

West Mesquite High School Burnt Orange Band

Official Handbook 2016-2017



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West Mesquite High School

Burnt Orange Band

Policies and Procedures

2016-2017

The following policies were drawn up not to punish or restrict your personal freedoms, but to allow us to be aware of the rules necessary to keep the *Burnt Orange Band* functioning in a smooth, positive manner.

I. Excused Absences

The following situations constitute an excused absence.

- Illness
- Death in the family
- Extreme family emergency
- Doctor appointment (emergency) ***Please schedule all doctors' appointments around rehearsals and performances.***
- All other circumstances considered to be extenuating according to the Mesquite I.S.D. attendance policy.
- *All absences require a note.*

II. Unexcused Absences

Most other absences are unexcused at the discretion of the band director. The following actions will be taken for unexcused absences.

- In marching season, content and valuable instruction time will be lost and cannot be recovered. As a result, a substantial number of points will be deducted from the academic grade. Continued unexcused absences could result in removal from a principal marching position.
- In concert season, the same policy from above will apply. Repeated absences could result in being moved to last chair in the section and/or being moved to a lower performing ensemble.
- Repeated unexcused absences in either concert or marching season will result in a parent conference.
- Repeated unexcused absences could result in removal from band.

All rehearsals will start and end on time. We will respect your time, please respect ours.

III. Extra Rehearsals and Sectionals

In addition to regular rehearsals during school time, each member is required to attend additional rehearsals each week. These are requires rehearsals and the same absentee rules apply to them as well as to our regular rehearsals. The day and time of sectionals are varied according to the section and ensemble the student is assigned.

IV. Performances

All band members are required to participate in **ALL** performances. Please keep track of the performance calendar that is passed out at the beginning of summer band for all football games, marching competitions, concerts and festivals. This does include the **Rodeo Parade and Graduation**. Missing a performance could result in a failing grade for the six weeks and may possibly jeopardize the members' chance in participating in contests and trips with the band.

V. Grades

Students will be expected to meet the responsibilities for each band class as listed in the handbook. Since band is an academic music class with some extra-curricular activities attached, the band student's grade will reflect the achievement in both curricular and extracurricular areas. Grading will be assessed on the following:

Participation

- The student will receive a grade for each before and after school rehearsal and/or sectional during the grading period.
- The student will be on time.
- The student will be on task and focused during all rehearsals.
- The student will have their instrument, music, pencil and supplies.
- The student will be prepared to play his/her part successfully.
- The student will mark music and take notes as needed.

Skills

- The student will be expected to improve individual music skills.
- The student's individual skill development will be evaluated through recorded music tests, individual playing assessments, scale and written tests.
- The student will be evaluated on improvement of ensemble skills during daily rehearsals.

Fundamentals

- The student will be expected to improve his/her performance fundamentals.
- The students will be evaluated for improvement of his/her music fundamentals through daily observation during the "fundamentals" part of each rehearsal and during sectionals.
- The student will be expected to develop a historical knowledge of the literature relative to their respective instrument.

Performance

- The student will receive a grade for each performance during the grading period.
- The number of performances will be determined by the performance calendar.

- Performances will be counted as **major exams**.
- If there is not public performance occurs during a grading period, the performance grade will be based upon informal classroom performances determined by the director.

VI. Band Placement

Every student who is signed up for band must audition to be placed in a band class. These auditions will be held twice a year, once in December and again in May for the following year. Placement in the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band or Concert Band will be determined by a number of criteria. Some of these are: playing auditions, sight-reading, participation in non-required band events (All-Region, etc.), conduct, attitude, dependability, eligibility, attendance for rehearsals/performances and the students' demonstrated ability to perform the level of music for the band in which they are placed.

VII. Concurrent Enrollment

As per MISD policy, enrollment in both Band (A Day) and Instrumental Ensemble (B Day) classes is mandatory for all band students. Exemptions will be done on a case-by-case basis for true conflicts in the master schedule that can be solved in no other way and for seniors that need another course to graduate that cannot fit into their class schedule. Conflicts that can be resolved by moving a class a year later will be taken care of in that fashion.

