise.
- c. Students must abide by the Plano ISD [Dress Code](#) during school hours and on school trips and events.
- d. Students should bring all required supplies (instrument, reeds, mouthpieces, flip folder, lyre, mallets, pencil, etc.) daily.
- e. After rehearsals, students should change out of their marching rehearsal clothes. Students may ONLY change in restrooms. Clothing may be kept in band lockers during the day. Clothes MUST go home at the end of each day.
- f. Marching Band performances are required and count for multiple major grades.
- g. Students must maintain all uniform pieces. If they become lost or damaged, the following replacement costs will be...

● Jacket	\$158
● Hip Drop	\$32
● Dress Shirt	\$83
● Gold Shirt	\$45
● Pants with suspenders	\$68
● Visor	\$39
● Hat Wrap	\$51
● Hat box	\$30
● Plume	\$23
● Gauntlets	\$46
● Hanger	\$5

- h. Students participating in **pep rallies** should be respectful of athletes and other programs and be prepared to play at any time. All band students must participate in pep rally performances. Students wear their band shirt and bring all music, lyre, and flip folder to every pep rally.

- i. **Football Games** are required performances for all band students. Though most performances take place at Kimbrough Stadium, Plano ISD provides transportation to away football games and contest performances. Failure to participate with the band at football games and other performances will result in removal from the band program. Tardiness to a football game may result in a student not performing at halftime or reassignment to an alternate position.
- j. No eating in uniform unless approved by directors. This includes NO eating or purchasing of food/drinks at concessions.
- k. Parents involved in volunteering or attending performances must abide by the following...
 - i. Please do not deliver/purchase food for students while they are in uniform.
 - ii. Only chaperones and students are allowed to sit in the stands with the band unless approved by a director.
 - iii. Students wishing to depart early from any MHS Band event must fill out the [Plano ISD Alternative Travel Form](#). This form needs to be signed by the student, a parent, a band director, and a campus administrator. Please try to complete this form a week ahead of time. This will give directors enough time to get administrative approval.
- l. Students must not touch other students' instruments or supplies without director approval.
- m. Students must represent the band program positively by following all guidelines both on and off campus. See the social media section below.
- n. Students will earn grades for having good etiquette and all necessary supplies on the marching field AND in class.
- o. Students must be respectful and follow all rules set by directors, chaperones, and bus drivers. Students who are not respectful to adults during band activities may be subjected to consequences.

4. Marching Uniform Expectations

- a. All students must purchase a current year show shirt and a wicking shirt.
- b. Under their uniform, students must wear their wicking shirt, athletic shorts, long black socks, black performance shoes, gloves, gauntlets or wristbands (where applicable).
- c. On performance days, students must wear their marching shoes, long black socks, and wicking shirt to morning rehearsals. This gives students time to obtain any forgotten items.
- d. Students need to wear appropriate shoes (tennis shoes or sneakers) for marching rehearsals.
- e. Marching uniform jackets may only be taken off with director approval.
- f. No jewelry is permitted in uniform. Only small, colorless studs may be worn in ears for performances.
- g. Hair must be worn out of student faces, and hairspray and gel are highly recommended to maintain any required styling.
- h. Minimal makeup may be worn for games, and only approved makeup for colorguard should be worn.
- i. Students must follow all rules of the uniform parent volunteers when returning their uniform. Uniform hangers must go inside of their band lockers while the uniform is in use.

5. Off Campus/Social Media Guidelines

- a. Each member of our band program should represent themselves and our organization well both on and off campus.
- b. Social media should NEVER threaten the safety or wellbeing of other students, teachers, volunteers, or district employees.
- c. Violations posted online will need to be reported, removed, and serious infractions will NOT be tolerated. Disciplinary action may be handled through the school and/or using legal action.

6. Band Class Expectations

Students will be required to participate in activities and assignments specific to their Band class. The following is required of each class...

- a. **Band Hall Procedures and Expectations:**
 - i. Enter the band hall in a business-like manner and treat our space with respect
 - ii. Independent rehearsal and intelligent warmup
 - iii. Wait for further instructions from the directors

- b. **Wind Ensemble** - Private lessons are highly recommended for all students. Wind Ensemble members will be REQUIRED to participate in the following...
 - i. Fall Sectionals
 - ii. Fall All-Region Auditions (9th Grade Region and/or High School Region Auditions)
 - iii. Solo and Ensemble Contest (UIL sanctioned or campus-based contest)
 - iv. Weekly testing over applicable material
 - v. Spring Sectionals
 - vi. All marching band requirements
 - vii. All performances
 - viii. Any before/after school rehearsals in preparation of combined performances

