



TISON MIDDLE SCHOOL **Band Handbook 2025 - 2026**

Welcome to the Tison Middle School Band Program!

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a written policy on the organization and operation of our band program. Band is a group activity that depends upon the collaborative work of many individuals. The actions of one person will have an effect, either positive or negative, on the entire group. For this reason, we have guidelines that everyone must follow so that each student may grow as an individual musician and also make a positive contribution to the entire group. It is the goal of the TMS Band Staff to provide every student the opportunity for musical growth through the learning and creating of music. We expect our students to achieve excellence, not only in band, but also in academics and daily life.

This handbook should provide a comprehensive overview of the band program and its standards, policies, and procedures. **However, should you need any information which does not appear here, please contact the TMS Band Hall, and we will attempt to assist you in every possible way.**

Thank you, and we look forward to a wonderful school year.

Paige Hartley
Head Band Director
Tison Middle School
phartley@weatherfordisd.com

Krystal Emshoff
Associate Band Director
Tison Middle School
kemshoff@weatherfordisd.com

Table of Contents

Class Schedule	Page 2
TEKS/Course Description & Objectives	Page 3-4
Band Hall Rules/Expectations	Page 5-6

General Band Hall Policies and Procedures	Page 6-8
Alternative Assignments And Other Consequences	Page 8
Instruments and Equipment	Page 8-9
Instrument Storage/Protection	Page 9
Grading Procedures	Page 10
Attendance at Band Events and Performance Attire	Page 11
Private Lessons, Financial Difficulty, & Band Camps	Page 12

<h2 style="text-align: center;">2025 - 2026 Band Class Schedule (M, T, W, F)</h2>

1st Period: 8:05 - 9:00 a.m. (55 minutes)

- ★ Beginning Trombone & Euphonium - Hartley / Beginning Clarinet - Emshoff

2nd Period: 9:05 - 10:00 a.m. (55 minutes)

- ★ Beginning Trumpet - Hartley / Beginning Saxophone - Emshoff

3rd Period: 10:05 - 11:05 a.m. (60 minutes) (Co-taught by Emshoff/Hartley)

- ★ Symphonic Band (Mixed 7th & 8th)

4th Period: 11:10 - 12:05 p.m. (55 minutes) (Co-taught by Hartley/Emshoff)

- ★ Honor Band (Mixed 7th & 8th)

Teacher Lunch/Conference: 12:10 - 1:45 p.m.

6th Period: 1:50 - 2:45 p.m. (55 minutes)

- ★ Beg. Tuba - Hartley / Beg. Double Reed - Emshoff / Beg. Percussion - Kleven

7th Period: 2:50 - 3:45 p.m. (55 minutes)

- ★ Beginning Horn - Hartley / Beginning Flute - Emshoff

TEKS

The Middle School Level 1, 2, & 3 Music TEKS can be found at:

https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/P2015_music_MSLevel1.pdf

https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/P2015_music_MSLevel2.pdf

https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/P2015_music_MSLevel3.pdf

Beginning Band - Middle School Level 1

Symphonic Band - Middle School Level 2

Honors Band - Middle School Level 3

Course Description & Objectives

BEGINNING BAND (Middle School Level 1)

Prerequisite: None

1. The Beginning Band is typically made up of sixth grade students with no previous musical experience. Emphasis will be placed on developing fundamental music theory knowledge, as well as acquiring individual skills on a specific musical instrument.
2. Membership will be open to all sixth grade students and will require placement testing to determine what instrument the student will play.
3. The Beginning Band performs at two concerts a year and one band festival.
4. All members are required to enter the Tison hosted solo and ensemble competition.

Course Objectives:

- Demonstrate the proper assembly and maintenance of their instrument.
- Demonstrate the ability to interact responsibly and appropriately within a large group.
- Demonstrate characteristics of good self discipline as it relates to the classroom and practice habits.
- Perform five major scales and a one octave chromatic scale.
- Perform a solo for solo contest.
- Pass off specific objectives designated by band directors throughout the year.
- Perform and observe at all assigned concerts in order to develop ensemble skills, stage presence, and concert etiquette.
- Students must pass a proficiency audition at the end of the year to be promoted to Symphonic Band or Honors Band.

