

INDEPENDENCE HS BAND

HANDBOOK 2017-18



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MISSION STATEMENT

The **Independence Band Family** believes in developing dedicated, selfless, responsible members of society who strive to reach their maximum potential by representing the Knight Band with integrity and pride.

MARCHING BAND PRACTICE SCHEDULE

The Independence High School Marching Band is comprised of all members of the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Percussion and Color Guard classes. Please post the following schedule at home and keep a copy for reference at school.

Please check the calendar on the band website for specific information.

Our *typical* rehearsal schedule throughout football season will be:

*Mondays	4:45 - 7:15 pm
Tuesdays - Fridays	7:00 - 8:30 am
Contest Days	1 Hour –Times TBA

Make sure that you check the calendar on the website for the most up-to-date information regarding rehearsal locations and times.

Regular season football games are scheduled every Thursday or Friday from September 1 through November 9 (with the possibility of playoff games beyond that date).

**If Monday is a school holiday, then the band will rehearse on Tuesdays after school.*



FALL SEMESTER **CONTEST PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

Please make sure that these dates are clear on your calendars and check the IHS Band website for the most up-to-date information.

Saturday, September 30	Bands of America DFW Regional Southlake Carroll Dragon Stadium 1085 S Kimball Avenue Southlake, TX 76092
Tuesday, October 3	FISD High School Band Night Ford Center at The Star 9 Cowboys Way Frisco, TX 75034
Saturday, October 14	Don Hanna Memorial C.H. Collins Athletic Complex 1500 Long Road Denton, TX 76207
Saturday, October 21	UIL Region 24 Marching Contest Little Elm ISD Athletic Complex 1151 E Eldorado Parkway Little Elm, TX 75068
Saturday, October 28	UIL Area Marching Contest Little Elm ISD Athletic Complex 1151 E Eldorado Parkway Little Elm, TX 75068
November, Wednesday 8	UIL State Marching Contest Alamodome 100 Montana Street San Antonio, TX 78203
Saturday, November 11	Frisco Community Parade Downtown Frisco Frisco, Texas

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE DOES NOT INCLUDE ALL PERFORMANCES AND IS TENTATIVE AT THE TIME OF THIS PUBLISHING. ATTENDANCE AT ALL PERFORMANCES, INCLUDING FOOTBALL GAMES, IS MANDATORY. CHANGES IN THESE DATES AS WELL AS OTHER CONTESTS AND OTHER CIVIC EVENTS WILL BE SCHEDULED AT A LATER TIME ON THE BAND WEBSITE. BE SURE TO CHECK IT ON A REGULAR BASIS. AN ABBREVIATED REHEARSAL SCHEDULE WILL BE FOLLOWED AT THE END OF THE REGULAR FOOTBALL SEASON.

CONTINUALLY UPDATED INFORMATION ABOUT BAND PERFORMANCES AND PRACTICES AS WELL AS OTHER IMPORTANT BAND ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE BAND FACEBOOK PAGE, TWITTER PAGE AND ON THE BAND WEBSITE AT:

www.independencebandfrisco.com

GENERAL BAND PROCEDURES

This handbook will spell out several expectations that are necessary to have a successful band program. However, there are some general guidelines to follow in all situations.

- 1) All rehearsals called by directors are mandatory.
- 2) To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, to be late is to be very sorry.
- 3) Respect the property of the school and of others.
- 4) Respect other band members and directors.
- 5) Always project a positive attitude in your words and actions.
- 6) Be at the right place at the right time, and do your best.
- 7) For security reasons, only band students are allowed in the band hall.
- 8) Gum is not allowed at any band function.
- 9) NO FOOD OR DRINK (OTHER THAN WATER) IN ANY PART OF THE FINE ARTS FACILITIES AT INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL!!

MARCHING BAND

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY FOR STUDENTS THAT ARE ACADEMICALLY ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE. All students who (1) Pass off all music by memory (2) attend all rehearsals, and (3) make a conscientious effort to improve will be considered to perform during the marching season. However, contest performances will be limited to those students who demonstrate the most advanced skills for performance.

