

Welcome!

Curtis Bands Handbook

2019-2020



Serving students from **Cheatham, Lindsey, Marion, Olson, Preston and Reed**

Serving students from **7th and 8th grade at Curtis Middle School**

Directors

- Mallarie Bowen
- Daniel Lane
- Linda Orrantia

Table of Contents

- 1. Band Website and Calendar overview**
- 2. Becoming acquainted with your band director**
- 3. Private lessons**
- 4. Classroom/concert expectations for 6th grade**
- 5. Switchover information for 6th grade**
- 6. Band auditions for 6th grade**
- 7. Classroom/concert expectations/UIIL expectations for 7th and 8th grade**
- 8. Band auditions for 7th and 8th grade**
- 9. All City and All Region tryouts for 7th and 8th grade**
- 10. Solo festival for 7th and 8th grade**

Tips

Please remember to read all skyward emails from your band directors for important information.

Band Website and Calendar

Our band website houses the calendar for 6th grade and middle school.

Make sure you are aware that the 6th grade calendar is VERY different from the middle school band calendar. So please download the correct one. If you have students in 6th and middle school then click on both calendars and download both of them.

If you link your calendar to your cell phone then you will always have the latest information from us regarding calendar dates that are important to band.

**Please click the link here for the 6th grade band calendar - [6th grade band calendar](#)

**Please click the link here for the 7th and 8th grade band calendars - [Middle School Band Calendar](#)

Our band website also houses important information for 6th grade band.

Lose some music? Forget how to contact your band director? Missing a form? Then it is all on this page.

**Please click the link here for the 6th grade band page - [6th grade Band Info](#)

Our band website does NOT house information for middle school band. That is all housed on Canvas where all your middle school classes are housed as well.

Band Directors

Each class has a specific director assigned. That director is in charge of your child's grades and will contact you with important information regarding everything band.

6th grade band consists of Brass which is trumpet and trombones and Woodwinds which is Clarinet and Flutes. Woodwinds and Brass have different directors but at times will combine with both directors in the room.

7th and 8th grade bands will always have additional directors from Curtis or the high school helping to teach.

[Please read below so you are aware of the band directors in charge and their assistants in class.](#)

Cheatham Brass

Daniel Lane

Cheatham Woodwinds

Linda Orrantia

Lindsey Brass

Daniel Lane

Lindsey Woodwinds

Linda Orrantia

Marion Brass

Mallarie Bowen

Marion Woodwinds

Linda Orrantia

Olson Brass

Mallarie Bowen

Olson Woodwinds

Daniel Lane

Reed Brass

Mallarie Bowen

Reed Woodwinds

Daniel Lane

Preston Brass

Mallarie Bowen

Preston Woodwinds

Linda Orrantia

Curtis Middle School Band Directors

Concert Band/Percussion

Linda Orrantia and Cory Davis

Symphonic II

Mallarie Bowen

Assisted by High School Staff and Linda Orrantia

Symphonic I

Daniel Lane

Assisted by High School Staff and Mallarie Bowen

Honor Band

Linda Orrantia

Assisted by High School Staff, Daniel Lane and Mallarie Bowen

Emails listed below:

Mallarie.bowen@allenisd.org

Daniel.lane@allenisd.org

Linda.orrantia@allenisd.org

Cory.Davis@allenisd.org

Private Lessons

Did you know that all middle school bands have a combined class of 14 different instruments playing at the same time? As band directors, we give students the music fundamentals but in order for students to truly excel they should take private lessons.

Private Lessons is one on one tutoring with an Allen ISD approved music coach who specializes in your child's instrument. They will provide them instrument specific instruction beyond what is provided in the classroom. Cost is \$20 for half hour.

Band is competitive fine art and lessons are a fantastic way to achieve musical education beyond the classroom.

Who should really be on lessons?

Students who play oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, saxophone, french horn, euphonium, tuba and percussion need to be on lessons. Those students are switchover instruments that require a more advanced level and requires a private teacher to help them excel.

Students who play flute, clarinet, trumpet or trombone are highly encouraged to take lessons. Although you are not a switchover instrument, you are on a instrument that is very popular so the competition is pretty fierce.

