



Faubion Band

# Faubion Middle School

# BAND HANDBOOK

This handbook is designed to provide students and parents with all information, events, and procedures for the academic year. Please read carefully and fill out any attached forms.

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## **BAND PHILOSOPHY**

It is our hope that participation in band will foster better understanding and appreciation of music and help students carry with them the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will help them throughout their academic career. Music is an invaluable part of the human experience and people's lives have been enriched by music throughout history.

The band has a unique place in the school curriculum. While it is an academic class in the sense of having a definite curriculum and expected competencies, there are some aspects of band membership that require participation outside of the normal school day. Responsibilities to the group cannot be divided by the hours of the school day. Students and parents should understand that the success of the band activities depends on each band member being in place to perform their responsibility to the group and that participation is required of each band member.

The individual student's achievement in music is our primary goal, but it is the commitment of all band members to each other that has allowed our program to achieve its unique position. By signing the handbook signature page on the band website, you will be making a commitment that includes the following:

1. Membership in the Faubion band program for the entire school year, including attendance at all rehearsals, sectionals, concerts and contests.
2. Your best effort to improve as a musician through daily practice and preparation.
3. Maintaining a positive attitude towards band as well as appropriate behavior at all times.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- To develop the technical skills necessary to play a musical instrument, both as a soloist and as a member of an ensemble, and to develop the skills necessary to read music.
- To build leadership and character. The band program strives to be known for outstanding character and citizenship. We will work to ensure proper conduct, consideration, and courtesy as a vital part of the participation of students - both in rehearsal and all public situations.
- Music is an avenue for self-expression and self-knowledge so students often reach new heights of self-awareness through experiences that occur within the classroom. Students reflect on personal and group work, which provides reasoning for practice and change.
- To introduce music technology in regards to music recording and composition.

## **BAND CLASSES**

All members of the Band Program are assigned by audition to one of four band classes that meet as academic classes. Auditions are held at the end of each school year. Students may be reevaluated again at the end of the Fall Semester. Balanced instrumentation within each band is an integral part of the selection process.

## **PERFORMANCES**

Attendance is expected at all performances and all pre-scheduled rehearsals. Concerts are extensions of the classroom and are the highlights of the learning process. Please check the band calendar and website for the dates of concerts and rehearsals.

## **INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS**

The ultimate goal of our program is the development of musicians to their greatest potential. To assist in reaching this goal, we strongly recommend participation in the individual competitions and festivals offered during the school year.

The Honors Band is an advanced performing group with preparation for the high school band program as a primary objective. Students will perform at concerts and contests throughout the school year as well as solo contest provided they have met eligibility requirements. Instrumentation is limited to those who show advanced performance abilities, commitment, and superior attitudes. Members are selected by audition and must meet the minimum requirements for performance.

## **Concert Uniforms**

The Honors Band has two uniforms. A formal concert uniform will be used for the winter, spring, and festival Concerts, UIL contest, regional and local festivals, and all-region concerts. A more casual uniform will be used for all Recruiting Concerts at the Elementary School campuses, and all Pep Rallies. We will also ask students to wear the informal uniform on picture day and other assigned days of the year.

Formal Uniform: Solid black dress pants, solid black socks and solid black shoes.  
A black long sleeve button down shirt will be purchased through the school.

Informal Uniform: The current band member t-shirt that will be purchased through the school.

## **Section Rehearsals -“Sectionals”**

Section rehearsals will be scheduled one day per week, either before school (7:15-8:30 am) or after school (3:52-5:15 pm). Attendance is expected to be a member of this band, and each rehearsal will be graded and included as a part of the student’s average. It is the student's responsibility to arrange transportation. If a section rehearsal needs to be made up due to illness or school-sponsored event, it should be completed within one week of the missed rehearsal. An unexcused absence should be followed up with communication.

