



Student & Parent Handbook

2024-2025

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www.ScogginsBand.com

Scoggins Band Program Outline

Intermediate Band

Intermediate Band students enter the band program with varying levels of musical knowledge and skill, but once they have completed the Intermediate Band year, Scoggins Band students are ready for all of the musical rewards available to them in the advanced bands.

Scoggins Wind Ensemble, Symphonic, and Concert Bands

The Scoggins Wind Ensemble, Symphonic, and Concert Bands are the advanced 7th and 8th grade ensembles in the band program. Students enrolled in these courses prepare and perform repertoire that is among the most challenging and rewarding literature available to students at the middle school level. Advanced Band musicians are expected to maintain a regular practice schedule, which enables them to achieve the highest performance standards on this advanced music, unlocking their potential to play with feeling and musical understanding. The Advanced Bands perform different repertoire, but they travel together and perform on the same stage at concerts and attend the same Scoggins Band social events and trips.

Private Lessons

In addition to their participation in the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic, Concert, or Beginning Bands, many band students also enroll in private lessons on their band instruments.

It is the goal of the Scoggins Middle School Band to provide the very best learning experience for each student. Studying their instrument in a one-on-one setting provides the individual attention necessary for each student to perform at their best. This enrichment opportunity is available to all band students in grades 7-8.

Although not mandatory, the individual attention each student receives through private study improves the performance level of that student and also amplifies the musicianship of that student's band. The key to success with this opportunity is to start early and continue throughout the year.

Private lesson instructors are carefully selected by the band directors and receive the same scrutiny as full-time teachers at the district level before being hired. For the convenience of students and parents, weekly private lessons can be arranged to take place at school during band classes or outside the school day.

The private lesson fees are \$25.00 per lesson.

Parents are typically asked to pay for lessons on a monthly basis. You will receive a statement at the beginning of each month indicating your share in this program. All money will be paid directly to the private lesson teacher.

Prompt payments are greatly appreciated by the teachers. In many cases, this is their sole source of income.

Scoggins Band Website

www.ScogginsBand.com

The Scoggins Band Website is the central hub of information regarding the Scoggins Band. Please bookmark this important resource, as it will be referred to throughout the school year.

The website hosts important band details including permission forms, Band Boosters information, instrument rental and repair resources, and the band directors' weekly agendas.

Scoggins Band Calendar

The band calendar is available on the front page of the band website. Please print and post a copy of the band calendar in your home, and record all of those dates into your family's central calendar.

Each member of the band is an important contributor. Great care has been taken by the band directors and other Scoggins staff to avoid as many calendar conflicts as possible. We strive to make as many of these details available at the beginning of the school year as possible.

Proactive planning by band parents in order to avoid calendar conflicts is a critical step in helping the band -- and each student in it -- perform and achieve at the highest level possible.

We ask for your help in keeping your child's band commitments in mind when scheduling vacations, physician and orthodontist appointments, and other events.

[Printable Version of Calendar](#)

Band, Athletics, and Academics

The Scoggins Band directors work closely with Scoggins administration, coaches, and classroom teachers to ensure that participation in band is very compatible with participation in athletics, academic clubs, Pre-AP courses, and GT courses.

In fact, many of our most accomplished band students are those who participate in multiple Scoggins activities and the most rigorous courses!

In addition to their musical study and athletics/Pre-AP/GT participation, band students can also enroll in one of the many other electives offered at Scoggins in their 7th and 8th grade years, including art, Spanish, multimedia, and theater -- while they continue to participate in band. Concurrent participation in band and other electives is encouraged, as it augments students' middle school experience in positive ways.

Scoggins Band members are not limited by their participation in band -- they are enhanced by it.

Scoggins Band Image and Trip Behavior

The Scoggins Band represents the students and faculty of Scoggins Middle School, as well as Frisco ISD. As ambassadors of our school and community, Scoggins Band members must make every effort to be courteous and respectful. Students that have had ISS or OSS may lose their .

When wearing the band uniform in public, students must remain completely in uniform. While in uniform, students should refrain from any behavior -- running, rough-housing, or otherwise -- that represents Scoggins in an unflattering or unprofessional way.

Bus Procedures and Behavior

- Refrain from loud or obnoxious behavior.
- Students may only ride their assigned bus and must be seated. Roll will be taken before each departure.
- Each bus will have a parent or director sponsor. The sponsor is to be obeyed without question and treated with utmost respect, as is the bus driver.
- Failure to obey instructions given by directors, bus drivers, or sponsors will be considered a major disciplinary offense and may result in referral to a principal and/or exclusion from future band activities.
- Keep the bus clean.
- Keep hands inside the bus at all times.
- When the bus reaches its destination, remain seated and wait for instructions from the directors.
- Parents, your punctual pick-up after a band trip or event is appreciated!

DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES

Members of the Scoggins Band are held to high standards in and out of the band hall. Students that receive ISS, OSS or are in violation of our behavior standards or inappropriate behavior may result in one or more of the following:

- Verbal warning
- Student Conference/Behavioral Contract
- Detention (with parent notification)

- Parent Phone Call/Conference
- Administration Office Referral
- Loss of band activity privileges - we follow policies in place by the administration

Instrument and Facilities Policies

- Students should *never* leave their instrument unattended.
- Instruments are to be stored in assigned band lockers during the school day.
- Band lockers should look neat and clean at all times. Students should take pride in their locker's appearance.
- Cases must be clearly labeled with the student's name.
- With the exception of students' band period, materials for other classes are not allowed in band lockers. Keep lunches, gym clothes, and other belongings in school lockers.
- Students are expected to take instruments home **every day**. Instruments can be picked up immediately after school is dismissed. Athletes should make arrangements with the band directors and their athletics coordinator for pick up and storage. If you leave school early, be sure to pick up your instrument before you leave.
- All band students are encouraged to use the Fine Arts Facility. Everyone will assist in keeping rooms neat and clean. Cleaning is everyone's responsibility and should not be thought of as punishment.
- No more than two students at a time are allowed in a practice room or ensemble room without director supervision.
- Fine arts windows and blinds are off limits to students.

Attendance Policy

Every member of our band is important -- one absent member is like a missing link in a chain. You are valued here!

Performances are the centerpiece and focus of our program. They offer students an opportunity to showcase their talents and provide students, parents, and teachers with a symbol of community within Scoggins Middle School. When a performance is missed, students do not get to experience the fruits of their labor!

Of course, performances are the product of commitment and hard work. As such, performances, section rehearsals are part of the course requirements and are, therefore, graded activities.

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory. In the event a student absolutely must miss, advance notice should be given at least three school days beforehand for morning and after school rehearsals and **two weeks prior to a performance**. Only conflicts of a serious nature will be considered excused.

Academic Eligibility

As mandated by the Texas University Interscholastic League, any grade below 70 on a six-week report card will **deny students competitive performance privileges** for a three or six week period. This statute is known as the “No pass, no play” rule.

Because of the adverse effect this can have on an individual and the group as a whole, the band directors monitor grades very closely. Parents, we ask that you continue to scrutinize your child's grades and communicate with their teachers if any grade questions should arise.

Playing in the band is a team activity. **Students should understand that their grades have a direct influence on other students as well as themselves.** Any one individual has the ability to prevent the entire band from performing to its full potential.

Daily Practice

The connection between practice and success in band is a revelation that comes more quickly for some students than others. Parents, if your child has difficulty sitting down to practice, please do not be discouraged! We will make every effort to instill these values of hard work and discipline. Over time, students will understand this connection and even learn to apply it to other aspects of their scholastic life.

The parental role in guiding a student's practice is most effective when it includes structuring of time. Help them schedule their practice so that it takes place each day at the same time for the sake of consistency.

Keep the following in mind when establishing a practice routine:

- Practice for results and end the session when goals are met. Make it a game!
- Keep distractions to a minimum: no phone or TV.
- Set up a daily schedule and stick to it. Treat practice as part of your homework.
- Always use a metronome.
- Use a music stand and a chair that enables good posture when practicing. This helps avoid the formation of bad habits.
- Try to follow a daily routine. A typical practice session should include:

Warm-up exercises used in class each day
Fundamentals (such as scales and octave/register slurs or lip slurs)
Review material covered in class that day
Practice assigned material

Consistent, daily practice will always be more effective than trying to cram for a playing test or concert. Playing each day helps infuse fundamentals and music into students' kinesthetic memory. 30 minutes a day will be much more beneficial than trying to 'make up' time by doing larger chunks every few days.

Fundraising

Our band participates in many special events, requiring funding beyond that which is provided by Frisco ISD. Fundraising is a vital part of the success of our program. If everyone does their part in meeting our goals, the band will be able to operate and meet expectations. Students participate in only one fundraiser per year.

Money obtained through fundraising helps finance:

- Private lesson scholarships for students with financial need
- Clinicians and consultants brought in to work with band students
- Supplies not provided by FISD
- Student awards

Parents who do not wish for their students to participate in fundraising activities are encouraged to take the option of making a donation to the Scoggins Band Fund instead. Checks should be made payable to Scoggins Band Boosters. The

desired goal of this fundraiser is **\$150 in profit** per student. The Band Boosters will happily accept donations in lieu of fundraiser participation.

Intermediate Band

Grading Policy

Standards Based

- Progress Check for Learning (non-weighted)
- Assessment Check for Learning (weighted)

Band Uniform

Uniforms contribute to the overall presentation and appearance of the band for concerts and functions, and aid in the safety of students on band trips.

The **Informal Uniform** consists of the Scoggins Band t-shirt, blue jeans and casual shoes of the student's choosing. Denim of any other color besides blue, such as green, pink, orange, purple, or black, is not allowed with the Informal Uniform.

The Intermediate Band wears the 'Informal Uniform' at performances and other designated band functions.

