

Jourdanton ISD

2019-2020



Junior High Band Handbook

Welcome to the Jourdanton Band Program! We are so excited to have you as a new member of the Mighty Indian Band! Being in the Jourdanton Band will help you develop self-discipline, learn to work with others, but most of all, it will help you to appreciate and create music. You will see your hard work and dedication pay off as you become a better person and successful musician, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

We look forward to working with you. Your lives will be filled with the successes that are a direct result of your band experience. As you progress on your instrument, you will also see how this same desire for excellence applies to all other subjects in school.

LET'S HAVE A VERY SUCCESSFUL YEAR!!!

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Course Descriptions

The Jourdanton Junior High Band consists of three performing groups. Each performing group meets once throughout the school day with opportunity to potentially have additional rehearsals before and after school at the directors' discretion.

BEGINNING BAND is for students who are just starting to learn how to play an instrument and generally is generally made up of 6th grade students. All students in this class have been or will be tested to determine which instrument they will play. Instruments will be assigned primarily according to the abilities of the student and then the needs of the band program. This course will cover basic fundamentals of tone production and note reading. This is an all-year class. In this class, students are broken up by instrument classification: woodwinds, brass, and percussion. Each group will be with one director at a time to focus on instrument-specific things, but, on occasion, the class will meet as a full ensemble in preparation for a performance. Additional rehearsals may take place before or after school at the directors' discretion in preparation for a performance.

7TH GRADE BAND is, generally, for students in their second year of band. This class is an all-year class that is based around continual development in their individual instrumental abilities as well as developing their ensemble skills while striving to maintain excellent team-oriented discipline. Members of this organization will perform at UIL competitions and concert. Additional rehearsals may take place before or after school at the directors' discretion in preparation for a performance. Special opportunities to assist with the Jourdanton High School Marching Band in a variety of capacities will exist for students who demonstrate dedication in their performance, academic standing, and discipline.

8TH GRADE BAND is, generally, for students in their third year of band. This class is an all-year class that is based around continual development in their individual instrumental abilities as well as developing their ensemble skills while striving to maintain excellent team-oriented discipline. Preparation for high school is another important focus within this course. Members of this organization will perform at UIL competitions and concert. Additional rehearsals may take place before or after school at the directors' discretion in preparation for a performance. Special opportunities to assist with the Jourdanton High School Marching Band in a variety of capacities will exist for students who demonstrate dedication in their performance, academic standing, and discipline.

Required Supplies

The following are a list of materials and supplies used in the Jourdanton Band. These supplies can be found at various music stores (such as High School Music, Hillje, etc.) or can be found online. The band program will provide as much as we possibly can for their students but we ask that you purchase the following items

- Essential Elements 2000 (for your specific instrument)
- Tuner/Metronome (Korg CA-1 or Korg TM-50) or the Tonal Energy app on your phone
- Black binder
- PENCILS
- Instrument specific accessories: Reeds, cork grease, slide cream, comfortable neck strap, silk swabs, valve oil, water cup, seat strap, etc. (If you are unsure of what accessories apply to your instrument, feel free to reach out to a director for more information.)

Classroom Rules

Students will be in the band hall at the end of the passing period or they will be marked tardy.

1. During rehearsal, all instrument cases will be left closed and in the lockers.
2. Students will sit in their assigned seats.
3. Students will keep their hands to themselves.
4. Students will respect the property of others by not tampering or playing with another person's equipment or music during or outside class, including music stands and percussion equipment.
5. While in the band hall, students will keep their mouths free of gum, candy, food, etc.
6. Students will play their instrument or talk only when they are instructed to do so.

Daily Procedures

The following is the guideline to a successful rehearsal. The student who violates the rules is responsible for reducing the amount of time for rehearsal and consequently is hurting the entire band.

- Enter the rehearsal hall in a quiet, courteous, and orderly manner.
- Quickly get your instrument and music and take your seat.
- Students will be considered tardy if they are not in their seats, ready to rehearse two minutes after the tardy bell.
- Students will check the whiteboard for the agenda and put their method books and music in the order of the agenda.
- Concert attention will be observed when the director steps on the podium and no further talking will be permitted.
- Students will not play instruments without permission.
- Students will not play other student's instruments. This includes percussion and district-owned instruments.
- Band members should have the following for every rehearsal: instrument with the necessary accessories, all music, and a pencil.
- All school books, instrument cases, and equipment not needed for the rehearsal should be left in the lockers, the instrument storage shelf or book shelves.

- Good posture is of great importance at all times.
- Music stands are for music only.
- When class is over, quietly remain in your seat until you are dismissed.
- **ONLY PERCUSSIONISTS ARE PERMITTED TO TOUCH PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS!**

If it becomes necessary to take your instrument to a repair shop, please remember to tell a director/take it to the shop immediately.

