Flower Mound High School Philosophy of Instrumental Music

Music is a subject which affects all aspects of a student's personality. These include the intellectual, physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual, and the social.

Instrumental music teaches the appreciation of music as an art form. It engages students in a group activity, which allows them to use their free time constructively. Instrumental music creates in students a sense of cultural awareness as well as an aesthetic awareness of life. It instills proper values among which are: responsibility, seriousness of purpose, devotion to duty, spirit of cooperation and sensitivity to beauty. Studying music develops proper work habits through the academic self-discipline of its curriculum and a daily practice routine. It develops the ability of self-expression and develops intelligent listening skills, which foster greater communication. Instrumental Music provides the proper vehicle for the support of the school's Athletic Program, which helps to establish a positive and enthusiastic school spirit. Through cooperation by parents, students, and the Lewisville Independent School District, our program is designed to be world class and to meet the needs of all students.

Discipline, Commitment to Excellence, and Pride

Every part of your participation in the FMHS Band must contain these three elements. Whether practicing your instrument, behaving properly on a trip, or wearing the uniform representing Flower Mound High School, these three elements are our backbone and will create the foundation of the Jaguar Band. We believe that external discipline creates self-discipline. Pride is taking what you do seriously. Pride is enjoying what you do. Pride is having a desire to succeed in what you do. Pride is respecting yourself and others around you. Pride is a state of mind.

Ensembles

The Flower Mound High School Jaguar Band is comprised of four concert ensembles designed to give students a learning experience in music that is commensurate with their experience, musical proficiency, and level of commitment. Participation in band is based on a full year commitment.

All ensembles perform regularly and strive for valuable performance opportunities including UIL Contests. Placement in an ensemble is determined by a competitive audition in the spring. Students may be moved from one ensemble to another during the year at the discretion of the director. **The criterion for placement in our ensembles is the level of proficiency at which the individual student has attained on his/her particular instrument. Students may be reassigned as a reward for exemplary progress, or reasons that may be damaging to the growth and welfare of the ensemble.**

The ***Wind Symphony*** is considered the first performing ensemble in the band program and is open to students in all four grades. In order to be a member of this group, a student must demonstrate the highest level of musical maturity, technical proficiency, and commitment to rehearsal and practice time. A student must seriously pursue individual goals on their instrument as well as working diligently toward ensemble goals. Auditioning for all-region band and playing a solo at the Lewisville I.S.D. solo and ensemble contest is required. Private lessons are strongly encouraged.

The ***Symphonic Band is*** considered the second performing ensemble and is also comprised of students in all four grades. To be a member of this group, a student must demonstrate a high level of musical maturity, technical proficiency, and commitment to rehearsal and practice time. Auditioning for all-region band and playing a solo at the Lewisville I.S.D. solo and ensemble competition is required. Private lessons are strongly encouraged

The ***Concert Band*** is the ability based third ensemble and is comprised of students in all four grades. To be a member of this group, a student must demonstrate musical maturity, technical proficiency, and commitment to rehearsal and practice time. Preparing portions of the all-region band audition music is required. Students in Concert Band will be encouraged to participate in the Lewisville I.S.D. solo and ensemble competition. Private lessons are strongly encouraged.

The ***Varsity Band*** is the ability based fourth band comprised of students in all four grades. To be a member of this group, a student must demonstrate musical maturity, technical proficiency, and commitment to rehearsal and practice time. Preparing portions of the all-region band audition music is not required but strongly encouraged. Students in Varsity Band will be encouraged to participate in the Lewisville I.S.D. solo and ensemble competition. Private lessons are strongly encouraged.

The ***Drum Line*** is a class during the fall semester. This ensemble works together toward competitive festivals. All FMHS percussionists will be a part of this class during the fall semester and then moved to one of the concert bands for the remainder of the year. Percussionists are required to enroll in the band program for the entire year.

The ***Colorguard*** is a class offered during the fall semester. This group works toward competitive festivals and is an important part of the band program. Auditions are in the spring semester and are open to any FMHS student. Due to the special requirements of the colorguard, such as instruction and equipment, additional costs are incurred.

