

Moore Middle School Band

2024-2025 Handbook



300 East G.A. Moore Parkway Celina, TX 75009

469-742-9101

www.celinaband.com

Forward

Congratulations on your decision to become a part of the Moore Middle School Band! The purpose of this handbook is to describe all aspects of the program, including expectations, ensembles, scheduling, policies, and basic operating procedures. The MMS Band staff believes in being clear, honest, and upfront about all of our expectations. This handbook is the principal means of communicating those expectations. Please understand that these are not simply words on a page. Consistency and accountability are pillars of our program. This handbook and all of its policies and procedures are enforced. The Moore Middle School Band staff encourages all persons involved to read this handbook thoroughly and refer to it throughout the school year. All students will be held accountable for this information. Please note that not all aspects of the band program can possibly be covered in the handbook. Issues not specifically addressed by the handbook will be left to the discretion of the band director.

Who to Contact

The Moore Band program is a big operation. The list below is designed to help parents and students get in contact with the right person if you have questions or concerns regarding particular aspects of the program.

Mrs. Heather McHenry – Director of Bands: 469-742-9101; HeatherMchenry@celinaisd.com

- Questions or concerns regarding the MMS Band program in general
- Questions regarding this handbook
- Honors Band
- Concert Band
- Beginning Trombone
- Beginning Euphonium
- Beginning Tuba
- Band Fees

Mr. Nathan Urushima – Assistant Band Director: 469-742-9101; NathanUrushima@celinaisd.com

- Wind Ensemble
- Beginning Flute
- Beginning Oboe
- Beginning Bassoon
- Beginning Clarinet
- Forms
- School-Owned Instruments

Ms. Stalcup – Assistant Band Director: 469-742-9101 ext. 2355; GlennaStalcup@celinaisd.com

- Symphonic Band
- Beginning Saxophone
- Beginning Trumpet
- Beginning French Horn
- Private Lessons
- Band Website

Mr. Allen – Director of Percussion: 469-742-9101 ext. 2355; DanielAllen@celinaisd.com

- Questions or concerns regarding Percussion
- Beginning Percussion

The Moore Band Member's Responsibility to the Program

- Be regular in attendance and make sure all absences are excused by the band director at least 48 hours before the absence whenever possible.
- Make a real effort to learn and improve daily.
- Become responsible for and expect to assume the consequences of your actions.
- Be personally clean, and neat, and dress appropriately.
- Have the proper respect for those in authority.
- Be personally responsible for all information regarding the band, rehearsals, events, and schedules, and be responsible for relaying such information to parents and/or guardians.
- Follow all classroom rules, school regulations, and all travel instructions for trips.
- Be honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music, and school life in general.
- Cooperate with fellow band members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are a part of the band program.
- Contribute positively to your music education and that of others by the best use of your talents.
- Always strive for the best.
- **Have a positive attitude in everything you do.**

General Expectations

Participation in the Moore Middle School Band is an honor and a privilege. To be a member of the Moore Band, each student must decide if he/she wants to commit time and dedication. The standards are high and each student is expected to meet these standards! Therefore, all persons involved in the band are expected to give 100% every day. The faculty and administration work together to ensure that students can participate in multiple activities. However, for our band to succeed, non-school activities, jobs, appointments, and other conflicts must not interfere with a student's commitment to the band, other members, and the rehearsal and performance schedule given to you at the beginning of the year.

Members of the Moore Band are expected to:

- Display respect towards the staff and all members of the organization;
- Display a positive and cooperative attitude at all rehearsals;
- Attend and be on time to all rehearsals and performances;
- Learn your drill/music quickly and thoroughly;
- Have all materials and proper attire at every rehearsal and performance.
- Work to maintain consistent academic eligibility.

Behavior

Exemplary behavior is expected of all band members at all times. Remember, you are a representative of your band, your band is a representative of your school, and your school is a representative of Celina ISD.

