FALCON BAND HANDBOOK

BEGINNER BAND



Dan F. Long Middle School

2017-2018

Jonathan Adamo and Angela Pedigo   
DIRECTORS

**INTRODUCTORY LETTER**

Dear Band Students and Parents:

The Carrollton Farmers Branch Independent School District takes great pride in being able to offer band classes at Dan F. Long Middle School. Although we consider participation in instrumental music programs a right of all students, we do expect certain standards of each student enrolled in the classes:

RESPONSIBILITY

DEPENDABILITY

MUSICAL EXCELLENCE

EXCELLENT CONDUCT

It is the goal of the directors to produce outstanding bands. It is also the belief of the directors that students learn more and develop better self-discipline, responsibility, and knowledge, and take more pride in superior bands than in poor ones. Producing an outstanding band requires that each student accept certain responsibilities along with excellent conduct.

The following pages will outline the basic requirements for band at DFL. Please return pages 12, 13, and 14 to your band director with all the requested information completed and signed. This will indicate your notification and acceptance of the policies of the Long Band Program. Please retain the remainder of the handbook so you may refer to it when necessary. Much of the information you need throughout the year is also on the website. The running calendar on the website page will have the most up-to-date information.

I congratulate you on being part of a superior organization and hope that each of you will feel pride in being part of our “Band Family.”

Jonathan Adamo, Head Band Director

adamoj@cfbisd.edu

Angela Pedigo, Assistant Director

pedigoa@cfbisd.edu

Band Hall Phone: 972-968-4136

Long front desk: 972-968-4100

**Website:** [**www.danflongband.com**](http://www.danflongband.com)

**GOALS AND GRADING SYSTEM**

**PRACTICE RECORDS, CONSISTENCY CLUB & BRACES**

**GOALS**

1. Understand and use musical terms.

2. Read and understand pitch notation.

3. Execute rhythmic notation.

4. Use proper wind and percussion techniques.

5. Use eye to hand coordination.

6. Perform in an ensemble.

7. Interact in large group discipline.

8. Interact socially with peers.

9. Accept and utilize constructive criticism.

10. Excellent and respectable conduct. No N’s in conduct or the student may lose privileges.

**GRADING SYSTEM**

Minimum of 9 grades each 9 week grading period comprised of:

Minimum of 3 Major/Summative grades = 75% of 9 weeks average

Minimum of 6 Daily/Formative grades = 25% of 9 weeks average

**Major grades**: performances, playing tests (in class or recorded), written tests, rehearsals

**Daily grades**: performance in class, instrument care, proper supplies, music checks, practice logs and pencil checks.

**BRACES**

The addition of braces, after a student has learned to play an instrument, is detrimental to the student’s progress on that instrument. Most students will need about a month to adapt to a new way of playing the instrument. Please consider the timing of braces as it pertains to performances, solo and ensemble contests, and major tests for auditions. Please DO communicate with a director about the braces. This information helps us in class to prepare your child to make this transition before it happens and will enhance the re-learning process.

**CONDUCT AND ATTENDANCE**

**CONDUCT**

**THE THREE C’S**

**CARE OF THE BAND ROOM**

1. No food, drink, gum and **NO** ink pens.

2. Do not lean on music stands.

3. No writing on stands, chairs, walls, etc.

4. Only band students in the band hall.

5. No trading of instruments.

6. *If you move it, put it back. If you borrow it, return it.*

**CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS**

1. No questions the first 10 minutes of class.

2. Get water and go to the restroom before or after class.

3. Stay in your seat during class.

4. Be in seat with ALL materials (instrument, music, pencil: no pens, binder) when the tardy bell rings.

5. Hold your instrument at all times; do not hold your friends instrument.

6. Follow teacher’s directions.

7. Respect others.

8. Formal audience and performer etiquette will be displayed at all performances

9. Students should be picked up no later than 15 minutes after any after school activity or event.

**CONSEQUENCES**

School Discipline Plan will be put in place.

