

# HASKETT JUNIOR HIGH BAND HANDBOOK

Jeffrey Tipps, Director of Bands  
Inez McGraw, Assistant Director of Bands

[HaskettBand.com](http://HaskettBand.com)  
[twitter.com/HaskettBand](https://twitter.com/HaskettBand)

Dr. David Paz, Principal  
Haskett Junior High School  
Katy Independent School District  
25737 Clay Rd.  
Katy, TX 77493

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# 1. WELCOME TO BAND

Dear Haskett Junior High Husky Band Members and Parents,

Welcome to the Haskett Junior High! We hope everyone is as excited as we are to work together to make music, and strive to live our best lives.

This year will continue our of excellence not just in music, but in the people we become. We've met many of you already through last year's school year, instrument selection workshops, auditions, and summer band camps. And every time we've work with one of you, it became clear that the HJH Band will continue its excellence. You, the students, have so much potential to become not only great musicians, but also to grow into amazing individuals.

To our beginning band students, we will help you establish a strong foundation for your musicianship and start teaching you lessons that you can apply for the rest of your lives.

To our advanced band members joining us from last year, we look forward to helping you grow as musicians and young adults.

To our musicians joining us from another campus, we look forward to getting to know you, honoring what you have learned from your past teachers, and continuing you on your musical journey.

We, the directors of the Haskett Junior High Band, pledge to dedicate our time and energy to help you reach your goals through music. In return, we ask all band members to take pride in themselves and time spent in practice, rehearsals, and band class. It is our mission to create exemplary music through our combined efforts and passions. We will only achieve success if every member of the band family, students and parents, work together.

We look forward to an exciting, productive, and rewarding year with every member of the Haskett Junior High Band family.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Tipps  
Director of Bands  
Haskett Junior High  
[jeffreytipps@katyisd.org](mailto:jeffreytipps@katyisd.org)  
[twitter.com/TheMrTipps](https://twitter.com/TheMrTipps)

Inez McGraw  
Associate Director of Bands  
Haskett Junior High  
[inezmcgraw@katyisd.org](mailto:inezmcgraw@katyisd.org)  
[twitter.com/Hey\\_McGraw](https://twitter.com/Hey_McGraw)

## 2. INTRODUCTION

Katy Independent School District offers a comprehensive music program that includes wind instrument and percussion instruction starting in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The Haskett Junior High Band program serves students grade 6-8, and includes foundations of music theory, rhythm, pitch, performance. Our beginning band classes are designed to instruct musicians playing the first notes on their instruments.

Members of the HJH Band are expected to meet and exceed high standards in the following key areas:

1. Responsibility – For themselves, and for their impact on fellow band members
2. Dependability – For being prepared for each class, and to help others when needed
3. Dedication – To trying to improve themselves and to the band family
4. Musical Excellence – Whether performing or supporting the performance of others

The directors promote strong character development and musical understanding to produce not only good musicians, but good members of society. Your HJH Band Directors are firm believers in lifelong learning, passionate about music, and creating better people through music.

This handbook outlines the basic requirements and expectations for the Haskett Junior High Band. ***Parents, please read this along with your child.*** A handbook agreement form will be distributed on the first day of school along with a Consent to Treat and Authorization to Travel forms. ***These forms must be completed, signed, and returned to the band hall before September 1, 2022.*** Extra copies of forms can be found on our website at [HaskettBand.com](http://HaskettBand.com).

### 2.1 Classroom Instruction

Classroom instruction is part of the standard campus schedule, with daily 45 minute classes. Instructional time includes the development of skills, concepts, and attitudes needed to succeed in band. Along with musical growth, we expect students to develop in the areas of leadership, fellowship, self-discipline, responsibility, critical thinking, teamwork, and a deeper appreciation for the beauty of music.

### 3. CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

We want band to be your favorite class, but we do have some ground rules for the classroom. These expectations are intended to make the band hall a safe and productive learning environment for all members in band.

