

J. Frank Dobie Middle School
Early College Prep
Mighty Roadrunner Bands



2024-2025
Bands & Mariachi Handbook

Ms. Alana Urbano, *Head Director*
Mr. Noah Cisneros, *Associate Director*



2024-2025 Roadrunner Band Calendar

Please Look on the BAND APP & Fine Arts Website for updates and required events

Key: WE - Wind Ensemble | SB - Symphonic Band | PB - PepBand | DL - Drumline | M - Mariachi

BB – Beginners | ALL means ALL Ensembles

Date	Event	Location	Time	Group
2024				
8/20	First Day of School!	Dobie Campus	All Day	:)
8/28	Back to School Night	Dobie Campus	5:45pm	DL
8/30	<i>Ms. Urbano's Birthday!</i>	<i>The World</i>	<i>All Day</i>	
9/4	Band Parent Meeting	Band Hall	6:00pm	Parents
9/13	Navarro HS Football Game	Navarro HS / Nelson	1:30pm / 6:30pm	7th/8th WE,SB,DL
9/16	AISD Band Jamboree	Burger Stadium	5:30pm	7th/8th WE,SB,DL
9/19	NEHS Football Game	Nelson Field	5:30pm	7th/8th WE,SB,DL
9/25	Hispanic Heritage Month Assembly	Dobie Gym	6:00pm	DL, M
10/17	TABE Convention Performance	Kalahari Resort	12:00pm	M
10/18	Fine Arts End of 1st 9WKS Celebration!	Dobie Cafeteria	4:00pm	ALL
10/24	Fall Concert	Dobie Large Gym	6:00pm	WE,SB,M
10/25	LBJ Football Game	Nelson Field	5:30pm	7th/8th WE,SB,DL
10/25	Dobie Fall Fest	Dobie Campus	5:30pm	PB*, D, M
10/26	District Band Auditions	Burnet MS	8:00am	Selected Students
11/2	HopeFest '24	Northeast HS	8:00am	PB*, DL, M
11/9	Region Band Auditions (round 2)	TBD	8:00am	Selected Students
12/6-7	Region Band Clinic & Concert	AISD PAC	8:00am	Selected Students
12/11	Joint Winter Concert w/ NEHS Band	NEHS Auditorium	TBD	8th Grade WE
12/12	Winter Concert	Dobie Large Gym	6:00pm	WE, SB, BB
12/12-13	Elementary Tour	Hart/Graham/Walnut	TBD	BB*, DL, M
*12/21	Fine Arts End of 2nd 9WKS Celebration	TBD	TBD	ALL
2025				
1/17-18	AISD All-City Band	Austin ISD PAC	1:30pm / 9:00am	selected WE/SB
1/29	Band Camp (UIL Students)	Dobie Campus	10:00am	WE / SB
2/?	Black History Month Assembly	Dobie Gym	6:30pm	DL, PB
2/10-11	Pre-UIL	AISD PAC	TBA	WE, SB
3/4	<i>Mr. Cisneros' Birthday!</i>	<i>The World</i>	<i>All Day</i>	
3/11-12	UIL Concert & Sight Reading	AISD PAC	TBA	WE, S
3/14	Fine Arts End of 2nd 9WKS Celebration	TBD	TBD	ALL
4/26*	Unity Walk & KidsFest*	Northeast HS	8:00am	PB, DL, M
5/7	Joint Spring Concert w/ NEHS Band	NEHS Auditorium	5:30pm	8th Grade WE
5/8	Spring Concert	Dobie Large Gym	6pm	WE, SB, BB
5/9	Mother's Day Serenadas	Dobie Campus	TBD	M
5/?	Joint Spring Concert: Mariachi at Navarro	Navarro HS	TBD	M
5/15	Fine Arts Banquet	Dobie Cafeteria	5:30pm	ALL
5/16	Fine Arts Retreat	Kalahari Resort	10:00am	WE, SB, DL, M
6/?	Austin All Star Band Rehearsals	Northeast HS	TBD	TBD
6/?	Austin All Star Band Music Festival	AISD PAC	TBD	TBD
6/?	Austin All Star Band Juneteenth Parade	TBD	TBD	TBD

PHILOSOPHY

The Dobie Roadrunner Bands operate under the following philosophy:

Our middle school band and mariachi programs are designed to promote a basic understanding and appreciation for music, as well as provide the necessary skills to allow our students to participate in a wide variety of instrumental ensemble settings. Our bands are the heart and soul of our school, and our biggest goal is to steward musicianship and belonging for our students by providing a safe place to express, create, and bond. Our student's experiences in our programs will prepare and motivate them to successfully continue participating in music programs after graduating middle school.

