

**B. McDaniel  
Intermediate School**

**Beginner Band Handbook**

**2024 - 2025**



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# **Band Philosophy**

The Instrumental Music Program in our Intermediate School is the first phase of a seven-year program of instruction. It is our hope that participation in the band program will foster better understanding and appreciation of music and help students carry with them the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will help them throughout their academic career.

While it is the individual student's achievement in music that is our primary goal, it is the commitment of all band members to each other that has allowed our program to achieve its unique position.

By signing the forms at the end of this handbook, you will be making a commitment that includes the following:

- 1.** You will be a member of the band for the entire school year.
- 2.** You will give your best effort to improve as a musician.
- 3.** You will maintain a positive attitude toward band and school throughout the year.

# General Band Procedures

The Beginner Band Handbook will spell out several expectations that are necessary to have for a successful band program. However, there are some general guidelines that will apply to all situations.

1. Attendance at all rehearsals and events called by directors is required. There will be 1-2 outside of school rehearsals leading up to our two concerts.
2. *To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, and to be late is to be very sorry.*
3. Respect the property of the school and of others.
4. Respect other band members and directors in your words and actions.
5. Always project a positive attitude.
6. Be at the right place at the right time.
7. Do your best at all times.
8. Represent your school and community with pride.
9. For security reasons, only band students are allowed in the band hall, ensemble rooms, etc.
10. Always have the required materials, including: Instrument in working order, all necessary accessories (valve oil, at least three reeds, etc.), music, black one-inch binder, and a pencil. Your band binder, pencil bag, and pencil will be provided for you as part of your band fee.
11. *No food or drink (other than bottled water) is allowed in any part of the Fine Arts facilities at B. McDaniel Intermediate School at any time unless stated otherwise by a director. Gum is not allowed at any band function.*

# **Band Classes**

All members of the band program are assigned to a period of Beginner Band based on their instrument and these classes meet as academic classes. Balanced instrumentation within each Band is an integral part of the selection process.

## **4<sup>th</sup> Period Beginner Band**

- Flute/Oboe - Ms. Wurtz
- Trombone - Mr. Ellis

## **5<sup>th</sup> Period Beginner Band**

- Trumpet - Mr. Ellis
- Saxophone - Ms. Wurtz

## **9<sup>th</sup> Period Beginner Band**

- Clarinet - Mrs. Lewis
- Percussion - Mr. Zintgraff
- Bassoon - Ms. Wurtz

## **13<sup>th</sup> Period Beginner Band**

- French Horn - Ms. Wurtz
- Euphonium/Tuba - Mr. Ellis

## **Band Fees & Cut Time**

All students will have an annual Band Registration fee. The BMC Band Fee will be used towards the band t-shirt (required uniform for concerts) and classroom materials. Classroom Materials include a binder, pencil bag, pencil, technique book, and music for all students. These are all spelled out in the Band Registration form, found on the website.

The BMC Band fee is due on 8/16, at the end of the first week of school. We prefer that you pay online through Cut Time for convenience, but we can also accept cash and checks made out to “Touch of Gold Band Boosters”. Note that there is a 3% convenience fee when you pay online via Cut Time (Stripe).

There is also a band booster Venmo account.

## **Facebook**

Please like the Scott Middle School Band Facebook Page (**@ScottMSBand**) to stay updated with publicity from our B. McDaniel Intermediate School and Scott Middle School Band Programs! The Denison High School Band (**@denisonhsband**) also has a Facebook Page. Please like our Facebook Pages and help us promote and publicize these programs!

## **Website**

We encourage you to check out our district’s band website at:  
[www.denisonbands.org](http://www.denisonbands.org)

# Contact Information

**Ms. Ashley Wurtz**

Assistant Band Director  
B. McDaniel Intermediate School  
awurtz@denisonisd.net  
(903) 462 - 7320

**Mr. Kevin Elliston**

Head Middle School Band Director  
Scott Middle School  
kelliston@denisonisd.net  
(903) 462 - 7254

**Mr. Tanner Ellis**

Assistant Band Director  
Scott Middle School  
tellis@denisonisd.net  
(903) 462 - 7238

**Mr. Matthew Zintgraff**

Percussion Director  
Denison High School  
mzintgraff@denisonisd.net  
(903) 462 - 7192