#### 3.1 Ground Rules for Band

1. **Be prepared** – This means to be prepared musically and mentally every time you enter the band hall. Being prepared means you have your instrument and all materials needed for learning and contributing to the band.
2. **Be kind** – Be kind to yourself and to your fellow musicians. Even professional musicians sometimes have an off day and produce the wrong sound, and so will you. You will have an off day, and sometimes it will be hard to learn a new piece of music. Teasing another student on their off day will not be tolerated. The band family follows policies of the district prohibiting bullying and harassment, such as the Katy ISD Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Policy that states "*The District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law.*" The full policy can be found on the Katy ISD website. In simple terms, every member of the band family is important, and every member deserves your respect. Repeated violations of district policy may result in student removal from band.
3. **Be early** – The old saying "to be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, to be late is unacceptable" continues to be taught because it is true. Being "on time" for band means that when the bell rings, you are at your seat with materials out, and instrument ready to play. Not being on time directly reduces the time for band instruction.
4. **Walk** - Our band hall and practice rooms contain some of the most expensive equipment in the school. Rushing around can result in accidental trips and falls and damage not only your instrument, but the instruments belonging to others in your band family. We understand sometimes you may be in a hurry but running in the band hall is much worse than being late.
5. **No food, candy, gum, or sugary beverages** – Getting food/substances into your instrument makes for a messy cleaning process, and in some cases results in expensive repairs. However, bottled water is allowed and encouraged.
6. **No guests in the band hall** – Because of all those expensive instruments, we only allow our band family inside the band hall and practice rooms. No guests ever intend to break an instrument, but accidents can and do happen. To protect our band family, please ask friends to wait for you in the hallway.

### 3.2 Conduct

The behavior of a band student reflects not only on the student in question but also on the entire band family. It is expected that each band member abides by the following at all times:

1. Make a positive contribution to the Haskett Junior High Band and the campus in as a whole
2. Display common courtesy and respect to directors, students, and parents
3. Follow classroom expectations detailed in this handbook
4. Follow the rules and policies of Katy Independent School District as outlined in the Katy ISD Junior High Student Handbook

### 3.3 Attendance

A band performs at its best with all members present, as every instrument is needed to produce the overall sound. Therefore, students are required to participate in all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances unless excused by the director. Too many unexcused absences may result in a student losing privileges to join us in performances.

The Haskett Junior High Band calendar can be found on our website at [HaskettBand.com](http://HaskettBand.com). All before or after-school rehearsals will be announced as far in advance as possible. Sectionals, extra rehearsals, concerts, contests, and the UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Evaluation are considered an extension of the classroom instruction by KISD. Therefore, participation in these sessions is reflected in student grades.

Students enrolled in other school activities such as athletics and theatre need to plan accordingly to avoid unexcused band absences. The band directors, teachers, athletics coaches, and group directors do our best to avoid schedule conflicts so that students may participate in as many activities as they wish. If a conflict arises, please bring it to the attention of the band directors as soon as possible so we can work together on a solution.

Non school-sponsored activities, teams, and organizations will typically do not qualify as an excused absence from band activities. Again, open and transparent communication between student, teacher, and parents must take place to prevent misunderstandings.

### 3.4 Sectionals/After-School Rehearsal Attendance

Sectionals are small group rehearsals for members of the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band (refer to section 3.5). Sectionals tend to focus on one instrument, or group of instruments, to refine their musical performance. Sectionals are typically held once a week, in a session before or after school. Sectionals are scheduled based on the transportation opportunities available for the students in the session, and their schedule relative to other school sponsored activities. The schedule for sectionals, once established, will be emailed to families who are impacted and included on the main HJH band calendar.

After-school rehearsals are for supplementary full group instruction and are kept to a minimum, and generally happen in the two to three weeks prior to a performance. These dates can be found on the Haskett Band calendar. If the need arises for an after-school rehearsal, parents will be notified in advance via email.

Participation in every sectional, rehearsal, and performance is graded. Before or after school sectionals are worth one weekly quiz grade. After school rehearsals before performances are worth two quiz grades. Students should arrive early, as promptness is part of the grade.

**Written notices from parents are required for all absences. Verbal or written excuses from students are not accepted.** Advance notices are required when prior commitments are in conflict. Please consider sectionals, after school rehearsals, and performances when scheduling doctor, orthodontist, eye, or other appointments. The health and education of your child are always our top priorities.

In the case of illness and/or family emergency, parents should email Mr. Tipps (jeffreygtipps@katyisd.org) or Mrs. McGraw (inezmcgraw@katyisd.org) as soon as possible, with written notice no later than three days of the absence. We do our best to accommodate all religious holidays; please contact us in advance to resolve any conflicts.