**ATTENDANCE**

The band performs at an optimum level with all members present. Therefore, students are required to participate in all rehearsals, concerts, and contests unless excused by the director according to the absence policy. Percussion students should stay after school and after concerts to help with equipment. This is a PERFORMANCE class and students are required to perform at the concerts with their respective ensemble group. At this level, we are like a team. If a member is absent from a performance, all students are affected.

**REHEARSAL, CONCERT, AND CONTEST ABSENCE POLICY**

Good communication between teacher, student and parents can prevent misunderstandings. Please read the following rules and contact the director if you have any questions. *If you like, use email:* [*adamoj@cfbisd.edu*](mailto:adamoj@cfbisd.edu) *or* [*pedigoa@cfbisd.edu*](mailto:pedigoa@cfbisd.edu)

1. **Written notice from parents is required for all absences.** *Email is acceptable*. Verbal or student written notices are not acceptable.

2. Advance notice is required for all prior commitments. A prior commitment is defined as a date already committed to before the band schedule/handbook is released in August. A notice of such a commitment should be sent to the director as soon as the schedule/handbook is received. Outside of school activities (i.e. league baseball practice, medical appointment, hair appointment, etc.) are *NOT* considered excused absences.

3. 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 that does not result in an absence from school will be excused only at the director’s discretion. If there is a family 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 as soon as possible after the fact. This is the ONLY category where absences will be excused the same day, or after the event.

1. Students who have an excused absence from a performance will be given the opportunity during morning tutorials to perform their concert pieces as a make-up assignment. Students who have an unexcused absence from a performance will receive a major grade of a zero.

**SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS, STEP-UP INSTRUMNENTS**

**UNIFORMS, BAND BOOSTERS**

**SCHOOL/DISTRICT OWNED INSTRUMENTS**

School-owned instruments are available to members who play those instruments or have been asked to switch by the directors due to instrumentation problems. The following are school-owned instruments available:

Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Sax, Bari Sax, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba, Percussion

Other instruments may be available through the district. Please check with a director for availability.

School owned instruments are the responsibility of the child to whom it is checked out. There is a **cleaning and usage fee of $50.00 per year** to cover the regular cleaning and use of the instrument. The school is unable to pay for any repairs due to student negligence. Serious damage to the instrument during the year will be repaired immediately and billed to the student/parent. A damage assessment will occur at the end of the year to determine if repairs are necessary due to negligence, and fines will be assessed.

**STEP-UP INSTRUMENTS**

**Please ask a director for advice**.

Buy a step-up instrument only from a recognized music dealership. Frequently instruments that look nice and pretty are really imitations and don’t carry the same quality as a recommended beginner instrument that has already been purchased or rented. Step-up instruments are designed to enhance one’s playing, not just look pretty.

1. Wooden clarinets are strongly recommended for 7/8th clarinet players and are required for Wind Symphony.
2. Trumpet students should keep their beginner trumpets until a Bach Strad model 37 or Yamahaa YTR 4335 G Silver trumpet can be purchased.
3. It is recommended that flutes step-up to a Yamaha 400, 500, or 600 Series.
4. A single trombone actually hinders a 7th/8th grade trombone player due to the increased requirements. We recommend a Conn 88H or a Bach 42B Trigger Trombone.
5. The alto sax recommended step-up instrument is a SelmerS80 or a Yamaha 62.
6. Instrument model numbers may change without our knowledge.

**UNIFORMS**

Uniforms are worn for all performances and all students are expected to perform in complete uniform. A few scholarships are available for those students who meet the financial criteria and cannot afford a uniform. Please contact the director for more information.

