

Band Handbook

for the
2008-2009

OakRun Middle School



Unicorn Band



Excellence
Tradition
Dedication
Pride

The New Braunfels I.S.D. Band Program, through the dedication of students, parents, community members, administration and band directors both past and present, is a program built on pride and excellence in performance. The OakRun Middle School Band and its directors welcome each student to this department with the hope that each student will strive for excellence both independently and within the band.

New Braunfels Unicorn Band Staff

- Randy Leifeste-- Director of Bands and Director of Music, NBISD
rleifeste@newbraunfels.txed.net
830-627-6187
- Anna Zientek,-- OakRun Head Director, Symphonic Band Director, Beginner Brass Instructor
azientek@newbraunfels.txed.net
830-627-6447
- Amanda Thurber--OakRun Assistant Director, Concert Band Director, Beginner Woodwind Instructor
athurber@newbraunfels.txed.net
830-627-6446
- Brad Arnold,-- NBHS Assistant Director/Percussion, OakRun Percussion Instructor
barnold@newbraunfels.txed.net
830-627-6186
- Ed Gonzales-- NBHS Marching Band Director, Assistant Director
egonzales@newbraunfels.txed.net
830-627-6188
- David Eckert-- Assistant Band Director, NBHS
deckert@newbraunfels.txed.net
830-627-6185
- Clay Zientek-- Head Director, NBMS
czientek@newbraunfels.txed.net
830-627-6289
- Dolores Jimenez-- Assistant Band Director, NBMS
djimenez@newbraunfels.txed.net
830-627-6291
- Melissa Townsend--Assistant Band Director, NBMS
mtownsend@newbraunfels.txed.net
830-627-6290

Table of Contents

Band Hall Rules and Consequences	1
Band Supplies	2
Band Uniform	3
Band Descriptions	4
Performances and Extra Rehearsals	5
Conduct at Co-Curricular and extracurricular Events	5
Trip Procedures	5
Forms and Fundraisers	6
Band Equipment	7
Instrument Repair	7
District-Assessed Fees	8
Transporting Instruments	9
Instrument Storage	10
Grading and Assessments	10
Auditions	10
Twirlers	10
Private Lessons	10
Communication	11

BAND HALL RULES

1. Treat others as you would like to be treated.
2. Have all supplies in class daily.
3. Be in your seat before the tardy bell rings.
4. Students must become silent when the bell rings for class to begin.
5. Do not touch another person's instrument.
6. Defacing school property such as stands, chairs, or walls is vandalism, and will be treated as such.
7. "HORSE PLAY" will not be allowed (example: running, hitting, shoving).
8. **Only** band students are allowed in the band hall.
9. OakRun Student Handbook and dress code shall be followed.
10. No food or drink in band hall unless permission is given by a band director.
11. GUM? NO.
12. Theft will not be tolerated. Punishment, which can include removal from band, will be assessed by the nature of the theft.

OAKRUN BAND CONSEQUENCES

All band members are expected to abide by both school and band hall rules. However, if a student chooses to not practice these rules, one or more of the following can occur:

1. Verbal Warning
2. Alternate/Written Assignment
3. Teacher/Student Conference
4. Phone Call to Parents/Guardians
5. After-School Detention
6. Referral to Principal
7. Removal from band

SUPPLIES

Students will need to have their supplies DAILY for band. Students/Parents will need to replenish supplies such as reeds, slide grease, and valve oil as needed.

Beginning Band Supplies***

Instrument

Instrument Supplies (on recommended list)

Ed Sueta Book Band Method Book 1

*Pocket Folder with brads

*Loose Leaf Paper (20 sheets only)

*Pencil--Mechanical pencil **NOT** Recommended.

1 Box Kleenex (This box is in addition to the box on the school supplies list)

*These items are on School supply list.

***All band supplies will remain in the band hall in the students' assigned storage compartment, with the exception of Kleenex, which will be collected by the band directors and distributed as needed.