With verified written (e-mail) communication from a parent/guardian, all absences referenced above would be considered excused, and would not negatively impact grades.

In the event of an unscheduled rehearsal or extra rehearsal being called, each student is expected to make their best attempt to attend. Conflicts with extra rehearsals can typically be resolved via e-mail to a director.

Non school-sponsored activities, transportation issues (not including last-minute emergencies), or completing homework for other classes are not qualified for excused absences.

### 3.5 Ensembles

The Haskett Band program is divided into four ensembles, or performance groups, based on the student's musical ability. The ensembles are defined as follows:

- **Wind Ensemble:** Sometimes called the Honor Band, this is the varsity ensemble of musicians. Students in the Wind Ensemble play music of high caliber and participate in all events including TMEA Region Band, Solo & Ensemble Contest, UIL Concert & Sight Reading, pep rallies, festivals, and all concerts. Mr. Tipps is the primary director of this ensemble.
- **Symphonic Band:** This is the highest non-varsity ensemble. Students in the Symphonic Band perform music of high quality with an emphasis on honing fundamentals. Students participate in Solo & Ensemble Contest, UIL Concert & Sight Reading, pep rallies, festivals, and all concerts. Mrs. McGraw is the primary director of this ensemble.

- **Concert Band:** The Concert Band is an ensemble that focuses on fundamental growth and furthering development of musical literacy, listening skills, and ensemble musicianship. Students participate in Solo & Ensemble, festivals, and all concerts. Mr. Tipps and Mrs. McGraw co-teach this ensemble.
- **First Year Band:** This is the ensemble for all band members in their first year of band, and students that need additional instruction in principles of music foundation. Beginning band classes focus on the fundamentals of music literacy, musicianship, listening skills, and the basics of learning their musical instrument. Students in the Beginning Band perform at Solo & Ensemble, festivals, and concerts. Mr. Tipps and Mrs. McGraw co-teach these classes with aid from the Paetow High School Band.

### 3.6 Ensemble Placement

Auditions are held at the end of every school year to determine ensemble placement for the next school year. The high school band directors will audition 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, and Mr. Tipps and Mrs. McGraw will audition 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. Placement is based on musical ability as well as behavior and work ethic displayed throughout the school year. Being a good musician is about more than just playing an instrument.

All auditions are recorded to ensure accurate assessments.



## 4. GRADING

Grades are determined through a combination of written assignments, playing of instruments, and participation in band curriculum. The course grade is divided into the following categories:

- **Written Assignments 20%** – Minor grades; these include music theory assessments
- **Playing Assignments 20%** – Minor grades; these are playing assignments to be completed on Canvas or emailed directly to the director.
- **Practice Records 20%** – Minor grades; these are weekly records of a student’s practice time; more information can be found in section 4.3.
- **Sectionals/After-school Rehearsals 20%** – Other Grades; outlined in section 3.4.
- **Performances 20%** – Major Grades: performances include concerts as well as in class playing tests.

Please note that performances count as two grades: one for how the student performs their music as part of the band, and one for student behavior outside of the performance or during the performance of other ensembles.

### 4.1 Playing Tests

Playing tests are graded on a rubric that outlines several criteria: pitch, rhythm, tempo, tone, articulation, tuning, posture, and hand position. This rubric allows the students to directly hone their musical growth and focus energy on areas to improve. Playing tests will be assigned as both in-person performances and/or through Canvas.

### 4.2 Academic Eligibility

Per state law and standard district policy, a student is deemed ineligible if they receive a grade lower than 70 in any class on their report card. Ineligibility results in student suspension from participation in all extra-curricular activities sponsored / sanctioned by the school district during the following six-week period. This suspension begins seven days after the end of the six weeks period. Events affected by this state law include TMEA Region Band auditions and performances, field trips, or performance where admission is charged.

Ineligible students are still required to participate in concerts considered part of the standard curriculum, including the fall concert, winter concert, UIL Concert & Sight Reading Evaluation, and spring concert.

An ineligible student may regain eligibility seven days after the grading period ends or after the three week evaluation period show a grade of 70 or higher in all classes. The Katy ISD 2021 – 2022 Eligibility Calendar can be found on the Katy ISD website or at [HaskettBand.com/forms](https://www.haskettband.com/forms).