- c. **Symphonic Band** members will be required to participate in the following...
 - i. Fall Sectionals
 - ii. Solo and ensemble Contest (UIL sanctioned or otherwise)
 - iii. Spring Sectionals
 - iv. All marching Band requirements
 - v. All performances
 - vi. Any extended rehearsals for combined events in preparation of combined performances

- d. **Concert Band**
 - i. Solo and Ensemble Contest (UIL sanctioned or campus-based contest)
 - ii. All marching band requirements
 - iii. All performances
 - iv. Any before/after school rehearsals in preparation of combined performances

- e. All students are highly encouraged to take **private lessons**. Lessons cost \$22 for 25-30 minutes with an expert teacher. Private lessons make it possible for the McMillen Band to excel by meeting more individual needs than directors can give in a regular band class. All private teachers should be on the East Cluster "approved list." You can sign up for lessons at any time, but we recommend getting started at the beginning of the year.
- f. No food/drinks are allowed in the Fine Arts facilities/Band Room
- g. Students must always use good rehearsal and/or performance etiquette (raising hands to ask questions, no talking, etc.)
- h. Cell phones should only be used when asked by a director. Cell phones should not be on your music stand during a rehearsal.
- i. All personal items should be in designated areas such as shelves or band lockers.
- j. Never touch or play another person's instrument.
- k. Lockers must be empty each day. No clothes, trash, music, or instruments should be left without director approval.
- l. Students are personally responsible for all of their items. Lost or stolen uniforms, cell phones, etc. are to be kept up with by students.
- m. No HAZING or PRANKING is allowed. Band is a space for all students to feel welcome and appreciated.

7. Consequences

In the event a student breaks one of the rules/does not meet the expectations outlined above, students may be assigned the following consequences...

- a. Reduction in grade for performances where it aligns with the TEKS (etiquette, performance, preparedness, etc.)
- b. Private conference with student and/or parent
- c. Copy Rules and Consequences from the handbook by hand
- d. Loss of privilege to participate in band related activities (rehearsals, performances, trips, etc.)
- e. Parental notification
- f. Office referral
- g. Moving student to a lower band
- h. Immediate removal from band
- i. Other school consequences may be enforced if a rule is violated outside of Band
- j. The directors reserve the right to bypass all of the above consequences and defer immediately to the administration should the behavior warrant further consequences.

8. School Instruments

Plano ISD provides school instruments that are very costly (bass clarinet, bassoon, oboe, tenor and bari sax, French horn/mellophone, bass trombone, baritone/euphonium, tuba, percussion and colorguard equipment). A nominal maintenance fee of \$85 is required for upkeep of normal wear and tear. Damage caused by neglect or accident, must be paid for by the student. This can be paid on RYCOR with a May due date. Any damage or normal adjustment during the year is the responsibility of the band student who has signed for the instrument. We expect the instrument to be returned in the same condition as when issued. Dings, dents, and other damage will be repaired at the student's expense. If the instrument is stolen or damaged while checked out to a student, it is the student's responsibility to replace the instrument or have it repaired by an expert instrument repairman approved by the director. The fee for PISD school instruments is not covered by McMillen band expenses MTK.

9. Finances

- a. All students must be in good financial standing to participate fully in extracurricular events.
- b. There are items that are considered "essential" that must be purchased at the beginning of the year, and there are items that are "extra" such as yard signs, family tee shirts, etc. **If a student has an unpaid balance on their account, they will not be allowed to sign up for trips or other "optional items."**
- c. Students who are not in good financial standing prior to the last payment of the trip may also be restricted from attending, regardless of whether or not a refund can be provided.
- d. Trips are an additional cost that is optional, but highly recommended. Whether it be local or an "overnight" trip, we enjoy celebrating our year's successes by performing together and spending time at fun places. See more info below.
- e. Some fundraisers can be used to offset costs for individual students such as trips, band fees, etc. Profits from these types of fundraisers will be dispersed towards **all student accounts**.
- f. Other fundraisers such as "booster fundraisers" and "group fundraisers" (SnapRaise) can lower costs for the entire band.
- g. Financial aid can be provided for students that need it. If finances are a concern for your family, please contact a director for more information.
- h. Band fees are nonrefundable once school begins. Students who choose to drop band from their schedule may not receive refunds on fees.

10. Colorguard

- a. Any student enrolled at McMillen can audition for colorguard.
- b. All guard members must follow the rules outlined in this handbook.
- c. Guard has its own fees and uniform requirements that are determined at the beginning of each year.
- d. There is a winterguard season that we highly encourage our guard members to participate in to continue building skills. Students involved in winterguard must abide by all requirements stated in this handbook.
- e. All winterguard rehearsals and performances are required. If there is a known conflict, students must notify a director with at least 2 weeks notice.
- f. Winterguard students must remain academically eligible to participate in winterguard shows.
- g. There are no refunds for winterguard once the competitive season begins.