XVIII. Burnt Orange Band Assignment of Marching Roles

The Burnt Orange Band is the largest positive image-projecting organization on campus. The group appears in halftime performances during varsity football games and represents West Mesquite High School in public community events as well as the competitive marching band arena. Each year from January through July, much thought and effort is put into the numerous factors that determine the number of 'positions' that should be charted in the competition show or Field Production for that season. These decisions must be made well in advance as a result of the time involved in the construction and design of the program each year. The estimations define how the music is to be arranged and determine the number of drill positions that are to be plotted. It is the responsibility of the directors to ensure the students in the marching band are set up for success, including the job of fielding a complete ensemble. The directors carefully consider the following factors when determining these numbers:

- Current and prospective enrollment in the band program
- Student's demonstrated behaviors and attitudes
- Eligibility history of each student
- Attendance during the previous school year and summer band training rehearsals
- Basic skills and physical conditioning that allow the student to march and play without threat of injury to him/herself or others
- Completion of playing and marching pass-offs

Based on these factors, students are preliminarily assigned to one of two categories during summer band rehearsals:

- Principal Performer
- Alternate Performer

This delineation determines the INTIAL type of role that the student will have during the competition show. All other aspects of membership are identical.

Instructional and Performance Privileges for All Members:

(Applies to Principal and Alternate Performers)

- Rehearse as a unit during all band classes
- Rehearse as a unit during all marching fundamentals
- Rehearse as a unit during all music ensemble rehearsals
- Perform as a unit during pep rallies
- Perform as unit during all parades
- Perform as unit during all drill team feature halftime shows

Instructional and Performance Differences

- Principal Performers march and play in the competition show during all rehearsals, halftime performances and for band contests throughout the season.
- Alternate Performers will perform in an alternate position at all football game halftime performances. For marching contests, alternate performers will not march, but will be assigned an auxiliary role.
- Auxiliary roles include performance contributions in the areas of visual effects or logistical assistance, depending upon the needs of the program. This privilege is extended upon a contingency of academic eligibility as well as the student's attendance and performance histories.

Attendance Considerations

A Principal Performer may forfeit his/her role if they miss a performance of any kind. In addition, a loss of position may result from unexcused absences, extended absences (even if excused), or reoccurring tardiness/early departure from rehearsal.

IX. Conduct

The conduct of each band member should be above reproach. By the time a student is in high school, he/she should know how to show appropriate behavior. The high standards set by the Burnt Orange Band will be strictly enforced. Poor behavior is a sign of a lack of pride and lack of concern for the band program. If a student's grade falls below a "C" in band or any other class, he/she could be removed from their current band assignment. During marching season, the student could be removed from the band formation. Members who continually display inappropriate conduct or violate the policies of the school could be removed from the band program.

Students enrolled in the band program are expected to display exemplary behavior at all times. At every performance as a band member, you represent your family, West Mesquite High School, Mesquite ISD, and the city of Mesquite, Texas. Make sure that your actions prove that the Burnt Orange Band is a class act in every way.

Band students are welcome in the band hall before and after school. However, do not disturb if there is a rehearsal or sectional in progress. Show every courtesy to the director and students involved.

Hazing within the band program is not tolerated, and students are expected to follow the West Mesquite High School Student Code of Conduct.

Burnt Orange Band Rehearsal Guidelines

- Be seated with instrument, music, pencil and supplies when the tardy bell rings.
- Show good rehearsal etiquette by being a good team player. Re: Study your part quietly while the director works with another section. Remain on task at all times; do not talk or interrupt the focus of the rehearsal.
- Maintain proper posture at all times. This is important for all musicians.
- Be intent on improving your performance skills.
- Raise your hand and ask questions if you need individual help.
- Leave your cases in your locker and your backpacks at the side of the room during rehearsal.
- Do not leave purses, wallets or other valuables unattended in the band hall. **We are not responsible for stolen or lost items.**
- Students are solely responsible for the care and maintenance of their assigned equipment and personal items.
- No food, gum, or drink (except bottled water) is allowed in the band hall. Take pride in keeping our band hall clean and organized.
- All instruments remain in cases with latches closed while inside the locker when not in use.
- Lockers shall remain clean. Items other than instruments, music, and books should not be kept in lockers.
- Use the lock on your locker. It is for the safety of your items. Tampering with locks or moving them to another locker will not be tolerated.
- Disorderly behavior (horseplay) or abusive language will not be tolerated.
- Practice rooms are for the convenience of the private lesson staff and for those who need them for instrumental practice. They will not be used for any other purpose.
- Please be considerate of directors' requests for assistance and/or performance of tasks around the band hall.
- All students will adhere to the *West Mesquite High School Code of Conduct*.