### 4.3 Practice Records

**Students are required to take their instrument home daily to fulfill out-of-classroom practice expectations.** If a student is unable to practice certain days of the week, we ask that they make that time up on another day. The amount of time your child spends practicing at home each day should be entered on the weekly practice record. Practice records are due every Tuesday and must be signed by the parent as verification of their child's practice.

Practice records for Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert band generally start the second or third week of class. Beginning band practice records will be required starting around the second six-week grading period. Beginning band parents will receive email notification the first 2 weeks practice records are assigned. **Practice records turned in without parent signature will be graded as 0.**

Blank practice records will be passed out on Tuesdays, and extra copies can be downloaded from [HaskettBand.com](http://HaskettBand.com). Students participating in sectionals can record this time in their practice record for a director to initial.

Grading for Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band practice records:

Minutes Practiced	Grade
210	100
180	95
150	90
120	85
90	80
60	75
30	70
0 or not turned in	0

Grading for First Year Band practice records:

First Year Band (Fall Semester)

Minutes Practiced	Grade
140	100
120	95
100	90
80	85
60	80
40	75
20	70
0 or not turned in	0

First Year Band (Spring Semester)

Minutes Practiced	Grade
210	100
180	95
150	90
120	85
90	80
60	75
30	70
0 or not turned in	0

## 5. EQUIPMENT

### 5.1 Instrument Storage (During School)

All instruments are to be stored in the band hall during the school day and are to be taken home at the end of the school day. The band hall will be unlocked with a director present starting at 8:30 am. Students are expected to drop off their instrument before the first period bell. Storing your instrument in the band hall reduces the chance of accidental damage or forgetting where you left it.

Special arrangements for larger instruments (like tubas) can be made so that students can play a school owned instrument on campus while their instrument remains at home for practice. Please contact Mr. Tipps if you would like to pursue this option.

### 5.2 First Year Band Equipment

Equipment sheets by instrument for beginning band students have been included at the end of this handbook. We've designed these equipment sheets to cover everything the beginning band student needs, and nothing they don't. Purchasing of advanced instruments is not recommended for beginner use. Please contact Mr. Tipps if you need a copy of our suggested instrument equipment.

### 5.3 Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band

**Musical Instrument** Please make sure your musical instrument is in working condition. Contact your director if you are looking to upgrade or need advice on repairs. We can help you select an instrument that will meet your needs and musical ambitions without breaking the bank.

**Black 1" Binder w/ Dividers** We will provide you this binder, which should be brought to class every day. Do not lose or damage your binder!

**Wire Music Stand** For daily use at home so you can practice, record, and perform with good posture and proper technique.

**Writing Instruments** You will need a pencil with a good eraser as well as a highlighter.

**Accessories** All instruments require certain accessories, and must be provided by the student (including school owned instruments). If any of these accessories are different than what you are currently using, please contact Mr. Tipps or Mrs. McGraw.

