

MELISSA MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND



BAND HANDBOOK
2016-2017

Parents and students,

Welcome, *and welcome back*, to the Melissa Middle School Band Program! I hope the summer has left you rested and ready to begin another year of school. This year MMS will be having four beginner classes and two 7th/8th grade bands, Symphonic and Wind Ensemble.

Each ensemble will perform at least three concerts throughout the year as well as a few individual events/contests. Please take the time to schedule around the performances listed on the calendar.

For the first few weeks of school, here is what you need to do for band:

1. Read this handbook, complete the required forms, and returned the signed handbook page, field trip release form, student info sheet, and supply sheet paperwork by **Friday, August 26**.
2. Pay the first installment of band fees (\$40 down payment). You may either pay online at <https://secure.affinipay.com/pages/melissaband/payments> (there will also be a 3% processing fee added) or have your student bring a check made out to **Melissa ISD** with your student's name in the memo line. The first payment is due **Friday, September 9**. Full payment of band fees are accepted at any time.
3. Obtain all necessary materials:
 - **All band students:** 1" 3-ring black binder, pencil pouch (to go in binder), pencils, and folding music stand (for at home practice), metronome, tuner (there are many great, free apps available for these!)
 - **7th/8th grade only (not including percussion):** *Foundations for Superior Performance*
 - Flutes: rod & cleaning swab
 - Oboes, Bassoons: silk swab, 3 good reeds in reed case, water container for soaking reeds (an old, washed out prescription bottle with the label removed)
 - Clarinet: silk swab, 4 good reeds in reed case, cork grease
 - Saxophone: 4 good reeds in reed case, neck strap
 - Trumpet, Horn, Euphonium, Tuba: valve oil
 - Trombone: Slide grease, small spray water bottle
 - Percussion: selection of sticks & mallets, stick bag

Take a moment and check out our website: melissamsband.weebly.com

Also, please familiarize yourself with Charms: www.charmsoffice.com. Charms is a web-based database we use for student information, as well as other information about our band program. It has many useful applications for students and parents. Please keep your personal information updated throughout the year. Please be sure to carefully enter correct email addresses since this is the most used form of communication to our parents.

School code: melissaband

Password: your student's ID number

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the directors with questions you may have. We are looking forward to a great school year!

Elizabeth Becker
Director of MS Bands
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Aaron Dugger
Assistant Director
aarondugger@melissaisd.org

Connor Pickle
Percussion Director
cpickle@melissaisd.org

Melissa Middle School Band Calendar 2016-2017

Date	Event	Time	Students	Location
September				
29	MMS Football Game vs Anna	5:30pm	7th & 8th Grade	Cardinal Stadium
October				
17	Fall Concert	6:00pm	All Students	MPB
22	All Region Masterclass	10:00am	7th & 8th Grade	MMS
November				
4	MHS Football Game	5:00pm	7th & 8th Grade	Cardinal Stadium
14	Mock Region Auditions	4:30pm	7th & 8th Grade	MMS
December				
2	All-Region Auditions	4:30pm	7th & 8th Grade	Legacy Christian
13	Winter Concert	7:00pm	All Students	MHS Cafeteria
January				
13-14	All-Region Clinic & Concert	TBD	Select Students	TBD
February				
17	Meet the Band Concert	11:20am	Wind Ensemble	MPB
March				
23	Pre-UIL Concert	7:00pm	7th & 8th Grade	MHS Cafeteria
April				
5	UIL Contest	TBD	7th & 8th Grade	Anna HS
TBD	Espresso Yourself Fine Arts Night	TBD	All Students	MMS
TBD	Solo and Ensemble	TBD	7th & 8th Grade	TBD
TBD	PEAK Music Festival	TBD	7th & 8th Grade	Wakeland HS
May				
16	Spring Concert	7:00pm	All Students	MHS Cafeteria
17	Beginner Festival	All Day	6th Grade	Canton, TX

Please mark these dates in your calendar and notify the directors of any unavoidable conflicts immediately. Dates are subject to change, but we will do our best to give as much notice as possible.

