



# 2015-2016 HANDBOOK

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## Trent Middle School Band Vision

To make Trent, Our Community,  
 and the World a better place through  
**Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Discipline and Excellence**  
 in all we do.

## Introduction

It is our belief that **EVERY** child can be successful and we are dedicated to providing a positive learning environment for each student.

As your child embarks on this endeavor, it is imperative that you and your child understand what to expect. This is the first time since kindergarten that many students will learn something without prior knowledge. The majority of our students in 6th grade have not played an instrument before. These students, in particular, will need lots of support and encouragement at school and at home.

As with anything brand new, a person's success is largely based on their desire to succeed. We are all successful walkers (yes, walkers) because we did not give up — even after falling countless times! Whether they express it or not, your children **want** and **need** your support. *Parenting Magazine* says that as children move from elementary to middle school, their desire to tackle and master new ideas and concepts diminishes. They begin to be more tentative in pushing themselves to new limits. This is where parents and teachers can step in and teach/show them how to work through new situations.

During his career, basketball superstar Michael Jordan made 26 game winning shots and missed over 9000! This is a great chance to teach our students about the value of perseverance. This year will be full of many opportunities for growth for all of us. The Trent MS Band is developing a history of pride, hard work, and high expectations and we welcome you to our Band Family.

## Communication

### **Communication truly is the key to success**

The Band Staff of Trent MS want to be available to you to answer your questions about band, band events, and/or your child's musical progress. If you have **ANY** questions or concerns throughout the school year, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The directors frequently send information home via email as well as by hand via students. Please make sure you notify the directors should you change/update your email address. If your child has not given you any band information in a while please ask them if they have anything for you. The directors do their best to return email daily. If you do not receive a response within 24 hours please email again.

Check the website often: [www.trentmsband.com](http://www.trentmsband.com)

# Band Descriptions and Expectations

There are several performing groups in the Trent Middle School Band. Each group listed below functions as an important part of the entire band program. Bands are divided into four separate groups in order to meet the individual needs of each student. Membership in the bands is determined through audition and yearly evaluation of students' progress, ability, experience level and the Final Assessment in May.

## Symphonic Band

Symphonic Band is the flagship ensemble at Trent comprised of the most advanced 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade student musicians. Students in this band must be proficient on their instrument and must be willing to commit to regular rehearsal and practice time. Symphonic Band students will have one sectional rehearsal per week either before OR after school as well as some extra full band rehearsals throughout the year.

Students in this band are required to participate in ALL scheduled rehearsals, concerts, and pep rallies. This includes attendance at select Trent football games, clinics, concerts and competitions, as listed in the band calendar as these are graded events. Scheduled clinics are deemed as major band events and count as major test grades. In addition, each student will be required to tryout for the All Region Band and participate in the District Solo & Ensemble Festival. It is the responsibility of the student and the parent to check the band calendar and incorporate the scheduled events into your family calendar. Please note that due to unexpected district conflicts changes may need to be made to calendar dates.

In order to establish and maintain a high level of performance, Symphonic Band students will need to practice 30 to 60 minutes daily. Students will have an Objective Page each grading period containing key concepts. As students master concepts they will be checked off (initialed) by a director. Objective Pages will account for a large percentage of each student's score for each grading period. Parents will need to view and sign Objective Pages at the 3-week check period and at the end of each grading period to monitor their child's progress.

**SYMPHONIC BAND MEMBERS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WEEKLY PERSONAL TRAINING PROGRAM ALL YEAR.** Financial Assistance is available via our Booster Organization.

Students in Symphonic Band are expected to maintain passing grades as well as demonstrate outstanding citizenship in all their classes. Members who are academically ineligible more than two (2) six-week period during a school year will be removed from Symphonic Band. Symphonic Band members are the leaders of Trent MS and should represent Trent and the Band as such. Students habitually sent to ISS or OSS will be removed from Symphonic Band. Some sections may be asked to re-audition for the Spring Semester.

## Concert Band

Concert Band is comprised of advancing 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Students in this band will be encouraged to attend one section rehearsal either before OR after school per week during the Fall Semester and required to attend one section rehearsal during the Spring semester, as well as some extra full band rehearsals throughout the year.

