

# Oak Forest Elementary Band Handbook

## Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to inform students and parents about the band program of the Oak Forest Elementary Band. The Oak Forest Band strives for excellence in both individual and group performance, with special emphasis on the individual performer. To achieve these goals, cooperation and dedication from the students and parents are necessary.

## Band Philosophy

- 1) The individual student is the top priority. Every student will reach his/her potential through constant monitoring by both the band director in classes and parents at home.
- 2) The amount of satisfaction you receive from band will be no greater than the amount of enthusiasm and hard work you put in.
- 3) Excellence is FUN!

## What we are trying to do for your child?

Our number one priority is individual growth and achievement. Student growth is the responsibility of the band director(s), students, and parents. Some priorities are:

### BAND DIRECTOR(S)

- 1) Put thought and planning into the needs of every student.
- 2) Provide constant individual feedback.
- 3) Provide a comfortable, learning environment.
- 4) Communicate with students and parents.
- 5) Protect the financial investment made by parents.

### STUDENT

- 1) Practice consistently and with purpose.
- 2) Cooperate with teachers and peers.
- 3) Accept responsibility for ones' actions.

### PARENT

- 1) Monitor student's practice at home.
- 2) Communicate any concerns to the band director(s).
- 3) Provide classroom supplies as needed.

## Benefits from participating in a band program

- 1) Learning to play a musical instrument and performing before an audience.
- 2) Developing an appreciation and understanding of the art of music.
- 3) Learning how to work in a group and how to function as a member of a "team".
- 4) Developing self-discipline and responsibility.
- 5) Building a sense of community for students and their parents.

## Grading Criteria

Students will primarily be graded on attendance, participation, performance, and having all materials for classes and/or rehearsals. Throughout the school year students will have several handouts to turn in as well. Students will be graded on a set number of performance tests. Please find the rubric below:

- E - Excellent
- S - Satisfactory
- N - Needs Improvement
- U - Unacceptable

Unacceptable will only be given after parents have been contacted regarding the student's performance. Students will have the opportunity to retake a failing test. Students will have a minimum of 4 grades per grading cycle.

## Student Expectations

In addition to all rules and regulations outlined in the student handbook and code of conduct, we expect the following general expectations:

1. Follow the EMPOWER values.
2. Take your instrument home **daily** for practice.
3. Label your belongings.
4. Snacks and drinks should be kept in the hallways with your backpacks. Snacks and drinks are to be eaten in the hallway only.

### Consequences for infractions

Level 1: Nonverbal cues (student specific) and/or a private conference/time out.

Level 2: Parent communication via email or telephone.

Level 3: Administration/Referral.

## Attendance/Tardies

All OFE Band Calendar items require a **mandatory** attendance from all students. Items include (but not limited to): *afternoon rehearsals, ancillary classes, & performances*. In case of an absence, contact Mr. McBreen (tmcbreen@houstonisd.org).

## Commitment

Band students/parents are ideally committing to a one year agreement. The **ONLY** opportunity to withdraw from band will be **prior to January (no exceptions)**.

## Academic and Behavioral Expectations

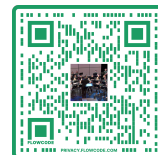
All students must maintain good academic standing as a band member. Students who fall behind will be at risk of missing out on performances and/or activities.

## Communication

Our primary source of communication will be through the BAND app for band updates and/or reminders.

Parents will be invited to join the correct group on the BAND app via email upon joining the band.

***(BAND app is highly encouraged to download to phone). Scan the code to connect with us -->***



## Payment of Fees

Please submit payment in cash and sealed in an envelope. Please include the following on the front of the envelope: OFE Band, student's name, and what the payment is for. **Checks that are returned due to insufficient funds will result in a \$35 charge.**

## Parent Volunteers

Parent volunteers will be needed to help supervise events, help organize band fundraisers, and chaperoning on band trips/performances. If you are willing to help, please sign-up at our annual band informational meetings on Open-House night, or send your band director an email. **All chaperones must be cleared through the VIPS process at the beginning of the school year.**

Mr. McBreen - tmcbreen@houstonisd.org

Signatures of parents and the student acknowledge receipt of a copy of the OFE Band Handbook and certify that they have read and discussed the Handbook.

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Student Signature (Printed)

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Date

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Parent or Guardian Signature

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Date

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Parent or Guardian Signature

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Date

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Grade

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Homeroom

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Instrument