



**NULL MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND
HANDBOOK**

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Welcome!

Welcome to the Michael R. Null Middle School Band Program! It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that we introduce our band program to you in a more detailed manner. NMS band program has established a wonderful tradition of excellence and we are glad you have chosen to be a part of it. Your child's participation in our band program is beneficial in many ways. Band students are engaged daily in a highly creative performing art that stimulates growth in areas of the human brain that no other discipline can. This growth effortlessly transfers into your student's academic life. In addition, our band students will develop traits such as **teamwork, responsibility, dedication, self discipline, social skills, confidence, leadership and dependability**. Membership in our band program will give all a sense of **accomplishment, pride, and respect** as the students develop **musical and personal skills** that will enrich their lives. The purpose of this handbook is to outline the guidelines and expectations for making this year a success for all involved, and to serve as a guide and resource for students and parents. Both students and their parents should take the time to thoroughly read this handbook. Upon completion, the contract that was distributed to your student during class (or downloaded from our web site) should be signed and returned to school, indicating your understanding of these guidelines and expectations.

Communication

The directors encourage positive communication and are willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress in band with his/her parents.

David Lea, Director of Bands

DavidLea@sheldonisd.com

Office: 281-436-2820

Ronnie Ross, Assistant Band Director

RonaldRoss@sheldonisd.com

Office: 346-291-3858 (call or text)

WRITE A NOTE

You may send a note with your child. Please include a phone number and/or e-mail address that you can be reached and the best time to reach you. It is always okay to send a note in Spanish if that is more comfortable for you.

CONFERENCE PERIOD: 3:12 - 4:00 pm (8th period)

Please understand that our communication to you – the parents – is a very high priority for us. We want to take care of concerns and make every situation the best for each student. Please contact us for clarification on any concerns before they become major issues.

We are often away from our phones because we are teaching children and must prioritize them. If you decide to reach a director by phone and do not get an answer, it is very important to leave a voicemail with your name, child's name, and phone number.

TECHNOLOGY: REMIND, CHARMS, & GOOGLE

Please visit our website at <http://www.nullband.com> for important information for students and parents



Text the code for your child's band to phone number 81010 to receive text alerts from the band directors. You may also download the Remind app.

Beginner Band: @nullbb
Concert Band: @nullcb
Symphonic Band: @nullsb
Honor Band: @nullhb



The Null Band program uses the CHARMS program to maintain student records, financial/payment information, rehearsal attendance, calendar, inventory, etc. Students and parents can check their CHARMS account at any time. This is also where volunteers will RSVP for all events. Please be familiar with this program. Instructions are on the band website at www.nullband.com.



The Null Band program uses Google Calendar and Google Classroom on a regular basis. Students should check their Google email (provided by the school) and Classroom accounts on a regular basis.

Directors will use CHARMS and REMIND to communicate with parents and students via text message and voice all-calls. This allows directors to safely communicate without the exchange of phone numbers with the directors.

Photo Publicity

Occasionally, photographs will be taken of band students to be published on the band website, bulletin boards, and social media. The band directors have the right to publish photographs of students at public events, such as concerts, football games, contests, etc. However, if the parent wishes for photos taken at school during the school day to not be released, the parent must indicate this request on the handbook signature page.

Conduct Expectations

As a representative group from a Sheldon I.S.D. Middle School, Band members represent not only themselves but the Null Band Program and directors.

Disrespectfulness in toward any staff member, parent volunteer, or fellow student will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action.

Band members will observe all procedures set forth by the Sheldon ISD code of conduct and secondary student handbook, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

- Students will not use or play on equipment they do not own without permission from a director.
- Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, or personal belongings.
- Be respectful of before and after school sectionals when in the band hall.
- Students will respect the property of others, and return their equipment to its proper storage place when not in use. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area, and keep said storage area clean and neat in appearance. Students who have difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band hall. .
- Only Null Band Students are allowed in the band hall.

