Godley High School Band
Student / Parent Handbook
2026 – 2027

Welcome Letter

Congratulations on your decision to be in the Godley Band! This handbook is designed as a guide to provide specific details concerning many of the aspects of the Godley Band. For any further information, please call the band office at (817) 592 - 4189 or email Mr. Walker at jwalker@godleyisd.net. Also, check out the band website at http://www.godleyband.com for up-to-date information.

We are honored to have the privilege of teaching you in Godley ISD. Not only will you learn how to make wonderful music, you will also learn dedication, responsibility, work ethic, punctuality, communication, and leadership. These are the qualities, along with education, that will make you successful in life, as well as school.

Being enrolled in band through high school brings you many other wonderful fringe benefits. Students enrolled in fine arts courses score from 10 to 12 percent higher on the SAT than students not enrolled in fine arts courses.

After reading the material enclosed in this handbook carefully, fill out the required forms at the end of this handbook. This includes the *Handbook Acceptance Form* and the *Student Information Form*. **These forms are due by Thursday, May 14, 2026.**

We hope that this packet will answer most questions that you have so that your 2026 - 2027 band experience is a successful one. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of us. This promises to be an exciting and eventful year, and we look forward to joining with you to make the Godley ISD Bands the very best.

Sincerely,

Joe Walker Director of Bands Godley ISD	Grayson Hancock Associate Director Godley ISD	Dallas Saylor Associate Director Godley ISD	David Kennedy Percussion Director Godley ISD	Caleb Hunter Colorguard Director Godley ISD

Band Social Media & Digital Citizenship

The Godley Band has a website. The address is www.godleyband.com . This website will be used to get everybody the most current information. You can find a copy of every handout given to students on the "Handouts" portion of the website. You can also see an up-to-date calendar on the "Calendar" page. Please bookmark this site and visit it often.

The band is active on social media. We have Instagram and Facebook accounts. We recommend that you follow us to keep up with the band's day-to-day operations. You can sign up to have these updates delivered to your cell phone via text message so that you can be aware of everything that is happening with the band. You can check out our Instagram at www.instagram.com/GodleyBand and our Facebook at www.facebook.com/GodleyBand .

Here's a couple of quick notes about social media. Please understand that none of the Godley Band directors can be your "friend" on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or any other social site. The policy of the band and GISD is that teachers don't "friend" their students. It is not because we don't want to be your friend, it is simply because it is inappropriate for a teacher to be "friends" on a social network. Also, if there is any inappropriate use of any of the band's social media sites, you will be blocked from that site and reported to the appropriate organizations, including the school.

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct also includes ensuring that band member websites & social media are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication through Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok, photo sharing, emailing, texting, etc., on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Members are responsible for their personal accounts and postings, as well as posting from or on other students' pages. The areas of inappropriateness include, but are not limited to: profane, foul, violent, or disrespectful language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, references to alcohol, drugs, vapes and/or tobacco, and postings (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening towards GISD teachers, staff, or students, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other bands. Any such incident may result in review by the principal (or designee) and may lead to probation or dismissal from the band.

Communication

Communication between teacher, student and parents is VITAL to the success of any band program. We communicate in many ways. **Please understand that our communication to you – the parents – is a very high priority for us.** We want to take care of concerns and make every situation the best for each student. Please contact us for clarification on any concerns before they become major issues. We are always willing to help in any way we can. **Because of sectionals and student help sessions, it is difficult to reach us before or after school. If we are working with students, please understand that they are our highest priority and they deserve our complete attention.** The best way to contact any of the directors is through email or ParentSquare. We check these multiple times daily.

Email / Messaging Policy

We will send out many updates and communications via ParentSquare throughout the year. Because of the nature of email and messages, all major concerns will need to be addressed through conferences or phone communication. This is to avoid any misunderstandings or unclear intentions through email communication. Parents are encouraged to use email to get more information or clarification regarding events, or to schedule a parent conference. Messaging will be done through the ParentSquare system.

