



Walsh Middle School Honor Band

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year! We are excited to have you as a part of our band family and we look forward to a great year with the Walsh Honor Band!

Frequently Asked Questions

Use the FAQ guide to answer questions throughout the year that you may have as a parent of an Honor Band student.

Honor Band Calendar

Use the calendar to download all event handouts throughout the year and stay up to date with band activities.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a sectional?

- Sectionals are before or after school, instrument specific sessions with a band director or section leader. This is an opportunity to work on

each section's music, tuning, blend, and balance outside of the context of the full ensemble. These sessions are integral to the success of the Walsh Band, and as such are mandatory to attend. *If a student needs to miss a sectional for another school-related activity or due to an emergency, their director must be notified by email. Students will send a recording of the weekly sectional graded material on google classroom.*

- Honor Band students will have multiple sectionals each week. One will be led by a band director, and one will be led by a student leader.

What are instrument choirs?

- Instrument choirs are opportunities for students from multiple band classes to join together to form an entire ensemble of just one instrument. Students will get to take on a different musical responsibility in this small ensemble than they normally have in full band class, which will aid in their development and be a lot of fun!

Are there after school rehearsals for the full band?

- Honor Band students will have a rehearsal every Friday from 3:45pm-5:00pm. Sometimes we will go until 4:30pm or 5:30pm, depending on what we're working on. We will bring in guest clinicians throughout the year to work with the band, which may necessitate a few schedule changes. We will do our best to communicate any schedule changes with plenty of notice.

What is the uniform for performances?

- Honor Band Concerts
 - Option #1 - school-owned concert dress with black closed-toe flats. Students should not accessorize in this attire unless it is also black and subtle.
 - Option #2 - black dress pants, black belt, black dress shoes, long black socks (mid-calf or higher), and a black long-sleeve

dress shirt. All attire must be solid black, no stripes or logos. No denim material for black dress pants.

- Contact a band director about any questions about the formal concert uniform
- Festival of Bands - 8th Graders Only
 - Black Walsh Band T-shirt
- Recitals and Chamber Music Concerts
 - Students should wear nice dress clothes. Some of our students choose to wear very nice formal dresses and suits, and others prefer to wear a more “business casual” outfit. Students should not wear jeans, athletic clothes, leggings in lieu of pants, or t-shirts. Students should have a professional appearance that is comfortable and suitable for a raised auditorium stage. Students who wear a mid-length or shorter dress or skirt should also wear leggings or tights.

Scheduling Conflicts

- We know that our students are skilled in many different areas and will therefore be involved in multiple activities at Walsh and outside of school. We want our students to be able to meaningfully participate in other organizations as well as band. **When a scheduling conflict arises, please communicate by email as soon as possible. If your child needs to miss a sectional for a previously scheduled medical appointment or other event, please have them send an email in advance.** This will help the directors stay organized and remember everyone’s individual conflicts. A student telling a director after class about a conflict is difficult to keep track of since we have so many responsibilities throughout the day.

How often will my child use Google Classroom?

- Google Classroom is utilized frequently in every class. Band directors use this platform as a method of communication with the class, as well as an area for discussion and distribution of educational materials. Students should check their Google Classroom page frequently throughout the week for relevant updates.
- Assignments on Google Classroom typically include a video submission as well as a short-answer reflection.

How are grades calculated?

- Students will progress at their own individual pace in band class. Progress and effort will be emphasized when evaluating playing assignments. If a student sends us their best effort, we can help them get to the next level. *The only way that a student will get a low assignment grade in band class is by not turning the assignment in.*
 - 20% Google Classroom Assignments / Concerts – Recordings of music, performances
 - 20% Sectional Assessments – Playing assignments, scales and other technical exercises
 - 60% Class Preparation – Instrument and accessories care, binder care, daily supplies

What is the best way that I can help my child be successful in band?

- You do not have to have a background in music to help your child! Many of our most successful students have parents that have never played a musical instrument. Most of all, your child needs encouragement and interest from you. When learning any new skill, there is a period at the beginning of excitement. Inevitably, there will also be a period of struggle when things get difficult. After the struggle, there is satisfaction and accomplishment. When students are going through these ups and downs, they need YOU to be consistent in your enthusiasm and support.

