

LOVEJOY

SLOAN CREEK BAND

BEGINNER HANDBOOK



Sloan Creek Intermediate Band
440 Country Club Road
Fairview, TX 75069
Band Office: 469.742.8370

www.lovejoyband.com

DIRECTORS

ELIZABETH ROGERS—OBOES, BASSOONS, SAXOPHONES, TROMBONES, EUPHONIUMS, TUBAS

MARTY BALL—FLUTES, CLARINETS

BRYCE WHITLING—TRUMPETS, FRENCH HORNS

NATHAN LEWIS—PERCUSSION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Student Handbook

3

Sloan Creek Intermediate School Band Beginner Handbook

2

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Welcome

Welcome to the Lovejoy band family! This handbook is designed as a guide for both parents and students to give specific details concerning all aspects of the band program. For any further information, please feel free to email (preferred!), or call the band office at 469.742.8370. The beginning band meets in nine separate 6th grade band classes. These classes are divided into groups of like instruments for specialized instruction on their chosen instrument. Band is considered a full year course, not a one-semester course. Due to yearly staffing commitments and scheduling limitations, students are making a commitment to all the students of the organization to be involved in band for the entire school year. Over the course of the school year, band students will learn techniques and fundamentals on their instrument; preparing them for exciting solo and group performances, high level music opportunities, and future membership in the Willow Springs and Lovejoy High School Band Programs.

Contact, Communication, and CHARMS

If you have any questions concerning the band program, please consult the directors first. All of our band directors travel to multiple schools daily, so the most effective means of communication for us is via email. We will respond as soon as we get the opportunity.

Elizabeth Rogers elizabeth_rogers@lovejoyisd.net

Marty Ball martha_ball@lovejoyisd.net

Bryce Whitling bryce_whitling@lovejoyisd.net

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We have a band website that will have information regarding our activities, events, concerts, as well as helpful links for your student. Check it often as the information will change throughout the year!

www.lovejoyband.com

Supplies

Part of your band fees allow us to purchase the following supplies for your student at the start of the school year. If your students breaks or loses any of the supplies, they will need to be replaced by the student. Classroom supplies are required for band class everyday (unless otherwise marked):

- Black 1 inch 3-ring heavy duty binder including:
 - 8 Tab dividers
 - Pencil Pouch

Students will need to bring the following to school everyday:

- Instrument specific supplies (in the information packet provided at your instrument fitting and through emails)
- At least 3 sharpened pencils to be kept in their pencil pouches

Grading

The three most important things a band student must do are:

1. Practice regularly!
2. Attend required concerts and musical events!
3. Turn in all assignments on time and be organized!

Playing an instrument is a skill that develops with time. Lack of practice and frequent absences will cause a band student to fall behind. Participation is the band experience.

The nine weeks grade is a combination of the grade categories listed below:

Major Grades—70%

- Playing/Written Tests
- Performances and Concerts

Minor Grades—30%

- Material Checks—*Student must have all materials/supplies to fully participate and get the most out of class time each day.*
- Theory and other Written Quizzes
- Playing Assignments

School Owned Instruments

The Lovejoy Independent School District will provide a limited number of instruments for student use. These instruments include such highly expensive instruments as the oboe, bassoon, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, euphonium, tuba, and general percussion equipment. This equipment is generally purchased by the school district for student use because of its extremely high value, thus, all school-owned instruments/equipment must be carefully cared for to maintain the best possible condition. Students failing to care for, or take care of their school-owned instrument will lose the privilege to use such instruments. The following is a list of general procedures for school-owned instruments:

- The instrument usage fee for school-owned instruments is \$100.00 per year.
- All students (including percussionists), who play school-owned instruments will be charged \$100.00 per year. This is a very minimal fee considering that most of the school-owned instruments cost over several thousand dollars each.
- The student and parents are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the equipment.
 - The Lovejoy Independent School District does not provide insurance for individually-owned or school-owned instruments. It is required of all students utilizing school-owned instruments to provide insurance coverage for said instrument. This responsibility will include fire, theft, accidental damage, abuse and general maintenance. You may choose to add the instrument to your homeowner's or renter's insurance, or you can obtain instrument insurance through an individual carrier. There is also a company called Music Agency, Inc., whose sole business is insuring musical instruments. Forms are available at www.musicagencyinc.com if you would like to look into this option.
 - Repairs and adjustments must still be made just like personally-owned instruments at the user's expense.
 - Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition.
 - Each school-owned instrument will be checked and cleaned by a music company prior to issue.
 - The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him or her.
 - All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.

