



**GREENVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**LION PRIDE BAND**

**STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK**

**2021-2022**

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**Welcome**

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Welcome to the Greenville Middle School Lion Pride Band!

It is our sincere hope that the Lion Pride Band offers each band member a chance to create long lasting friendships, to learn to respect those around them and to feel a tremendous sense of pride as you achieve what has not yet been done. The band directors are very excited about the new year and all the things you will achieve.

By accepting membership in the Greenville Lion Pride Band, you agree to perform to the best of your ability and to work together with the band staff in making this year's band the finest musical organization that our combined efforts can produce.

This is a very exciting time for us as a band and we hope it is for you as well. Although we do not expect any problems with attitude and behavior, you must know that the policies included in this handbook will be followed and enforced to the letter. Policies are the backbone of a first class, well-run organization. Please take time to sit down with your parents and read through this handbook together as a family.

We fully expect to have a wonderful year of music making and history making at Greenville Middle School!

Sincerely,

**Luke Dailey**  
Head Band Director  
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**Anthony Abruscato**  
Associate Director  
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**Hunter Langhans**  
Director of Percussion  
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## Student Expectations

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All students are expected to participate fully in band class each and every day. To ensure an effective learning environment, there are a few guidelines that all band students will abide by.

### **Awesome GMS Band Students will:**

- Enter the band hall calmly and refrain from talking during rehearsal unless called upon by a director after raising a hand.
- Refrain from bringing gum, candy, food, and sodas into the band hall.
  - The only item that may be brought into the band hall is bottled water.
- Help keep chairs and stands in the correct place.
- Assist in placing trash in a trash can. There is no good excuse to leave trash on the floor at any time.
- Keep up with all music and supplies at all times.
- Keep all music and handouts in a 1-inch band binder.
- Keep instruments in the assigned storage area.
- Show respect for themselves, other students, directors and other adults at all times. GMS Band students will be expected to follow all GMS student conduct rules at all times.
- Not enter the directors office without permission.
- Be respectful in person and online. Please be mindful of what you post in Google Classroom and on social media.
- Recognize that the band is one of the largest and most visible organizations on the campus. Students should also understand that their conduct not only reflects on them, it is also a reflection on the GMS Band. When we travel it is important to realize that you represent GMS and GISD as well as the city of Greenville. Our goal is to always leave a positive impression with those in whom we come into contact!

## Class Grades

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### **Major Grades – 50%**

Each school semester, students will receive a Calendar with their major assignments for the grading period, as well as deadlines for completion. These range from playing tests to organizing their materials. Performances will count as a two (2) major grade. Concert attendance is not optional!

### **Daily Grades – 50%**

Daily grades include daily performance in class, having all necessary supplies to participate in class, and additional rehearsals. This will include all full band rehearsals and sectionals.

## Eligibility

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Performance at contests, festivals, band trips, rehearsals, and athletic events are considered extra-curricular and are subject to eligibility rules. Participation in extra-curricular activities is based on eligibility requirements set by the State Board of Education. Students must maintain an average of 70 or above in all classes each reporting period to remain eligible. Honors/Pre-AP classes are at 60 or above.

# Attendance

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The performance aspect of the band class is a required Fine Arts TEK in the State of Texas, therefore; student attendance at all performances is **REQUIRED** and **GRADED** (2 major grades per event) unless the performance is considered extracurricular, and the student is determined to be academically ineligible due to no-pass/no-play (HB 72). Grades are checked every 3 weeks.

## **The definition of an Excused Absence is as follows:**

The absence of a student due to a family emergency, illness, or extenuating circumstance already communicated to and cleared by a director. Not having ride is NOT an excused absence. We can help coordinate a ride when given prior notice. EXCUSES ARE AT THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE DIRECTOR.

Communication of particular circumstances needs to take place at least 48 hours in advance of the event on the calendar.

## **Absences from a Performance**

If at all possible, contact band directors in advance to inform them of a conflict with performances. There are no excused absences from a performance except personal or family illness or death. All scheduling conflicts can be avoided by using the available calendar resources. Alternate assignments will not be given to recover the missing test grade. Please understand the difference between not feeling well and being legitimately ill.

It is our belief and hope, that with the full-year calendar being published early on, you and your family have all the information up front to make good scheduling decisions. We ask for prior notice for any conflict.

## **Rehearsals**

Regular rehearsals take place in class during the school day but extra rehearsals are often necessary to accomplish all the goals set for the students. A schedule of extra practices and sectionals will be posted in the band hall and on the website well in advance to avoid conflicts. These extra rehearsals will be in the form of weekly sectionals, individual pass-offs, and clinics. Phones are not to be out in rehearsals.

