

STRICKLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND STUDENT HANDBOOK

2019-2020



**Nachel Konemann, Director of Bands
Ray Velasquez, Associate Director of Bands
Akira Robles, Percussion Director**

**Kathleen Carmona, Strickland Middle School Principal
Carly Rogers, Strickland Middle School Assistant Principal
Tony Peters, Strickland Middle School Assistant Principal**

**Jackie deMontmollin, Denton ISD Director of Fine Arts
Eddy Russell, Denton ISD Assistant Director of Fine Arts
Mary Brown, Denton Ryan High School Band Cluster Leader**

A Note to the Strickland Middle School Band Families:

Congratulations on being a member of the Strickland Viking Band. The Strickland Middle School Band Program has a long tradition of excellence that is known throughout the state of Texas. It is through the hard work of many people, especially the students, that this tradition has grown and flourished for many years and will continue for many years to come.

This handbook has been developed by the band directors to familiarize each band member and parents with: (1) the general operations and procedures of band, and (2) the standards by which all band members are expected to conduct themselves. All students and parents are expected to read the entire handbook carefully to avoid conflicts with the procedures and rules stated within.

We recommend saving or printing a copy of this handbook and keeping it accessible throughout the year as it provides the answers to students and parents' questions. Please read through the handbook thoroughly.

As your Band Directors we are committed to lead by example and will strive to be the best teachers we can be on a daily basis at Strickland Middle School. Every day we will do our best to treat each student with respect, dignity, and fairness.

We are looking forward to an exceptional year!

Nachel Konemann
Director of Bands
Strickland Middle School

Ray Velasquez
Associate Director of Bands
Strickland Middle School

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Contacting the Strickland Band Directors and Private Staff

Please reach out to the band directors with any questions not addressed in this handbook as the directors are available to assist with any band concerns. All of the band staff field a large number of phone calls, emails, and in-person meetings on a daily and weekly basis so please allow 24-48 hours for a response deemed urgent by the directors. When writing a handwritten note, please include an email, phone number and name.

Nachel Konemann
Director of Bands
(940)369-4259
nkonemann@dentonisd.org

Ray Velasquez
Associate Director of Bands
(940)369-4259
rvelasquez@dentonisd.org

A separate listing with the contact information for the Strickland Private Lesson Staff is also available on the Strickland Band website at stricklandband.com.

Communication

Please understand that the communication to you, the parents, is a very high priority for the Strickland Band Directors. Throughout the year the Strickland Band will send information home in the form of letters and/or emails. Each piece of information sent to you will regard your student. The Band Directors ask that you return any return-slips or signed-sheets within 24-48 hours. Please read sent information carefully, check calendars often, and inform the Band Directors of any conflicts.

In an effort to make information more readily accessible and reduce the amount of paper messages printed, the Strickland Band incorporates various forms of electronic communication to ensure that parents and students have the most current and accurate information. One of these services is the use of Charms Office Assistant to send group emails. The other is Remind.com which is a web-to-text messaging system that sends one-way text messages from the internet to the receiver's mobile phone or device. Information on enrollment in these programs will be presented at the beginning of each year. Please ensure that you and your family are subscribed to both services and contact a director if you are having trouble getting registered.

Website

Please check <https://www.dentonisd.org/Page/16148>, our band website, for important information for students and parents. On the website you will have access to the handbook, forms, new & events, media performances, and other pertinent information.

Statement of Responsibility

By enrolling in the Strickland Middle School Band, you are making a commitment to the band as an organization, and more importantly, to yourself and the other students in the band. This commitment includes accepting responsibility for the following:

- Participate as a member of the band for the full school year.
- Attend all scheduled sectionals, rehearsals, and performances.
- Maintain a positive attitude and support the goals of the band.

Program Philosophy

The Strickland Middle School Band exists in a number of capacities within the overall school environment. As a curricular course in the State of Texas, band is an elective class with defined instructional objectives for the individual student. As a campus organization, the band enhances the aesthetic quality of life for all students and promotes school spirit and pride.

As a part of the overall band program, the Strickland Band is the first part of a seven year journey culminating in membership in the Denton Ryan High School Band, Denton High School Band, Braswell High School Band, or Denton Guyer High School Band.

- In serving these multiple roles, there are several key goals for student success. In the Strickland Middle School Band, students should:
- Perform proficiently on their instrument individually and as member of an ensemble.
- Develop the ability to understand and evaluate musical performances as an informed listener.
- Develop an understanding of our musical heritage and recognize the importance of music in our culture.
- Develop self-confidence and self-discipline by working as a team member.
- Build citizenship traits through mutually respectful relationships with teachers and peers.
- Build a framework for the lifelong appreciation of music.

Schedule Changes

Band is a full-year course. Students who sign up for band are making a commitment to the students in the organization to participate for the entire academic year. Students may not drop band after the first week of school unless there is an extenuating circumstance approved by the directors.

The directors reserve the right to change students from one ensemble class to another based on the needs of the ensemble or reasons related to an individual's performance, attendance, or conduct.

Absence Policy

It is not possible to make up missed content in a performance-based band class. The art of musicianship and group rehearsal can only happen when all members are present. It is necessary for all members to be present in order to benefit from music instruction, rehearsal, and performance.

Students are expected to attend all performances. Every piece of music performed has approximately 30 unique parts. Therefore, in a band of 50 students, there are only 1-2 people per part. That means that when a child misses a performance that the unique part he/she plays will not be present. In some cases, this may cause a band to forfeit a performance or contest due to missing parts. If it is absolutely necessary for a child to miss a performance, it is imperative that written notice be provided to a director at least **2 weeks** prior in order for changes in performance selections to occur before spending an extended amount of time learning the material.