Similar instruments meet once a week before or after school with the director or a clinician to focus on musical challenges unique to each instrument group. Many of our best band students are also some of the top athletes in school. *Band students, parents and directors will make arrangements with the athletic coaches to ensure band students get a sectional rehearsal once a week.*

Set Your Alarms! Students who have attendance problems or continue to arrive late to sectionals will be transferred out of the Honors Band.

## **Practice and Commitment**

Both the Honors Band and Symphonic Band at Faubion Middle School have received consistent Superior ratings at UIL concert and sight-reading contests as well as Best in Class awards at other contests and festivals. In order to reinforce these advanced skills and to keep up with such an amazing tradition of excellence, it is imperative that each student practice every night, arrive to class on time, and be prepared to work hard for the duration of the class period or sectional. Lack of preparation, missing rehearsals, or serving as a distraction during rehearsal will not be tolerated in any way.

This is the most advanced band, which is made up of students who have attained a high degree of proficiency on their instrument. Members of this organization perform at UIL Competition, pep rallies and other school functions, winter and spring concerts, recruiting concerts, and invitational festivals. Students also participate in individual events including objective tests, all-district competition, all-region competition, solo contest, and ensemble contest.

## FAUBION SYMPHONIC BAND

4<sup>th</sup> Period

The Symphonic Band is an advanced performing group with preparation for the high school band program as a primary objective. Students will perform at concerts and contests throughout the school year as well as solo contest provided they have met eligibility requirements. Instrumentation is limited to those who show advanced performance abilities, commitment, and superior attitudes. Members are selected by audition and must meet the minimum requirements for performance.

### **Concert Uniforms**

The Symphonic Band has two uniforms. A formal concert uniform will be used for the winter, spring, and festival Concerts, UIL contest, regional and local festivals, and all-region concerts. A more casual uniform will be used for all Pep Rallies and other informal events throughout the year.

Formal Uniform: Solid black dress pants, solid black socks and solid black shoes.  
A black long sleeve button down shirt will be purchased through the school.

Informal Uniform: The current band member t-shirt that will be purchased through the school.

### **Section Rehearsals -“Sectionals”**

Section rehearsals will be scheduled one day per week, either before school (7:15-8:30 am) or after school (3:52-5:00 pm). Attendance is expected to be a member of this band, and each rehearsal will be graded and included as a part of the student’s average. It is the student's responsibility to arrange transportation. If a section rehearsal needs to be made up due to illness or school-sponsored event, it should be completed within one week of the missed rehearsal. An unexcused absence should be followed up with communication.

Similar instruments meet once a week before or after school with the director or a clinician to focus on musical challenges unique to each instrument group. Many of our best band students are also some of the top athletes in school. *Band students, parents and directors will make arrangements with the athletic coaches to ensure band students get a sectional rehearsal once a week.*

Set Your Alarms! Students who have attendance problems or continue to arrive late to sectionals will be transferred out of the Symphonic Band.
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### **Practice and Commitment**

Both the Honors Band and Symphonic Band at Faubion Middle School have received consistent Superior ratings at UIL concert and sight-reading contests as well as Best in Class awards at other contests and festivals. In order to reinforce these advanced skills and to keep up with such an amazing tradition of excellence, it is imperative that each student practice every night, arrive to class on time, and be prepared to work hard for the duration of the class period or sectional. Lack of preparation, missing rehearsals, or serving as a distraction during rehearsal will not be tolerated in any way

The Concert Band is a class designed to foster musical growth of its members. Students may enter solo contest and ensemble contest provided they have met the academic requirements and are selected by the directors to perform. Members are selected by audition and must meet the minimum requirements for performance. This course is designed for students who have not yet achieved a level of excellence commensurate with being placed in an advanced band. Members of this organization may also perform at individual competitions and concerts. Students are expected to perform at grade level on their instruments. They should be striving to maintain team-oriented discipline. Elements of music are approached through increasing difficulty, which present challenging, interesting and enrichment activities. Participation in class is required for skill improvement.