Student Communication

Students are also encouraged to communicate with the directors before concerns become issues. They should do this in-person at an appropriate time, one-on-one. Again, clarification and solid communication will keep everything running smoothly throughout the entire year. Throughout the year, we will send quite a bit of information home in the form of letters. Please make every effort to read this information carefully, check calendars often and keep us informed of any conflicts. The sooner we know of a situation, the more options we have in solving problems.

ParentSquare

Parents and students are automatically enrolled to the Parent/Student Square system via skyward. The directors will utilize this platform mainly to communicate with parents and students about important information throughout the week.

Godley Band Staff & Contact Information

Joe Walker

- Classes: Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, Music Ensemble, assists with Honor Band
- Phone: (817) 592 - 4189
- email: jwalker@godleyisd.net

Gryson Hancock

- Classes: Marching Band, MS Honor Band, Brass Beginners, assists with concert programs
- Phone: (817) 592-4147
- email: sslayton@godleyisd.net

Dallas Saylor

- Classes: Symphonic Band, assists with Marching Band and Honor Band, Woodwind Beginners
- Phone: (817) 592 - 4160
- Email: ghancock@godleyisd.net

David Kennedy

- Classes: 6th - 12th Percussion, Jazz Band
- Phone: (592) 592 - 4148
- Email: dkennedy@godleyisd.net

Caleb Hunter

- Classes: Colorguard
- Phone: (592) 592 - 4189
- Email: calebhunter@godleyisd.net

Classes

Marching Band

Lead Teacher: Mr. Walker

Wind Ensemble

Lead Teacher: Mr. Walker

Symphonic Band

Lead Teacher: Mrs. Saylor

Jazz Band

Lead Teacher: Mr. Kennedy

Music Ensemble

Lead Teacher: Mr. Walker

Colorguard/Winterguard

Lead Teacher: Mr. Hunter

Band Uniforms

Band Members will be required to wear the following uniform in order to perform at contests and attend field trips.

Marching Band: will have two uniforms, the summer uniform and traditional

- Summer Uniform
    - Athletic Shoes (must have arch support, no vans/converse)
    - "Godley Band" Athletic Shorts
    - Dri Fit "Godley Band" Shirt
- Traditional/Show Uniform
    - Long Logo-Less Black Socks
    - Drill Master "MAX"
    - Dri Fit "Godley Band" Shirt
    - School Issued Marching Uniform or Purchases Custom Show Uniform

Wind Ensemble: Concert Black

- Female
    - Long Black Slacks
    - Long Sleeve Black Blouse
    - Black Flats/Dress Shoes

- Male
    - Long Black Socks
    - Long Sleeve Black Button Down Dress Shirt
    - Long Black Slacks
    - Black Dress Shoes

Symphonic Band: Concert Black

- Female
    - Long Black Slacks
    - Long Sleeve Black Blouse
    - Black Flats/Dress Shoes

- Male
    - Long Black Socks
    - Long Sleeve Black Button Down Dress Shirt
    - Long Black Slacks
    - Black Dress Shoes

Instrument Care & Identification

All students are required to have their instrument cases clearly labeled with a Godley Band ID tag. One will be made for each student at the beginning of the year.

Every student is expected to have his/her instrument in excellent playing condition at all times. When the student detects a problem with the instrument, he/she should take it to the director first (occasionally we can fix the problem). If the director cannot repair the instrument, it is the student's responsibility to tag the instrument with a "Repair Me" tag so it may be repaired. (A student should take his/her mouthpiece and reeds out of the case before sending it to the repair shop.) The school may be able to provide an instrument while it is being repaired. Students without instruments will always be at a learning disadvantage. Therefore, it is very important that instruments in need of repair become a top priority for the students and their parents.