X. Eligibility

According to the Texas Education Agency/ University Interscholastic League Side by Side Rules, it is stated that a student that is involved in an extracurricular activity who fails any class for a six weeks grading period will be ineligible to compete or perform with that group for the next three weeks. At the end of the three week grading period, a student may regain his/her eligibility by pass all of their classes at that time. Because of this law, a student showing an inability to consistently be eligible can be removed and placed in a lower performing band, or be removed from the band program.

- A student who receives, at the end of any grading period (and after the first six weeks of the school year), a grade below 70 in any academic class (other than an identified advanced class) or a student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks. This is Texas State Law.
- An ineligible student **may** practice or rehearse.
- The student regains eligibility when the principal and teachers determine that he/she: (1) earned a passing grade (70 or above) in all academic classes, other than those that are advanced, and (2) completed the three school weeks of ineligibility.
- The Burnt Orange Band Staff will enforce all eligibility rules and regulations. Students who are ineligible will continue to rehearse during their band class and at all scheduled extracurricular

rehearsals to earn their band grade. Ineligible students will not travel with the band or participate in extracurricular performances.

XI. Uniforms

All students are responsible for knowing the proper procedures for checking in and out uniforms. This will be covered before the first game. Students are expected to take great care of all uniform parts. Students will be held responsible for any damage done to the uniform or lost uniform parts. All students are required to purchase band shoes (we do this in the summer from one specific company), and for wind players, performance gloves. In addition, concert band wears formal attire to all concerts and competitions. All boys are required to purchase their own tuxedo shirt and bow tie. (The tuxedo is provided.) Formal dresses are provided for all girls.

XII. Inspections

During marching season, inspections will be held before each football game and marching contest. The purpose of inspections is to make sure band members have everything necessary to be successful at those performances. Any student who fails inspection will have to serve a mandatory detention following the game or contest performance with the director staff. In addition, equipment duties will be added for the following week. Inspection lists of required materials for each section will be distributed before the end of summer band rehearsals.

XIII. School Instruments

The school owns most of the expensive instruments required for the performances expected at the high school level. The instruments will be provided for the students' use without charge. If an instance arises where there are more students than there are instruments available, then the director will decide which student(s) will receive the instrument(s). This decision will be made on displayed abilities and attitudes, not on seniority. The student who uses a school owned instrument is expected to properly care and maintain his/her instrument. This includes oiling, greasing, and/or washing the instrument according to the proper care instructions for each instrument. The expense of routine repairs and overhauls of school instruments will be paid for by the school. The student is expected to immediately report a problem with an instrument to a band director. If it is apparent that the damage to an instrument is a result of carelessness or lack of proper maintenance, then the student will be responsible for repairs. The director will make the decision after the examination of the instrument and/or with the advice of a professional repairman.

XIV. Personal Property

Although precautions are taken, the school cannot guarantee the safety of any personal property. It would include: clothing, books, cameras, phones, purses, watches, iPods, money, etc. The student is advised not to leave any personal property in the band hall unless he/she is actually in class. Otherwise, books and belongings should be kept in school lockers. The band hall will be locked during all outside rehearsals. Marching clothes left in the band hall after the conclusion of marching season will be donated to charity after two weeks. The school or band directors are not liable for the repair cost or replacement of any personal instrument or property.