### **Concert Uniforms**

The Concert Band has two uniforms. A formal concert uniform will be used for the winter, spring, and festival Concerts, UIL contest, regional and local festivals, and all-region concerts. A more casual uniform will be used for all Pep Rallies and other informal events throughout the year.

Formal Uniform: Solid black dress pants, solid black socks and solid black shoes.  
A black long sleeve button down shirt will be purchased through the school.

Informal Uniform: The current band member t-shirt that will be purchased through the school.

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## **ATTENDANCE AND GRADING POLICY**

Attendance and punctuality at all rehearsals and performances is absolutely expected. Concerts are extensions of the classroom and are a highlight of the learning process. These dates are set in advance so that students can make arrangements for the benefit of themselves and the band (team). Students who enroll in other school activities, such as athletics, choir, drama, etc., need to plan ahead to avoid conflicts that cannot be resolved. The band directors will work with other teachers, coaches, and directors of various activities to give each student every opportunity to be part of other groups. Written documentation, signed by the parent or guardian in case of illness or emergencies, should accompany any absence. The following attendance policies will affect student grades:

1. Multiple unexcused absences from a rehearsal, sectional, or performance may result in the removal of a student to a non-performing class. Excuses are only accepted in the event of absence from school or family emergency.
2. Section rehearsals missed for any reason must be made up within one week of the missed sectional. Excused absences (see above) may be made up for full credit.

School Comes First! Non-school sponsored activities, teams, organizations, and student jobs must not conflict in any way with the rehearsal/performance schedule of the band.
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In determining the band grade each nine weeks, two areas will comprise the average:

Performance Grade (70%) including class assignments, section rehearsal assignments, nine-week assignments and objectives, and playoffs of performance music.

Recording Assignments (30%) includes recordings submitted by the due date

## ELIGIBILITY

Most of the work that our students do is either curricular or co-curricular and not subject to eligibility.

Curricular and co-curricular activities are described as free concerts, section rehearsals, concert rehearsals, and private lessons.

Students who participate in extracurricular activities must meet T.E.A. (Texas Education Association) and U.I.L. (University Interscholastic League) eligibility requirements. Students who fail any one class at the end of a nine-week period will become ineligible seven days later. Ineligible students do not regain eligibility immediately. They must wait seven calendar days after the end of the grading period. Students may regain eligibility seven calendar days after the end of the three-week grade evaluation period provided the principal and teachers have determined the student is passing all courses. Semester grades are never used for eligibility. Activities that are classified as extracurricular, for which T.E.A., U.I.L., and M.I.S.D. 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 extracurricular function, he or she will still be eligible for curricular or co-curricular functions. Ineligible students will be given alternate assignments during contest preparation time. UIL Concert and Sightreading Performances do not apply to eligibility rules.

**Pass Your Classes! Students who have chronic eligibility problems will be assigned to a non-performing group.**

## STUDENT DISCIPLINE AND BEHAVIOR

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual. As such, each student is responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the Faubion Band. Any student who shows an inability to work effectively in class will be reassigned to another class at the discretion of the band director.

As a school group, band members are governed by school and school board policies anytime they are together for any band function whether it involves all students or only one. The forms you sign in addition to the Handbook Signature Page will be in effect throughout the year for trips related to the band. Any student who violates school rules while with the Faubion Band will be subject to all the usual school disciplinary procedures. In addition, those students may be subject to dismissal and not continue to perform or travel with the band. Also, students who receive assignment to the alternative school for disciplinary action outside of band activities are in danger of not performing with the band in any extracurricular functions for the remainder of the school year.

## USE OF SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

A limited number of the more expensive instruments are owned by the MISD for the purpose of balancing the instrumentation district-wide and maintaining performing bands at every level. There is a yearly usage fee of \$100 for each student playing a school-owned instrument. This fee is payable to “Faubion Middle School”. Any student wishing to rent a second instrument for home will need to pay an additional \$50 for a home instrument. Availability is subject to need and will be distributed on a first come first serve basis.