Every academically eligible student will be assigned a marching spot in the 2017 show. All eligible students will perform at the weekly football games. In regards to marching contests, students who exhibit the highest proficiency and performance level will march a position in contest. Contest marching spots are highly competitive and will be assigned based on attendance, experience level, and proficiency in marching and playing. At any point in the season, students may be moved into these contest marching spots when circumstances change. If a student is removed from a contest marching spot, he or she may be worked back into the contest lineup as places open or as may be necessary to replace those who are not fulfilling requirements. In this way, it is hoped that everyone will have ample opportunities to gain experience.

If a student is in “In School Suspension” on the day of a football game and is to be in ISS on the following school day, he/she may not be allowed to be present at the stadium according to FISD rules. Therefore, he/she may not participate with the band at the game or the contest on the following Saturday. If a student’s last day of ISS falls on the day of a football game, he/she may be an alternate for the game and contest.

Students who are not assigned to contest marching spots are an integral part of the performance as it pertains to general effect and will assist the directors with field equipment and organizational needs provided they are academically eligible at contest.

If a student has an unexcused absence from a marching band rehearsal, he/she may be held out of the next show performance on the schedule. If a student has two or more unexcused absences during a week, he/she may not be allowed to travel/participate with the band at the next performance event. Two unexcused tardies to a rehearsal are the equivalent of one unexcused absence.

ELIGIBILITY

Most of the activities associated with Band (Marching and Concert) are extra-curricular including football games and contests. In order to be eligible by TEA, UIL, and FISD requirements, students must pass ALL classes each six weeks. Students who fail any single class at the end of six weeks will become INELIGIBLE seven days after the last day of the six-weeks in which they failed. Students who fail at that time will be able to regain their eligibility by **PASSING ALL CLASSES AT THE END OF THE 3RD WEEK OF THE NEXT GRADING PERIOD.** If passing, students regain eligibility seven days after the last day of the three-week period. **A STUDENT WHO DOES NOT REGAIN ELIGIBILITY AT THAT TIME WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE FOLLOWING SIX WEEKS GRADING PERIOD.**

If at the three-week grading period a student has below an 80 in any class, he or she may be required to attend a study hall session in the band hall on Wednesdays from 4:20-5:00pm. This is mandatory until the grade is raised or the end of the six-week period. If at the six-week grading period a student is ineligible due to a failing grade in any class, he or she is required to attend Wednesday tutorials until the grade is raised, as well. A participation grade will be taken for all study halls.



BAND CLASSES

All the members of the Band Program are assigned by audition to one of three concert bands that meet as academic classes. In addition to music preparation, academic performance (in regard to eligibility), and attendance history are considered when determining ensemble placements for each school year. Please remember that band is a year-long commitment. Schedule changes may only occur within the various band classes offered. New students are auditioned and placed into the appropriate ensemble upon arrival.

Wind Ensemble (grades 9-12)

The Wind Ensemble consists of 40-50 serious musicians who focus on some of the highest quality wind literature. Participation requires a high level of dedication and performance from each member. Enrollment in private lessons by all members is expected. Performances will include UIL, one or more invitational festivals, a Holiday concert, two or more spring concerts, and other special events. In addition, extra rehearsals and clinics are occasionally scheduled outside of the school day, along with sectionals in the spring semester. Students in the Wind Ensemble will be required to audition for the All-Region Band in November/December AND to perform an appropriate level *solo* at the UIL Solo/Ensemble contest in February. This is a “double-blocked” class.