<b>Flute</b>	Cleaning cloth, cleaning rod
<b>Oboe</b>	<b>Reeds:</b> Preferably Bocal Majority Intermediate “S” Reed (style is your choice) <b>Reed Case:</b> “Ribbon” style <i>or</i> foam-insert reed case. No pegs! Pegs bad! Silk Swab for Oboe
<b>Bassoon</b>	<b>Reeds:</b> Preferably Bocal Majority Medium Reed (style is your choice) <b>Reed Case:</b> “Ribbon” style <i>or</i> foam-insert reed case. No pegs! Pegs bad! Leather seat strap (with hook) Silk Swab for Bassoon
<b>Clarinet</b>	<b>Mouthpiece:</b> Vandoren M13 Lyre <i>or</i> Vandoren 5RV Lyre <i>or</i> D’Addario XO <b>Reeds:</b> Vandoren Blue Box 2.5/3 (use with Vandoren mouthpiece) or D’Addario Reserve 2.5/3 (use with D’Addario mouthpiece) <b>Ligature:</b> Rovner <b>Reed Case:</b> Rico Reed Guard for Clarinet (holds four reeds) Cork Grease, Thumb Rest Cushion, Silk Swab for Clarinet
<b>Bass Clarinet</b>	<b>Reeds:</b> Vandoren Blue Box 2.5/3 <i>or</i> Hemke Tenor Sax Reeds (yes, tenor sax) <b>Reed Case:</b> Rico Reed Guard for Bass Clarinet (holds four reeds) Cork Grease, Silk Swab for Bass Clarinet
<b>Alto Sax</b>	<b>Mouthpiece:</b> Vandoren AL3 <i>or</i> Selmer C* <b>Reeds:</b> Vandoren Blue Box 2.5/3 Ligature: Rovner <b>Reed Case:</b> Rico Reed Guard for Alto Saxophone (holds four reeds) <b>Neck Strap:</b> Protec Padded Neck Strap for Alto Sax (no open hooks) Cork Grease, Silk Swab for Alto Saxophone
<b>Tenor Sax</b>	<b>Reeds:</b> Vandoren Blue Box 2.5/3 <b>Reed Case:</b> Rico Reed Guard for Tenor Saxophone (holds four reeds) <b>Neck Strap:</b> Protec Padded Neck Strap for Tenor Sax (no open hooks) Cork Grease, Silk Swab for Tenor Saxophone
<b>Baritone Sax</b>	<b>Reeds:</b> Vandoren Blue Box 2.5/3 <b>Reed Case:</b> Rico Reed Guard for Baritone Saxophone (holds four reeds) <b>Neck Strap:</b> Protec Padded Neck Strap for Bari Sax (no open hooks) Cork Grease, Silk Swab for Bari Saxophone
<b>Trumpet</b>	<b>Mouthpiece:</b> Bach 5B <i>or</i> Bach 3C Valve Oil
<b>French Horn</b>	<b>Mouthpiece:</b> JHD <i>or</i> Schmidt MDC Rotary Oil

**Trombone**     **Mouthpiece:** JHD Small Shank *or* Shilke 51D *or* Bach 6½ AL  
Slide Oil

**Euphonium**     **Mouthpiece:** JHD Small Shank *or* Shilke 51D *or* Bach 6½ AL  
Valve Oil

**Tuba**             **Mouthpiece:** JHD *or* Conn Helleberg  
Valve Oil (use on instruments with piston valves) *or*  
Rotary Oil (use on instruments with rotary valves)

**Percussion**     Bell Kit (keep this at home to practice – do NOT bring to school)  
Practice Pad (DO bring this to school)  
Stick Bag  
Snare Drum Sticks, Timpani Mallets, Medium Yarn Mallets, Plastic Bell Mallets

## 6. UNIFORMS

### 6.1 Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band

Casual Uniform: Used for pep rallies, the fall concert, games, and festivals. The cost of the band t-shirt is included in the course fee payable through *Pay-n-Go*.

Includes:

- HJH band t-shirt,
- Jeans,
- tennis shoes.

Formal Uniform: Used for the winter concert, Solo & Ensemble, pre-UIL concert, UIL Concert & Sight Reading Evaluation, and the spring concert. The cost of the formal shirt is included in the course fee payable through *Pay-n-Go*.

Includes:

- Includes black buttoned down long sleeve dress shirt,
- black dress pants,
- long solid black dress socks,
- solid black dress shoes.

### 6.2 Beginning Band

Casual Uniform: Used for all performances. The cost of the band t-shirt is included in the course fee payable through *Pay-n-Go*.

Includes:

- HJH band t-shirt,
- Jeans,
- tennis shoes.

## 7. PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

### 7.1 Concerts

As a performance-based elective, this is our primary venue for showing off the Haskett Junior High Band. We will perform several concerts throughout the school year, including a fall concert, winter concert, and spring concert. All concerts are free of charge. The dates for our concerts and all performance opportunities are on our band calendar at [HaskettBand.com](http://HaskettBand.com).

### 7.2 Pep Rallies & Football Games

Occasionally we are asked to perform at pep rallies and football games. In those circumstances, the Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band will be used to perform. While these are very visible performance opportunities, they are not the primary focus of junior high band curriculum.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students will be asked to attend one high school football game, depending on the high school they are zoned to, in order to experience an evening as a high school band musician.

You can find the dates of these events on the band calendar.