Care of Facilities

- No gum, food or drinks are allowed in the band hall except when authorized by the directors.
- All trash is to be deposited in the wastebaskets provided.
- Acts of vandalism, or the willful misuse of school property, will be dealt with appropriately. Every band member is responsible to help the directors monitor the facility and control vandalism, which includes but is not limited to writing or carving on walls, destroying music, or breaking school property.
- Absolutely no student is allowed in the music library or directors' offices without permission.
- Practice and ensemble rooms are designed for practicing, not social gatherings.
- Please knock on office doors if they are closed
- Students must ask permission to use phones in the directors' offices.
- Students who stay after school for band practice must stay in the band hall. They may use the 500 hall restroom but may not go there in groups.

Financial Obligations

It is the philosophy of the Null Middle School Band that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship.

Please do not let a financial situation prevent a student from participating in band. Contact the directors if we can be of help

All Students:

Band Fees: \$30.00 (includes band uniform polo, binder, and other various supplies)

Students playing school-owned instruments:

There is a yearly usage fee of \$50 required to play a school-owned instrument.

Fee For Lost Items

Breathing device: \$5.00

Books: \$10.00

Binder: \$5.00

Fundraising

We have several fundraisers planned for the school year. Participation in fundraisers is encouraged, but not required. Fundraisers are used to defray the costs of student fees and trip expenses and other consumable items for band students (extra food, shirts, supplies for celebrations, incentives, etc) . Due to budget limitations, this has become a necessity. If the money is not fundraised, then any expenses will be paid to the band department from the family's own financial resources.

Below are estimated events/costs of student activities may include but are not limited to:

Beginner Band Spring Trip - approximately \$25-\$40

Band Spring Trip (all eligible 7th and 8th graders) - approximately \$50-100 (depends on the location of the trip)

Pizza Party or incentive days (all members) - students may be asked to contribute \$3-5 per occurrence depending on the amount of money raised by the band.

Remember, the more we fundraise, the easier it is on our families!

NMS Beginning Band

Fundraising will belong to NMS and SISD and cannot be refunded to a student. All money raised becomes property of the NMS Band Activity Account.

Instrument Placement

Before acceptance into the NMS Beginning Band, all 5th graders interested in band will be tested for instrument placement by the NMS or other SISD band directors and/or hired professionals. Testing is an important process in both the success of our future students and the band program as a whole. **The Null Band Directors do not discriminate on the basis of physical disabilities, race, gender, or any other characteristic of a child when doing instrument placements.** The directors want all students who are interested in band to do great. Parents and students should be open-minded and flexible and trust the director's judgement during the selection process.

More information on instrument placement:

- *Directors will always take into consideration a child's first choice of instrument and will do their best to place them on that instrument; however, this is not always possible*
- Directors will look at the child's physical traits, including dental and facial structure, lip size and shape, hand and finger size, coordination, arm length, and might have to consider any physical limitations that may prevent success on certain instruments.
- If the director has a legitimate reason to believe a child will struggle on their instrument of choice, they will suggest a better choice for the child based on how well they were able to play on other instruments during the testing process.
- We want all of our students to be happy with their instrument choice; but remember--if you are struggling and behind the rest of the class because your body will not let you play the instrument correctly, you are not going to have fun. Students are more happy when they are doing a good job and not having to struggle to be successful.
- Once an instrument is selected, students will not have the choice to change instruments later in the year or in another grade. This would require going all the way back to the beginning, and there is simply no time or personnel to do this. On rare occasion, a director may approve an instrument change if and only if 1) there is a medical reason that permanently prevents the student from continuing on the instrument, 2) the directors have deemed that the student was not correctly placed on the instrument as a 5th grader and will be more successful on another instrument, AND that student shows promise to work hard to catch up as quickly as possible on their own time.
- Another thing directors must consider is the number of students on each instrument. They have to have an ample class size for every instrument in order to have a well-balanced ensemble in our performing bands in future years. (example: We can not have 30 flutes and 0 trombones)

Note to parents: Most beginner band students come to NMS with little no knowledge of band. Parents--THIS IS NORMAL. Band directors will start the year teaching beginners simple tasks such as opening the case, proper way to hold the instrument, and instrument care before the students even take the instrument out of the case. Directors will do everything they can to teach students how to protect their family's investment.