For the same reason, students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled rehearsals. Though the majority of rehearsals are during the school day, there are periodically additional rehearsals and special clinics where the success of the group depends on the attendance of the individual. If it is absolutely necessary for a child to miss a rehearsal, written notice must be provided to a director at least **1 week** in advance.

Absences from a rehearsal or performance may only be considered excused if the absence is due to illness, family emergency (illness, death, etc.), religious observance, or certain school-related schedule conflicts. In regards to illness, our policy is that any student that is well enough to attend school will attend any required band events before or after school on that day. A student may be excused from after school if they left school early before the end of the day with a fever confirmed by the school nurse. Non-school activities and transportation arrangements are not considered excused absences. The directors reserve the right to determine whether or not an absence is excused or unexcused.

For excused absences, alternate assignments will be given to students who are absent in order to satisfy grade requirements. However, there is no substitute for the experience of group musicianship and the information presented in class. The band is an interdependent organization, and every student is important to our success. Please avoid scheduling non-emergency doctor, dentist, orthodontic, and similar appointments during your child's band class or other scheduled rehearsals and performances.

Digital Citizenship

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that band member websites are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Members are responsible for their personal websites and postings, as well as posting from or on other students' websites.

The areas of appropriateness will include but are not limited to profane, foul, or disrespectful language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, references to alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, and postings (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening towards other DISD teaching staff or band members, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other bands. Any such incident will result in review by the principal (or designee) and may lead to probation or dismissal from the band.

In addition to the considerations listed above under Probation and Dismissal, band members that violate the above guidelines shall be subject to the following: Upon confirmation of a violation, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the website(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal, directors, and band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior.

If a violation occurs that is deemed to be of a more serious nature, including but not limited to a threat, bullying, inappropriate and/or foul language, or a series of violations, the student may be subject to a higher level of discipline as determined by the director and school administration, such as suspension, probation, or dismissal from the band.

Media Consent

The students of the Strickland Band will occasionally be photographed at school and band events for various published materials including our recruiting brochure, event flyers, yearbook, and our website <https://www.dentonisd.org/Page/16148>. We also maintain an active Facebook and Instagram page.

Photos of the Strickland Band will be used to highlight the achievements of groups and individuals and promote the Strickland Band. Please inform the directors if you do not wish for your students picture to be placed on the website or facebook.

Charms Privacy Notice

CHARMS is an online data information and communication website that we use to keep members informed about events, practices, and other important updates.

Depending on the level of access set by the director or teacher, the website may contain contact information for students and parents, directory information for students, and confidential information such as payments made, account balances, uniforms, grades, practice logs, etc. Users and administrators of the website agree to protect the privacy of the information, and agree not to use any information for non-program related purposes.

Charms Access

Denton ISD subscribes to the CHARMS Music Office Assistant software for managing various components of our music programs. This software assists with keeping student records, inventory, and a number of other essential parts of our band program. CHARMS is a secure program with information only accessible to Strickland Band staff and Denton ISD music administrators. Your contact information will only be used to send information and reach you regarding issues in the band program. Please take a moment to access your child's CHARMS account and enter and/or update your contact information. You may also wish to explore the various features of CHARMS, particularly the event calendar and handouts section. To access CHARMS, please do the following:

- 1) Log on to www.charmsoffice.com
- 2) Under "Parent/Student Login" enter the following code: stricklandmsband
- 3) In the box labeled "Student ID/Password" enter your password (your child's 6-digit Denton ISD Student ID number for first-time logins).
- 4) You should then be taken to the main screen for your child's account

Calendar of Events

Each student will receive a calendar of band activities for the school year. An updated calendar and interactive monthly calendar can also be found on the Strickland Band website. All attempts are made to provide accurate information, but some adjustments to the calendar may be made during the school year. Should the need arise, the directors will provide updated information as soon as possible.

Please take a few moments to place Strickland Band events on your family calendars. All events are required unless otherwise noted on the document. In efforts to allow students to participate in multiple campus organizations, the directors coordinate with the staff at Strickland to ensure that band events do not conflict with other school activities. In the event that another school activity conflicts with a scheduled band event, please communicate with your child's director immediately. The directors will work quickly with other staff members at Strickland to find resolution for such conflicts.

Parents are asked to plan ahead to resolve conflicts with scheduled band activities. Unexcused absences from a required activity can result in a lowering of the student's grade, adjustment to band placement, or removal from the program. Please refer to the "Absence Policy" section for more information on schedule conflicts.

Please note that some individual events (All-District, All-Region, Solo & Ensemble Contest) allow for flexibility in scheduling for each student. Visit with a Band Director if you anticipate a schedule conflict with one of these events.