Honor band students must be on lessons. You are going from UIL level 1 music to UIL level 3. That is a HUGE jump and the music is very challenging. You will be very lost if you are not on lessons. If there is financial need, please contact Linda Orrantia

Any students who aspire to be in honor band next year. We have many students who want to be in honor band their 8th grade year. Lessons won't guarantee placement but your private teacher will help you prepare for auditions.

So, how do I get on private lessons? Dr. Obado (from AllenHS) sent out a link so you can sign up. If you can't find the link, here it is. [Private Lesson Link](#)

If you still have questions, email linda.orrantia@allenisd.org . I'll be happy to call and explain in further detail.

Concert and Class Expectations - 6th grade

1. All 6th grade band members are expected to bring the following items below to band class every day they meet. Continual inconsistencies to bring the items will require a parent conference.
 - Instrument and all necessary items to play the instrument.
 - Binder with music handed out in class, sheet protectors, pencils, highlighters, paper and pencil pouch
 - Music book
 - Tuner/metronome with pick up cord
2. All 6th grade band members should practice at home in order to develop skills necessary to keep up with the pace of the class. A structured 20 minute practice of music from the book is required five times a week.
3. Students must attend their demonstration concert Wednesday, November 6 and the spring concert on Thursday, April 16. Both concerts are at Curtis Middle School in the evening with times to be announced.
 - **Students who do NOT attend both concerts will NOT be eligible to go to the 6th grade band field trip on Tuesday, April 28 to Dave and Busters. Students will also have to pass all subject areas the third nine weeks, including band to attend this trip.**
 - **Students who are assigned ISS or OSS during the school year, will not be allowed to attend the band field trip.**
 - **Students will be tested on December 18/19 on B flat five note warm up as a pre-test to check band eligibility. If they are not passing, parents will be notified so they have ample time to practice and make up by third nine weeks.**
4. Students will be courteous to all others in the class and work with diligence in order to maximize learning.
5. Students will be required to wear their Allen Band Shirt for both concerts and the field trip and may wear it any other time they wish. Shirt cost is \$12 and can be paid via online link that will be sent out or paid in person on the July 24 pick up event. Please do not send money to the school. We cannot accept payments at elementary campuses.
6. Please keep up with your band grade in skyward. We enter numerical grades but it automatically changes it to a letter grade for 6th grade band. Please use this guide to help you determine where you are in band.
 - "E" means you are doing well and keeping up
 - "S" means you are working on average or a little bit below average. Ask your band director how you can improve.
 - "N" means you are working well below the average. Ask your director how you can improve
 - "U" means you have fallen very behind. We recommend setting up a student, teacher and parent conference during these times.

Switchover Information - 6th grade

All students start on either flute, clarinet, trumpet or trombone in 6th grade. In November you can make the decision to either stay on your instrument or switch to one of the other instruments only as listed below:

Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba or Percussion

In order to switch you must meet the following requirements.

1. You must have at least a 90 in band after the first nine weeks.
2. You must have at least an 80 in all your subject areas.
3. A parent must attend a meeting a switchover meeting at 6pm in the Curtis Middle School Band Room on Monday, November 4.
4. You must be willing to set up private lessons for your switchover instrument, once we have approved you with an Allen ISD approved teacher. Cost is \$20 for half hour.
5. You must be willing to continue in band thru 7th and 8th grade on your switchover instrument. These are pivotal spots which develop the band and we would greatly appreciate your commitment to making this a stellar program!

The meeting on Monday, November 4 is the ONLY day we will give out information about switchover tryouts and the only day we will have switchover forms available so please plan on being there. If you have a conflict, you must email linda.orrantia@allenisd.org by end of day, November 4.

Band Auditions for 6th grade for 2019-2020 school year

All 6th grade band students will be auditioned throughout the year for their band placement in the Curtis Middle School Bands. We have four bands at Curtis which include Concert Band, Symphonic II, Symphonic I and Honor Band.

Placement in these bands is based on 8 different aspects which are NOT related to the gradebook. Again, this is a separate scoring process which does NOT appear on gradebook.