The ***Marching Band*** is an ensemble composed of the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Varsity Band, Drumline, and Colorguard. **Participation in the marching band is required for all members in the band program.** Students participating in an activity with a direct time conflict with performance and rehearsal or with medical reasons will be excused from the Marching Band. P.E. credit is awarded to members who successfully complete the requirements of Marching Band.

The marching band is one of the largest organizations in the school. Numbers continually change from year to year. We generally don't have an accurate representation of enrollment until the fourth week of August. The music that we choose and have arranged and the drill that is written are all affected by these numbers. We would not be a competitive ensemble if we waited until the fourth week of August to write the music and arrange the drill. Consequently, we have two marching bands. The Competition Band and the Jaguar Band. The Competition Band will practice every afternoon, Monday thru Thursday from 4:00 PM-6:00 PM and will compete in UIL and other marching band contests. The Jaguar Band will rehearse Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5:00 – 7:00, Friday morning from 7:15-7:45 and will perform during halftime of every football game. All students will perform at every football halftime throughout the year. It is our intent to provide all students the appropriate educational opportunity to succeed and ensures that everyone can participate.

Challenges occur on a weekly basis. If a student wishes to challenge they can fill out a challenge form and turn it into one of the band directors before the end of Wednesday morning rehearsal. The final challenge will occur the last week of September.

The ***Winterguard*** is an extra-curricular ensemble that meets in the Spring Semester. This group works toward competitive festivals and is an important part of the entire program. Auditions are in the fall semester and are open to any FMHS student. Due to the special requirements of the winterguard, such as instruction and equipment, additional costs are incurred.

The ***Jazz Band*** is an extra-curricular ensemble that is composed of players from all of the concert bands. Auditions are required for membership. Rehearsals will begin after the conclusion of the marching band season and will take place before or after school. This ensemble is designed to expose students to the jazz idiom. Students interested in exploring jazz earlier may audition for All Region Jazz. Auditions are Saturday, September 17th at Newman Smith High School. Jazz Clinic and Concert November 15-17.

Behavioral Expectations

The purpose of this discipline plan is to create an environment that enhances learning and performance. This plan is based on the premise that every student has a right to participate in the learning process without interference.

The following are general expectations:

1. Students are expected to adhere to the Flower Mound High School "Student Code of Conduct" as well as the LISD "Extracurricular code of Conduct."
2. Students are expected to participate in band activities with a supportive and positive spirit.
3. Students are expected to treat all directors, instructors and clinicians with courtesy and respect and to respond to instruction with a positive attitude.
4. Negatively charged verbal or nonverbal actions are considered inappropriate. This includes the internet (my space, email, IM, etc.). Students are expected to maintain a mature level of behavior at all times while representing the Flower Mound High School Band.
5. Each student is expected to be in class, in the rehearsal setting, or present for travel or performances on time and with the correct equipment and materials.
6. Gum, candy, drinks and other food are not ever permitted in the band areas. Students are expected to help maintain a clean environment in facilitates and during trips.
7. Rough-housing and horseplay of any form are prohibited.
8. Students should refrain from public displays of affection.
9. Any form of hazing is prohibited. This includes: degrading language, inappropriate language, obscene gestures, etc.

Lettering

Each year students will have an opportunity to earn a letter in band. In order to letter in band, a student must meet the lettering criterion established by the Lewisville Independent School District. The criterion for lettering is based on a point system. The lettering system is new for the 2011-2012 school year.

Class of 2012 will be grandfathered.

Letter jacket fitting will be August 31st at 7AM in the Flower Mound High School Auditorium Foyer.

LISD BAND, CHOIR, AND ORCHESTRA
POLICY for EARNING A LETTER

A student must earn 10 points in a school year to letter. Points are awarded for the following:

4 pts. – Region Band, Orchestra, or Choir
3 pts. – Area Band, Orchestra, or Choir
2 pts. – All State Band, Orchestra, or Choir
2 pts. – First Division on Class Two Solo at **LISD** Solo and Ensemble Contest
2 pts. – First Division on Class Two Ensemble at **LISD** Solo and Ensemble Contest
3 pts. – First Division on Class One Solo at **LISD** Solo and Ensemble Contest
3 pts. – First Division on Class One Ensemble at **LISD** Solo and Ensemble Contest
2 pts. – **Member in good standing, awarded at the end of each year and will carry over

*** Member in good standing is determined by participation in all UIL activities and in all events required for that organization. Excused absences will be determined by the Directors and would only include personal illness and bereavement.