Class Schedule

AM Activities	Sectionals, Pass Offs, Private Lessons, Tutorials (Vary by Day)
1st Period	Conference - Konemann Conference - Velasquez
2nd Period	Double Reeds - Konemann Euphonium/Tuba - Velasquez Percussion - Robles
3rd Period	Wind Ensemble (Varsity) - Konemann/Velasquez
4th Period	Flute - Konemann Trombone - Velasquez
5th Period	Clarinet - Konemann Trumpet - Velasquez
6th Period	Symphonic Band (Non-Varsity) - Velasquez/Konemann
7th Period	Jazz Band - Velasquez
8th Period	Saxophone - Konemann French Horn - Velasquez
PM Activities	Sectionals, Pass Offs, Private Lessons, Tutorials (Vary by Day)

Sectionals

Weekly section rehearsals are an essential part of the 7th and 8th grade band curriculum. Section rehearsals, more commonly called Sectionals, are once a week before or after school rehearsals for individual sections of the band and are designed to meet the specific instructional needs of that section that cannot be addressed during full rehearsal. Sectionals are required and students will be graded on their preparation and performance. Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band morning sectionals generally run from 7:20–8:10 am and 3:45–4:35 pm in the afternoon. During certain times of the year Symphonic Band sectionals may be shorter. Beginning Band students do not have sectionals.

Students must attend the sectional for which they are scheduled each week. It is not possible to attend a sectional for another group. Every attempt is made to avoid conflicts with school athletic practices and other school activities. Occasionally conflicts may occur and the directors will work to resolve those conflicts directly with the other staff members at Strickland. In agreement with our Strickland Athletic Department, our current policy allows for school athletes to miss one athletic practice per week to attend their once-per-week band sectional if there is a conflict. In exchange, the band will not schedule performances at the same time as a game. In the event that a student will need to miss a regular athletic practice, the directors will communicate that conflict directly to the coaches.

The teachers at Strickland consistently work together to ensure that students can participate in multiple activities and organizations. Students should let their directors know if there is a conflict that needs to be resolved. Non-school activities, other than religious observances, are not excusable reasons for missing a section rehearsal. In accordance with our absence policies, students who miss a Sectional due to an excused absence should see their director to make-up the assigned material within two days of their return to school. Failure to complete an appropriate make-up assignment within a week of the missed rehearsal will result in no credit.

Unexcused absences will result in no credit for the rehearsal. Tutorials and detentions for other classes are offered at various times throughout the week and are not considered excused absences from section rehearsal. Since there is only one morning or afternoon scheduled for band section rehearsals for each student, tutorials and detentions for other classes need to be scheduled at alternative times. Please do not schedule routine doctor, dental, or orthodontic appointments at your child's section rehearsal time.

Students will receive a weekly grade for their performance and attendance at section rehearsals. 50% of the grade is musicianship and professionalism in alignment with the TEKS. The other 50% is comprised of the weekly performance assignment. Weekly assignments will be given at each section rehearsal and evaluated the following week. Students will be graded on a 1-5 scale following the Texas UIL rubric.

Sectional Grading Rubric (100 points total)

Performance Assignment (50 points)	Musicianship (50 points)
1st Division (50 points) 2nd Division (40 points) 3rd Division (30 points) 4th Division (20 points) 5th Division (10 points) No attempt (0 points)	Uses listening skills (10 points) Makes musical markings (10 points) Evaluates performance (10 points) Demonstrates rehearsal etiquette (10 points) Sight-reading (10 points)

The Strickland Middle School Band Courses:

Wind Ensemble (Honors 7th-8th Grade)

Made up of predominantly 8th graders, selection into this group is by audition, director recommendation, and demonstration of academic proficiency. Members in this ensemble will participate in the TMEA Region Band process, Solo and Ensemble Contest, preparations for special possible honor concerts, and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. Members of this group will have one section rehearsal/assigned hearing time outside of the school day each week. Additional rehearsals will be scheduled as needed. The Strickland Wind Ensemble will give numerous performances both on and off campus. In UIL activities, this group will be designated the “Varsity” band.

Symphonic Band and Concert Band (7th-8th Grade)

Selection into any of these groups is by audition. These groups, at varying levels, will participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. Members of the Symphonic Band and Concert Bands will participate in the TMEA Region Band process at the discretion of the directors. Members of Symphonic and Concert Bands will have one section rehearsal/assigned hearing time each week outside of the school day. These groups will give a variety of performances. In UIL activities, these groups will be designated as the “Non- Varsity” and “Sub Non-Varsity” bands.

Advanced Band Objectives:

- Demonstrate ability to clap, count, and play all required rhythms
- Develop listening skills including intonation: the ability to play in the center of the pitch- not sharp or flat
- Learn the art of following a conductor in a large ensemble
- Comprehension of musical phrasing
- Demonstrate ability to play in different musical styles
- Demonstrate knowledge of nine major scales along with the chromatic scale corresponding with All-Region requirements

- To learn performance procedures including stage presence
- To gain synergistic group dynamic as a successful band

Advanced Bands Performance Expectations/Requirements:

Pep Rallies (during school day)

- One to two MS football Games
- Winter/Spring Concert (parent transportation to and from)
- 1 Festival (UIL or other local festival – school transportation)
- Festival/UIL clinics/After school rehearsals and concerts
- UIL performance (school provided transportation)
- Practice of 20-40+ minutes daily
- Have all materials daily!
- 45 minute sectional once per week
- **Participation in Solo and Ensemble contest**
- **Participation in All-District tryout**
- **Participation in All-Region tryouts**

Private lessons with an approved DISD private lesson instructor

Beginning Band (6th-8th Grade)

The Beginning Band is the first step in your journey as a member of the Strickland Middle School Band. Students in the Beginning Band will enjoy instrument specific classes where they can learn to play their chosen instrument in a small-group setting. Students will learn how to properly assemble, hold, and play their instrument in a fun and progressive course designed to teach all of the skills necessary to perform concerts for friends and family. The Strickland Beginning Band will perform in-class, on stage at concerts and festivals, and students will participate in a solo contest in the Spring. **Performances are required and are NOT optional since band is a performance-based co-curricular class.**

The Beginning Band is primarily made up of 6th grade students, but special consideration can be made on a case-by-case basis for older students interested in joining band.