1. **Tone Quality** - Students will be awarded points by their band director based on tone quality. This means quality of the characteristic sound of the instrument
2. **Participation** - Students will be deducted points by their band director if they forget their instrument, supplies and binder. Loss of points can also occur if students are disruptive in class or not participating.
3. **Posture** - Posture is key to producing a great tone. Points will be awarded by band directors to students who demonstrate proper posture while in band.
4. **Hand Position** - This is key to being able to play the notes accurately and in tempo. Students will be awarded points by their band director for improper hand position on instrument.
5. **Smart Music Test** - Students will be given four tests from music provided by directors at their campus. These tests will NOT be graded by a band director but by Smart Music which is a computer based software system that grades them automatically. We encourage you to get the smart music software system thru Smartmusic.com so your child can practice. Please see the dates and tests below. Some dates may move to a later week if unforeseen circumstances occur. Students who are absent on testing dates will be able to make them up once they return.
 - a. September 19-20
 - i. B flat Concert scale page
 - b. October 31 - November 1
 - i. A flat Concert scale page
 - ii. One retake of B flat Concert Scale allowed.
 - c. January 16-17
 - i. E flat Concert scale page
 - ii. One retake of A flat Concert Scale allowed
 - d. February 27-28
 - i. F concert scale page
 - ii. One retake of E flat Concert Scale allowed

*Students choosing option 1 will receive a max of 50 points. Option 2 receives a max of 75 points and Option 3 receives a max of 100 points

Final placements will be announced the last week of school. A reminder that none of the auditions are grades that go into the gradebook. Your child's grade does NOT determine placement.

Concert and Class Expectations - 7th and 8th Grade Bands

All middle school band members are expected to bring the following items below to band class every day they meet. Continual inconsistencies to bring the items will require a parent conference.

- Instrument and all necessary items to play the instrument.
- Binder with music handed out in class, sheet protectors, pencils, highlighters, paper and pencil pouch
- Music book
- Tuner/metronome with pick up cord

All band members should practice at home in order to develop skills necessary to keep up with the pace of the class. A structured 30 minute practice of music from their fundamental packet and concert music is required five times a week.

Students will be courteous to all others in the class and work with diligence in order to maximize learning

Please keep up with your band grade in skyward.

- A average means you are doing well and keeping up
- B average means you are working on average. Ask your band director how you can improve.
- C average means you are working well below the average. Ask your director how you can improve
- D or F average means you have fallen very behind. We recommend setting up a student, teacher and parent conference during these times.
- **Students who are falling behind in their band class may be moved to a different band in January in order to provide them adequate paced instruction. We will have a parent conference before we make changes.**

Students must attend their winter concert and spring concerts for a grade on the following dates and times.

- Tuesday, December 3 - All bands at Lowery Freshman Center 6:30pm
- Tuesday, May 6 - All bands at Curtis Middle School Gym 6:00pm

Students in Symphonic II and Symphonic I will attend UIL contest on Tuesday, March 24. Times for UIL TBA two weeks prior. They will also attend Pre UIL on March 2 during the school day at Lowery Freshman Center.

- This is a **mandatory** event which will require students pass all their classes by UIL cutoff dates.
- Students who are assigned ISS any time of the school year are subject to not attending UIL.

Students in Honor Band will attend UIL contest on Wednesday, March 25. Time TBA two weeks prior. They will also attend Pre UIL on March 2 during the school day at Lowery Freshman Ctr .

- This is a **mandatory** event which will require students pass all their classes by UIL cutoff dates.
- Students who are assigned ISS any time of the school year are subject to not attending UIL..

Students will be required to wear their Curtis Band Shirt for pep rallies and All City Band qualifiers

- Cost is \$15 and can be paid at Meet the Teacher or first week of school
- Pep rally dates will be announced a week in advance

Students will be required to wear Concert Black for Winter Concert, All Region Band qualifiers, Solo Festival participants and spring concert. Suitable Concert attire may include the following:

- Black dress pants, black dress shirt, long black socks and black dress shoes for boys
- Ladies may wear the same or a black dress or skirt below the knee. Any shoes are fine as long as they are neutral or dark colored.
- NO jeans, even black ones.
- NO shorts, even black ones.
- Dark blue is NOT black, please!

