

Altus Jr. High Band Handbook  
2016-2017



Mr. Hastings: AJH Band Director

## Altus Junior High School

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Dear AJH Band Parents

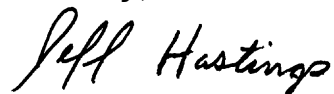
Another school year is upon us, and I am excited to get to work with your son or daughter and having them be a part of a great lasting tradition of the Altus junior high band.

Attached you will find a Jr. High band handbook which includes the course syllabus, and a classroom discipline plan, which I hope not to use this year. Please read over these and familiarize yourself with what it takes to be part of a successful program. Also you will find a schedule of events planned for the Altus junior high band. Our first performance is just a few weeks away. It will take dedication and practice (please help in this area), but I am sure that with your help, we can make a very successful musician out of your child.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding your child's participation this year. Also, if you would like to volunteer to help in any way to make our program a success, please send a note to school with your child. My office phone number for the junior high band is 481-2635.

I look forward to a wonderful year with all of my students and the Altus junior high band!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Hastings".

Jeff Hastings  
AJH Band

## Band Classroom Rules

1. Be Respectful!! This will be the most important rule in my classroom.
2. Be in your assigned seat when the bell rings. Be aware of the attendance and tardy policies found in this handbook as well as the AJH Student Handbook. Wait to be dismissed when the bell rings. Do not just get up and walk out!
3. The music office and practice room are off-limits unless a student has special permission to enter.
4. Be aware of the equipment in the band room. Do not work with any sound equipment or play any instruments, including the piano, unless you have permission from Mr. Hastings
5. Bring a pencil to class everyday! Take care of the music assigned to you.
6. Rehearsal time is important! Refrain from talking without permission. Listen for instructions. Participation in this class is a major part of your grade. This includes being alert, listening to instruction, giving 100%, and most of all having a POSITIVE ATTITUDE! When we are not working on your part aloud, you should hum your part softly, be marking your music or work mentally on mistakes you have made.
7. Be respectful of others and their property. Do not distract; allow others to concentrate. Keep chair legs on the floor. Food, drink, or candy is not allowed in the band room at any time!! Gum chewing is not permitted!!! This room and the things in it belong to the community, not to you personally. Take pride in keeping it in good shape.
8. Have your instrument and all materials needed for that instrument in class everyday.
9. Plan on playing your instrument the whole period every day.
10. Be organized and be prepared.
11. We are a family. Be friendly. Make wise choices.
12. Be enthusiastic! Make a habit of being energetic (not tired) all the time. Focus your attention on the director and encourage each other to do the same.
13. Students will be courteous and responsible to everyone in the classroom!!!!

## Classroom Discipline

**“TEACHERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO TEACH; STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO LEARN!”**

In order to guarantee all the students the excellent learning climate they deserve, I am utilizing this Discipline Plan starting today. I believe all my students can behave appropriately in my classroom. I will tolerate no student stopping me from teaching and/or any student from learning.

Behavior on Trips - All Classroom rules apply while you are on band trips and representing the program/school.

### Consequences:

If a student chooses to break a rule, the consequences are as follows:

- 1st Offense    Verbal warning
- 2nd Offense    Student conference
- 3rd Offense    Detention
- 4th Offense    Parent conference/ Referral to the Office
- 5th Offense    Participation privileges will be revoked

Depending on the severity of the lack of respect I will have the discretion to impart any or all consequences for one offense.

Positive Consequences as a result of adhering to behavior rules.

1. Participation in extracurricular activities
2. Participation at performances.

## Home Practice

Home practice is the single most important part of being a musician. You have to have fun playing your instrument and making music. Once you are given music to learn, prepare it at home and have it ready for class. Other people are counting on you to do your part. Don't let others down just because you don't do your part. Home practice is to learn your part, rehearsals are to learn everyone's parts.

## Eligibility

In order to participate in an extra-curricular activity, you cannot be failing any of your classes. If you are not eligible to participate at contest, you will not be allowed to practice with the band and will be assigned written work. After the contest or the event, you will resume playing your instrument with the class. If you are suspended at any time of the year and/or do not participate at district contest, you may not be allowed to go on any festival or "fun" trips the rest of the year.

## Attendance

Attendance is **REQUIRED** and **EXPECTED** at all class rehearsals, extra rehearsals, and performances. Attendance requirements are not fulfilled until **ALL GROUPS** have completed their performance or until a director states that you may leave. An unexcused absence from a concert or contest will result in a grade of zero for the performance. There may be extra practices required outside of the school day. An unexcused absence from a pre-scheduled rehearsal will result in loss of chair placement. **BE ON TIME!!** In the event of a conflict with another **SCHOOL** activity, the student must bring the conflict to the band director's attention two weeks prior to the scheduled activity. Be responsible! Arrange to have your braces tightened long before a concert or contest. Excuses must be turned in to your director in writing, dated, and signed by a parent or guardian prior to the event being missed. The excuse will be determined by the director whether they will be excused or not. A calendar will be issued to you. Plan around our practices and performances. You will always know the date in advance.

## Rehearsals

Rehearsals are the second most important aspect of learning how to play your instrument. This time is very valuable. Please be prepared for a great rehearsal. Be on time, have all of your music and equipment, and most importantly, have a positive attitude.

## Tardy Policy

Any student coming into the room after the bell rings is tardy. Please refer to your AJH Student Handbook regarding the tardy policy.