Students in this band are required to participate in all scheduled rehearsals, concerts, and pep rallies. This includes attendance at select Trent football games, clinics, concerts and competitions, as listed in the band calendar as these are graded events. Scheduled clinics are deemed as major band events and count as major test grades. It is highly recommended that Concert Band students participate in All Region Band tryouts as well as the District Solo & Ensemble Festival. It is the responsibility of the student and the parent to check the band calendar and incorporate the scheduled events into your family calendar. Please note that due to unexpected district conflicts changes may need to be made to calendar dates.

In order to establish and maintain a high level of performance, it is recommended that Concert Band students practice 20 to 30 minutes daily. Students will have an Objective Page each grading period containing key concepts. As students master concepts they will be checked off (initialed) by a director. Objective Pages will account for a large percentage of each student's score for each grading period. Parents will need to view and sign Objective Pages at the 3-week check period and at the end of each grading period to monitor their child's progress.

Concert Band members are highly encouraged, but not required, to study privately with a professional musician (Personal Trainer). Financial Assistance is available via our Booster Organization. It will be difficult, but not impossible, to advance to Symphonic Band without personal training.

Concert Band members are expected to maintain passing grades as well as demonstrate outstanding citizenship in all their classes.

## Beginning Band

The Beginner Band is a fundamental class designed for beginning 6<sup>th</sup> and/or 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. Students meet daily for 46 minutes in like-instrument classes (flute, clarinet, double reeds, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, low brass, or percussion class), and will learn the necessary skills for instrumental performance.

The Beginner Band is intended as a training ground to prepare each student to participate in one of the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade performing bands the following year. Students will learn a vast amount of musical and instrumental concepts the first year and will perform scales, music and band literature throughout the year. Basic music concepts such as rhythm notation, music note identification, instrumental fingerings and tone production will be covered in this class.

Beginning Band students will participate in THREE public performances and one solo contest this first year. The first concert is the winter combined-concert in December. The second performance is a trip to a Band Festival\* in the spring. Students WILL be required to perform their Festival music at a high level to attend the Festival trip. *\*As this is a competition, and students' success is dependent upon one-another, students must be prepared musically.*

Our final performance of the year is at our Spring Concert in May. In preparation for our major performances, there will be a total of THREE after school rehearsals for the year (see calendar). These rehearsals are the only times during the year that all of the beginning classes are combined into a full band to prepare for the concert. In addition to the full band performances students are expected to participate in the Beginner Solo Festival at Trent in the spring. The dates and times of these rehearsals, the Spring Concert, and contest will be given out in August, so you have several months to make plans and invite family & friends. Other than these events and the rehearsals a few days preceding each event, there are NO OTHER TIME COMMITMENTS for beginning band members before or after school this first year. Attendance at all rehearsals, contests & concerts are considered major grades.

For normal progress all beginning band students are recommended to practice at least 30 minutes a day. Students will have an Objective Page each grading period containing key concepts. As students master concepts they will be checked off (initialed) by a director. Objective Pages will account for a large percentage of each student's score for each grading period. Parents will need to view and sign Objective Pages at the 3-week check period and at the end of each grading period to monitor their child's progress.

Some of the very large and very expensive instruments are owned by the school and may be issued to students selected by the director for that instrument (i.e. Oboe, Bassoon, French Horn, Euphonium, and Tuba). There is a usage fee for school owned instruments of \$50 per semester (\$100 per year). This cost covers the summer cleaning and normal adjustments only but does not cover damages done to the instrument beyond normal use.

Personal Training is a VITAL ELEMENT in a student's musical life. The opportunity to study privately with a professional musician is one of the most important factors to individual success. These professionals provide detailed, specific, one-on-one instruction tailored for your child. Of the students who make the Texas All-State Band, roughly 97% have a personal trainer! Training Sessions are taught at Trent Middle School, either before, during, or after school depending on the teachers' schedules. Sessions are half a class period per week at a cost of \$19 per lesson. Though optional, please consider personal training as a part of your child's music experience. Financial Assistance is available via our Booster Organization.

Once a student is in the seventh and eighth grade, they may participate in band, athletics and various other electives. THERE IS NOT A CONFLICT OF CLASSES, CONCERTS, OR GAMES.

## Jazz Wolves

The Trent Jazz Wolves are a limited enrollment extracurricular organization that practices outside of the school day once per week depending on the athletics schedule and the least number of conflicts. JW is open to band members who are enrolled concurrently in band. A student may not participate in only Jazz band and not a regular band class. All instruments are welcome to participate in the JW. The JW perform a few concerts during the year as well as 1-2 Jazz Festivals in the spring.

