

THE BEARCAT BAND

SHERMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

HANDBOOK 2021 - 2022

Welcome to Band!

The Bearcat Band has a long tradition of musical excellence.

Sherman ISD is very proud of the band's reputation of high-quality effort, character and teamwork. Great music happens because of these qualities. It is the expectation that each student will:

- Be responsible for his or her own actions
- Make great choices
- Own their mistakes and celebrate them as an opportunity for growth
- Always support their band family.

Band is intended to be a place of enjoyment, comfort, creativity and pride. The outstanding students who make up this family see to it that this is upheld daily.

Director Contact Information:

Annette Mitchell, Sherman Director of Bands
AnMitchell@shermanisd.net

Melinda Najera, Sherman Associate Director
MNajera@shermanisd.net

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU'RE GETTING OUR UPDATES!

For up-to-date calendar and emails:

CharmsOffice.com

Login: ShermanMSBand

Password: Student ID# (first login)

On the web:

https://www.shermanisd.net/Domain/595

Facebook:

Facebook.com/ShermanMSBand/

Remind Messaging Service:

Text the number: 81010 & enter the following @message for your class:

- SMS Beginning Band - @sherband1

Inside:

In the following pages you will find the guidelines for the Bearcat Band.

Every member and their family must review the information inside and work with the directors to uphold these expectations in order for our program to be successful.

Grading and Attendance Policy

SMS Band follows the Sherman ISD grading & attendance policy.

- Concerts = Mastery Grade
- Band class rehearsals = Daily Grade
- Quizzes (non-mastery) and Performance Evaluations (mastery) of music covered in class are administered in **class**, via SmartMusic or Canvas.
- Pass-Offs (Mastery) can be completed on SmartMusic or in some cases at assigned times during class, section rehearsals, or on designated dates before/after school.
- Students must be prepared with all equipment and supplies daily, perform at concerts, and conduct themselves appropriately to maintain the privilege of participating in their assigned group.

Practice Expectations

At the beginning of the year students will have specific assignments each night that build up to playing their instrument. Once we begin playing, students will start with a small number of minutes of playing per night and then gradually build up until they are playing approximately 30 minutes per night.

Performance in class does not count as practice time. Set aside time every day to work on your music and prepare your parts to support your team!

Performance Expectations

Students will be expected to attend and will earn grades at all of the following co-curricular activities:

1. Group Performances
 - Winter Concert (December)
 - Spring Concert (May)
 - Class “Informances”
 - Spring Festival Performance (April or May)
2. Individual or Small-Group Performances
 - Solo & Ensemble Festival (May)

After Performances

After each performance, students who are waiting for a ride will need to wait in the designated area. At Sherman Middle School, this is the band room loading dock on the west side of the building. At Sherman High School, the students will wait outside the back band door on the north side of the building by the loading dock near the marching pad.

Students must be picked up within 15 minutes of the end of the activity.

COVID Clause

Unfortunately, we are in uncertain times. This means that until school is returned to normal, all dates and concerts are subject to change OR adjustment to assure the healthiest situations possible. We appreciate all members and families being flexible as we continue to make band a rewarding experience.

Practice Room Policy

Hours

- 7:30 – 8:20am
- 3:55 – 4:45pm

Students who stay after school to practice must remain in the band room until their ride arrives. They may not go outside or go to other areas of the building to wait. Out of respect for the directors and their families, students must be picked up no later than 4:45pm.

Behavior Expectations

Students are expected to be playing their instrument at all times that they are using the band facilities before and after school. Lights are to remain on. There will be no food in the practice rooms. Students who are eating, off-task, or misbehaving will lose practice room privileges at the directors’ discretion.

Private Lessons

Private lesson instruction is available to all members of the Sherman Band. Students in lessons will have individualized help from a professional musician that will help them advance faster in their musical learning.

Cost: \$20 per week

Time: During their band class or after school based on the teacher’s schedules.

Contact info is available on the SMS Band webpage.



Care of the Band Areas, Instrument, and Self

Band Hall Area

- Food and drink (other than water in a bottle) will be kept in the cafeteria.
- Gum is a danger to instruments and wind players, so it will not be allowed in the band area.
- Stands will be for holding music only.