Beginning Band Goals

- Demonstrate correct posture and hand position
- Demonstrate correct starting sound and correct technique
- Production of a characteristic tone quality
- Understand and demonstrate articulations and their markings
- Clap and count various rhythms that include whole, half, quarter, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes, as well as dotted notes
- Play nine major scales and arpeggios at least one octave and chromatic scale
- Develop technical motor skills such as tapping to the beat and clapping rhythms at varying tempos

- Develop intonation awareness and adjustments: ability to play in the center of the pitch – not sharp or flat
- Demonstrate correct knowledge of musical terms
- Develop listening skills within small and large ensemble of alike and different instruments
- To develop socially through large-group interaction
- To develop personal and social self-discipline

Beginner Band Performance Expectations/Requirements (Graded items)

- Winter and Spring Concerts
- One to two after-school rehearsals before each performance
- Participation in Solo and Ensemble Contest
- Objective and Badge Line Sheets
- Have materials daily: instrument, band binder with music book, sheet music, handouts, tuner and clip, and a pencil.

Jazz Band (7th-8th Grade)

The Jazz Band ensemble is made of seventh and eighth graders interested in playing jazz styles. Musical styles include: Big Band, Bebop, Swing, and Rock. Students must be enrolled in an advanced concert band course in order to be enrolled in Jazz Band.

Jazz Band Performance Expectations/Requirements

- Students are required to attend all rehearsals, after-school rehearsals, and clinics.
- All performances are REQUIRED.
- Have materials daily: instrument(s), band binder, handouts, tuner and clip, and a pencil.

Full Orchestra (7th-8th Grade)

Full Orchestra is an ensemble for seventh and eighth graders interested in playing orchestral style music with full strings, winds and percussion. The Full Orchestra performs music at concerts and festivals.

Full Orchestra Performance expectations:

- Full orchestra meets before or after school, or during band class.
- Students are required to participate in all rehearsals.
- You will receive a grade based on performance and preparation.
- Have materials daily: instrument(s), band binder with orchestral music, sheet music, handouts, tuner and clip, and a pencil.
- All performances are REQUIRED.

Financial Obligation

It is the philosophy of the Strickland Middle School Band that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact the band directors.

Band Fees

ALL students are required to pay a Band Fee (Activity Fee.) This fee is \$50 for each student. *Please make checks out to "Strickland Middle School Band."*

This fee helps cover the costs of the following:

band shirts, music, handouts, entries for all-district, all-region, master classes, clinicians, solo and ensemble contest entry fees, social events, entry fees for band festivals, UIL contest, transportation, and food for contests and festivals. Until this fee is paid, no student will be allowed to receive their band t-shirt or participate in the activities covered by this cost. This fee does not take the place of fundraising nor does it cover the instrument usage fee.

School-Owned Instruments

All Students who will be playing on a school-owned instrument must fill out the "Application for School-Owned Instrument Usage." **This form is due Friday, August 30st. This form will be distributed to students.**

Usage Fee (Maintenance Fee)

There is a Usage Fee/Maintenance Fee charged for all school-owned instruments. These maintenance funds are used for any cleaning and small repairs. Any repairs due to a student mishandling or neglecting any instrument or instrument case will be charged to the student (dents, stuck valves due to irregular oiling, valve mechanism damaged due to mishandling, foreign objects found in the instrument, bent keys, broken latches, etc.)

Percussionists are included in the School-Owned Instrument Usage Form. The fee for percussionists' usage covers specialty mallets of which students are not required to purchase, such as bass drum beaters, gong beaters, triangle beaters, chime mallets, etc., as well as drum heads for bass, timpani, and snares, and maintenance on all percussion instruments and stands. **Payment plans are available by request.**

Free/Reduced Lunch Program: Qualifying Students Pay Reduced Usage Fee

Instruments may be provided at a reduced fee for any students who qualify through the Free/Reduced Lunch Program. Families must apply for Free/Reduced Lunch online through the DISD website each year. Parents/guardians must fill out the "Application

for School Owned Instrument Usage” (provided to you by the Strickland Band Directors) and attach your “Notice of Approval for Free and Reduced Lunch Meals” form. **Both forms are due by August 30th.**

Students must maintain good behavior in band class, meet objectives in a timely manner, and keep the instrument in good condition. If the instrument is damaged due to neglect or carelessness, you will lose the privilege of using the instrument for the rest of the year and your schedule will be changed to another class.

- These Usage Fees (Maintenance Fees) are in addition to the \$50 Band Fee that all students must pay.
See the following:

Free Lunch qualifiers will pay a \$25 Usage Fee to use a School-Owned instrument.

Free Lunch qualifying who are **Percussionists** will pay a \$25 Usage Fee to use multiple School-Owned instruments.

Reduced Lunch qualifiers will pay a \$50 Usage Fee to use a School-Owned instrument.

Both Band Fees AND Usage Fees (also known as Maintenance Fees) are due no later than October 2nd.

Band Hall Procedures

Arriving and Before-School Practice Rooms

Every morning when students arrive at school Band Students may put away their instrument in their assigned band locker inside the Band Hall. Students then go to their designated waiting area in the school until the bell rings.