XV. Private Lessons

Private lessons are not required, but are highly encouraged and recommended. Nothing can substitute for the knowledge and expertise gained from studying one on one with an expert on a particular instrument. The more students that are involved with private lessons the greater the success our band can have. We have a great private lesson staff available. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. If you are interested, please talk with Ms. Brown.

XVI. Band Fees

There is no cost for participating in the B.O.B., however monies will be collected every fall for materials such as: t-shirts, shoes, gloves, uniform cleaning and meals for students during travel. We will work hard to keep these costs as low as possible.

XVII. Schedule

The Burnt Orange Band rehearses at the following times:

High School Day: 8:45 AM – 3:55 PM

Marching Band: 7:00 AM – 8:10 AM **(Monday thru Friday)**
4:30 PM – 6:30 PM **(Tuesday Afternoon)**

Wind Ensemble, Battery Percussion/ Colorguard (Fall Semester Only)
Wind Ensemble x2

1st Period A Days
1st Period B Days

Symphonic Band, Front Ensemble (Fall Semester Only)
Symphonic Instrumental Ensemble

2nd Period A Days
2nd Period B Days

Band Director Conference Period

3rd Period A/B Days

Concert Band
Concert Instrumental Ensemble

4th Period A Days
4th Period B Days

Anytime there is no school on a Monday, the Tuesday afternoon rehearsal will be extended one hour. (7:30pm)
Sectionals and extra rehearsals can be scheduled at the discretion of the band director. A copy of the official band calendar will be posted in the band hall and will be available on CHARMS.

XVIII. Contacts

The band directors may be reached at the following numbers and emails.

Mr. Scott A. Patricia, Director of Bands	972-882-7626	spatricia@mesquiteisd.org
Ms. Lacy Brown, Associate Director	972-882-7654	lbrown1@mesquiteisd.org
Mr. Michael Gibson, Assistant Director	972-882-7643	mgibson2@mesquiteisd.org
Mr. Dustin Nguyen, Assistant Director	972-882-7654	dnguyen2@mesquiteisd.org
Mr. Trevor Duke, Colorguard	682-808-3238	trevorduke@gmail.com

XIX. Changing of Rules

This handbook normally serves as the official record of rules and requirement for the B.O.B. However, at times during the school year it may become necessary to develop new rules or amend old ones. When this need arises, the students will be notified in class and the new rules posted in the band hall. Once the rule is stated to the students, they are expected to be aware of the rule and comply.

XX. Forms Due

All forms (Acknowledgement Page, Medical Form, UIL 8 Hour rule Form) must be completed, signed and returned by Friday, August 21, 2015.

XXI. Bands at West Mesquite High School

Individual Band Responsibilities

Students are placed by audition into one of the band classes at West Mesquite High School: Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Battery Percussion Class (Fall Term Only), Front Ensemble Percussion Class (Fall Term Only), and Color Guard Class (Fall Term Only). Our curriculum is designed to improve individual performing skills throughout the year. The responsibilities for students in each group are outlined below.

Wind Ensemble – Scott A. Patricia, Conductor

- ❖ Participation in marching band
- ❖ Performance of marching music from memory
- ❖ Preparation of All-Region music
- ❖ Audition for All-Region Band (required)
- ❖ Participation in UIL Solo/Ensemble Contest (Solo required)
- ❖ Performance of concert music as assigned by the director
- ❖ Required attendance at all section and full band rehearsals as scheduled
- ❖ Required attendance at all performances
- ❖ Private lessons are **STRONGLY** encouraged

SYMPHONIC BAND – Lacy Brown and Michael Gibson, Conductors

- ❖ Participation in marching band
- ❖ Performance of marching music from memory
- ❖ Preparation of All-Region music
- ❖ Encouraged to audition for All-Region Band
- ❖ Participation in UIL Solo/Ensemble Contest (Solo required)
- ❖ Performance of concert music as assigned by the director
- ❖ Required attendance at all section and full band rehearsals as scheduled
- ❖ Required attendance at all performances
- ❖ Private lessons are encouraged

