

Owen Goodnight Middle School

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BAND HANDBOOK

2021-2022



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Welcome! We hope all of you had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the upcoming school year.

Band is a unique class where we get an opportunity to make music EVERY DAY! We are looking forward to getting to know you and to making music with your child ☺

In this handbook, you will find policies, procedures, and other important information regarding the Owen Goodnight Middle School Band program. Please take the time to read this material, as the success of our band program depends upon each individual working toward the same goals.

After reading through this handbook, SIGN and RETURN the forms with your child to me no later than FRIDAY, SEPT 3RD!!!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at school either by phone or email. Email is the best way to get a hold of us. We will do our best to answer your email within 24 hours.

Looking forward to a great year!

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Goodnight Middle School Band Mission Statement

The mission of the Goodnight Middle School band program is to provide a quality music education to all students enrolled. The goal is to achieve a high level of performance by focusing on each individual's musical skills. These skills are best learned through multiple performance opportunities, including All-Region Auditions, UIL, Solo & Ensemble, Spring Recitals, Jazz Band, and other required concerts. Additionally, through performance in band, students develop a sense of belonging, teamwork, time management, dedication, self-esteem, leadership, cooperation, and responsibility.

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Procedures and Standards

These procedures and standards ensure that the Goodnight Middle School band will establish and maintain a tradition of excellence and will protect students and equipment.

- All school rules and policies apply.
- To maintain efficient rehearsals, students will always raise their hands before speaking, and only talk to neighbors when asked to do so.
- Food, drink, and gum are NOT allowed in the band hall, unless it is under the supervision of a director.
- Everything in this band hall is expensive. Students are expected to take care and perform regular maintenance on their instrument.
- Only percussionists are allowed to play on percussion instruments.
- Your locker will only include the following items: instrument and band binder.
- As a security precaution, only band students are allowed in the band hall. Non-band students will be asked to wait outside.
- The band hall will only be open to students who are ACTIVELY practicing. There are many other areas designated for socializing.

Disciplinary Consequences

Violation of the standards or procedures outlined in this handbook may result in one or more of the following actions in no particular order. These actions will be decided at the discretion of the directors and/or campus administration.

- Verbal warning
- Time-Out with a writing assignment (put instrument away)
- Teacher/Student conference
- Parent phone call
- Detention
- Parent conference
- Referral to the counselor/administrator
- Nine Week Probation Notice
- Removal of band privileges (band parties, field trips, etc.)
- Removal from band

**Note - If a student is sent to ISS more than twice in a period of 9 weeks OR if they are sent to rebound, the student and guardians will have a meeting with the band directors and will be placed on probation. The probation will be to help identify behaviors to improve.*

Positive Consequences

There will be rewards for good behavior throughout the year. Usually they will be events during class or after school activities. Rewards will vary depending on the class, the good behavior, or the individual. Some rewards will be:

- Opportunities to earn a sticker or prize from the prize box.
- Band Parties
- Playing Music Games
- Extra Credit on Daily Grades

Grading

60% Major Grades - Performances, before/after school rehearsals, playing tests, and written tests throughout the year. All performances are mandatory events. See **Attendance Policy** below.

40% Weekly Grades – Students will be evaluated for their daily class participation, sectionals attendance, and playing/written quizzes.

Binders

There will be random binder checks for a grade. Students need to be organized and keep their music in one place to be successful. **Binders need to include: current music in sheet protectors, method books and pencils (in pouch or in side pocket).** Students will be given opportunities to keep their binders organized, and will receive instructions from directors on how to do so.

Playing Quizzes and Tests

Students will have many playing quizzes and tests throughout the year. Some playing quizzes/tests will be performed in front of the class and others may be by themselves, in the band director's office, or via recordings online. It is important that a student can play their part successfully by themselves to ensure that they are contributing to the ensemble sound. Students will receive a "Performance Test Score Sheet" after their playing test so they can see how they were graded.

Attendance Policy

Any band activities, including those outside the regular school day, are considered curricular. Sectional rehearsals, performances, and clinics are part of the course requirements and are, therefore, graded activities.

If your child is unable to attend the concert or any other performance for any reason, please contact us in advance. All absences, excused or unexcused, will have a make-up assignment.