6th Grade Band:

* Long Band T-shirt (provided through the band fee)
* Black pants and Jeans (full length) (supplied by the student)
* No specific shoes are required for 6th grade band

**BAND BOOSTERS**

The *Dan F. Long Band Club* is a parent organization that was formed in order to supplement and enhance our great band program. The money we raise through membership and other fundraising projects is channeled back into the program in ways that benefit the students **directly.** The Band Boosters have helped supply student incentives, social activities, resources for band clinics and contests, uniforms, and equipment for the band. They also have helped provide financial support to students in need for supplies, private lessons, and band camps. Please have your family join! Consider asking relatives and friends to support our program through a membership donation. Another way you can help is by volunteering! ***A SUCCESSFUL BAND PROGRAM HAS INVOLVED PARENTS!!*** The board needs and welcomes your help and suggestions. If interested in filling one of our positions, let us know!

**MUSIC ENRICHMENT**

In addition to individual band classes, we also have a wonderful staff of private music instructors. Each teacher is an expert on his or her individual instruments. Each teacher was also selected to teach in our school district by the Fine Arts Director and the band directors in our school district.

The music lessons last 23 minutes, or half a class period once a week at a cost of $18.00 per lesson. Times are worked out between you and the private instructor, and usually lessons occur at Long Middle School. Private lessons are not required, and they will not affect your student’s grade; however, students that take this opportunity tend to progress at a much faster rate. They also usually find themselves at a much higher level much faster than is normally expected. If you are interested, please request a form. Students of like instruments may take a 23 minute lesson as “buddies” with the same teacher and each student pays $8-$12. Buddy Lessons are left to the discretion of the private teacher and director.

Scholarship opportunities are available for students in need of financial assistance. Students must meet specific criteria and fill out a private lesson scholarship request form. Forms can be obtained from a director. The goal of the DFL Band staff is that any student with the drive to be in private lessons should have the opportunity to do so.

**Private Lesson Staff**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Flute** Kathy Newhouse  kathynewhouse@verizon.net | **Trumpet** Freddie Jones  Fjones4@verizon.net |
| **Oboe**  Carter Calkins  (512) 971-7916  Carter Calkins@gmail.com | **Horn**  **Chih Ya Yang**  **(940) 595-1880**  **musicabletx@yahoo.com** |
| **Bassoon**  Miranda Macias  (214) 534-6454  mirandamacias2016@yahoo.com  **Clarinet Sarah Seagraves** SarahSeagraves@my.unt.edu  **Julio Montalvo**  Julioj.montalvo@yahoo.com | **Trombone** Webb Gardner  webbtgardner@gmail.com    **Euphonium/Tuba**  **Gary Adgate**  **adgate@mac.com** |
|  |  |
| **Saxophone**  Tyler Richey  Tlrsax54@gmail.com | **Percussion**  Keith Umbach  972-742-1205  umbachk1@airmail.net |
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**INSTRUMENTS & SUPPLIES, COMMUNICATION, WEBSITE**

**INSTRUMENTS & SUPPLIES**

All students are required to have an instrument by Wednesday September 7th

Students without an instrument by the deadline will lose valuable instruction time and their schedule may be changed from band to another elective.

Care and Maintenance of your instrument will promote your success.

Be sure to stay fully stocked with these supplies!!

Instrument inspections will be done on a routine basis and count as a major grade.

Flute: Cleaning swab, polishing cloth, key brush/duster.

Clarinet: Cleaning swab, cork grease, reeds (at least 3 **working** reeds at all times!), neck strap

Oboe: Swab, cork grease, reed case, reeds. Oboe reeds will retail for around $10 each.

Bassoon: Seat strap, cork grease, reed case, reeds. Bassoon reeds retail for around $13 each.

Saxophone: Cleaning swab, neck swab, neck strap, cork grease, key oil, reeds.

***(Please note that one reed will not last long. Like tires on a car, they must be replaced regularly. We ask that all students have three working reeds at all times. We will show students how to care for their reeds to make certain they last as long as possible.)***

Trumpet: Valve oil, slide grease, polishing cloth (any soft rag will do), mouthpiece brush, cleaning snake.