Instrument

- Sherman ISD and Sherman MS are not responsible for the damage or loss/theft of instruments.
- Both school-owned and individually owned instruments should be covered by insurance.
 - Most rental instruments have insurance available through the music store.
 - Insurance may be available with your Home Insurance (please contact your provider)

Lockers

- A lock and a nametag are provided for every student.
- Lost locks or nametags must be replaced (for a fee).
- Lockers should be locked when the instrument is inside.

Personal Injury Protection

- Sherman ISD does not provide insurance for student injury.

Student Discipline

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual. As such, each student is responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the Bearcat Band. **Any student who shows an inability to work effectively in class will be reassigned to another class.**

As a school group, members will follow campus and school board policies any time they participate in a band function. Any student who violates school rules while with the Bearcat Band will be subject to all usual school disciplinary procedures. In addition, those students may be subject to dismissal from band or suspension from all band travel.

Extra-Curricular & Non-Performance Social Events

The Bearcat Band will occasionally participate in non-performance activities and social events as a reward for students who are in good standing. To be in good standing, a student will:

1. Be passing all classes following the SISD academic eligibility guidelines
2. Have demonstrated excellent conduct and behavior in class, in school, and on trips
3. Have attended all concerts and performances
4. Participated in class daily and followed expectations for making up work in the event of an absence
5. Have been picked up on time following events throughout the year.

Because band is a team, and missing parts and instruments affects the entire group, participation in the Sherman Bearcat Band is **at least a one-year commitment.**

Special Note – A student must pass band and/or have a director's recommendation to be enrolled for the next semester of band.

Digital Citizenship

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct includes ensuring that band member websites and social media are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Members are responsible for their personal postings, as well as posting from or on other students' pages.

The areas of appropriateness will include, but are not limited to: profane, foul, or disrespectful language; pictures; suggesting poses or clothing; references to alcohol, drugs, or tobacco; postings that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening towards other SISD teaching staff or band members; or postings that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other bands.

In addition to the above, band members that violate the guidelines may be subject to the following:

- Upon confirmation of the violation, the band member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the website(s) and give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior.
- If a violation occurs that is deemed to be more serious in nature, including but not limited to threats, bullying, or a series of violations, the student may be subject to a higher level of discipline as determined by the band directors, including suspension, probation, or dismissal from band.

Alternate Transportation

- Any parent wishing to pick up their student from an event must be there in person to take them and have completed an alternate transportation form **prior** to the day of the trip. Students will not be released to other parents during the trip.
- Any parent wishing to drive their student to an event **where the full group is travelling by bus** must complete an alternate transportation form **prior** to the day of the trip. Then, the parent and student must meet with the band director upon arrival to ensure the student is accounted for and kept safe.

Students Participating in Virtual Learning

Students will attend band In Person.
Band will not be offered virtually.

Concerts

- Concerts have three parts: **warm-up, performance, and listening/audience.**
- The concert begins at the warm-up. **Be on time!**
- The concert ends when the last group performs. Texas Standards for band include listening to performances and being an audience member.
- All concerts are a group effort, therefore **ATTENDANCE IN REQUIRED!**
- Students are responsible for having their instrument, music, and any accessories they need at all concerts. The directors will have no extra mouthpieces, instruments, or music.

Concert locations include:

- Sherman MS Auditorium
- Sherman MS Gym
- Scott MS, Denison
- Sherman HS Auditorium

Contacting the Band Directors

The directors spend every moment possible teaching students and making sure we take advantage of every minute we have with them. This means that we are often unavailable before or after school to speak to parents. The best ways to contact us include:

- E-mail, available on the front page.
- Note, sent with your child. Please include your name and contact information.
- Conference, set up with us by e-mail or through a note.