- Establish a daily routine in your home where your child practices in the same quiet place, around the same time each day. Remind them to practice. Your child should bring home their instrument every day.
- Getting into a routine of transporting the instrument can be one of the biggest challenges for some students. Talk to your child's band teacher if you are interested in getting a lighter weight case if the instrument is too cumbersome.
- Any anxiety that students experience frequently comes from mismanagement of practice time and the feeling of unpreparedness for assignments. Just because a student is playing music at home, doesn't mean they are practicing. Helping students keep their upcoming assignments in mind and reviewing their private lesson packet can be helpful when knowing how to structure practice sessions. Contact a director or your child's private teacher if they are feeling stressed about keeping up with band expectations.
- Phrases to call from the other room while your child practices.
(Used frequently by Ms. Bergeron in her house. 😊)
 - "Use a metronome"
 - "Remember to take a deep breath before you play"
 - "Play your fundamentals slowly before your music"
 - "Use great posture and positioning while you play"
 - "Slow down if it's too difficult"
 - "Are you using a tuner to center those notes?"
 - "Do you have a goal that you're working towards, or are you just playing?"
 - "The 5 most important things about the way you play your instrument are, tone, tone, tone, tone, and tone."
 - [Use the Music Learning Sequence](#)

Supply List

Private Lesson Registration

Concession Stand Sign-Up
25-26 Information Form
Spirit Wear / Binder Fee / Yard Signs /
Decals

Honor Band Calendar

2025-2026 Honor Band Sectional Schedule

- this may change approximately every 9 weeks

August

- Monday, August 25 - Tuesday, September 9
 - Band Fundraiser

September

- Friday, September 19
 - [RRHS Band Night for 8th Graders Going to RRHS](#)
 - [Parent Letter from Mr. Mobley](#)
- Friday, September 26 5:00-7:00pm
 - Pizza and Team Trivia Night
- Friday, September 26
 - [SPHS Band Night for 8th Graders Going to SPHS](#)

October

- Friday, October 3 3:45-5:00pm
 - [Festival of Bands Rehearsal - 8th Graders Only](#)
 - [Festival of Bands Participation Form](#)
- Tuesday, October 7 6:45pm
 - [Festival of Bands Performance - 8th Graders Only](#)
- Wednesday, October 22
 - [Fall Chamber Music Concert](#)
- Friday, October 24
 - [Mock Audition](#) for all students participating in the [region audition](#)
 - [Mock Audition Schedule](#)
 - Grisham Middle School 5:00pm-8:00pm
- Wednesday and Thursday, October 29-30
 - [Fall Solo Recitals](#)
 - [Fall Solo Recital Schedule Request](#)
 - [Solo Recital Schedule \(by last name\)](#)

November

- Saturday, November 1 TBD 8:00am-1:00pm
 - [District Band Auditions - Hernandez Middle School](#)
- Saturday, November 8 TBD 8:00am-1:00pm (*Selected Students Only*)
 - [Region Band Auditions - Walsh Middle School](#)
- Tuesday, November 18 6:30pm
 - [Winter Concert at Round Rock ISD Performing Arts Center](#)

December

- Wednesday, December 3
 - RRHS Band Informational Meeting with Mr. Mobley - for parents and students at 6:30pm in the Walsh Band Hall
- Thursday-Saturday, December 4-6 (*Selected Students Only*)
 - Region Orchestra ([Official Region 26 Letter](#))

- Friday and Saturday, December 12-13 (*Selected Students Only*)
 - Region Band ([Official Region 26 Letter](#))
 - Region Weekend Itinerary ([Walsh Details](#))
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January

- Friday and Saturday, January 9-10
 - [Extravabandza!](#)

February

- TBA

March

- Tuesday, March 3
 - [Honor Band Midwest Recording Concert at Round Rock ISD Performing Arts Center](#)
- Tuesday and Wednesday, March 10-11
 - [Spring Solo Recitals](#)
 - Solo Recital Schedule (by last name)
- Friday, March 27 4:45pm
 - Pre-UIL Honor Band Parent Showcase

April

- Wednesday, April 1
 - Honor Band UIL - Georgetown High School Auditorium
- Tuesday and Wednesday, April 21 and 22
 - [Spring Chamber Recitals - Only for Students in an instrument choir](#)

May

- Saturday, May 9
 - Audition Recordings Due for All Returning Students
- Thursday, May 14 6:30pm

- [Spring Concert at Round Rock ISD Performing Arts Center](#)
- Friday, May 15
 - [Band Main Event Party \(Optional\)](#)