

Gene Pike Middle School



Performing Arts Handbook

Gene Pike Middle School
2200 Texan Drive
Justin, TX 76247

NISD Director of Fine Arts—Dr. Kevin Lacefield
Principal—Mr. Chris Jones
Performing Arts Chair—Mr. Jack Forbis

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Introduction

We want to take this opportunity to welcome all Performing Arts students to Pike Middle School, and to let all parents know we are committed to providing a positive and successful learning environment for your child. It is our belief that every child who has a positive attitude and a good work ethic can be successful, and benefit from their experience in performing arts. We also believe that high expectations of both skill and behavior are essential for the success of all students, and will allow us to continue our tradition of excellence.

This handout is designed to explain procedures, activities, financial commitments, and the expectations of students in the Performing Arts Programs at Pike. As the year progresses, any changes will be provided to you via email, the students, and teacher webpages. Please read the handbook carefully and fill out and sign the forms at the end of the book. If you have any questions please call us at school or email.

Good luck to all students in all their classes. We know it is going to be an excellent and exciting year at Pike!

Performing Arts Staff

Band—Jack Forbis (jforbis@nisdtx.org) and Jennifer Haden (jennifer.haden@nisdtx.org)

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Orchestra—Kristen Hoffner (kristen.hoffner@nisdtx.org)

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RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ELIGIBILITY

Certain activities are classified as eligibility activities. Texas Education Agency has a specific list of activities that are eligibility activities which include competitions, activities that charge an admission fee, and pep rallies. For more information about eligibility see UIL-TEA Side by Side, which can be viewed either through the TEA website or the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) Website. <http://www.uilTEXAS.org/policy/tea-uil-side-by-side>

Maintaining eligibility is the student's responsibility! Students must have a grade of 70 or above in all classes (60 and above for Pre-AP classes) including P.E, athletics, electives as well as academic classes to be considered eligible for field trips, competitions, performances away from school and events that charge an admission.

Friday	9-27-19	Evaluate all students	(6 week grade check)
Friday	10-4-19	Students gain or lose eligibility	(End of School Day)
Friday	10-11-19	Evaluate all students	(End of 1st quarter)
Friday	10-18-19	Students gain or lose eligibility	(End of School Day.)
Friday	11-1-19	Re-evaluate failing students	(1st - 3 week progress report)
Friday	11-8-19	Students may regain eligibility	(End of School Day)
Friday	11-22-19	Re-evaluate failing students	(2nd - 3 week progress report)
THANKSGIVING BREAK – ALL STUDENTS ARE ACADEMICALLY ELIGIBLE			
Monday	12-9-19	Students may regain eligibility	(End of School Day)
Friday	12-20-19	Evaluate all students	(End of 2nd quarter)
CHRISTMAS BREAK – ALL STUDENTS ARE ACADEMICALLY ELIGIBLE			
Wednesday	1-15-20	Students gain or lose eligibility	(End of School Day)
Monday	1-27-20	Re-evaluate failing students	(1st -3 week progress report)
Monday	2-3-20	Students may regain eligibility	(End of School Day)
Friday	2-14-20	Re-evaluate failing students	(2nd - 3 week progress report)
Friday	2-21-20	Students may regain eligibility	(End of School Day)
Friday	3-6-20	Evaluate all students	(End of 3rd quarter)
SPRING BREAK – ALL STUDENTS ARE ACADEMICALLY ELIGIBLE			
Wednesday	3-25-20	Students may gain or lose eligibility	(End of School Day)
Friday	4-3-20	Re-evaluate failing students	(1st - 3 week progress report)
Friday	4-10-20	Students may regain eligibility	(End of School Day)
Friday	4-24-20	Re-evaluate failing students	(2nd - 3 week progress report)
Friday	5-1-20	Students may regain eligibility	(End of School Day)
Friday	5-22-20	End of 4th quarter	

Approved by Mark Cousins 3/4/19

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Parental involvement in the performing arts department is welcomed and highly encouraged. Throughout the year, parent volunteers will be needed for the various activities and functions. All volunteers must complete the criminal background check required by the district to be a part

of your child's life in this important way. This form is an online form and available on the district's webpage.

Website: www.nisdtx.org

Quick Link: "Volunteer Registration" at the bottom

FEES AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

Certain fees may be charged from different performing arts disciplines. For Band and Orchestra, this may entail instrument rental fees and/or instrument supplies. These students may also need to purchase a "performance uniform" and "method book", which will be described more in depth in the respective sections of this handbook. Likewise, specific fees for supplies will be necessary in Theater.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraisers provide students with opportunities that are above the regular activities. Money from our fundraiser helps pay for contest fees, equipment, supplies, scholarships, bus costs, clinicians, etc. Check with your program directors for more details and information.