Wind Ensemble, Symphonic and Concert Band

Grading Policy

Standards Based

- Progress Check for Learning (non-weighted)
- Assessment Check for Learning (weighted)

Weekly Sectionals (Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band ONLY)

Section + Rehearsal = Sectional

Section rehearsals are a necessary component of the advanced band experience. Unlike in students' Beginning Band year, where they met in like-instrument classes, the Advanced Bands meet each day with all instruments combined in the same class. *Sectionals allow for a designated time one day a week for students to get specialized instruction on their instrument as well as be assessed weekly through a performance test.* If a student needs to miss sectionals they need to communicate in advance if possible to their primary director. **Sectionals will begin the week of August 19th, 2024.**

Weekly Sectional Performance Test

Scoggins Middle School is a Standards Based Grading campus. To ensure complete mastery of the performance standards, students must make above the following required grades or are required to retest on Fridays during the designated retest time.

Wind Ensemble - 90 or above demonstrates mastery of standard
Symphonic Band - 85 or above demonstrates mastery of standard

Advanced Bands

Band Uniform

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The **Informal Uniform** consists of the Scoggins Band t-shirt, blue jeans and casual shoes of the student's choosing. Denim of any other color besides blue, such as green, pink, orange, purple, or black, is not allowed with the Informal Uniform.

The advanced bands wear the 'Informal Uniform' at pep rallies, football games, some trips, and other designated band functions.

The **Formal Uniform** is worn during formal performances such as our Winter Concert, UIL, and other performances. At contests, the consistency of attire is one of the criteria the adjudicators use to evaluate our bands; an inappropriately dressed student can mar the whole band's impression on the audience and the judges, and in that way can negatively affect the other band students.

- Guys:
 - Scoggins Band Polo
 - Black dress slacks (not black jeans; no stripes or patterns)
 - Black belt
 - Black dress shoes and socks

- Girls:
 - Scoggins Band Polo
 - Black dress pants (not black jeans; **no stripes or patterns**)
 - Black dressy shoes and black socks, if appropriate

Wind Ensemble, Symphonic, Concert, & Intermediate Bands

Band Fees

I. Band fees are necessary to cover materials, events, smartmusic, student rewards and incentives and other aspects of running the Band program. For each student this will also include class supplies and t-shirt each year. Students will each receive one copy of any music or exercises the directors distribute in class. **Band fees will be due by August 30, 2024.** Checks may be payable to SMSBB (Scoggins Middle School Band Booster). Second semester fees will be due by the end of January, 2023 (for those on a payment plan). If a student is unable to pay the band fee by this date, please contact Mr. Davis to make other arrangements.

- **Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Intermediate Band, Concert Band- \$80**
(could be split into two payments by semester, \$40 each)

Checks payable to 'Scoggins Band Boosters' or 'SMSBB'

\$80

2. School-owned instrument usage fee (for students who play oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor sax, bari sax, French horn, euphonium, and tuba)

Checks payable to 'Frisco ISD'

\$100

Scoggins Band Boosters

If your child is in the Scoggins Band, then you are a Band Booster!

Being involved with the Scoggins Band Boosters gives parents an opportunity to contribute to their child's music education in a capacity that would otherwise be less available. Band Booster volunteers are the behind-the-scenes wheel horses of the band program, and many of our operations cannot function without them!

Providing each student the best possible band experience involves far more than just quality music instruction. Organizing fundraising and social events, volunteering at band functions, and chaperoning on band trips are just some of the duties performed by Band Booster volunteers. The Band Boosters fill in the gaps in the band's operations and enhance every student's learning experience.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with your child's band experiences and would like to meet other caring parents, we encourage you to join the volunteers.

All parent/guardian volunteers must go through the FISD background check in order to ensure the safety of all students. Please visit the Parents section of the Scoggins Band website and click on the "Volunteer Background Check" link. Fill out the information and click submit to send your form to the district for processing.

We are very proud of the work our students do on a daily basis. We invite all parents to stop in at any time and observe your son or daughter's band class in action.

The Scoggins Band Booster Club needs your participation to help insure the continued success of the band program. Your participation can greatly influence this success. Please consider helping out!

How To Contact The Band Staff

Email

The best way to reach a director is always through email. With the band program's busy schedule, email allows us to respond as time allows and keeps a record of our correspondence. Our goal is to respond to every message in a timely manner, usually within 24 hours. The band directors check email during the band conference period (2:49 to 3:35) and other times throughout the day when available.

Mr. Davis davisad@friscoisd.org

Ms. Hoffman hoffmans@friscoisd.org

Mr. Lopez lopezseb@friscoisd.org

Phone

We are rarely near a phone during the school day, but the best time to try to reach us via phone is during our conference period (2:49 to 3:35).

We make an effort to respond to phone messages as promptly as possible, but we do tend to be more timely with email responses.

Mr. Davis: 469-633-5171

Mrs. Hoffman: 469-633-5170

Scoggins Main Office: 469-633-5150

Scoggins Band Registration

Registration is due by Friday, August 30. Of course, the earlier the better, and the band directors appreciate your punctuality!

An electronic version of the registration form can be **completed online**. Visit www.scogginsband.com and click “Band Registration” on the home page.

The online version is the fastest and most convenient method, but families can opt to submit a paper version instead. Just email Mr. Davis or send a note to school with your child requesting the form, and we will send the paper form to you straight away!