

BAND HANDBOOK

Forte Jr. High Band Handbook 2023-2024

Attendance - Attitude - Effort

Hughlen White
Ben Eades
Michael Strange

Director
Associate Director
Percussion Director

William Manley
Annie Pinion
Trevelyn Everitt-Gyure

Forte Principal
Forte Asst. Principal
Forte Asst. Principal

Joni Bettis
Gina Wise

Hoover Principal
Hoover Asst. Principal

Forte Jr. High School
479 Sandy Beach Rd

Hoover Elementary School
484 Sandy Beach Rd

How to Contact Band Staff

With many students in the band program, the directors receive many calls and messages. Our goal is to respond to every message in a timely manner.

You may e-mail us at the following address:

Mr. White	ewhite@azleisd.net
Mr. Eades	beades@azleisd.net
Mr. Strange	mstrange@azleisd.net

E-mail is the most effective way to reach us!

You may call during a conference time: We are not always near a phone during this time, but it is the best time to try to reach us. We may use conference time for band-related errands. In general, we teach during every period of the school day. Sometimes it is possible to reach us during the 5 minute passing time between classes. Regardless of what time you call, you may always leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible.

Forte Jr. High Main Office:	817-270-1133
Hoover Elementary Main Office:	817-444-7766

Expectations

Any behavior which is not representative of good citizenship as perceived by band staff or administrative staff may result in the student's dismissal from the band program. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both public and private events.

Before/After School Band Room Conduct

The band room may have extended hours outside of school. Students are welcome to come practice during this time.

When allowed in the band room before or after school, students shall not disturb any sectional or rehearsal that is in progress. Students that fail to adhere to this expectation will be asked to leave immediately.

Practice rooms are for practicing, NOT social gatherings. No more than 2 students should occupy a practice room at a time. Food, gum, candy, & drink are prohibited. Failure to properly use practice rooms will result in loss of privileges for individual students.

Cell Phone Policy

Students **are not** permitted to use cell phones during rehearsals, sectionals, concerts, or performances. The first infraction will result in the cell phone being collected with a warning. The cell phone will be returned to the student at the end of rehearsal, class, or the sectional. The second infraction will result in student cell phones being turned into the front office.

In the event that a student must bring their cell phone to a concert or performance, students must leave their cell phone in their instrument case and may access it upon the conclusion of the event.

Band Hall Rules	Consequences
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No gum, food, or drinks (except water)• Do not touch any equipment that does not belong to you• No talking during rehearsal, except when directed• Cell phones are put away	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Verbal Warning• Conference with band director• Email home• Phone call home• Discipline Referral

Expectations (cont.)

- ◆ Always take responsibility for your actions.
- ◆ Enter and leave the band hall in a quiet, respectful, and most importantly, in a professional manner.
- ◆ Attend all rehearsals, both during and out of school.
- ◆ Only water bottles are allowed in the band hall. Leave food, gum, and other drinks outside of our band area.
- ◆ Do your part to help keep the band hall clean and well-organized.
- ◆ Conduct instrument maintenance (such as cleaning, valve oil etc.) outside of rehearsal time.
- ◆ Make sure that your band supplies are stored in your band locker. Lost or missing supplies are always a result of items not being put away.
- ◆ Instruments should go home every day for practice. This is mandatory for every weekend and holiday.
- ◆ Bring all of your equipment (band binder with pencil pouch and pencils, music, instrument, supplies, and a positive attitude.) to each band class or function.

Grading Policy

Daily Participation and Supply Checks

Students are expected to bring all of their band supplies and participate in class every day. Students are not allowed to “sit-out” of band class for any reason, unless a doctors note is provided.

Students who do not have an instrument will be given an alternate assignment to earn credit that day.

Attendance at performances

All performances are marked on the calendar as mandatory events. These events cannot be made up. See Attendance Policy.

Attendance at Rehearsals

These include: sectionals and any other co-curricular activities, like master classes and clinics. One section rehearsal, band rehearsal/clinic per grading period may be made up before the end of the grading period. Arrangement should be met with the director. Parents and students should understand that the educational value of a missed rehearsal/clinic cannot really be made up by practicing alone. Please make every effort to attend all rehearsals/clinics.

Quiz and Test Grades

Quiz and Test grades will be heard live and/or recorded during section rehearsals and band class. A zero will be given to any student who is absent or refuses to take a playing test. Any playing test below 70% can be raised up to a 70% by re-performing the selection for a director on or before the last Tuesday of the grading period.

The success of our students is directly proportional to the overall attendance rate throughout the year. Please make every effort to schedule your medical, dental, or other appointments around band activities and class time.

Fees for all Hoover and Forte Students

Band fees are not covered under the AISD budget. It is important to remember that fundraising monies are strictly used for travel, concert events, spring festivals, clinicians, and other band related expenses. These fees are non-refundable and the band will not refund money due to a student's ineligibility as a result of UIL's *no pass/no play* rules.

