



McNEIL HIGH SCHOOL BAND AND GUARD HANDBOOK

2023 - 2024

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Foreword

Welcome to the McNeil Band and Guard Program! This handbook is intended to guide all students and parents through their participation and experience in the McNeil High School Band: what to do, what to expect, what to look forward to and what you must do to be a successful and a contributing member of the McNeil Band. As a member of the band, students can look forward to a positive, rewarding, exciting and hard-working experience of a lifetime. Nothing can compare to the rewards of a successful high school career.

“Being in band” is a shared musical experience and it creates a unique peer bond that cannot be duplicated by any other experience in the high school setting. You will find that being a member of the McNeil High School Band will aid in developing your character, academics, musicianship, and peer relationships in ways that you will benefit from for a lifetime.

“Being a Band Parent” is a partnership with the band program and a connection with other parents to help support band activities. Active band parent participation in supporting band activities is vital to the success of the program. All parents are expected to partner with the band program in support of their child and the organization as a whole. A parent’s presence, time, efforts, and financial support help our program provide students with the experience of a lifetime as a member of the McNeil High School Band.

**Please read this handbook carefully and return the appropriate forms as requested.*

Every question may not be answered by this handbook. Please communicate with your student’s band director or Mr. Dimiceli (jason_dimiceli@roundrockisd.org), if you have questions.

Welcome to the Maverick Band!

WHO TO CONTACT

The following is a list of the McNeil Band staff and their general responsibilities. The most appropriate form of communication with the staff is through email.

Mr. Jason Dimiceli – Director of Bands

jason_dimiceli@roundrockisd.org

- Overall McNeil Band Program Questions
- Wind Ensemble
- Symphonic Band
- Symphony Orchestra
- All Calendar Issues/Event Times and Dates
- Financial Questions

Mrs. Brittany Graham – Associate Band Director

brittany_graham@roundrockisd.org

- Marching Band Questions
- Wind Symphony
- Symphonic Band
- Philharmonic Orchestra
- Private Lessons

Mr. Jordan Garza – Percussion Director

jordan_garza@roundrockisd.org

- All Percussion Questions
- Jazz Orchestra

Mr. Christopher McCarthy – Color Guard Director

christopher_mccarthy@roundrockisd.org

- All Color Guard Program Issues (except financial)

COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

Directors will provide weekly email updates to keep students and parents informed about upcoming events

- Directors will strive to answer email communication by the end of the next business day of which the email was received
 - Emails sent on Friday will be answered by end-of-day following Monday
- In-Person meetings must be made and scheduled at least 24 hours in advance

MUSIC EDUCATION IN OUR SCHOOLS

The function of music education in the curriculum is to cultivate the total development of the student. Humans must feel as well as think, and create as well as discover. As educators we must cultivate in the student sensitivity to the world of sound, form, color, emotions, and spiritual involvement, just as intellectually we must make them aware of language, symbols, and other tools of thought.

It is the responsibility of the music education program to bring to every student the understanding and realization of his or her full potential. A student will discover this potential through awareness of self-expression and emotional well-being, and by using skills as aids to musical expressions.

It is also the responsibility of the music education program to bring to every student experience in citizenship through self-discipline, courtesy, cooperation, time-management, and punctuality.

Increased pressure for scholastic excellence and individual accomplishment increases the need for music education in the curriculum. Music is based on a mathematical system of symbols that are applied in a subjective manner through logic and creativity.

Musical training cultivates skills in discipline, home study, cooperation and group dynamics using perfection as the standard. Therefore, the prime objective of music in education is to develop musically sensitive, intelligent adults who fully appreciate the significant contribution that music and the skills in citizenship that accompany musical training can make to the individual and ultimately to the community.

Furthermore, a well-rounded student is becoming more and more desirable to college admissions officers as the competition for enrollment at competitive universities increases year-over-year.¹

THE MCNEIL HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

The McNeil Band Program provides excellence in fine arts education through its curriculum, which emphasizes individual performance, chamber music participation, concert contests, contemporary marching, and performance in some of the finest facilities in the country.