If a rehearsal is going on in the Band Hall, students enter silently and do not disturb the rehearsal. Students may decide to stay in the Band Hall in the morning if they are practicing in a Practice Room. If the Practice Rooms are full, students must go wait in your designated area until the bell rings. No more than three students are allowed in the Practice Rooms at once. Practice rooms are first come, first serve.

Leaving After-School, Leaving Early, and After-School Practice Rooms

Students must take their instrument home every day. Students may enter the Band Hall directly following the last bell of the school day to take their instrument with them on the bus, walk, or in a car. Students are responsible for keeping their locker shut and empty at the end of each day. Students should not interrupt the last class of the day.

IF a student must leave school early, students are still responsible for coming to the Band Hall to collect their instrument with the understanding they do so quickly and quietly without distracting the operating class and take their instrument home. Do not

disturb Sectionals, Rehearsals, or Private Lessons. Students may practice in Practice Rooms after school with approval of a Strickland Band Director on a first come-first serve basis.

Daily Behavior in the Band Hall

- Enter the Band Hall silently and calmly (no running, talking, or horseplay.)
- Personal belongings should go inside your school locker during class.
- Go to your band locker, set your case on the floor, put your instrument together, put your case back in the locker, and take your seat. Flutes, clarinets, oboes, and bassoons may put bring their cases to their seat and assemble at their chair.
- NO cases should be left on the floor unless it is the above mentioned woodwinds.
- There will be no playing on your instrument before class begins.
- The director will warm up the group.
- Raise your hand if you have a question.
- Listen attentively to the director.
- Listening = learning

Please do...

- Treat everyone and everything in the Band Hall with respect.
- Raise your hand if you have something to say (and wait for a director to call on you)
- Try your best

Please do not...

- Bring ANY food drink, candy, or gum into the band hall. Food and drink will not be tolerated and detention will be assigned. There is a water fountain in our classroom that may be used at appropriate times.
- Touch equipment or instruments that are not yours. Only percussionists can touch the percussion equipment.
- Run in the band hall.
- Use foul language. Inappropriate language is unacceptable.
- Talk during class without permission.

Strickland Band Consequences

The Strickland Band Directors do not expect to have many behavior problems with Strickland Band Students. If problems arise they will be dealt with immediately. Be respectful to the directors and your peers and there will not be any problems. The only reason we have Band "Rules" is to have the most successful band we can. Remember, we have many students and often are very busy.

Students are expected to strictly adhere to the DISD Student Code of Conduct and all campus rules and policies. Additionally, the Strickland Band uses a system commonly

referred to as “The Book.” Students must sign and date next to their name in a log designed to track misbehavior and infractions related to their regular materials necessary to participate in rehearsal. There are three separate logs – the Misconduct Book, Instrument Left Overnight Book, and Forgotten Materials Book. Each book operates as a separate entity and signatures acquired in one book do not transfer and accumulate towards overall consequences. The consequences for signatures in each of the three books are listed below:

- 1st Offense Signature – Warning
- 2nd Offense Signature – Writing Assignment
- 3rd Offense Signature – Detention
- 4th Offense Signature – Parent Conference
- 5th Offense Signature – Office Referral
- 6th Offense Signature – Band Placement Reassignment or Removal from Strickland Band Program

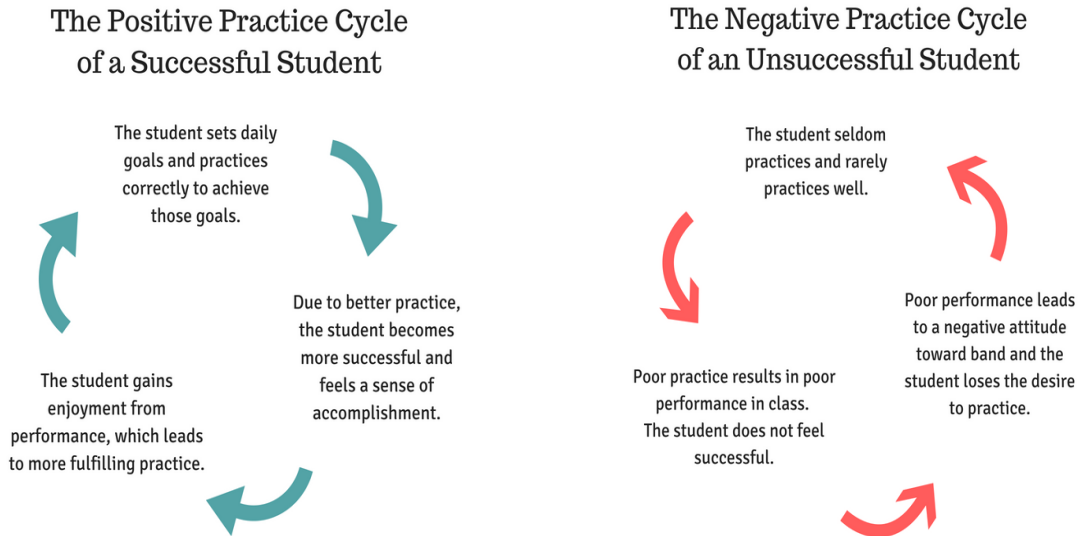
In the event that a student has reached their 6th and final offense signature, adjustment to band placements or removal from the Strickland Band are strictly at the discretion of the Band Directors. Should a student be reassigned to another class instead of immediate removal, they will be allowed to start over at the 4th offense signature of the infraction that caused their reassignment. This may provide a small period of time to allow for students to learn and grow from their mistakes. Students will automatically be removed from the Strickland Band if they reach the 6th Signature for the second time. Additionally, any student that has received an Office Referral for any reason in band will automatically not be allowed to participate in performance trips and extra-curricular activities. Misconduct related to major disciplinary infractions (including, but not limited to, drugs, alcohol, theft, and violent behavior) will automatically skip to both the 5th and 6th offense signature and be assigned an Office Referral where their band placement and membership in the organization as a whole will be reviewed and adjusted as deemed appropriate by the directors.