**Mr. Austin Armstrong**

Assistant Band Director  
Denison High School  
[adarmstrong@denisonisd.net](mailto:adarmstrong@denisonisd.net)  
(903) 462 - 7983

**Mrs. Melissa Lewis**

Director of Bands  
Denison High School  
Coordinator of Instrumental Studies  
[mhlewis@denisonisd.net](mailto:mhlewis@denisonisd.net)  
(903) 462 - 7177

# Calendar

The calendar for the B. McDaniel Intermediate School Beginner Band Program will be managed and maintained through Cut Time. All dates and times are as accurate as possible, but are subject to change. We will give sufficient notice if a date or time changes. All performances are required and graded unless labeled 'Optional.'

## **Important Dates**

July 30th - BMC Parent Meeting at 6:00 pm  
August 5th - Band Booster Meeting at Denison High School at 6:30 pm (optional)  
August 13th - First Day of School  
August 16th - BMC Band Fee, Percussion Fee, Double Reeds Fee due  
August 30th - No School  
September 2nd - No School  
September 10th - Band Booster Meeting at Scott Middle School at 6:30 pm (optional)  
October 1st - Band Booster Meeting at Denison High School at 6:30 pm (optional)  
October 11th - No School  
October 14th - No School  
November 5th - Band Booster Meeting at Denison High School at 6:30 pm (optional)  
November 25 - 29th - Thanksgiving Break  
December 2nd - Teacher Workday, No School  
December 3rd - BMC Full Band Rehearsal from 3:30 - 4:30 pm  
December 3rd - Band Booster Meeting at Scott Middle School at 6:30 pm (optional)  
December 10th - BMC Full Band Rehearsal from 3:30 - 4:30 pm  
December 16th - BMC Winter Concert at Denison High School  
December 20th - Early Release Day  
December 23rd - January 3rd - Winter Break, No School  
January 6th - Teacher Workday, No School  
January 7th - Solo Contest Fee and Pinstacks Contest Fee due  
January 7th - Band Booster Meeting at Scott Middle School at 6:30 pm (optional)  
January 17th - Teacher Workday, No School  
January 20th - No School  
February 4th - Band Booster Meeting at Denison High School at 6:30 pm (optional)  
February 14th - No School  
February 17th - Bad Weather Make Up Day  
March 4th - BMC Parent Meeting at 5:30 pm  
March 4th - Band Booster Meeting at B. McDaniel Intermediate School at 6:30 pm (optional)  
March 10-14th - Spring Break, No School  
March 17th - Teacher Workday  
April 8th - Band Booster Meeting at Denison High School at 6:30 pm (optional)  
April 18th - Bad Weather Make Up Day  
April 25th - Tentative BMC/SMS Percussion Concert at Scott Middle School  
May 10th - Texoma Solo Contest at Scott Middle School  
May 13th - Spring Concert at Denison High School  
May 22nd - Early Release Day

Not yet scheduled: BMC Band to Pride of Texas Pinstacks Contest and related after school rehearsals



## **Attendance**

All non-school related activities must not interfere with the rehearsal and performance schedules that are given at the beginning of the school year. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance will result in a zero. Excused absences are only accepted in the event of an absence from school or with a doctor's note. Exception requests should be emailed to the band director.

## **Grades**

The grading system is based on points earned over the course of the term in each of the weighted categories. If you have concerns about your student's grades, please contact your director through the school email or phone number on the contact information page.

In determining the band grade each nine week grading period, two areas comprise the average:

