

# 2012-2013 Brazos Band



## Official Hand Book

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	<b>Kris McCain</b>	<b>Percussion Instructor/Coordinator</b>
<b>Drum Majors:</b>	<b>Janely Hirani</b>	<b>Head Drum Major</b>
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# **Brazos High School Band Handbook**

## **Foreword**

The success of any organization is dependent upon the spirit, pride, leadership, teamwork, dedication, and cooperation of its members. Certain rules, policies, and procedures are necessary so that the overall goals of the group are met and the welfare of each individual member is best served.

By accepting membership in the Brazos High School Band, you are agreeing to perform to the best of your abilities and work together with the band staff in making this year's band the finest musical organization that our combined efforts can produce. In order for this to occur, students will need to be responsible, attentive, and respectful, have a positive attitude. The directors will do their best to insure that every student will be provided the opportunity to be successful, regardless of their ability as an incoming student or of their career ambitions following graduation.

The Brazos band staff has developed this handbook to familiarize each band member with general operation and procedures of the Brazos Band and standards by which all band members are expected to conduct themselves. The handbook is not intended to be all-inclusive, as every possible situation and question cannot be predicted in advance; however, a thorough knowledge of these materials is essential to the smooth operation and success of the band this year.

### **Mission:**

We, a musical community, strive for excellence and uphold our great traditions as we entertain, serve, and create an atmosphere that inspires and brings joy.

As committed, supportive, encouraging, enthusiastic and organized leaders we agree to:

- Serve as a role model every day, with a positive attitude
- Communicate effectively
- Treat everyone with fairness and respect
- Create a positive and encouraging atmosphere to express ideas
- Be prepared

### **Goals and Objectives:**

#### *Mental and Physical discipline*

- Develop powers of concentration
- Memorize Music
- Learn techniques of preparation as they relate to group and individual performances
- Develop self and group discipline

- Citizenship through group endeavor
- Develop leadership abilities
- Develop responsibility
- Develop ability to cooperate with others and to work as a team member
- Develop diligence
- Develop mutual respect

Physical Conditioning

- Develop strength, stamina, endurance and coordination

Cultural Growth

- Provide opportunities to attain knowledge of music history through performance of various types of instrumental literature

Value Judgements:

- Ability to make musical value (as they pertain to a musical setting) judgments through critical listening
- Ability of quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics and articulation

Music Theory:

- Know and utilize note values and rests
- Know and utilize keys, key signatures, and scales
- Know and utilize musical terms, signs, and symbols
- Recognize and tune intervals and harmony
- Ear training/listening skills

Proper Instrument Technique:

- Care of instrument
- Assume correct posture and playing position
- Develop the embouchure/stick grip/hand position
- Develop characteristic instrumental tone
- Develop proper breathing techniques
- Develop technical instrumental proficiency (fingering, articulation, rudiments, scales, etc.)

Creative self-expression

- Express oneself in every performance experience
- Explore careers

In addition to the State of Texas Guidelines, the Brazos High School Band will strive to:

- Provide any interested student with the opportunities of musical knowledge, musical fellowship, and fun through participation in band.
- Provide for the mental, physical, social, and emotional development of students
- Instill pride and discipline in each student
- Provide each student with solo and group endeavors to achieve personal goals and satisfaction
- Provide basic psychological needs as recognition, belonging, self-respect, and a feeling of achievement

### **Communication:**

The directors encourage positive communication and are willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress in band with his/her parents. Specific directors' office phone numbers and email addresses can be found on the Brazos High School webpage, and also you can find ways to communicate via the Official Band Facebook Page, Twitter @brazosband, <http://www.brazosband.wikispaces.com> and also the Brazos Band Booster Facebook Page.

### **Conduct/Expectations:**

Band members will observe all policies set forth by Brazos ISD, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

- Students in band serve as representatives of the school and school district at many public extra-curricular functions. Membership in these organizations is a privilege and it is within the right of any director to deny membership to a student if they believe that they would not positively represent the organization.
- 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. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both public and private events.
- All students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with Brazos ISD policy. Display of profanity, temper, flagrant violation of rules, etc., will not be tolerated. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection of the group.
- Students will follow directors instructions
- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area ready to work at the set rehearsal time with all equipment, including music, pencil, instrument, and all supplies to rehearsals daily (see detailed supply list for each instrument).