ABSENCE POLICY

REHEARSAL, PERFORMANCE, CONTEST, SHOWCASE

Attendance is required at all events. For band, choir, and orchestra, performances can count as two test grades – one for stage performance and one for audience etiquette. Of course, there are times when absences might occur. Please read below for the policies governing absences and make-up tests. Remember, good communication between teacher, student and parents can prevent misunderstandings. Please read the following rules and contact the director if you have any questions.

1. Absences from outside of class rehearsals and concerts will be excused only at the Directors' discretion, unless the student is absent from school, or involved in another school activity. If a student is absent from school, they will automatically receive an excused absence from a rehearsal or concert.
2. Written notice from parents is required for all absences from outside of class rehearsals and concerts. *Email is preferred.* Verbal or student written notices are not acceptable.
3. Advance notice is required for all prior commitments. A notice of such a commitment should be sent to the director as soon as this schedule/handbook is received. These absences will be excused on a case by case decision at the directors' discretion.

4. In the case of illness and/or family emergency, the parents should send a written notice to the director as soon as they are aware that a situation exists. Illness or family emergency that results in an absence the day of the concert or the day after the concert is automatically excused. Illness that does not result in an absence from school will be excused only at the director's discretion. If there is an emergency situation, e.g. something that happens 30 minutes before a concert is to begin, it may be impossible to get in touch with anyone. Thus, please follow up with a written note or email as soon as possible after the fact. This is the **ONLY** category where absences may be excused afterwards.

5. Students who have an absence (excused and unexcused) from a performance will be given the opportunity to make-up the assignment as per NISD grading policy.

6. Students who are in ISS or OSS on the day of a competition and/or field trip **may not be allowed** to participate per UIL policies. Students may request a makeup assignment as per NISD grading policy.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

CONCERTS/PERFORMANCES

For musicians and actors, performances are the way the students show what they have learned in class, and are the culminating event of a unit of study. Parent attendance at these events is highly important, just as staying involved in your child's life all through middle school is highly important. Each student is a member of a "team". If a member is absent from a performance, all students are affected. Therefore, students are required to participate in all rehearsals, concerts, and performances unless excused by the director according to the absence policy. Please refer to the attendance policy and grading policy for further details.

ALL REGION COMPETITION (Band, Choir, Orchestra)

Region auditions are open to any 7th/8th musicians. Students may learn the audition material in class, as a group, in private lessons, and through additional rehearsal time. The directors will recommend which students will compete at the region level. Students will be competing against other students throughout

Region 2, which consists of Denton ISD, Lewisville ISD, Northwest ISD, and other districts. Your director will have more specifics about dates and locations. Students earning a place in the Region Band, Choir, and Orchestra, will have a clinic/concert to showcase their talent. Parent volunteers will be needed to travel and help with the students on audition day, which are held on Saturdays.

ONE ACT PLAY

The UIL One-Act Play contest is a competition where students in our advanced theatre class, and all the middle schools in our district, present a 18-40 minute play and it is adjudicated by a judge. This is a great opportunity for the students to learn the process of One Act play, show off their hard work, and support our other campuses.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE COMPETITION (Band, Choir, Orchestra)

This exciting activity is open to any music student, which includes students currently in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. Solo and Ensemble is an individual competition where students learn solos or small group songs (the director will supply the music) on their own or with their private teacher and then perform before a judge. Students may earn a rating and also earn a medal. Outstanding soloists and outstanding ensembles may earn extra recognition.

PRIVATE LESSONS (Band, Choir, Orchestra)

Private lessons are an optional and excellent activity open to all musicians. Private lessons are \$20 per lesson and a student can take their lesson either during their class, or before or after school. Private lessons are a one-on-one type of instruction designed to provide individual growth.

BAND

PURPOSE

The Pike Middle School Bands are yearlong credit courses. Depending on specific needs, students may be switched to a different band period/ensemble at the director's discretion. These ensembles are open to all students, providing them with the opportunity to increase their musical skills as well as enjoy and learn about music.

GOALS

1. To promote, provide, and encourage interest and participation in instrumental music.
2. To develop an environment of teamwork, accountability, and discipline.
3. To foster confidence through creative self-expression.
4. To increase and develop musical skills and knowledge.
5. To develop an appreciation for instrumental music and contribute to the NISD community.
6. To instill values of effort, sacrifice, cooperation, fellowship, self-discipline and dedication.
7. To instill a sense of pride in the school, the band program, and in the individual student.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES AND RULES

1. Be in assigned place, sitting quietly, with all materials (instrument and band binder) 1 minute after the tardy bell.
2. Get water and go to the restroom before or after class. No restroom breaks during the 1st or last 10 minutes of class.
3. Stay in your place during class and refrain from distracting others (talking).
4. No logistical type questions the first 15 minutes of the rehearsal.
5. Practice courtesy and respect in dealing with other students, directors and the music.
6. Be attentive and ready to work with musically focused participation. (If the student is too ill to participate in band activities, he or she should study and follow with the group.)
7. No gum, candy, food or drinks allowed in class.
8. Follow school rules and policies as outlined in the individual NISD student code of conduct.

