

# Smithfield Middle School Raider Band



Student/Parent  
Handbook  
2010-2011

# Smithfield Middle School Band Student/Parent Handbook

The following handbook is provided to help our band experience be enjoyable, efficient, and educational for all members. Making expectations clear at the beginning of the school year can help make that possible. This handbook includes information about expectations, regulations, attendance, grades, school owned instruments, private lessons, uniforms, a 2010-2011 band calendar, and a health form.

The last two pages of this handbook contain an acknowledgment statement, parent/guardian contact information, and an emergency treatment release form. These forms should be turned in to the band department by Friday, August 27, 2010.

Please take time to read the information included. We are looking forward to a **fantastic year!**

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## Procedures and Regulations

### Behavior

All students are to conduct themselves in a proper manner at all times. Displays of temper, profanity, flagrant violation of policies, etc, will not be tolerated. Students are to remember that at all performances and band functions they are not just representing their band, but also Smithfield Middle School, Birdville ISD and our community. Any behavior which is not conducive to good citizenship and respect of others may result in a lower citizenship grade, loss of performance privileges, or removal from the program.

### Band Hall Policies

A clean, well kept band hall demonstrates pride towards our band. Please do your part to keep the band hall clean. The following policies are for your benefit and for the protection of your property.

1. Only current band students are allowed in the band hall at any time.

2. Food, drinks, candy, and GUM are not allowed in the band hall.
3. Practice rooms are to be used for practice and private lessons. Students are welcome to use the practice rooms, but must have permission.
4. Students should be respectful of the directors' office and knock before entering.
5. Do not touch or operate any school owned equipment, such as: metronome, tuner, computer, telephone, stereo, etc. without a director's permission.
6. Defacing or damaging any part of the band hall or equipment within will not be tolerated.
7. Orderly behavior and appropriate language are expected and enforced.
8. Students are not to touch, handle, or use any other instruments or belongings other than their own.
9. All instruments are to remain in cases with latches closed and stored in the assigned band locker when not in use.
10. Only instruments and band binders can be kept in assigned band lockers.
11. Students are solely responsible for the care, maintenance, and safety of their assigned equipment and personal items.
12. No paper or trash should be discarded in any area except trash receptacles.
13. Students have access to a phone in special circumstances with a directors' permission. Rides should be prearranged.
14. Please be considerate of directors' requests for assistance and/or performance of small tasks around the band hall.

## Attendance and Absences

1. All band students must abide by Smithfield Middle School and Birdville ISD attendance policies.
2. Attendance is required at all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances.
3. Absences and tardies will be excused in the following cases: medical emergency, death or family emergency, religious holidays.
4. All absences for band activities outside the school day are to be reported in writing by a parent. There may be circumstances that justify excused absences for

reasons other than those listed above. If an absence is anticipated, a written request for an excused absence should be submitted as far in advance as possible. In case of a sudden illness or family emergency, an explanatory phone call or email prior to the rehearsal is requested.

5. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal may result in, but is not limited to, a reduction of the participation portion of the student's grade or loss of performance privileges.
6. An unexcused absence from a performance that is not a UIL event will result in a reduction of the performance portion of the student's grade. Other consequences for an unexcused absence from a performance may be a loss of performance privileges, removal from a performing group, or removal from the band program.

## Grading

The grading system is designed to allow students to earn a grade that is indicative of his/her efforts. It rewards responsibility and improvement and encourages a student to be conscientious about his/her commitment. All Birdville ISD and Smithfield Middle School grading procedures will be followed.

The following are the two categories and the percentages used to calculate a student's grade: Tests - 50% and Daily Grades – 50%.

### Tests

This portion of the student's grade is an accumulative average of sectional attendance (Symphonic and Concert Bands), full band rehearsals, test evaluation (playing and written), and written class work. Performances will also count as test grades. The number of performances will be determined by the performance calendar. If no public performance occurs during a grading period, the performance grade will be based upon informal classroom performances determined by the director.

### Daily Work

The daily work part of the student's grade is an accumulative average of daily class participation, having a working instrument and materials at all rehearsals, practice records, and music preparation to successfully play his/her part.

# Academic Eligibility

The University Interscholastic League (UIL) is the state wide governing body for all extra-curricular organizations. Smithfield Middle School follows all UIL rules and procedures. One of the rules that can affect our students is referred to as “no-pass, no-play”. Students must pass all classes with an average of 70% or higher.

# School Owned Instruments

Birdville ISD provides school musical instruments in the double reed, low woodwind, selected low brass, and percussion sections. There is a \$50 per semester or \$100 yearly usage fee for school owned instruments. These instruments are quite costly (example: concert Tuba - \$8,000) and are not normally owned by individuals. All of these instruments are sent to the repair shop and reconditioned during the summer. **Any damage or normal adjustment during the year is the responsibility of the band student/parent who has signed for the instrument.** We expect the instrument to be returned in the same condition as when issued. Dings, dents, and other damage will be repaired at the student’s expense. Birdville ISD carries **NO** insurance on school instruments. If the instrument is stolen while checked out to a student, it is the **student’s responsibility** to replace the instrument. Many parents carry an insurance rider on their home owner’s policy to cover a checked-out school musical instrument. Another option is to obtain inexpensive coverage on a school or privately owned instrument from the Music Agency, Inc., Arlington Texas. Application forms for this insurance are available on line at [musicagencyinc.com](http://musicagencyinc.com).