The instrumental music curriculum offers courses in band, jazz, and orchestra. All of these courses are full year courses and students are expected to actively participate in the full year of the course in order to master the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Music and advance through the McNeil Band Program.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Band is both an academic course and an extra-curricular activity. Some of the most important academic topics are:

- Tone production
- Rhythmic recognition
- Control of pulse
- Music theoretical skills (both in instrumental performance and written skills)
- Music history
- Social and cultural relevance of music performed

¹ Mohi-Truong, Sundas. *The GPA Game: Advocacy for Academically Consumed Students*. 2018.
<http://bit.ly/AcademicStudents>

One of the more difficult areas in which to achieve success in our course is related to performance on an instrument. While the Band Department strives to instill the importance of mastering individual skills that are consistent with the student's band level, we understand there are times when adjustments need to be made to accommodate individual concerns.

Students and parents should communicate to the directors any physical, emotional, or calendar concerns that could adversely affect the student's progress. When students and parents communicate their concerns to our staff in a timely manner, we will help find an equitable solution to the problem.

10 Ways to Succeed Academically in Band:

1. Develop good listening skills in class and follow classroom procedures.
2. Ask for help from a teacher and/or older students.
3. Develop consistent times after school hours and during the week to do band homework (practice).
4. Take all tests on the first day they are administered.
5. If necessary, attempt to replay non-mastered skills until mastered.
6. Do not wait until the last day to re-play material.
7. Apply practice techniques taught in the classroom during private practice.
8. Let the Band Director know of any special concerns that could adversely affect your performance.
9. Set your own performance goals for mastery of instrumental performance techniques.
10. Take advantage of after-school re-teaching sessions or extra-credit situations that can lead to earning additional academic credit during the nine-weeks period.

COURSES

All members of the McNeil Band Program are assigned by audition to one of several ability-level concert bands that meet as an academic class. Initial placement in one of the bands will occur no later than late May prior to the end of the school year.

There are four classes that the students will be placed in each semester: Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, and Color Guard. Members of all classes, except the Jazz Orchestra, are required to participate in the McNeil Marching Band.

Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band:

These bands are combined to form the Marching Band during the fall semester, but meet at different times during the school day. Placement in each is determined by current playing ability and developmental level.

After marching season, students usually have one or two after-school or morning rehearsals each week. The concert bands do most of the same activities the middle school bands do during the spring semester, however, the high school students travel more and occasionally have an overnight trip.

Color Guard:

The Color Guard is part of the McNeil Band Program and does all the same activities as the marching band. There are no exemptions from participating in the marching band. Following the marching season, students will begin preparation for the Winter Guard season.

In the spring semester, the Winter Guard rehearses, performs, and competes at events much like the concert bands. Membership is open to anyone that qualifies after screening by the McNeil Band Staff. No experience is necessary to become a member of the Color Guard.

Percussion:

In the Fall semester, the percussion program is placed in two class periods. In December, all percussion students will audition for a concert band placement in the spring semester.

MARCHING BAND

General Requirements and Expectations:

All students who are in the Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Percussion, and Color Guard at McNeil High School are members of the marching band and are required to be at all before and after school rehearsals. The typical weekly marching band rehearsal schedule for the fall semester is as follows*:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7:15-8:45a Varsity Winds	5:00 - 8:00p All Varsity	5:00p - 6:30p Percussion	5:00 - 8:00p All Varsity	7:15 – 8:30a Varsity + JV Game Day Rehearsal	Marching Contest
5:00-6:30p Guard					Varsity + Crew

As true McNeil supporters and fans, we always hope that the marching band can support our football team at playoff football games. We also compete on several Saturdays in October and early November.

Our marching band rehearsal, game and competitive performance schedule are comparative to the majority of other highly competitive band programs in our area and around the country.

Varsity Marching Spots:

The competitive marching program the McNeil Band presents each year is designed especially for this band and for the particular year. Students who demonstrate musical and visual readiness will earn a Varsity spot for the marching season. Students who need more development will march in the JV group.

Marching spots are awarded based on playing ability, academic eligibility, and marching technique/physical ability. Varsity spots, much like athletics, are competitive and can be taken away if it is determined another student is performing at a higher level.

Please keep in mind the following things for students who hold JV marching spots:

- They will serve a vital role in the marching band.
- They will be in uniform and perform with us in the stands at all football games.
- They will perform at every football game half-time, as well as all community performances.
- They will have the opportunity to join the Varsity Crew, which assists the Varsity group in their contest preparations.
- They will travel with us and be a uniformed member at all competitions

7 Ways to Have a Healthy Marching Band Experience:

1. Wear a hat.
2. Wear a white or gray-based shirt.
3. Wear sunglasses.
4. Use sunscreen.
5. Wear well fitting, low cut sneakers with arch supports, tied laces and socks.
6. Drink plenty of water each morning and all day long. When you get home, drink lots of non-carbonated, caffeine-free fluids. Supplement this with bananas, oranges, and salty snacks.
7. Bring your own water jug filled with ice and water every day. Other beverages damage the instruments. Do not share your water jug with other students.