There will be a Beginning Jazz Band (Jazz pups) for 6th graders starting in April (one morning per week) and they will perform at the Cluster Jazz Concert in May.

# Classroom Policies

1. Respect your fellow band members, band directors, and YOURSELF. We are a BAND FAMILY and should treat each other in that manner. There will be ZERO TOLERANCE for the following behaviors: Theft, Fighting, Profanity, &/or Vandalism. FIRST TIME violations result in immediate referral to an Asst. Principal and Parent Conference. As an elective class, participation and membership in the Trent Middle School Band is a privilege, not a right.
2. Communicate effectively and promptly regarding conflicts with the scheduled calendar of events.
3. Look at the director when he/she is talking. It is important that the director knows that he/she has your complete attention. Focus on the rehearsal and what is being learned.
4. Do not talk during rehearsal. If you have any questions that need to be asked, please raise your hand and be called upon.
5. Be prepared for each rehearsal. Bring the proper equipment and supplies to every rehearsal. Practice your part so that you are ready for the rehearsal both mentally and physically. Every student is expected to have a pencil on his or her stand at all times. Marking music helps students to learn faster and increases productivity. A student loses 10 % of their six-weeks participation grade every time they do not have all their materials for class (Instrument, binder, reeds/mouthpiece, and pencil).
6. No food, drink, gum, "hanging out", nor running in the band hall or practice rooms. This beautiful band hall facility is provided for students by the taxpayers of Frisco ISD at a cost of over \$1 million dollars (when including instruments and equipment). Take pride in keeping it clean and free from damage. When music is not occurring, consider the band hall a quiet place. Band Students are the ONLY ones allowed in the band hall! NO STUDENT IS EVER ALLOWED IN THE TRENT BAND HALL WHO IS NOT IN BAND. YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING GUESTS INTO THE BAND HALL AT ANY TIME.
8. Lockers: Band Lockers are for musical instruments and music folders only. They are **NOT** for books and materials from other classes. You must lock your locker shut every day! Cases must remain inside your locker at all times, even during your band class.
9. Consequences: The directors hold members of the Trent Middle School Band program to high standards of accountability. The actions of each member of the band program affect the overall image of the band in both the school and the community. Students who choose band as their elective are among the best students in the school and discipline problems should be uncommon in the Trent Band program. However, if discipline actions are needed, the following consequences will occur.
  1. Verbal warning &/or Alternative assignment
  2. Student conference, & possible band detention/parent contact
  3. Band detention, parents will be contacted
  4. C-Hall and parent conference
  5. Office referral, possible removal from the band.

# Band Equipment

## STUDENT INSTRUMENTS

Your instrument is extremely valuable and proper care should be taken to maintain its value. Should your instrument be in need of repair, you must always check with your director before taking it to the repair shop. NEVER try to repair the instrument yourself, as you do not have the proper tools or skills required. All instruments must have a permanent nametag on the case handle. NO ONE SHOULD PLAY OR HANDLE AN INSTRUMENT THAT DOES NOT BELONG TO HIM/HER. It is recommended that all students have their instrument insured under their parent's home owners/renters policy!

## SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

Students who play school-owned instruments should take the same care as they would their own instrument. All instruments must have a permanent nametag on the case handle. To cover the expense of summer cleaning and adjustment, all students using school owned instruments are required to pay a maintenance fee of \$100.00 per year (oboe, bassoon, tenor saxophone, bari saxophone, bass clarinets, French horns, euphoniums, tubas). The student is liable for damage due to negligence, carelessness or loss. The student must always inform the director of any repairs needed. Students may store instruments in morning after 8:15 am. This is to prevent disturbances during sectionals. Before this time students should have their instruments with them at all times.

## INSTRUMENTS BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

Students may store instruments in morning after 8:15 am. This is to prevent disturbances during sectionals. Before this time students should have their instruments with them at all times.

**All instruments must be taken home daily.** This helps with the safety as well as the home practice requirements of the instruments. Combination locks must be used on all lockers. Locks will be checked out through a director and combinations entered into CHARMS. Detentions will be assigned to students for leaving their instruments at school.