There is no way to list all the dos and don'ts of being a band member. Common sense must prevail. ***The Director of Bands reserves the right to exercise authority to make the final decision regarding disciplinary action/removal from the band program.*** The following are some of the more obvious that qualify for disciplinary action and/or immediate removal from the program:

- Any disrespectful behavior such as foul and/or abusive language to teachers, staff, or students, including disruptive classroom behavior.
- Excessive tardiness or absences at rehearsals or performances.
- Any misuse or abuse of school property or property of others.
- Public display of affection. PDA will not be tolerated while with the band.
- Alcohol, smoking, or drug use at any school function, or at any time, on or off-campus.
- Any action that dishonors or disgraces the Moore Band or CISD in any way.
- Other infractions of the rules as stated in the Celina I.S.D Student Handbook, or as stated in the Celina I.S.D Band Handbook.

Membership

Membership in the Moore Band is open to all students with a desire to learn how to play a band instrument. Any students with at least one year of band experience will audition with directors to determine Advanced Band placement. Students who do not meet the minimum requirements of practice, preparation, and participation can be asked to leave the program. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Poor attendance/punctuality at rehearsals & sectionals
- Missing performances, not limited to, but with specific regard to dishonest communication of absence reasons
- Failing band during any grading period
- Severe behavior issues, including illegal activity

Students should understand that they are making a full-year commitment to the band after registering for the course. A tremendous amount of planning and design goes into each year based on the number of students we have signed up for band. Students who drop the course before completing their full commitment put their peers and our organization in a very difficult position. We depend on every student to help make our organization successful. Students who do not fulfill their full-year commitment may not be allowed to register for band or color guard again.

Rehearsal Expectations

Our band rehearsals are much different than a normal classroom setting. The student-to-teacher ratio is much larger and the time invested is often much greater. Because of this, all students must be prepared, organized, and focused for every rehearsal. This means instrument maintenance must be taken care of at home and all supplies must be brought every day. All students must bring music, pencils, tuners, reeds, and all other rehearsal supplies to every rehearsal. The level of attention and focus must be extremely high. Excessive talking or a general lack of focus severely hurts the ensemble. Violating these rehearsal expectations or consistently being unprepared could result in a student being moved to a lower band, having spring trip privileges revoked, removal from the band program, and/or general MMS discipline procedures.

General Band Rules:

1. No talking while the teacher is talking.
2. Everything is expensive.
3. You WILL behave.
4. Think AND care.

Performing Bands

Second & third year students are placed in Advanced bands according to their playing ability, behavior, participation, academic eligibility, and instrumentation needs. Students audition once each year for placement. Each ensemble has specific requirements listed below.

Honors Band: Heather McHenry, director

The Honors Band is the top-performing band at Moore Middle School. The band performs 8th+ grade-level literature throughout the school year. The curriculum is focused on reinforcing and refining fundamental wind and percussion skills. Members will be required to be prepared for each rehearsal. This includes having all the materials and committing to a very rigorous practice routine. Students will participate in the Solo & Ensemble and ATSSB All-Region contests. Students are required to perform in the Fall, Winter, and Spring Concerts, as well as all scheduled pep rallies. The Honors Band will perform as the Varsity Band at UIL Concert & Sightreading Evaluation. Students are required to participate in sectionals and rehearsals that may be scheduled outside the school day. Due to the difficulty of the performance literature, students are strongly encouraged to participate in private lessons.

Wind Ensemble: Nathan Urushima, director

The Wind Ensemble is the 2nd level concert band at Moore Middle School. The band performs 8th grade-level literature with a focus on preparing the students with a fundamental approach to master the skills necessary to perform at the level of literature of the Wind Ensemble. Members will be required to be prepared for each rehearsal. This includes having all materials and committing to a serious practice routine. Students are required to participate in the Solo & Ensemble and ATSSB All-Region contests. Students are required to perform in the Fall, Winter, and Spring Concerts and will be included in some scheduled pep rallies. The Wind Ensemble will perform as the Non-Varsity Band at UIL Concert & Sightreading Evaluation. Students are required to participate in sectionals and rehearsals that may be scheduled outside the school day. Due to the difficulty of the performance literature, students

are strongly encouraged to take private lessons.