GRADING POLICY

In determining the band grade each nine-weeks grading period, three areas comprise the average:

1. Daily Grades – includes having music, instrument, and pencil at all rehearsals, correct marking of music, care and maintenance of instruments; punctuality to rehearsals and performances, attendance at rehearsals and curricular performances, instruments taken home every day. Daily grades also include class assignments, section rehearsal assignments, nine-weeks objectives, playing tests, quizzes and pass-offs of performance music.
2. Formative Assessments – includes public performances (halftime performances, marching band competitive performances, concert performances, etc.).

Typical Nine-Weeks Grading (may change):

Daily	60% of Nine-Weeks Grade
Formative	40% of Nine-Weeks Grade

Each class day, a member's daily grade is determined by his/her class and before/after school participation. Students are expected to have a working instrument, music and class materials for all classes. Occasionally, students will be asked to do a written assignment that will be used as a single or double daily grade. Grading percentages may also be contingent upon campus guidelines.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility During Marching Band:

Most of the activities associated with Marching Band are extra-curricular including football games and contests. In order to be eligible per the McNeil High School, Round Rock Independent School District, University Interscholastic League and Texas Education Agency requirements, students must have a passing grade in ALL CLASSES AT THE END OF THE 6TH WEEK OF SCHOOL, and also PASS ALL CLASSES AT THE END OF THE NINE-WEEK GRADING PERIOD.

Students who become ineligible after six weeks can regain their eligibility at the end of the nine-week grading period. A student will have an opportunity to regain their eligibility every three weeks on the IPR. Students must have a grade of 70 or higher in ALL courses in order to regain their eligibility.

It is strongly recommended that parents and students stay in close communication with their teachers during every nine-week period.

Eligibility During Concert Band:

Most of the work that our students do outside of marching band is curricular and not subject to academic eligibility. UIL Concert and Sight Reading Evaluation, free concerts, section rehearsals, concert rehearsals and private lessons are all considered curricular.

Events that are considered extra-curricular include:

- Any event with paid admission.
- Any event that is considered an inter-school competition.

Should a band student become ineligible for extra-curricular functions, he/she will still be eligible for curricular functions.

SUPPLIES AND ACCESSORIES

Every student will be responsible for purchasing, re-supplying and possessing instrument supplies and equipment necessary for maintaining a quality and functioning instrument.

Every band student should also own a functioning metronome.

Every wind player must own their own Snark tuner for marching band. For concert season, they can also use one that has a microphone attachment or a tuner that picks up individual vibrations such as a Super Snark tuner or the Tonal Energy Tuner app.

USE OF SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

A limited number of the more expensive instruments are owned by the Round Rock Independent School District for the purpose of balancing the instrumentation district-wide and maintaining performing bands at every level.

There is a yearly instrument use fee of \$50 for each student playing a school-owned instrument (including percussion). This fee will cover normal maintenance and minor repairs. All other accidental damage other than normal wear and tear on all instruments will be completed at the parent's expense.

If, in the opinion of Round Rock Independent School District director, a school-owned instrument is not being properly maintained or cared for at any time during the school year, it is the director's prerogative to remove the instrument from the student's care. Neglect of the school-owned instrument may also result in the student being responsible for certain repairs.

UNIFORMS

All band students will be fitted for and issued a marching band and concert band uniform at the beginning of each school year. The following regulations apply to McNeil Band uniforms:

- All uniforms will be fitted by parent volunteers within the uniform room.
- Any alteration done to marching uniforms must be done only by someone approved by the band directors.
- Marching uniforms will be checked out and turned in before and after each function and are stored within the uniform room. The uniforms will not be kept at the student's home.
- Any loss of or damage to any parts of any uniform other than normal wear and tear will be the responsibility of the individual student.
- Food and drink other than water should never be consumed while in uniform. Certain exceptions will be made only by the directors.
- Students are required to wear compression shorts under marching uniform pants.
- Students will show appropriate care for each uniform. In addition, it is expected that all students remain either in full (or accepted partial) uniform, or no uniform at all whenever in a public setting.