SYMPHONIC BAND (Middle School Level 2)

Prerequisite: Minimum one year of Beginning Band and an audition.

1. The Symphonic Band is made up of seventh and eighth grade musicians, with emphasis placed upon improving fundamental skills.
2. Membership will be determined by audition.
3. The Symphonic Band performs at least two concerts a year, participates in the UIL Concert/Sightreading Contest, and attends one band festival.
4. All members are required to enter the Tison hosted solo and ensemble competition.
5. All members will be required to attend either before or after school sectionals when they are scheduled.

Course Objectives:

- Seven major scales and chromatic – one octave.
- Pass off specific objectives, designated throughout the year.
- Perform and observe at all assigned concerts in order to develop ensemble skills, stage presence, and concert etiquette.
- Perform a solo and/or an ensemble.
- Evaluate performances using recordings of concerts and other assignments given by the directors.
- Perform at pep rallies, concerts, UIL competitions, and festivals to continue to develop ensemble skills, stage presence, and concert etiquette.

HONORS BAND (Middle School Level 3)

Prerequisite: Minimum one year of Beginning Band and an audition.

1. The Honors Band is made up of the more advanced seventh and eighth grade musicians, with emphasis placed upon improving fundamental skills.
2. Membership will be determined by audition.
3. The Honors Band performs at least two concerts a year, participates in the UIL Concert/Sightreading Contest, and attends one band festival.
4. All members are required to learn a portion of the All Region music for a grade and selected students are encouraged to audition for the All Region Band.
5. All members are required to enter the Tison hosted solo and ensemble competition.
6. All members will be required to attend either before or after school sectionals when they are scheduled.

Course Objectives:

- Nine major scales and chromatic – full range.
- Pass off specific objectives, designated throughout the year.
- Perform and observe at all assigned concerts in order to develop ensemble skills, stage presence, and concert etiquette.
- Perform a solo and/or an ensemble.
- Evaluate performances using recordings of concerts and other assignments given by the directors.
- Perform at pep rallies, concerts, UIL competitions, and festivals to continue to develop ensemble skills, stage presence, and concert etiquette.

Band Hall Rules and Rehearsal Etiquette

1. Enter the band hall quietly and read the board for instructions.
2. Be in your seat in rest position with all necessary supplies before the bell.
3. Listen and respond appropriately – outbursts are not permitted.
4. Start and stop together.
5. Return your materials to their appropriate place.
6. Leave the band hall in an orderly fashion when dismissed by the director.

The most important of all Band rules is:

RESPECT!

Expectations of Tison Band Members

Be Responsible:

- Have all necessary supplies for class every day—instrument, accessories, music, pencil, etc.
- Have a name tag on your instrument at all times.
- Put your name on all personal music, books, and supplies.
- Practice the music assigned to your class.
- Turn in assignments in a timely manner.

Be Respectful:

- Have proper respect for your band teacher or substitute.
- Raise your hand and wait to be recognized before speaking in class.
- Leave arguments and personal grudges in the main hallway before you enter.
- Be respectful of other students' property and space.
- Do not play or touch equipment that does not belong to you. **Theft of ANYTHING (instrument, personal belongings, etc.) may result in automatic expulsion from the band program.**
- Music stands may be used for music-holding only.
- Follow all school rules as listed in the school handbook.