Symphonic Band: Glenna Stalcup, director

The Symphonic Band is the 3rd level concert band at Moore Middle School. The band performs 7th+ grade-level literature with a focus on preparing the students with a fundamental approach to master the skills necessary to perform at the level of literature of the Symphonic Band. Members will be required to be prepared for each rehearsal. This includes having all materials and committing to a serious practice routine. Students are required to participate in the Solo & Ensemble Contest and are encouraged to participate in the ATSSB All-Region contest. Students are required to perform in the Fall, Winter, and Spring Concerts and will be included in some scheduled pep rallies. The Symphonic Band will perform as the Sub Non-Varsity (A) Band at UIL Concert & Sightreading Evaluation. Students are required to participate in sectionals and rehearsals that may be scheduled outside the school day. Due to the difficulty of the performance literature, students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons.

Concert Band: Heather McHenry, director

The Concert Band is the 4th level concert band at Moore Middle School. The band performs 7th grade-level literature with a focus on preparing the students with a fundamental approach to master the skills necessary to perform at the level of literature of the Concert Band. Members will be required to be prepared for each rehearsal. This includes having all materials and committing to a serious practice routine. Students are encouraged to participate in the Solo & Ensemble and ATSSB All-Region contests. Students are required to perform in the Fall, Winter, and Spring Concerts and can be included in some scheduled pep rallies. The Concert Band can perform as the Sub Non-Varsity (B) Band at UIL Concert & Sightreading Evaluation. Students are required to participate in sectionals, one-on-one sessions, and dress rehearsals that may be scheduled outside the school day. Due to the difficulty of the performance literature, students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons.

Beginning Band: Heather McHenry, Nathan Urushima, Glenna Stalcup, Daniel Allen, directors

The Beginning Band is the entry level concert band at Moore Middle School. The band performs first-year level literature with a focus on preparing the students with a fundamental approach to master the skills necessary to perform at the level of literature of the Beginning Band. Members will be required to be prepared for each rehearsal. This includes having all materials and committing to a serious practice routine. Students are encouraged to participate in the Beginning Solo & Ensemble Contest, Winter Concert, and Spring Concert. Students are required to participate in rehearsals that may be scheduled outside the school day. Due to the difficulty of the performance literature, students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons.

Concert Preparation

We believe in individual accountability. Simply being in the class does not guarantee the right to participate in concerts. Everyone must practice and prepare their part to make a positive contribution to the band. Students who do not meet the performance/preparation requirements may not be permitted to perform in concerts. Performance opportunities must be earned and students must understand their obligation to the group.

Performing Bands Attendance Policy

Sectionals/Rehearsals

Students are required to attend ALL band rehearsals. The band directors must be notified IN ADVANCE (at least 24 hours when possible) if a student is going to miss or be late to a rehearsal. Staff phone numbers and email addresses are listed on page 2 of this handbook. This information is NOT to be relayed through another student. Excused absences are classified as contagious illness or family emergency. Doctor/dentist appointments, work, homework/projects, family events, sports activities that are NOT school-related, etc. are considered unexcused absences. School-related conflicts must also be communicated 48+ hours in advance, so that directors, coaches, teachers, etc. may work out a plan together. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal can result in a student being

pulled from the next performance. Failure to notify the director of an absence or tardy constitutes an unexcused absence. In addition, members may be removed from the performances if rehearsals are missed due to lengthy school absences and/or excessive tardies.

Concert attendance

All students are required to participate in all concerts and contest performances. This is a graded event. Failure to attend a concert may result in a grade of zero, being moved to a lower-level ensemble, having spring trip privileges revoked, or possible removal from the program. We do not offer a make-up assignment for students who miss a performance.

Facilities

Each student is responsible for the care and upkeep of the band room and other facilities. Students are responsible for the care and upkeep of equipment. The following guidelines have been put in place to protect our facilities and equipment:

- No food or drinks (other than water)
- No chewing gum
- No running or horseplay
- No students are allowed in the director's office without permission
- No use of computers without permission
- Do not touch or play instruments that are not yours, including piano/keyboard and percussion equipment
- Non-band students are not allowed in the band hall.
- Instrument lockers must be clean & organized at all times. Only band items are allowed in band lockers.