Beginning of year point values:

9th Grade	0 pts
10th Grade	2 pts earned from member in good standing from 9th grade
11th Grade	4 pts earned form member in good standing from 9th and 10th grade
12th Grade	6 pts earned from member in good standing from 9th, 10th, and 11th grade

Jackets will be measured only on the 3rd week of school and distributed in early November. Seniors earning 10 points during their senior year will be measured whenever they achieve the 10 points. Students must be a current member of the organization to measure and receive letter jackets.

The UIL Constitution and Contest Rules allow these awards as stated in the following section:
Subchapter O: Section 480: LIMITATION OF AWARDS

1. Awards Schools May Give.

A participant school or member school district may give an award not to exceed $70 in value to a student during that student's high school enrollment at the same school for participation in UIL interschool competition(s) listed in Section 380. Each year a participant school or member school district may give one additional award per student per interschool activity listed in Section 380, not to exceed $10 each. Schools shall not give the same student both the major and minor awards for the same activity during the same school year.

Each campus director must ensure that a student does not receive more that one major award (i.e., letter jacket in band and athletics).

FUNDING: Fine Arts Office will fund letter jackets (basic jacket only) and S & E patches.
Bill Watson
Director of Fine Arts

Attendance

Due to the participatory nature of band, attendance is required for all rehearsals and performances. All absences must be approved in advance (**24 hours** for a rehearsal, **two weeks** for a performance). Absences will be excused by the same criteria established by Flower Mound High School attendance policy. Absences outside school policy may be excused at the discretion of a director provided a written request by parent or guardian has been submitted and has been approved in advance. **Missing any marching band rehearsal with an unexcused absence, or missing any marching band rehearsal with an excused absence and not giving advance notice, may result in the student being reassigned to a different role in rehearsal and performance. Having an unexcused absence for a performance may result in the student being reassigned to a different role in rehearsal and performance. Missing the morning rehearsal the day of a game (excused or unexcused) or not arriving by 7:30 AM will result in the student not marching in the half time performance at that night's football game.**

Please understand that the quality of our program is in direct proportion to our attendance. You cannot learn if you're not present. Being absent also hurts everyone around you. In band, every single person plays a vital roll as a link in our chain; consequently, when a link is missing the chain breaks.
Conflicts with school activities will happen and will be worked out providing both sides give in order to make the situation work. Medical and dental appointments are to be scheduled around band activities whenever possible. Clubs, organizations, tutorials, and make up exams are to be done outside of marching band rehearsals.

Punctuality is essential for all rehearsals and performances. **To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late.**

Grading

Grades are based on the student's ability to prepare playing assignments punctually and correctly. Each class will follow a syllabus for each 9-week grading period. Grades will consist of the following percentages: 25% pass off and appropriate preparation of music **skills**, 25% **participation**, 25% **fundamentals**, and 25% **performance**.

Supplies

Each student is required to have his or her own copy of music, pencil and breathing tube for each rehearsal. Students are required to have sunglasses and water at each afternoon rehearsal. For the afternoon rehearsals it is strongly recommended that students wear a light colored t-shirt. A dinner or snack is strongly recommended. Having an appropriate amount of fluids is an absolute must. Students attending afternoon rehearsals without appropriate attire (tennis shoes, shorts and light colored shirt) will not be able to participate and will have their role in the marching band revaluated.

Practicing

All band students are expected to practice an average of thirty minutes a day or four hours per week. **Instruments are not to be left in the band hall overnight.** Take them home and practice. Band placement, part assignments and grades will be determined on the student's ability to prepare the assigned parts in a timely manner.

All Region Band

The all region band audition is a contest designed to improve the individual playing level of the student. Students are ranked competitively against students from the other 5A high schools in Region 24. Students are responsible for entry fees. Phase I auditions will be held on Tuesday, November 29th at Grapevine High School. Phase II and 9th grade auditions will be held on Saturday, December 3rd at Colleyville Heritage High School. The clinic and concert are January 19th and 20th. Transportation will be provided. This contest is part of the Lettering process. Once a student has entered this contest, they are expected to complete the **audition** and the **performance**. Failure to do so will be considered an unexcused absence from a performance and the student will receive a zero for his or her grade in this activity. Area band auditions are January, 7th at Abilene Christian University. The TMEA All State clinic and concerts will be February 8th-11th.

