

Arbor Creek Middle School Band

2109 Arbor Creek Dr.
Carrollton, TX 75010
Phone: 972-350-2589



Band Department Handbook

Marty Nelson – Band Director
Kim Cooley – Band Director
Linda Whitaker – Band Clerk
Chantell Upshaw – Principal

Table of Contents

How to Contact Us.....	pg. 3
Band Schedule.....	pg. 4
ACMS Course Information.....	pg. 5
Band Activity Policies.....	pg. 6
ACMS Band Activities List.....	pg. 7
Private Lesson Program.....	pg. 11
Band Hall Procedures.....	pg. 12
Band Guidelines.....	pg. 13
Rehearsal Etiquette.....	pg. 14
Course Objectives and Grading.....	pg. 15
Discipline Plan.....	pg. 17
Practice Records.....	pg. 18
Sectional Policy	pg. 19
Eligibility.....	pg. 20
Uniform Requirements.....	pg. 21
H.H.S. Booster Club.....	pg. 22
Band Awards.....	pg. 23
End of the Year Test/Audition.....	pg. 26

How to Contact Us

Please visit the ACMS band website once a week!

www.arborcreekband.org

This is where you will find detailed information about your band program!

By EMAIL

Marty Nelson nelsonme@lisd.net

Kim Cooley cooleyki@lisd.net

Scott Baldwin baldwins@lisd.net

Linda Whitaker whitakerl@lisd.net

By PHONE

Marty Nelson 972-350-2587

Kim Cooley 972-350-2588

Scott Baldwin 972-350-2587

Linda Whitaker 972-350-2589

By STUDENT

You are always more than welcome to send a note with your student. Please include an email address or phone number where you can be reached.

Band Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Friday

Time	Period	Mr. Nelson	Mrs. Cooley	Mr. Baldwin
8:45-9:30	1st	French Horns	Flutes	
9:35-10:20	2nd	Concert Band	Concert Band	
10:25-11:10	3rd	Assist Symphonic Band	Symphonic Band	
11:15-12:00	4th	Honors Band	Assist Honor Band	
12:40-1:25	5th	Conference	Conference	
1:30-2:15	6th	Cornets	Oboe/Bassoons	
2:20-3:05	7th	Clarinets	Saxes	Percussion
3:10-3:55	8th	Trombones	Euphonium/Tubas	

Wednesday (Odd Day)

Time	Period	Mr. Nelson	Mrs. Cooley	Mr. Baldwin
8:45-10:15	1st	French Horns	Flutes	
10:20-10:50		Tutorials	Tutorials	
10:55-12:15	3rd	Assist Symphonic Band	Symphonic Band	
12:20-2:25	5th	Conference	Conference	
2:30-3:55	7th	Clarinets	Saxes	Percussion

Thursday (Even Day)

Time	Period	Mr. Nelson	Mrs. Cooley
8:45-10:15	2nd	Concert Band	Concert Band
10:20-10:50		Tutorials	Tutorials
10:55-12:15	4th	Honors Band	Assist Honors Band
12:20-2:25	6th	Cornets	Oboe/Bassoons
2:30-3:55	8th	Trombones	Euphonium/Tubas

BAND COURSE INFORMATION

At ACMS, approximately 350 students will enjoy the daily musical experiences provided in their Band classes. These young instrumentalists not only learn a greater knowledge of all aspects of music, they also develop discipline, responsibility, and the ability to cooperate with others. When you add to this the discovery of a lifelong means of self-expression and pleasure, you can see why so many students benefit from and enjoy being a part of the ACMS Band Program.

The Eagle Band is made up of students who have had no prior experience in playing a band instrument. These students may be scheduled into the following separate classes: French Horns, Trumpets, Low Brass, Trombones, Saxophones & Clarinets, Percussion, Flutes, Oboes, & Bassoons. The performances that the Eagle Band will be involved in include the Fall Recital, the Winter and Spring Concerts, a band contest, and solo and ensemble festivals and recitals.

The Concert Band is made up of mostly seventh graders. These students have full Band every band class. The performances that the Concert Band may be involved in include the Winter and Spring Concerts, one band contest, solo and ensemble festivals and recitals, region and district band auditions, football games and pep rallies.

The Symphonic Band is made up of seventh graders and eighth graders. These students have full Band every band class. The performances that the Symphonic Band may be involved in include the Winter and Spring Concerts, one or two band contests, solo and ensemble festivals and recitals, region and district band auditions, football games and pep rallies.

The Honor Band is made up primarily of eighth graders but may include seventh graders. These students have full Band everyday. The performances that the Symphonic Band will be involved in include the Winter and Spring Concerts, one to two band contests, solo and ensemble festivals and recitals, region and district band auditions and performances, school concerts, and pep rallies.

Another extremely important aspect of the ACMS Band is the **Private Lesson Program**. Please read the information on this fantastic opportunity that is included in this handbook!

At the end of the year, 6th and 7th grade students will audition for placement in the Concert, Symphonic or the Honors Band for the following year.