GRADING POLICY

Students earn grades in band much like they do in other classes, as per district grading policy. Since we are performance based, rhythm, playing quizzes/tests, and rehearsal skills grades will be given weekly.

Remember, concerts may count as two test grades – one for stage performance and one for audience etiquette. In addition, grades will be given to all "UIL" outside of class rehearsals, occasional written assessments, and Moodle activities/quizzes (if applicable).

Rhythm Grades

1. Proper counting.
2. Proper hand motions.
3. Proper foot-tap.

Performance Grades

1. Correct rhythms, notes, key signatures, and accidentals (basic)
2. Correct articulations, phrasing, dynamics, and tuning (advanced)

Rehearsal Skills Grades

1. Music correctly marked.
2. Concentrated focus on the music at all times.
3. Focus/respond to the conductor.

UNIFORMS / SUPPLIES

Uniforms are worn for all performances and all students are expected to perform in complete uniform. The band keeps extra black pants, black shoes and black shirts for students who need help supplying this portion of the uniform. Each student must maintain an organized band binder, which holds all musical material (specifics on band website).

Beginner and Concert Band

The band t-shirt is used by these groups for all concerts and trips. Band t-shirts are new each year and all students will need to purchase one. The full uniform is band t-shirt, blue jeans, and tennis shoes.

Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble

All members of these performing groups need to purchase the UIL band polo. They will also need to supply the following uniform items: boys (black pants, black shoes, black socks) / girls (black pants/skirt, closed-toe black shoes, black socks/hose).

Performing Groups

Beginner band (6th grade)

Regardless of grade, all students must start here. In the past, we've had 7th and 8th graders want to learn an instrument as well. Unless they have previous instruction, these students must learn the basics with everyone else in beginner band. We use "Tradition of Excellence: Book 1" for this course. This group will perform for the Winter Concert, Spring Concert, and attend a Spring Competition.

Concert band (7th and 8th grade)

This band is designed as a refresher for students who need reinforcement of basic musical concepts. Many of these concepts are reviewed (and tested) with a focus on fundamentals. The concert band uses the "Essential Elements" book 1 for their method book. These students may perform on the Winter and Spring Concerts, and have the opportunity to move up to one of the competition bands as their skill develops.

Symphonic Band (7th and 8th grade)

Students audition at the end of each year for placement in this band. As our JV band, they use "Habits of a Successful Middle School Musician" for their method book. With a greater focus on literature, this band performs Grade 1-2 off the PML. These students will perform at MS football games, Pep Rallies, Winter Concert, UIL, Spring Concert, and more formal competitions. These competitions will include Region 2 UIL Concert and Sight reading and Peak Music Festival. Some of these students are encouraged to audition for the All-District and All-Region Band.

Wind Ensemble (7th and 8th grade)

This varsity ensemble is the premiere band performance group at Pike MS. Students audition at the end of each year for placement in this band, where membership consists of mainly 8th grade students. Wind Ensemble students perform Grades 2-3 off the PML and are expected to audition for the All-District and All-Region Band. These students will perform at MS football games, Pep Rallies, Winter Concert, UIL, Spring Concert, and more formal competitions. These competitions will include Region 2 UIL Concert and Sight reading and Peak Music Festival.

Competitions

UIL REGION 2 CONCERT AND SIGHT READING (Symphonic and Wind Ensemble)

The Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble will compete at Byron Nelson HS each spring. For this competition, all students are expected to attend weekly section rehearsals, complete weekly practice time, and complete all required music “pass-offs”. In addition to these specifics, a clinician will be scheduled to work with these students where attendance is mandatory. The students who earn these trips will have their invitation with rules, procedures and bus permission forms sent home a few weeks before the events.

PEAK MUSIC FESTIVAL (Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble)

This competition is held at the prestigious Murchison Center at the University of North Texas. Like UIL, attendance at weekly section rehearsals and music “pass-offs” are required to attend. Due to the competition cost, there is a \$15 student charge built into the Spring Fees.

Beach Within Reach (All Bands)

All Beginner Band and Concert Band members will have an opportunity to attend this competition. Students are required to complete music pass-offs and attend a few full band rehearsals. More information will be sent home in the Spring Semester.