Marching Uniforms:

The uniforms of the McNeil Band are worn at most outdoor functions unless weather prohibits. In addition, each student will need the following items to complete the uniform (costs of items purchased during registration are noted in the Registration Section of this handbook):

- Marching shoes – order through registration
- One (1) marching band show shirt – order through registration
- One (1) McNeil Band compression shirt – order through registration
- Two (2) McNeil Band rehearsal shirts – order through registration
- Marching band gloves (wristbands for percussion) – order through registration
- Tall black socks – ankles and lower calf must be completely covered
- Compression shorts - only acceptable item to be worn underneath uniform pants

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

The ultimate goal of our program is the development of the individual musician to the limits of his/her potential. To assist in reaching this goal, we strongly recommend participation in the individual competitions and festivals offered during the year.

Please note that students will be responsible for all entry fees for individual contests. These amounts will be announced to students in November of each year.

High School All-Region Band tryouts involve the finest students from schools in our region and are the first steps in advancing to the All-State Band and Orchestra. All students in grades 9-12 may participate if academically eligible.

The music is announced in July and the tryouts are in December. Students must check their calendars carefully and make a complete commitment to both the tryouts and the performance before entering. All members of Wind Ensemble and the Wind Symphony are required to audition.

The Small Ensemble (Chamber) Contest is held in February and Solo Contest is held in April or May. Both result in non-competitive ratings. For the Solo Contest, each student is required to perform with an accompanist which the directors acquire for which the student will pay. We do have a competitive route for the Solo Contest, with potential prizes, and the winner performs at our Spring Concert. All students are required to participate in both events.

Students must play a new solo each year for the Solo Contest. Students may not perform a solo they have rehearsed and/or practiced a previous school year.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Since the opening of McNeil High School in 1992, the band program has offered private instruction from the finest graduate and professional musicians in the Austin area. Lessons may be taken during band class or before/after school hours.

The private lesson instructor will assist students with the preparation of All-Region, All-Area and All-State tryouts; for participation in Solo and Ensemble Contest, and occasionally with parts of the band performance music.

Teachers will include an organized lesson plan of fundamentals that will need to be practiced consistently in order to receive the greatest benefits from private instruction.

Parents should become informed about the lesson content, expectations of the teacher and their student's rate of progress. Parents should not hesitate to contact the band staff with questions about lessons or private teachers.

Please note that private instruction is offered as enrichment, NOT remedial instruction. It is encouraged for the complete development of each student's potential as a performing musician. Students' placement in band and their band grades are not judged by participation in private lessons.

Partial financial assistance can be obtained for private music instruction. Simply apply for assistance in the Private Lesson Enrollment application at www.mcneilband.org.

To be properly enrolled in the private lesson program, you must have a completed application turned in at the beginning of each school year via the band website.

BAND EXPECTATIONS

It is expected that these guidelines are adhered to on a daily basis. Following these guidelines will ensure an excellent grade in band.

BE ON TIME

Attend all rehearsals with a positive, disciplined approach.

Attend all games and competitions.

Retain and maintain all distributed materials (music, uniforms, etc.).

Perform all music and visual challenges to the absolute best of your ability.

Communicate participation conflicts with the Band Staff prior to conflict and in a timely manner.

Demonstrate appropriate social behavior to ALL adults and peers. ALWAYS!

Pursue self and group improvement in every opportunity.

Pass all classes.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend the entirety of every rehearsal. During marching season, any absence from rehearsal may result in the student not performing that week. A second unexcused absence may be grounds for dismissal from the group. Unexcused absences will also factor in to the gradebook.

Excused absences are accepted only in the event of illness, family emergency, or extraordinary events (wedding, funeral or religious ceremony). Only the directors can excuse absences.

All absence must be reported, by a parent (not the student), to the band staff, via the Absence Request Form on the McNeil Band Website (www.mcneilband.org).

Work schedule and other activities must not interfere with the rehearsal and performance schedule that you are given at the beginning of each school year.

Students who enroll in other activities such as athletics, choir, drama, etc. need to plan ahead to avoid conflicts that cannot be resolved.

Ask to receive a complete semester calendar from all your activities so that you can have the maximum amount of time to work out potential schedule conflicts. The band directors will work together with the other teachers, coaches and directors of various activities to give each student the opportunity to be part of other groups.