Band Activity Policies

This handbook contains a list of band activities, rehearsals and concerts that the Arbor Creek Bands will be involved in this school year. If there are any additions or changes, we will post it on the website, put the change in the charms calendar, send an email notification about the change, and tell the students at school. Hopefully, there will be few, if any changes. Each student is required to be at all rehearsals and performances listed for his/her band.

We request that you keep this list, mark it on your calendar, and schedule other activities and appointments at times that do not conflict. It is impossible for the band to schedule around the activities of individual students and families. Therefore, we ask your cooperation in scheduling around band activities. A student who is moved from one band to another during the year should take careful note of the changes in activities that this would create.

Students are encouraged to plan ahead and know their obligations for Band, other school activities, and personal schedules such as vacations, dentist appointments, etc. The director must be informed of any potential conflict no less than two weeks prior to the event to allow time to work out the conflict. Last minute notification or simply not attending any performance or rehearsal may result in a parent conference to determine what action should be taken. Should a conflict arise that is scheduled after a band event is scheduled, the band event should have priority.

Excused absences will be given only for illness, death in the immediate family, or immediate family emergencies. Outside of school activities (baseball, etc.) are not considered reasons for excused absences. An unexcused absence from a band rehearsal or performance may result that student in being moved to a lower band. Should a student be excused from a performance, that student may be required to perform for one of the directors either live or on a tape. Only partial credit may be obtained because of the inherent nature of the class.

Also, please be careful when scheduling major orthodontic work. Having braces put on or taken off just before a performance or contest can be detrimental to a student's performance. Contact your director if you have any questions!

Your help, planning and cooperation in these manners will be appreciated. Thank you!

Arbor Creek Band Activities

E = EAGLE BAND (Beginners) **C** = CONCERT BAND **S** = SYMPHONIC BAND **H**=HONORS BAND

August

E, C, S, H August 27, Friday. Band Party! 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

S, H August 28, Saturday. Region Band Masterclasses. 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

E, C, S, H August 30, Monday OR August 31, Tuesday. Band Parent Meeting. 6th grade parents 6:30 PM. 7th and 8th grade parents 7:30 PM. ACMS Cafeteria. One parent must attend.

September

C, S, H September 24, Friday. Combined Halftime Show with CVMS, KMS and HHS.
5:00 PM. HHS stadium.

C, S, H September 28, Tuesday. Pep Rally. ACMS. During School

October

E, C, S, H October 8, Friday. Band Fundraiser Begins.

S, H October 6, Wednesday. Mock Audition. 4-9 PM

For students who will be auditioning for District Band. ACMS Band Hall.

This audition will determine who will be participating on the 16th. The students will sign up for a time slot.

S, H October 15, Friday. Region Band Masterclasses. 4:15 PM to 6:00 PM. ACMS.

C, S, H October 15, Friday. Halloween Party. 6 PM to 8:30 PM. ACMS.

S, H October 16, Saturday. Middle School District Band Try-outs. Times TBA.
Killian M.S.

C, S, H October 26, Tuesday. Pep Rally. ACMS. During School

E October 26, Tuesday. Eagle Band Fall Recital. Concert begins at 7:00 PM. ACMS. Gym.

S, H October 27, Wednesday. Middle School Region Band Try-outs Phase 1. Dawson MS Southlake.
Times TBA. Bus transportation to and from will be provided. Students may be picked up from Dawson by parents after their audition.

November

S, H November 5, Friday. Region Band Masterclasses. 4:15 PM to 6:00 PM. ACMS.
For those students auditioning for Region Phase 2 on Saturday, November 6.

S, H November 6, Saturday. Middle School Region Band Try-outs Phase 2. Huffines MS.

C, S, H November 9, Tuesday. District Football Championships. Times TBA. LHS.

E November 12, Friday. Eagle Band (6th) Party. ACMS. 4:30 PM- 6:30 PM. ACMS

December

S, H December 1, Wednesday. District Band Sectionals. 6-8:00 PM. Griffin/Lakeview.
For those students that made the District Band.

E, C, S, H Friday, December 3. Fundraiser Limo Party. 4:15 PM to 6:15 PM.

C, S, H December 7, Tuesday. Winter Concert. Concert begins at 7:30 PM. Hebron H.S.

S, H December 10, Friday. During school day and evening. District Band Clinic/Concert. During school and evening. Locations TBA. For those students that made the All-District Band.

E December 13, Monday. Eagle Band Rehearsal. 4-5:30 PM. ACMS

C, S, H December 14, Tuesday. Pep Rally. ACMS. During School

E December 14, Tuesday. Eagle Band Winter Concert. Concert begins at 7:30 PM. ACMS

January

S, H January 8, Saturday. Region Band Clinic/Concert. Times TBA. Forestwood, McKamy and Shadow Ridge MS. Concert at Lewiville HS. For those students that made the All-Region Band.

E, C, S, H January 21, Friday. Band Party! 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM.

C, S, H Week of January 24. First piano rehearsal in preparation for solo contest.