The band directors will check the instrument lockers daily to make sure everyone has taken their instrument and music home to practice. It is, of course, impossible to practice at home if your instrument is sitting in the band hall overnight. **THERE SHOULD NEVER BE A CIRCUMSTANCE WHERE YOUR INSTRUMENT SPENDS THE NIGHT IN THE BAND HALL OR IN YOUR LOCKER!**

Students who do not bring their instruments to school will have points deducted from their participation grade and lose chair ranking. Phone calls to parents will be made and students will do a written assignment during class.

Grading System

Grades are determined based on the following areas: completed practice records, playing/written tests, sectional and concert attendance, daily participation, maintenance of instrument, and having required supplies. Class participation and concert attendance will be most influential in the student's grade.

Classroom Assigned Assignments

These assignments can look like a variety of things: rhythm sheet, practice log, recordings, etc. These assignments are given out to in order to continue to the students' development and musical growth. These are essentially the equal to that of core classes' daily work or daily assignments

Chair Tests

As often as needed, students will be given performance tests on material presented in class. As a result of some of these tests, students will be placed in assigned chairs within their section. The purpose of these chair tests is to promote healthy competition within a section, to motivate students to practice, to improve performance skills, and to allow a student to see how he or she is doing compared to others. Note that a student may be moved down in the section at any time if he or she misbehaves or is not prepared for class. As long as a student participates in the playing tests and is prepared for class, the chair ranking does not affect his or her grade. Beginning students could have chair tests one or more times a week and 7th and 8th grade students will have them less frequently.

Sectionals/Early Rehearsals

A sectional is a small group of band students taught outside of the school day by a band director or private instructor. During this time, specific issues important to that particular instrument will be addressed. Sectionals are vital since this is the time that students can receive more individual help on their instruments. Specific dates and times will be given in advance.

Band Concerts/Performances

Since daily practice ultimately leads to performance, it is essential that students attend all band performances. Band concerts will be a very large portion of the students' grade. Students should arrive at the designated time and place for performances with the correct uniform, and should be picked up in a timely manner. All students are required to help with set up and tear down after the concert as part of their grades. The students will be told in advance what time to be at the school to warm up and set up. If a student has problems getting to or from a performance, please let the band directors know as soon as possible, so that transportation can be arranged for that child. Since there is no way to make up a live performance, please make every effort to let the band directors know in advance if a student will be absent for a performance.

The following absences are considered excused and must be accompanied by a note or e-mail to one of the band directors:

1. Student illness when accompanied by a doctor's note.
2. Excused absence given by the attendance office.
3. Death in the family or unforeseen circumstances.

Every student in a band is important and the band is greatly diminished when any one student is not in attendance!

Discipline Plan

The following is the Jourdanton Junior High Band Discipline Step Plan. This step plan is also in accordance with the Jourdanton Junior High Discipline Plan.

1st offense: Student will be redirected

2nd offense: Conference with student with a written notice to the parent

3rd offense: Adjusted participation in the class for the day

4th offense: Parent contact and detention

5th offense: Parent contact and an office referral

6th offense: Office referral

Conflicts in Band Class

If a student has a conflict in band class, we highly encourage the student to speak directly to his/her band director as soon as possible. Learning how to resolve conflicts is a valuable life lesson and builds responsibility and character. It is not usually appropriate for students to talk to their directors about personal issues during class time; however, a student should approach his/her band director immediately after class, before school, after school, or between classes to schedule a conference. The following situations are examples of conflicts that must be reported directly to his/her director:

1. Any scheduling conflict with before or after school rehearsals, including tutoring, athletics, or other activities
2. Any situation in which a student is harassing another
3. If a student is feeling unusually unhappy about the classroom environment
4. If a student is unable to practice at home for any reason for a week or more
5. If a student is unable to rent or purchase an instrument, uniform, or any other required equipment
6. Any other extenuating circumstance e.g. an illness, unusual situation in the family

You don't necessarily have to speak to your director about your band conflict: Please feel free to talk to any of the directors at the appropriate time about your issue.

We are here to assist you in any way that we can. If we cannot resolve your conflict in the classroom, we will make sure that you get help from other sources.

We are a band family and we care about our students!

Instruments

Students are encouraged to rent/rent to buy/buy their own instrument from an accredited music store such as High School Music Service, Hillje Music, Music and Arts, or other director-approved stores (if you are renting from a music store they often offer a form of insurance if the instrument gets damaged or needs maintenance for FREE because it is their instrument: This is a good money saver!). Directors can provide a list of recommended instruments when needed. If this is not a possibility for you, the school can, in most cases, provide an instrument for the student to use for a \$30.00 year for the full year. It is the duty of each student playing a school instrument to take the best possible care of it. Those persons using school equipment *must* fill out a usage agreement form, have it signed by the parent, and return it to the director.

Students using school-owned instruments are responsible for any damage brought about during the school year. Grades will be given on periodic inspections. All cases will have the students name clearly marked on both sides and ends.