Special note: School-owned instruments are not to be treated as “free” instruments. Basic supplies must still be purchased. Please strive to treat these instruments as if they are your own. Most school-owned instruments exceed at least a \$3,000.00 value. Since the expense of purchasing, leasing or renting is mostly waived, students using school-owned instruments are strongly encouraged to participate in the private lesson program.

Instrument Care and Maintenance

All instruments require regular maintenance to remain in working condition and to prevent the need for extensive repair. Brass and woodwind players must regularly oil valves and grease corks and slides. You will need to buy more slide or cork grease or valve oil as your supply runs low. Reed players always need a supply of at least 4 good reeds. Do not wait until you are on your last reed to buy more! Percussionists are responsible for keeping percussion instruments covered and equipment stored in its designated location. All students are responsible for their music folder and all music and method books. Each student needs to have a pencil at his or her stand during every rehearsal. Please see your band director immediately should you need another copy of your music.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are a vital element in a student's musical life. The opportunity to study privately with a professional musician is one of the most important factors to an individual student's success. These professionals provide detailed, specific, one-on-one instruction, tailored for your child. Private lessons challenge the advanced students and accelerate students who need extra attention. Of the students who make the Texas All State Band, roughly 97% take private lessons! Making this ensemble will almost guarantee a scholarship to a major university.

Most Private Lessons are taught at Sloan Creek, either before, during, or after school, depending on the teacher's schedule. Lessons are 30 minutes, per week, at a cost of \$20 per lesson. The student pays a month in advance, directly to the teacher. If you are not currently taking lessons, please consider doing so! Remember, private lessons are offered as an enrichment activity and are not required. Though optional, **PLEASE CONSIDER PRIVATE LESSONS AS A NECESSARY PART OF THE BAND PROGRAM.**

The Sloan Creek directors will assist band students and parents in scheduling lessons with the qualified teachers; however, we suggest you be aggressive in "locking in" with a teacher as soon as possible. Private lessons are a must for serious band students. Individual instruction from a qualified specialist on an individual musical instrument can make all the difference in a student's progress, thus making for a more enjoyable experience in band. If a family wishes to enroll their child in the program, but may require financial assistance to do so, please email your band director about applying for a scholarship.

The private lesson program is a minimum semester-long commitment, though the expectation in enrollment is for the entire school year.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Prepare** all assignments for each lesson.
2. **Contact** your private teacher at least **24 hours** in advance of an absence. The Instructor will also extend this courtesy to you. 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.
3. **Supply** method books and materials as required by the private teacher and bring pencil and other required materials to each lesson.
4. **Promptly** turn in your check to the private teacher. *(Payment due one month in advance)

PLEASE HONOR YOUR FINANCIAL OBLIGATION TO THESE INSTRUCTORS. REMEMBER THIS IS HOW THEY MAKE THEIR LIVELIHOOD FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Use of Band Hall Facilities

Students are welcome to use the band hall practice rooms for practice either before or after school, but you must come and ask a band director first. Sometimes the number of available places is limited. Due to the many thousands of dollars worth of musical instruments that are in the band hall, we require that ONLY band students come into the band hall during the school day and before or after school. Students must ask their friends who are not in band to wait for them either in the school hallway or outside. The band room is a "safe haven." We stress to all band students to be responsible and keep their equipment in their lockers at all times. No gum, food, or drink is allowed in the band hall at any time. Instruments are to be placed in lockers before school starts, and picked up at the end of the day. All instruments (with the exception of students with a "home" instrument) must go home every night!

Instrument and Facility Policies

- Students should never leave their instrument unattended.
- Instruments should be stored in their band locker during the school day.
- Cases and band materials should be clearly labeled with your name and contact information.
- Students will be expected to take their instrument home everyday for daily practice. Instruments can be picked up right after school daily. If you should leave school early, please take your instrument with you.
- Practice rooms and ensemble rooms are only to be used with director approval or private lesson instructor supervision.
- The band office should not be entered unless a director is present. Please knock and wait for a director to acknowledge you and let you enter.
- Students may not play instruments that do not belong to them.
- Put away anything you get out, and put back anything you move.
- Help keep the band room clean. Do not store things in inappropriate places. Items left in the band room may be thrown away.

After School Rehearsals

Special after school rehearsals will be called during the weeks prior to any performance so that all band members may have the opportunity to rehearse together (remember the beginning band actually meets in nine separate classes, but performs as one band). One or two rehearsals will be scheduled for each performance, so it is very important that all students be in attendance. We will give plenty of advance notice so schedules may be arranged. Any student who has an unexcused absence from the rehearsal will not be allowed to participate in the performance.