Excused Absences from performance or rehearsals:

- Personal Illness – advance notice appreciated if possible.
- Unavoidable family events – wedding, death in family, etc.
- Direct conflicts with other school activities – involving participation (not observation) will be resolved by the student, coach/advisor, and the directors.

Making up a Missed Performance

When a student is absent (**EXCUSED ONLY**), they will have one week after the performance to turn in a **make-up assignment**. Please let the band directors know in advance that the student will be missing a performance so they can receive their make-up assignment. **UNEXCUSED** absences will not be tolerated. Our performances are an extension of the classroom. Students that are unable to make it due to “not having a ride” will not be excused. Let the band directors know in advance and we will find a solution.

***NOTE:** Students with multiple unexcused absences may lose their privilege in attending the end of the year field trip or may be removed from the band program. *See disciplinary consequences-pg 5*

END OF THE YEAR FIELD TRIP AND POINT SYSTEM

At the end of the year, students will be rewarded with a Goodnight Band Trip! This trip is for students who demonstrated great behavior and attendance throughout the school year. Students will accumulate points for attending concerts and festivals. Read below to see how many points students will need to have to participate in the end of the year field trip.

6th Graders (Beginner Band) ----- 5 POINTS

- Fall Demonstration Concert (1 Point)
- Winter Concert (1 Point)
- Music in Our Schools Festival (1 Point)
- Spring Recital (1 Point)
- Solo & Ensemble (1 Point)
- Spring Concert (1 Point)

**Spring Recital and Solo & Ensemble are the same unit, but are two opportunities to get a point. Students are only required to do one for a grade, but may also use both events to gain an extra point.*

7th and 8th Graders (Advanced Band) ----- 6 POINTS

- Fall Concert (1 Point)
- Winter Concert (1 Point)
- UIL Concert and Sight-Reading (1 Point)
- Music in Our Schools Festival (1 Point)
- Spring Recital (1 Point)
- Solo & Ensemble (1 Point)
- Spring Concert (1 Point)

**Spring Recital and Solo & Ensemble are the same unit, but are two opportunities to get a point. Students are only required to do one for a grade, but may also use both events to gain an extra point.*

Sectionals -Region Band Auditions

Sectionals will begin the **second week of school**. **Sectionals are required for Wind Ensemble**. *Symphonic Band members are welcome and encouraged to attend as well. If they come regularly and learn their music, they may earn the option to audition for region band!* Wind Ensemble chair tests will occur only in these sectionals. If a student misses, they can make the grade up, but will not be included in chair order until the next chair test. This time is absolutely critical to help both your child and our band program grow as it allows for more individualized attention for each student, which is not always possible during full-band rehearsals. A separate schedule will be distributed at the end of the first week for each instrument section.

Concert Attendance & Etiquette

Most of our concerts begin at 5:30 p.m. (unless otherwise stated). Students **MAY NOT** leave when their portion of the concert is over. It is important that they remain and support the rest of the band members performing.

Students are expected to adhere to a standard concert etiquette rubric, including:

- Remain calm and professional during a performance, whether you are playing or listening.
- When you're not performing, keep your eyes and ears on the performers.
- Show respect by keeping your hands to yourself, and don't wave or yell from the stage, even if somebody waves or yells at you.
- Clap to show your appreciation of all the hard work that goes into performing!
- Keep your phone dark, silent, and out of sight.
- After a concert, each student should plan to help tear down by putting at least one item back where it belongs (stands, chairs, percussion, etc).

UIL Concert and Sight-Reading

UIL Concert and Sight Reading is a yearly band evaluation for all bands in the state of Texas. The event involves a concert performance onstage of three prepared pieces, to be judged in quality and execution by a panel of distinguished musicians, conductors, and educators. Following this performance onstage, the band is led to another facility where we commence with the sight-reading portion of the event: a full-performance of a brand new, totally-unseen piece with absolutely no rehearsal beforehand. This is the ultimate test of a band's musical literacy. A very exciting, competitive, and educational affair for everyone involved, the Goodnight Band hopes to do well at the event this year! This event will be held in March.

