

J. Frank Dobie Junior High School

Band Handbook 2021 – 2022



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Band Director

Mr. Russell Barbee
Asst. Band Director

Mr. Vernon Simmons
Principal

Mr. Phil Jackson
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Dear Dobie Band Parents,

Welcome to the Dobie Junior High School Band Program! Our bands have achieved remarkable success with performances in our school system, the community, and at University Interscholastic League (U.I.L.) evaluations. Our students have also accomplished many individual honors such as selection to the All Region Band as well as superior performances at solo and ensemble events.

This handbook has been developed to help you and your child understand the Dobie Band Program. Clearly defined rules and expectations have been included in this manual in order to assist you. While we realize that each student is unique, we must also recognize that the band encompasses a whole group of students. Therefore, we work toward the good of the entire organization.

Please take the time to read through this handbook and complete the forms at the end and return them to the band director. We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you at the various events we will have this school year.

William Daniel & Russell Barbee
Band Directors



Introduction

This handbook is consistent with, but superseded by the School District Policy Book and the Parent-Student Handbook.

The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint all students and parents with the band program at Dobie Junior High School. The Dobie bands work toward excellence and accomplishment. This requires cooperation and dedication from all people involved: students, parents, directors and administration.

The information included in this handbook is important. Please read it carefully, sign the forms at the end and return them to the band director. Please keep this book handy for reference in order to help your child avoid unnecessary problems.

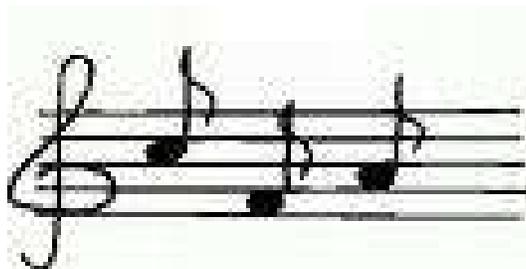
Mission Statement

To educate and encourage students to become thoughtful and discerning individuals while developing a deep appreciation for music.

In addition the program will continue to represent and reflect the positive values of our community through the involvement of musically literate and performance proficient students.

Objectives

1. To develop the skills necessary to participate successfully in the Dobie Junior High School Band and to continue into high school and beyond.
2. To become aware of and fulfill personal responsibilities to further the mutual benefit of both the organization and the individual band member. When all individuals contribute in a positive way, the group is successful.
3. To have a satisfying musical experience. The amount of fun you have with music will be equal to the amount of enthusiasm and hard work you contribute.
4. To learn proper decorum. Dobie band members are known for their good behavior at school and away. We will always strive for proper conduct and courtesy in rehearsals and performances both on and off campus.



Program Overview

The band program at Dobie Jr. High currently consists of five bands. Band placement is based on an audition process. Other considerations may be instrumentation, behavior, dependability, eligibility, etc. A brief overview of each band is described below:

The **7th Grade Concert Band** consists of 7th grade students with limited experience in need of remediation. Also, beginning band students both in 7th and 8th grades will be in this class. Students in this band will learn all of the fundamentals of reading music and playing a musical instrument. They will participate in the Fall Concert, Christmas Concert, Spring Concert and Solo and Ensemble Contest.

The **7th Grade Symphonic Band** consists of 7th grade students chosen by audition. This class will concentrate on the fundamentals of music theory and performance. Students in this band will participate in the Fall Concert, Christmas Concert, U.I.L. Concert and Sight Reading Evaluation, Spring Concert and Solo and Ensemble Contest.

The **7th Grade Advanced Band (Wind Ensemble)** consists of 7th grade students chosen by audition. This class will concentrate on the fundamentals of music theory and performance. Students in this band will participate in the Fall Concert, Christmas Concert, U.I.L. Concert and Sight Reading Evaluation, Spring Concert and Solo and Ensemble Contest.

The **8th Grade Symphonic Band** consists of 8th grade students chosen by audition. This class will concentrate on the fundamentals of music theory and performance. Students in this band will participate in football performances, Christmas Concert, U.I.L. Concert and Sight Reading Evaluation, Spring Concert and Solo and Ensemble Contest. Symphonic Band members will be expected to attend extra rehearsals. These rehearsals, organized into sections, meet once weekly for approximately one hour. Section rehearsals will take place outside of the school day.

The **8th Grade Advanced Band (Wind Ensemble)** consists of 8th grade students chosen by audition. This class will concentrate on the fundamentals of music theory and performance. Students in this band will participate football performances, Christmas Concert, U.I.L. Concert and Sight Reading Evaluation, Spring Concert and Solo and Ensemble Contest. Honor Band members will be expected to attend extra rehearsals in preparation for Region Band Tryouts in the fall and U.I.L. Evaluation in the spring. These rehearsals, organized into sections, meet once weekly for approximately one hour. Section rehearsals will take place outside of the school day.



ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR OUR BAND PROGRAM

- Academic excellence is of utmost importance for consideration into each band.
- All students in the Dobie Band Program must be in good academic standing in all of their subjects in order to participate in any U.I.L. event.
- All students must demonstrate a positive attitude toward their learning.
- All students must demonstrate a willingness to practice and excel on their instruments.

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS & STUDENT CONDUCT

Dobie Junior High School band members have the reputation of being very well behaved both on and off campus. Parental and administrative support for our policies make it possible to travel anywhere with confidence concerning student behavior, and maximum use of class time is gained because little time is wasted due to distractions.

Student conduct and behavioral expectations will be explained on the first day of school. An individual may need to be warned if inappropriate behavior is observed. Misbehavior will be handled appropriately according to school and district procedures. In general consequences include a discussion with the student, communication with the parents, lunch detention, a scheduled parent/teacher conference, and finally a referral to the Vice Principal. Severe infractions are immediately referred to the Vice Principal.

Class Rules

1. BE ON TIME TO CLASS
2. BRING ALL MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT TO CLASS EVERYDAY
3. PLEASE DO NOT SPEAK OR PLAY WITHOUT PERMISSION
4. STAY IN YOUR SEAT
5. REFRAIN FROM BRINGING GUM, CANDY, FOOD OR DRINKS OF ANY KIND INTO THE BAND HALL
6. TREAT TEACHERS, OTHER BAND STUDENTS, THE BANDHALL AND EVERYTHING IN IT WITH RESPECT



DAILY ROUTINE

The Band Hall is unlocked each morning before school to allow students to put away instruments. Students may practice before school when a director is present. Students may not remain in the band hall when a director is not present. Students may not hang out in the locker room. Students who are not in band are NOT allowed in the band hall.

Student instruments should be kept in a locker. Students will be provided with a locker and a lock. Lost lock replacement value is \$10.

When your class meets, come immediately to the Band Hall and get your instrument out. Put your music in the order listed on the board. You are marked tardy if you are not in the band hall when the tardy bell sounds ***and*** if you are not in your assigned seat ready to play when the director gives the downbeat. All cases and other belongings are left in the proper storage areas and compartments.

Do not play or talk without permission at any time. Band class is over when the director dismisses the class. When dismissed, clean out your instrument, replace it in the locker area, and leave the band hall in an orderly fashion.

The Band Hall will also be open after school for students to pick up their instruments and take them home (instruments should go home every day). Students should follow the same procedures as when they drop their instrument off before school.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

A limited number of school owned instruments are available to students who have been chosen to play that specific instrument. The parent is informed that the instrument will be issued to the student as long as he/she is in the program and maintains acceptable progress in band. It is the student's responsibility to provide his/her own mouthpiece, reeds, valve oil, cleaning kits, or any other materials necessary for playing or maintaining the instrument. An annual \$80.00 maintenance fee is required at the beginning of the school year for school owned instruments. The purpose of this fee is to insure that each instrument is checked out in good working order. All repairs necessary due to abuse or neglect is the responsibility of the student.



PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT

The school district provides all percussion equipment necessary for Junior High School band performance. Only percussion students are permitted to use the percussion equipment. Non-percussion students are not to touch, move, play or pretend to play on any of the percussion equipment! All percussion students will need to purchase the following items:

- 1 pair general purpose snare sticks (SD1 or comparable)
- 1 pair medium yarn mallets
- 1 pair medium timpani mallets
- 1 pair medium plastic xylophone/bell mallets (white polyballs)
- A stick bag with your name on it

This is to prevent the borrowing and/or misplacement of sticks and mallets between the percussion students. Percussionists should store stick bags in their band locker before and after class.

SUPPLIES

ALL students will need to purchase a copy of *Foundations for Superior Performance* by Richard Williams & Jeff King. Students in the **Concert Band** class will also need to purchase a copy of *Essential Elements Book 1*. Students are required to have the following supplies for their instruments to keep them in proper playing condition:

- Flute - a tuning rod and a swab
- Double Reeds - cork grease, swab, a minimum of *3 good reeds at all times*. Reed strength is determined on an individual basis – usually at least a medium-soft or medium. Please ask a director if you are unsure what strength to purchase.
- Clarinet - cork grease, swab, a minimum of *3 good reeds at all times*. Please choose a quality brand of reeds. Reed strength is determined on an individual basis – usually at least a 3 or 3 ½. Please ask a director if you are unsure what strength to purchase.
- Saxophone - cork grease, swab, a minimum of *3 good reeds at all times*. Please choose a quality brand of reeds. Reed strength is determined on an individual basis – usually a 3 or 3 ½. Please ask a director if you are unsure what strength to purchase.
- Trumpet, French Horn, Baritone/Euphonium, and Tuba - tuning slide grease, valve oil, cleaning snake, mouthpiece, mouthpiece cleaning brush, and polishing cloth.
- Trombone – slide grease, water spray bottle, tuning slide grease, cleaning snake, mouthpiece, mouthpiece cleaning brush and polishing cloth.