We will have three band events which do not require eligibility. Dates and Info forthcoming.

- Skate party at Thunderbird Roller Rink - chaperoned by directors
- 7th grade Family night at Main Event or Pinstack - this event is for us to meet families and have fun. Not chaperoned by directors.
- 8th grade Family night at Main Event or Pinstack - this event is for us to meet families and have fun. Not chaperoned by directors.

Band Auditions for 7th Grade for 2019-2020 School Year

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5. **Smart Music Test** - Students will be given four tests from music provided by directors at their campus. These tests will NOT be graded by a band director but by Smart Music which is a computer based software system that grades them automatically. We encourage you to get the smart music software system thru Smartmusic.com so your child can practice. Please see the dates and tests below. Some dates may move to a later week if unforeseen circumstances occur. Students who are absent on testing dates will be able to make them up once they return.
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 - B flat Concert scale page
 - October 31
 - E flat Concert scale page
 - One retake of B flat Concert Scale allowed.
 - January 16
 - A flat Concert scale page
 - One retake of A flat Concert Scale allowed
 - February 27
 - F concert scale page
 - One retake of E flat Concert Scale allowed

*Students choosing option 1 will receive a max of 50 points. Option 2 receives a max of 75 points and Option 3 receives a max of 100 points

Final placements will be announced the last week of school. A reminder that none of the auditions are grades that go into the gradebook. Your child's grade does NOT determine placement.

All City and All Region Tryouts

All City and All Region are individual competitions that are very similar in nature.

All City is a band comprised of the top students in band from Curtis, Ereckson and Ford middle school. Students are chosen through an anonymous audition.

All Region is a band comprised of the top students in UIL Region 25. Students are chosen through an anonymous audition.

- Both auditions are a “blind” audition meaning that students will be assigned a letter and tryout in the same room with other students who play their instrument. Judges in the room are unable to see or identify the students by name and only give their assigned letter a score
- Students are then ranked and only a certain number of students per section will qualify
- All City band is comprised of one tryout. Entry fee is \$5
- All Region band is comprised of two tryouts. Entry fee is \$15
- Students may tryout for one or both of these events
- It is HIGHLY recommended that students have a private teacher who can help them with this music. All instruments have different audition music so it will not be taught in class.

Please read below for further specifications

All City Band and All Region Band Music Requirements and Dates

1. Students must learn all seven scales as passed out in class (G, C,F,B flat, E flat, A flat, D flat and chromatic.
2. Students must learn the musical selections that have been selected for this audition
3. Students must pass the proficiency tests below in order to be qualify for tryouts
 - a. **August 23-** B flat and E flat concert scales
 - b. **August 30** - D concert scale and first half of etude 1
 - c. **September 3** - F Concert Scale and measures first half of etude 2
 - d. **September 10** - D flat concert scale and measures first half of etude 3
 - e. **September 20** - G concert scale and measures second half of etude 1
 - f. **September 27** - C concert scale and measures second half of etude 2
 - g. **October 4** - Chromatic scale and second half of etude 3
 - h. **October 11** - A flat concert scale

*We will host a play-a-thon one day for all instruments and a mock audition on another date preceding the audition. Those will be announced soon!

Solo Festival 7th and 8th Grade

Solo festival is an individual display of a students soloistic talents on their instrument.

- Students will perform alone with a smart music piano accompaniment in front of a judge by themselves
- The judge will listen and watch the student and give them a rating based on the musical maturity and skill demonstrated. Students will receive their rating and comment sheet the following school day
- Students should be on private lessons from the start of the school year to prepare for this event.
- Music will be chosen by the private teacher, pending approval of band directors
- Cost is \$6 with entry form which will be provided at a later date
- This event will take place on Saturday, May 2. Specifics TBA
- Students should wear their concert black for this event
- Students will be pre-screened by band directors. If they are not prepared adequately for this event a director will contact parents.