Melissa Music Education Philosophy

The Melissa music education philosophy provides the framework for all music education efforts and events within the Melissa ISD. The music department at Melissa recognizes that every known civilization has utilized music for satisfying multidimensional human needs; that music is the aural art form which satisfies the need to respond emotionally to human experiences; and that through listening, performing, creating and responding to music, aesthetic fulfillment can be achieved.

We, therefore, believe that the role of music instruction in the schools is to enhance and expand the cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development of students through the integration of music in the teaching/learning process.

Furthermore, we believe that the music education curriculum has the following unique and essential responsibilities:

1. Sensitize students to the effects of sound, thereby heightening their aesthetic development;
2. Help students attain musical proficiency in order that they may become active participant in music;
3. Help students attain a cosmopolitan attitude and multi-cultural perspective, employing all types of music and giving recognition to the value of all types of music;

Melissa will respond to these responsibilities by generating a music education program to provide an environment which promotes self-worth through the recognition and development of talents, the expansion of knowledge, the development of self discipline and commitment, the use of creativity, and the application of what is learned.

The Melissa band provides excellent opportunities for students to:

1. Experience self-worth
2. Expand their knowledge of many forms of music
3. Expand their abilities and talents
4. Develop self-discipline and commitment by fulfilling responsibilities
5. Develop creativity through rehearsal and performance.

Eligibility

The TEA, UIL, and Melissa ISD require that students maintain passing grades (70 or above in regular classes, 60 or above in honors classes) in all classes in order to be eligible for extra-curricular activities. Activities that are classified as extra-curricular for which these eligibility requirements apply include:

1. Any event for which admission is charged.
2. Any event that is inter-school competitive.
3. Any event where ratings are awarded.

Should a band student become ineligible for an extra-curricular function, he or she will still be eligible to participate in curricular or co-curricular functions (including all rehearsals and practices). Ineligible students will be given alternate assignments for extra-curricular events and contests.

Grading Policy

Students in the band curriculum are required to do more than show up for class and play their instrument. As part of this policy, students will be graded on the following criteria:

1. Performance and Rehearsal Attendance/Participation
 - a. Attendance and participation is extremely important in the development of an ensemble. A band cannot reach its fullest potential if an individual player or group of performers consistently do not attend or participate.
 - b. Grade breakdown for performances and sectionals/outside rehearsals:
 - i. 100% = showing up on time, with the correct materials, in the correct attire, and performing to the best of ability
 - 70% = being late, having the wrong clothes, or not having the right materials
 - 0% = unexcused absence for missing the performance
 - ii. An alternate written and/or playing assignment may be given.
 - c. If a student/parent knows a band event will need to be missed, please notify the director as soon as possible. An absence will be considered excused for the following reasons:
 - i. Illness (please schedule all routine medical appointments around rehearsals and concerts)
 - ii. Death in the family
 - iii. Emergency situations
 - iv. All other circumstances considered as excused under MISD policy
2. Class Performances and Pass-offs
 - a. Students may be called to perform scales, clap and count, or perform selections from the method book and band music for daily grades and tests.
 - b. There is typically notice prior to testing
 - c. Testing may either be either played live for a director or recorded and sent in via email
3. Daily at Home Practice
 - a. Everyone is expected to take your instrument home every night and practice. You cannot improve on your instrument by playing in class alone. You will only improve with continued individual practice.
 - b. 6th graders will complete practice cards. They are designed to organize practice sessions and allow an easy way for students to monitor and assess their own practice habits. Practice sheets will be **due every Tuesday each week**. Sheets turned in late will receive a reduced grade.
 - c. 7th and 8th graders will complete several weekly at home assignments through MusicFirst. Students will have a full week to complete the assignments. Late assignments will receive a reduced grade. Students without home access will be allowed class time to complete their assignments as well as before/after school opportunities.