However, other groups, organizations or businesses that may change schedules or make demands of students on short notice will not be allowed to interfere with long-scheduled rehearsals or performances of the band.

SPONSORED activities, teams, organizations or jobs must not conflict in any way with the practice/performance schedule of the band.

The band is dependent on ALL its members. Unlike most other classes where individuals are accountable only for their own success or failure, band students' success is in large part dependent on the full participation of all those who have made the commitment. The above attendance policies will affect the students' grades and the opportunity to continue to participate.

TARDY POLICY

All students are expected to be in place at the tardy bell and in their appropriate assigned ensemble room and seat two minutes following the tardy bell.

Excessive tardies from rehearsals (both marching and concert) can result in movement to another band or removal from the program.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Discipline is a quality that must come from the individual, therefore, each student is responsible for his/her own actions as a member of the McNeil Band. Any student who shows an inability to follow instructions or work effectively in class may be reassigned to another class at the discretion of the McNeil Band Staff. Continued behavior issues may lead to the student's removal from the program.

As a school group, the band is governed by McNeil High School and the Round Rock Independent School District School Board policies any time we are together for any band function whether it involves all students or only one.

The Policy Agreement you sign at the end of this handbook in conjunction with the Travel Policy you sign at Band Registration will be in effect throughout the year for all trips and activities related to the band. Any student who violates school rules while with the McNeil Band will be subject to school disciplinary procedures. In addition, those students will be subject to dismissal and will not be permitted to perform or travel with the McNeil Band.

TRIP AND TRAVEL POLICY

The McNeil Band travels on many occasions, whether to football games or contests.

On band trips, all band members must ride to and from the destination on the designated bus. Students may not change buses without prior permission from a band director. It is imperative that proper conduct is maintained before, during and after each trip.

The bus riding rules are as follows:

- Observe the same conduct as in the classroom.
- Follow all instructions and show the proper respect to all adult supervisors, chaperones and bus drivers. Failure to do will result in school-administered discipline procedures.
- Remain seated whenever the bus is in motion. Do not move from your seat unless instructed to do so.
- Do not put anything out the windows.
- Be silent any time attendance is being taken or instructions are given.
- Cursing, inappropriate language, or other behavioral problems will not be tolerated and may result in removal from the band program.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Band is not a club. However, student leaders are elected and selected by tryout to fill certain roles necessary for the success of the band program.

President

Manage and influence the spirit of the McNeil Band

Clear communication constantly among council

Schedules Council Meetings

Works as a team leader to organize Band Banquet, (the largest event of the year!)

Oversees Inspections (Marching Season)

Assigns 8th Grade Buddies (in tandem with Social Officer)

Hey Band & Tutoring Sign Ups

VP of Administration

Takes notes at meetings

Assigns Band Siblings (within the McNeil Band Program)

Supports the President and any other Council positions needing it

VP of Media

Takes program pictures

Heads all media activities (programs for Banquet, VP Media Instagram, etc.)

Records/edits Banquet Senior Videos

Creates Banquet Slide Show

VP of Social Activities + Upperclassmen/Underclassmen Representative

Plan social events (Average of one per month: movie nights, Bandcoming, Band Banquet, Winter Holiday party, DCI Finals Watch Party, etc.)

Communicate with band directors & boosters on budgets for events

Surveying of Events

Assigns 8th Grade Buddies (in tandem with President)

Drum Major

Manage and influence the spirit of the McNeil Band

Manage the “workings” of the band (mini band director)

Lead in cleaning/teaching marching technique, drill, and choreography during visual rehearsals (indoor/outdoor).

Lead in cleaning/teaching wind music while during music rehearsals (indoor/outdoor).

Captain/Section Leader

Manage and influence the spirit of the McNeil Band and their requisite sections

Record attendance of all band members (Captains)

Assist (when necessary) in cleaning/teaching marching technique, drill, and choreography during visual rehearsals (indoor/outdoor).

Assist (when necessary) in cleaning/teaching wind music while during music rehearsals (indoor/outdoor).

Librarians

Responsible for distributing all music, drill sheets, flip folders, and lyres.

Responsible for library upkeep. (Organize and maintain cleanliness)

Instrument Manager

Lockers (cleaning & assigning)

Weekly maintenance of locker rooms

Check out Instruments

Communicate with directors for repairs on instruments & lockers

Collect and organize lost items.