## BAND HALL/PRACTICE ROOMS

These are your facilities and they should reflect your attitude towards the band program. Show respect to each other by keeping these areas neat and clean. NO food, soft drinks, or gum will be allowed. Students will receive 1 warning for gum; after that it is a detention. (Playing while chewing gum could result in choking.) These rooms will be available to help students fulfill their playing requirements.

## INSTRUMENT STORAGE LOCKERS

Each student will be given an instrument storage area (and lock) to keep his or her instrument in during the school day. These lockers should be used for instrument and folder storage only (not as a school or gym locker). **KEEP THEM NEAT AND CLEAN!** Care should be taken to keep lockers in good working order. No instrument should be left in the instrument locker over the weekend or on weeknights. This is a security measure for the safety of your instrument as well as the home practice requirements. **DO NOT TELL ANY PERSON YOUR COMBINATION.** Be sure to lock your locker at all times when not in class. Lost, misplaced, or stolen locks may be purchased for \$10.00. These are special order keyed locks. Personal locks may not be used on a band Locker. **NEVER PUT YOUR LOCK DOWN ON THE GROUND, INSIDE YOUR LOCKER OR ON ANYONE ELSE'S LOCKER.** Unlocked band lockers WILL result in detention assigned.

## CHAIRS / STANDS

The chairs in the band hall are for sitting only. Please keep all four legs on the floor and do not lean back in the chair. The band hall chairs are set for the largest band class and are placed in the appropriate place before school begins. **Do not move chairs** from the rows at any time. Music stands are for holding music only. **Please do not lean on the stand or write on the stand.**

## MUSIC COPIES

All students are required to have a band binder and pencils. This prevents students from losing their music. Should a student lose a copy of their music/handouts and wish a director to copy it; they will need to pay 25 cents per page copied. They may also borrow a classmate's copy and copy it themselves.

# General Supplies

All students are required to have the appropriate supplies for their instrument. Select supplies may be purchased from the band hall with band bucks or from a music store of your choice.

Flute - cleaning/tuning rod, soft clothe

Reed instruments - a minimum of (4) four good playable reeds, a reed guard (case), cork grease, & swabs for cleaning. Oboe & bassoon will need to purchase their reeds **EXCLUSIVELY** from their personal trainers. They will also need a small container of water for reeds (empty medication bottle)

Brass instruments - a soft polish cloth for cleaning, a cloth for grease & oil, valve oil, slide grease, a cleaning snake, and mouthpiece brush. (Trombones: Slide O Mix and a water spray bottle.)

Percussion - each percussion student will be provided with a list of required mallets and sticks to be purchased each year and continuing through high school.

# Practice Pointers for Parents

Your child's success in band will depend a great deal on what is achieved during daily home practice sessions. Learning takes place in school, but proficiency is gained at home. You can use the following guidelines to help your youngster at home.

## TIME SCHEDULE

A half hour a day is the minimum amount of practice time recommended for the average student. Practicing at the same time every day is good, but some flexibility should be built into this schedule. Don't bring the world to a halt at 6:30 pm every evening because it's practice time - kids need time for fun and relaxation just as adults do. If the situation merits, reschedule the practice session to an earlier or later time. Note: Beginners ONLY need to practice 10 minutes per day the first month of school and then gradually build up to 30 minutes per day after that. This is because their facial muscles have not matured enough the first month to handle 30 minutes of a practice routine without forming bad habits.

## ENVIRONMENT

Practicing should be done in an area that is free of distractions away from the TV, radio, stereo, and family traffic. Good lighting, a straight-backed chair, mirror, metronome, and a music stand are definite assets. Reed players should have several reeds available during the practice session.

## ENCOURAGEMENT

Spend some time listening to your youngster practice. Offer constructive criticisms. You do not need to be a former band member or musician to be able to hear improvement. Encourage them to play assignments and tests for you. Each time the student plays for a friend or relative, it helps them to feel more comfortable with a performance or competitive event.

## IS YOUR CHILD PROGRESSING?

For the beginning band student, the field of instrumental music is new for your child. He/She is learning to use his facial and finger muscles in a different way and his breathing apparatus for a different purpose. There is a new language of symbols (notes) that require the use of his mind and body to translate this into musical sounds. All this takes time! Even parents who have had former instrumental experience have probably forgotten the struggle of producing those first few notes and songs.