CRITERIA TO EARN FIELD TRIPS

All band field trips must be earned using the following criteria:

1. Eligible in all classes (Six Weeks Report Card and/or regain eligibility at Progress Report)
2. Students must demonstrate appropriate behavior per NISD Code of Conduct.
3. Student demonstrates proper rehearsal skills and appropriate music pass-offs

CHOIR

PURPOSE

The Pike Middle School Choirs are year-long credit courses. Depending on specific needs, students may be switched to a different choir period/ensemble at the director's discretion. These ensembles are open to all students, providing them with the opportunity to increase their vocal skills as well as enjoy and learn about music.

GOALS

1. To promote, provide, and encourage interest and participation in choral music.
2. To develop an environment of teamwork, accountability, and discipline.
3. To develop the individual voice and an understanding of its relation to the choral ensemble.
4. To foster confidence through creative self-expression.
5. To increase and develop musical skills and knowledge.
6. To develop an appreciation for aesthetic beauty through the arts.
7. To instill value of effort, sacrifice, cooperation, fellowship, self-discipline and dedication.
8. To instill a sense of pride in the school, the choir program, and in the individual student.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES AND RULES

1. Be in assigned place, sitting quietly, with all materials (choir folder, pencil, and any handouts) by the tardy bell.
2. Get water and go to the restroom before or after class.
3. Stay in your place during class.
4. No logistical type questions the first 15 minutes of the rehearsal.
5. Practice courtesy and respect in dealing with other students, directors and the music.
6. Be attentive and ready to work with musically focused participation. (If the student is too ill to participate in singing activities, he or she should study and follow with the group.)
7. No gum, candy, food or drinks allowed in class.
8. School rules and policies as outlined in the individual NISD student code of conduct.

GRADING POLICY

Students earn grades in choir much like they do in other classes, as per district grading policy. Since we are a performance-based course, rhythm, sight-reading, and rehearsal skills grades will be given weekly through observation/evaluation by the directors. **Remember, concerts count as two test grades – one for stage performance and one for audience etiquette.** In addition, grades will be assigned to outside of class rehearsals, occasional written tests, and Moodle activities/quizzes. Students earn observation formative grades and weekly observation summative grades based on the following observable skills:

Vocal Skills Grades

1. Proper vowels.
2. Proper jaw placement.
3. Proper mouth/lips placement.
4. Lifted soft palette.
5. Proper breathing techniques.
6. Correct posture.

Sight-reading Grades

1. Correct hand signs.
2. Correct pitches.
3. Accurate reading

Rehearsal Skills Grades

1. Music correctly marked.
2. Concentrated focus on the music at all times.
3. Correctly singing the music/holding parts.
4. Focus/respond to the conductor.

UNIFORMS/SUPPLIES

Each student must maintain an organized choir folder, which holds all musical material (specific to each choir class.)

Uniforms are worn for all performances and all students are expected to perform in complete uniform.

The choir keeps extra black pants, black shoes and black shirts for students who need help supplying this portion of the uniform.

6th GRADE CHOIR UNIFORMS

- Pike Choir T-shirt (purchased through the choir department) and black pants. 6th Graders are highly encouraged to purchase a choir T-shirt, but may wear a solid black T-shirt instead.

7TH/8TH GUYS' CHOIR UNIFORMS

- Black long sleeve button shirt with a collar and black buttons. (supplied by the student)
- Dress black pants and black belt (no jeans – supplied by the student)
- Dress black shoes and *black socks!* (supplied by the student)
- A red tie- checked out through the choir department.

7th /8th GIRLS' CHOIR UNIFORMS

- Black Concert Dresses – A long, black concert dress - issued to the students. Students are responsible for keeping the dresses clean. If the dress is lost or damaged, replacement cost is \$70.
- Pearl necklace – purchased by the student through the choir office.
- Closed toe black dress shoes and *black hose– no sandals or boots.* (supplied by the student)

PERFORMING GROUPS

Beginner choirs (6th Grade Treble and 6th Grade Tenor/Bass)

These groups are the training groups, and students will learn basic music literacy, vocal techniques and skills, as well as literature mastery. This group will perform for the Fall Concert, a Winter Competition, Winter Concert, the 5th Grade Tours, Spring Concert (May) and attend a Spring Competition.

Non-Varsity Choirs (7th and 8th Grade Treble Chorale, 7th and 8th Grade Intermediate Tenor/Bass)

With a greater focus on literature, these groups perform Grade 1-2 off the PML. These students will perform at Fall Concert, Winter Concert, Festival Concert (March) and Spring Concert (May) and more formal competitions. Some of these students are encouraged to audition for the All-Region Choir.

Varsity Choirs (7th and 8th grade Varsity Tenor/Bass, 7th Grade Varsity Treble, and 8th Grade Varsity Treble)
These varsity ensembles are the premiere choir performance groups at Pike MS. Students audition at the end of each year for placement in these groups. Varsity students perform Grades 2-3 off the PML and are encouraged to audition for the All-Region Choir. These students will perform at the Fall Concert, Winter Concert, Elementary Recruiting Tours, and Spring Concert (May) and more formal competitions.