Know Your Band Hall Etiquette:

- The only food or drink allowed in the Band Hall is bottled water.
- No gum allowed at any time; this is a safety hazard.
- No running in the band hall.
- The directors' podium is for teacher use only.
- Practice rooms and the ensemble room may only be used with permission from your teacher.
- Walk around the band setup (where the chairs are) and **never** through the percussion setup .
- Your instrument storage area is for your instrument case only—no school books, loose papers, or lunches.
- Chairs and stands should return to their original position before you leave the room.
- **Non-band students are not allowed in the band hall, except with special permission from a director.**

<h2>General Band Hall Policies and Procedures</h2>

In order to have a successful band, certain procedures should be followed to help keep students and their equipment organized and ready for rehearsal. The following procedures will be discussed in class and practiced in order to keep our band growing musically together:

1. The Band Hall opens at 7:35 AM on most days. You may come in at this time to drop off your instrument or practice in the morning. If you are not practicing, please move to the correct before-school waiting area until the bell for 1st period rings.
2. At the beginning of class, be in your assigned seat with instrument, music, sharpened pencil, and necessary accessories for your instrument within two minutes after the tardy bell. Check the board for the daily rehearsal schedule and important upcoming dates and then, place your music in rehearsal order on your stand.
3. No band student will play an instrument before class begins; the entire class should warm up together. Likewise, students will not play instruments once the band directors have instructed students to put away the instruments.
4. During any time, a student should never attempt to play another student's instrument, with or without the student's permission. It is an easy way to spread germs or damage an instrument. Please avoid this temptation.
5. The band hall closes at 4:40 pm on most days. Be sure that you return to the band hall after school to pick up your instrument so that you can take it home to practice.

Forgotten Instrument Policy:

Band students cannot learn if they do not have an instrument. If you have forgotten your instrument at home, immediately find a director and notify them to see if we have an instrument you may borrow for that day. If you are not issued an instrument or an alternate assignment, it is your responsibility to participate in rehearsal through "air playing" while being attentive to all that is taught. If at any time you fail to meet these requirements, you will be issued an alternate assignment.

First Offense: Verbal Warning

Second Offense: Alternate Assignment and Parent/Guardian phone call

Third Offense: Alternate Assignment, Lunch Detention, and Parent/Guardian phone call

Lost and Found Policy:

If binders, music, or equipment is left behind, it will be collected and taken to the lost and found cart at the front of the room. If you are missing something, please check the cart before you come to a director.

Percussion Equipment Policy:

Non-percussionists may NOT touch the percussion equipment or enter the percussion storage area. If at any time a non-percussionist is caught playing with or hitting percussion equipment, the following consequences will be issued:

First offense: Verbal warning

Second offense: Phone call to Parent/Guardian

Third offense: Lunch Detention and phone call to Parent/Guardian

Cell Phone Policy:

During rehearsal, if a band director sees you with your cell phone out AT ANY NON-SANCTIONED TIME, it will be taken up and turned in to the front office. Cell phones should be turned off and stored in a backpack, NOT in your pockets!

Missing Music:

If you do not have a piece of music because you were absent when it was handed out, see a band director before class. They will most likely have it at the podium. If music has been lost, please find another student in your section who has the missing music and ask them to borrow it for a band director to make a copy.

Restroom Procedure:

If you need to use the restroom, raise your hand while making a letter "R" in sign language (fingers crossed). When the director acknowledges you, fill out the bathroom sign-out sheet with the correct time and date. When you return, be sure to fill in the accurate time.

Misuse of restroom privileges may result in loss of being able to leave

Restroom Emergency/Sickness:

If you have a true emergency, do not stop to ask permission. If you feel like you are going to be sick, take the trash can into the hallway or restroom. When you feel like you can return, come back to class and ask for a pass to the nurse.

Classroom Interruption:

If a student is interrupting class with talking or playing out of turn, the consequences will be as follows:

First offense: Verbal warning

Second offense: Verbal warning

Third offense: An alternative assignment will be issued and a phone call home will occur.

Alternative Assignments

Alternative assignments will be given to students for not following the policies and procedures listed in the handbook. If a student is assigned one of these assignments, they will be required to take their assignment home to have it signed by a parent/guardian and bring it back to school the next day. If they do not return their signed assignment the next day, they will not be allowed to rejoin the class.