1. Major Grades (60%) – Tests and Performances
2. Minor Grades (40%) – Theory worksheets

# Performance Grading Rubric

	Poor	Below Average	Average	Excellent	Superior
<p align="center"><b>Concert and Stage Etiquette</b></p> <p>Chapter 117. Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts Subchapter B, Section 209 &amp; 210. Music, Middle School, Adopted 2013 c5A</p> <p>The student is expected to be in attendance at correct times and locations, have all appropriate materials for the performance, dress in proper attire, and demonstrate appropriate concert and stage etiquette as an informed, actively involved listener and performer during live and recorded performances in a variety of settings.</p>	<p align="center">0 Points</p> <p>The student did not meet any expectations / did not attend.</p>	<p align="center">10 Points</p> <p>The student met few expectations.</p>	<p align="center">20 Points</p> <p>The student met some expectations.</p>	<p align="center">30 Points</p> <p>The student met most expectations.</p>	<p align="center">40 Points</p> <p>The student successfully met all expectations.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Performance</b></p> <p>Chapter 117. Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts Subchapter B, Section 209 &amp; 210. Music, Middle School, Adopted 2013 c1B, c1C, c1E, c2A, c2D, c3A, c3B, c3C, c3D, c3F, c4</p> <p>c1 - Foundations: music literacy. The student describes and analyzes music and musical sound.</p> <p>The student is expected to fully participate and execute the performance to the best of their ability based on the guidelines set by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts and the Band Directors.</p>	<p align="center">0 Points</p> <p>The student did not meet any expectations / did not attend.</p>	<p align="center">15 Points</p> <p>The student met few expectations.</p>	<p align="center">30 Points</p> <p>The student met some expectations.</p>	<p align="center">45 Points</p> <p>The student met most expectations.</p>	<p align="center">60 Points</p> <p>The student successfully met all expectations.</p>

# Participation Grading Rubric

	Poor	Below Average	Average	Excellent	Superior
<p align="center"><b>Concert and Stage Etiquette in Regard to Rehearsal</b></p> <p>Chapter 117. Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts Subchapter B, Section 209 &amp; 210. Music, Middle School, Adopted 2013</p> <p>The student is expected to be in attendance at correct times and locations, have all appropriate materials for the rehearsal, and demonstrate appropriate concert and stage etiquette in regard to rehearsal as an informed, actively involved listener and performer during live and recorded performances in a variety of settings.</p> <p><i>Outside of this Grading Rubric, students will be docked 2 points per minute that they are late.</i></p>	<p align="center">0 Points</p> <p>(0 Points for Weekly Grade)</p> <p>The student did not meet any expectations / did not attend.</p>	<p align="center">10 Points</p> <p>(2 Points for Weekly Grade)</p> <p>The student met few expectations.</p>	<p align="center">20 Points</p> <p>(4 Points for Weekly Grade)</p> <p>The student met some expectations.</p>	<p align="center">30 Points</p> <p>(6 Points for Weekly Grade)</p> <p>The student met most expectations.</p>	<p align="center">40 Points</p> <p>(8 Points for Weekly Grade)</p> <p>The student successfully met all expectations.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Performance</b></p> <p>Chapter 117. Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts Subchapter B, Section 209 &amp; 210. Music, Middle School, Adopted 2013</p> <p>The student is expected to fully participate and execute all aspects of music in the rehearsal to the best of their ability based on the guidelines set by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts and the Band Directors.</p>	<p align="center">0 Points</p> <p>(0 Points for Weekly Grade)</p> <p>The student did not meet any expectations / did not attend.</p>	<p align="center">15 Points</p> <p>(3 Points for Weekly Grade)</p> <p>The student met few expectations.</p>	<p align="center">30 Points</p> <p>(6 Points for Weekly Grade)</p> <p>The student met some expectations.</p>	<p align="center">45 Points</p> <p>(9 Points for Weekly Grade)</p> <p>The student met most expectations.</p>	<p align="center">60 Points</p> <p>(12 Points for Weekly Grade)</p> <p>The student successfully met all expectations.</p>

# Competitions

The ultimate goal of our program is the development of the individual musician to the limit of their potential. To assist in reaching this goal, we strongly recommend participation in the individual competitions and contests offered during the school year.

## Texoma Solo Contest

All students in the B. McDaniel Intermediate School Beginner Band Program are expected to participate in the annual Solo Contest in February. This event will result in non-competitive ratings and medals.

The students will learn a piece of music in class and then perform it in front of the judge. The judge then gives them a rating. The student will also need to work on their solo outside of class in order to be successful and get a great rating.

At this solo contest, you will wear your formal attire as listed in the handbook.

## Pinstack Competition

During this trip, there will be no phones allowed. This will allow the students to have more time to experience their first competition as a band and to have more fun.

# Sectionals

Sectionals are not required, but are highly recommended. Sectionals are extra time for the students to get feedback on their playing abilities. Some playing tests may be completed during sectionals. It is the student's responsibility to arrange transportation. Below are the times and days of the week that the students have sectionals. Sectionals will not begin until the week of **Monday, September 9th**.