A checkout form will be sent home for parent/guardian signature at the beginning of the year that describes the condition of the instrument at that time. It is the responsibility of the student/parent to check over the instrument at that time and understand that the instrument must be returned in the same condition at the end of the year. If repairs are necessary during the year, it is the responsibility of the student and parent to deliver the instrument to a repair facility as instructed by the band director.

Handle With Care! If, in the opinion of a MISD director, a school-owned instrument is not being properly maintained at any time of the school year, it is the director's prerogative to remove the instrument.

## MISD MIDDLE SCHOOL PERCUSSION FEE

All 7th/8th grade percussion students will be required to pay a **\$50 yearly fee** to help with the cost of maintaining the school-owned percussion instruments. This is similar to, but less expensive than, what the families using school-owned wind instruments have been paying. Checks can be made out to “Faubion Middle School.” 6th Grade Percussion students will **NOT** have to pay this fee.

## RECOMMENDED “UPGRADE/STEP UP” INSTRUMENT LIST

Below is a list of recommended advanced instruments. In most cases, beginner instruments are adequate for middle school bands; however, better quality instruments enable students to learn more quickly and with greater ease. While there are several brands and models of advanced instruments, the following are recommended by the MISD staff as the best quality:

**Flute:** Yamaha models 500, 600, 700, Miyazawa 95SR, Azumi

**Clarinet:** Buffet R-13 (the "Festival" model is not recommended)

**Alto Saxophone:** Yamaha YAS 875-EX II Custom EX, Selmer SA-80

**Trumpet:** Bach Stradivarius 180-S, Yamaha Xeno YTR 8000 series

**Trombone:** Bach 42-BO, Bach 42-BOG, Getzen/Edwards 1047F

These can be purchased at many retail stores. Parents are encouraged to seek the help of a private instructor or director before purchasing one of these instruments.

## FUNDRAISER

Every year, the band program undertakes at least one fundraiser. The money raised by our students is used to help fund operating expenses for the band.

## BAND SHIRT (ALL STUDENTS)

All band students should have a current band shirt as part of their uniform. Band shirts will be compatible with the current MISD dress code and may be worn anytime. We will provide you with the exact cost of this shirt as soon as possible, but shirts in the past have been \$10.00-\$15.00. The band shirt is included in the band fee. All 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students will wear their band shirt (included in your program fee) with jeans and closed-toed shoes for the Fall Concert and other informal concert events. All beginning band students will wear their band shirt (included in your program fee) with jeans and closed-toed shoes for all events. Appropriate performance attire for formal and informal concerts is implied in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Music related to public performance, performance etiquette and evaluation criteria.

## FORMAL SHIRT AND CONCERT UNIFORM

### Honors, Symphonic, and Concert Bands

For formal concerts students will wear the following uniform:

**BLACK long sleeve button down shirt** (purchased through the school) tucked-in with pressed **BLACK dress slacks** (student provided) and a belt (student provided). No blue jeans or cargo pants! **BLACK dress shoes with BLACK dress socks** (student provided). No flip flops or athletic shoes! Please see the director(s) if you need assistance obtaining this uniform.

## BAND PALS

7th and 8th grade students who have completed their beginner band class are welcome to apply to be a Band PAL. These students will be enrolled in the beginner class of the instrument they play and serve as role models and aids the entire school year. Students who are selected to be a Band PAL will take this class as one of their electives. These students must also be enrolled in either Honors, Symphonic, or Concert bands. This course is by application and interview, to be completed in the 4th quarter of the application year.