Consequences for other inappropriate actions not listed in the band handbook will be determined relative to the severity of the offense, and in accordance with the Tison Middle School Handbook and administration.

Instruments and Equipment

Tison Middle School owns many instruments including oboes, bassoons, bass clarinets, tenor and baritone saxophones, French horns, euphoniums, tubas, and extensive percussion equipment. There is a \$50 yearly usage fee charged at the beginning of the school year for the use of all school-owned wind instruments, and a \$25 Percussion fee for members of the Honors and Symphonic Band. The revenue generated from this fee will be used for the normal upkeep and maintenance of these instruments. This fee is non-refundable.

Each student who plays an instrument not listed above must have their own instrument, which may be purchased or rented, preferably from a music company recommended by the WISD directors. If you are having trouble acquiring an instrument, please contact a director.

Students are responsible for keeping their instrument in excellent playing condition. To do this, students need to purchase appropriate supplies (see supply list on next page). Proper cleaning instructions for all instruments will be taught in class, and should be followed. Should an instrument need any repairs, students should see their director either before or after school. If an instrument becomes unplayable during a rehearsal, please finger the music and see the director after class. Minor repairs can usually be fixed, but if not, a representative from a music company comes to the school every week to take instruments back to the store. The music company should contact parents before any repairs are made.

Most minor repairs should be completed in about a week.

REPAIR: Any student needing repair of an instrument should first inform the director. School owned instruments will be sent to our approved repair shop by the directors. Often what looks like a major problem can be fixed easily by one of the directors; likewise, a simple-looking problem may require the services of a repair specialist. Payment of the repair for personal instruments must be made before the instrument will be released to the student.

IMPORTANT!!!
PLEASE ALLOW PROFESSIONALS TO FIX YOUR INSTRUMENT.
DO NOT ATTEMPT IT AT HOME!

Instrument Storage/Protection

All students are assigned an instrument storage area to store their instrument in during the school day. Students are expected to place their instrument in their locker before school every day and take it home after school every day. Students are not to leave their instrument lying on the floor of the band hall at any time. All students will be issued a school combination lock to use on their band hall locker. While using a combination lock, locks should be secured at all times unless a student is taking out or putting away their instrument. **Students who lose their combination lock will be charged \$12 to replace it.**

LOST/STOLEN ITEMS: If at any time, a student has something that has gone missing from their storage area, please first check the lost and found cart for the missing item. Often, it was left out somewhere in the room, and it was placed in the cart by a student or director. If the missing item(s) is not there, then immediately find a band director to report the item(s) that are gone.

Remember, theft of ANYTHING (instrument, personal belongings, etc.) may result in automatic expulsion from the band program.

Grading Policy & Procedures

Purpose/Intent

Mastery of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) reporting involves determining each student's proficiency on the skills students should learn in each subject area aligned to Weatherford Independent School District curriculum.

Number of Grades

A minimum of two major grades must be given each reporting period; Teachers will have a minimum of 10 grades for each six weeks grading period.

Reassessment Policy

Per Board Policy EIA (Local) a student will be given a reasonable opportunity to redo an assignment or retake a test for which the student received a failing grade. Teachers will ensure a student has the opportunity within 5 school days to redo an assignment or retake a test.

Grade Weighting

Weatherford ISD has two separate grading categories:

- Minor grades - 70%
- Major grades - 30%

Band Specific Grading

Grades in band will be determined by daily participation, being prepared for class, concert attendance, playing evaluations, and written examinations. Each area is divided as follows:

Minor Grades

Daily Participation (20 points per day/100 points per week)

Students should come to class with all supplies including music, instrument, and pencil and actively participate in the rehearsal process at all times.

Practice Records (Beginning Band only)

Practice records are due every Thursday for full credit or Friday for late credit; see practice record for specific grading rubric.