COMPETITIONS (field trips)

EPIC MUSIC FESTIVAL AND NISD SING! (6th Grade Choirs)

These students will compete and also clinic with selected judges. The students will travel to their competition and have some fun time afterward for some celebration times. Students must earn this trip (see below.)

CHORAL COMPETITION at Birdville High School (Non-Varsity Choirs)

The students will compete in the Henry Schraub Theater at Birdville H.S. in North Richland Hills. The students will be traveling to this competition on Thursday, April 26th with exact times TBA. There is a charge to the students of \$10 for the competition.

AMERICAN CLASSICS MUSIC FESTIVAL (Varsity Choirs)

This competition is held in downtown Dallas with our date TBA.. There is charge to the students of \$35 for this competition. In addition, after this exciting competition the students will enjoy some lunch and fun time at Main Event. Main Event will cost approximately \$20 (due in February.)

U.I.L. (Varsity and Non-Varsity Choirs)

Our statewide UIL functions like choir's STAAR test. The choirs will demonstrate mastery of sight-reading skills and literature skills before a panel of judges in early March. There is no charge for this event as all NISD secondary music groups compete at UIL. More info will be shared in January.

CRITERIA TO EARN FIELD TRIPS

All choir field trips must be earned using the following criteria:

1. Eligible in all classes (passing all classes on report card)
2. Students must demonstrate appropriate behavior per NISD Code of Conduct.
3. Mastery of the music through proper rehearsal skills and passing off their music.

ORCHESTRA

Kristen Hoffner

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817-215-0112

PURPOSE

The Pike Middle School Orchestras are yearlong credit courses. These ensembles are open to all students, providing them with the opportunity to increase their musical skills as well as enjoy and learn about music.

GOALS

1. To promote, provide, and encourage interest and participation in instrumental music.
2. To develop an environment of teamwork, accountability, and discipline.
3. To foster confidence through creative self-expression.
4. To increase and develop musical skills and knowledge.
5. To develop an appreciation for instrumental music and contribute to the NISD community.
6. To instill value of effort, sacrifice, cooperation, fellowship, self-discipline and dedication.
7. To instill a sense of pride in the school, the orchestra program, and in the individual student.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES AND RULES

1. No talking is allowed in the first three minutes of class so that all students have the opportunity to tune accurately
2. Three minutes after the bell, students should have tuned accurately and have their binder and pencil ready for class.
3. Use restroom before or after class. No restroom breaks in the first and last 10 minutes of class.
4. Participate in rehearsal attentively, by writing in things discussed in your music and actively participating.
5. When packing up, loosen bows, wipe down instruments, and return borrowed tuners.
6. Fingernails must be kept short. Students with long fingernails will receive a warning the first day. The second day, students will not be allowed to participate in class.

GRADING POLICY

Students earn grades in orchestra much like they do in other classes, as per district grading policy. Since we are performance based, rhythm, playing quizzes/tests, and rehearsal skills grades will be given weekly. **Concerts count as two test grades – one for stage performance and one for audience etiquette.** In addition, grades will be given to all UIL extra rehearsals, occasional written assessments, and moodle activities/quizzes.

Rehearsal Participation (Formative Grade) = 40%

- Prepared with Required Materials
- Follows Classroom Rules and Procedures
- Participates in activities-both playing and written work
- Demonstrates correct posture and technique

Performance Opportunities (Summative Grade) = 60%

- Performance Tests (weekly)

- All UIL events and extra rehearsals
- Concert Performance and Concert Etiquette (2 test grades)
 - In the event a student has an injury which prevents him/her from performing, attendance will still be expected. Students may only be excused from performing in the event there is a family emergency or the student has an excused absence from school the day of the concert.

UNIFORMS / SUPPLIES

Uniforms are worn for all performances and all students are expected to perform in complete uniform. The orchestra keeps extra black pants, black shoes, and orchestra shirts for students who need help supplying this portion of the uniform.