Uniform Manager

Organize uniforms

Check out uniforms

Check in uniforms

Communicate with directors about any missing/damaged items

All student leaders must fulfill the following requirements to remain in their positions:

- Adhere to all Band Expectations
- Attend the Leadership Camp.
- Attend all practices, meetings, and events that pertain to your group.
- Provide leadership through example; promote the highest expectations for band members; show a zero tolerance for negative behavior; promote members passing of music and fundamentals to earn academic credit and a marching spot.
- Avoid any disciplinary referrals in any class.
- Remain academically eligible throughout the year.

LETTER JACKETS

A student must earn a grand total of 50 points in one school year to qualify for a letter jacket from the McNeil High School Band. Points may be earned in the following manner, but ALL JUNIORS EARN A JACKET:

25 Points (Non-cumulative)

- Selection into and performance with the TMEA All Region Band or Orchestra.
- Selection into the TMEA All Area Band or Orchestra.

15 Points

- One complete year of successful participation in both concert and marching band. (Loss of eligibility will remove point credit for this portion.) (Cumulative)
- Superior (First Division) rating at the McNeil Solo Contest. (Non-Cumulative)

10 Points (Non-Cumulative)

- Superior (First Division) rating at the McNeil Ensemble Contest.
- Excellent (Second Division) rating at the McNeil Solo Contest.
- Participation in UIL Full Orchestra
- Participation in Jazz Orchestra
- Participation in section choirs
- Participation in independent chamber ensemble (year-round)
- Participation in pit orchestra for school musical

5 Points (Non-Cumulative)

- Excellent (Second Division) rating at the McNeil Ensemble Contest.

* Recognition points for independent public performances and for students going above and beyond are given at the discretion of the Directors.

Color Guard Letter Jacket Award System:

A color guard member needs to accumulate 30 points to earn a letter jacket. Color Guard can accumulate points toward letter jacket in the following manner:

- 7.5 points (Cumulative) Marching Guard (Fall semester)
 - (Loss of eligibility may remove point credit for this portion.)
- 7.5 points (Cumulative) Indoor Guard (Spring semester)
 - (Loss of eligibility may remove point credit for this portion.)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

How much are Band Fees? The yearly Band Fees will be determined by May of each school year to take effect the following school year. Monthly payments are expected.

In addition, various fees and charges may change unavoidably, resulting in increases or even decreases in band fees. Notice of any changes will be immediately passed on to students and parents.

Requests for financial assistance from the Band Boosters can be made within the registration process. Of course, all requests will remain confidential.

How are the Band Fees handled? At registration, a down payment will be made for each student. Band Boosters will keep up to date, accurate, and detailed records of payments for any parent or student to inquire about at any time.

Are Band Fees required? Yes. The Band Booster budget is set for the entire year based on what we plan on providing for the program in the upcoming year. A major part of this comes from registration fees. In order to avoid amassing debt, every family is expected to fulfill their financial commitment made on Everything Day.

Who determines the yearly amount of Band Fees? The band directors work with the Band Booster Executive Board to determine what events the band program will participate in and the least costly method for all students to participate in the band program for the school year.

PLEASE NOTE: If a student becomes ill or is academically ineligible and must miss a trip, the fees charged for that trip are not refundable. In order to keep costs low, we take advantage of the lowest fares and must make substantial payments in advance, which usually are not refundable. Purchasing a trip insurance policy is recommended.

It is therefore in everyone's best interest to develop healthy habits and to keep grades up. The entire band suffers in performance when any musician is missing, and that student's family suffers financially by funding trips not taken.

The McNeil Band Booster Club is an organization of parents, friends, and alumni of the McNeil High School Band. We encourage you to support the efforts of our nationally recognized band program by participating. The Booster Club earns funds through the operation of concessions at most McNeil area athletic events, hosting the Bands of America Austin Regional, Varsity Football Concessions, and many other fundraisers. These fundraisers are run with volunteer help from many people throughout the year. A volunteer sheet is provided at Band Registration in May. Every band parent and friend of the Band is invited to participate with the Band Boosters throughout the year.

This organization promotes and finances many projects designed to enrich the entire instrumental music and color guard program, including funding for the finest clinicians, marching band design, and all aspects of color guard design and instruction.

Please check the calendar for the next Band Booster Meeting and plan to attend!

RRISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct

I. Extracurricular Activities

The term “extracurricular activities” means, without limitation, all interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, drill team, academic clubs, school approved clubs, extra curricular fine arts performances, student government, and any other activity or group that participates in contests, competitions, or community service projects on behalf of or as a representative of the District. The term includes any non-curricular event and membership or participation in groups, clubs, and organizations recognized and approved by the Board of Trustees and the school district and sponsored by the district or a campus. All extracurricular activity participants, including elected and appointed officers of all campus organizations, will be subject to the provisions of this Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

II. Jurisdiction

Student participation in extracurricular activities is encouraged. Round Rock ISD makes extracurricular activities available as an extension of the regular school program, with this important difference: participation in the regular curriculum is a right afforded by law to each student, while participation in the extracurricular activities is a privilege that carries additional expectations for acceptable conduct. Students engaging in extracurricular activities represent not only themselves, but also other students and the school district when performing, competing, or participating in extracurricular activities and while wearing uniforms or other clothing that identifies the student to the community or public in any setting as Round Rock ISD students. For this reason, their behavior must be exemplary and reflect the finest attributes of the total Round Rock ISD student body at all times and places. Important goals of the extracurricular activities are to give students direction in developing self-discipline, responsibility, pride, loyalty, leadership, teamwork, respect for authority, and healthy living habits.

Because participation in extracurricular activities is a **privilege and not a right**, Round Rock ISD is authorized to set higher standards for participants of extracurricular activities than it would for those students who choose not to participate in these activities. Therefore, this ***Extracurricular Code of Conduct*** extends beyond the *Round Rock ISD Student Code of Conduct* not only in types of behavior prohibited, but also in corresponding consequences and jurisdiction for imposing discipline. In case of a conflict between this Code and the activity or sport specific campus handbook, the Code will prevail.

This ***Extracurricular Code of Conduct*** will be enforced with all students grades 7th-12th participating in extracurricular activities:

- regardless of whether school is in session;
- regardless of whether the student is directly involved with the extracurricular activity at the time the prohibited conduct occurs;
- regardless of whether the extracurricular activity is in-season; and
- regardless of where or when the conduct occurs.

It is possible that a student who violates the ***Round Rock ISD Student Code of Conduct*** will incur consequences from both the appropriate school administrator and from his or her coach or sponsor for the same particular violation. It is also possible that a student participating in extracurricular activities could violate the ***Extracurricular Code of Conduct*** and be subject to

RRISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct

discipline by a coach or sponsor without having violated the *Round Rock ISD Student Code of Conduct*.

III. Prohibited Conduct

Round Rock ISD students who participate in extracurricular activities are prohibited at all times from:

- any conduct resulting in arrest and/or citations from law enforcement officers; this does not include minor traffic violations.

Social media misconduct will be addressed in the handbook in the area of Athletics and Fine Arts. All extracurricular activities fall under the RRISD Student Code of Conduct.

IV. Procedures

The coach, director and/or sponsor will determine whether an *Extracurricular Code of Conduct* violation has occurred. Upon determination of an *Extracurricular Code of Conduct* violation, the following individuals will be notified:

1. student
2. student's parent(s) or guardian(s);
3. campus administrator
4. appropriate school counselor to provide counseling, support, and guidance in dealing with issues associated with alcohol, drugs, mood-altering chemicals, and other prohibited activities.

V. Disciplinary Action

Coaches, directors, campus administrators, and sponsors will review all the facts and circumstances surrounding a particular violation and impose appropriate disciplinary action. Campus administrators may remove a student who violates the *Extracurricular Code of Conduct* from the extracurricular activity.

Violation of any of the above-mentioned rules by a student participating in extracurricular activities will be subject to the following disciplinary action:

- **Suspension from all extracurricular activities as outlined below:**

First Offense:

The first offense will result in a three-week suspension from the extracurricular activity (ECA) that the participant is currently enrolled in. The suspension becomes effective immediately following the *notification, review and confirmation* of a violation. Suspension includes travel in a school vehicle to and from competition. The suspension does not include practice; however the campus administration may also impose a suspension on practice.

Second Offense:

Removal from all extracurricular activities for one calendar year.

A student who is cited for an offense while not in-season (off-season) or over the summer will receive "one strike", with a second offense resulting in removal from extracurricular activities for one calendar year.

RRISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct

Re-admission into the extracurricular activity is at the discretion of the coach, director, or sponsor.