Attendance

Each band student is important to the success of our activities and we must be able to count on 100% attendance at all band rehearsals, clinics, and performances. If a family emergency occurs, please contact a band director as soon as you are able. The calendar on our website is great way to keep track of events and we ask that you are aware of band activities when scheduling trips, dental and medical visits, tutorials for other classes, outside of school activities, etc. If a student is absent from a performance they will not earn the points for that performance. If it is an excused absence the student may do an alternative assignment, like performing their part in its entirety for a director.

Sometimes a family's schedule will not allow time to transport their child to an event. You may consider carpooling so your child does not miss out.

Please make every effort to attend all concerts to show your support and encourage your child to practice regularly. Your support is vital to the success of your child on their instrument!

How to Succeed in Band (and in Life)

For the best results:

- Schedule a daily time and place for your practice to be done without outside interruptions.
- Practice should become part of your daily routine with the goal of continuous improvement.
- Behind every successful music student is an interested parent or other adult.
- Countless times adults have said to us, “If only I hadn’t quit music lessons.” or “I wish I would have learned to play an instrument.” We have NEVER heard the words, “I’m sorry I can still play.”

For parents:

- Very few children will practice without reminders. They are just like other humans, given the chance, they would much rather play than work. Practicing is rewarding, but it is work!
- Encourage the student to play for family and friends, but don’t force them to.
- Listen to your student’s practice and acknowledge improvement (trust us, it will improve).
- Help them through all the bad sounds until they sound beautiful. Then the student will gain confidence in what they have achieved.
- Children do have the time for practice in their busy schedule, but it usually takes an adult to help them find that time.
- Children sent to practice while the rest of the family watches TV or does something else fun together discourages the student from wanting to practice.

Parent Volunteers

In order to be a chaperone/volunteer for any band events, you must be cleared as an official LISD volunteer. Each volunteer must fill out information for a background check online and must be done each school year. The LISD Volunteer Registration information can be found online.

Go to lovejoyisd.net

- ➡ Parents
- ➡ Parent Resources
- ➡ Volunteer Application

Concert Etiquette

Concert Etiquette is the behavior that is considered appropriate and polite while enjoying or performing a live musical performance. Good concert etiquette shows respect for the conductor, performers, other audience members, and the music that is being performed.

What Should I Do As An Audience Member?

1. Sit quietly and wait for the concert to begin. You may talk softly while you are waiting. Do not talk or make noises during the performance. It can be very distracting to the performers.
2. Applaud after each full piece of music has been completed.
3. Sit quietly during the performance. When a performing organization presents a concert, they are putting forth their best effort; and they should expect the same from those in the audience.
4. Keep concert programs quiet during the performance.
5. If you must get up to leave during a concert, do so only at the end of a groups performance or between pieces. It is best if you stay for the entire concert.
6. Put your devices away and double check that they are silenced!
7. Please use discretion in taking photos. Flash photos during a performance are extremely distracting for all.
8. Parents should keep small children seated with them and not allow them to move around during the concert. If very young children become restless and disrupt others' ability to listen, please take them from the performance area until they are quiet.
9. If more than one group is performing, please stay and listen so each group has a supportive audience.

What Should I Do As A Performer?

1. While on stage, act as professionally as possible. If mistakes are made make every attempt not to call attention to it.
2. Dress appropriately.
3. Do not wave or talk to performers or audience members.
4. Help others by setting a good example. Stay quiet. Keep focused.
7. Show appreciation for the efforts of other groups. Be respectful.

Performance Dress

You will be notified well in advance if an event or performance is formal or informal.

For a formal concert performance:

- Gentlemen: Nice slacks with a button up shirt or polo. No tennis shoes or blue jeans.
- Ladies: Nice pants/skirt with a blouse or a dress. Skirts and dresses must be of appropriate length. No tennis shoes.

For any informal band event:

- Sloan Creek Intermediate Band T-shirt and jeans or shorts (information will be provided for each performance)

Practice Routine

Practice is sometimes fun, sometimes difficult, and always necessary! The best way to make practice time more enjoyable and productive is to get into a regular habit of practicing every day. Look for improvement, don't just "put in your time." When playing improves, you will see that all the time spent practicing is worthwhile. Remember that band practice is the key to improvement!