NMS Performing Ensembles

Beginner Band Students will have a minimum of two performances and a contest in the 6th grade. They will perform their winter concert in December and a spring concert in May. They may also participate in Solo & Ensemble Contest and a spring band festival.

Upon completion of beginner band, students will be placed in a performing ensemble by audition, director recommendation, as well as observation throughout the year. Performing ensembles include the following:

Honor Band *

Selection into this group is by a combination of 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 concerts, and UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest. Members of this group will have one section rehearsal/assigned hearing time outside of the school day each week for a major grade.. Additional rehearsals will be scheduled as needed. The Honors Band will give numerous performances both on and off campus. In UIL activities, this group will be designated the "Varsity" band.

Symphonic Band*

Selection into this group is by a combination of audition, director recommendation, and demonstration of academic proficiency. These students will participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. Select members of the Symphonic Band may participate in the TMEA Region Band process. Members of Symphonic Band 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, this group will be designated as the "Non-Varsity" band.

Concert Band

Students in the concert band are selected for this band in order to be trained to step up into the role of Symphonic or Honors band if there is a need. Currently the Concert Band does not have after-school rehearsals; however, the directors reserve the right to schedule them at any time. Concert Band has the option of attending a spring festival as well as Solo & Ensemble Contest. Concert Band students are very important to our program, as they are the students we look to in the event that a student in a contest band does not meet the expectations given them.

*competition bands

Attendance

In order to have and maintain a high quality band program, each member's attendance is essential. While the NMS band follows all school and district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the NMS band. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held outside of the school day.

Procedures for Missed Rehearsal

1. If a student has been absent for the school day or went home before 1 PM on that day, the student will be excused from rehearsal that day. They will still be held responsible for knowing the material and/or playing any assignments missed in that rehearsal.
2. In the event that a student **MUST** miss rehearsal and no arrangements can be made to work around the schedule, the student must complete the **EXCUSED ABSENCE from REHEARSAL** form located on the NMS Band website. Students who are at school that day but do not give 24 hours notice will not be excused and will receive consequences for their absence.
3. *In the extenuating circumstance that there is an emergency and 24 hour notice cannot be given, the expectation is that the parent needs to notify the band director via email or phone call before the rehearsal or as soon as possible.*

The only way a student may be excused from a performance is by parent phone call.

Excused Absence

Absences during the school day will be excused according to district guidelines. Absences from activities held outside the school day will be excused at the discretion of the directors under the following conditions:

- The student has an excused absence from school on the same day
- The band director has been notified in writing at least 24 hours in advance using the Excused Absence from Rehearsal form on the band website.
- Appointments that are not due to immediate illness (dental/orthodontist, routine checkups, etc) are not excuses for absence. Absences due to personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances (approved by director) may be considered for excused status with 24 hour notice as described above. Students who are continually ill may be required to provide a doctor's note releasing them from participation. Absences should be discussed with a director to determine whether or not they will be excused.

Unexcused Absence

Students with an unexcused absence from any required band activity will receive a zero in the grade book. Rehearsals, concerts, contests, and competitions cannot be made up. Students with an unexcused absence to a sectional rehearsal may be required to schedule a make-up time with their band director within one week.

Concerts & Performances

Concerts and performances are an integral component of the band curriculum. Students should consult their schedules (located on the band website) for dates and times. All students grades 6-8 will perform at various times throughout the school year and **all performances are mandatory**. Periodically, the schedule may change and updates will be communicated as quickly as possible. Concert grades are considered to have three parts: warm-up, performance, and listening/evaluation. For the student, the concert begins at the warm-up. A "call time" (the time to show up) will be given clearly to all students and will usually be different for each band. Punctuality is essential and one point will be deducted per minute the student is late past the call time. A concert concludes after the group has performed. A listening/evaluation grade will be given in class after the concert. If a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up all missed work.