Parents can evaluate practice sessions by asking:

1. What is your assignment for today?
2. Am I hearing the same daily warm up each day? It is important to play the same daily warm up and drill before beginning the assigned material.
3. Am I hearing music that they can already play, or am I hearing attempts at new material?
4. Is the tone quality becoming more characteristic of the instrument, or is the tone harsh, unmusical, and unpleasant?
5. Does the familiar tune or exercise move along steadily with some sort of fluent rhythm, or is it halting and jerky with no steady rhythm?
- 6. Check your child's Objective Page to see if they are being successful in-class material.**

Learning how to practice is an important part of playing an instrument!

# Practice Pointers for Students

## IT'S HOW YOU PRACTICE THAT COUNTS

Incorrect habits are sometimes more easily developed than correct habits, and a habit is hard to change so THINK when you practice. Avoid simply going through the motions! Remember, the playing of your instrument comes through development of coordination, just like any athlete. Patience is a virtue for the ambitious player.

1. Warm up correctly. Each instrument should have a separate warm up for home practice that differs from the band warm up. Use a mirror and concentrate on tone quality and embouchure during long tone warm ups.
2. Set a goal for the practice session. Don't try to do too much at one sitting.
3. Isolate a problem or a section in a piece of music. It may be a rhythm, a measure, or a line of music. Repeat it over and over many times - just like shooting baskets in the basketball goal. Practice it slowly at first, and then gradually build up the speed using a metronome. Before you finish the practice session, play the difficult measures with the rest of the line or exercise.
4. Correctly played Repetition of a problem area reinforces muscle and mental memory.
5. In difficult technical passages, change the rhythms in the practice session to develop even, accurate, and fluid technique.
6. Practice involves learning and reinforcing areas that are difficult for the student. Practice, therefore, is not always fun because you must play music that you have not yet mastered. Try to end each practice session with something that is fun to play and that has already been mastered!
7. Structure your practice session to get the most benefit out of your time!

## EXAMPLE OF A STRUCTURED PRACTICE SESSION

<u>MATERIAL PRACTICED</u>	<u>(TIME in minutes)</u>	<u>GOAL</u>
Warm-up and daily drill	(5-10)	Fundamentals, tone, breath control, long tones, scales, lip slurs, embouchure, tonguing, etc.
New material and assignments	(10-15)	Develop new technique, increase range, expand capability of student
Previous and continuing material	(10-15)	Improvement of finger dexterity, tonguing, tone, musicality, etc.
Personal music choices	(5 - 10)	Enjoyment!

The practice session will vary depending on assignments and time constraints. The more consistent you are with practice time, structure, and climate, the better your results will be. Efficient use of time is important in your busy schedule.

# Orthodontia

Braces are a part of middle school life. At some point nearly every student will need to deal with braces. Braces can dramatically affect student performance in band. It is recommended that students get braces in either early Summer or over the Winter Holiday Break. These are the best times to deal with the physical changes braces bring and least affect student's performance in class. Some students have little problem adjusting to braces. Others may never play the same until the braces are removed. Working with a personal trainer will greatly help this transition.

# Personal Training Program

## VERY IMPORTANT!

Supplemental training sessions are available through the band program to all band students. Individual instruction is extremely beneficial due to the one on one teaching environment. The supplemental teacher is able to design a program that meets each individual's needs and each student is able to progress at his/her own rate of ability.

Personal Training is very important! Please consider taking training sessions BEFORE considering the purchase of a new instrument!

Professional teachers on each instrument will be available to teach during band class, before school, or after school. Sessions will be scheduled at your convenience on a first come basis. Students will be taught once a week during the school day. The cost of these lessons is \$19.00 per half-class session, per week. Some sessions are available DURING school hours; however, this is entirely dependent on the availability and schedule of the instructor. If more students request during school sessions than are slots available, it is "first-come-first-served." Contact your personal trainer now!

Sessions are half a class period in length – 23 minutes.

Personal Training Scholarships: The Trent Middle School Band Boosters graciously provide personal training scholarships for those students who can demonstrate financial need. The boosters will match 50% of the cost of the training each week (\$9.50). Scholarship selection criteria and Applications are available online at TBA or from a band director.

Much of the successes of the middle school and high school bands in North Texas can be attributed to their supplemental personal training programs. In the past, the high number of students enrolled in the program throughout the Frisco School district has allowed the Frisco ISD Bands to maintain a high standard of performance. Supplemental training is not required, but is strongly recommended.