# Faubion Middle School Band

## 7th and 8th Grade

### Materials and Supplies Objective Sheet

- ★ These materials and supplies will be checked in class by a band director.
- ★ Use the check sheet below to make sure you have all necessary supplies.
- ★ All supplies marked with an \* will be purchased through the school and be encompassed in the band fee.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Case Name Tag

Every instrument needs to have a name tag on the handle with a luggage tag.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Black Notebook/Binder\*

A 1.5" hardbound notebook is the best, any bigger and the rings wear out.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Five Dividers\*

So much music and information is given to the students that a notebook with five dividers is the best way to organize it all. Every piece of paper will be filed under a divider. **The dividers should be labeled:**

**1. Information 2. Warm Up 3. Scales and Technique 4. Rhythm and Theory 5. Music**

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Pencil Bag with Pencils inside\*

We will use a pencil everyday. Have it on your stand.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Instrument Supplies

Please see the reverse side for a detailed list.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Have all dates clearly marked in agenda and family calendar.

<http://www.faubionband.com>

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Korg TM-60 Metronome/Tuner with Korg Contact Microphone CM-200

The two main ingredients in music are pitch (the notes) and rhythm. Every band uses a metronome in class everyday. It is only fitting that students practice with one at home as well. The easiest way to tell whether a musician sounds good (or bad) is whether they are in tune (or not). The recommended tuner/metronome is the Korg TM-60

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Foundations for Superior Performance Book by King/Williams (The Blue Book) (All students except percussion students )

Label this book with your name. This book will provide the fundamental exercises for individual and ensemble skill development. The cost is around \$7 and can be purchased online or at a local music store.

# Faubion 7th and 8th Grade Band

## Instrument Supplies Objective Sheet

### Flute

- \_\_\_ Hodge Silk Swab
- \_\_\_ Tuning Rod

### Oboe

- \_\_\_ Hodge Silk Oboe Swab
- \_\_\_ 4 Reeds made by lesson teacher
- \_\_\_ Reed Case (4 reeds at all times)
- \_\_\_ Cork Grease
- \_\_\_ Small Water Container for reed soaking
- \_\_\_ Stand Clip to hold water container

### Bassoon

- \_\_\_ Hodge Silk Bassoon Swab
- \_\_\_ 4 Reeds made by lesson teacher
- \_\_\_ Reed Case (4 reeds at all times)
- \_\_\_ Cork Grease
- \_\_\_ Small Water Container for reed soaking
- \_\_\_ Stand Clip to hold water container

### Clarinet

- \_\_\_ Box of D'Addario Reserve Classic Reeds
- \_\_\_ D'Addario Reserve X-5 Mouthpiece
- \_\_\_ Bonade Inverted Ligature
- \_\_\_ Hodge Silk Swab
- \_\_\_ Reed Case (Holds 4 Reeds)
- \_\_\_ Mouthpiece Patch
- \_\_\_ Cork Grease

### Bass Clarinet

- \_\_\_ Box of D'Addario Reserve Classic Reeds
- \_\_\_ Hodge Silk Swab
- \_\_\_ Mouthpiece Patch

### Saxophone

- \_\_\_ Box of D'Addario Reserve Classic Reeds
- \_\_\_ Vandoren Optimum AL3 Mouthpiece
- \_\_\_ Hodge Silk Swab
- \_\_\_ Vandoren M/O GOLD Ligature
- \_\_\_ Neotech "Soft" Neck strap Black
- \_\_\_ Mouthpiece Patch
- \_\_\_ Reed Case (Holds 4 Reeds)

### Tenor/Bari Saxophone

- \_\_\_ Box of D'Addario Reserve Classic Reeds
- \_\_\_ Hodge Silk Swab
- \_\_\_ Neotech "Soft" Neck strap Black
- \_\_\_ Mouthpiece Patch

### Trumpet

- \_\_\_ Mouthpiece
- \_\_\_ Hetman Valve Oil
- \_\_\_ Selmer Slide Grease
- \_\_\_ Mouthpiece Brush/Cleaning Snake
- \_\_\_ Old Rag