Performances of the ensembles may include but are not limited to the following in 7/8th Grade:

- Fall concert
- Winter concert
- Recording sessions
- Band festivals
- Pre UIL Contest
- UIL contest
- Spring trip festival
- Spring concert
- Region 33 All District/Region Band Tryouts
- Solo and Ensemble contest
- Null vs. King football game
- 8th Grade Band Night w/KHS Marching band
- Campuswide cultural events (Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage, etc)
- Ceremonies (NHS induction, 8th grade graduation, etc)
- Pep Rallies
- Others events as scheduled

Performances include but are not limited to the following in 6th Grade:

- Winter Informance
- Spring concert
- Solo and Ensemble Contest
- Spring Festival
- Other events as scheduled

Special Note – Students absent from school for any reason or students who are in alternative placement on the day of a concert, contest, or competition may not participate.

Daily Supplies

Each student should plan to bring the following items to rehearsals and/or performances. Other items may be added at the discretion of the directors.

All issued music/books/rhythm charts/warmup materials

Practice Sheet

Pencil

Instrument (MUST have name tag on the case)

All supplies relative to their instrument

Black band binder (with labeled dividers)

Other equipment as needed

For supplies specific to your instrument, refer to <http://www.nullband.com>.

UIL & Other Competitions

Students in the Honors and Symphonic Bands are required to participate in the UIL Concert & Sightreading Contest and Solo & Ensemble. Honors Band students will all be required to learn the music for All-Region auditions; however, they will only be chosen to attend the contest after being screened by a director. Beginner and Concert Band students will be chosen to attend contests on a case-by-case basis.

Per state law, all students attending contests must be academically eligible per the requirements listed above. For the most updated UIL requirements, please visit www.uil.utexas.edu.

All SISD Bands adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and UIL. Some band activities are designated as extra-curricular. Students participating in these activities are governed by eligibility requirements. A student shall be suspended from participation in all extracurricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the nine week period following a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than seventy in any class. Loss of eligibility does not take effect until seven days after the end of the reporting period. Ineligible students are not suspended from practice or rehearsal for extra-curricular activities. The student is not suspended from participation during the period in which school is recessed for the summer or any other vacation time.

Students may regain eligibility under certain circumstances. If a student has been suspended as a result of failing, he/she may regain eligibility by passing ALL courses by the third week of the following grading period. Reinstatement of eligibility would occur seven days after the three-week or 6-week progress report period (see TEA/UIL Side by Side). **Null Middle School reserves the right to give more strict guidelines for certain types of events.**

The eligibility law does not affect activities that are considered curricular components of any course. Examples of these activities are all rehearsals and performances that take place as a regular extension of classroom instruction. Any performance that is competitive in nature or for which admission is charged is deemed extra-curricular.

Grading Guidelines

SISD band programs have instructional objectives that relate to the mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for grade level subjects or courses. These objectives are aligned to address the academic skills needed for successful performance in the next grade, or next course, in a sequence of 10 courses. Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, and other instructional activities are designed so that the student's performance indicates the level of mastery of the instructional objectives. The student's mastery level of these objectives is a major factor in determining the grade for a subject or course.

Students will be expected to meet the responsibilities for each band class as determined by the director. Since band is an academic music class with some extra-curricular activities attached, the band student's grade will reflect achievement in both curricular and extracurricular areas.