CONCERT BAND – Scott A. Patricia, Conductor

- ❖ Participation in marching band
- ❖ Performance of marching music from memory
- ❖ Preparation of excerpts of the All-Region music
- ❖ Encouraged to audition for All-Region Band
- ❖ Participation in UIL Solo/Ensemble Contest (solo required)
- ❖ Performance of concert music as assigned by the director
- ❖ Required attendance at all section and full band rehearsals as scheduled
- ❖ Required attendance at all performances
- ❖ Private lessons are encouraged

PERCUSSION – Michael Gibson, Director

- ❖ Participation in marching band
- ❖ Performance of marching music from memory
- ❖ Development of individual and ensemble percussion skills
- ❖ Preparation of All Region Music
- ❖ Audition for All Region Band is encouraged
- ❖ Participation in the Honors Band, Symphonic Band and Concert Band in the Spring Term.
- ❖ Private lessons are encouraged.

COLORGUARD (FALL TERM ONLY) – Trevor Duke, Director

- ❖ Development of individual basics including flag, rifle, and sabre skills
- ❖ Development of individual movement basics
- ❖ Development of ensemble skills including timing of flags and body movement
- ❖ Performance of marching contest routine by memory
- ❖ Participation in all marching band activities in the Fall Term
- ❖ The Fall Term is open to students who do not perform on a band instrument as well as band students who want to have additional work in this area.
- ❖ Current woodwind, brass and percussion students (at any level of the program) may be a part of the color guard. However, they may not quit playing their instrument and solely participate in Guard.

JAZZ BAND (AFTER SCHOOL ONLY) – Michael Gibson, Director

- ❖ Develop ensemble skills in the jazz idiom.
- ❖ Rehearses begin after marching season ends.
- ❖ Rehearsal will be on Tuesdays from 4:15-6:15pm.
- ❖ Open to entire high school.

XXII. Marching Band

Background Information

The Burnt Orange Band has enjoyed a high reputation for excellence in music performance. The marching band is a highly visible aspect of the band program. The marching band provides performance opportunities for band students while integrating the band program into school and community activities.

Marching Band Participation

As an integral part of the band program, MISD's philosophy is that educationally, historically, and musically, marching band is an essential ingredient in a well-rounded music education. The MISD believes that music students need to develop the ability to participate and perform in different ensemble experiences, which, for band students, includes the marching band. As a result, marching band is required for all high school students who elect to take the academic band performance courses that include the Honors Band, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Percussion and Colorguard. Philosophy regarding all aspects of high school band stems from TEA/UII guidelines, which govern all Texas schools.

Exceptions to this requirement for marching band participation will be considered at the discretion of the Head Band Director. Any student granted an exception would not receive a physical education waiver.

Physical Education Requirement Waived

As an artistic endeavor, each rehearsal and performance of the marching band is mentally and physically demanding. For the full marching band performance, students are always on task and must bring to the

experience their best performance skills. As a result, each student in the marching band is eligible to receive a physical education waiver in accordance with TEA guidelines.

Marching Band is an Integral Component of State Curriculum Requirements

The music and performance skills and techniques, along with the associated academic skills in the band program, are derived from the implementation of the expectations found in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Each performance by the marching band provides students the opportunity to demonstrate musical artistry through the ensemble, individual music performance skills and techniques, marching performance skills and techniques, and critical thinking skills that include auditory, spatial, and visual awareness.

Performance Procedures

Members of the Burnt Orange Band will be expected to adhere to the following performance procedures.