C, S, H January 25, Tuesday. Pep Rally. ACMS. During School

C, S, H Week of January 31. Second piano rehearsal in preparation for solo contest.

February

C, S, H Saturday, February 5. Solo and Ensemble Contest. Times TBA. CVMS

H February 22, Tuesday. Contest Music Clinic. 6:00-8:00 PM. ACMS Band Hall.

S February 24, Thursday. Contest Music Clinic. 4:30-6:30 PM. ACMS Band Hall.

E, C, S, H February 25, Friday. Spring Band Party.

March

S, H Month of March, Full band rehearsal on the block day that you do not have band class. 7:30 AM.
Symphonic: Thursday. Honors Band: Wednesday.

All Percussion March 4, Friday. Hebron Cluster Percussion Ensemble Dress Rehearsal
Times TBA. HHS

All Percussion March 5, Saturday. Hebron Cluster Percussion Ensemble Clinic and Concert.
Times TBA. HHS

S, H March 7, Monday. Pre-UIL Concert. Times TBA. Hebron H.S.

S March 28 or 29. UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest. Times and exact date TBA.
Little Elm High School.

H March 30, 31, or April 1. UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest. Times and exact date TBA.
Wakeland HS.

April

S, H April 7, Thursday. Contest at Eisemann Center. Times TBA.

May

E May 2, Monday. Eagle Band Rehearsal. 4-5:30 PM. ACMS

E May 3, Tuesday. Sandy Lake Festival. During School Day. Exact times TBA. Students that have received in school suspension or a band detention during the semester will not be permitted to go.

C May 6, Friday. Spring Festival. Exact times TBA. Note: Students that have received in school suspension or a band detention during the semester will not be permitted to go.

H May 11, Wednesday. Spring Fest at the Murchison. Denton. Times TBA.

E May 12, Thursday. ACMS Solo Contest. Times TBA. ACMS.

E May 23, Monday. Eagle Band Rehearsal. 4-5:30 PM. ACMS

E, C, S, H May 24, Tuesday. Arbor Creek Spring Concert. 7:00 PM. Hebron High School.

E,C,S,H May 27, Friday. End of the year test/auditions begin.

June

C, S, H June 2, Arbor Creek Band Banquet. 6:30 PM. ACMS

C, S, H June 4, Saturday. Hurricane Harbor. 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

E, C, S, H LISD Summer Band Camp. June 20-24. Hebron High School.

July

E, C, S, H July 10-22. West Texas Band Camp.

August

All 7th and 8th graders (2010-2011.) August 8-11, Monday through Thursday. 2 PM – 3:30 PM. ACMS Summer Band.

PRIVATE LESSON PROGRAM

The private lesson program plays a very important role in the music education of the Arbor Creek Band and its individual students. We urge you to take advantage of the opportunity afforded our students by private study. The rates for these lessons are comparable or below that one would pay in a music studio or on a college campus. These lessons are offered during the school year and usually during the summer.

Private lessons are directly responsible for the successes that the ACMS Bands have enjoyed in the past. Students involved in this program enjoy receiving more individual attention than the band director can give in a typical band class. The time that the student spends once a week with the instructor in a one on one situation will help him/her to excel much more quickly. These students receive instruction on fundamentals and technique in addition to help on solos, ensembles, chair tests, try-out materials, scale tests, tape grades, all region band preparation and more!

The current fee allowed for each lesson this school year is \$17.00 per lesson. Lessons taken before or after school will be 30 minutes long. Private lessons may also be given during the student's band class. Lessons are given once a week.

Please fill out the private lesson reply form in the indicating whether or not you can take advantage of the program at this time. We hope to have a high percentage of our students involved in this very beneficial aspect of our band program!

BAND HALL PROCEDURES

There is several thousand dollars worth of equipment in the band hall that is the responsibility of each ACMS Band member.

- Absolutely no running or horseplay in the band hall.
- Always pick up after yourself and others without being asked.
- Never touch or play another persons instrument.
- Only band students are allowed in the band hall. For safety and security concerns, do not encourage or allow others in your band hall.
- NO food, gum, or drinks at anytime in the band hall and practice rooms.
- Chairs are for sitting only – sit properly with all four feet on the floor.
- Music stands are for music only. Please do not use them as a footrest or desk.
- Do not handle stereo, tuners, metronomes, piano, etc. without a director's permission.
- Always be respectful of your directors and private instructors.
- Always be respectful of your peers. Treat others, as you would like to be treated.

The Band Hall is your room. Treat it with the highest regard and great pride. Please understand that nearly 300 students will pass through this room on a daily basis, therefore, we must adhere to these rules. Imagine 300 people in your room on a daily basis.

BAND OFFICE

Although the band office is meant for business, it is not off limits to students. When the door is open, students are welcome to enter. When the door is closed, **DO NOT ENTER OR INTERRUPT THE WORK OR BUSINESS TAKING PLACE.** If you have an emergency, please knock and use common sense in regard to how important your concern may be.