General Grading Guidelines - 6th grade

- **Daily / Participation 30%**
- **Playing Tests 30%**
- **Written Tests 20%**
- **Practice Records 20%**

General Grading Guidelines – 7th/8th

- **Daily / Participation 10%**
Includes: Instrument, Music Supplies, and Class work
- **Tests 40%**
Includes: Playing, written, and counting
- **Extension of Class 30%**
Includes: Co-curricular events such as concerts and sectionals
- **Practice Records 20%**

The following list is provided to give students and parents examples of items that may be subject to grading.

- The student will receive a grade for each before or after school section or full rehearsal during a grading period.
- The student will be on task and focused during rehearsals.
- The student will have instrument, music, pencil, and supplies in rehearsals.
- The student will be prepared to play his/her part successfully.
- The student will mark music and take notes as needed.
- The student will be expected to improve individual music skills.
- The student's individual skill development will be evaluated through recorded music tests, individual playing tests, scale tests, and/or written tests.
- The student will be evaluated on improvement of ensemble skills during daily rehearsals.
- The student will be evaluated for improvement of his/her music fundamentals through daily observation during the "basics" part of each rehearsal and during sectionals.
- The student will be expected to demonstrate correct posture, hand position, embouchure, air production, and articulation as monitored during rehearsals.
- The student will receive a grade for each performance during a grading period.

Recordings/Hearing Times

In addition to sectionals, students may be required to submit recordings to their directors for a grade. Students will be trained on usage of any software/equipment necessary for these recordings. Students must record alone without anyone else in the room. Any student caught being dishonest in the recording process will be subject to the consequences for cheating per SISD/NMS disciplinary policy.

School-Owned Instruments

NMS provides a limited number of instruments for student use. These instruments include the **bassoon, oboe, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, horn, trigger trombone, euphonium, tuba, and general percussion equipment**. This equipment is generally purchased by the school district for student use because of its expense. Thus, all district-owned equipment must be handled with care. Students failing to take proper care of their district-owned instruments may lose the privilege of using such instruments.

The following is a list of general procedures for district-owned instruments:

- If possible, students who play large instruments and are dependent upon SISD buses may be issued one instrument for home use and one for school use. This will be at the discretion of the directors and will be based on instrument availability and transportation needs.
- SISD does not provide insurance for individually owned or district-owned equipment. All students utilizing district-owned instruments are required to pay the \$50 Instrument Usage Fee for the instruments that have been issued to them. This fee covers general maintenance and wear and tear. Students will be held responsible for damage caused to a school-owned instrument due to obvious neglect. Students and parents must sign an instrument checkout form, **pay their \$50 fee, and purchase all necessary maintenance supplies** before the student can use an instrument.
- Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition and any prior damage will be noted on the form. Students are expected to maintain their issued instruments accordingly.
- The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him or her.
- All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location with the case closed and latched (or properly covered, in the case of percussion instruments) when not in use.
- Students playing school-owned instruments are still responsible for accessories including but not limited to brass mouthpieces, oil, grease, reeds, etc.

Special Note – *District-owned instruments are not to be treated as "free" instruments. Basic supplies must still be purchased and repairs must still be made. Please treat these instruments as if they were your own. Most district-owned instruments exceed \$2,500 in value.*

Instrument Storage and Identification

Instrument lockers are to be used for instrument storage ONLY!! Each student is assigned a specific locker, which is to be kept clean. Instruments are to be put in their cases, and the cases kept closed and latched while in the storage area. Sixth grade students will begin to consistently bring their instruments home as soon as their band director instructs them.

It is encouraged that all personally-owned (not school-owned) instruments have the proper insurance coverage. Instruments ARE NOT insured by Null Middle School or Sheldon Independent School District.

NO PERSONAL INSTRUMENTS ARE TO BE KEPT IN LOCKERS OVERNIGHT OR OVER THE WEEKENDS. Band students will take home their instruments and band binders every evening. Students are expected to practice regularly outside of band class.

Sectionals

All students in Honors and Symphonic Bands will have at least one weekly section rehearsal with their band's section. Students are expected to be punctual and prepared. Absence from section rehearsals must be in accordance with the attendance policy. Students must make every effort to attend. Section rehearsals are an extension of the classroom and are graded accordingly. Section rehearsal schedules may be found on the band website or by contacting the student's director.