Solo and Ensemble

Solo and Ensemble is a contest designed to improve the individual and small group performance level. The rating for this contest is not competitive, but based on a performance standard. This contest will be held on February 25th at Flower Mound High School. Students are responsible for entry fees and will be required to use an accompanist if playing a solo. The band department, at a reasonable cost, will provide accompanists to the student. The student may elect to use an accompanist of their choice. Detailed information will be distributed in January. This contest is part of the Lettering process. Once a student has entered this contest, they are expected to complete the performance. Failure to do so will be considered an unexcused absence from a performance and the student will receive a zero for his or her grade in this activity.

Instruments

Each student will be expected to have his or her own instrument. Some students play school-owned instruments and are expected to care for them as if they owned that instrument. **No student is allowed to play another student's instrument other than his or her own unless given specific permission by a director**! **Only percussionists are allowed to play on the percussion equipment.** No exceptions. All instruments are to be stored properly in their case in the designated slot. Percussion instruments may not leave the building unless a band director has given permission. Students that play a school-owned instrument will be required to pay an **$80.00** yearly maintenance fee. This is an LISD policy. The maintenance fee is used to pay for routine maintenance on the instrument. Any damage other than that caused by normal usage will be assessed to the student. This fee and the instrument form included at the end of this handbook are due on September 16th. Checks need to be made to LISD and not FMHS Band.

You are expected to have your instrument in working order and all necessary equipment at all rehearsals and performances. **If your instrument needs repair, check with a band director before you take it to the repair shop.** Music & Arts Centers is one of the district approved repair options. Their address is The Shops at Vista Ridge, 500 E. FM 3040, Suite 121, Lewisville, TX 75067.

Music

Music will be issued to each student. All students must write his or her name (in pencil) in the upper right hand corner of every page of music. All music is to be kept in a folder or flip folder at all times. All original parts will be returned to the FMHS Band library. Any music that is lost or damaged will be replaced at the student's expense. If music is lost students may sign up for additional copies on the band library door.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are **strongly encouraged** of all band students. By improving all of the individuals in the band through private instruction, the overall quality of the entire program will continue to improve. Students studying privately take a 1/2 hour lesson per week. Private teachers are interviewed, auditioned and provided and do all teaching at the FMHS campus. Each 1/2 hour lesson costs $18.00.

The band directors award scholarships on a need basis. To be considered, the student should meet privately with Mr. Myers. Scholarships are available for students studying with approved teachers at FMHS.

Band Hall

The band hall is your band hall. Treat it as your own - with pride and the highest level of upkeep. Please understand that we have 300+ people that operate in this small area on a daily basis so we must have strict policies.

The band hall is to be kept clean at all times. There is to be **absolutely no food, gum, or drink** at any time in the band hall. Band detentions will be given for infractions to this rule. If this becomes a continual problem, the student's standing in the band program will be evaluated with a parent or guardian and a principal.

The chairs in the band hall are for sitting only. You are to sit properly in the chair with all four feet of the chair on the floor. Music stands are for holding music only. They are not desks. Any student found to be misusing any band hall equipment would face disciplinary action. These rules are enforced for your safety. Music stands are to be stored in the performing arts hallway. Chairs are to be stacked in groups of eight in between the Clarinet cubbies and the right edge of the dry erase board.

You will be assigned a locker for your instrument at the beginning of each year. You are to use that locker only. Your instrument, music, and flip folder are to be kept in the locker. Other seasonal items such as marching shoes may be kept in the locker only when needed. The lockers are to be kept trash free and in neat order. Books may be kept in lockers during the student's band class only. A student is not to use another person's locker or anything in another person's locker without a band director's consent. Security of lockers can only be guaranteed when they are locked.

Students are not to enter the band hall unless it is their assigned band class. This means all materials and lunches for other class periods must be taken with you at the end of you assigned band period.