Sherman Middle School Band Calendar

Grade Level/ Classes Involved	Graded Performance?	Date	Event	Groups	Location	Time(s)
August						
6-8	No	20	Sneak Peek	Students and families will get to watch SHS perform	Bearcat Stadium	7pm
September						
7-8	Yes	28	SMS Football Game	Honors, Symphonic and Concert will play. 8th Grade Football players will not. No transportation, meet and pick up at Piner.	Meet at Piner, Bearcat Stadium	5:00pm
October						
6-8	No	16	Region Marching Contest	Students will get to travel with the HS band and watch them perform at the UIL Marching Festival. \$5 entry fee required.	Meet at SHS travel to Plano Kimbrough Stadium	TBD
Honors Band	Yes	21	All District Auditions	Students in Region Section Rehearsals will participate in this event. An entry fee to pay for judges will be required.	SMS Hosting	5-9pm
November						
Beginning Band Classes	Yes	9	SMS All Performing Arts Department Beginner Concert	Beginning Band students will perform in the gym in conjunction with the SMS Performing Arts Department presentation.	SMS Gym, Auditorium and Little Theater	6pm
Honors Band	Yes	13	All Region Band Auditions Phase 1	Students in Region Section Rehearsals will participate in this event. Transportation available. Bring lunch if riding bus.	Willow Springs MS	All Day
Students Selected	No	15	All Region Band Auditions Phase 2	Students selected to move on from Phase 1 will audition for chairs in the All Region Band this even. Transportation will be provided. Student will need dinner money.	Willow Springs MS	leave 2pm
Students Selected	No	18	Texoma All District Clinic/Concerts	Students selected to the All District Band will have a full day rehearsal with a concert at 6pm. Meals will be provided. Parents will pick up at SMS after concert	SHS Stage?	All Day/ Concert 6pm
December						
Honors Symphonic Concert (7-8)	Yes	3	SMS Winter Band Concert	Students in mixed performing bands (3rd and 4th period) will perform for parents and community. No fees required.	SMS Stage	SMS 6pm
Students Selected	No	10-11	Band All Region Clinic/Concerts	Students selected to the All Region Bands will have a clinic on 12/10 and clinics followed by an afternoon concert on 12/11. Transportation will be provided to the clinics. Parents will pick up after concert on	Plano Performing Arts Center	All Day, Specific info will be provided

Sherman Middle School Band Calendar

March

Honors Symphonic Bands	Yes	1-3	Band Sounds of Spring Pre-UIL Festival	Students will participate in an adjudicated UIL format performance to receive feedback to improve for UIL. Transportation will be provided. Lunch money will be provided. The HS Bands will perform and	Princeton HS	TBD
6-8	No	4	Pasta Dinner	dinner will be available. All dinner proceeds will benefit the SISD Band Students	SHS Cafeteria	6pm
Honors Symphonic Bands	Yes	10	Sherman/Denison Community Pre-UIL Concert	Students will participate in an adjudicated UIL format performance to receive feedback to improve for UIL. This will be an evening performance for parents and community as well.	SMS, Scott or SHS (TBD)	Specific info will be provided as we approach this date.
Honors Symphonic Bands	Yes	22	UIL Clinic	Students participating in UIL will meet at SHS Band Room for a post-Spring Break Masterclass to make sure we are ready to perform at UIL this week.	SHS Band Room	All Day, More specifics to come.
Honors Symphonic Bands	Yes	24-25	UIL (Day TBD)	This serves as the Band version of the STAAR test. Transportation will be provided. Lunch money will be necessary.	Wylie East HS	TBD

April

Leaders	No	9	5th Grade Instrument Selection Fairs	Some SMS students will assist in running the instrument fair for our incoming students who have selected to begin band for the 2022-2023 band year.	SMS Hosting	9-4pm
		21				5-8pm
6-8 Percussion	Yes	29	Sherman ISD Percussion Concert	SMS Percussion Students will perform in the district percussion concert. They will have rehearsals leading up to the event that will be communicated through Dr. Veit.	SHS Stage	7pm
Honors Symphonic Bands	Yes	27-30	North Texas Festival of Distinction	The UIL Performing Bands will travel to Haltom City to participate in a Spring Band Festival. Transportation will be provided. Lunch money will be necessary.	Haltom City	All Day (TBD)

May

6-8	Yes	7	Texoma Middle School Solo & Ensemble Festival	All band students will perform a solo or ensembles either in class of for a judge. Students performing for the judge will have a set time on this day to perform. There will be an entry fee for the judged festival.	Scott MS, Denison	All Day (TBD)
6-8	No	13	SHS Final Concert	Students will get the opportunity to watch the HS Bands perform their final concert. No entry fee or transportation will be provided.	SHS Stage	7pm
All Students	Yes	20	Sherman Middle Final Band Concert 6-8	All SMS Band students will perform their final concert at this event. It will be graded. No entry fee or transportation will be provided.	SMS Stage	6pm