**Monday** - Woodwinds (Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Saxophone)

**Tuesday** - Woodwinds (Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Saxophone) & Percussion

**Wednesday** - High Brass (Trumpet & French Horn)

**Thursday** - Low Brass (Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba)

*Sectionals run from 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm*

Students are expected to be picked up between 4:15 pm to 4:30 pm.

When picking up the student from sectionals, please pick them up in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade loop and please be here on time. Do not go to the front of the school to pick them up, as no one will be there.

## **Eligibility**

If a student happens to fail a class on their report card, they **still need** to attend both the Winter and Spring concert, as this is a graded event. If they fail the nine weeks that the Solo Contest happens or during our out of school competition to Pinstack, they **will not** be able to attend. We will check all grades before these events. There will be no exceptions.

# Discipline

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual. As such, each student is responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the B. McDaniel Intermediate School Beginner Band. Any student who shows an inability to work effectively in class may be reassigned to another class at the discretion of the Band Director.

As a school group, band members are governed by school and school board policies any time they are together for any band function whether it involves all students or only one. **The Handbook Agreement Form you sign at the end of this handbook will be in effect throughout the year for trips related to band.**

Any student who violates school rules while with the B. McDaniel Intermediate School Beginner Band will be subject to all usual school disciplinary procedures. In addition, those students may be subject to dismissal and will not continue to perform or travel with the band. Also, students who receive assignment to the Alternative School or ISS for disciplinary action outside of band activities at all throughout the year, will not perform with the Band in any extracurricular functions for the remainder of the school year. This includes the competition that we attend in April. This means if your student gets Alternative School or ISS at any time during the year, they will not be able to travel to our competition in April. They will still attend the concerts and the solo competition.

If you have any questions about discipline or our contest trip, please contact Mrs. Lewis. Her email is [Mhlewis@denisonisd.net](mailto:Mhlewis@denisonisd.net)

## **Fees**

**\$40 Beginner Band Fee (All)** – The Beginner Band Fee will be used toward this year's shirt, awards, programs, pictures, and classroom materials. Classroom materials cover a three ring binder, dividers, pencil bag, pencils, and music for all students as well as any necessary classroom books.

**Due August 16th**

**\$10 Solo Contest Fee (All)** – All students in the Beginner Band Program will participate in the annual Solo Contest held in May. The \$10 Solo Contest Fee goes toward the cost of music, awards, adjudicators, accompanists, and logistics to host the contest.

**Due January 7th**

**\$50 Percussion Fee (Percussionists)** – The Percussion Fee will be used toward the cost of maintaining and replacing instruments, equipment, and supplies provided to percussion students.

**Due August 16th**

**\$60 Double Reed Fee (Oboe & Bassoon)** – The Double Reed fee will provide students with three oboe/bassoon reeds throughout the school year. This will help students to avoid the wait time associated with shipping these handmade reeds. When a student needs a reed, they will ask their band director

**Due August 16th**

**\$30 Pinstacks Contest Fee (All)** – The Pinstacks Contest Fee covers the cost for each individual student to have lunch and play at Pinstacks following our performance at the Pride of Music Festival. Any chaperones who attend will also need to pay this fee.

**Due January 7th**

You may pay online through Cut Time or in the SMS Band Office via cash and checks made out to 'Touch of Gold.'

### **Venmo**

You can also pay your fees through Venmo! Our Venmo is @DenisonBand-TOG. Please indicate the fee the payment is for and your child's name in the comments section.

## **Fundraiser Information**

Fundraisers are a necessity to help cover the costs of a successful Band Program. The B. McDaniel Intermediate School Band Program may participate in various fundraisers yearly. During the Fall Fundraiser, students will have the opportunity to participate in a catalog fundraiser. Students will receive 30% of sales (or 60% of profit) toward their individual fees.

The money in a student's Cut Time account belongs to the Touch of Gold Booster Club and can only be used towards that account. If a student quits or is removed from the Band Program, the money is absorbed into the Touch of Gold Booster Club.

# **Uniform**

## **Informal Uniform**

\*This uniform is to be worn to our band concerts and competition.

- Band T-Shirt (untucked)
- Blue Jeans (No holes or rips)
- Athletic Socks / Close toed Shoes (Hey Dude's are fine)

## **Formal Uniform**

\*This uniform is to be worn to our solo contest.