Nothing in this *Extracurricular Code of Conduct* limits the authority of a coach, director, or sponsor to impose reasonable sanctions, including extra workouts, and/or community service for students who breach team or organization conduct expectations but do not engage in prohibited conduct.

VI. Appeals

Questions or complaints from parents regarding disciplinary measures should be addressed to the campus administration, in accordance with Policy FNG (Local). A copy of this policy may be obtained from the principal's office or the central administration office or through Policy On Line at the following address: www.roundrockisd.org

Disciplinary consequences will not be deferred pending the outcome of an appeal.

PARENT/STUDENT UIL MARCHING BAND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Updated 2018

No student may be required to attend a marching band related practice for more than eight hours outside the academic school day per calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). This provision applies to students in all components of the marching band. Exception: For schools that begin instruction prior to the fourth Monday in August the limit of eight hours of rehearsal outside of the academic school day per calendar week shall begin on the Tuesday immediately following Labor Day. Schools under this exception shall be limited to eight hours of rehearsal outside of the academic day per school week (12:01 AM on the first day of school of the calendar week through the end of the school day on the last day of instruction of the school week) until the Tuesday immediately following Labor Day.

On performance days (football games, competitions and other public performances) bands may hold up to one additional hour of warm-up and practice beyond the scheduled warm-up time. Multiple performances on the same day do not allow for additional practice and/or warm-up time.

Examples of Activities Subject to the UIL Marching Band Eight Hour Rule.

- Marching Band Rehearsal (Both Full Band and Components)
- Any Marching Band Group Instructional Activity
- Breaks
- Announcements
- Debriefing and Viewing Marching Band Videos
- Passing Off Marching Band Music
- Marching Band Sectionals (Both Director and Student Led)
- Clinics for The Marching Band or Any of its Components

The Following Activities Are Not Included in the Eight Hour Time Allotment:

- Travel Time to and From Rehearsals and/or Performances
- Rehearsal Set-Up Time
- Pep Rallies, Parades and Other Public Performances
- Instruction and Practice For Music Activities Other Than Marching Band And Its Components

NOTE: More information about Marching Band practice limitations can be found at:
www.uiltexas.org/music/marching-band

"We have read and understand the Eight-Hour Rule for Marching Band as stated above and agree to abide by these regulations."

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

This form is to be kept by the local school district.

2023-2024 McNEIL BAND STUDENT CONTRACT

I, _____, understand and agree to adhere to the following rules and expectations:

- I understand that Band is a full year commitment and that I am not allowed to change my schedule without the permission of the band directors.
- I will attend every scheduled rehearsal from beginning to end. Failure to do so will affect my grade and status in the ensemble.
- I will schedule appointments and attend tutorials around the rehearsal/performance schedule.
- I will treat all band members, directors, staff, and parent volunteers respectfully or else risk punishment from campus administration and affecting my status in the ensemble. This includes outside of band and on SOCIAL MEDIA.
- I will follow all rules and expectations regarding wearing my uniform or else risk forfeiting my opportunity to perform in the ensemble.
- I will remain academically eligible or else risk my status in the ensemble.
- I understand that I am always representing the band while at school or at school-related functions. This includes in my other classes and failure to meet expectations could result in punishment from directors and/or campus administration.
- I will not use inappropriate or profane language while at any school or band function.
- I agree to attend all required performances as scheduled on the calendar. Failure to do so will affect my grade and status in the ensemble.
- I will practice outside of rehearsal in order to meet performance expectations or else risk my status in the ensemble.
- I understand interdependence and how it relates to the success of the band. My preparation and performance level affect the success of the entire program.
- I will communicate with the band directors immediately when I realize I cannot fulfill an expectation, regardless of whether they will be upset with me, because it is the responsible thing to do and not doing so could negatively affect the program.
- I will follow all rules set forth by the band directors, McNeil High School, and district administration as stated in the Round Rock ISD student handbook and the RRISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct. Failure to do so may result in permanent removal from the program.

Student Name (Print)

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

BAND HANDBOOK SIGNATURE PAGE

Please return this page to your band director.

We have read and understand the policies and guidelines in the McNeil High School Band Handbook on www.mcneilband.org.

We further agree to abide by the procedures set forth. We understand that a failure to meet these expectations will lead to appropriate consequences, as determined by the directors.

Student Name: _____
(print)

Student Signature: _____

Grade: _____

Student ID: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____
(print)

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____