Symphonic Band (grades 9-12)

The Symphonic Band is an ensemble consisting of musicians who perform quality wind literature. Participation requires a substantial amount of dedication on the part of its members. Enrollment in private lessons is strongly encouraged. Performances will include UIL, one or more invitational festivals, a Holiday concert, and one or two concerts in the spring. In addition, extra rehearsals and clinics are occasionally scheduled along with sectionals in the spring semester. Juniors and Seniors in Symphonic Band are required to audition for the All-Region Band in November/December. ALL MEMBERS are required to participate in UIL Solo/Ensemble contest in February with an appropriate level *solo*. This is a “double-blocked” class.

Concert Band (grades 9-12)

The Concert Band is an ensemble consisting of musicians who perform quality, appropriate level wind literature. Participation requires a substantial amount of dedication on the part of its members. Enrollment in private lessons is strongly encouraged. Performances will include UIL, one or more invitational festivals, a Holiday concert, and one or two concerts in the spring. In addition, extra rehearsals and clinics may occasionally be scheduled. Students in Concert Band are strongly encouraged to audition for the All-Region Band in November/December and to participate in UIL Solo/Ensemble contest in February with a solo or ensemble. This is a “single-block” class.

Jazz Band (grades 9-12)

This is a small ensemble that meets on Tuesdays & Fridays before school during the spring semester. Jazz Band membership is by audition and open to IHS students who are a part of the parent large ensemble band organization (marching and concert band). Jazz Band membership is open to students outside the band program only when there are no qualified band member candidates for keyboard, rhythm guitar, and/or bass guitar. Jazz Band consists of playing many styles of jazz music, improvisation, and jazz theory. Please check the band website for Jazz Band performance information. Upperclassmen with a strong interest in jazz are encouraged to participate in the All-Region Jazz Ensemble auditions in September.

Color Guard (grades 9-12)

This is a year-long, “single-blocked” course open to any student interested in participating in the visual ensemble portion of the Marching Band and Winter Guard. Students enrolled in this class are considered a part of the Marching Band. Therefore, all Marching Band rehearsals and performances are MANDATORY.

Percussion (grades 9-12)

This class is “double-blocked” for all percussion students in the first semester. During the second semester, students will be enrolled in the percussion class for a “single block” and an ability based band class for a “single block”.

ATTENDANCE

Work schedules, family trips, and other activities MUST NOT interfere with the rehearsal and performance schedule that you are given at the beginning of the school year. Students who enroll in other school activities such as athletics, choir, drama, etc. need to plan ahead to avoid conflicts that cannot be resolved. Ask to receive a complete semester calendar from all your activities so that you can have the maximum amount of time to work out potential schedule conflicts. The band directors will work together with the other teachers, coaches, and directors of various activities to give each student every opportunity to be a part of other groups.

However, other groups, organizations, or businesses that may change schedules or make demands of students on short notice will not be allowed to interfere with long-scheduled rehearsals or performances of the Band. NON-SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES, TEAMS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR JOBS MUST NOT CONFLICT IN WITH THE PRACTICE/PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE OF THE BAND.

The Band is dependent on ALL of its members. Unlike most other classes where individuals are accountable only for their own success or failure, band students' success is, in large part, dependent on the full participation of all the members. The following attendance policies will affect the students' grades and chance to participate. Unexcused absences include, but are not limited to doctor's appointments, organization meetings, work, family vacations, etc.

Please view the rehearsal / performance calendar on the website before scheduling doctor/dentist/orthodontist appointments.

ABSENCES FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS ARE NORMALLY CONSIDERED EXCUSED:

- SEVERE ILLNESS OR MEDICAL EMERGENCY (DOCTOR'S NOTE REQUIRED)
- DEATH IN THE FAMILY

IF YOU ARE WELL ENOUGH TO BE IN SCHOOL, YOU ARE WELL ENOUGH TO ATTEND REHEARSALS AND/OR PERFORMANCES.