All supplies are available at the local music stores and online. Students who are unable to purchase them at the local music stores before the next school day may borrow band supplies from the band director. Students that borrow a reed must return a new, unused reed as soon as possible. All students should also have a tag with their name on it attached to their instrument case. Nametags will be provided by the band director.

INSURANCE

It is strongly recommended that all personally and school-owned instruments be insured against theft and/or damage. Some homeowner's/renter's insurance policies cover musical instruments. Parents may want to check their policy to see if their musical instruments are covered. Also, it is wise to write down the make, model and serial number of the instrument and keep it in a safe place. In the unfortunate event that an instrument is lost or stolen, this information is required in order for the police to have an opportunity to locate the instrument. Insurance companies will also need this information when filing a claim.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons for students are STRONGLY encouraged and should be given by qualified specialists on their specific instrument. While Dobie band students improve as the year progresses, students that take private lessons progress much faster and are typically the students that earn chairs in the Region Band. Only experienced people known to the director are recommended to teach Dobie band students. Payment and scheduling for private lessons is handled between the private lesson teacher and the parent. The director will publish a list of private teachers during the first week of school.

UNIFORMS

All band students are required to have the informal uniform. 8th Grade bands may also wear a formal uniform. This is still to be determined based on COVID-19 circumstances.

Informal uniform – will consist of a band t-shirt to be worn with blue jeans and tennis shoes. T-shirt order forms will be sent home early in the school year.

Formal uniform

Boys – Boys will be provided with a tuxedo outfit for a fee of \$12. Boys should have a pair of black formal dress socks and shoes to wear.

Girls – Girls will be provided with a black dress for a fee of \$12. Girls should have a pair of black formal dress shoes to wear.

GRADING GUIDELINES

Nine-weeks grades are determined by averaging formative and summative grades. Formative grades will consist of daily grades, weekly grades, homework grades, practice sheets, etc. Summative grades consist of playing tests and performances. Assignments not turned in on time will be penalized according to campus policy.

Grades assigned for public performances and competitions held either during or outside of the school day will be based on promptness, proper uniform, good conduct (including following all directions given by director, chaperones, and/or administration), and attendance for the full length of the concert.

If a student has his/her instrument in the shop for repairs, he/she is responsible for all make up efforts concerning all playing assignments. Please bring a parent-signed note to class when an instrument has been taken to be repaired. Instrument repairs in most cases should be ready within one week.

School policy requires written semester and final exams. These exams are averaged as a portion of the final semester average.

All students must have all materials and equipment necessary for a successful rehearsal (such as instrument, method book, music, pencil, etc.). Daily and weekly grades will also include important aspects of instrumental music such as tone quality and posture as demonstrated by the student. Written work may be assigned during class for students who do not have necessary equipment.

It is expected that all students take their instrument home regularly to practice. Students who are unable to transport their instrument are allowed to remain after school to practice for 30 minutes provided they have made arrangements with the director to do so.

Parents, please encourage your child to perform for you at home or for family functions. The more your child performs the higher the level of improvement. In addition, please make certain that when your child takes the instrument home that no one else is permitted to use the instrument.

Your child will not progress as needed if he or she does not practice!!!



EXCUSE POLICY

Students will be allowed to make up missed classroom assignments without penalty if a valid written excuse is provided by the student and signed by a parent. When a valid excuse is not provided, a student will be allowed to make up missed classroom assignments but will incur a late penalty. In the event that a student is unable to attend a performance, a make-up assignment may be given provided that prior written notice is given to the director. Except for obvious and extenuating circumstances, a missed performance will result in a grade of a zero if a valid and reasonable written excuse is not provided to the director in advance.

CONTESTS and ELIGIBILITY

The Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and Intermediate Band are expected to participate in the regional U.I.L. Concert and Sight Reading Evaluation held each spring. All members are required to meet criteria set by U.I.L., the school district, administration, and the band director for attendance at this event. Participation in the evaluation is denied to students who fail to meet the set criteria, have not demonstrated proper standards of behavior and/or grade performance, or by decision of the director and administration.

All members of the Dobie band program are encouraged to participate in the Texas Music Educators' Association (TMEA) Region Band auditions usually held during the fall semester. Participation by all Wind Ensemble members at this event is required. This event is a competition involving students from other schools in our region in which the highest ranking players are chosen to perform in a concert after rehearsing with a prominent director.