- Students will keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.
- Students will not use or play on equipment they do not own without permission from a director.
- 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 and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that time will be utilized wisely and as efficiently as possible.
- When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.
- Students will respect the property of others, and return their equipment to its proper storage place when not in use. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area, and keep said storage area clean and neat in appearance. Students who demonstrate great difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band hall.
- Students will not deface or mark on music stands, chairs, walls, etc.
- Students will utilize their assigned storage slot/locker for instrument cases during rehearsals. Cases should not be brought into rehearsals unless requested by a director (exceptions: flute, clarinet, oboe, and bassoon).
- Students will not write on dry-erase board without permission from a director.
- During rehearsal time there is to be **NO CELL PHONES, DRINKS OR FOOD!**

### **Internet:**

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that band member websites are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication such as MySpace, Facebook, photo sharing, emailing, or texting, etc., appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Members are responsible for their personal websites and postings, as well as posting from or on other students' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include but are not limited to profane, foul, 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 other BISD

teaching staff or band members, 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.

Band members that violate the above Internet guidelines shall be subject to the following:

- Upon confirmation of a first violation, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the website(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal, directors, and band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior.
- Upon confirmation of a second offense, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the website(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal, directors, and band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior. In addition, the student will be suspended from all Band activities for a period of 3 days to 3 weeks.
- Upon confirmation of a third offense, the member will be removed from band.

#### **Care of Band Facilities:**

*Refreshments* – No gum, food or drinks are allowed in the building except when authorized by the directors.

*Litter* – All trash (paper, broken reeds/drum sticks, etc.) is to be deposited in the wastebaskets provided.

*Vandalism* – Acts of vandalism or the willful misuse of school property will be dealt with severely and appropriately. Every band member is responsible to help the director's monitor the facility and control vandalism, which includes writing or carving on walls, destroying music, or breaking school property.

*Offices* – Please knock, and if you are invited in, you may enter. Otherwise, they are off-limits to students. Students may not use director's phone without permission.

## **Due Process:**

All Brazos ISD students are entitled to due process in accordance with BISD guidelines. Our goal as a staff is to ensure that all students are treated fairly. Please contact one of the directors if you have any concerns. We will work with you to resolve problems. We are here to provide a quality music education for all our students.

## **Attendance:**

In order to have and maintain a high quality band program, attendance from all members is essential. While the BISD band follows all school and district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the BISD band. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held outside of the school day.

### Roll Check

Roll will be checked and documented promptly at the start of rehearsal.

### Tardiness:

Students not in their designated area at the appropriate time will be marked tardy. A tardy will be converted to a mark of absent 10 minutes after the rehearsal begins.

### Excused Tardiness:

Tardiness may be excused at the discretion of the directors. Tutorials, appointments etc. will not be an excuse for tardiness unless prior arrangements, with written documentation, are made and approved by a director

### Unexcused Tardiness:

Students who have more than one unexcused tardy shall make up missed time at a time to be arranged by the director and may be subject to one of the following consequences at the discretion of the band directors.

- Loss of leadership position
- Loss of marching privilege (for one game)
- Requirement to stay after rehearsal or report early to next rehearsal to make up lost time
- Requirement to make up 15 minutes of fundamental marching with his/her section leader

### Absence:

Students not present at the appropriate time maybe marked absent.

Excused Absence:

Absences will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Absence due to personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances (approved by director) may be considered for excused status. Students who are continually ill may be required to provide a doctor's note releasing them from participation in order to ensure the well being of the child and to reduce concerns of the band directors. If in doubt, an absence should be checked with a director.

- Please inform the director of any absence at least a week in advance. Absences will not be excused if not given before the seven day deadline. In event of concert/marching participation, the band director needs to know a month ahead of time, to make the proper adjustments needed
- The Brazos band only meets one night a week, and that is on Monday nights from 6:30 to 8:30, please out of consideration for the band program, do not schedule anything during this time.
- The Brazos Band also is responsible for three parades. These parades are very important to the Brazos community, and I must get all support and participation in these parades. If a student must miss these parades I need a letter in writing from the parents 7 days prior to the event, and a phone call will be made to confirm the letter.
  - Austin County Parade (Austin County Parade)
  - The Orchard Parade (First Sunday in December)
  - The Wallis Parade (Second Saturday in December)

Unexcused Absence

Students who have an unexcused absence may be subject to one or more of the following consequences at the discretion of the directors

- Make up missed time
- Loss of spot as marcher
- Loss of marching privilege for one game
- Loss of attendance privilege at one game
- Removal from Band program, and loss of physical education credit.