Grading Percentage:

50% Daily grades:

Playing tests, pass-offs, quizzes, sectionals, daily practicing assignments, theory work

50% Test grades:

Performances including but not limited to pep rallies, football games, concerts, solo/ensemble contest, all-region auditions

Sectionals and Other Rehearsals

7th and 8th grade band students will be required to a section rehearsal twice a month in the fall. In the spring we will convert to rehearsals once every week. Sectionals are required and also are very important to the growth and success of the Melissa Middle School Band Program. Plan your schedule accordingly as soon as the weekly times are set. Eliminate conflicts with your sectional schedule. Grades are taken for this extension of our class and absences will be excused for verified emergencies only.

Other occasional full band rehearsals may be required outside of the school day. Students and parents will be notified of these rehearsals with at least one weeks notice. These rehearsals are mandatory and will be graded. Unexcused absences from these rehearsals will be subject to the policies above.

Performance Attire

The MMS Band shirt will be worn at all informal performances (pep-rallies, football games, etc.). This shirt is required for all students and can be ordered through the supply sheet.

For formal performances, students will wear concert black: black shirt (button down or blouse – no sleeveless or tank tops, black pants, black socks/nylons, and black closed-toed dress shoes. As an alternative to pants, ladies may choose to wear a black dress or skirt/blouse in which case the dress/skirt must be long enough to cover knees while sitting. Absolutely no jeans, t-shirts, or athletic shoes!

Band Rules

All band students are responsible for the reading of and adherence to the Melissa Code of Student Conduct. In addition, the following behavior policies will be in effect in the band hall and when representing Melissa Middle School at off-campus events:

1. FOLLOW DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY
 - a. When dealing with large amounts of students and equipment, it is imperative that directions be followed exactly so that students and equipment are not injured or damaged.
2. RAISE YOUR HAND TO SPEAK
 - a. If you have a question, please raise your hand.
 - b. There should be no talking or disturbances during rehearsals.
3. PLAY ONLY WHEN TOLD TO DO SO
 - a. In a rehearsal, students should not play a single note until the director signals to do so.
 - b. A raised hand by the director is the signal to stop playing immediately.
4. LEAVE GUM, FOOD, CANDY, AND ALL DRINKS (except water) OUTSIDE
 - a. In order to maintain a healthy, clean, and safe environment, these items are not permitted in the band hall or at rehearsals and performances.
5. RESPECT THE REHEARSAL SPACE
 - a. Do not write on the whiteboard without permission from a director
 - b. Do not touch the band hall equipment (metronome, speakers, etc.) without permission from a director
 - c. Clean up any trash and “band droppings”
6. RESPECT OTHERS’ PROPERTY
 - a. Musical instruments are fragile and can easily be damaged or destroyed. A student’s instrument should only be handled by the student and not a friend or anyone else.
 - b. Do not play one another’s instruments.
 - c. With the exception of a director’s permission, only percussionists may touch the percussion equipment.
 - d. Non-band students are not to be in the band hall.
7. PRACTICE ROOMS ARE FOR PRACTICING
 - a. If there is no sound heard coming from an occupied practice room, the director will investigate.
 - b. Do not leave messes in the practice rooms. Clean up after yourself and return the room to “as entered or better” condition.

Band Disciplinary Procedures

Band classes are large and therefore require a high level of discipline at all times. Discipline is taught and understood through the practice of respect. Students are expected to respect the teacher, other students, and the music being performed. If a student disrespects one of the three above, the following will take place:

1. First Violation
 - a. Direct verbal warning
2. Second Violation
 - a. Removal from the ensemble/putting away instrument
 - b. Morning or afternoon practice club will be assigned. Failure to appear will result in a lunch detention and parents will be notified.
3. Third Violation
 - a. Lunch Detention
 - b. Parent notification with or without the student present.
4. Fourth Violation
 - a. Breakfast Club with Coach Castor (for athletes) and/or administrator intervention
 - b. Parent notification with or without the student present.