If a student is in ISS or suspended for any reason (academic, disciplinary, dress code, etc.) during the school year the student will not be allowed to participate in any reward parties or field trips. It is a privilege to be in band, not an entitlement, to be in band and participate in band related activities. You represent the band in every aspect of your day so make sure you are representing us well.

Practice Policy

Students who practice effectively are successful! Every student in the Strickland Band is expected to practice daily. Before and after school rehearsals are not considered individual practice time. Students wishing to excel will naturally practice beyond minimal expectations. It is only through consistent practice that students develop their

musical abilities properly. Instruments and binders are to go home with the student every day.



The directors understand that students occasionally lose interest in practicing. During these low points in interest, it is both the directors’ and the parents’ responsibility to help motivate the student to continue practicing until their interest returns. Some parents are concerned that “forcing” their child to practice will negatively affect their attitude toward music. This is untrue, however, since the single most detrimental influence on a child’s attitude toward music is their inability to perform successfully. Lessening of practice time only perpetuates this negative cycle which is illustrated below along with a positive practice cycle.

Travel Guidelines

The band will frequently travel on either school buses or commercial buses. Students are expected to conduct themselves at the highest level on any trip. Students who have been subject to school-level discipline in the course of the school year may be deemed ineligible to participate in non-UIL field trips, at the discretion of the director and/or campus administration. Students must travel to events and return from events on the

bus. Any student wishing to arrive or leave with his/her parent must notify a director in writing with parent signature, prior to the event. Permission will be granted or denied based on the circumstances of the occasion. Students must have all necessary forms (Medical/Travel Release) completed and on file with the band office to travel on any trip with the band.

Special Note

As a member of the band, you are a representative of your school. Always be on your best behavior. If you are in doubt about an action, do not do it. Your conduct at all times should be considered a good reflection on the school, the band, your home, yourself, and the community.

Chaperones

Adult chaperones must be DISD Approved Volunteers and are a great asset to the band program. Students will treat them as an extension of the band staff. Proper respect will be shown to all adults at all times. If your parent is interested in serving as a chaperone, please go to the following website:

<http://www.dentonisd.org/Page/48779>

Grading Policies and Procedures

Weekly/Daily Grades - Minor Grades

- Weekly Warm-Up Grade (10%) – Students are expected to be on time to class with all necessary materials and fully participate in the warm-up/daily drill activity. Students who meet these expectations will receive a 100 for the week. Students who are late, do not have all the needed materials, or participate will receive 20 points off their weekly grade for each day.
- Pass Off Attempts(20%) – Progress in band will be evident when students practice enough to perform their performance music in class for a “Pass Off”. If students are correctly preparing their music they will achieve a “Pass” on their page via a signature by a director on either concert music, lines from their book, scales, Region Band etudes, or Pep Rally tunes. If a student is attempting and working toward a “Pass Off” goal, they will be graded for their effort and artistry.
- Sectionals (Advanced Bands) (30%)– Students must perform for 50% of their sectional grade and rehearse with musicianship for the remaining 50%. See “Sectionals” on page _____ for further grading breakdown.
OR
Theory Worksheets, Rhythm Charts (Beginning Band) (30%)- Students will be provided instruction in lectures and by socratic method and asked to respond aloud, as well as on paper, on weekly assignments.

Test/Performance Grades (40%)

- Written and Playing/Chair Tests given throughout the six weeks.
- Binder Checks – Band binders will be checked during tests and throughout the six weeks, and graded for organization as related to musicianship and preparation.
- Performances – **All performances are required and will count twice in grading.** Students are expected to show up on time, in proper uniform, and fully participate to receive full credit. See “Absence Policy” page ____ for full information regarding a missed performance.

9 Week Performances and Objectives - Major Grades (50%)

Students will receive the entire 9 weeks Objective Sheets at the start of the grading period and are expected to fulfill the requirements during the 9 weeks. Objectives will include performing lines from their band method book, memorizing scales and arpeggios, completing etude work (Advanced Bands) and other various assignments, all which direct relate to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

Minor Grades	Major Grades
50%	50%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sectional Evaluations • Special Clinics or Rehearsals • Playing Assessments • Music Theory • Rhythm Charts • Recording Assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective Sheets (25%) • Performances (25%)

Eligibility

Although band is a curricular course, band members participate in several extracurricular activities throughout the year. These include events such as football game performances, contests, and individual student competitions. Under the provisions of Texas House Bill 72, a law commonly known as “No Pass, No Play”, students must pass all classes (70% or above) for the previous grading period in order to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities for the subsequent six weeks period. Section rehearsals, morning and afternoon rehearsals, and school concerts are curricular events and are not affected by eligibility restrictions.

Parent Opportunities

In accordance with DISD guidelines, the Strickland Band does not have a parent booster program. Nevertheless, there are a number of times throughout the year when we will need parents to help with planning events, chaperoning, and assisting with other aspects of the band program's daily operations. We would like to allow as many parents as are willing and able to help as volunteers to do so throughout the year.