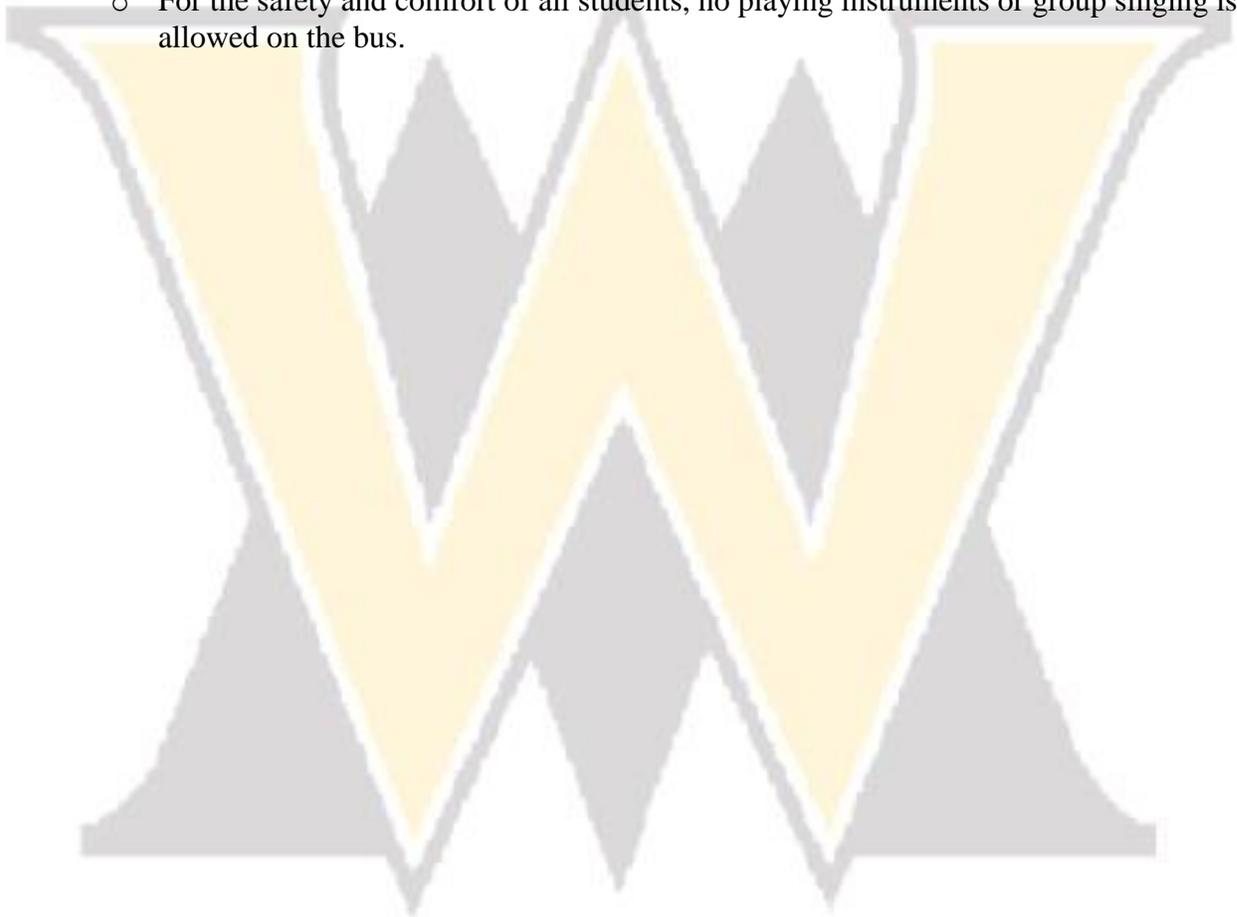
- Each person is responsible for his/her equipment at all times.
- Drum majors and Section Leaders will conduct inspection prior to departure. Inspection will include appropriate wearing of the uniform, instrument and equipment in good working condition, and all necessary music in flip folders.
- Be in uniform at all times. No jewelry or caps are to be worn with uniform.
- Students will march into the stands and remain at attention until given the indication to be seated by a director or a drum major.
- Students will remain in stands until given permission to leave.
- Sit in assigned seats and do not move about the band during the game.
- No food, gum or drink is allowed in uniform.
- All students must have a flip folder. Students who play an instrument other than flute or percussion must provide a lyre for their instrument.
- Do not play your instrument at any time the band is not playing.
- Percussion will play with the full band or organized cadences.
- No one except band personnel is allowed in the band section. B.O.B. alumni or special visitors are sometimes exceptions, but only by special permission from the band director.
- File orderly from the stands to warm up before halftime. Do not play on instrument during transit.
- Cheer with the cheerleaders. Group cheers are acceptable, but “off-color” or unsportsmanlike cheers will not be tolerated.
- Do not make discourteous remarks to visiting bands, peers or other students. The B.O.B. will be a Class Organization.
- Students will ride the bus to and from all games and performances. No speakers allowed on the bus. All music must be listened to by headphones.
- Be courteous to the bus driver and parent chaperones.
- Upon arrival back at WMHS, students will return uniforms and put away all equipment.
- In cold weather, students are allowed to wear a jacket over their uniform coat, but it must be removed for performances.