ABSENCES OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED ABOVE NEED TO BE ADDRESSED WITH THE DIRECTORS IN ADVANCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

TUTORIALS

If it becomes necessary for a student to get extra academic help or make up work, the following options are available for students to attend tutorials:

FOOTBALL SEASON

- Any day after school that there is no afternoon band rehearsal or game
- Before school Mondays (or Tuesdays if Monday is a school holiday)
- Activity Period during the school day

AFTER FOOTBALL SEASON

- Any morning or afternoon students do not have a sectional scheduled
- Activity Period during the school day

GRADES

In determining the band grade each six weeks, three areas comprise the average:

- 1) Performance / major grades (50%)
- 2) Curriculum skills demonstration / minor grades (30%)
- 3) Behavior skills demonstration (20%)

Performance (Major) Grades

Major grades are comprised of the student's participation in required contest, concert, or other special events. Full credit is given based on the following criteria:

- Punctuality – arriving to inspection or the performance no later than the designated call time
- Preparedness – arriving to inspection or the performance with all necessary items and in the proper dress (p.
- Participation – demonstrating appropriate classroom behaviors and concert etiquette (p.

Curriculum Skills (Minor) Grades

Minor grades are largely comprised of pass-offs, a portion of the music that a student is asked to perform via SmartMusic (p. 9). All pass-offs will be graded using the performance rubric available on the band website.

FOR SYMPHONIC AND CONCERT BANDS: All pass-offs will be assigned at the beginning of the six-week grading period and are due at the end of school the final day of the six-week grading period. During this time, each student will be able to attempt the pass-off as many times as desired in order to achieve their highest grade.

Behavior Skills (Daily) Grades

Daily grades are comprised of the following criteria:

- Punctuality – arriving to class and seated before the school bell rings for class to begin
- Preparedness – arriving to class with all necessary materials as outlined in the supplies section (p. 12)
- Participation – demonstrating appropriate classroom behaviors and rehearsal etiquette

SMARTMUSIC

SmartMusic is an application used by the band program that is designed to give each student tools to improve practicing as well as immediate feedback on a performance. ALL students are required to sign up for their SmartMusic class appropriate to their band placement. The enrollment links are as follows:

Wind Ensemble – <https://gradebook.smartmusic.com/enroll/class/177884>
Symphonic Band – <https://gradebook.smartmusic.com/enroll/class/177883>
Concert Band – <https://gradebook.smartmusic.com/enroll/class/177885>

For home use, a subscription to SmartMusic may be purchased for \$40/year on www.smartmusic.com. Additionally, the band furnishes 3 iPads for student use during tutorial hours before and after school. *A home SmartMusic subscription is NOT required.*

ELIGIBILITY FOR CONCERT SEASON

Most of the work that our students do outside of marching is considered curricular and NOT SUBJECT TO ELIGIBILITY. Free concerts, section rehearsals, concert rehearsals, and private lessons are all considered curricular. Events that are considered extra-curricular include:

- 1) Any event with paid admission.
- 2) Any event that is inter-school competitive.
- 3) Any event that takes place off of the IHS campus.

Should a band student become ineligible for extra-curricular functions, he/she will still be eligible for curricular functions. Ineligible students will be given alternate assignments during contest preparation time.

DISCIPLINE

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual. Because of this fact, each student is responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the IHS Band. *Any student who shows an inability to work effectively within the program may be re-assigned to another class at the discretion of the Band Directors.*

As a school group, the band is governed by School and School Board policies anytime the band is together for any band function whether it involves all students or only one. *The General Release form you sign at the end of this Handbook will be in effect throughout the year for trips related to the Band.*

Any student who violates school rules while with the IHS Band will be subject to all usual school disciplinary procedures. In addition, those students will be subject to dismissal and will not continue to perform or travel with the band.

CONCERT BEHAVIOR/ETIQUETTE

At concerts, students are expected to conduct themselves in a mature manner and act as professionals would on and off the stage. Concerts are serious events. Audience members are expected to follow basic rules of etiquette, i.e. clapping at the appropriate time, not whistling, screaming, etc., not taking flash pictures during the performance, removing crying babies/children, not leaving or entering during a piece of music, etc. At times, band students will be in the audience listening to each other. Students are expected to lead the audience by exhibiting proper behavior.