*The Austin ISD Fine Arts Department believes that an education in Fine Arts is essential for the development of the **whole child**. The arts provide unique experiences that allow students to explore their passions, maximize their creativity and critical thinking skills, and learn valuable lessons about self-motivation, regulation, discipline, dedication, teamwork and communication.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Middle School Concert Bands, both Wind Ensemble (Advanced) & Symphonic Band (intermediate), and Mariachi are open to instrumentalists in grades seven and eight who want to further their study of instrumental music. All Bands will meet 3 days a week during class times, and will be expected to attend after school rehearsals throughout competition and concert seasons. This course develops additional skills necessary for students to perform in the High School Instrumental Ensembles, and beyond.

COURSE MATERIALS

All Solo, Small Group, and Ensemble Music used for study are provided. Additional handouts are provided for enrichment study outside of practice and rehearsals. Students will be issued an instrument belonging to Dobie Middle School, and are responsible for its safety and wellbeing. Students will pay a \$40 "Fair Share Fee," or rental fee, that includes instrument maintenance and rental costs, band shirt, polos, accessory items (i.e. drum sticks, mallets, reeds, cork grease, tuning slide grease, valve oil), class binders, flip folders, uniform cleanings, etc. Students are expected to have their instrument, binder, pencil, and a highlighter for **EVERY** rehearsal. Students will also need to download and have access to THE BAND APP and MUSECLASS, either on their phones or chromebooks for communications and assignments.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Develop skills in instrumental music related to performing, analyzing, creating, and responding to music.
2. Develop skills in instrumental music to become successful musicians and 21st century citizens.
3. Demonstrate skills in instrumental music that contribute positively to culture and the school community.
4. Connect with our community and beyond through musical performances and experiences.

ASSESSMENTS & GRADING

Assessments & Grades will be calculated each nine weeks and will fall into 1 of 3 categories – Rehearsal Participation (50%), Performances (30%), and Quarterly Evaluations (20%). Rubrics will be provided to students prior to assessments. A description of the assessments and the categories in which they fall are listed below.

Daily Rehearsal Evaluation (Participation)	50%
9WKS Performance	30%
Quarterly Evaluations: Quizzes (Paper or BLEND), Chair Test, Recordings (MuseClass), etc.	20%
TOTAL: 100%	

PERFORMANCES

Performances are the culminating project of each quarter. Attendance at the events listed below are expected. Failure to attend will require the student to play the entire concert for Mrs. Urbano & Mr. Cisneros as a makeup grade. Critical concerts for this school year and times are listed below:

BAND		MARIACHI	
Fall Concert <i>Thursday, October 24th,</i> <i>6:00PM</i>	UIL Concert & Sightreading <i>March 11th or 12th, TBA</i>	Hispanic Heritage Month Assembly September 25th at TBD	Elementary Tours DEcember '24
Winter Concert <i>Thursday, December 12th,</i> <i>6:00PM</i>	Spring Concert <i>Thursday, May 8th,</i> <i>6:00PM</i>	TABE Conference October 17th, 2024 at 12:00PM	Unity Walk & KidsFest April '24
		HopeFest '24 November 2nd at 9:00AM	Joint Spring Concert w/ Navarro HS - May '24

EXPECTATIONS

In addition to the rules stated in the AISD & Dobie student handbook, the following rule *paramount* in the band program:

“Do not do anything that is detrimental to your success as a person and as a musician in our band program.”

- Be in your assigned seat with instrument, music, and pencil no later than THREE MINUTES after the bell rings.
- **Do not chew gum during class or rehearsal.**
- Respect the facilities, equipment, and the musical abilities of your peers.
- Take responsibility for your behavior and performance in rehearsal.
- Do not leave personal belongings & food in the band room, lockers, or practice rooms.
- All Concert Band Students are assigned a locker to store their instrument & music. You are responsible for the upkeep of your locker.
- Students are expected to remain in the room during rehearsal unless directed to another practice space by the director. Students must sign out to use the water fountain and rest rooms.

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

During performances:

- Out of respect for the performer(s) and listeners, NO TALKING.
- Do not enter or exit the performance except between pieces (EXCEPTION- crying children or emergency).
- No food or drink until AFTER the concert.
- Applaud when appropriate. Yelling, whistling, shouting names, are not acceptable for indoor performances.
- During serious music, applaud only *after* the conductor has lowered his or her arms.
- During pop or jazz music you may applaud for a *soloist* during the song.
- Please silence all electronics.
- Stay for the entire concert.