Students/Parents responsibilities to the supplemental personal trainer:

1. Be fully prepared for each session.
2. Bring a pencil, method books, and any other required materials to each session.
3. The personal trainer may require additional textbooks or music.
4. Notify your personal trainer 24 hours in advance in the event a session must be missed\*\*\*\*. Failure to do this, results in an unexcused absence and the session must still be paid for. Excused absences by the student or the teacher shall be rescheduled or the money will be refunded.
5. The cost of each session is \$19.00 and should be paid one month in advance.
6. Due to the nature of the instructors' financial arrangement, we ask that any student wishing to discontinue the lesson program wait until the end of the semester.
7. Personal Trainers' phone numbers and e-mail addresses can be found online at:  
www.trentmsband.com

# Band Grading Policy

Major Grades - 40% = All performances as listed in the Band Calendar (including Concerts & Contests, Clinics\*, 2-3 Beginner Rehearsals)

Minor Grades - 40% = Objective Pages

Homework Grades - 20% = Sectionals\*, Objective Page/Pencil Checks, Sectional Tests

\*Section Rehearsals, Football Games, and Clinic grades are only for 7th & 8th graders in Symphonic Band and Concert Band, not Beginners.

**Concert Dress** (Part of Major Performance Grade)

Beginners - "Best Dress" (NO sneakers, jeans, shorts, or t-shirts)

Boys - Slacks, collared shirt (tucked in), coat and tie optional

Girls - Skirt/dress (must be below knees when sitting) or slacks, dress shirt

Symphonic and Concert – Dress Black (NO sneakers, jeans, shorts, or t-shirts)

Boys - Black slacks, black collared shirt (tucked in), black belt, black shoes and socks

Girls – Black skirt/dress (must be below knees when sitting) or slacks, dress shirt

## Objective Pages

Students will have an Objective Page each grading period containing key concepts. As students master concepts they will be checked off (initialed) by a director. Objective Pages will account for a large percentage of each student's score for each grading period. Parents will need to view and sign Objective Pages at the three-week check period and at the end of each six-week grading period to monitor their child's progress.

Objective Pages allow students and parents to see the main learning goals for each grading period. While these learning goals are not the only ones taught in a grading period, they are the most important. Giving students the opportunity to see what needs to be learned ahead of time leads to better-trained musicians and the most effective use of practice time. One class day each week will be given for directors to hear students perform objectives. It is crucial that students are prepared to master at least 2-3 objectives during this time.

All performance material must be performed with characteristic tone quality (including vibrato when appropriate), correct notes, rhythm, dynamics, phrasing, articulation, and intonation. Percussionists must use correct sticking. Failure to pass-off material will require a minimum of one day to practice the assignment before another attempt can be made.

## Attendance Policy

Regular attendance and participation is important for your daily progress and development. Participation in rehearsals and performances outside normal school hours is a required part of the band program. Absences for personal illness, and other extenuating circumstances are sometimes unavoidable. When possible, the parent should give advance notice to the director of any absence. Unexcused absences from class or from any rehearsal or performance may result in a lowered grade or a zero for that performance.

Should you know ahead of time that your child will not be present for a required performance; an alternative assignment may be given to replace the missed grade.

An unexcused absence from any required performance by a Symphonic Band member may result in removal to another band class even on a first offense.

STUDENTS ARE CONSIDERED TARDY ONE MINUTE AFTER THE TARDY BELL/SECTIONAL TIME BEGINS. This is to allow students to manage the combination on their lockers, carefully assemble their instruments, and be seated with all materials. Students will NOT be allowed to "run" through the band hall in an attempt to "beat the clock." The band will follow the Trent Middle School tardy policy for consequences following these warnings. Points may be deducted from the sectional grade due to tardiness. We need every minute of the class time to become a great band!!

Communication of attendance conflicts is an important skill for students to develop. Adequate and thorough communication skills will require the assistance of both the parent and the director. Please remember that it is always helpful to have both a written and verbal communication plan. The main office does not notify the teacher of the details regarding absences. Please e-mail (preferred [kellybe@friscoisd.org](mailto:kellybe@friscoisd.org)) or call Mr. Kelly (or (469) 633-4420) in the event of an absence or conflict AS SOON as it is known.