11. Grading

- a. All performances are worth major grades in the gradebook and are determined by the following
 - i. Being prepared and on time with all needed supplies
 - ii. Performance
 - iii. Exhibiting good concert etiquette
- b. Students who miss performances may be considered for reassignment on their part/role for future performances.
- c. Directors may make adjustments to band placement mid year based on grades, musical development, and/or behavior.
- d. Approved absences may be granted the opportunity to complete an "alternative assignment" at the discretion of directors.

12. Trips

Students who represent the Plano Independent School District in school groups and especially on out-of-town trips are expected to maintain very high standards in every respect at all times. They are expected to attend and be on time for all sessions and activities scheduled for them. In the event of overnight trips, they are expected to be in their rooms at the times designated by their sponsors. Each student will be responsible to one or more faculty sponsors who will supervise the activities of the student for the trip. Negligence in attending sessions, in meeting curfew requirements, or in failing to maintain our standards of conduct may make it necessary for the sponsor to send the student home at his/her own expense.

Student conduct on school-related trips: Self-discipline is the key element for a pleasant experience for both the sponsor and the student when the student is on a school-related trip. Students who are involved in a serious disciplinary offense on a school-related trip, such as the use, possession of, or being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol; stealing; fighting; going in the room of a member of the opposite sex; or some other serious offense will face disciplinary action which may include one or more of the following:

1. The student will be sent home from the trip at the parents' expense.
2. The student will be held liable for damages to property.
3. The student may be removed from this school activity as well as other school curricular activities.
4. The student may be placed in On Campus Suspension (OCS), or Reassignment Center.

All clothes worn during activities outside the school day should follow their regular on-campus dress code. If there is any question of taste, the director's decision is final. All adults on trips serve as sponsors. Students

will be expected to treat them with respect at all times. In the event needed supervision is given by a parent sponsor, band students must honor that with utmost respect.

General – Even though you will not always have a band shirt on, people will find out where you are from. You have the opportunity to make a tremendous name for Plano, McMillen HS, and yourself. Be courteous and polite at all times. There is no way we can anticipate every possible scenario, so we ask for good judgment. Please use common sense. It is better to be safe than sorry. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEMS. IF WE ANTICIPATED A PROBLEM, WE WOULD **NOT** TRAVEL.

Please be aware that all students are subject to the state NO PASS/NO PLAY RULE. Students must be eligible by passing all classes in the grading period preceding the trip. Refunds can only be made at the discretion of the travel company. Generally, they will make no refunds after our contract obligations are met. Money paid into the student account can only be refunded up to those contract deadlines. If a participant backs out after that point due to grades or any other reason, we cannot get that money back.

McMillen Band Boosters Organization

The Band Boosters Organization is a very active group of parents who support the band in countless ways. They raise funds for trips and parties, help with uniforms, help fund instructional resources, chaperone band trips, etc. We hope that all band parents will become active members of this supportive organization. Parents are encouraged to become involved. We need all parents to do a little so that no one has to do a lot.

PARENT/GUARDIAN – STUDENT RELEASE & AGREEMENT

I HAVE DISCUSSED AND REVIEWED ALL THE INFORMATION IN THE MCMILLEN BAND HANDBOOK WITH MY CHILD, AND I UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS AND MY RESPONSIBILITY AS TO THESE POLICIES AND CONDITIONS. MY CHILD HAS MY PERMISSION TO ATTEND DISTRICT AND OUT-OF-DISTRICT AND SCHOOL-SPONSORED EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. I UNDERSTAND THAT PLANO AND MCMILLEN HIGH SCHOOL WILL NOT BE LIABLE FOR INJURIES AND MEDICAL COST FOR STUDENTS. MY SIGNATURE ALSO SERVES AS PERMISSION FOR MY SON/DAUGHTER TO OBTAIN MEDICAL TREATMENT ON A SCHOOL SPONSORED TRIP.

I HAVE ALSO READ AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE PLANO ISD EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY CONDUCT STATEMENT FOUND BELOW.

https://www.pisd.edu/cms/lib/TX02215173/Centricity/Domain/2196/ExtracurrStatement_rev08.pdf

Plano ISD 043910 STUDENT ACTIVITIES TRAVEL FMG(EXHIBIT) DATE ISSUED:

4/17/2017 1 of 1

FMG(EXHIBIT)

EXHIBIT C (English version)

PLANO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT PERMISSION FOR MEMBERS OF STUDENT GROUPS TO PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRIPS

This form must be completed by a parent/guardian and student.

Notes:

-Student medical/emergency information card must be on file in the school office.

-Physical form must be turned into the MHS band directors or MHS coaches by Sept 16.