All advanced band members will represent Goodnight at the Concert and Sight-Reading Contest. From January to March, students will rehearse vigorously to ensure a fun and successful performance. There will be a sectional once a week until 5:30; students and parents will receive this schedule in December or January, and will work around other organizations on campus, like dance and athletics. If there is a conflict with other activities, please communicate with the directors. **No student will be penalized for being in 2 organizations**, but if a student doesn't manage their time well, or chooses one organization over another, we will be having a conversation with them.

UIL UNIFORMS: Students in Symphonic and Concert Band will need to purchase a white button down long sleeved dress shirt, black dress pants, and black shoes. Students will check out a black vest to wear at the Pre-UIL concert and UIL contest. These items will be checked back in after the performance. If there are any issues securing these items, communicate with directors at least one week before the performance to find a solution.

Private Lessons (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED)

The Goodnight Band program feels strongly about the importance of private study as an integral part of developing the student's progress on their instrument. Any students interested in private lessons, please contact the band directors to set up an appointment with a private lesson instructor for your instrument.

Goodnight Middle School is working with RMT Music for private lessons. You can contact us or Rachel Turgoose at rachel@rmtmusic.com.

Required Materials

A separate supply list will be provided.

ALL students are required to have a binder with page protectors and a pencil pouch with plenty of pencils for each band rehearsal and sectionals.

Band Polos

All students must have a Goodnight Middle School band polo. These will be worn at pep rallies and all other non UIL performances.. Cost will be determined at a later date pending approval.

Instruments

On August 31st, we are hosting an instrument/supply drive here at the Goodnight Middle School band hall. Representatives from Strait Music in Austin will be here with instruments and supplies for you to choose from. You are not required to purchase or rent from them, but they will offer package deals for a discounted price for Goodnight. The drive is from 5-7 pm. You can come at any time during that time frame. Feel free to visit local or any other music store that sells instruments to get the supplies needed. **CONTACT US BEFORE YOU MAKE AN ONLINE PURCHASE SO WE CAN VERIFY THE QUALITY, THE BRAND, AND MODEL OF THE INSTRUMENT.**

School Instrument Check-Out

Students and parents must sign a liability statement on the Goodnight Instrument Checkout Form when assuming responsibility for a school instrument. As a rule of thumb, you are not responsible for repairs of school instruments caused by normal wear and tear. The instrument checkout form will list any existing dents, scratches, etc. The checkout form must be signed and returned before the instrument will be released to you. It is the responsibility of the student to keep the instrument in top condition by regular maintenance. Students will learn in class how to perform maintenance on the instruments. **Poor care (negligence) will result in paying for repairs and/or losing privilege of using the instrument.**

Cut Time

Cut Time is a secure web-based program that will assist the band directors and booster club in communicating, financing, and organization of the Goodnight Middle School Band program. We will be uploading forms and necessary documents on this server as well as keeping an up to date calendar for the band program. Please try to keep student and parent/guardian information up-to-date on this program so you will not miss important e-mails and announcements.

- Log on to <https://cuttime.net/>
- Locate the “STUDENT/PARENT SIGN UP” button at the top
- Search for “Goodnight
- Fill out the form, please double check spelling of student email address
- Enter your child’s **SMCISD student ID number** as the password, and you will see another more detailed screen with options to view your student’s information, forms, etc.

Student Information Page – this is where we need you to confirm and update your contact information (phone numbers, e-mail address, etc) so that we may communicate with you more effectively. Please make sure you click “Update” after you make any changes!

Remind 101

One of the ways we will be communicating with you is through Remind 101. This will be an easy way to get information about rehearsals, concerts, important dates, etc. Please enter the following link into a web browser to sign up for our Remind. Joining my class on Remind is easy. You can choose whether you prefer text messages or smartphone notifications.

Signing up for text messages

1. Text my class code @gmsb21 to the phone number 81010 or (571)389-8841.
2. Reply to the text messages from the Remind team. First/Last Name ONLY, no nicknames or abbreviations.

Signing up for smartphone notifications

3. Download the Remind app on your Android or iOS device. Click here for a link to the

apps: rmd.me/a

4. Open the app and create an account (or log in if you already have one).
5. Tap the + by classes joined and enter my class code @gmsb21

That's all you need to do to start receiving messages!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. We're looking forward to connecting with you!

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact the band directors through email at nickolas.conte@smcisd.net or aaron.mata@smcisd.net at (512)393-6569.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Nickolas Conte

Aaron Mata