School Owned Instruments

Godley ISD does charge a rental fee for school-owned instruments. The rental fee covers basic and normal wear for the instrument. This school will cover the costs of repair to the school issued instrument under these circumstances. However, the parent/student is responsible for paying for any damage done to the instrument caused by negligence, dropping the instrument, or horseplay. If the school instrument needs repairs during the school year, the parent/student should inform the director and the director will arrange for the instrument to be repaired. If the student is responsible for the damage, payment of the repair fee will be required. At the end of the school year, all school-owned instruments are turned in for inventory check, cleaning, and repair.

The following is a list of general procedures for district-owned instruments:

- If possible, students who play large instruments may be issued one instrument for home use and one for school use. This will be at the discretion of the directors and will be based on instrument availability and transportation needs.
- Students will be held responsible for damage caused by neglect, dropping, or horseplay to all district-owned instruments issued to them. Students and parents must sign an Instrument Checkout Form before the student can use an instrument.
- Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition. Please understand that "good playing condition" does NOT mean "pretty and new." Students are expected to maintain their issued instruments accordingly.
- The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to them.
- All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.
- Godley ISD will NOT assess a fee for routine summer cleaning and maintenance of district-owned instruments. However, if there is damage done, as mentioned before, the student and parents will be responsible for payment for the repair.

Personally Owned Instruments

A quality band program requires quality materials and instruments. Students are required to purchase all necessary materials for their instruments to insure quality-playing condition (i.e. mouthpiece, reeds, valve oil, all sticks for percussion, etc.).

As students become more proficient musicians, the need for a step-up instrument is desirable. In many cases, step-up instruments are purchased during the student's 8th grade year, and in most cases by the 9th grade. Please check with the directors and/or private lesson teacher before purchasing a step-up instrument in order to discuss recommended brands, models, availability, and cost.

Music

All music issued to students should be kept in their band folder/binder and maintained in good condition. Students will be responsible for their music and method books. Method books issued by the Godley ISD Band will be returned at the end of the year.

Music Folders

Every student is required to have a marching band flip folder for the fall marching season. These folders will contain all of the music issued by directors for the season. During concert season, students will be issued black concert folders. These are property of Godley ISD and must be treated with care and turned in at the end of the year.

Instrument Storage (Lockers)

Students will be provided with an instrument locker. All instruments should be in the appropriate instrument locker when not in use. These lockers are for instruments and band materials only. These lockers are not to serve as a school locker. Music and other supplies should never be stored in the instrument case in direct contact with the instrument. This can cause damage to the instrument. If the student abuses the locker or doesn't use it appropriately, the student's locker privileges will be revoked and they will have to carry their band supplies all day long. NO INSTRUMENTS ARE TO BE KEPT IN LOCKERS OVER THE WEEKENDS OR SCHOOL BREAKS.

Supplies for Rehearsal / Class

Students are expected to have appropriate supplies in every band class, rehearsal, and individual practice sessions. Not having the following will result in the student losing their daily grade. The following supplies are to be at the student's chair at all times:

- Instrument in working order
- Band binder
- Music & Band Books

- Pencil
- Brass players: Valve/Slide oil
- Reed players: 3 good, working reeds, cork grease, silk swab
- Percussion players: Sticks and mallets

Practice Routine

Practicing is a very important part of a musician's growth and development. It can be a productive and enjoyable time when it is approached in the correct manner. A consistent practice routine of 30 - 45 minutes a day per week is highly recommended for the best results.