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

The ultimate goal of our program is the development of the individual musician to the limits of his/her potential. To assist in reaching this goal, we strongly recommend participation in the individual competitions and festivals offered during the year.

All-Region tryouts involve the finest students from schools in our region and are the first step in advancement toward All-State. All students in grades 9-12 may participate if academically eligible. All students in the Wind Ensemble & junior and senior members of the Symphonic Band are required to audition. It is highly encouraged for the Concert Band students to audition. The music is announced in July, and the tryout process begins in November. Students must check their calendars carefully and make a complete commitment to all of the auditions and the performances before entering.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Band Leadership Team members and Drum Majors are selected by tryout in the spring and must meet the following requirements to tryout:

Drum Majors and Band Leadership Team Members:

- 1) Must be academically eligible at the time of tryouts.
- 2) Must complete an application that will be available during the spring semester.

ALL STUDENT LEADERS, INCLUDING DIRECTOR SELECTED OFFICERS, MUST FULFILL THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS OR THEY COULD BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE:

- 1) Participate at the designated Solo/Ensemble contest. (winds and percussion only)
- 2) Tryout for All-Region Band. (winds and percussion only)
- 3) Attend ALL summer practices and meetings and have ZERO unexcused absences from band activities during the year.
- 4) Provide leadership through example; promote the highest expectations for band members; and show a zero tolerance for negative behavior. Band officers with a disciplinary referral in any class may be removed from office.
- 5) Remain academically eligible throughout the year.

FAILURE TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE OUTLINED BAND LEADERSHIP TEAM JOB DESCRIPTION COULD RESULT IN A STUDENT BEING REMOVED FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR.



SUPPLIES

You will need the following supplies/accessories for your instrument:

Brass:

- Cleaning cloth
- Cleaning snake
- Mouthpiece brush
- valve (rotor) oil
- Slide cream
- KORGE Tuner
- Peterson Clip
- BERP

Woodwinds:

- Cleaning cloth
- Appropriate swab
- 5 or more good reeds (Vandoren)
- 1 Legere reed (for marching band only)
- cork grease
- KORGE Tuner
- Peterson Clip

Wind Musicians: Please check your music manual for additional items required for all rehearsals.

Percussion:

Mr. Crawford will provide a list of required materials in a separate percussion packet.

MARCHING UNIFORMS

The marching uniforms of the IHS Band are worn at most outdoor functions unless weather prohibits. These are issued to all marching band students. In addition, each student needs the following items to complete the uniform:

- 1) Black MTX Marching Shoes - ordered through the band in the summer
- 2) All black athletic socks (no markings)- your choice, ankles completely covered
- 3) Black marching gloves - ordered through the band in the summer
- 4) Band Dri-fit Shirt - ***Worn under uniform at all times***
- 5) Band Dri-fit Shorts – ***Worn under uniform at all times***
- 6) No visible jewelry or accessories can be worn at any time while in marching uniform.
- 7) Hair must be pulled up and secured (buns, pinned, etc.) prior to inspection and for the duration of wearing the uniform. *Bows and extra hairpieces are not allowed while in uniform.*

Uniforms will be checked in and out every game day. After every football game, students will check their uniforms in to the band parent and uniform team in charge of uniforms. They will be cleaned several times during the marching season.

If you lose a piece of your uniform you must be prepared to pay:

Uniform bag	\$25
Pants with suspenders	\$125
Jacket	\$250
Hat	\$75
Hat box	\$15
Plume	\$25
Gauntlets (pair)	\$40

CONCERT UNIFORMS

Students in all bands will perform in formal concert clothes at all concerts, contests and festivals in the spring.

Boys in all bands will be issued a school-owned tuxedo and will need to furnish:

- 1) A white tux shirt and black necktie (must be ordered through IHSBBC)
- 2) Black dress shoes and all black dress socks
- 3) Jewelry and hairstyles are subject to director approval.