Concert Band Supplies

Instrument

Instrument Supplies (On recommended list)

Pencil

Foundations For Superior Performance (Book for your instrument)

by: Richard Williams and Jeff King

1 Box Kleenex (This box is in addition to the box on your school supplies list)

Symphonic Band Supplies

Instrument

Instrument Supplies (On recommended list)

Pencil

Foundations For Superior Performance (Book for your instrument)

by: Richard Williams and Jeff King

1 Box Kleenex (This box is in addition to the box on your school supplies list)

UNIFORM

Beginning Band Uniform

The following uniform should be worn at all band functions, including concerts and band picture:

****Band Polo Shirt**(tucked in)
Long Blue Jeans(No patches, designs, or “baggy” jeans; no shorts/Capri's)
Tennis Shoes (Sports Shoes)

Students will wear a **required band polo shirt that is to be worn for all formal and informal events.

Band polo shirts are to be purchased from the ORMS Band Directors. The same band polo can be worn for all years in the OakRun Band.

Concert and Symphonic Band Uniforms

Concert and Symphonic Band students will need two different uniforms:

1. **Band Concerts and Contests (“Formal Events”)**
****Band Polo Shirt** (tucked in)
Long Black Pants
Black Belt, if needed
Black Closed-toe shoes (Shoes must be all black dress-type shoes)
Black Socks--Long enough to hide ankle/leg when sitting.
2. **Parades/Pep Rallies (“Informal Events”)**
****Band Polo Shirt** (tucked in)
Long Blue Jeans(No patches, designs, or “baggy” jeans; no shorts/Capri's)
Belt, if needed.
Tennis Shoes (Sports Shoes)
White Socks (Long or short okay)

Students will wear a **required band polo shirt that is to be worn for all formal and informal events.

Band polo shirts are to be purchased from the ORMS Band Directors. The same band polo can be worn for all years in the OakRun Band.

OakRun Middle School Bands

OakRun Middle School currently has three bands: Beginning Band, Concert Band, and Symphonic Band. Beginning band students are placed on instruments at the end of their 5th grade year, and then are placed in like-instrument classes for their beginning band experience.

Beginning Band students will be combined to have 2 concerts throughout the year. Most class time is spent on learning to play the instrument with good posture and hand position, good tone quality, basic music theory, and technical skills that are appropriate for the level of a beginning musician.

Students are placed in Concert and Symphonic Bands through auditions in the Spring for the following school year. The students will perform prepared scales, etudes, counting, and sight-reading. Students may move from band to band as deemed necessary or appropriate. The Concert and Symphonic Bands provide for a wide range of playing abilities and time commitment. With team teaching, students will have the opportunity to experience full band, sectionals, and individual attention. All band classes meet daily for 45 to 50 minutes.

Non-Beginning Bands usually consist of a certain number of students who play Flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, french horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, and percussion. Requirements for the OakRun Symphonic and Concert Bands are listed below:

Symphonic Band:

- Students in this band will march as part of the OakRun Middle School Band in the Comal County Fair Parade.
- Students in this band will be required to attend and perform in all concerts of the OakRun Middle School Symphonic Band.
- Students in this band will compete in the UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest.
- Students in this band will be expected to attend once-per-week sectionals, (before or after school hours--times to be determined later), beginning in January and carrying through UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest.
- Some students may audition for the Comal County Middle School Honor Band.
- Students may have the opportunity to participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest.
- Students in this band will march with the OakRun Middle School Band in the Kindermasken Parade in the spring.
- Students in this band must be eligible according to UIL rules in order to participate in UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest, Comal County Middle School Honor Band., and Solo and Ensemble Contest.
- Students in this band are highly encouraged to take private lessons on their instruments.

Concert Band:

- Students in this band will march as part of the OakRun Middle School Band in the Comal County Fair Parade.
- Students in this band will be required to attend and perform in all concerts of the OakRun Middle School Concert Band.
- Students may have the opportunity to participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest and the Comal County Middle School Honor Band..
- Students in this band will march with the OakRun Middle School Band in the Kindermasken Parade in the spring.
- Students in this band must be eligible according to UIL rules in order to participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest and the Comal County Middle School Honor Band..
- Students in this band are highly encouraged to take private lessons on their instruments.

Performances and Extra Rehearsals

An integral part of the band curriculum includes performances as part of the learning process in the performing arts. Students are therefore expected to participate in all performances of the OakRun Band. Illness of the student or death in the family will be considered an excused absence.