BEHAVIOR AND CONSEQUENCES

Students in our elite performing groups at Dobie and selected by directors at the end of the previous school year based on aptitude, behavior, auditions, and dedication. There will be many opportunities for band & mariachi members to represent Dobie Middle School in public. Whether it is on campus, another school, on a bus or at another public place, all members are expected to maintain the same high standards of behavior. If behaviors falter, the directors have the right to enact appropriate and fair consequences.

This year, we will be using a **merit/demerit** system for our Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and Mariachi. All merits/demerits will be weighed according to this handbook's guidelines. A student is subject to the merit/demerit system upon becoming a member of the program.

Demerit - a negative action | **Merit** - a positive action

In most cases, students will receive ONE warning before any demerit is given. The following actions will be taken as demerits accumulate:

- **5 demerits** warrant a **conference** or phone call with parents to give information about behaviors
- **8 demerits** shall result in **probation** from the band (individual cases will have separate goals to come off of probationary status)
- **10 demerits** shall result in **dismissal** or **demotion** from the current band program (after a trial)

Students may be assigned a “**demerit**” for any of the following infractions:

ONE Demerit

- Talking at inappropriate times
- Consecutive tardiness, or skipping classes (not just band)
- Forgetting your materials and/or instrument for rehearsal
- On phone without permission
- Failure to turn in important paperwork or forms before the deadline
- Being out of seat without permission
- Having gum, food or drinks during rehearsals
- Abusing or damaging music stands or any other school property

TWO Demerits

- Missing sectionals or rehearsals that are scheduled in advanced
- Inappropriate behavior during a performance or field trip
- Running or horse playing in any of the music facilities, including other Dobie classrooms and spaces
- Being out of uniform for an event (Concert dress, band shirt, etc.)
- Failure to bring a written excuse from parent/guardian upon return after absence for rehearsal/performance.

FIVE Demerits

- Handling another student's instrument

- Loitering or trespassing on school grounds before the bell and after the last bell. Students should be on campus for an educationally related purpose, such as tutorials or extracurricular activities. Students who are waiting for a ride home shall not be considered to be loitering.
- Any unexcused absence from required event or practice

EIGHT Demerits

- Insubordination toward the directors
- Inappropriate use of social media (including the Band App) during or outside school grounds
- Inappropriate public displays of affection in/out of uniform including but not limited to holding hands, kissing or inappropriate hugging
- Displaying unsportsmanlike conduct, inappropriate behavior or using foul language.
- Inappropriate conduct as stated in Dobie or AISD Student Handbook

TEN Demerits (Dismissal or Demotion from the Program)

- Engages in two or more bullying or hazing offenses including cyber bullying offenses.
- Getting into a physical altercation with another student, staff member, admin, or school sponsor on or off campus.
- Engaging in acts intended to disrupt school, inciting a riot or disturbance, eliciting or using drugs, encouraging others to disrupt school.

A student who is placed in an alternative setting under these circumstances will be given the opportunity for a hearing. A placement will not be made unless the "Board" or the "Boards Designee" determines that the student's presence in the regular classroom either:

- Threatens the safety of other students or teachers;
- Will be detrimental to the educational process; or
- Is not in the best interest of the district's students.

In contrast, **Merits** can be given to nullify *Demerits*. Merits can include but are not limited to:

- Service project (approved by the directors) i.e. cleaning the band hall, organizing, clerical work, etc.
- Attending a field trip or performance as a student chaperone to help assist with equipment for performing groups
- Going above and beyond to perform an act of kindness or service to the band/mariachi or an individual in our program

SECTION REHEARSALS

All band and mariachi members will be **REQUIRED** to attend one/two section rehearsals per week during the school year; before or after school. These will be scheduled in advance, when we have performances or competitions upcoming. Performance tests might be given during these rehearsals due to time shortages during the regular band period. Students must be picked up within a timely manner after rehearsals (15 minute window). We will release our after school rehearsal and dictionary schedule as soon as possible.