Girls are responsible for their own "Concert Black". Guidelines can be found on the IHS Band website.

- 1) Closed toed, black dress shoes, heel of your choice (must be approved by a director)
- 2) Jewelry and hairstyles are subject to director approval.

ANY TUXEDO NOT RETURNED WILL RESULT IN A \$150 REPLACEMENT FEE.

APPLIED PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

This program is supported by the individual parents who cover the cost of the program. Lessons may be taken before or after school or during the student's daily band class. The FISD approves certain private instructors through auditions, interviews and background checks. Lesson money is paid directly to the private instructors (\$18 - \$20 per half hour depending on the teachers college education).

The Applied Instructors will assist students with the preparation of music for All-Region, Area, and State tryouts; for participation in Solo/Ensemble; and with occasional parts of the band performance music. Teachers will include an organized lesson plan of fundamentals that will need to be practiced consistently in order to receive the greatest benefits from private instruction. Parents should become informed about the lesson content, expectations of the instructor, and their student's rate of progress. Parents should contact their own campus band director with questions about lessons or private instructors.

Private instruction has been approved to take place during the school day and is offered as enrichment, NOT remedial instruction. It is encouraged for the complete development of each student's potential as a performing musician.

USE OF SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS/EQUIPMENT

A limited number of the more expensive instruments are owned by the FISD for the purpose of balancing the instrumentation district-wide and maintaining performing bands at every level. There is a school imposed instrument usage & maintenance fee of \$100 per year for wind players and percussionists. This fee is to be paid through MyPaymentsPlus.

It is the responsibility of the student/parent to check over the instrument when the student receives it and understand that the instrument must be returned in the same condition at the end of the year. If, in the opinion of a FISD director, a school-owned instrument is not being properly maintained or cared for at any time of the school year, it is the director's prerogative to remove the instrument from the student's care.

RECOMMENDED INSTRUMENT LIST

We recommend that students not continue to use their "beginner" instruments past the 8th grade, unless an advanced model was purchased initially. Better quality instruments enable all students to learn more quickly and with greater ease. The instruments listed below are recommended by the FSD staff as the best quality:

Flute - Yamaha models 500/600, or Miyazawa model 95SR

Clarinet - Buffet R-13 (the "Festival" model is not recommended)

Alto Sax - Selmer SA-80 or Yamaha Custom

Trumpet - Bach Stradivarius Model 37 ML (Medium large) bore

Trombone - Bach 42-BO

These can be purchased at many retail stores. These "pro-model" instruments are often heavily discounted for cash purchases. Parents are encouraged to seek the help of a private instructor or director before purchasing one of these instruments.



FUNDRAISING

It is expensive to run a competitive 5A band program in the state of Texas. There are many additional costs that are not budgeted for through the district, such as music arranging, drill, supplemental instruction, etc. Therefore, it is imperative that we fundraise to cover these expenses.

Parent involvement in the Independence HS Band Booster Club fundraisers is critical to acquire the funds necessary to help create a wonderful experience for our members. Students are allowed to actively participate in one fundraiser per school year.

As you sign the commitment form, understand that participation in the Independence High School Band Program is a FULL YEAR commitment and that our expectations for each other and ourselves are very high. We look forward to a wonderful journey and experience with your student.

PLEASE READ THE HANDBOOK CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING BELOW

"I have read the IHS Band Handbook and our student has our permission to participate in the band activities stated in this handbook within the guidelines described. We understand that Band and Color Guard are full-year commitments for the 2017-18 school year."

Parent/Guardian Signature_____

"I have read the IHS Band Handbook and agree to abide by the policies stated. I realize that failure to follow policies or directions will result in disciplinary action that could lead to dismissal from the Band/Guard and Band/Guard classes."

Student Name (PRINTED)_____

Student Signature_____

Date of both signatures_____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY 9:00am on **August 25th**. KEEP ALL OTHER PARTS OF THE HANDBOOK FOR REFERENCE.