Informal Uniform – All Orchestras

- Orchestra T-shirt-New each year - All Orchestra Students will need to purchase one.
- School Appropriate Blue Jeans
- Tennis Shoes

Boys Formal Uniform – Symphony and Chamber Orchestras

- White Tuxedo Shirt
- Bow Tie
- Vest
- **Black Dress Pants***
- **Black Dress Shoes***
- **Black Socks***

Girls Formal Uniform – Symphony and Chamber Orchestras

- Black Dress
- **Black Closed-Toed Dress Shoes***
- **Black Socks or Hose***

Formal Uniform – Beginning and Philharmonic Orchestras (Spring Concert Only)

- All Black Outfits-Boys Uniform
 - Black Dress Pants*
 - Black Dress Shirt*
 - Black Socks*
 - Black Dress Socks *
 - Black Shoes*
- **All Black Uniform-Girls Uniform**
 - Black Ankle Length Dress/Skirt or *
 - Black Dress Shirt and Black Dress Pants*
 - Black Close Toed Dress Shoes*
 - Black Socks/Hose*

**These items must be provided by the student.*

Performing Groups

Beginning Orchestra

Regardless of grade, all students must start here. In the past, we've had 7th and 8th graders want to learn an instrument as well. Unless they have previous instruction, these students must learn the basics with everyone else in Beginning Orchestra. We use "Sound Innovations: Book 1" for this course. This group will perform for the Beginner Demonstration Concert, Winter Concert, and Spring Concert.

Philharmonic Orchestra

This orchestra focuses on foundational technique and music concepts. Many of these concepts are tested with a focus on fundamentals. This group uses "Essential Elements 2000: Book 1." This group will perform in the Fall Concert, Winter Concert and Spring Concert.

Symphony Orchestra

Students audition at the end of each year for placement in this orchestra. The "Sound Innovations Book 2" is required as the method book. With a greater focus on literature, this orchestra performs Grade 1-2 from the Prescribed Music List. These students will perform at the Fall Concert, Winter Concert, UIL Parent Concert and Spring Concert. In addition, this ensemble competes in the Region 2 UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest.

Chamber Orchestra

Students audition at the end of each year for placement in this orchestra. Chamber Orchestra students use "Sound Innovations Book 2" and "Sound Innovations: Sound Development" as well as music literature Grades 1-4 from the Prescribed Music List. Students are highly encouraged to audition for All-Region Orchestra. These students will perform at the Fall Concert, Winter Concert, Parent UIL Concert and Spring Concert. This ensemble performs in the Region 2 UIL Concert and Sight-reading on the varsity level and is frequently asked to perform for community and school events.

Competitions

FORMAL SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL – All Orchestra Students

This is a music festival that all students compete in. This is an excellent opportunity for students to gain experience performing on a professional stage, learn how to follow a conductor, and gain experience performing for a panel of judges. All students must "pass-off" their music to perform. Students will be provided with rules, procedures, and further details prior to the competition.

UIL REGION 2 CONCERT AND SIGHT READING (Symphony and Chamber Orchestras)

Symphony and Chamber Orchestras will compete at Eaton High School this spring. For this competition, all students are expected to complete all required music "pass-offs" and attend Pre-UIL in February. The students who earn this trip will have their invitation with rules, procedures and bus permission forms sent home prior to the events.

CRITERIA TO EARN FIELD TRIPS

All orchestra field trips must be earned using the following criteria:

1. Eligible in all classes
2. Students must demonstrate appropriate behavior per NISD Code of Conduct.
3. Student demonstrates proper rehearsal skills
4. Student passes off all playing tests

Theater

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES AND RULES

1. Be prepared for class. This includes having your ID.
2. Stay in your place during class and refrain from distracting others.
3. Do your assigned duties in the classroom.
4. Practice courtesy and respect.
5. Be attentive and ready to work.
6. School rules and policies will be followed as outlined in the individual NISD student code of conduct.

Introduction to Theater, Theater I and Theater 2 classes

All students in any Theater class will have many opportunities to engage in various roles of play production. Lessons taught throughout the year may include: Theater History; Pantomime and Mime; Greek and Roman Theater influence; Technical Theater; Costuming; Set Design; Monologues, Script writing and editing; Film making; Critiques; Self Awareness; Theater Safety and more. All students will be expected to complete the assignments given. Each student will be encouraged to participate and progress on his or her individual ability. Students in these classes may be involved in a play that will be performed for an audience. If the play is presented during their individual class time, eligibility requirements may not apply. There may be performances after school

Students will be expected to help with their own costuming. Students will be assessed on their individual performance and progression. Introduction to Theater is for 6th graders. Theater 1 and 2 are for 7th and 8th graders. Their lessons will be more in depth than that of the introduction class. The Theater 2 students will be expected to maintain eligibility. This class will also help with the One Act Play contest and several in this class may perform in the contest.

Advanced Theater

Students in the Advanced Theater class will need to maintain eligibility to participate in the One Act Play contest during the second semester. Due to time restraints that arise during the winter season, it may be necessary to hold after school rehearsals. Students will be expected to attend the rehearsals. If there is a conflict, you must contact the director prior to the rehearsal. Students are expected to help with their own costuming. This class requires student dedication and commitment. Lessons in this class have a rigorous pace.

NISD Code of Conduct

Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations

Participation in school and school-related activities is an excellent way for a student to develop talents, receive individual recognition, and build strong friendships with other students; participation, however, is a privilege, not a right.