No students will be denied the ability to participate for financial reasons.

You may choose to pay the fees or participate in fundraisers to help cover fees. Remember, students will only receive a percentage of the total money they fundraise.

Band Activities Fee: \$75 for the year.

This includes t-shirt, supplies, entry fees, travel fees, and band trip.

Instrument Usage Fee: \$75 for the year.

Description is below. (certain instruments only)

**Payment plans are available if needed. Please contact the directors directly. All band fees are required to be paid in full to be eligible for band trips.*

Instrument Usage Fee Explained

This fee is for school owned instruments only: oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor sax, French horn, euphonium, tuba, 7th/8th grade percussion.

The fee will cover repairs, cleaning, replacement parts, and anything else the instrument may need to remain fully functioning for the next student.

If the instrument is returned with major damage the student may be responsible for funding the repair to the damage through a company we provide.

Procedures and Policies

Commitment to Excellence

We expect a 100% full school year commitment from every student. Band is a full year class. School policy states that there will be no schedule changes made out of band during the school year. This policy will ensure our success as a band program and that each child receives a solid musical education and appreciation by completing the entire curriculum.

Concerts & Performances

Students will be required to perform in concerts and other events each semester. They will be evaluated on proper concert & audience etiquette. Students are required to stay for the duration of the event and are not permitted to leave early. Concerts & performances count as a test grade.

Sectionals

Once a week sectionals are required for students in Wind Ensemble. Sectionals will count as a grade and playing tests will be given during this time. Sectional days and times will be determined each year based on pre-existing conflicts. If there are any transportation issues, please let the band directors know.

Attendance Policy

Excused Absences/Tardiness

Absences may be excused in the event of illness, medical emergency, personal injury, or death in the family. In the event of illness, a doctor's note should be submitted to the directors upon return to school. An alternate assignment will be given for credit of up to 100% if completed correctly in the time frame given.

Unexcused Absences/Tardiness

Students with unexcused absences to concerts or performances may earn up to 70 percent of the test grade with an alternate assignment.

Student Injury

In the event that a student is injured and unable to perform on their instrument, attendance is still mandatory at all required band events, performances, sectionals, & rehearsals. An alternate assignment will be provided to make up a playing grade.

Band Uniform Guidelines

Concert Uniform

Students will receive a black dress shirt for events that require professional dress. The dress shirt *must* be worn with the following:

- ◆ Black dress pants (absolutely no holes or rips, and no black jeans)
- ◆ Black dress shoes with black socks or black flats
- ◆ Black belt with understated buckle (if applicable)

Informal Uniform

- ◆ **Forte Band Shirt:** The shirt is a screen-printed crew-neck short-sleeved tee shirt. Shirts that have been lost or damaged must be replaced at the student's expense, so take care of your Band Shirt until the end of the current school year.
- ◆ **Blue Jeans:** Only full-length jeans are acceptable; no shorts or Capri pants. These must fit the student properly. "Skinny" jeans or saggy jeans that leave undergarments or body parts exposed are not acceptable. These should not contain rips, writing, or other distracting markings.
- ◆ **Closed-toe Tennis Shoes or Casual Shoes:** Avoid flip-flops, house slippers, crocs, or open-toe shoes.

Uniformity for public performances is extremely important. Any concerns about uniforms should be addressed with the band directors. We want every student and parent to feel comfortable with their appearance for public performances and we will work with you however we can to make that happen.

ENSEMBLES

The primary difference between the SFJH bands is the difficulty of musical literature and techniques that students are responsible to rehearse and perform.

- ◆ **Concert Band** - performs middle school-level music, appropriate to their age level and ability, while challenging them with new musical techniques and curriculum.
- ◆ **Symphonic Band** - performs advanced middle school level literature and more advanced instrumental techniques. Grades, attitude, and work ethic are significant factor for placement in this ensemble.
- ◆ **Wind Ensemble** - consistently performs advanced middle school level and High School level literature, practices advanced instrumental techniques, and has weekly section rehearsals. Grades, attitude, and work ethic are significant factor for placement in this ensemble.
- ◆ **Forte Jazz Band** – performs highly advanced musical literature and highly advanced musical techniques. Most students who try out will not get a spot. We are looking for students who consistently: practice, pass all their classes, demonstrate excellent work ethic, have excellent attendance, exhibit a great attitude, and thrive in a challenging environment. Students who already play a jazz band instrument will be given priority. Jazz instruments are trumpet, trombone, saxophone, piano, drum set, bass guitar, and vibraphone. If there are not enough students on those instruments to fill the band, students on other instruments will get the chance to tryout.

Academic Eligibility

- Students are required to pass all classes on the report card in order to participate in contests, festivals, and other extracurricular events. The student may regain eligibility at the progress report.
- *Regular concerts and rehearsals are considered curricular and are required of all students regardless of academic standing. Students are required to maintain a 70 or higher in ALL classes to be eligible for band trips & other social events regardless if they are Pre-AP or advanced courses.*