EXAMPLE:
10 Minutes - Warm-ups and flexibility exercises
10 Minutes - Scales or rudiments
10 - 25 Minutes - Assignments in rehearsal music or method books

Band Grading Criteria

Weekly Grade: 100 points (20 points per day)

- Students may lose their daily grade by not having proper supplies, showing up late, not putting in effort etc. at the discretion of the directors

Monday Night Rehearsal: 50 points. If unexcused absence occurs, students will not participate in the week's performances (football game, contest etc.) unless this time is made up during the week.
Friday Football Games: 100 points
Contests: 200 points

All rehearsals, practices and performances are mandatory as band is a co-curricular activity. Remember, communication is KEY. Students will not be penalized for an excused absence, but 48 hours of notice is expected. Students will not be penalized for participation in other school activities (athletics, FFA, dance, cheer etc.) and schedules will be worked with. All unexcused absences will result in a grade of a 0 for the event or activity.

Eligibility

All Godley ISD Bands adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and Godley ISD. Students participating in these activities are governed by eligibility requirements. A student shall be suspended from participation in all activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the nine week period following a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than seventy in any class. Loss of eligibility does not take effect until seven days after the end of the

reporting period. Ineligible students are not suspended from practice or rehearsal for these activities. The student is not suspended from participation during the period in which school is recessed for the summer or any other vacation time.

Students may regain eligibility under certain circumstances. If a student has been suspended as a result of failing, he/she may regain eligibility by passing ALL courses by the third week of the following grading period. Reinstatement of eligibility would occur seven days after the three-week progress report period (see TEA/UIL Side by Side).

Itineraries

We know that your time is valuable and important. For every event that we have, we give the students a detailed itinerary that will tell them as much information as possible. Included in this itinerary is a pick-up time. Please make plans to pick up your student at that time. We will send out reminders. We work very hard to make sure that our times are accurate. Itineraries will be emailed and put on the band website when they are given to kids. Students that are habitually late to arrive or late to be picked up will have band trip privileges and off-campus performances revoked for the year. We will also send out aParentSquare notification for any updated pick up times.

Band Hall Policies

A clean and well-kept band hall demonstrates pride in the organization. Students are expected to treat each other, as well as the band hall, with respect. The following policies are for your benefit and protection, and will make the band hall a more pleasant facility in which to learn:

- **Only current band students are allowed in the band hall.**
- Defacing or damaging any part of the band hall or equipment will not be tolerated.
- Students are not to play or use any other instruments or belongings, other than their own. (This includes percussion equipment.)
- Gum, food, candy, and drinks other than water are NOT allowed in the band hall.
- Lockers are for band instruments and band binder storage only.

Classroom Discipline Policy

The success and excellence of the Godley Band Program is a direct product of a well-disciplined and highly motivated band student. We have developed a Classroom Discipline Plan to maximize your child's learning experience so that he/she can reach his/her full potential.

General Classroom Expectations

- ➢ Be in your assigned seat ready to work when the bell rings
- ➢ Have folder, paper, pencil, books, and all needed supplies for class EVERYDAY
- ➢ HFBO – Keep hands, feet, books, and objects to yourself
- ➢ No profanity, inappropriate gestures, cruel teasing, or put-downs
- ➢ Follow the directions of any adult at school with respect

Teacher Expectations

- ➢ We teach when there are no distractions or other problems.
- ➢ If you cause a problem, we will ask you to solve it.
- ➢ Make choices that don't cause problems for anyone else.
- ➢ We will react without anger or haste to problem situations.
- ➢ We will provide consequences that will allow the student to experience the results of a poor choice, enabling that student to make better choices in the future.
- ➢ We will ALWAYS proceed with the best interest of the child in mind.
- ➢ We will arrange consequences in such a way that the student will not be humiliated or demeaned.
- ➢ We will make every effort to ensure that the students involved understand why they are involved in consequences.