Parents will be notified immediately of each and every unexcused absence.

**Daily Supplies:**

The following list is what each student should plan to bring to the appropriate rehearsal and/or performance. Other items may be added at the discretion of the directors.

- All issued music
- Pencil



- Instrument
- All supplies relative to their instrument
- All marching related equipment (During marching season)
- Drill/dot book/lanyard/coordinate sheet
- Lyre/Folder
- Other marching equipment as needed (they could vary from year to year)

**District Owned Instruments:**

BISD will provide a limited number of instruments for student use. This equipment is generally purchased by the school district for student use because of its extremely high expense. *Thus, all district owned equipment must be handled with optimum care.* Students failing to take proper care of their school-issued instrument may lose the privilege to use such instruments, and may lose spot in the Brazos ISD Band program.

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

- BISD does not provide insurance for individually owned or district-owned equipment. Students will be held responsible for all district-owned instruments issued to them. This responsibility will include fire, theft, accidental damage, abuse and general maintenance not incurred through normal use.
- Students and parents must sign an instrument checkout form before the student can use the instrument.
- Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition. Each issued instrument will be checked and cleaned prior to issue. Students are expected to maintain their issued instruments accordingly.
- The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him or her.
- All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.
- BISD will assess a fee for routine (end of year) cleaning and maintenance of district-owned instruments. This fee will be collected at the beginning of each school year, by the Band Directors (this fee does not cover removal of dents or other student-responsible repairs).

Special Note

District-owned instruments are not to be treated as "free" instruments. Basic supplies must still be purchased and repairs must still be made just like personally owned instruments. Please strive to treat these instruments as if they were your own. Most district-owned instruments exceed \$2,000 in value.

**Eligibility**

All BISD Bands adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and BISD. Some band activities are designated as extra-curricular. Students participating in these activities are governed by eligibility requirements. A student shall be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the six 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 of extra-curricular 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 in the third week of the affected grading period. Reinstatement of eligibility would occur seven days after the three week progress report period (see TEA/UIIL Side by Side).

Activities that are considered curricular components of any course are not affected by the eligibility law. Examples of these activities are all rehearsals and performances that take place as a regular extension of classroom instruction. Any performance that is competitive in nature or for which admission is charged is deemed extra-curricular.

For a list of courses that are exempt from eligibility requirements, please contact a director.

**Grading Guidelines:**

BISD band programs have instructional objectives that relate to the mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for grade level subjects or courses. These objectives are aligned to address the academic skills needed for successful performance in the next grade or next course in a sequence of courses. Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, and other instructional activities are designed so that the student's performance indicates the level of mastery of the instructional objectives. The student's mastery level of these objectives is a major factor in determining the grade for a subject or course.

Students will be expected to meet the responsibilities for each band class as determined by the director. Since band is an academic music class with some extra-curricular activities attached, the band student's grade will reflect achievement in both curricular and extracurricular areas.

A band member's six weeks grade will be determined from the following items: student's daily preparation and participation, individual testing, performances, and extended classroom activities such as sectionals and before/after school rehearsals. For more specific information pertaining to how a student's grade is determined, please consult the director.

The following list is provided to give students and parents examples of items that can be subject to grading. Additional assignments may be given at the discretion of the director.

- The student will receive a grade for each before or after school sectional and rehearsal during a grading period
- The student will be on task and focused during all rehearsals
- The student will have instrument music, pencil, and supplies
- The student will be prepared to play his/her part successfully
- The student will mark music, and take notes as needed
- The student will be expected to improve individual music skills
- The student's individual skill development will be evaluated through taped music tests, individual playing tests, scale tests, written tests, and playoffs.
- The student will be evaluated on improvement of ensemble skills during daily rehearsals.
- The student will be expected to improve his/her performance fundamentals.
- The student will be evaluated for improvement of his/her music fundamentals through daily observations during the basics part of each rehearsal and during sectionals
- The student will be expected to demonstrate correct posture, hand position, embouchure, air production, and articulation as monitored during rehearsals.
- The student will be expected to develop a historical knowledge of the literature relative to their respective instrument
- The student will receive a grade for each performed during a grading period

### **Travel Guidelines:**

The band will frequently travel on either school buses or commercial buses. Student conduct is expected to be at the highest level on any trip.

