

2022-2023 Gaston Panther Band Handbook



GASTON PANTHER BAND

Mission Statement

We, the proud members of the Gaston Middle School Band, stand for these values above all else:

Integrity, Unity and Excellence

We strive daily to uphold and embody these ideals for ourselves and our band mates. By consistently giving our personal and collective best, we will continually raise the standards of each performer, maximizing the total potential of the group and achieving a sense of success regardless of competitive results.

GASTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Panther Band

Every successful organization has a set of rules that it must follow. These rules and regulations apply to everyone inband, and are meant to ensure that the Gaston Middle School Band functions at the highest level possible. The GMS Band is ultimately a competing organization, offered as part of the curriculum at Gaston Middle School. There are currently no audition requirements to be a member of the GMS Band. Band is a full-year course. Please remember that in signing up for band, you are making a commitment to contribute to the organization and adhere to all rules upheld by that organization. The GMS Band Handbook rules apply every day during class, as well as on every trip, game, pep rally, or performance. Our ultimate goal is to be the most positive image of our school and community we can possibly be.

**ALL DISD SCHOOL POLICIES AND RULES
APPLY AT ALL TIMES.**

AFTER GAMES: No student is to leave the band room until everything is unloaded and the facilities are clean. Directors will then release students.

Eligibility For UIL and ALL Band Contests

Many of the activities associated with Band are extracurricular, including football games and contests. In order to be eligible by TEA, UIL and DISD requirements, students must pass ALL classes each six weeks (quarter). Students who fail any single class at the end of nine weeks will become INELIGIBLE seven days after the last day of the (quarter) in which they failed. Students may lose or regain eligibility at this time. The next grade check will occur at the end of the 3 week check period. Regaining their eligibility by achieving only by PASSING ALL CLASSES WHEN GRADES WERE CHECKED AT THE END OF THE 3RD WEEK. Please refer to Mr. Wright or Mr. de la Rosa for eligibility rules and concerns. In all truth, keep your grades above passing, and you will not have to be concerned with this at all!

GENERAL CLASSROOM CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

1. Students will respect themselves, their classmates, adults, and all property belonging to someone else.
2. Students will be on time and ready to go for all performances, rehearsals, and classes.
3. Students will bring all necessary materials to class, rehearsals, and performances -including: instruments, music, instrument supplies, and writing utensils.
4. Students will NOT consume food or drinks in the classroom This includes gum, candy, and water— unless given special permission by the teacher.

5. No student is allowed to touch the computers, stereo, or recording system unless given permission by the directors.
6. Nothing in this handbook supersedes DISD Board policies or the Gaston MS Student Code of Conduct. In all instances Board Policy is absolute.

Disciplinary action for violation of these rules may include detentions, parent conversations, or temporary removal from band functions. Disciplinary action for continued or severe infractions will result in revoked opportunity to attend band functions, trips, or complete removal from the band program.

ATTENDANCE

Band members will attend all rehearsals and performances on time. Attendance is an important facet of a successful band. It is almost impossible for a student to make up what was missed when absent. New concepts are introduced everyday and are difficult, if not impossible, to re-teach. Therefore, attendance is mandatory for all rehearsals. A percentage of your grade is based upon attendance. You should also do your best to not schedule appointments around rehearsal time. Rehearsal times are scheduled to conflict with the least amount of events. When you miss a performance or rehearsal, the entire ensemble suffers.

Every student and parent will sign and submit a form as an agreement to attend all rehearsals and concerts. There will be NO excused absences other than family related emergencies which will require communication from a parent or guardian.

TRANSPORTATION

Students are responsible for their own transportation to rehearsals or to the school for performances. **NOT HAVING A RIDE IS NEVER AN EXCUSE FOR MISSING A PERFORMANCE OR A REHEARSAL.** If you cannot get a ride back to school for a performance, let the director know at least 24 hours prior to the event.

12

DRUGS /ALCOHOL

The use of illicit drugs or alcohol by members of the Gaston Middle School Band will not be tolerated. **Possession of any such items while representing the band will result in IMMEDIATE removal from the program.** If the group is in another city at the time, the student will be sent home by whatever means are available. Expenses will be the responsibility of the parent. Other penalties will likely follow, in accordance with school policy and state law.

GASTON BAND ROOM 116/PORTABLE 144-145

We are fortunate to have wonderful rehearsal facilities. Students are expected to do their best to take care of it, so please:

1. No gum, food or drink allowed in band room.
2. Pick up your trash at the end of rehearsal.
3. Put your instrument and music where it belongs at the end of rehearsal. Lockers are assigned to all individuals. Protect your instrument by keeping it securely locked in your locker.
4. Keep trash out of the storage shelves.
5. No running, wrestling or “rough play”.
6. No more than two students per practice room.
7. No illicit use of the practice rooms.

EXCUSED ABSENCE FROM REHEARSAL

With the exception of an extreme emergency, a family emergency, or illness, students will not be excused from rehearsal. Any student present at school the day of a rehearsal, is expected to be at that day’s rehearsal. A parent note or doctor’s note should be given to the director on the day the student returns to school. If you must miss an extra rehearsal or performance, please call. This way we know where you are and why you are not present. Any **unexcused** absences from rehearsal will result in a grade of zero for that portion of your grade.

EXCUSED ABSENCE FROM PERFORMANCE

Only in extreme emergency or illness will a student be excused from a performance. **An absence must be approved by the director prior to the absence.** Remember, when you are not present at a performance, you are not able to do your part in making the band successful. Any unexcused absence from a performance will result in a grade of zero for that portion of your grade.

REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE

The band is a performing organization; therefore, performance is an important aspect of the band grade. Correct performance attire is required, and will be communicated well ahead of time. Incorrect attire is unacceptable, and inappropriate dress code may result in the student being sent home and receiving a grade of zero for the performance.

TARDINESS

Since our time is limited, we simply have to start on time. Gather your materials quickly and quietly before class and be prepared. Arrive early for performances. Only the band director can excuse tardiness.

GRADING POLICY

Your grade is determined by several components, including: Class Participation, Testing/Music Check-offs, Class Work, Rehearsal/Performance Attendance, and Practice Journals. Grades are broken down as follows:

Classwork/Homework: 40%

Tests: 25%

Projects : 20%

Six Weeks Test: 15%

Total Points: 100%

You, or your parents, can check your grade at any time through the parent portal:

<https://dallasisd.powerschool.com/public/>

- Classwork/Homework 40% (class participation, google classroom, practice, written work, etc.)
- Tests 25% (performances, written tests, written quizzes, etc.)
- Projects/Products 20% (small groups, etc.)
- Six-week test grade 15% (a culmination of all activities during the six weeks, final products of the six weeks, six weeks written exam, etc.)

LATE WORK/MAKE UP WORK POLICY [EIA (REGULATION)]:

Students will be permitted to make up assignments and tests without grade penalty after an absence. Students will be given at least two school days for every day missed to complete the assignments or tests missed after an absence. Time to make up work will be provided for students during the school day.

Students must be given at least one opportunity to submit late work not related to an absence. Students will have three days to complete late work not related to an absence but will only receive up to a 70.

Because giving zeros is not best practice, verified parent contact must be made before a zero is given for missing work. Without documentation of parent contact, students will be permitted additional days beyond what is stated in policy to complete the make up work.

REASSESSMENT POLICY [EIA (REGULATION)]:

To ensure that test grades reflect content mastery, a student will be permitted to retake any major test that he or she has failed within five school days of the date the failing grade was received or no later than ten days of the date of the test. If the test is passed on the second attempt, the failing grade will be removed from the grade book, and the passing grade will be recorded. The grade given a student failing the test for the second time will be the higher score earned on either test. Retests will be allowed during the school day.

DISCIPLINE POLICY FOR RULE VIOLATION

All discipline situations will be recorded on an official Gaston Middle School infraction form. By the 4th offense, it is school policy to issue a discipline referral.

1st offense: Verbal Warning

2nd offense: Teacher/Student Conference, fitting consequence

3rd offense: Parent contact

4th offense: Referral

*NOTE: In most cases, a referral will be a last-resort action, but the teacher reserves the right to issue a referral at any time. Certain situations call for immediate referrals based on school policy.

PRACTICE ASSESSMENT: GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Individual practice is an integral part of any student's growth as an instrumentalist. Student assessment will be given through Google Classroom. The use of Google Classroom is wonderful due to assignments being completed at the students discretion.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Class participation includes: Having all materials, having a cooperative attitude and working well with others during rehearsal.

TESTING/MUSIC CHECK-OFFS

Each student will be expected to play performance music for directors occasionally. (Music check-off procedures will be discussed in class.)

CLASS WORK

Class work will include any written or oral presentations as well as any assignments the student is given.

DISD INSTRUMENT USAGE

- A. A \$25 rental fee will be charged to all students using instruments owned by the school.
- B. When not in use, instruments will be stored in assigned lockers for safekeeping.
- C. Instruments will be checked regularly for cleanliness and maintenance.
- D. Students will play and perform only on their instrument assigned to them.
- E. School owned instruments will be returned promptly and in good condition when called for by the director.
- F. Final grades and schedules will be held until students turn in school owned instruments in proper condition.

BUS TRIPS

There will be times during the year when the GMS Panther Band travels out of town to different events. To ensure the safety of all students, please adhere to the following guidelines:

GMS BAND BUS RULES

- 1. Follow instructions from directors and chaperones the first time they are given.
- 2. Once you get into a seat, stay there. Never get up while the bus is in motion.
- 3. No loud noises will be permitted.
- 4. No food/drinks are allowed on bus, unless you are given permission by director/chaperone.
- 5. Arrive early for all departures.
- 6. All bags and items are subject to inspection at any time.
- 7. Do not litter.
- 8. Every student is responsible for his/her instrument, uniform, and luggage.
- 9. Abide by all school policies.
- 10. Directors and sponsors will handle any problems that arise. Should you lose the privilege to ride the bus you will not be allowed to perform.
- 11. If you ride the bus to an event, you must return by bus unless:

- a. Your PARENT or LEGAL GUARDIAN provides **WRITTEN NOTICE** to the director(s) prior to departure to event stating when, with whom, and where the student will be traveling. Contact information must be included.
- b. Other situations must be approved by the director AND principal prior to departure.

LOADING/UNLOADING BUS

Everyone is expected to help load and unload equipment. It is also EACH STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY to load his/her own instrument. Do not depend on anyone else to load it for you. Students should not exit the bus until instructed to do so.

GASTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Panther Band

Contact Information

Dr. David Wright	Director of Bands	dawright@dallasisd.org
Dr. Donny De la Rosa	Assistant Director	dondelarosa@dallasisd.org

Band Website: www.gastonband.weebly.com