XXIII. Transportation

The Head Band Director will determine transportation to and from all band performances. If a student must leave directly from a performance, he/she can be released only to his/her parent/guardian with a written note given prior to the event. The Head Band Director reserves the right to deny any requests.

Student Travel Guidelines

- Follow all standard bus/plane rules.
- Allow the chaperone to check roll quickly and efficiently.
- Refrain from using vulgar or rude language or engaging in rude behavior.
- Always be respectful to, appreciative of, and mindful of the chaperones.
- Be respectful of other passengers and groups.
- For the safety and comfort of all students, no playing instruments or group singing is allowed on the bus.



Burnt Orange Band Performance Schedule 2016-17

All underlined performances are required by all band members

*****ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE*****

All morning and after school rehearsals will begin the first day of school

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
8/26	7:30pm	<u>Game vs. Arlington Seguin</u>	Wilemon Stadium
9/1 (Thurs.)	7pm	<u>Game vs. Rockwall Heath</u>	Mesquite Memorial
9/8 (Thurs.)	7pm	<u>Game vs. Lakeview Centennial</u>	HBJ Stadium
9/16	7:30pm	<u>Game vs. Royce City (HC)</u>	Mesquite Hanby Stadium
9/23	7:30pm	<u>Game vs. Lovejoy</u>	Leopard Stadium
10/1(Sat.)	All Day	<u>Mesquite Marching Festival</u>	Mesquite Memorial
10/7	7:30pm	<u>Game vs. Highland Park (JrHi Band Night)</u>	Mesquite Memorial
10/8(Sat.)	All Day	<u>Classic on the Lake Contest</u>	Little Elm Athletic Complex
10/13(Thurs.)	7pm	<u>Game vs. Forney</u>	Mesquite Memorial
10/21	7:30pm	<u>Game vs. Wylie East</u>	Wylie Memorial Stadium
10/26(Wed.)	evening	<u>UIL Region 3 Marching Contest</u>	Mesquite Memorial
10/28	7:30pm	<u>Game vs. North Forney (SN)</u>	Mesquite memorial
11/4	7:30pm	<u>Game vs. Poteet</u>	Mesquite Memorial
11/12	All Day	9 th Grade All-region Band Auditions	North Mesquite HS
12/3	All Day	All-Region Band Auditions Phase I	Berkner HS
12/5	evening	All-Region Band Auditions Phase II	Berkner HS
12/8	7pm	<u>WMHS Band Holiday Concert</u>	WMHS Auditorium
2/4	All Day	<u>UIL Solo/Ensemble Contest</u>	Mesquite HS
2/7	7pm	<u>Winter Cluster Concert</u>	WMHS Auditorium
4/1	9am	<u>Rodeo Parade</u>	Mesquite HS
4/13	7pm	<u>WMHS Band Pre-UIL Concert</u>	WMHS Auditorium
4/19-20	TBA	<u>UIL Concert/Sight-reading Contest</u>	Poteet HS
5/11	7pm	<u>WMHS Band Spring Concert</u>	WMHS Auditorium
5/28	6pm	<u>Graduation</u>	Culwell Event Center

Acknowledgement Page

This page must be signed and returned to the band directors before students will be considered for a principal performing position in the Burnt Orange Band.

I have read and understood the policies and requirements contained in the Burnt Orange Band Handbook and agree to follow the policies as a member of the Burnt Orange Band.

Student Name (Printed) _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____

I have read and understood the policies and requirements contained in the Burnt Orange Band Handbook and agree that my child will follow the policies as a member of the Burnt Orange Band.

Parent Name (Printed) _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____