BAND TELEPHONE

The telephone placed in the band hall is intended for business use only. Students will be allowed to use the phone for important calls only. Any abuse of this privilege will result in the cancellation of student phone use.

To Place A Call: press 9, wait for a dial tone, then dial your area code and number.

If asked by a director to answer the phone, please answer in the following manner:

“Band Hall....student aide speaking...”

BAND LIBRARY /COPY ROOM

Band Aides are the only students allowed in the copy room or band library unless you have permission from a director or the Band Clerk. No one is allowed to use the copy machine without permission from a director. If there is a paper jam, please do not try to solve the problem, get a director.

ACMS BAND GUIDLINES

1. All students are expected to be courteous and respectful to their classmates and teachers.
2. The primary use of the band hall is for rehearsals. Never do anything that would interrupt a rehearsal. Examples of disruptions are: talking, walking in front of a group, waving, etc. If no rehearsal is taking place, please consider the band room a very quiet place.
3. Please enter and exit the room through the band hall door and not the orchestra hall door.
4. You must be in your chair before the tardy bell starts ringing or before the TV clock indicates the starting time for your class.
5. Practice rooms are for practicing only.
6. Only band students are allowed in the band hall and practice rooms.
7. NEVER leave your instrument unattended. Students may drop off their instruments before their first period class and pick them up immediately after school.
8. All cases will be stored in their assigned bins. Your case label must be visible when your case is in your bin. Students are responsible for keeping their individual storage bins clean and neat. Schoolbooks, papers, and lunches are not allowed in the instrument room.
9. No one shall play, hold, or otherwise operate or handle another person's instrument. If it does not belong to you, do not touch it!
10. For your health and well being, food, drinks, and gum are not allowed in the band hall.
11. All band students are encouraged to use the band hall and practice room facilities. Everyone will assist with keeping these rooms neat and clean. Cleaning is everyone's responsibility and should never be thought of as punishment.
12. All students will be required to keep a band notebook. Tests, notes, band rules, and all handouts will be kept in the band notebook. Other required materials include pencil, paper, and any accessory items needed for maintaining their instruments.

Consequences for violation of the above policies may include reminders, loss of privileges, detentions, teacher/parent conferences, office referrals, and removal from the band program.

REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

The quality of work that a performing ensemble achieves in its rehearsal is the single most important factor in the overall success of the group. Efficient rehearsals produce SUPERIOR bands. There are certain factors that will contribute to good rehearsals on a daily basis.

ALWAYS BE IN THE RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME, WITH THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT, AND THE RIGHT ATTITUDE

1) **A POSITIVE ATTITUDE** will go a long way in helping the band reach its potential. Always enter the band hall with a purpose of accomplishing a musical goal. Leave other problems outside of the band hall and focus on the rehearsal at hand.

2) **THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT** will make the rehearsal go smoother. **HAVE A PENCIL** or **HIGHLIGHTER** on your music stand at all times. Marking music will help you remember important information about the piece being prepared. This will be beneficial to you in performance and in home practice. Be well prepared by having all equipment in the proper working condition. This includes reeds, mouthpieces, tuning slides, etc. If you have a mechanical problem with your instrument, please seek help from the assisting director in your band before class begins.

3) **THE RIGHT TIME.** To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, and to be late is to be sorry! Always give yourself enough time to get set up and warmed up. When in a rush, your focus and concentration are the first things that suffer. Students should be in their seats at ready position when the tardy bell rings. All noise and movement should come to a halt after the tardy bell.

4) **GOOD POSTURE and HAND POSITION:** Every band member should know the importance of good habits in posture and hand position. Please be responsible for maintaining a high level of professionalism in your approach to playing your instrument.

5) **SELF DISCIPLINE:** Rehearsals run smoother when the classroom atmosphere is at a superior focus level. Students can make a big difference in the direction of a rehearsal by following these etiquette guidelines:

- a. No talking during rehearsal
- b. Eyes on the conductor throughout the rehearsal
- c. Raise your hand if you have a question
- d. Be at ready position unless told otherwise
- e. Be patient with others and listen to progress taking place
- f. Always answer a question with a "yes or no sir," "yes or no ma'am."
- g. Concentrate: Be ready to move quickly and quietly between tasks.

6) Always **READ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS** and **CHECK THE BOARD** for information and the daily activities.

7) **RESPECT:** When a large group of people work closely together on a daily basis, it is important to bolster respect for each other and the director in and out of rehearsal. Please be sensitive to the feelings of others in the group. Be polite and treat others as you would want to be treated.

Beginning Band

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND GRADING PROCEDURES

Aesthetic experiences are a vital part of student growth. Band, as a musical organization, provides one medium of aesthetic expression for students. Our departmental goal is that each student be able to express, understand, and evaluate the aesthetic values of music.