All members of the Dobie band program are required to participate in the annual Solo and Ensemble Contest usually held in the spring. This event is considered the "spring project" for each band member and is graded accordingly as a major grade. Director approved solos and ensembles are prepared by students and performed for evaluation and positive constructive comments.

Selection to any of these fine organizations is a high honor deserving of special recognition. Any student selected is required to attend the scheduled rehearsals and is expected to maintain eligibility.



SCHEDULED EVENTS

Below is a list of events and performances for the school year. Most events are required for participating students. Please be aware that the list may not be complete and that dates and times could change. Please mark your calendar now to avoid any unnecessary conflicts.

Saturday, September 11 – J.H. Marching Camp at Steele (optional)
Thursday, October 7 – Fall Concert at Dobie (7th only)
Friday, October 8 – 8th Grade Knight (8th only)
Wednesday, October 27 – Dobie vs. Corbett football game at District Stadium (8th only)
Saturday, November 6 – Region Band Auditions (Wind Ensemble Only)
Friday & Saturday, November 12 & 13 – Region Band Clinic and Concert
Nov. 29 – Dec. 13 – Fundraiser
Tuesday, December 7 – Christmas Concert at Dobie
Wednesday, December 8 – Band Pictures
Thursday, December 9 – 8th grade Wind Ensemble Travels to Intermediate Schools
Friday, January 29 – Band Fun Night
Wednesday, March 9 – Pre-UIL Evaluation at Steele
Thursday & Friday, March 31 & April 1 – UIL Evaluation at Steele
Tuesday & Wednesday, April 26 & 27 – Freshmen Marching Camp
Monday, May 2 – 8th grade Spring Concert at Dobie
Tuesday, May 3 – 7th grade Spring Concert at Dobie
Saturday, May 14 – Six Flags Fiesta Texas
Monday, May 16 – Solo & Ensemble Contest at Dobie

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents are the most influential people in helping students succeed in a music program. Teachers cannot ensure the success of a student in a band program simply by having them in class. The lessons and goals of the student must be reinforced and encouraged at home with individual practicing. Please encourage and motivate your band student by being active and involved with them. I am looking forward to your involvement in our band program as well! This will be another great year!



A copy of the Dobie Junior High School Band handbook may be found on the Dobie Band website and in Schoology. Please acknowledge that you understand the policies and procedures of the Dobie Band Program and that you agree to the terms outlined in the handbook.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Emergency Contact Name and Number _____

Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD
**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY AND PERMISSION
FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION ON FIELD TRIPS, TRAVEL AND SPORT EVENTS**

We (parents/guardians) agree to allow our child/ward, _____, to participate in and/or attend any and all educational tours, fine arts activities, co-curricular and extracurricular travel and activities, field trips and/or sports events sponsored by or related to the Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City Independent School District during the 2021-2022 school year, and to be transported by bus or motor vehicles driven by District employees or volunteers serving as chaperones for the activity. We understand that while student safety is a high priority for the District, under State law, the school is not responsible for medical costs associated with a student injury. **We agree to release, discharge and hold harmless the District, its Trustees, employees, and agents, in their official and individual capacities, from all claims for personal injury or property damage arising out of or in any way related to the educational tours, fine arts activities, co-curricular and extracurricular travel and activities, field trips and/or sports events sponsored by or related to the school district, including those arising as a result of the negligence of the District, its Trustees, employees and agents, whether by act or omission.**

We expressly waive all claims for medical expenses, loss of services, or other claims, and we agree to indemnify and hold harmless the District, its Trustees, employees and agents from all claims made against it or them on behalf of our child/ward.

We agree to indemnify and hold harmless the District, its Trustees, employees and agents from all claims made by third parties against it or them which result from my child’s actions on any educational tour, field trip and/or sports event sponsored by or related to the school district.

We further understand that these educational tours, field trips and/or sports events are school-related functions, and that all rules and regulations from the District’s Student Code of Conduct apply.

Consent to Medical Treatment

We authorize a representative of the District to consent to medical treatment of our child/ward, _____, in the event of medical emergency of any and all educational tours, field trips and/or sports events sponsored by or related to the Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City Independent School District during the 2021-2022 school year. We have read this **Consent to Medical Treatment** and execute it voluntarily and with full knowledge of its effect.

We understand that the District, its Trustees, employees and agents are not waiving sovereign or governmental immunity which it or they may have under Texas law.

We have read and understood this release and sign it voluntarily and with full knowledge of its significance.

Date: _____, 20__

Signature of Mother/Female Guardian

Printed Name

Signature of Father/Male Guardian

Printed Name