****Certain violations may warrant a change in the order that consequences are issued****

Concert Ensembles - 7th & 8th Grade

Wind Ensemble (4th period) - The Melissa Middle School Wind Ensemble is considered the Varsity group. Admittance to the Wind Ensemble is through an audition process. Students in the Wind Ensemble are **required** to audition for the All-Region Band and perform at Solo and Ensemble contest. Other requirements include participation in UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest, weekly sectionals outside of the school day, and being present at other band related events. Students who have trouble fulfilling these ensemble requirements may lose their placement in this ensemble, per director discretion.

Symphonic Band (5th period) - The Melissa Middle School Symphonic Band is open to all second year and above band students and is considered the Non-Varsity group. Admittance into the Symphonic Band is through an audition process. Students in the Symphonic band are encouraged to audition for the All-Region Band. Other requirements include participation in UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest, performing a solo and/or an ensemble at contest, weekly sectionals outside of the school day, and being present at other band related events. Students in the symphonic band will attend C lunch regardless of grade level.

Private Lessons

Melissa ISD is fortunate to have an outstanding staff of private lesson teachers. One on one, individual instruction is one of the main reasons why programs, especially in the North Texas area, are extremely successful. It is a general misconception that private lessons are set up for students who are "falling behind" or for those musicians that are "not as successful" on their instrument. While private lessons can still be highly beneficial in these cases, supplemental private lessons are designed and intended more for students that are advancing and proving success on their instrument. The opportunity to study one-on-one with a professional musician is invaluable and has proven to be one of the most successful ingredients to individual achievement. Lessons are customized and tailored for each individual's needs.

More information on getting signed up for lessons can be found on the MMS Band website.

Parent's Permission Release and Indemnity for Field Trips/Football Games/Contest

I hereby certify that my son/daughter, _____
has my permission to participate in field trips with the Melissa Middle School Band
during the 2016-2017 school year.

To the best of my knowledge, he/she is physically fit to engage in such activity and is not
suffering from any disease or injury.

I agree and do hereby waive and release all claims against Melissa Independent School
District and any teacher, employee, or other person engaged in the activities in
question, and agree to hold them harmless from any and all liability relating to my
son/daughter for personal injury or illness that may be suffered or any loss of property
that may occur.

I understand that reasonable measures will be taken to safeguard the health and safety
of my son/daughter and that I will be notified in case of an emergency. In the case of an
accident or sickness, I authorize the calling of a doctor or the providing of other medical
services.

**It is understood that no student will be allowed to participate in any activity until this
form is signed by his/her parent/guardian.**

Signed at _____, Texas, this _____ day of _____,
2016.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian _____

Melissa Middle School Band
Student Information Sheet
2016-2017

Student Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Birthday: _____ Grade: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Home Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian's First & Last Name: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian's First & Last Name: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Relation to student: _____ Phone: _____

Known Allergies: _____

Medical concerns: _____

Any other concerns: _____

I do hereby give Elizabeth Becker, Aaron Dugger, Connor Pickle, Jerry Whorton, Dallas Bayless and/or their designees the authority to seek medical attention for the above named student in the event of an emergency or in any situation that requires medical attention.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Legal Guardian Printed Name

Melissa Middle School Band
2016-2017 Handbook Agreement Form

“I have read the Handbook and will follow the guidelines of the Melissa Cardinal Band. Every organization must have guidelines to become successful and I agree to the terms and conditions of my responsibilities to this organization.”

Student Signature

Date

Student Printed Name

“I have read the Handbook and will help my student follow the guidelines of the Melissa Cardinal Band Program. I understand that all organizations have guidelines that allow them to be successful and I agree to be supportive of the terms and conditions that my child must follow to be a member.”

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Legal Guardian Printed Name