- 3 tardies = 1 unexcused absence
- 10 absences = no credit for the class

## Grading Policy

There are 4 types of grades for band.

- 1 Participation grades. Participation grades are given 2 – 3 times a week. This grade is worth 50 points and is based on how much effort is given in class.
- 2 Playing test grades. Each playing test is worth a maximum of 100 points.
- 3 Performance grades. Each performance is worth 200 points.
- 4 9 weeks & semester tests grades. The District band contest in March will count as the 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 weeks test and the Christmas and Spring concert will be counted as the semester tests.

Band is a performance class. Missing a performance will lower your grade. All absences are unexcused unless approved by the band director in advance with a written note given prior to the performance.

## Power of Attorney

Every band member must turn in a Power of Attorney by the end of the 1st week of school. Every student must have a Power of Attorney on file at the Band office in order to participate in the Junior High Band.

## Drug Testing

Every student participating in band must have a drug test prior to participating in activities. This can only be done at school by the company hired by Altus Public Schools.

## Fundraisers

We are not given money to go on trips, have social events, and to have camp scholarships, therefore, all students are expected to help in the fundraisers to offset these expenses. Students and parents are responsible for the items and monies that are ordered and checked out to them. All money for the fundraiser items should be turned in to the band director within one week after the items are delivered to the Jr. high.

## Money Requirements for AJH Band

\$ 13.50	Band Shirt
\$ 35.00	Instrument Maintenance Fee (School Instruments Only)
\$ 10.00	All Region Honor Band Audition Fee
\$ 60.00	Spring Contest Trip (approximate amount)

## Communication

A list of dates for band activities will be passed out the first day of school. Please keep this list and place it on your calendar. Any changes to the date will be given to you as I become aware of them. I will utilize the app. "Remind 101" to notify parents and students of upcoming events. I will also use this app. to let parents know the arrival time of the band when coming home from a trip. It is encouraged for every parent and student to sign up for Mr. Hastings' remind texts.

## Band Performances

Football Pep Band – All Home 8<sup>th</sup> grade football games are required for the Symphonic band. A member of the Concert band may play a test for the band directors to qualify for participation in pep band performances. The concert band will be required to attend the last 8<sup>th</sup> grade home football game.

Honor Band – There will be an audition in November for the All Region Honor Band. If selected, the clinic will be held in February. We will be testing on the audition music in class so you might as well audition for the honor band. You must have your music playable at a competent level or a director will tell you that you cannot audition. You must be grade eligible to participate.

Solo Festival – Participation in the solo festival is required by all band students. It will be held at Altus Jr. High after school in either January or February.

OSSAA District Band Contest – This is held in March and is required by all students. You must be grade eligible to participate.

Spring Trip/Contest – There may be an out-of-town contest at the end of year. This will be a reward for a band who exhibits great attitudes, good behavior, and discipline, and outstanding performances all year. If you are suspended or you do not participate in district or pre-district contests, you will not be allowed to participate.

Performance Dress Code – A band shirt is required to have for all football games and the Spring festival contest. The dress code for the Christmas and Spring concert is; Ladies will need to wear dresses and gentlemen will need to wear an oxford style shirt with a tie, slacks and dress shoes. Color does not matter.

## 2016-2017 Altus Jr. High Band Activity Dates

DATE	EVENT	Report / Start / Conclusion
August 6	Drug Testing @ AHS Cafeteria	8:00 AM (Mandatory)
August 15	Fundraiser Begins	In Class
August 19	\$ 13.00 Due for Band Shirt	In Class
	\$ 10.00 Due for All Region Entry	
August 20	Meet the Bulldog Event (HS FB Field)	6:50 PM / 7:00 PM / 7:45 PM
August 30	FB Game – Sym. Pep Band (JH Field)	4:30 PM / 5:00 PM / 6:45 PM
September 6	FB Game – Sym. Pep Band (JH Field)	4:30 PM / 5:00 PM / 6:45 PM
September 27	FB Game – Sym. Pep Band (HS Field)	4:30 PM / 5:00 PM / 6:45 PM
October 25	FB Game – Sym. Pep Band (HS Field)	4:30 PM / 5:00 PM / 6:45 PM
November 5	All Region Auditions	9:00 AM
December 8	Christmas Concert	6:45 PM / 7:00 PM / 7:45 PM
January 11	Fundraiser Begins	In Class
January 31	Solo Contest	3:15 PM / 3:30 PM / 5:30 PM
February 3 & 4	All Region Clinic	6:15 AM / 8:30 AM / SAT. PM
February 28	District Band Contest (Concert Band)	TBA
March 9	District Band Contest (Symphonic Band)	TBA
March 4	5K Color Run	9:00 AM
April 22	Spring Contest	TBA
May 11	Spring Concert	6:30 PM / 7:00 PM / 7:45 PM



## Handbook Signature Page

This page of the handbook must be signed and turned in prior to the student participating in any activities and/or events. If this page is not signed and turned in by the end of the first grading period, the student will receive an incomplete grade. The grade will be given upon receiving this page.

Please keep this handbook for your reference during the year.

I have read the band guidelines and am fully aware of the expectations and the grading system.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**PARENTS: IF YOU ARE WILLING TO ASSIST IN ANY OF THE AREAS, PLEASE CHECK.**

\_\_\_\_\_ help fill and bring water buckets to the football games

\_\_\_\_\_ assist in the fundraising project (rolling coins, counting and collecting \$\$, etc.)