It is imperative that each sectional begin on time with everyone in attendance. Students who miss a sectional will not receive credit for participation. Please be aware of your child's sectional day/time and make every effort to assure that he/she is on time and ready to learn! Please do not schedule dentist, doctor, or any other appointments during your child's sectional because it will cause him/her to fall behind the rest of the group.

A director-approved excused absence (*24 hour advanced notice by completing an Excused Absence from Rehearsal form*) can be made up by individual practice for one hour (in addition to weekly practice requirements) or attending a similar instrument sectional (with director approval).

An **unexcused absence** can be made up by individual practice in the band hall for two hours, which may be completed on two separate days

Students who miss a sectional (excused or unexcused) have one week after they return to school to make up the missed sectional. After a week, the absence will be considered unexcused and a grade of zero will be recorded.

Private Lessons and Master Classes

The NMS Band takes advantage of Houston's rich cultural arts scene by bringing in professional musicians to work with our band students. Specialists on various instruments will be at Null on a routine basis to teach **master classes**, in which they will work with students on a sectional basis to learn special skill sets that go beyond what can be taught in the regular band classroom setting.

On occasion, these teachers may become available for private lessons. These are highly encouraged for our band students. Students would be responsible for the total cost of the lessons. Students may take lessons during band class or after school, depending on the schedule of the teacher.

All teachers coming in to work with our students are background checked for the safety of our students.

Uniform Guidelines

All band students in grades 6-8 will purchase a band polo for \$25 (included as part of the band fee). This will be used for performances, and may also be worn to school on any day.

Informal uniform: ***Pep rallies, football games, etc.***

Band Polo with Jeans

Formal uniform: ***Concerts, Festivals***

Band Polo with black dress pants, black dress shoes*

Students will provide their own black dress pants. They need to be full-length pants (not capri length) and not form fitting (such as leggings or skinny jeans) or baggy. Shirts will be expected to be clean and neatly pressed at performances.

*Ladies will wear black dress shoes with their uniform. They may be heels or flats, but they must be SOLID black and may not be distracting.

*Gentlemen need to wear black dress shoes (no tennis shoes, Vans, Converse, or boat shoes--DRESS shoes). **Gentlemen must wear long, black socks. Short or non-black socks will be removed and replaced with a proper pair at the cost of the student.**

Concert Etiquette & Expectations

Band students will exhibit proper concert behavior during all performances, in either their own band or as an audience member. Students will be graded on their behavior. Concert etiquette is an integral part of music education. Appropriate conduct in formal and informal concert settings is included in the TEKS.

The following rules will be followed at all times:

- Talking is not permitted on stage or in the audience. It is disrespectful to the performers on stage and audience members.
- Do not distract the performing band in any way.
- Do not leave your seat for any reason during a performance. You will be given ample time to use the restroom and drinking fountain before a concert begins. If you must leave, do so as quietly and inconspicuously as possible (make sure the doors do not slam shut). Leave between songs only.
- No food or drink is allowed on stage, backstage, or in the seating area. This includes water bottles and gum.
- Cell phones must be turned off (not on vibrate or silent) and stowed away.
- Move between the seating area and stage in quiet, single-file lines. Sit in your assigned seat/row. Do not talk as you enter or exit.
- Support your fellow band members with appropriate applause. Yelling, whistling, shouting names, etc. is not acceptable.
- Set a good example for the audience and other students. Other people may not know how to behave in a concert setting.
- We hope all parents and guests will stay for the concert when bringing a student to a concert. If a student needs to be picked up, please do so in a timely manner. Any student not picked up on time may not be allowed to participate in future NMS activities.

Chaperones

Parent chaperones are vital to the success of our band program and any help is appreciated!