OBJECTIVES FOR SIXTH GRADE

The student will have the opportunity to:

1. - learn assembly and maintenance of an instrument
2. - learn and use good posture while playing
3. - learn and use the correct embouchure while playing a wind instrument
4. - learn the correct method of breathing for playing a wind instrument
5. - learn and use correct hand position
6. - learn the proper concept of tone production and tone quality
7. - know the various articulation markings such as slur, staccato, etc
8. - learn to clap and count rhythmically
9. - learn, understand, and apply musical terms
10. - develop discriminatory listening skills
11. - develop good home practice routines
12. - promote social development through large group interaction
13. - develop personal and social self-discipline
14. - prepare for advancement in the seventh grade band levels

GRADING PROCEDURES

50% of the six weeks grade will be based on major tests including playing tests, written tests and objective sheets. There is a deduction of 15 points per day for major assignments that are late (school-wide policy).

25% of the six weeks grade will be based on daily grades including homework assignments, daily quizzes, class work, and participation. There is a 30 point deduction for assignments that are one day late and 50 points the second day. Daily assignments are not accepted after the 2nd day (school-wide policy).

25% of the six weeks grade will be based on the amount of daily home practice. Beginning the second week of school, parents will sign a practice log each week to verify the amount of home practice. Practice journals are graded on the date due, but will be accepted on the following two days without penalty. A 30 point penalty will be given on the third day.

Honors, Symphonic and Concert Bands

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND GRADING PROCEDURES

Aesthetic experiences are a vital part of student growth. Band, as a musical organization, provides one medium of aesthetic expression for students. Our departmental goal is that each student be able to express the aesthetic values of music, through performance skills and theory comprehension.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student will be provided opportunities to:

1. - develop self-discipline as well as group discipline through preparation and practice of individual parts
2. - develop leadership skills, responsibility, diligence, and an ability to cooperate with others as a team member
3. - develop strength, stamina, endurance and coordination
4. - develop an ability to make musical value judgments through critical listening
The student shall be provided opportunities to recognize quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation.
5. - further develop skills in using and understanding note values, rests, key signatures, scales, musical terms, signs, and symbols
6. - develop the ability to recognize and tune intervals, unisons, harmony, and train the ear
7. - further develop proper instrumental technique, care for instrument, correct posture and playing position, embouchure, good tone, correct breathing, technical proficiency, and rhythmic skill
8. - further develop instrumental technique in finger/tongue coordination, intonation, musical phrasing, dynamic control, rhythmic skills, and articulation
9. - further develop music reading skills and hand-eye coordination. The student shall be provided opportunities to interpret through a musical instrument musical symbols and terms from the printed page
10. - develop musical sensitivity through performance of music and listening to music. The student shall be provided opportunities to internalize generally accepted, authentic performance styles and techniques in music played and heard
11. - evaluate the quality of musical performance. The student shall be provided opportunities to evaluate progress toward self-established musical goals, evaluate solo and group rehearsals and performances, and recognize quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation.
12. - develop creative self-expression in every performance experience and explore careers

GRADING PROCEDURES FOR 7TH AND 8TH GRADE BANDS

- 40% of the six weeks grade will be based on major tests including playing tests and written exams. Playing tests will be given during sectionals and class. There is a deduction of 20 points per day for major assignments that are late (school-wide policy.) The percentage of this grade will be 60% for Concert Band members.
- 20% of the six weeks grade will be based on daily grades including, homework assignments, daily quizzes, class work, and participation. There is a 30 point deduction for assignments that are one day late and 50 points the second day. Daily assignments are not accepted after the 2nd day (school-wide policy).
- 20% of the six weeks grade will be based on the amount of daily home practice. Beginning the second week of school, parents will sign a practice log each week to verify the amount of home practice. Practice journals are graded on Fridays, but are accepted on Mondays without penalty. Wednesday is the last day they will be graded (30 point deduction).
- 20% of the six weeks grade will be based on sectional attendance. (Honors and Symphonic Band only.) See the “Honors and Symphonic Band Sectional Policy” on the next page for more information.

ATTENDANCE

Any activity, which is included in the course objectives, is considered curricular. Sectionals and performances are part of the course requirements and are therefore graded activities.

DISCIPLINE PLAN FOR ALL GROUPS

Disciplinary procedures:

After a student signs the choice log for a sixth time, the student will receive a 15 minute before or after school detention and the parent will be contacted. If a student fails to attend the detention, a second detention will be scheduled for 30 minutes. Failure to attend the second will result in a one hour detention. If the third detention is also missed, the student will be referred to an assistant principal.

If a student signs the choice log 3 times for disciplinary reasons, a detention will be assigned.

SEVERE DISRUPTION: Immediate referral to appropriate assistant principal.

Note: Signing the Choice Log multiple times may disqualify a student from parties or trips.

Practice Records

All members of the Arbor Creek Band program will complete and turn in a practice record each week.

Please read the following expectations carefully.

- o Practice records **MUST** be signed by a parent / guardian on the official ACMS Practice Record form. Signatures on Post-It™ notes or other media attached to the form are not accepted.
- o Practice records will be graded on Friday of each week. Late practice records will be accepted through the following Tuesday.

Eagle Band By the end of the year Eagle Band members must practice 150 minutes per week distributed over a no less than five days each week.