After each marching band performance, all hangers, clothes, and trash are to be removed from the band hall. This is your job, not the janitors or directors. **Any clothes, books, or other items left in the band hall overnight are not the responsibility of the band directors and will be removed from the band hall and donated to charity.**

Section Rehearsals

All concert bands will have section rehearsals beginning in the fall and continuing to the end of UIL Contest in April. Sectionals are mandatory! Each student will only be required one hour a week for his or her sectional. Sectionals count as a rehearsal and are an extension of the school day; consequently the LISD attendance policy is in effect. **Missing a sectional with an unexcused absence, or missing any sectional with an excused absence and not giving advance notice will result in lowering the student's grade for the grading period.**

Rehearsal Conduct

In order to have a successful band program, we must use every minute of rehearsal time wisely. Rehearsals will begin promptly after the tardy bell. At this time you must be in your seat and have your instrument warmed up and ready to play. Each time a student is tardy to class, FMHS tardy policy will be strictly enforced.

Rehearsals are expected to be quiet. If it is marching band or concert band, when a director stops the band there is to be ***no talking!*** If a student has trouble being quiet in rehearsal, disciplinary action will be taken. Every student is expected to have a pencil on his or her stand at all times. Marking music helps to learn faster and increases productivity.

Concert Etiquette

All students are expected to stay for the length of the entire concert. Listen and be supportive of all of the groups in the band program. Please do not walk around or talk during ***any*** performance. You are to stay seated and quiet when a group is performing. Please enter or leave the auditorium only between pieces or after the group has finished. We ask that everyone cooperate in this important matter.

Pep Rallies

Pep rallies are **required** performances. All band students must participate in all pep rallies unless a director has given specific permission. When the band plays, all brass players are to stand while woodwind players remain seated. Your behavior in the pep rally is to be the same as your behavior at a football game - exemplary of what the FMHS Band stands for - Excellence.

Football Games

Football games are required performances. Please review the section entitled "Attendance." Each football game will begin with Inspection in the cafeteria. Being late to Inspection will result in being assigned to stay after the game for band hall service. **The band begins its performance the moment the drum majors call you to attention and the performance is not completed until you are dismissed from the band hall after the game.**

Everyone will participate in the performance at a football game. **Everyone** will participate in pregame and halftime provided all requirements have been made during that week's rehearsal.

Make-up, fingernail polish and jewelry of any kind are prohibited at all football games and marching contests. This means no watches; earrings, etc. are to be worn by any student unless it is a part of the performance uniform. **Long hair must be tied back and off of collar at all times. For performances, hair must be tucked in hat.**

Stands Behavior

Behaving appropriately in the stands is essential in order to give an outstanding performance.

- Each band member is to remain in their assigned seat during the entire game unless given specific permission from a band director, drum major, or section leader.
- Hats and gloves are removed **after** "at ease" is given in the first and third quarter.
- All other uniform parts are to stay intact, including collars fastened, unless specific permission is given from a band director.
- Only organized playing is allowed. No spontaneous jam sessions.
- You may only play your written part for a particular piece of music.
- You may drink water only in the stands. The Band Booster Club will provide water during the game.
- You will be dismissed from **FMHS** after every away game and from the bleachers after home games. You may not leave before the game is over.

Bus Travel

Due to our extensive amount of travel, proper behavior on a bus is mandatory. Always be courteous to drivers, chaperones and other passengers. Loud, abusive, or otherwise rude behavior will not be tolerated. Do not get out of your seat for any reason while the bus is in motion. **Reminder: you must stay in full uniform unless you have permission from a director.** Students must follow LISD rules when traveling with the band.

Uniforms

Each student will be issued a uniform for marching band. The uniforms are to be returned in the condition that they were issued. **Students will be charged replacement cost of uniforms that are damaged or lost.**

Costs for damaged or lost uniform parts

Coat	$240	Hat	$60
Pants	$133	Hat Box	$12
Baldric	$32	Plume	$16
Cape	$53	Garment Bag	$12
Rain Poncho	$8		

The uniform has snaps which can assure the proper length; pants hang straight with **no break. Do not cut any material off of the uniform! If material has been cut off, the student will be assessed the replacement cost for that garment.**

When the uniform is not in use, it must be hung up properly. Any uniform that is stored in a different way will be taken up and the student may be responsible for dry cleaning the uniform. Disciplinary action will also result.