Adult chaperones must be Approved Volunteers. All must RSVP to volunteer (through the CHARMS system) at least 24 hours before the event and MUST run visit the front office during school hours before the trip in order to scan their ID for a background check and Visitor Pass.

Students will treat chaperones as an extension of the band staff and will be shown proper respect at all times.

Travel

Band students often travel by bus to various performances, contests, and other trips. Students must have a medical release form on file in order to travel.

Students must travel to events and return from events on the bus with the whole group. **In the event that special transportation arrangements are needed, the band director must be notified in writing at least 24 hours in advance.** Occasionally, students may be required to be picked up by a parent at a different location in the local area, such as CE King High School.

SPRING TRIP

Every year the band takes a trip in the Spring. This trip rewards the students for all of their hard work throughout the school year. In order to participate in these trips, the students must do the following:

1. Students must be academically eligible. ***Null Middle School reserves the right to set guidelines for trip attendance that are more strict than state-level policy.***
2. Turn in their medical release forms and permission slips by the appropriate due date
3. Must attend scheduled sectionals/practices. Student must have no more than 2 unexcused absences.
4. Must attend are required concerts and contests. Students who miss UIL Contest due to any reason will not be allowed to attend the trip.
5. **Must meet all campus and/or district-mandated guidelines related to grades, attendance, and discipline.**
6. **Be up to date on financial obligations to the band. Students who owe money must first pay whatever is owed before paying for/signing up for a band trip.**

The Null Middle School trip guidelines--for all trips EXCLUDING UIL-sponsored events, are as follows:

Grades:

- Student must **be passing all eight classes for EACH progress report and report card within the nine weeks.**

Behavior:

- **The school administration has not assigned the student to more than 1 after school detention.**
- Student has **not been assigned to ISS (in-school suspension).**
- Student has **not been suspended from school.**
- **Student has not been assigned to DAEP (alternative education placement)**

Even though, grade and behavior guidelines for participation in the 9 week activities will be discussed with students at school; we encourage you to review the guidelines with your student. **The grade and behavior guidelines will be strictly enforced.**

If you have any questions, please contact "A" House Assistant Principal at 281-436-2807 or "B" House Assistant Principal at 281-436-2808.

All-Region Band and Orchestra

All Honor Band students will prepare audition music for the All-Region Band. Other band students are encouraged to prepare for and audition if the preparation of their music is at a high performance level. Decisions regarding who will actually audition will be on a case-by-case basis. Students will be graded on preparation for this event. Any person who is selected will attend all rehearsals and the performance of the All-Region Band. (Check your calendar for dates.) It is quite an honor to be selected to the All-Region Band. Hundreds of students throughout the region will audition. Even if you are not selected, the experience you receive by preparing will strongly enhance your musical ability and education!

Solo & Ensemble Contest

All band members will prepare and perform a solo and an ensemble unless other permission is granted. Grades will be issued for preparation and participation in the solo and ensemble process. Please remember that participation in the Null Solo and Ensemble Contest does affect trip eligibility.

Before/After School Transportation

As a courtesy to students, SISD provides afternoon activity buses to transport students home on Monday-Thursday. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this service after sectionals. All students taking an activity bus must get a bus pass from their director before leaving sectionals that day. Students are all welcome to stay in the band hall and practice and take an activity bus home even on the days that they do not have a scheduled rehearsal as long as a band director is in the band hall. Students who do not take the late buses **MUST be picked up on time** from a parent at the car rider pick-up at the front of the school.

Parents/guardians must make arrangements for transportation of their children to and from the band hall for trips and special events that may require them to be at school early in the day or later than the activity buses run. Band directors will communicate in a timely manner so that parents have plenty of time to make arrangements for travel. **Lack of transportation will not be an accepted excuse for missing a band function.**

To ensure the safety of their children, parents must have a plan for drop-off and pick-up of students in a timely manner for all band events. Parents/guardians should plan to be in attendance at evening concerts so that students do not have to wait outside in the dark (in addition to supporting their child's musical endeavors!).