Please go online to <http://www.dentonisd.org/Page/48779> to start the background check process. Please note that parents who wish to chaperone MUST complete an online criminal history and background check prior to volunteering. More information about volunteering can be found at our website StricklandBand.com.

Instrument Locker Usage

Each student will be assigned an instrument locker to keep their band materials in during the school day. Lockers are assigned for the entire school year. Please keep lockers closed and clean. No instrument should be left in the band hall overnight or on weekends/holidays as the policy is that instruments are to leave the Band Hall every day and be returned the following class day. This is a security measure for the safety of the instrument as well as the home practice policy. Students should not tamper with other students' lockers. Lockers will not have locks. This policy is put in place because the Band Hall is never open for Non-Band students to enter, and there is always a director in the Band Hall during school hours. Students should never place anything besides Band Materials inside their instrument locker. Special circumstances regarding keeping class projects for one class period may be discussed with a director.

Binders & Sheet Music

Students are responsible for the care and maintenance of their Band Binder.

Binder Checks occur at random and at least once per nine weeks.

- Put your name on all of your music and worksheets.
- Additional copies must be downloaded and printed outside of class. Printers are available in the school library.
- All markings on your music should be done in pencil. No pens.
- If you lose or severely damage your binder, you must replace this binder immediately to avoid losing music. The cost of the Binder is \$3 + \$1 per page copied.

Music Facility Usage

Band students are welcome and should feel comfortable in the Band Hall and Ensemble Room. In the interest of providing quality instruction as well as maintaining safety and security, the following special guidelines must be followed when using the music facilities:

- Only Strickland Band Students are permitted in the Band Hall or Ensemble Room. Similarly, Band Students are asked not to enter the choir or orchestra rooms. Please alert a Band Director if you see a Non-Band Student in the Band Hall.
- Students should not interrupt morning or afternoon rehearsals in the band hall or ensemble room. This includes interrupting rehearsal to drop off instruments or equipment.
- Students are not to play their instruments in the hallways or in other parts of the school, including outdoor areas, without director permission.
- Music stands and chairs are to be used appropriately at all times.
- Keep the band area neat and clean.
- No food, drinks or gum in the Band Hall. Water bottles should be kept with personal belongings and not in rehearsals. There is a water fountain in the Band Hall for student use.
- Locker doors should be shut at all times.

Instrument Insurance

The Denton Independent School District, Strickland Middle School, and the Strickland Middle School Band staff are not responsible for loss or damage to any instrument. Parents may want to consider musical instrument insurance. In many cases, your homeowner's or renter's insurance may cover your instrument.

Band Hall Office

The office is the Band Directors' work area. Please do not come in without a director's consent. Please knock on the door and wait for a response from a director before entering the office even if the door is open. The telephone is for office use only. Please use the phone in the front office if you need to make a phone call.

Practice Room Guidelines

There are practice rooms in the Band Hall area that are first come first serve in the mornings. After school use is also first come first serve with permission from a Band Director. Private lesson teachers always have priority for room usage and may ask students to vacate a practice room if necessary. Students using a practice room must abide by the following guidelines:

- Practice rooms are for practice and private lesson use only.
- Food, drink, candy, and gum are not permitted in the practice rooms.
- Students may not exceed the posted occupancy for any practice room.
- Any equipment (chairs, stands, etc.) moved into a practice room must be returned to its original location when finished.
- Turn off the practice room light and shut the door when finished.

Fundraisers

The Strickland Band has several fundraisers planned for the school year. Participation in fundraisers is encouraged, but not required. However, EVERYONE must fundraise for the Strickland Band to be able to play music beyond the walls of the Strickland Band Hall. The fundraisers will be used to defray clinicians' fees and trip expenses. Any other money raised will be used to purchase additional materials and equipment for the Strickland Band Program. Due to budget limitations, this has become a necessity. If the money is not fundraised, then we will begin to limit our performance schedule.

Below are estimated events/costs of student activities per person:

Band Spring Trip (all eligible members) - approximately \$80-100

State Band Festival fees (7th & 8th grade only) - approximately \$85.00-\$120.00

Practice Parties (all members) - \$3.00-\$5.00 each occurrence

Possible Contest Fees not covered by DISD budget (District Band, Region Band, Solo and Ensemble) - 7th/8th grade only - \$7.00-\$10.00 for each occurrence

A portion of the fundraiser profit (usually 10%) will go towards operating expenses for the Band Program. Operating expenses are defined as expenditures not covered by DISD budget.

Our "wish-list" includes, but is not limited to: extra music for concerts, funds to bring in guest clinicians, supplies, technology, sound equipment for the band department, commissioned music, instrument accessories, fees and/or deposits for honor band entries and other competitions.

Funds raised will belong to Strickland and DISD, and cannot be refunded to a student. If a student raises money and is unable to attend a trip for any reason, the money the student raised becomes property of the Strickland Band activity account. As per DISD policy, the funds are good only for the academic year, and are not transferable for students from year-to-year. If a student leaves the Strickland Band Program, all money remains in the general Strickland Middle School Band account. Funds are not reimbursed or distributed to students or their families. Donations are accepted to help the program. Any funds donated to the Strickland Band Program are for expenses other than student fees and trip expenses. These include, but are not limited to instrument repair, equipment replacement, and unforeseen expenses. Please reach out to the Strickland Band Directors for information on donating to the Strickland Band Program.

In general,

- All students need to fundraise.
- Fundraisers help cover the remaining costs of clinicians, master classes, extra supplies such as reeds, valve oil, and books, and instrument repair.
- Every dollar we raise together is used to help your child's musicianship.