Concert Band students are expected to practice a minimum of 180 minutes each week, distributed over no less than five days.

Symphonic Band students are expected to practice a minimum of 180 minutes each week, distributed over no less than five days.

Honors Band students are expected to practice a minimum of 180 minutes each week distributed over no less than five days.

- o Any student practicing more than their required amount number of minutes can earn extra credit. One point will be given for every five extra minutes practiced. Extra credit is limited to 100 bonus points per week.
- o If a student cannot practice during a given week (due to extended illness or instrument in need of repair) please write the words “sick” or “fix” in the boxes corresponding to the appropriate days on the practice chart and turn it in with a parent signature. Without a signature, the student cannot be excused from the grade.
- o Practicing is considered band homework. Practice assignments are given in class everyday. Therefore, if a student misses school or is away for a weekend, they are expected to make up work/practice time the same as if they miss other classes. If you are going out of town for the weekend, please consider this as you plan your practice minutes for the week.

Honors & Symphonic Band

Sectional Policy

Sectional practices are a required part of each Honors and Symphonic Band student's grade and are essential in order for the bands to perform at their very highest level. Section rehearsals for both bands will be before school one day a week, as scheduled by the director. In order to be ready to rehearse at the appointed time, the students should arrive at the band hall at least 5 minutes early in order to set up their instrument and music. A makeup section rehearsal will be arranged if a student has an excused absence. Absences will be considered excused if the student was not in attendance at school that day, or if the student or parent makes contact with the director prior to rehearsal. Students arriving late will also be required to attend a make up rehearsal.

Athletics are not an excused absence from sectional. We have both 8th and 7th graders in both bands, so we try our best to schedule rehearsals at times that do not conflict with athletics. We have an agreement with the coaches that the students may miss part of athletics to come to band sectional one day a week.

Morning sectionals will meet from 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM. After school sectionals would be from 4:05 PM to 5:00 PM.

1) The following will occur if a student is late unexcused:

- a) Lose his/her chair
- b) The sectional grade will be affected. If a student is late the grade will be lowered from a 100 to an 85.
- c) Students that are more than 10 minutes late will be required to attend a full make up sectional as scheduled by the director. If a student then fails to attend the next scheduled make up sectional he/she will receive a 50.

If possible, the director should be contacted prior to the sectional in the event of a tardy or absence. If this is not possible, a note should be brought to the director at sectional or band class that day.

2) The following will occur if a student is absent unexcused:

- a) Lose his/her chair
- b) The sectional grade will be affected. If a student is absent unexcused, once it is made up, the grade will be an 85.
- c) Failure to attend a regularly scheduled sectional and then not attending the next scheduled make up sectional will result in the student receiving a zero.
- d) A detention will be assigned for each unexcused absence beginning with the second offense.

3) The following will occur if a student is late excused:

Students that are more than 10 minutes late will be required to attend a sectional as scheduled by the director to make up the time missed. If a student then fails to attend the next scheduled make up sectional he/she will receive an 85 and will lose his/her chair.

4) The following will occur if a student is absent excused:

The student will be required to attend a sectional as scheduled by the director to make up the time missed. If a student then fails to attend the next scheduled make up sectional he/she will receive a zero and will lose his/her chair.

Three unexcused absence from a band sectional may result that student in being moved to a lower band.

ELIGIBILITY

The following is an effort to keep you informed as to how the “No pass/No play” rule will affect your child and our band. We will greatly appreciate your aid in keeping your child’s grades above the 70% mark so that each member of our band can be involved in every aspect of band performance. Students in the Honors Band that fail a class in two different six weeks periods may be removed from that group.

A student whose grade average in any course is lower than 70 at the end of a six week period shall be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity event during the following six week period. This suspension shall become effective seven days after the last day of the six week period during which the grade lower than 70 was earned.

If, however, the student has raised all his grades to 70 or above by the end of the third week of the following six weeks period, his eligibility will be reinstated after the end of the fourth six weeks.

CONCERTS, RECITALS, SECTIONALS, AND AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

ANY CONTEST IS CONSIDERED TO BE AN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY.

SOUND ADVICE FOR PASSING GRADES

Each student should develop structure and discipline in their study habits. Here are some common sense ideas to help you maintain good standing in all classes.

1. **PAY ATTENTION:** Do everything you can to try to discover just what it is the teacher is attempting to get across to you. Take notes, follow along in the text, ask pertinent questions, and avoid distractions.
2. **REVIEW DAILY:** Make a habit of reviewing notes on a daily basis to solidify material covered in class. If you do not understand material being taught, make arrangements with the teacher to get one-on-one help.
3. **DO ALL HOMEWORK AND HAND IN ON TIME:** The most frequent reason why students fail a class is the failure to turn in assigned work. This is the easiest thing to fix. Do not miss deadlines.
4. **FAILING TO PREPARE IS PREPARING TO FAIL:** Prepare for all tests and projects in a timely manner. In comparison, you wouldn’t wait until the night before a major performance or audition to begin practicing. By the same token, you shouldn’t wait until the night before a test or project deadline to begin the work. Every teacher at Arbor Creek wants to see you succeed.
5. **COURTESY:** Treat all teachers with the same respect that you expect from them. A few simple courtesies will go a long way. Paying attention in class will help your relationship with the teacher. Be careful not to draw negative attention to yourself and follow all classroom rules.
6. **ASK FOR EXTRA HELP AND EXTRA CREDIT WORK.** Make the first move towards this—don’t wait.
7. **FOLLOW UP:** If you have a failing grade at the 3 weeks reporting period, make every effort to resolve every grade in question.
8. **COMMUNICATION:** Don’t be afraid to ask your teachers about grades in question or when tutorials are held. The teachers are on your side.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