*NOTE: Students participating in School related activities: Athletics Programs, Theatre, Dance, Cheer, etc will **SPLIT** time if rehearsals/ practices conflict. **Communication is key and our Dobie Team works to accommodate schedules.***

DOBIE INSTRUMENT RENTALS

At Dobie, we are proud to have instruments available for every student to rent from the school. All that is needed is the "Instrument Rental Agreement Form" that can be found at the end of this handbook. In most cases, our program can repair minor wear-and-tear for instruments. However, ***students will be held financially responsible for the repair of any excessive damages occurring from student negligence in the care of a school owned instrument.*** In the event this maintenance fee creates a severe financial hardship, please contact one of the directors, so that an alternative payment plan or other ideas may be considered. Students may purchase or borrow their own personal instrument if desired. If you are interested in purchasing a personal instrument, please contact Mrs. Urbano.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE

BAND: During the first week of school, all students will be assigned a band locker. All band members are ***required*** to leave their instruments in their designated locker slots located in the band hall **BEFORE** their first class period. They should **NOT** be taken around the school from class to class - this is how they go missing. They are expected to pick them up immediately after school. Dobie/AISD will not be responsible for lost or damaged instruments.

MARIACHI: Instruments will be stored in room 212, and occasionally the band hall. You may take it home with permission from the directors for extra practice.

FAIR-SHARE FEE

ALL Band & Mariachi students are billed a \$40.00 Instrument Rental / Supply Fee. This fee helps cover individual needs for the program such as but not limited to: district & region fees, UIL fees, music licensing, music copies, instrument maintenance, supplies (reeds, valve oil, slide grease, guitar picks, rosen, etc.), clinicians and master classes, student awards and incentives, buses, method books, experiences, extra activities for the students, etc. You may pay this fee directly, or use fundraising earnings.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

For Fairshare Fee or Fundraising, we accept cash (soon we will accept cards, too.) Money **MUST** always be turned in to our Dobie Band

Directors to avoid the money getting “forgotten” by another party. Please refrain from sending coins and use exact change when sending cash. Each student will be given a receipt upon turning in their fee. ONE FEE PER HOUSEHOLD!

FUNDRAISING

The Band will provide several fundraisers this year. Our first fundraiser is scheduled to be Snap!Raise. The money raised by our students is used for the operating expenses of all bands, i.e. repairing school-owned instruments, buying new instruments, new equipment, music for concerts, solos, ensembles, clinicians, trips, transportation, etc. Our fundraisers last two weeks from the starting date. Students are not required to participate in fundraising activities, however, it is highly recommended for the success of our programs.

➡ **STUDENTS MAY USE FUNDRAISERS TO PAY for Fairshare Fees, Trips or Private Lessons!!!** ⬅

Fundraising profit cannot be refunded to students/families. Fundraising profits can be credited to another band member if needed. Any money left over will go toward the band activity account to help pay for operating expenses at the end of the school year.

TRIP POLICIES

During the course of the year, band students may participate in a trip activity. These trips are designed to reward students who participate, behave well, and earn passing grades. **Students must make a 70 or higher in all classes to be eligible for the band trip(s).** All “no-pass, no-play” rules will be followed, as well as other appropriate school policies. The directors reserve the right to refuse participation on a band-sponsored trip to any student who repeatedly demonstrates that they are unable to behave appropriately throughout the year. Students must attend all concerts and performances to be eligible to attend Spring Trips. Trip money will not be reimbursed for the trip if the student is unable to participate due to grades or behavior.

UNIFORMS

Students who are not in full uniform as specified for a performance receive demerits, and have a possibility of being removed from a performance.

Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band

All Band students will need to purchase a Dobie Band Polo or Shirt from the Dobie Band. This polo and shirt meets the requirements for school dress and is worn for informal performances such as football games, pep rallies and other designated performances. The cost for the shirt is rolled into the Fair-Share Fee. Replacement fees for shirts are \$20. We are working on information for polos, and we will have this out ASAP.

Formal Concerts – “Concert Black” - Dobie will provide uniforms that include:

- Long Black Concert Gown
- Tuxedo: Black Dress Shirt, Slacks, Coat, Bowtie, Cummerbund (please buy an undershirt and LONG black dress socks)

ALL: Appropriate undergarments, black dress shoes. No “colored” plastic jewelry - silver/gold simple jewelry is permitted.

Informal performances – Band Polo, BLUE jeans pants or shorts, Belt and Tennis shoes/sneakers (no crocs)

Casual performances – Band Shirt, BLUE jeans pants or shorts, Belt and Tennis shoes/sneakers (no crocs)

Mariachi

All mariachis will be issued a Black Traje with Gold embroidery that includes:

Female: Shirt, Jacket, Vest, Skirt, Sash; ladies should buy their own dangling earrings and red lipstick.