Students must remain in full uniform at all times unless a director gives permission to get out of uniform. In uniform means ***all parts*** are properly worn and fastened (this procedure will be demonstrated in detail prior to the first performance). The uniforms are to be clean and ready for each performance. The uniforms will be cleaned two times a year as part of the band fee. The band department will handle this through specific cleaners. **Students are not to clean the uniforms individually unless told by a director.** This is vital to the longevity of the uniform. **There is to be absolutely no eating, drinking (other than water), or gum chewing in uniform.** Students will be given water during games. Water is the only thing to be consumed while in uniform. The uniforms are very expensive and must last eight years.

Student Leaders

The FMHS band offers numerous opportunities for students to hold leadership positions. These offices enable the students to develop their individual skills as well as contribute to the quality of the band program. Student leaders are an invaluable asset to this program. Leadership roles include: drum major, and section leader.

Awards Banquet

Each year an awards banquet will be held to recognize individual and group achievements of the FMHS band. The band boosters will pay for the cost of the student's meal. Family members and guests will be charged a nominal fee. Please plan to attend, as this is a special evening for our students at the end of each school year.

Eight-Hour Rule

All UIL activities are required to consent forms on file for every member of the organization. The eight hour consent form is included in this packet for your perusal and signature. Please consult the following link for more information: http://www.uiltexas.org/music/marching-band/eight-hour-marching-band-rule-qa. If you have further questions or concerns please contact Mr. Myers. Please submit this form by Friday, August 26th. This form is available on the FMHSBand.org website.

Extracurricular Code of Conduct

The LISD School Board has adopted a district wide Extracurricular Code of Conduct. Each student is required to submit this completed form before participating in any contests. Please submit this form by Friday, August 26th. This form is available on the FMHSBand.org website.

Wind Instrument Maintenance

I, _____, have
Name of Student

received one _____, belonging to Flower Mound High School and the Lewisville ISD. I hereby agree to give it the very best of care, and I understand that my parents are to assume the financial responsibility of repairing or replacing the instrument should it become damaged, lost, or stolen.

Please document any scratches, dents, or other markings on the instrument or the instrument case on the back of this form.

BRAND OF INSTRUMENT: _____

SERIAL NUMBER: _____

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

PARENTAL ENDORSEMENT

I acknowledge my responsibility in the care of the _____
Name of Instrument

loaned to _____ by Flower Mound High School. I
Name of Student
will see that the above-mentioned instrument is given the best of care and will assume the responsibility of keeping it safe and be responsible for any damage outside of normal use. I will assume responsibility for repairing the instrument for repairs caused by misuse or carelessness. I will assume the financial responsibility for replacing the instrument should it become lost or stolen.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

Please sign and return with payment of $80.00 by Friday, September 16, 2011. Make checks payable to <u>Lewisville Independent School District</u>.

This is a LISD fee and should not be written to FMHS Band Boosters.

Instrument Condition

Case:

Neck/Leadpipe:

Body:

Bell:

Mouthpiece (woodwind):

Pads (woodwind):

Valve section (brass):

Slides (brass):

Other:

Student Signature:_____

Director Signature:_____

Percussion Maintenance

I, _____, am a percussionist and will be responsible for all percussion equipment that I utilize belonging to Flower Mound High School and the Lewisville ISD. I hereby agree to give it the very best of care, and I understand that my parents are to assume the financial responsibility of repairing or replacing the instrument should it become damaged, lost, or stolen while under my care.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

PARENTAL ENDORSEMENT

I acknowledge my responsibility in the care of the percussion equipment at Flower Mound High School. I will assume responsibility for repairing the instrument for repairs caused by misuse or carelessness. I will assume the financial responsibility for replacing the instrument should it become lost or stolen while under our care.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

Please sign and return with payment of $80.00 by Friday, September 16, 2011. Make checks payable to <u>Lewisville Independent School District</u>.

This is a LISD fee and should not be written to FMHS Band Boosters.

***The fee is used by LISD for the annual maintenance of all Flower Mound High School percussion equipment.**

Handbook Signature Form

I have read the 2011-2012 FMHS Band Handbook and understand all rules and policies.

Parent Signature _____Date _____

Student printed name _____

Student Signature _____Date _____

- Please turn in all forms by Friday, August 26th.