

The
Augusta Ranch E.S.
Meridian E.S.
Superstition Springs E.S.



Band Handbook
2011/2012

Dear Band Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! Our schools have a proud tradition of excellent musicianship and this year will be even better. I know that everyone is as excited as I am to continue building on this success. To maintain this consistent level of success, please remember that band is a **full-year commitment**.

The following information comprises the Band Handbook for Augusta Ranch, Meridian and Superstition Springs elementary schools. It explains our procedures and expectations, so please read through the entire handbook with your child.

The Band Contract at the back of the handbook must be signed by both the student and a parent/guardian. It is the first homework assignment and is **due by Wednesday, August 17**. Return only the contract page and keep the rest of the handbook for reference throughout the school year.

Communication is one of the keys to our success. I use our website (www.bandrox.com) to distribute materials and provide supplemental resources to my band students. Please feel free to contact me with questions or constructive comments. Because I teach at three schools each day, email is the best way to reach me. ***Please include your child's first and last name, grade level and the school he/she attends when contacting me.***

Good luck and best wishes for a terrific school year!

Jack Bannon, Nationally Board Certified Band Specialist

Contact Mr. Bannon:

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AUG Phone: (480) 635-2011

MER Phone: (480) 497-4032

SSE Phone: (480) 641-6413

The Band Handbook

Purpose

This handbook outlines the policies of our band program. Please read all of the information carefully. *Every student will be held accountable for the information within this handbook.*

Classroom Expectations

Our primary responsibility is to learn about music. Student behavior should be positive and contribute to the learning process. All students must respect the learning and safety of others.

Band Expectations

1. *Be Appropriate*
2. *Be Dependable (Have all necessary equipment each day)*
3. *Be Attentive*
4. *Be Respectful*
5. *No Food, Gum, or Drinks in the Band Room*

The following, positive steps will be taken to help students adjust their behavior when necessary. Some situations may warrant skipping to a more advanced step. Reevaluation of membership in band may be required in extreme cases.

Behavioral Consequences

1. *A verbal and/or nonverbal reminder of the expected positive behavior*
2. *A second reminder and loss of points from the class participation grade*
3. *Instrument is put away, loss of all class participation points for the day, phone call to parent*
4. *Removal from class to sit outside the door or sent to a "Buddy Teacher", phone call to parent*

Daily Schedule and Calendar

Students attend one 40-minute band class per week. Your child will have a second band class on Wednesdays if there are no half days or holidays that week. Monthly calendars will be available in pdf format at www.bandrox.com. A calendar will also be posted in the band room for student reference.

Band Concert Dates (Attendance is required for every performance!)

<u>School</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
SSE	Dec. 5, 2011	SSE	6:30 p.m.
AUG	Dec. 6, 2011	AUG	6:30 p.m.
MER	Dec. 12, 2011	MER	6:15 p.m.
MER	May 7, 2012	MER	6:15 p.m.
AUG	May 8, 2012	AUG	6:30 p.m.
SSE	May 10, 2012	SSE	6:30 p.m.

Grading Policy

Students will receive an achievement grade for band (A, B, C ...) that aligns with the GUSD Guidelines for Report Card Grading.

Homework

To be successful, students must practice at home. Fifteen to twenty minutes of daily practice is suggested; however, sixty minutes per week is the expected minimum to receive an "A." Students are responsible for turning in a weekly practice log signed by a parent/guardian. Late assignments will be given half credit. Occasionally, worksheets may also be assigned.

Class Participation

Students must be prepared for rehearsals by bringing their instrument (including accessories), a pencil, a name tag, their music packet/book and any distributed sheet music. Clarinet and saxophone players must have **at least 3 reeds that are not chipped, broken or moldy**. For a complete list of required materials, please review the "Supplies List" in the "Stuff to Print" section of our website. Students are expected to participate during rehearsals. When not actively playing their instruments in class, they should review previous material or work ahead on their own.

Assessment Within The Group

Students are expected to learn their music and play with the rest of the band during class. Periodic, informal assessments will be made during rehearsals to measure the degree that students meet this expectation.

Individual Assessment

Individual playing tests measuring a student's ability to perform his/her assigned music will be given and graded throughout the year. Tests can be retaken outside of class (before school, after school, during lunch) by appointment.

Concerts

Concerts allow students to demonstrate their new skills and enjoy the experience of group performance in front of a live audience. **Band students are required to perform on all concerts and remain for the duration of every performance.** Many families make concert nights “family nights” in honor of the young performer. We only perform two after-school concerts, so please block these nights out on your family calendar and try to avoid conflicting activities. An unexcused absence will result in a failing grade for the concert. An unexcused tardy will result in a lowered concert grade. In the rare event of a valid, unavoidable conflict, a parent letter **detailing** the reason for the absence is required. Mr. Bannon will determine the validity of any excuse.

Concert Attire

When performing, we represent ourselves, our school and our families. It is important that we wear clothing appropriate for a performance. Professional musicians follow this rule: “Always dress one level better than your audience.” Sometimes, family financial situations prohibit the acquisition of proper concert attire. If your family finds itself in this unfortunate situation, please dress as nicely as your budget allows. Concert attire must adhere to school policy (e.g. no spaghetti straps). Here are my expectations for appropriate concert attire:

- Nice slacks (girls may choose a nice skirt that **extends beyond the knee**)
- Nice, collared shirt (girls may choose a nice blouse)
- Dress shoes and dress socks (**no athletic shoes or sandals**)
- Boys wearing ties and girls wearing dresses will receive extra credit
- **Shirts must be tucked in** whenever a student wears his/her concert clothes.
- No jeans, shorts or T-shirts please.

Extra Credit

Extra Credit provides students who pursue enrichment activities the opportunity to earn extra points. It is **not** an alternative to regular assignments and tests. Examples include the following:

- attend a full-length concert of live music (any genre)
- write a full page review of a live concert
- record an extra 15 minutes of practice on your weekly practice log
- write a full page report about a famous instrumentalist
- write a full-length review of an instrumental music CD
- perform your instrument outside of band (e.g. solo at church, at-home recital, etc.)