Major Grades

Chair Tests/Objectives in Canvas

Beginning Band students will have one weekly chair test in class; Symphonic and Honors Band students will have two weekly video objectives due in Canvas.

Public Performances

All students are required to attend all public performances on the calendar. Each performance will count for two major grades (attendance and concert etiquette).

Attendance at Band Events

Our Band Curriculum includes concerts throughout the school year, all of which are required. However, some of our events are considered “extra-curricular” and fall under the same UIL No Pass/No Play rules that are followed by athletics classes. All-Region competition, pep rallies, “Mass Band Night”, band festivals, solo and ensemble, and field trips during the school day are considered No Pass/No Play events; therefore if a student is not passing all their classes on the previous six week grading period and has not become eligible on the most recent progress report, they may not participate. Ineligible students’ grades will not be affected for being ineligible, but they may be required to perform music to substitute for that grade.

The Winter/Spring Concert does not fall under No Pass/No Play guidelines and it is expected that every band student attends.

Notice will be sent home by e-mail or a letter handed out in class in advance of all activities. The directors must receive a written note at least one week (7 days) **prior** to the band function if a student is unable to attend.

If you are absent from a band concert, you may be excused for one of the following reasons:

- Personal illness, medical emergency, injury, or accident
- Death in the family
- Unusual circumstances discussed with a band director

In most cases, you will have the opportunity to make up the activity by playing your music. Any absence from a band concert that is considered unexcused will earn a grade of zero (0). Members of the TMS Honors Band that are consistently unable to attend required performances (with unexcused absences) may be moved to Symphonic Band or experience loss of performance status.

Performance Attire

Honors and Symphonic Boys: A white tuxedo shirt (purchased from Tison MS Band) AND black slacks, long black socks, solid black dress shoes, and a black belt.

Honors and Symphonic Girls: A white tuxedo shirt (purchased from Tison MS Band) AND black slacks or black skirt (mid-calf or longer), black hosiery or long black socks, solid black dress shoes, and a black belt if slacks/skirt has belt loops.

All Band Students 6th-8th Grade: Current year’s Tison band t-shirt.

All band members and band chaperones are required to wear a current TMS Band t-shirt when they represent the Tison Band. Orders for the 2025 - 2026 Band t-shirt will be taken at a later date. Parents, family, and friends who would like to purchase additional t-shirts are encouraged to do so.

Private Lessons

Everyone, no matter how well they play their instrument, can benefit from private lessons. We have a wonderful private lesson staff in Weatherford ISD that works closely with us to help make this opportunity available to all band students in our program. Lessons help each student identify their strengths and weaknesses, all while focusing on building skills that help develop each student into the best musician possible. Learning an instrument is a difficult process. By getting individual help from a professional with more experience, your student will quickly progress and develop, hopefully finding a lifelong love of their instrument. If you are interested, please contact your student's band director to discuss availability and pricing.

Financial Difficulty

If you have a financial hardship and are not able to buy all of the supplies that we require, please talk with a band director. We will do our best to work with every student who is dedicated to being a part of the TMS Band. Donations of equipment or financial assistance may be available through the school or individuals outside the school. We want every student who gives a genuine effort to participate in band to be given that opportunity, regardless of their financial situation.

Summer Band Camps

All band students are highly encouraged to attend a summer band camp to improve themselves musically and to study with fellow musicians from across the state of Texas. There are several middle school band camps close to Weatherford including Tarleton State University, University of Texas at Arlington, and Texas Christian University.

Band camp scholarships (up to \$100 reimbursement) are offered annually by the Roo Jr. Band Fan Club. Please ask a band director for the scholarship paperwork if you are interested in applying.

At the end of each summer, Tison also hosts our own mini summer band camp, usually 2-3 weeks before school begins. The purpose of this camp is to give students the opportunity to socialize with their friends, learn in a small group setting from a professional on their instrument, and grow musically in preparation for the upcoming school year. This is not a mandatory event, but we highly encourage all available students to attend.