### Horn

- \_\_\_ Houghton Verus VX 17.75 mm Mouthpiece
- \_\_\_ Rotary Oil
- \_\_\_ Al Cass Valve Oil
- \_\_\_ Selmer Slide Grease
- \_\_\_ Mouthpiece Brush/Cleaning Snake
- \_\_\_ Old Rag

### Trombone

- \_\_\_ Bach 5G (or 6 ½ AL) Mouthpiece
- \_\_\_ Slide-O-Mix or Trombotine Slide Cream
- \_\_\_ Small Spray Bottle
- \_\_\_ Selmer Slide Grease
- \_\_\_ Mouthpiece Brush/Cleaning Snake
- \_\_\_ Old Rag

### Euphonium

- \_\_\_ Shilke 51D Mouthpiece with large shank
- \_\_\_ All Cass Valve Oil
- \_\_\_ Selmer Slide Grease
- \_\_\_ Mouthpiece Brush/Cleaning Snake
- \_\_\_ Old Rag and rolled/taped towel

### Tuba

- \_\_\_ Conn Helleburg 120S Mouthpiece
- \_\_\_ Al Cass Valve Oil
- \_\_\_ Selmer Slide Grease
- \_\_\_ Mouthpiece Brush/Cleaning Snake
- \_\_\_ Old Rag

### Percussion

#### EVERYTHING LABELED WITH NAME

- \_\_\_ Innovative percussion GTX-5 GTX Series Ultra Staccato Timpani Mallets (7th and 8th grade)
- \_\_\_ Innovative Percussion FS-PR2 Paul rennick #2 signature marching snare sticks (7th and 8th grade)
- \_\_\_ 2 pairs of Innovative Percussion Sandi Rennick signature medium marimba mallets (7th and 8th grade)
- \_\_\_ Innovative Percussion concert series medium timpani mallets (8th grade only)
- \_\_\_ Innovative Percussion James Ross signature medium soft xylophone/glockenspiel mallets (8th grade only)
- \_\_\_ Innovative Percussion IP2006 James Ancona signature medium vibraphone mallets (8th grade only)

## APPLIED PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

The Faubion Band Program offers private instruction from the finest graduate and professional musicians in the area. This program is supported by individual parents who cover the cost. Lessons may be taken during band class or after school. Lessons during class time may be slightly shorter than lessons taken after school. The cost for each lesson is \$24.00 and is payable to the private teacher. Enroll in the private lesson program by visiting the Faubion website at [www.faubionband.com](http://www.faubionband.com)

## STUDENT/PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PRIVATE INSTRUCTOR

- Be fully prepared for each lesson.
- Bring a pencil, method books, and any other required materials to each lesson.
- Notify the private teacher 24 hours or more in advance in the event a lesson must be missed.
- Failure to do this will result in an unexcused absence and the lesson must still be paid for. Excused absences by the student or the teacher shall be rescheduled or the money credited or refunded.
- The cost for each lesson is \$24.00 and is payable to the private teacher. Lessons will be half of a regular class period which will be 22.5 minutes
- Please turn in the payment by the requested date. A late private lesson payment means the private teacher will not get paid that month!

## COMMUNICATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Faubion Bands will use the online organization and management system website called CHAMRS to help with communication and financial updates.

## BAND TRIPS

During the course of the year, band students might participate in a trip activity. These trips are designed to be an extension of the instructional day. We travel in large numbers so behavior expectations for our students must be very high. All school policies apply on band trips, and students will be held accountable according to those policies set forth in the MISD Student Code of Conduct. Your field trip permission form must be on file in order to participate in any trips.

## BAND STORAGE LOCKERS

Each student will be assigned a locker for instrument storage. Storage compartments are not to be shared with any other person unless an assignment to share has been made by a band director. Students are responsible for the proper storage, labeling, and handling of their instruments during the time they are at school. All students will be responsible for picking up their instruments after school and bringing them home to practice assignments for their band class.