Performance Schedule

- September 26, 2008-** Comal County Fair Parade (downtown New Braunfels--Symphonic and Concert Bands only)
- November 15, 2008-** Comal County Middle School Honor Band Auditions @NBMS (Selected 7th grade students)
- December 6, 2008-** Comal County Middle School Honor Band Concert @ Canyon Lake High School (only students who were selected to perform at November 15 auditions will attend)
- December 11, 2008-** OakRun Beginner Band, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band Holiday Concert @ OakRun; 6:45 pm (all bands)
- March 10, 2009-** OakRun Pre-UIL Concert at NBHS (Symphonic Band only)
- April 1, 2009-** UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest at Steele High School, Cibolo, Texas (Symphonic band only)
- April 18, 2009-** Kindermasken Parade (downtown New Braunfels--Symphonic and Concert Bands only)
- April, 2009-** Auditions for OakRun Wind Band, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band begin
- May 14, 2009-** OakRun Beginner Band, Symphonic Band and Concert Band Spring Concert @ OakRun; 7 pm (all bands)

Other OakRun Band Activities

January-March 30: One day per week required sectionals (Symphonic band)

Possible pep rallies throughout the year (Symphonic band)

Possible Solo and Ensemble Contest (Beginning, Concert and Symphonic Bands)

Fine Arts Night

Above Dates are tentative.

CONDUCT AT CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRACURRICULAR EVENTS

Band members will be expected to follow all school rules when participating as a group or individually. Students are expected to represent themselves, OakRun Middle School, the community, and the Unicorn Band program in a manner that is a positive reflection of the organization. Offensive or abusive language is prohibited. Misbehavior is not the correct manner in which to bring attention to the band program or NBISD and will not be tolerated.

TRIP PROCEDURES

The OakRun Middle School Band has many opportunities for performances, including the Comal County Fair Parade, Solo and Ensemble Contest, UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest, Comal County Middle School Honor Band. Auditions, concerts, and other various events throughout the year. On all trips, band members will:

1. Conduct themselves at all times in a manner that will reflect positively on the OakRun Middle School Band and OakRun Middle School.
2. Remain on busses until told to do otherwise when first arriving at a site.
3. Students who will return from a trip with their parents should bring a note signed by the parent or guardian at least one day prior to the trip. Before the student leaves, the parent must sign out with a band director. In an emergency, a parent may submit a note and sign the child out at the same time.
4. Student Code of Conduct shall be followed.

FORMS AND FUNDRAISER

PARENT PERMISSION FORM (Concert and Symphonic Bands)

The parent Permission Form is a consent form which allows students to attend all OakRun Band activities sponsored by OakRun Middle School. This form is a blanket form for all OakRun Middle School Band activities. All Concert and Symphonic Band students must return this form completed. Any transportation to be provided will be by the New Braunfels Independent School District.

DRUG TEST FORM (Students in Grade 7)

Students in grades 7 through 12, who are in any courses such as band, choir, or athletics, are required by the school district to submit to a random drug test. SEE District Student Code of conduct for more information.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENT USE /FEE FORM (For students who play oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, french horn, euphonium, tuba, sousaphone, and percussion)

Students who play a school owned instrument will be required to have a parent signature on the school owned instrument use and fee form. It is important for students in Concert and Symphonic Bands to turn in their school owned instrument forms and fees by the end of the second week of school. Beginning students will need to turn in their forms by the end of the second week of school, and the use fee by the end of the first six of weeks.

STUDENT DATA FORM (All OakRun Band Students)

Most information on this form will be completed when it arrives home. The student data card will contain important information on it. Besides name, address, and phone numbers at which parents can be reached, it will also include the student's instrument, brand, model, and serial number. If there are any corrections to be made, please do so. Both the parent/guardian and the student should sign and date the form and return it as soon as possible.

PRIVATE LESSON FORM (All OakRun Band Students)

See "PRIVATE LESSON" paragraph on page 10 for more information regarding private lessons. This form does not sign your child up for private lessons, but we will give the information on the form to a private lesson teacher who will call you and discuss private lesson information with you.

INSTRUMENT INSURANCE FORM (All OakRun Band Students)

The Music Agency is a musical instrument insurance agency that provides insurance coverage for student instruments for a fee. This form is being sent to you simply as an option. Many parents carry a rider on their homeowner's insurance for both privately owned instruments and school owned instruments.

FUNDRAISING

The OakRun Middle School Band will be having at least one fundraiser. Money collected will go to purchase needed equipment to help build our new 7TH and 8th grade band program!.