## **Daily Supplies**

Each student will need to have all the basic band supplies with them every day. This includes their instrument, pencil, valve oil, extra reeds, mutes, and other needed accessories, all needed music and great rehearsal etiquette. Instrument maintenance should be done outside of the classroom, not during rehearsal. If your instrument needs to go to the shop for repair, we will require a written notice from your parents to that effect. Refer to the syllabus provided by the concert ensemble director for more specific information.

# General Information

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## Band Uniform

The performance uniform consists of:

- GMS Band Polo Shirt - We will size for polo shirts in class the 2nd week of school.
- Blue jeans without holes or rips.
- Black socks
- Black shoes

## Payments Made to the Band

Always attempt to pay by check or money order made out to “Greenville Middle School Band.” Place the money in an envelope, seal it, and write your name on it. It is very important that you include your name and specifically what the money is for. Turn into any director. Receipts will be provided upon request.

## Private Lessons

The single most important factor in the development of a superior band program is the development of the individual player. There are many opportunities in the area for student musicians to study privately with professional teachers. There will also be a teaching specialist on each instrument who will teach at Greenville Middle School.

Private lessons are \$16 for a 30 minute session once a week. Students may apply for a scholarship on a need basis. Payment will be arranged between student and private teacher. Checks should be made out to the private lesson teacher, not GMS. Scheduling conflicts need to be communicated between student and teacher no more than 48 hours in advance.

If you would like contact information for the lesson teachers, please email a director.

## Travel

Greenville ISD sets travel policies that we are required to follow with a few additions of our own. All band students are to ride the bus to all band events (trips, contests, etc.) and back to the school. The reasoning behind this rule is that the directors are legally responsible for the students from the moment we get together at school until the moment that students are dismissed at the end of the event. Students will be clearly informed of the exact schedule for each trip taken with the band. This information will also be available to all parents and guardians on our website.

Students are expected to follow these instructions exactly. Only personal, portable devices with headphones will be permitted on buses. No food or drinks will be permitted on the buses at any time except for water. Students are expected to pick up trash and they are responsible for collecting all of their belongings before exiting the bus. Special permission can be given to students who need to have food or drink for medical or religious reasons. Please communicate this with a director before the event.

## School-Owned Instruments

Each student using school equipment (instruments/percussion) will pay a \$50.00 usage fee for their equipment. This \$50.00 is to cover cleaning, repair, and general maintenance for that equipment. Damage including accidents such as dropping or stepping on the instrument, and theft of the instrument will be your responsibility as detailed in the rental agreement. Dents and other such damage are not considered by the school as normal wear and tear.

School owned instruments include: oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor/baritone sax, french horn, large-bore trombones, euphonium, tuba, and percussion. We also have a very limited number of flutes, clarinets, alto saxes, and cornets/trumpets.

## Chaperones

There will be opportunities for parents to serve as chaperones at band events. If you would be interested, please contact the GMS front office and fill out the volunteer background check form. This is required by GISD for anyone who wishes to volunteer as a chaperone. We will contact parents when those occasions arise where we are in need of chaperones.

## Practice like a Champion at all times!

When you practice like a champion, a certain general attitude becomes you and you start to do everything like a champion. Your whole attitude changes for the better and you become more than you ever thought possible. Regardless of scores or rankings at festivals and contests, a champion's attitude is never deterred and defeated but always steadfast and strong. We must rehearse as well as we want to perform and never settle for less!

Go for it, Lion Pride!

## Items Not Covered in This Handbook

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Every year, a new situation arises that the directors have not encountered before. When something occurs that is not in the handbook, the directors will follow the principles of the handbook, including their teaching philosophy and Mission Statement. Using these, common sense and open communication with administrators and parents, we will come to a decision in the best interests of all involved. It is reality that this handbook cannot anticipate all situations that may arise, but just because it is not in the handbook does not mean the principles behind the handbook do not apply.

**\*\*Items in Handbook are subject to change based on guidelines and recommendations according to TEA, UIL, and Greenville ISD. Parents and students will be notified of any changes that will be made.\*\***

# GMS Band Handbook Acknowledgement Form

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## 2021/2022

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

After reading the band handbook, I agree with the philosophies and policies of the band directors and agree to adhere to them to the best of my ability.

I further understand that I will be held accountable for the information in this handbook in cases where conflicts arise with band activities. Not reading the handbook will not be accepted as an excuse.

I also give permission for photos of my child to be used on the Band Webpage and other promotional materials for the band. Please strike through the previous sentence if you do not consent.

I understand that a successful band is made up of committed students who are willing to work together with the band staff toward common goals. The sole purpose of these rules is to ensure a great experience for all members of the Greenville MS Band without being subjected to those who would prohibit learning from taking place.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

*Please return this form to school during the first week of school.*