### 7.3 UIL Concert & Sight Reading Evaluation

UIL Concert & Sight Reading Evaluation is an event held in the spring semester where ensembles are evaluated on their ability to perform pieces of music they have rehearsed, and to sight read a new musical work with limited practice time. The Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band are typically taken to this event. The Concert Band may attend based on the size of the ensemble.

The Beginning Band does not participate at this event.

### 7.4 Spring Festival

We like to celebrate our students and reward them with opportunities to perform for judges in various settings. We are currently looking for festivals we can attend in the spring that will allow our students an opportunity to play their instruments and have some fun with the band family at a waterpark or a game center similar to Main Event or Typhoon Texas. We will be sending out more information as it becomes available.

### 7.5 Region Band

The All-Region Band is an ensemble comprised of some of the finest musicians in Katy ISD, Houston ISD, and Alief ISD. Students audition each fall for a chance to perform with one of the all-region bands. Those who are selected will rehearse and perform on a specified weekend in December and are featured in a special concert. This is an honor and an exciting experience for those participating. Auditions are typically reserved for members of the wind ensemble but all students who wish to audition are welcome. The region band concert open to the public.

## 7.6 Solo & Ensemble Contest

Solo & Ensemble Contest is an event held in late January or early February (depending on the year) that allows students of all ability levels to compete for a medal. Students are allowed to perform solos or play as a part of a small group. Brass and woodwind musicians will perform with piano accompaniment with a \$10 fee to pay for the pianist's time and effort.



## 8. PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are optional weekly one-on-one classes with professional, symphony-quality musicians and are offered through the Katy ISD Department of Fine Arts. Lessons are typically 30 minutes long and held on campus at Haskett Junior High or another Katy ISD campus, depending on the best available teacher for each instrument.

The cost of lessons is determined on the experience level of the teacher and ranges from \$18.50 to \$24.50 per 30-minute lesson.

While not a requirement to participate in band, private lessons are incredibly helpful to the growth of a musician. Families interested in private lessons should contact the band directors for additional information, and to make contact with private lesson providers.

## 9. FEES

### 9.1 Course Fee

The Katy ISD annual course fee of \$50 covers the following for all students in band:

- Uniform shirts (t-shirt, formal uniform shirt, or both)
- Black binder with dividers
- Snacks/water for trips
- Music licensing fees
- Other general supplies

Payment of the course fee can be paid through *Pay-n-Go*. Please contact Mr. Tipps ([jeffreygtipps@katyisd.org](mailto:jeffreygtipps@katyisd.org)) as soon as possible to set up a payment plan if this fee creates a financial burden on your family. **Course fees are due October 1<sup>st</sup>.**

### 9.2 Instrument Maintenance Fee

This is for students playing school-owned instruments **only**. These instruments include: oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, french horn, euphonium, tuba, or percussion instruments.

This \$80 fee covers yearly maintenance costs of these instruments. Extreme damages that exceed the damage of normal wear and tear are to be covered by the family of the student. This is explained in more detail on the Katy ISD instrument rental form which will be distributed by the director for these instruments. Payment of the instrument maintenance fee can be paid through *Pay-n-Go*. Please contact Mr. Tipps ([jeffreygtipps@katyisd.org](mailto:jeffreygtipps@katyisd.org)) as soon as possible to set up a payment plan if this fee creates a financial burden on your family.

### 9.3 Fundraising

The course fee covers much of what we can do for our students but we always like doing more. To that end, we encourage all students and parents to help with fundraising when possible. We will keep you informed on fundraising opportunities as they arise.

## 10. FORMS

There are several forms that will need to be filled out by the parents of each child in band and turned in by Friday, August 27, 2021. Forms can be found by following these links:

- Haskett Junior High Band Handbook Acknowledgement Form
- Parent/Guardian Authorization for Regular Extracurricular Travel and Consent to Emergency Treatment of Student
- Parent/Guardian Authorization for Regular Extracurricular Travel and Consent to Emergency Treatment of Student (Spanish)
- Katy ISD Instrument Usage Fee Agreement and Repair Policy (for school-owned instruments only)
- Request for Post-Activity Student Release (used when a parent/guardian of a child in band needs to take child from an event in which the child arrived via district transportation)
- Hold Harmless Agreement (for parents wishing to travel on a Katy ISD school bus as a chaperone for band-related events)

These forms can also be found at [HaskettBand.com](http://HaskettBand.com)