BAND EQUIPMENT

In order to best take care of an instrument, a student should never allow another person to handle or play the instrument. Never leave the instrument unattended. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE for your instrument.

Beginner students will begin to bring instruments home only after they have been taught proper instrument care and maintenance.

Student/Parent-Owned Instruments

- ◇ Students will be expected to be responsible in the care of the instrument that has been purchased/loaned for them.
- ◇ OakRun Middle School cannot be responsible for equipment lost or stolen at school.
- ◇ Instruments must be stored and transported from site to site in its case.

School-Owned Instruments

- ◇ Some of the more expensive and larger instruments may be checked out through the school. Students are expected to be responsible in the care of the instrument checked out to them. Every effort has been made to provide the student with an instrument in the best possible condition. It is the student's responsibility to take extra precautions and leave it in as good or better condition at the end of the year.
- ◇ The student is required to perform normal maintenance and cleaning of the instrument while it is in his/her possession.
- ◇ Any repair work needed should be brought to the attention of the director as soon as possible.
- ◇ Any abuse the instrument receives will be paid for by the person to whom the instrument has been issued. Students and parents are responsible for instruments lost or stolen when the instrument is in the parent/student's possession (ie., car, home, apartment, parent pickup line at school)
- ◇ Instruments must be stored and transported from site to site in its case.

INSTRUMENT REPAIR

Before taking an instrument to the shop for repair, the student should have the band director examine the instrument. Some minor repairs can be handled by the director.

**NEVER TRY TO REPAIR
AN INSTRUMENT
YOURSELF!!!!**

FEES ASSESSED BY NBISD

District-Owned Instrument Fee

School-owned Wind Instruments (Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba)

Fee amount: \$20.00

Payment due date: Beginners: October 3, 2008; All others: September 12, 2008

Students who participate in the district's instrumental music program and use a district-owned instrument will be charged an instrument fee. The one-time annual fee of \$20.00 will allow the student to use a district-owned instrument during the school year and will be administered as follows:

1. The teachers and directors of each instrumental music program will collect the fee. Checks should be made payable to New Braunfels Independent School District.
2. Fees will not be refunded if a student leaves the district, is injured, fails a class, voluntarily quits or is dismissed from the instrumental music program for any reason.
3. The district-owned music instrument fee will not guarantee a position in a band, concert, or performance, nor will the fee guarantee the student an instrument of his or her choice or the ability to play the instrument.
4. The fee will provide the student the opportunity to participate and no student will be allowed to participate in any concert, performance or presentation until the fee has been paid.
5. **Reduced Rate:** \$5.00
Students who qualify for free or reduced lunches under the National School Lunch Program will have their fee reduced to \$5.00.
6. **Payment Plans:** Payment plans must be approved by the campus principal. Any and all questions should be referred to the band director or principal.

District Percussion Use Fee for OakRun

Fee amount: OakRun Beginning Percussionists: \$10.00; All other percussionists: \$20

Payment due date: Beginners: October 3, 2008; All others: September 12, 2008

Students who participate in the district's instrumental music program and play percussion will be charged an instrument fee for use of district percussion equipment which is used for concerts. See above for the one-time annual fee for OakRun percussionists. It will allow the student to use district-owned percussion equipment during the school year for concerts and other director-sponsored events. It will be administered as follows:

1. The teachers and directors of each instrumental music program will collect the fee. Checks should be made payable to New Braunfels Independent School District.
2. Fees will not be refunded if a student leaves the district, is injured, fails a class, voluntarily quits or is dismissed from the instrumental music program for any reason.
3. The district-owned music instrument fee will not guarantee a position in a band, concert, or performance, nor will the fee guarantee the student an instrument of his or her choice or the ability to play the instrument.
4. The fee will provide the student the opportunity to participate and no student will be allowed to participate in any concert, performance or presentation until the fee has been paid.
5. **Reduced Rate:** \$5.00
Students who qualify for free or reduced lunches under the National School Lunch Program will have their fee reduced to \$5.00.
6. **Payment Plans:** Payment plans must be approved by the campus principal. Any and all questions should be referred to the band director or principal.

TRANSPORTING INSTRUMENTS

Information Regarding Band Instruments on Buses:

Since the bus driver is ultimately responsible for the safe operation of his bus, students must comply with all directions from the bus driver. It must be understood that students do not have a "right" to bring these instruments on the bus. It should be stressed to the students and parents involved that this is a privilege that can be revoked if it becomes a safety issue.