Eligibility for participation in many of these activities is governed by state law as well as rules of the University Interscholastic League (UIL)—a statewide association overseeing interdistrict competition.

The following requirements apply to all extracurricular activities:

§ A student who receives a grade below 70 at the end of a grading period may not participate in extracurricular activities for a time period, as stipulated in the *UIL Side-by-Side [FM (Legal)]*. Students in advanced courses, such as pre-AP, AP, GT courses, and dual credit college courses, are required to maintain a passing standard of 60 or higher in order to maintain UIL eligibility *FMF(Local)*. Students who fall below this passing standard will lose UIL eligibility in accordance with UIL regulations and for the period of time identical to students who lose eligibility in non-advanced courses.

§ A student who has an individualized education program (IEP) who fails to meet the standards in the IEP may not participate for a time period, as stipulated in the *UIL Side-by-Side*.

§ An ineligible student may practice or rehearse.

§ A student is allowed in a school year up to ten absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of five absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of two absences for state competition. All extracurricular activities and public performances, whether UIL activities or other activities approved by the Board, are subject to these restrictions.

§ A student who misses a class because of participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence unless the absence is excused by campus administration.

Sponsors and coaches of extracurricular activities, including but not limited to: interscholastic athletics, cheerleaders, drill teams, and marching bands, may develop and enforce standards of behavior that are higher than the District-developed *Student Code of Conduct* and may condition membership or participation in the activity on adherence to those standards. These higher standards are outlined in each extracurricular group's guidelines and constitutions. Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time, on or off school property. No provision of an extracurricular behavioral standard shall have the effect of discriminating on the basis of sex, race, disability, religion, or ethnicity.

Expected standards of behavior shall be approved by the principal and the Superintendent or designee before they are communicated to students. Students shall be informed of any extracurricular behavior standards at the beginning of each school year or, in the case of interscholastic athletics, cheerleaders, drill team, and marching band, at the time the students report for workouts or practices that occur prior to the actual beginning of classes. Students and their parents shall sign and return to the sponsor or coach a statement that they have read the extracurricular behavior standards and consent to them as a condition of participation in the activity, as well as signing the District's "Extracurricular/Co-curricular Student Pledge of Conduct."

Organizational standards of conduct of an extracurricular activity are independent of the *Student Handbook and Code of Conduct*. Violations of the organization's standards of conduct that are also violations of the *Student Handbook and Code of Conduct* may result in school-assessed disciplinary actions. Likewise, students who violate the District's *Student Handbook and Code of Conduct* will be assessed appropriate disciplinary consequences for the infraction and the consequences may result in a student's removal or limited participation in an extracurricular activity if the disciplinary action or level of offense violates the higher standards of conduct specified by the student's extracurricular organization.

Administrators and sponsors are expected to discipline students according to established rules. Board Policies FM (LEGAL/LOCAL), FNC (LOCAL), and FO (LEGAL/LOCAL)

Sponsors of student clubs and performing groups such as the band, choir, and drill and athletic teams may establish standards of behavior – including consequences for misbehavior – that are stricter than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the *Student Code of Conduct* or by local policy will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization.

[For further information, see policies FM and FO.]

Participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities is a privilege, not a right. Students who participate in extracurricular and/or co-curricular activities in grades 6-12 are held to a higher standard. Inappropriate behavior, continued behavioral offenses, and/or severe violations of the *Student Code of Conduct* may result in disciplinary consequences as outlined within the disciplinary violation levels within the Extra/Co-Curricular Student Pledge in addition to the *Student Code of Conduct*.

Behaviors including but not limited to the following will not be tolerated: drinking alcoholic beverages or using tobacco illegally, taking illegal drugs or being in possession of drug paraphernalia, or attending or remaining at an activity where alcohol, drugs, or tobacco are being consumed illegally. Other offenses that violate the *Student Code of Conduct* and compromise the integrity and credibility of the organization(s) may include other examples of such behaviors.

The consequences for violating the Extracurricular/Co-curricular Student Pledge of Conduct are outlined in detail on the pledge form. The Pledge is in effect at all times. The Pledge in no way replaces or supersedes the *Student Code of Conduct* or *Texas Education Code*, and in no way supersedes the mandates of the *Texas Education Code*. Violation of the Pledge may also constitute a violation of the *Student Code of Conduct*. If it does, disciplinary action under the *Student Code of Conduct* may also be imposed by the District. Students who participate in extra/co-curricular activities are required to follow the Pledge in order to participate in those activities. The “Extracurricular/Co-curricular Student Pledge of Conduct” follows:

EXTRACURRICULAR/CO-CURRICULAR STUDENT PLEDGE OF CONDUCT
I pledge to abide by requirements
established by Northwest Independent School District
In order to be allowed to participate in any extracurricular/co-curricular activities.