Male: Shirt, Jacket, Vest, Pant, Leather Belt; boys should have tall black socks under pants.

ALL: Sombrero, Moño (neck tie), white under shirt (personal), black shoes (Personal); Hair should be neat and long hair should be tied behind your back in a ponytail. No rings, necklaces, or bracelets visible.

ALL STUDENTS MUST BUY THEIR OWN BLACK SHOES. Please bring these in as soon as they are purchased!

If a student is having trouble acquiring any part of the required uniform/attire, a director should be notified at least one week prior to the event so that the directors can help that student get the necessary attire. **Please plan ahead!**



CONTACT US

Ms. Alana Urbano | Head Band Director | alana.urbano@austinisd.org

Mr. Noah Cisneros | Assistant Band Director | noah.cisneros@austinisd.org

Band Hall Phone: (512) 414-4374 | Dobie Front Office Phone: (512) 414-3270

INSTAGRAM: @dobieband_aisd

HANDBOOK AGREEMENT 2024-2025

Student Name: _____ Instrument: _____ Grade Level: _____

Circle: WE - Wind Ensemble | SB - Symphonic Band | M - Mariachi | DL - Drumline

Please initial each line to verify that you have read our policies:		Student	Parent
2024-2025 Calendar	pg. 2	_____	_____
Assessments & Grading	pg. 3	_____	_____
Concert Performances	pg. 3	_____	_____
Expectations & Demerit System	pg. 4-5	_____	_____
Sectionals	pg. 5	_____	_____
Fair-Share Fee & Rentals	pg. 5	_____	_____
Fundraising	pg. 6	_____	_____
Concert Uniform Requirements	pg. 6	_____	_____

DO DO NOT give Dobie Band permission to use my child's photo electronically (yearbook, website, social media).

I have read and understand all of the information from the Dobie Middle School Band Handbook and agree to abide by the stated policies.

<p>Student Signature</p> <p>Parent/Guardian Signature</p>	<p>Date</p>
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FUNDRAISING PARTICIPATION *(Please check one):*

_____ I give my son/daughter permission to participate in fundraisers for the Dobie Middle School Band program. I understand that my child is responsible and will be held responsible for all items that he/she checks out from a band director.

_____ I DO NOT give my son/daughter permission to participate in fundraisers for the Dobie Middle School Band program.

PRIVATE LESSONS

_____ I am interested in scheduling private music lessons.

PARENT/BOOSTER HELP for opportunities with dates, please initial

*Starred events are for 7th/8th grade parents only

- | | |
|---|--|
| _____ Office/Clerical Help (any time during the year) | _____ Door Greeters for Concerts (see dates on calendar) |
| _____ Counting Money (after fundraisers) | _____ Hispanic Heritage Assembly |
| _____ Uniform Fittings (9/5-9/8) | _____ Black History Month Assembly |
| _____ Dress Hemming (light hand stitch) | _____ HopeFest (October) |
| _____ *Chaperone Navarro HS game | _____ KidsFest (April) |
| _____ *Chaperone NEHS Game | _____ Music Library (data entry, filing) |

Due by Friday, August 30, 2024

(the best birthday gift you can give to Mrs. Urbano is turning in this handbook and your fair share fee!!)

DOBIE INSTRUMENT RENTAL AGREEMENT

We are pleased to provide your child with a school-owned instrument for his/her use during the 2024-2025 school year. At the end of the school year, the instrument is to be returned to the school. It can then be reissued for the following school year, when a new rental agreement has been completed. **Sign and return this rental agreement to your child's Band Directors. They will not be permitted to take the instrument from school until it is turned in.** Thank you for your participation and support of our music program!

Please Note:

The District is not responsible for instruments left on the school bus, in student lockers or unsecured facilities.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Student's Name: _____

Grade: _____ Home Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

INSTRUMENT INFORMATION

Instrument type: _____ Brand: _____

Serial # _____ Date Issued: _____

Condition: _____

*In consideration of the Dobie Fine Arts Department releasing the above equipment to my son/daughter, I agree to take full responsibility for the care of the instrument described above, including loss or damage to the instrument beyond normal wear and tear for the 2024-25 school year. **I understand that I will be responsible to pay for any damage to the instrument.** I also understand that if the instrument is not returned to school at the end of the school year stated above, I will be obligated to pay the school district the sum of \$_____ which is the replacement cost of the instrument to Austin ISD.*

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

TO BE FILLED BY DIRECTOR

Instrument Returned: _____

Date Damage: _____

Teacher's Signature _____