French horn: Rotary valve oil, slide grease, polishing cloth (any soft rag will do), mouthpiece brush, cleaning snake.

Trombone: Slide cream, tuning slide grease, polishing cloth (any soft rag will do), mouthpiece brush, cleaning snake.

Baritone: Valve oil, slide grease, polishing cloth (any soft rag will do), mouthpiece brush, cleaning snake.

Tuba: Valve oil, slide grease, polishing cloth (any soft rag will do), mouthpiece brush, cleaning snake.

It is highly recommended that each band student have a **wire music stand** to use at home. This will help reinforce proper posture, breathing, and hand position.

All instruments are to be in good playing condition at all times. Proper maintenance is **required.** Students are expected to have all the proper supplies for his/her instrument. Supplies are available for purchase from Music and Arts through your band director.

**COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY!**

We want to keep students and parents informed! In addition to this handbook, we provide activity calendars, periodic e-newsletters, phone call reminders, and the **band web site**. Be involved with your student’s musical education. Ask them what’s going on in their band class. Pertinent information sheets will be sent home with each student AND uploaded to the band website at least one week prior to any major event. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or email the directors.

**BAND WEBSITE**

The band has an incredibly important (and cool!) website. This site features a constantly updated calendar, information forms regarding upcoming events, links to other band related sites, contact information for our directors and private lesson staff, and pictures! We encourage you to bookmark this site and reference it often.

**http://www.danflongband.com**

Handbook Acknowledgement Form

**(Due by the beginning of September)**

As a student member of the band, I have read this hand book and understand the membership requirements, particularly in regards to study, practice, rehearsal, concert/contest attendance and behavior.

As a member of the band, I will assume the obligations and responsibilities and do my utmost to accomplish the objectives, follow the principles, obey the rules and uphold the regulations. Most of all, I will communicate in advance and read my calendar.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

As a parent of this student, we understand the rules and regulations which our child is expected to follow.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

#### Fee Schedule

Please make checks payable to **DFL Band Club**

These fees pertain to (but are not limited to) various individual and group **contests**, related **travel** expenses, **guest clinicians and judges**, **rewards** and **parties**, as well as band **shirts**, **books**, **binders**, and other **materials** necessary throughout the year.

***Wind Symphony***

\_\_\_\_ $50.00…Band Fee

\_\_\_\_ $50.00…School-Owned instrument usage fee (required for students playing a school-owned instrument)

\_\_\_\_ $25.00…Percussion instrument usage fee (required for all percussionists)

\_\_\_\_ ***TOTAL***

***Symphonic Band***

\_\_\_\_ $40.00…Band Fee

\_\_\_\_ $50.00…School-Owned instrument usage fee (required for students playing a school-owned instrument)

\_\_\_\_ $25.00…Percussion instrument usage fee (required for all percussionists)

\_\_\_\_ ***TOTAL***

***Beginning Band***

\_\_\_\_ $30.00…Band Fee

\_\_\_\_ $50.00…School-Owned instrument cleaning fee (required for students playing a school-owned instrument)

\_\_\_\_ ***TOTAL***

***Falcon Band Parent Volunteers***

The Long Band has many trips and events during the year which rely on our parent volunteers. If you would like to be notified when assistance is needed, please fill out the information below.

YES! I would like to be a Falcon Band parent volunteer!

PARENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT’S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER(S): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL(S): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to be contacted by (phone or e-mail):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Interests

**(Check all that apply)**

Chaperone students during events: \_\_\_\_

Help with set-up and tear down of events: \_\_\_\_

Help collect money: \_\_\_\_

Help with fundraiser: \_\_\_\_

Provide large vehicle to transport instruments: \_\_\_\_

Booster Club Executive Board position: \_\_\_\_

Donate Food Items for events: \_\_\_\_

(I.e. Water and sodas for football games, lunch for judges at contest etc.)

*Thanks for being such an important part of our Falcon Band Family!!*