Student Expectations

- ➢ Any behavior which is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand, as well as the band program.
- ➢ Students will follow the director's instructions.
- ➢ Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area with all necessary equipment at the beginning of rehearsal time.
- ➢ Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
- ➢ Students should request permission to speak by raising their hand with a straight arm and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that time will be utilized as wisely and efficiently as possible.
- ➢ Students will not deface or mark on music stands, chairs, walls, etc.
- ➢ Students will not write on the dry-erase boards without permission from a director.
- ➢ Students must have a quality instrument in working order.
- ➢ Students will come to class with all supplies
    - ○ Music / Method Book
    - ○ Folder
    - ○ Pencil
    - ○ Instrument
    - ○ Instrument appropriate accessories (reeds, oil, etc)
- ➢ Students will play only when we play as a group or called on to play as an individual.
- ➢ Students will not use or play on equipment they do not own without permission from a director.
- ➢ Students and parents MUST understand that band is something totally new to you and that you might not succeed at first try. **As long as you do your best, you will be successful.** We will make sure of it. **The only thing that we need you to do is never give up!!** Try your best every time and you will get it!!

Concerts and Contests

Students are required to attend and participate in all concerts. Students who have not passed all of their classes WILL perform at the concerts. Concerts are part of the band curriculum, and a major test grade will be recorded for attendance of the entire concert AND appropriate concert behavior and performance. Students are required to stay as audience members for all performing groups. It is extremely important that all students support each other's hard work and to learn appropriate behavior for concerts. Every effort will be made to keep the concerts to a reasonable length, while at the same time not cheating the students out of quality performance time. Only extreme circumstances will allow an excused absence from a concert. Some examples of those reasons are major illness or death in the family. Circumstances may justify an excused absence for reasons other than those listed above. Students who have conflicts with performances or practices should contact the director **at least 48 hours in advance** of the concert or practice to have consideration for being excused or to leave early. If a student has an unexcused absence from a concert, their grade will be affected in such a way that it is almost impossible to pass the nine weeks.

Concert Expectations

- Talking is not permitted on stage or in the audience. It is disrespectful to the performers on stage and audience members.
- Do not distract the performing band in any way.
- Do not leave your seat for any reason during a performance. You will be given ample time to use the restroom and drinking fountain before the concert begins. If you must leave, do so as quietly and inconspicuously as possible (make sure the doors do not slam shut). Leave between songs only.
- No food or drink is allowed on stage, backstage, or in the seating area. This includes water bottles and gum.
- Cell phones must be turned off or on airplane mode (not on vibrate, silent, or stun) and stowed away. Any student using a cell phone during a performance may face consequences.
- Move between the seating area and stage in quiet, single-file lines. Sit in your assigned seat/row. Do not talk as you enter or exit.
- Support your fellow band members with appropriate applause. Yelling, whistling, shouting names, etc. is not acceptable.
- Set a good example for the audience and other students. Other people may not know how to behave in a concert setting.
- We hope all parents and guests will stay for the concert when bringing a student to a concert. If a student needs to be picked up, please do so in a timely manner. Any student not picked up on time may not be allowed to participate in future band activities.
- Students are expected to stay for the entire concert.
- At the end of the concert, help move equipment back to the band hall before you leave.

Financial Obligations

It is the philosophy of the Godley ISD Band Program, and Godley ISD that NO student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. Participation in High School Band does come with financial obligation, however the directors provide ample opportunities for students to raise the entirety of this cost with no out of pocket cost to the families. Students **will not** be issued items until payment has been received.

Payments

The Godley band program will accept cash, check, and electronic payments. Checks should be made out to Godley Band Booster Club.

Please visit: http://www.godleyband.com/payments.html to make electronic payments o
Or
Send cash/check to Mr. Walker. Any cash/check must be turned in by envelope with the student's name, what the payment is for, and how much is included. Any payments not received this way will not be accepted.

Yearly Band Fees

The yearly required fee is determined by the directors after planning for the upcoming year with costs required for the marching productions. These fees will be announced in May, at the close of the year.

For options meeting financial obligations please contact Mr. Walker before they are due and we can work out a payment plan.