For specific club, activity, or organizational guidelines, reference the following:

Northwest ISD Athletic Guidelines
Northwest ISD Cheerleading Constitution & Guidelines
Northwest ISD Drill Team Constitution

Consequences for violating the “Extracurricular/Co-curricular Student Pledge of Conduct” will be in effect for all students participating in extracurricular/co-curricular activities for up to one full calendar year from the date the student and parent were notified of the known violation and appropriate consequence/violation level as follows:

Violation Level A

Violations at this level may include but are not limited to first time offenses, minor offenses, or repetitive violations of the *Student Code of Conduct* Levels I and II.

- The suspension from extracurricular contest/competitions will cover 15 instructional school days, including weekends and/or contest/competitions following the date the student and parent are notified. If the incident happens during a holiday the student may not participate during that time and once school reconvenes.
- During the period of suspension, the student will be allowed to practice before or after school, attend, and participate in any practice of extracurricular or co-curricular activities.
- The University Interscholastic League may set other standards, which will require compliance of students in UIL-sponsored groups.

Violation Level b

Violations at this level may include but are not limited to multiple offenses, more severe offenses, or violations of the Student Code of Conduct Level III.

- The student shall be suspended from any extracurricular activity for 90 instructional school days, including weekends and/or activities following the date the student and parent are notified. If the incident happened during a holiday the student may not participate during that time, and once school reconvenes, the student will continue the 90 day suspension from the activity.
- During the period of suspension, the student will be allowed to practice before or after school, attend, and participate in any practice of extracurricular or co-curricular activities.
- The University Interscholastic League may set other standards, which will require compliance of students in UIL-sponsored groups.

Violation level c

Violations at this level may include but are not limited to continued violations at previous levels, extremely severe offenses, or violations of the Student Code of Conduct Levels IV and/or V.

- The student will be removed from participation in extracurricular or co-curricular activities for one calendar year. After the one-year suspension, the student must apply for reinstatement to a campus committee that will review the student's academic, attendance, and behavior records.
- The University Interscholastic League may set other standards, which will require compliance of students in UIL-sponsored groups.

VIOLATION DEFINITIONS

A violation is defined as follows:

1. Any offenses for which, according to the *Student Code of Conduct*, a student can be suspended,
 - placed in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP), or expelled.
2. The use, sale, possession, and/or possession of illegal drugs and/or alcohol.
3. The depictions of the use, sale, possession, and/or distribution of illegal drugs and/or alcohol.
4. The presence at a gathering where illegal drugs and/or alcohol are used, possessed, sold, and/or distributed illegally
5. Any other offense that violates the *Student Code of Conduct* and compromises the integrity and credibility of the organization(s).

VIOLATION CONDITIONS

In order for a student to be considered in violation, any one of the following conditions must occur:

1. The student must admit to a violation.
2. The parent of the student must admit to the violation.
3. A NISD staff member must witness the student in violation.
4. A local agency report or citation must be filed. (Including, but not limited to, DWI—Driving While Intoxicated, DUI—Driving Under the Influence, MIP—Minor in Possession, and MIC—Minor in Consumption)
5. Another source of evidence must be deemed credible by the campus administration.

Student's Name _____

Band / Choir / Orchestra / Theater (circle one) Period _____

Handbook Signature Page

Parent's Name _____

Telephone Number _____

Cell Phone Number _____

Email _____

The Performing Arts Handbook can be found on the Performing Arts webpages
AS A STUDENT PERFORMING ARTS MEMBER, I HAVE READ THIS HANDBOOK
AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT AND UNDERSTAND THE
MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN REGARDS TO STUDY, PRACTICE,
REHEARSAL, CONCERT/CONTEST ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOR. I WILL ADHERE
TO ALL THE POLICIES BOTH STATED AND IMPLIED IN THIS HANDBOOK.

AS A MEMBER, I WILL ASSUME THE OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND DO MY
UTMOST TO ACCOMPLISH THE OBJECTIVES. I WILL FOLLOW THE PRINCIPLES, RULES
AND REGULATIONS, COMMUNICATE IN ADVANCE AND READ MY CALENDAR.

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

AS A PARENT OF THIS STUDENT, I UNDERSTAND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS, OF
THIS HANDBOOK AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT WHICH MY CHILD IS
EXPECTED TO FOLLOW. I AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE RULES AND REGULATIONS BOTH
STATED AND IMPLIED IN THIS HANDBOOK.

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

____ ******Initial here if you would like a hard copy of this handbook sent home.** Due to copy
limitations, all students will be shown where to find this information on each teacher's website for
your convenience.

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE TO
DIRECTOR