Travel Policy

Students who represent CISD, MMS, and the MMS band on school-sponsored trips are expected to maintain very high standards of behavior, punctuality, and respect at all times. CISD school policy dictates that band students ride CISD transportation to and from all off-campus performances and events when it is offered. On rare occasions, an emergency or other school-related event will necessitate a parent to provide transportation. In such an event, a signed Alternative Transportation Form by the parent should be emailed to the student's primary band director at least 24 hours in advance of the event. There may be times when students will be under the supervision of parent chaperones. Students are to treat chaperones with respect at all times. It should be understood that their directions are to be followed completely as if said by one of the directors. Bus trips should be orderly and calm. Students should remain in their seats for the entire trip. The noise level should be moderate. No student is to get on or off the bus unless instructed to do so. Students who are involved in a serious disciplinary offense on a school-related trip, such as the use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol, stealing, fighting, leaving a room or bus at an inappropriate time, or other serious offenses will face strong action which may include, but not limited to, the following:

1. Being sent home immediately at the parent's expense
2. Loss of privileges
3. Being held liable for damage to property
4. Being permanently removed from the band program
5. MMS administrative disciplinary action

Students must be academically eligible to travel with the MMS Band. This includes all contests, spring trips, or any other travel that requires missing class.

Grades

Grades in band will consist of co-curricular performances, dress rehearsals, playing tests, sectional grades, quizzes, and supply checks. The categories and weighting are listed below. Our make-up and retest policies are in accordance with CISD and MMS policy. It is the student's responsibility to inquire about any work missed due to an absence. Students should also try to arrange a time convenient for both the student and director to make up any missed assignments. Policies for grading late and make-up work are consistent with those in the MMS Student Handbook. Low band grades may result in a student being moved to a lower band.

Tests: including dress rehearsals, concerts, and playing tests - 60%

Quizzes: sectionals, in-class assignments

Daily: supply checks, participation - 40%

TEA Academic Eligibility Guidelines

The MMS band adheres to all eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and CISD. Any student who records a grade lower than 70 in any course at the end of a 9-week grading period (except for the first grading period which is 6 weeks) shall be suspended from participation in extracurricular performances for at least the following 3 weeks. If after that 3-week grading period, the student is passing all courses, they can regain their eligibility. However, if at that time the student is failing any course, the eligibility is lost for the remainder of the six weeks. The MMS band staff will firmly enforce these policies. Students who lose their eligibility are still required to attend all rehearsals as well as participate in curricular activities (concerts). All students must remain eligible. The MMS band staff will always encourage students to attend tutorials. However, students should attend tutorials that do not conflict with rehearsals.

To monitor students' academic progress, the staff will frequently check grades. This is designed to help students remain eligible and contribute to our band. Students in danger of failing should attend tutorials and consistently communicate with teachers to prevent failing progress/report card grades.

Online Forum and Message Board Posting Policy

Due to the proliferation of social media, online forums, message boards, and chat rooms, the reputation of the Moore Band program is more public than ever.

- 1.) Moore Band Members are not to post negative comments regarding other band programs at any time for any reason.
- 2.) Moore Band Members are not to reply to negative comments posted by others about the Celina ISD Band Program.
- 3.) Moore Band Members are not to post negative or offensive comments regarding other band members, the band staff, Moore faculty, or the Moore administration.

Failure to abide by these rules will result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to: lowered band placement, reassignment to a shadow position in the marching show, and/or removal of leadership duties. Serious violations of this policy may result in removal from the band program.