The directors understand that students occasionally lose interest in practicing. During these low points in interest, it is both the directors' and the parents' responsibility to motivate the child to continue to practice. Sometimes parents feel that forcing their child to practice will negatively affect their attitude toward music. The directors have experience with these situations and know that a student will gain interest again when they start seeing success through daily practice.

A successful practice session should be organized into three parts:

Warm up and flexibility exercises:	5 minutes
Scales and technical exercise:	5-10 minutes
Essential elements lines and band music:	20-30 minutes

Your band director will help guide you in exactly what and how to practice. Concentrate on getting a good sound! It makes no difference how fast, loud, or high you can play if the tone is not enjoyable to listen to. Never sacrifice accuracy for speed. Practice the parts that you cannot play first, this will make you better faster and expand what you can play! It makes no sense to spend all your time practicing the music you can already play well. Always practice with a metronome and tuner in order to make personal improvements at home. Practice to be a great part of the band!

Remember: Regular daily practice is the key to improving on your instrument and contributing positively to our band! Instruments are NOT to be left in your lockers overnight! We will be checking!

Fundraisers

Throughout the school year, the students of the SCIS band program will be asked to participate in fund-raising activities. The fundraiser helps raise money to offset the costs of clinicians, contest judges, fees and other activities sponsored by the band. Parents who do not want their student to participate in a sales program may wish to make a donation instead. The directors will distribute fundraiser information as the school year progresses.

Student Expectations

<i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>	I am responsible for myself. No one can make me practice and improve but me. Directors, parents, and clinicians can only point me in the right direction. I must do my own work. I must make sure that I am progressing. I must be responsible for all the little things that can make me great. No one can make me do these things. I do them to better myself and to better my band and school.
<i>RESPECT</i>	I am a part of a superior band. I respect its traditions, and the progressions and changes that are to come. I owe it to myself, my school, and my community to continue to make our band superior. I will treat my fellow students with respect and they will respect me. I will treat parents, sponsors, instructors, and my band directors with respect, and they will respect me. A culture of respect is the only way to success. Disrespect only harbors resentment, hostility, and failure.
<i>RESULTS</i>	If I am responsible for myself the band will succeed. If I respect myself, my group, my peers, and my leaders, the band will succeed. We will achieve our goals together.

Behavior Expectations

Behavior expectations establish a safe environment for band students as well as the traditions for the future of our band program.

- Students are not to touch equipment or instruments that are not assigned to them. Percussion instruments are strictly off limits to non-percussionists.
- As a security precaution, only band students are allowed in the band hall.
- No gum in the band hall at any time.
- Be in your seat with materials and instruments ready at the beginning of each period.
- Bring all materials and supplies to class each day.

Students must follow the Sloan Creek Intermediate School rules at all times when participating in a band activity. We must set a high standard. We are ambassadors and represent our school and community. Consequences for violating policies of conduct or attendance may include:

- Verbal warning
- Student conference
- Contacting parents
- Loss of band activity privileges
- Referral to administration

Summary of Fees

Registration Fee—\$75

- Includes payments for Band member t-shirt for the band competition in May, clinicians, judges, contests, transportation to contest, music, band binder, pencil pouch, dividers, pencils, clinicians used throughout the year, food/select socials, and other miscellaneous program costs throughout the year not covered by Lovejoy ISD. Some social events (such as Main Event, Medieval Times, Dallas Winds concert) are optional and paid per event throughout the year, separate from this fee.
- This is a non-refundable registration fee.

Replacement Sloan Creek Intermediate Band T-Shirt—\$10 (ONLY IF NEEDED)

- Band shirts will be worn at events and contests throughout the year and are considered our uniform. The gray band T-shirt given to your child when they signed up for band is complementary. If that shirt was lost or you would like another shirt, you may purchase another one for an additional \$10.
- Parents may order shirts for themselves and other family members, just let Mrs. Rogers know how many and the sizes.

School Instrument Usage and Maintenance Fee—\$100

- This fee is only for those who play **oboe, bassoon, french horn, euphonium, tuba, and percussion**.
- This is a non-refundable instrument usage fee that is used to maintain the normal wear and use of the checked out instrument(s) for the year.
- This fee **DOES NOT** cover major damage or loss. Damage beyond normal wear or loss of the instrument/accessories while in the student's possession become responsibility of the parents to pay for repairs or replacement.
- School owned instruments must be checked back in at the end of each academic year.

MONEY SHOULD NEVER BE AN ISSUE WITH YOUR CHILD'S PARTICIPATION IN BAND! IF YOU SHOULD HAVE ANY FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, PLEASE INFORM A DIRECTOR FOR ASSISTANCE.