# Private Lessons

Students are encouraged to take private lessons in order to improve their individual playing skills. We are extremely lucky in Birdville ISD to have numerous, competent private lesson teachers. The Smithfield Middle School directors will assist band students in scheduling lessons with the qualified teacher; however, we suggest you be aggressive in “locking in” with a teacher as soon as possible. Private lessons are important for serious band students. Individual instruction from a qualified specialist on an individual musical instrument can make “all the difference” in a student’s progress on his/her musical instrument, thus making for a more enjoyable experience in band.

# Uniforms

All students in the Smithfield Middle School band program will need to purchase a band t-shirt. This shirt will be worn at the Fall Rally, Middle School Night with the Birdville High School marching Band, pep rallies, group picture day, and many other events.

## **Symphonic and Concert Bands Formal Uniform**

Girls can choose to wear a black dress or a black shirt (long sleeve or  $\frac{3}{4}$  length sleeves) with black pants or black skirt (to the knee or below), black socks and black closed toed shoes.

Boys will be issued a bow tie and cummerbund. They need to provide a white tux shirt, white undershirt, black pants, black shoes and socks. For your convenience, tux shirts can be ordered through the band department. A representative from Al's Formal Wear will measure the students at a future date.

### **Beginner Band**

The beginning band uniform will be the SMS band t-shirt, blue jeans, and tennis shoes.

## Smithfield Middle School Band Calendar 2010-2011

August	9-12	SMS Band Camp	9:00AM-1:00PM	SMS
	12	Mountasia	Noon-2:00PM	
	23	First Day of School	(No instrument needed)	
September	27	BISD Band Night at NRH2O	6:00PM	NRH2O
	16	Fall Rally	7:00PM	Birdville HS
	20	Practices-A-Thon Starts		
October	4	BISD Band Fest	7:00PM	FAAC
	5	Lock-in forms and money due		
	7	Lock-in (Fundraiser)	7:00-11:00PM	North Ridge MS
November	28	Fall Concert	7:00PM	SMS Gym
	30	All Birdville ISD Band Tryouts	TBA	N. Richland MS
	1	PTA Performance (Symphonic Band)	6:00PM	Smithfield MS
December	11	All Region Band Audition Phase I 5:30PM		Ousley MS
	13	All Region Band Audition Phase I & II	8:00AM	North Ridge MS
	19	All Birdville Band Clinic/Concert	TBA	Haltom HS
January	3	All Region Band Clinic/Concert	6:00-8:30PM	Willie Pigg
	4	All Region Band Clinic/Concert	8:30AM-5:30PM	Mansfield ISD
		Concerts: 4:30PM and 5:00PM		
February	10	Winter Concert	7:00PM	Birdville HS
	14	Group Pictures	During School	SMS
	14	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester		
March	18	First Day of Second Semester		
	5	BISD MS Ensemble Contest	TBA	Haltom MS
	24	SMS Cluster Concert with BHS Band	4:00-7:00PM	Birdville HS
April	4	Birdville HS Cluster Percussion Concert	7:00PM	Birdville HS
	26	BISD Middle School Pre-UIL Contest	TBA	Richland HS
	14	UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest	TBA	Richland HS
May	5-7	Beach Within Reach Band Contest	TBA	TBA
	7	Hurricane Harbor Fun Trip	TBA	H. Harbor
	14	BISD Solo Contest	TBA	Birdville HS
	16	Spring Concert	7:00PM	Birdville HS
	17	Birdville HS Percussion Auditions	TBA	Birdville HS
	19	Birdville HS Wind Auditions	TBA	Birdville HS
	23	Birdville HS Cluster Concerto Contest	TBA	TBA
	27	Last Day of School		

The SMS Band Calendar will have updates and additions throughout the year. Any changes in the calendar will be communicated in advance.

# Smithfield Middle School Student/Parent Handbook

## Acknowledgement Page

I have read and understand the contents of the Smithfield Middle School Student/Parent Handbook and will observe all guidelines and procedures found therein.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's/Guardian's Name  
(Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address/City/Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address/City/Zip Code

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**SMITHFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND**

**GENERAL RELEASE**

I the undersigned, for the purpose of enabling\_\_\_\_\_

a minor, to participate in the following school functions: *ALL SMITHFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND ACTIVITIES AND TRIPS DURING THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR*, do hereby release and authorize the Birdville Independent School District, its employees, representatives or agents as follows:

1. In the event an injury or illness necessitates medical attention, you are specifically authorized and given sole discretion to obtain such medical attention at such place and from such person or persons as your sole judgment shall determine necessary.
2. You are further authorized and given sole discretion to administer such disciplinary action as you may determine necessary within school policy, including but in no way limited to your authority to return said student home at any time during the duration of the trip.

**I have read this release and understand its terms. I execute voluntarily with full knowledge of its significance, and with the intention of binding myself.**

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Father and/or Legal Guardian\_\_\_\_\_

Mother and/or Legal Guardian\_\_\_\_\_

Insurance\_\_\_\_\_Name of Insured\_\_\_\_\_

Policy and/or Group Number\_\_\_\_\_

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