EAGLE (BEGINNER) BAND

The band t-shirt is required and must be purchased by all beginning band members. This will be worn with blue jean pants and tennis shoes for pictures, the Fall Recital, Winter Concert, Spring Concert, and the Sandy Lake Band Festival.

The Eagle band will wear their "Sunday Best" to the solo contest.

Dress pants or skirt (please NO denim of any color)

Dress shoes (please NO sneakers)

(GIRLS: Dresses would be fine to wear.) (BOYS: A tie would be great!)

SYMPHONIC BAND AND CONCERT BAND

The band t-shirt is required and will be worn with blue jean pants and tennis shoes for informal performances like pep-rallies and athletic events.

For concerts, Symphonic and Concert Band members will need to have the following items:

BOYS

White Wing Collar Tuxedo Shirt

Black Trousers Black Dress Shoes (must be closed-toe)

Black Socks

Black Bow Tie and Studs

Black Full-Back Vest

Black Dress Shoes

GIRLS

Official Arbor Creek Concert Black Dress

Black closed-toe dress shoes

HONORS BAND

The band t-shirt is required and will be worn with blue jean pants and tennis shoes for informal performances like pep-rallies and athletic events.

For concerts, Honors Band members will need to have the following items:

BOYS

White Wing Collar Tuxedo Shirt

Black Tuxedo Trousers Black Dress Shoes (must be closed-toe)

Black Socks

Black Bow Tie and Studs

Black Tuxedo Coat (PROVIDED)

Black Cummerbund (PROVIDED)

GIRLS

Official Arbor Creek Concert Black Dress

Black closed-toe dress shoes

More information about uniforms will be provided this fall as it becomes available.

Our goal is for everyone to have their concert uniform by November 1st.

Booster Information

The Hebron Band Booster Club is actually the parent organization for all four band programs within the Hebron cluster (Arbor Creek MS, Creek Valley MS, Killian MS, and Hebron HS). This unified relationship has helped with music advocacy issues, community awareness, and financial consolidation amongst the groups.

The Hebron Band Booster Club donates \$1800+ each year from its fund raising efforts to provide scholarship funds for students who desire to take private lessons, but have a monetary need that makes it impossible to study privately without assistance. The Hebron Band Booster Club Treasurer takes care of all the financial records of all three organizations and insures our compliance with tax-exempt statutes and regulations as well as prepares and files tax documentation for the organization.

We need all Arbor Creek band parents to join the Hebron Band Booster club for a nominal fee of \$10.00. Membership forms can be found at www.arborcreekband.com. Just click on the “Handouts” button on the left side of the home page. Feel free to fill out the membership form and return it to school with payment (make checks payable to HBBC.)

Please be sure to include your name, your child’s name, which school, and write something in the memo portion of your check that indicates you are paying for HBBC membership.

Please remember that if you wish to volunteer for ANYTHING associated with the Arbor Creek Band (or any other organization at Arbor Creek), you must go online and fill out a criminal records check for the district. This online application process can be found on the LISD website: <http://www.lisd.net>

BAND AWARDS

Eagle (Beginner,) Concert, Symphonic and Honors Band members who meet the criteria outlined below will receive special recognition for their individual efforts in the ACMS Band Program. These awards are designed to be an incentive for students to give their best effort in music.

AWARDS FOR EAGLE BAND

Each year Outstanding Band Member certificates will be awarded to 6th grade students who have demonstrated superior effort and ability. In order to receive a certificate at the end of the year, students must meet the following criteria:

A student receiving a certificate will meet all of these requirements:

- 1) Has no unexcused absences for a performance or rehearsal
- 2) Has received at least a “92” average in band during each of the first five six weeks periods
- 3) Has served no detentions in band during the first five six weeks periods.
- 4) Has turned in all six weeks objective sheets and received a passing great on each.

In addition to all of the above, a student receiving a certificate will also meet three of the following criteria:

- 1) Performed a solo at a contest
- 2) Made a “I” (one) on a solo at a contest
- 3) Completed all class pass-offs.
- 4) Performed in a recital/special concert.
- 5) Has an average in band for the first five six weeks periods of “96” or higher.
- 6) Has an average in band for the first five six weeks periods of “100.”
- 7) Passed off all scales.
- 8) Completed the Eagle Sticker Sheet in the back of their binder.