WOODWIND CARE

1. Keep instrument free of dust. All woodwind players should have swabs and saxophonists should have pad savers.
2. Check pads weekly for worn or torn skins.
3. Keys should be oiled and wooden instruments should be bore oiled at least twice a year. Never perform either operation without instructions from one of the directors.
4. Clarinet and Saxophone Mouthpieces should be cleaned daily with a mouthpiece brush. Flute head joints should be swabbed out daily after practice. All woodwind instruments should be swabbed out after rehearsal or daily practice.
5. Double reed players should have 2 playable reeds at all times. Clarinets and saxes should have 6 playable reeds. Playable means no chips or cracks and looks new. We recommend Vandoren reeds (blue box), but you may follow the advice of your private teacher.
6. Cases should be clean and clearly display your name and class on masking tape on the end of the case facing into the band hall from your slot or the case should have a name tag on the handle.

BRASS CARE

1. Instrument should be washed weekly, inside and out. Do not perform this task without instructions from your director.
2. Mouth pieces should be cleaned daily.
3. Tuning slides should be greased after the weekly wash.
4. Trombone slides should be lubricated with slide cream (e.g. Trombotine) as necessary. Absolutely no slide oil is to be used!!
5. Valves should be oiled as necessary.
6. Cases should be clean and clearly display your name and class on masking tape on the end of the case facing into the band hall from your slot or the case should have a name tag on the handle.

PERCUSSION

Percussionist supplies will be at the discretion of the percussion director, John De Leon. If you have questions, please reach out to him at jdeleon@jisdtx.us .

Students are to only touch/handle their own instruments/instruments that they have been given permission to touch.

Instrument disclaimer:

- The school is not liable for lost or stolen instruments.
- Each student will be issued a locker with a lock. The students are to use these lockers and lock to store their instrument and music during the school day.
- In the event that an instrument is missing, the student should contact a band director immediately.

Music

Music will be provided to all band students. Their binder should last all year. All students are responsible for all music in their folders/binders. Folders/binders should be kept in the assigned slot or locker during the day. Beginning band students should keep their method books and sheet music in binders, much the same way as in other classes.

Music left out after rehearsal will be picked up and the student will have consequences at the discretion of the director, such as to move down one chair and/or lose points on the class participation grade.

Music may be marked in pencil or highlighter only and music must never be folded. Get in the habit of numbering all measures of music.

All method books, binders, and folders must be clearly marked, in pen, with your name, instrument, and class.

Private Lessons

The directors will always strive to give as much individual attention to each student as possible, but due to time constraints, the directors may not reach each individual as often as needed. That being said, before school and after school depending on the directors' schedule, students will be able to sign up for a private lesson. A private lesson is one-on-one time with a director to solely to improve the students' individual musical abilities. Directors might assign a private lesson under a sectional/rehearsal grade throughout the year so all students will be held accountable for constant development and improvement for their own musical abilities.

UIL Concert Band Contest

The UIL Concert Band Contest is a very important event each year and is equivalent to a "STAAR™ test" for band. The Jourdanton Bands will be involved in several associated events:

1. A show and tell practice concert at school.
2. Before and after school rehearsals and UIL music pass-offs.
3. Potentially have a tape clinic.
4. UIL contest.

Some of the events will take place during school hours and some will occur in the evening or on the weekend. The directors hope for great support from band students and parents during the contest period.

Permission Forms

The students will be making trips to concert and contest sites during the school year. A permission form with pertinent information will be sent home several days before the event. A parent or guardian signature on this form is required for the student to leave the school grounds. Permission forms are very important. They keep parents informed and they give permission to travel and from important band engagements. If indicated so, please return all permission forms in a timely manner. For students to participate in extra band trips (not UIL contest):

1. Be academically eligible during the 4th & 5th six week periods
2. Have not violated the Jourdan ISD Code of Conduct during the Spring Semester (no referrals)
3. Have attended all band performances during & outside of the school day
4. Have paid all band fees in full prior to trip
5. Have completed individual scales and/or UIL playing chart.

Fundraisers

Throughout the year, we will be having at least two fundraisers. We ask that all students and families take part in these activities. All funds that are raised are utilized to provide your child with opportunities they otherwise would not have. We use money that has been raised to help with paying for the end of the year trips, instrument repairs, supplies for the students, t-shirts, etc. We would really appreciate any help that your family can contribute. Everything that you get out of a program/activity is solely based on everything that you put into it.

University Band Camps

All band students are highly encouraged to participate in summer band camps. There are many held throughout the summer that you and your child may pick from. More information will be available in the spring semester.

Handbook/Information/Photo Waiver Form

Students will receive a handbook form, student information sheet, and photo waiver form on the first day of classes. They will need to take this form home and turn it in as soon as possible. We cannot handout supplies/music/instruments until they get this form turned in.

Thank you again for reading this information and joining band! We are excited to start working with you all!

GO BAND!