Godley 6th Grade Band

Student / Parent Handbook

2026 – 2027

Welcome Letter

Congratulations on your decision to be in the Godley 6th Grade 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 - 4160 or email Mr.Hancock at nhancock@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.

After reading the material enclosed in this handbook carefully, fill out the required forms at the end of the handbook. This includes the *Handbook Acceptance Form*.

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,

Noah Hancock
6th Grade Band Director
nhancock@godleyisd.net
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 also see an up-to-date calendar on the "Calendar" page. Please bookmark this site and visit it often.

The band is very 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 .

This platform is just another way that parents and students can stay up-to-date on the happenings of the band. However, the official home of the Godley Band is the band website. This site will have the most up-to-date information.

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, 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 will 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 Remind. We check these multiple times daily.

Email / Text Message Policy

We will send out many updates and communications via email and Remind throughout the year. Because of the nature of email and Reminds, 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. Texting will be done through the Remind 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

Noah Hancock

- Classes: Beginning Low Brass, Double Reeds, and Clarinet. Also the director of the Middle School Concert Band
- Phone: (817) 592-3402
- Email: nhancock@godleyisd.net

Brooke Lane

- Classes: Beginning Flute and Saxophone. Also the lead director of the High School Symphonic Band.
- Phone: (817) 592-4160
- email: brooklane@godleyisd.net

Grayson Hancock

- Classes:Middle School Head Band Director. Beginning French Horn and Trumpet, assists with Marching Band and High School Bands
- Phone: (817) 592 - 4147
- Email: ghancock@godleyisd.net

David Kennedy

- Classes: 6th - 12th Percussion, Jazz Band, assists with Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic, Honor and Concert Bands
- Phone: (592) 592 - 4148
- Email: dkennedy@godleyisd.net

Joe Walker - Director of Bands/Fine Arts Coordinator

- Classes: Highschool Marching Band, Highschool Wind Ensemble, and assists with the middle school bands
- Phone:
- Email: jwalker@godleyisd.net

Band Uniforms

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

FOR ALL CONCERT – UNLESS OTHERWISE TOLD DIFFERENTLY BY THE DIRECTOR:

- Band shirt
- School appropriate **BLUE** jeans
- School appropriate tennis shoes

FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS

- Band Shirt
- School appropriate pants/shorts
- No sweater or hoodies - this allows us to identify students better when on a field trip.

Instrument Care & Identification

All students are required to have their instrument cases clearly labeled with a Godley Band ID tag. Your full name should be clearly written for easy identification purposes. 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 take the instrument to get repaired. (A student should take his/her mouthpiece and reeds out of the case before taking 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. However, the parent/student is responsible for paying for any damage done to the instrument. 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 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.

Band Binders

Each student is required to have a band binder. This binder is separate from your normal school binder. **It is for band use only.** The band binder and dividers are included in the band fee.

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. Instruments should be stored in lockers inside the instrument case with the case closed. 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. 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: 4 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 20 - 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

Band grades are designed to allow students to be rewarded for their efforts and improvements.

A note about performances: In band class, one of the reasons that we practice so hard is so that we can give GREAT performances. EVERY student is important to EVERY performance. For an absence to be excused, you must contact the lead teacher at least 24 hours before the performance. Documentation ***will*** be required for excused absence. If there is an emergency, notification to the lead teacher will be due from the parent within 48 hours of the performance. Documentation of the emergency ***will*** be required. Please understand that this is not to punish you or your student for having to miss a performance, but to make sure that the students are truthful in their dealings with performances. Calendars are given for the entire year at the beginning of the school year so that families can plan what they need to for the entire year.

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 countdown on the board is over
- ➢ Have binder, 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

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
    - ○ Binder
    - ○ 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!!

Membership

Membership

Membership in the Godley Band is a privilege and not a right. We want the parents and students to discuss the commitment they are making and talk it over with the director if they have any questions or concerns about being a member of the band. **When a student signs up for band in the spring, the student and parents are making a 1 year commitment.** The parent will make sure that the student honors their commitment for 1 year. Schedule change requests must be approved by Mr. Noah Hancock and will only be considered after a face to face meeting with the parents and student. The best interest of the student will be the determining factor and not because they changed their mind.

Concerts

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 6th Grade Band, and Godley ISD that NO student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact Mr. Hancock (nhancock@godleyisd.net)

Yearly Band Fees

6th Grade Band

- Continued rental of Instrument – Depends on instrument
- Reeds – $3 per reed if bought from the school
- Band Fee will include the following: Replacement binder, name tag for instrument, music, band t-shirt, Solo & Ensemble fee, method book
- Band Trip (OPTIONAL) – payment for end-of-year band trip. Specific prices will be given well in advance of the deadline.

If you need extra time to pay fees, please contact the lead teacher for the class before they are due and we can work out a payment plan.

Travel Guidelines

The band will 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. 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 for the band and school district. We try to give you 30-45 days to take care of the money and about a week to take care of the forms.

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 permission slips, and any payment before the deadline
- Must attend all concerts
- Must attend Solo & Ensemble Contest
- Any discipline offenses may be cause for exclusion from the trip (including, but not limited to office referrals or TAP/ ISS/Suspension).
- All trip participants will be reviewed on an individual basis to determine trip eligibility.

Specific requirements will be given so that the students and parents will fully understand the requirements.