“Eagle” awards will be given to students who have completed the Eagle Sticker Sheet in the back of their band binder.

“Superstar” awards will also be given to students who demonstrate a superior level of musicianship and leadership throughout the year. These students are selected by their band instructor.

AWARDS FOR CONCERT BAND

Honor Award

- 1) Has no unexcused absences for a performance or rehearsal.
- 2) Has received a “90” in band for each of the first five six weeks periods.
- 3) Has served no detentions in band during the first five six weeks periods.
- 4) Has performed a solo at the Solo & Ensemble Contest.
- 5) Has passed off all scales.

Distinguished Honor Award

In addition to the above the student will have accomplished two of the following:

- 1) Has earned a "1st Division" on a solo at the Solo & Ensemble Contest.
- 2) Passed off all arpeggios.
- 3) Has demonstrated service to the ACMS Band.

Highest Honor Award

In addition to the above the student will have accomplished one of the following:

- 1) Has earned a Division I on an ensemble at Solo & Ensemble Contest.
- 2) Has participated in the All-Region or All-District Band Try-Outs.

Superior Performer Award

In addition to the above the student will have accomplished one the following:

- 1) Was selected as outstanding soloist or ensemble member at solo contest.
- 2) Has made it to phase 2 in either the All-District or All-Region auditions.

AWARDS FOR SYMPHONIC BAND

Honor Award

- 1) Has no unexcused absences for a performance or rehearsal.
- 2) Has received a "94" in band for each of the first five six weeks periods.
- 3) Has served no detentions in band during the first five six weeks periods.
- 4) Has performed a solo at the Solo & Ensemble Contest.
- 5) Has passed off all scales and arpeggios.

Distinguished Honor Award

In addition to the above the student will have accomplished two of the following:

- 1) Has performed an ensemble at Solo & Ensemble Contest .
- 2) Has earned a "1st Division" on a solo at the Solo & Ensemble Contest.
- 3) Passed off Scales in a Row from memory.
- 4) Has participated in the All-Region or All-District Band Try-Outs.

Highest Honor Award

In addition to the above the student will have accomplished one of the following:

- 1) Has demonstrated service to the ACMS Band.
- 2) Has earned a Division I on an ensemble at Solo & Ensemble Contest.
- 3) Has made it to phase 2 in either the All-District or All-Region auditions.

Superior Performer Award

In addition to the above the student will have accomplished one the following:

- 1) Was selected as outstanding soloist or ensemble member at solo contest.
- 2) Was selected to the All-Region or All-District Band

AWARDS FOR HONORS BAND

Honor Award

- 1) Has no unexcused absences for a performance or rehearsal.
- 2) Has received a “94” in band for each of the first five six weeks periods.
- 3) Has served no detentions in band during the first five six weeks periods.
- 4) Has auditioned for Region Band.
- 5) Has auditioned for District Band.
- 6) Has passed off all major scales and arpeggios from memory.

Distinguished Honor Award

In addition to the above the student will have accomplished three of the following:

- 1) Was selected for the All Region Band.
- 2) Was selected to the All District Band.
- 3) Has performed an ensemble at Solo & Ensemble Contest.
- 4) Has performed in a recital/special concert.
- 5) Has passed off the chromatic scale and the scales in a row from memory.
- 6) Has completed all pass-offs.
- 7) Has earned a Division I on a solo at Solo & Ensemble Contest.

Highest Honor Award

In addition to the above the student will have accomplished two of the following:

- 1) Was selected to the All District top band.
- 2) Has earned a Division I on an ensemble at Solo & Ensemble Contest.
- 3) Has demonstrated service to the ACMS Band.
- 4) Was selected for both the All-District and All-Region Bands.

Superior Performer Award

In addition to the above the student will have accomplished one of the following:

- 1) Was selected as outstanding soloist or ensemble member at solo contest.
- 2) Was selected to the All Region top band.
- 3) Was first chair in either the All-District or All-Region top band.

Additional awards will be given at the end of the year.

END OF THE YEAR AUDITIONS

At the end of each year, all 6th and 7th grade students must perform a test for the directors. This playing test determines the students' placement in band for the following year and counts as a part of their final playing grade.

The audition consists of the chromatic and eight major scales (D, G, C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db) from memory, prepared music that is selected by the directors and distributed in April, and sightreading. 6th grade students may elect to learn the advanced scales and music in order to be considered for the Honors or Symphonic Band.

Results of the try out will be posted by the last day of school. All students will be placed in either the Concert, Symphonic or Honors Band. Chair try-outs will be held at the beginning of the next year.

CRITERIA

The following will be considered when selecting a student for the Concert, Symphonic or Honors Band:

1. How well he/she performed in the try out
2. Eligibility
3. Citizenship
4. Attitude

A student may be moved up from one band to another during the year under the following conditions: 1.) If he/she is first chair, has maintained his/her eligibility, and the group above needs him/her to improve instrumentation; 2.) If he/she is first chair, eligible and has improved so much that the director feels that he/she should be moved up.