Smaller Instruments

(Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Percussion)

- 1) Instruments should be held in the student's lap or upright between their legs while on the bus. The instrument should never be placed on the floor where it might slide around and it should not block the center aisle. The instrument must not block the driver's line of sight through any window on the bus.
- 2) Students do not have to ask the bus driver for permission to carry these smaller instruments on the bus. However, individual students may lose this privilege if they cause injury to other students as they are getting on or off the bus. As an example, students must be careful so that the instrument case does not hit another student in the head.
- 3) Students may bring these smaller instruments on the bus any day of the week.

Larger Instruments

(Euphoniums and Tubas)

- 1) Students must obtain permission from the bus driver prior to bringing one of these instruments on the bus. (If the bus driver has room on the bus so that the instrument on a seat by itself will not cause overcrowding on the bus, permission will be granted. If placing an instrument on a seat by itself causes other students to sit three to a seat, the bus driver may/will not grant permission for the instrument to be brought on the bus). If permission is granted, the student shall be allowed to bring the instrument on the bus for the trip home and the student will also be permitted to bring the instrument on the bus for the next trip back to school.
- 2) These instruments will not be allowed to block a driver's line of sight through any window and should not block the center aisle. It is suggested that these larger instruments be placed in the seat immediately behind the driver's seat and that the student sit directly behind the seat with the instrument so that the student can keep the instrument from falling forward or out of the seat into the center aisle.
- 3) The student must insure that the instrument case does not cause injury to other students as it is loaded on and unloaded from the bus.
- 4) In order to disrupt the normal routine as little as possible, euphoniums and tubas may only be carried on buses on the afternoon of the last school day of the week and on the morning of the first school day of the week. This will allow band students the opportunity to practice over the weekend or holiday period.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE

- All Oak Run Band Students will use a storage compartment for instrument storage.
- Compartments are not to be shared with any other person unless assigned by a band director, and should be used only to store band equipment and supplies.

Grading and Assessments

Students will receive grades based on daily participation, sectionals, playing and written tests, etc. Students must have equipment in good working order and be present at required rehearsals and performances for their participation grade.

Playing assessments will be determined throughout the year. Students will be assessed on tone quality, posture, hand position, technical skills, solos, and ensemble performances.

AUDITIONS

- In the spring of each year, all band students are required to audition for placement in band classes for the following school year.
- All students will be placed in a band according to their ability, and results will be posted in the band hall upon completion of all auditions.

OAKRUN MIDDLE SCHOOL TWIRLER

- Qualifications to twirl for the NBMS and ORMS Band are: student must be a 7th or 8th grader; student must have had at least one complete year of twirling; student must be taking twirling lessons; student must be enrolled in an ORMS Band.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are not required to be in the OakRun Band. They are, however, highly recommended. One-on-one instruction with an expert on the instrument is invaluable to any student at any level of musical growth. The special attention of steady, private study gives the student a greater confidence and a more thorough understanding of how to play the instrument. Each lesson is 20 or 30 minutes per week and costs between \$12 and \$15. Lessons are generally held at one of the three NBISD secondary campuses.

COMMUNICATION

The OakRun Band has an informative website. The current OakRun Band Calendar, recommended interment list, six weeks synopsis for Beginner band, rental information, and important educational and music business links may be found on this site, along with links to our Middle and High School Bands! Our URL is <http://fc.newbraunfels.txed.net/%7Eazientek/> --or type **OakRun Band** in your search engine!

Directors of the OakRun Band will make every attempt to email parents weekly on what is being taught in class. To be placed on the email list, parents may write their email address on the student data card, or email us with your student's name included in an email to: azientek@newbraunfels.txed.net.

Any parent or student needing to speak with an OakRun Band Director may call directly to the band hall. If unable to reach a band director in person, you may wish to leave a message and the call will be returned as soon as possible. Email is also available.

<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Conference Period</u>	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
<u>Anna Zientek</u>	1:55-2:35 pm	627-6447	azientek@newbraunfels.txed.net
<u>Amanda Thurber</u>	1:55-2:35 pm	627-6446	athurber@newbraunfels.txed.net
<u>Brad Arnold</u>	3:00-3:30 pm	627-6186	barnold@newbraunfels.txed.net