## Section Rehearsals (NOT FOR BEGINNING BAND)

Section rehearsals are crucial to maintaining a quality band program. Small group work with like instruments ensures adequate individual attention and section development. Symphonic and Concert Band students are required to attend one hour long section rehearsal per week for a grade. During these sectionals students will work on fundamental skills necessary to play their instrument, practice difficult sections of music including the All-Region music, and have opportunities to complete Objectives. Academic grades can and will be taken during this sectional time before or after school.

Section rehearsal days will be scheduled starting the second full week of school. In order to accommodate the student athletes and cheerleaders, sectional days and times may need to change at the beginning of each new sport. Every attempt will be made to schedule around athletic games and other school activities.

Sectionals will be either in the morning (7:15-8:15 am) OR afternoon (3:45-4:45 pm) depending on the least number of sports conflicts. Please try to schedule doctors' appointments, tutorials, etc. at times that do not conflict with weekly section rehearsals. If unavoidable conflicts occur, please communicate these conflicts promptly in writing along with a verbal explanation from the student and/or parent. Students' grades may be lowered for absences/tardies. Communication is vital to a successful program.

## Eligibility Requirements

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) states that band students are ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities for the six weeks period immediately following a six weeks grade of 69 or less in ANY subject area. However, if after the 3 week progress report, that student is passing all of his/her classes, he/she becomes eligible at the end of the 4th week. This "no pass - no play" rule (Texas House Bill 72) effects all extracurricular events such as football performances, pep rallies, competitions, U.I.L. Contest, etc. Students not academically eligible during UIL prep (Spring Semester) will be required to work on core class work during band to improve grades.

NOTE: Band rehearsals, sectionals, and concerts are an extension of classroom activities, not extracurricular, so the "no pass, no play" rule does not apply and students are required to attend these events. See above regarding the UIL policy. Students have a responsibility to pass their classes and be eligible for band events and contests. Each student plays a vital role in the band and we are dependent upon each other for success! It has been our experience that most students who fail a class are simply not turning in their work.

## Commitment

The impression that the band makes has a great deal to do with the spirit, pride, and future reputation we will create for our school and for our band. You must make a real effort to learn and improve daily in school and in band. Be a hard worker in everything you do, as that will benefit you in all that you do for the rest of your life. Regular practice on your instrument is your responsibility in order for the band to improve and be successful. The Trent Middle School Band will only be the best if its members are dedicated to being the very best musicians they can be. Remember you are an important part of the Trent Middle School Band.

*The Directors have the right to handle each situation that arises on a case by case basis.*

# TMS Band Handbook Signature Page

"I have read and understand all the handbook information and agree to participate fully in the band program for the 2015-2016 school year. I understand that band is a full year commitment and as long as I am in band I will attend all required activities (see calendar). I will strive to continually do my best and keep a positive attitude. I also understand that I am fully responsible for not only my own classroom items (personal instrument, binder, etc.), but also those that are checked out to me (school instrument, music, etc.) either briefly or for the school year."

Student Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Signature \_\_\_\_\_

"I have read and understand all the handbook information and give my permission for my student to be involved in all the band activities described within the handbook for the 2014-2015 school year. I understand that band is a full year commitment and as long as my child is in band I will support my child's decision to be a part of this great organization.

I understand that my child, as a **7/8<sup>th</sup> grader**, must attend weekly sectionals as well as, in rare cases, additional rehearsals. I understand these are graded rehearsals and if there is a transportation issue I need to contact the directors as soon as possible. I understand that my child as a **6<sup>th</sup> grader** must attend 2-3 after school rehearsals for the year prior to major performances, and that these are graded rehearsals.

I understand that my child plays an important and vital role in the band and will try to schedule doctor's appointments, etc. around these extra rehearsals. I also understand that I am fully responsible not only for my child's own classroom items (personal instrument, binder, etc.), but also those that are checked out to him/her (school, music, etc.) either briefly or for the school year and that I am liable for damage to or loss of any school equipment and/or music."

Parent/Guardian Printed Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Directors Pledge

"We have prepared ourselves as best as possible for the 2015-2016 school year and will strive to the best of our ability to be the best possible teachers we can be. We understand that these are the most important people in your life and they deserve our respect, fairness, and care."

*Benjamin Kelly*

Benjamin Kelly  
Band Director

*Jessica Coleman*

Jessica Coleman  
Associate Director

*Nathan Sundberg*

Nathan Sundberg  
Percussion Director

This form must be completed online where it will be kept on file. It must be completed for your child to participate in any extra activities.