- Boys: Nice slacks, button up or polo, nice shoes
- Girls: Dress, nice pants and shirt, Skirt, nice shoes



## Private Lessons

One of the pitfalls of teaching a large class of musicians is the lack of individual attention needed for student growth. Private lessons aid in meeting this need, and the Denison ISD Instrumental Music Program offers each student a chance to study individually with the finest graduate and professional musicians in the Dallas area. These private lessons give students the opportunity to further their musical development in a one-on-one setting.

- Lessons are available either after school or during band class periods
- Lessons are held once per week for 30 minutes
- The option to have an hour-long lesson per week can be arranged if that is something you are interested in
- Lessons cost \$22 per thirty-minute lesson and payment is due at the beginning of each month
  - Students will be charged an amount at the start of each month that covers all lessons possible during that month
  - Should your student not take the full number of available lessons, they will receive a “lesson credit” back to their Cut Time account at the beginning of the following month. These funds can be applied towards any other band fee, including private lessons
- There is financial assistance available through the Thelma Braun Music Enrichment Program. This grant program provides a scholarship for half of the cost of private lessons. Please contact Mrs. Lewis if you are interested in applying for this scholarship
- If your lesson payment is delinquent for three months, your student’s lessons will be paused until their account is back in good standing
  - Students with an outstanding balance for private lessons at the end of the year will not be allowed to register for lessons for the next school year until the balance is paid.

If you have any questions about private lessons, please email the Head of Instrumental Studies, Melissa Lewis at [mhlewis@denisonisd.net](mailto:mhlewis@denisonisd.net).

## Denison ISD Instrumental Music Program Private Lesson Staff

<b>Instrument</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Flute	Cameron Bilek	cameronbrooklynnflute@gmail.com
Flute	Shayla Walters	shaylaj1504@gmail.com
Oboe		
Bassoon	Gina Moore	moore.ginam@gmail.com
Clarinet	Chanel Henderson	chenderson12@twu.edu
Saxophone	Cehuai Zhang	cehuaizhang@my.unt.edu
Trumpet	Ryn Jenkins	rynjenkins@outlook
Trumpet French Horn	Savannah Shapley	smshapley99@gmail
French Horn	Mike Marsh	mgmarsh@pwhome.com
Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba	Michelle Flowers	tromboneflowers@gmail.com
Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba	Jack Timmins	jacktimminsmusic@gmail.com
Percussion	Rose Brown	brownroseone@gmail.com

**Private Lesson Interest Form**

**Student Name :** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to enroll in private lessons starting on August 19th

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to enroll in private lessons but please contact me via email before they begin

\_\_\_\_\_ Maybe, I am interested in private lessons and would like to be contacted with more information

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I would NOT like to enroll in private lessons

**If you indicated YES for private lessons, please answer the following:**

\_\_\_\_\_ 30 minute      OR      \_\_\_\_\_ 60 minute

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I am interested in applying for the Thelma Braun lesson scholarship.

Please send an application home with my student.

**Parent Name (please print) :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date :** \_\_\_\_\_

# HANDBOOK AGREEMENT

"I have read the B. McDaniel Intermediate School Beginner Band Handbook and agree to abide by all policies stated. I realize that failure to follow policies or directions will result in disciplinary action that could lead to dismissal from the Band and Band classes."

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature Date "We have read the B. McDaniel Intermediate School Beginner Band Handbook and our student has permission to participate in band and all band activities within the guidelines as stated."

Parent / Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Cut Time System Acknowledgement Form

You should have received a text message welcoming you to Cut Time. If you have not, please visit the following website and enter the phone number or email address used to register your account:

Student: <https://app.gocuttime.com/student/resent-magic-link>

Guardian: <https://app.gocuttime.com/guardian/resent-magic-link>

Once you have logged in, please check that the information entered for your student is correct. Additionally, make sure that all Guardians are entered with a valid phone number.

**We have reviewed our contact information on Cut Time, and it is correct.**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# **BLT**

## **(Band Leadership Team)**

This year, we are starting something new! What does the BLT do, you ask? They clean up the band hall every day at the end of the day, the straighten chairs and stands after every class and they are there early for concerts to help set up chairs and stands for the band! To be part of the team, please write a paragraph below stating why you would be a good member of the BLT. I will chose 15-20 students. These forms are due Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup> and the BLT team will be announced on Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. I will ***not*** accept late admissions. You may write on your own paper, type it or write below. Good luck!!