Handbook Signature Page

THE HANDBOOK IS LOCATED ONLINE AT WWW.NULLBAND.COM.

Please read and sign below as indicated:

Students:

I have read the Michael R. Null Middle School Band Handbook and understand the requirements for being a band member. I realize it takes full cooperation and dedication (100% from me) to help our band meet its potential. I also realize that my failure to follow policies and directions could result in disciplinary action, which could lead to placement in another band or dismissal from the band program. I will be sure to obtain a copy of the NMS band calendar for the current school year and am aware that a copy also exists on the NMS Band website. As a member of the Null Middle School Band, I acknowledge the following as responsibilities I must fulfill if I wish to remain a member. I will:

- Intentionally demonstrate excellence
- Be punctual and prepared for weekly sectionals and hearing times
- Practice with a purpose and turn in weekly practice sheets
- Demonstrate my best on playing assignments and written theory tests
- Attend all concerts, clinics, rehearsals and contests
- Treat my peers and teachers with respect, and maintain appropriate conduct
- Maintain my grades for eligibility and self-achievement
- Have a high standard for improvement in class and on my own



Student Signature

Date

Parents:

I have read the Michael R. Null Middle School Band Handbook and am willing to support it and my child.

_____ (initials) I understand that there is a \$30 band fee required to participate in band.

Parent Signature

Date

Phone #

Publicity Release (Note: if this is not checked, it will be assumed as a "yes")

- YES, I allow photographs of my child to be allowed on the band website and/or official Null Band social media**
- NO, I do not allow photographs of my child to be allowed on the band website and/or social media. This does not include large group photos in which my child is not the main person in the picture.**

Página de Firma del Manual

EL MANUAL ESTÁ UBICADO EN LÍNEA EN WWW.NULLBAND.COM.



Por favor lea y firme como se indica a continuación:

Estudiantes:

He leído el manual de la banda de la escuela intermedia Michael R. Null y entiendo los requisitos para ser miembro de la banda. Me doy cuenta de que se necesita la plena cooperación y dedicación (100% de mí) para ayudar a nuestra banda cumplir su potencial. También me doy cuenta de que mi falta de seguir las políticas y las direcciones podría dar lugar a la acción disciplinaria, que podría conducir a la colocación en otra banda o el despido del programa de la banda. Estaré seguro de obtener una copia del calendario de la banda NMS para el año escolar en curso y estoy consciente de que también existe una copia en el sitio web de la banda NMS. Como miembro de la Null Middle School Band, reconozco lo siguiente como responsabilidades que debo cumplir si deseo seguir siendo miembro. Voy a:

- Demuestra intencionalmente la excelencia
- Sea puntual y preparado para sesiones semanales y audiencias
- Practicar con un propósito y entregar hojas de práctica semanales
- Demostrar mi mejor desempeño en tareas y pruebas teóricas escritas
- Asistir a todos los conciertos, clínicas, ensayos y concursos
- Tratar a mis compañeros y maestros con respeto, y mantener una conducta apropiada
- Mantener mis calificaciones para elegibilidad y auto-logro
- Tener un alto nivel de mejora en clase y por mi cuenta

Firma del estudiante

Fecha

Padres:

He leído el Manual de la Banda de la Escuela Intermedia Michael R. Null y estoy dispuesto a apoyarlo ya mi hijo.

_____ (iniciales) Entiendo que se requiere una tarifa de banda de \$ 30 para participar en la banda.

Firma del Padre

Fecha

Publicación: (Nota: si esto no está marcado, se asumirá como un "sí")

- SÍ, permito que se permitan fotografías de mi hijo en el sitio web de la banda y / o en las redes sociales oficiales de Null Band**
- NO, no permito que se permitan las fotografías de mi hijo en el sitio web de la banda y / o en los medios sociales. Esto no incluye fotos de grupo grande en las que mi hijo no es la persona principal en la foto.**