## PARENT VOLUNTEERS! VERY IMPORTANT!

The Faubion Middle School band volunteers consists of parents or guardians of students participating in the organization's activities and any person whose interest is to further the purpose of the group. They help with fundraisers and events that require large logistical forces.

To sign up for Volunteer opportunities please visit us on the web at [www.faubionband.com](http://www.faubionband.com)



## CONCERTS AND CONTESTS

- **Fall Concert** (grades 7-8)
- **Winter and Spring Concerts** (All grades)
- **U.I.L. Concert and Sight-Reading Contest** (grades 7-8): Bands perform music from the Texas prescribed state music list and are rated regarding quality by a group of judges based on a live performance. Students then perform a piece previously unknown and the performance is judged by a separate panel of judges for accuracy. This is our state accountability measurement.
- **MISD All-District Band Audition** (grades 7-8): Students prepare two etudes, nine major scales, one chromatic scale, and sight-read. Performances are anonymous in a room with judges. Judges rank the students based on a points scoring system. Written feedback is provided to all contestants. If selected, students rehearse as a group with a guest conductor and perform a concert.
- **TMEA Region 24 All-Region Band Auditions** (grades 7-8): This event is similar to All-District but encompasses a wider geographic area. Attending All-District Band tryouts is not a prerequisite but is highly encouraged for the audition experience.
- **Faubion Solo Contest** (All grades): Students prepare an instrumental solo with piano accompaniment and perform for a judge. Each performer must provide a copy of the music for the judge with the measures numbered, their name and school written on it, and provide a copy of the piano music for the accompanist.
- **Faubion Ensemble Contest** (All grades): Students study and rehearse a piece of music in a small chamber group with their peers. That performance is evaluated for quality by a judge and written feedback is provided.
- **Band Contest Festivals** (All grades): Bands perform in an area contest and are evaluated by judges. Awards are usually given, and most festivals are head-to-head competition.
- **FMS Pep Rallies and Elementary Recruiting Concerts** (grades 7-8): FMS band students perform for FMS and elementary students to promote the band program and school pride.

## BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL

Band students are welcome in the band hall before school to store instruments and music in the assigned slots for each school day. Only current band members are admitted into the band hall area at any time for liability reasons. Students may use the band practice rooms for individual practice under director supervision. *Students should keep their instruments in the case at all times and not play them until they return home.*

## PRACTICING AT HOME

Students should treat their practice as important and essential: an every-day activity to foster improvement with their musical skills. Students and parents should use this information, along with positive encouragement, to facilitate more effective practice sessions.

### Tips

- Select a strong solid chair without armrests that does not rock and will help support proper posture.
- Use a music stand.
- Provide adequate lighting and choose a place to practice that is free from distractions.
- Set goals for the practice session. Prioritize and aim for quality over quantity.
- Use a metronome during the practice session. The Tonal Energy App is a great resource for home practice.

### Warm-up:

- Observe a daily routine that is written down or in a music book. Devote time to fundamentals, such as long tones, slurs, articulation exercises, and technical drills.
- Develop a short warm-up routine that can be used before rehearsals and performances. Have a longer warm-up regimen for at-home sessions when you have more time.

### Creative Practice Suggestions:

Use your imagination to devise new and interesting ways to improve.

- Approach each session with the decision to advance your skills.
- Choose tempos at which you can be successful.
- Mark the music to help remember areas of concern and performance ideas. Write in note names, rhythms, breath marks, articulation, and dynamics as needed. *Erase markings when they are no longer needed, allowing room for new ideas.*
- Follow a logical order in music preparation: Divide and conquer. (notes, rhythms, articulation, dynamics, style, and tempo)
- Practice without playing the instrument also.
  - Write in the counts
  - Count rhythms aloud.
  - When you are learning a new fingering or are having trouble changing between two notes, stop practicing out of the lesson book for a moment and work to switch back and forth between the notes that are difficult.
- Work to improve tone quality every day. Listen to recordings of professional musicians.
- Record yourself in order to listen for improvement.