School Owned Instruments

Celina ISD provides instruments to those students who play the oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, french horn, euphonium, tuba, and percussion. MMS currently does not charge an instrument usage fee (which most districts do). However, due to the limited quantity of instruments available, if a student shows neglect for the care and maintenance of the instrument, the directors reserve the right to take the instrument away and assign it to another student if there is one waiting. If a school instrument is taken away by a director, the student will be responsible for securing an instrument to play during class. If the student does not secure an instrument in a timely manner as deemed by the director, a grade reduction or more severe punishment (including removal from the program) may be issued. Students are responsible for repairs required during the school year if deemed negligent on the student's behalf. The instrument should be returned at the end of the year in the same condition it was issued. Students are financially responsible for replacing any instrument that is lost, stolen, or destroyed.

Fundraising Policy

Monies raised from fundraising go directly back to the students to help provide additional equipment, supplies, uniforms, etc. that band fees do not cover. Fundraisers are not required of any student and may participate at their discretion.

Uniform Policy

Concert Uniform:

Concert & contest dress for all Advanced Band (Honors Band, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band) members will be Concert Black. Each student is responsible for securing their own concert uniform. For boys: a solid black long-sleeve button-down shirt with a collar, full-length black dress pants, black belt, long black socks, and solid black dress shoes are required. Girls may choose to wear the same uniform as the boys or may opt to wear a solid black ankle/floor-length dress with short or long sleeves.

Supplemental Private Lessons

Celina ISD is extremely fortunate to have an outstanding staff of private lesson teachers. This program is designed to enrich and further the level of performance of the musician. One-on-one individual instruction is one of the main reasons why programs, especially in the North Texas area, are extremely successful. It is a general misconception that private lessons are set up for students who are “falling behind” or for those musicians who are “not as successful” on their instrument. In fact, it tends to be the opposite case. While private lessons can still be highly beneficial in these cases, supplemental private lessons are designed and intended more for students advancing and improving their instrument's success. The opportunity to study one-on-one with a professional musician is invaluable and has proven to be one of the most successful ingredients to individual achievement. Lessons are customized and tailored for each individual's needs. Private lessons may occur before, during, and after the school day depending on availability. They are not required but are very highly recommended. Lesson prices are set by the district at a rate of \$25 per lesson. Lesson times and availability are on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Responsibilities to the private lesson teacher (for both students and parents)

- Attend each lesson completely prepared: Bring a pencil, notebook, method book, and any other needed supplies.
- Lessons must be paid for one month in advance (or in conjunction with a payment plan worked out between you and the private lesson teacher).
- For financial arrangements, we ask that if you wish to discontinue private lessons you do so at the end of the semester.
- Notification of a lesson that will be missed must be excused by the private lesson instructor within 24 hours notice (the only exception to this would be illness, family emergency, etc...) If the supplemental private

lesson instructor is not notified within the allotted time, the student/parent is responsible for all financial compensation.

Private lesson scholarships may be available for students meeting certain criteria and are provided by the Celina Band Booster Association. Applications for scholarships can be picked up in the band office.

Celina Band Booster Association

The Celina High School Band has a very active, supportive parent organization known as the Celina Band Booster Association. The club includes parents from both band and color guard. Without the hard work and dedication of the parents, the band program at Celina High School & Moore Middle School would not be as successful and productive as it is. There are numerous areas in which interested parents can be involved in supporting the band's activities. General meetings of the band booster club are held throughout the school year. Every parent of a band/color guard student is considered a Celina Band Booster Association member.

Tips for parents:

- Rehearsals begin and end at the listed time on the schedule. If you are dropping off or picking your child up please allow 5-10 minutes for them to gather/put away their instruments and equipment.
- Please be on time to pick up your child. An itinerary is provided for each event and reminder messages are sent throughout the event with more accurate arrival times. **Failure to pick your child up promptly after arrival may result in them losing their traveling privileges with the band.**
- Please review the schedule and the attendance policy. You must help your child adhere to the policy.
- While at a competition, please do not speak poorly of other bands. This reflects badly on our group. Cheer enthusiastically for each group – all of those students work hard and deserve recognition!
- At concerts, contests, and evaluations, please do not use flash photography.
- If you or your child has any questions or concerns about anything as the season progresses please let the staff know. It is best to approach us after rehearsal or to give one of us a call or send an email.
- MMS Band Instagram account: moorebandtx – Many pictures from our events are posted on this page.