Travel Guidelines

The band will frequently travel on buses. Students are expected to conduct themselves at the highest level on any trip. Students who have been subject to school-level discipline in the course of the school year may be deemed ineligible to participate in non-UIL field trips, at the discretion of the director and/or campus administration. Students must travel to events and return from events on the bus. Any student wishing to leave with his/her parent must notify a director in writing (not email) with parent signature, prior to the event. Permission will be granted or denied based on the circumstances of the occasion. Students must have all necessary forms completed and on-file with the band office to travel on any trip with the band.

For the safety of all involved, while on the bus students will:

- Remain seated at all times
- Sit properly in a forward position and not block the aisle
- Keep the bus clear of food, drinks, and debris

- Keep all body parts inside the bus
- When allowed, use only headphones (no speakers)
- Remain silent and attentive when addressed by an adult on the bus.
- Refrain from loud, boisterous talking, singing, screaming, whistling, inappropriate jokes, etc.
- No public displays of affection of any kind

Special Note

As a member of the band, you are a representative of your school. Always be on your best behavior. If you are in doubt about an action, do not do it! Your conduct at all times should be considered a good reflection on the school, the band, your home, yourself, and the community.

Chaperones

Adult chaperones must be Godley ISD Approved Volunteers and are a great asset to the band program. Students will treat them as an extension of the band staff. Proper respect will be shown to all adults at all times. When chaperones are needed, you will be contacted through email for chaperone opportunities.

Band Trips

One of the great rewards of being in band is the trips that we take. These trips are rewards for the students that do what is asked of them. Some examples of trips the HS program have taken include Orlando, San Antonio, London and Ireland. When the trip is finalized, we will send home a trip packet. That trip packet will contain all of the information for the trip. It will also have a permission slip and a medical form. The permission slip is for the band and school district. The medical form is used only when there is an emergency. Please return both with a deposit for the trip in the time allotted. We try to give you 9 to 12 months to make payments to help in planning these opportunities. All band fees must be paid in order to go on trips.

Trip Criteria

When we take a trip, it is not automatic that you will go. You need to participate in band as you are asked. Here is a small list of things that we require

- Trip Cost and all past due band fees must be paid by deadline
- Students must pass ALL classes in order to be eligible according to UIL rules.
- Turn in their medical release forms, permission slips, and any payment before the deadline
- Must attend all contests
- Must attend all Pre-UIL Concerts and special extra rehearsals (listed on calendar)
- Cannot have received an office referral at any time from a band director during the year
- Cannot have received more than one office referral from any teacher or administrator during the semester in which the trip occurs
- Cannot have TAP for behavior issues during the semester in which the trip occurs

- Any serious discipline offenses may be cause for exclusion from the trip (including, but not limited to ISS/Suspension).
- All trip participants will be reviewed on an individual basis to determine trip eligibility.
- All band fees must be paid in full

Specific requirements will be given at the beginning of the semester so that the students and parents will fully understand the requirements.

Alcohol/Drug/Tobacco/Vape Policy

All students will adhere to initial and random drug testing per Godley ISD policy. In the event of a positive test, the following steps will be taken:

The student shall be removed from competition and/or surrender their parking pass (if applicable) until the following criteria are fulfilled:

- A minimum of 14 calendar days has elapsed;
- Satisfactory completion of the assistance plan has been verified by the campus Mental Health Coordinator

The student will be tested at each subsequent random drug test until the end of the school year or either the student or parent has removed them from all extracurricular activities and/or surrendered their parking pass which withdraws their consent to participate in the testing program.

For a student that ONLY tests positive for Nicotine/Cotinine, and participates in interscholastic sports or extracurricular activities, the following sanctions will be imposed:

- Parent/Guardian notice of positive testing result
- Development and successful completion of an assistance plan developed by the principal, campus Mental Health Coordinator, student, and the student's parent or guardian

Consequences imposed by the coach or sponsor of the activities that the student participates in. These consequences shall escalate if the student continues to test positive for only nicotine/cotinine in subsequent random testing and could eventually lead to their dismissal from each extracurricular program.