Performance Attire

Students in the Strickland Band are to be appropriately dressed for all performances. The following requirements for performance attire are consistent with district and state guidelines. Please note that the attire category for each performance is indicated on the calendar of events provided with this handbook.

Band Shirt

- Strickland Band T-shirt
- Blue Jeans or appropriate Blue Jean shorts (depending on indoor/outdoor activity)
- Athletic or closed-toed shoes (absolutely no flip-flops)

Worn at casual events such as pep rallies, football games, and social activities.

Dress Attire, aka "Sunday Best"

- Dress shirt, dress pants, and dress shoes
- School appropriate dress lengths.

Worn at individual performance events such as Solo & Ensemble.

Formal Attire

For Men:

- White long-sleeve button-up dress shirt tucked-in (provided by the band program)
- Bow-tie and cummerbund (provided by the band program)
- Black pants and black belt
- Black dress shoes with black socks

For Ladies:

- Long black concert dresses (provided by the program)
- Black flats (no high-heels)

Worn by Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band at formal concerts such as Advanced Bands Winter Concert, UIL, Spring Concert, and festivals.

Cultural and Ethnic Music

One of the greatest qualities of Strickland Middle School is its diversity of cultural and ethnic backgrounds among its student population. The Strickland Middle School Band appreciates this diversity and strives to be sensitive to the interests of all students.

From time to time, band students may perform music relevant to cultural, seasonal, historical, or patriotic events. We encourage all students to appreciate both the musical and cultural value of such music, but will not infringe upon the rights of students. We do request that any parents with a concern about any programmed music discuss the matter with their child's director prior to the rehearsals or performance of the music.

Concert Etiquette

Concerts are the culmination of much student effort and are necessary to meet state, district, and school requirements for band. More importantly, concerts are an opportunity for students to demonstrate their talents for an appreciative audience. For this reason, it is very important that both students and listeners observe appropriate concert etiquette during any musical performance.

Please review the following guidelines prior to our first concert:

- Dress appropriately for the performance. Concerts are formal events unless noted otherwise.
- Turn off all cell-phones (no texting) and other portable electronic devices during the performance.
- Food and drink should never be brought into a performance area.
- Refrain from talking while the director is on the stage (this is the cue to start).
- Only enter or leave the seating area during applause.
- Do not take flash photographs while the group is playing (before and after is fine).
- Crying or fussy children should be taken to the lobby area. Students and directors have worked hard for each performance and gratefully value your approval as demonstrated by your applause.

The following are some guidelines to consider in recognizing a quality performance:

- It is appropriate and polite to applaud as the conductor approaches the podium.
- During a multi-movement work, applaud at the conclusion of the final movement.
- Do not applaud for soloists during a full band concert performance; however, it is appropriate to applaud for soloists during a marching band or jazz band performance.
- Avoid shouting or whistling during applause.
- For an exceptional performance, it is always appreciated when the audience stands in applause following the final selection. This is known as a "standing ovation."

Percussion Privileges and Responsibilities

All percussionists are required to help "set up" and "tear down" materials before and after performances. It is a privilege to have so many instruments available to our percussion students and the ability to work with these instruments should be respected

by never leaving equipment carelessly out for someone else to recover from the stage. Please allow extra time before concerts and after concerts for percussion to take their equipment back to the Band Hall and to clear the performance venue. When traveling, it is helpful for Percussion families to assist in transporting equipment with direction from a Band Director or the Percussion Director Mr. Akira Robles.

Private Lessons

We are fortunate in Denton ISD to have an outstanding staff of highly qualified music instructors available to teach private lessons through our Private Lesson Program. Students taking private lessons receive a half hour each week with an instrumental specialist at a cost of \$18 per lesson. These lessons are tailored to each student's specific needs and are intended to serve as enrichment for students who wish to excel. Students may begin private lessons at any time, though many teachers will run out of available slots quickly so we encourage signing up early!

Each teacher sets and maintains his or her own schedule and collects his or her own fees. Our private teachers change from time to time. The current list of private teachers and their contact information can be found on our website StricklandBand.com under the Private Lessons tab. Private lessons are for enrichment and not remediation. They are intended for students who wish to excel. As with anything, the more effort students put into private lessons, the greater the benefit will be. Private Lesson Financial Aid may be available to students who qualify. Contact a Strickland Band Director for additional information. Private lessons are highly recommended to all students. Lessons are required for all double reed students (Oboe and Bassoon).

Lesson times are available before school, after school, and during the students' band class. Students will receive one 30 minute lesson per week with a professional musician and master teacher on their instrument. Lessons will make a tremendous difference in success and level of enjoyment for each student and the band program as a whole. The cost of private lessons is \$18 per lesson as outlined by the DISD policy.

Music Stores

There are several local music stores that can provide needed equipment and instrument repair and service. There may be other dealers in the area, but the following stores are our preferred vendors for the Strickland Band.

Williamson Music 1st
(Rental, Retail and Repair)
6807 W. Main St.

Frisco, TX 75034
(469) 362-7171

Lone Star Percussion
(Percussion Only)
10611 Control Place
Dallas, TX 75238
(214) 340-0835

Lewisville, TX 75067

TB Winds
(Woodwinds Only)
112 W Oak St Suite 200,
Denton, TX 76201

Music & Arts
(Rental and Retail)
360 E, FM 3040 #820,

Disclaimer

The information contained in this handbook is intended to be accurate at the time written, and is subject to change. Please contact the directors if you need clarification of any material presented in this document.