Students must travel to events and return from events on the bus. Any student wishing to arrive or leave with his/her parent must notify a director in writing 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 (Medical/Travel Release) completed and on file with the band office to travel on any trip with the band.

While on the bus students will:

- Remain seated at all times
- Sit properly in forward position
- Keep the bus clear of food, drinks, and debris (At times it may be necessary to eat pre-game dinner on the bus. Every effort should be made to keep your area clean.)
- Keep all body parts inside the bus
- Use only approved type/headset radios (no boomboxes, no playing music without the headphones)

- Remain silent while being addressed by person in charge of the bus
- Refrain from loud, boisterous talking, singing, screaming, whistling, inappropriate jokes, etc.
- No public displays of affection
- Remain silent from the time they step onto bus until otherwise instructed

Special Note:

Students are reminded that all performances start and conclude at the band hall. 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 are a great asset for 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.

Spring Trip

The band will go on a Spring trip every year. Your participation in the band trip depends on behavior during the prior year, attendance at events, grades, and attitude towards the band program.

**Marching Band:**

Background Information

Brazos ISD has enjoyed a high reputation for excellence in music performance, including marching band, for many years. The marching band is the most visible aspect of the band program. The marching band provides performance opportunities for band students while integrating the band program into school and community activities.

Marching Band Participation:

As an integral part of the band program, Brazos ISD's philosophy is that educationally, historically, and musically, marching band is an essential ingredient in a well-rounded music education in band. BISD believes that music students need to develop the ability to participate and perform in different ensemble experiences, which, for band students, includes the marching band. As a result, marching band is required for all high school students who elect to take an academic band performance course. However, students who have medical complications or physical disabilities may be excused from participation at the discretion of the head band director. Philosophy regarding all aspects of high school band stems from TEA/UIIL guidelines, which govern all Texas schools.

### Physical Education Requirement

As an artistic endeavor, each rehearsal and performance by the marching band is mentally and physically demanding. For the full marching band performance, students are always on task and must bring to the experience their best performance skills. As a result, each student in the marching band is eligible to receive a physical education substitution credit (maximum 1.5 credits) in accordance with TEA guidelines.

### Marching Band an Intergral Component of State Curriculum Requirements

The music and performance skills and techniques, along with the associated academic skills in the band program, are derived from implementation of the expectations found in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). The curriculum specifically includes requirements such as demonstrating musical skills and artistry, performing in different musical mediums, and experiencing music through a wider range of music literature, which are addressed through the marching band. Each performance by the marching band provides students the opportunity to demonstrate musical artistry through the ensemble, individual music performance skills and techniques, marching performance skills and techniques, and critical thinking skills that include auditory, spatial, and visual awareness.

### High Academic Standards Maintained by Students

The opportunity for weekly performance is a motivating factor for academic achievement for marching band students, since only by maintaining their eligibility can they continue to perform. As a result, the directors have documented the fact that the least number of ineligible band students during the year occurs during the marching season.

### Color Guard:

Students in Color Guard are a part of the marching band and participate in all activities. Band students in Color Guard must be enrolled in the band elective. Students not in band may audition for and participate in Color Guard with the approval of the Head Band Director. As members of the marching band, Color Guard students receive a physical education credit.

### Grading:

Since marching band is a part of the academic band course and therefore, part of the graded curriculum, students in marching band are responsible for assimilating the academic aspects of the band elective as found in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Attendance at rehearsals and performances is mandatory and will be integrated into the student's grade for band in accordance with TEA/UII guidelines.

### Practice Time Limits

Marching band practice times are regulated by TEA/UIIL guidelines. Adherence to these guidelines is the responsibility of the Head Band Director at each high school. As per TEA and UIL rules, "The members of a marching band or any of its components may not begin the marching preparation for a UIL contest presentation prior to August 1. In addition, no more than ten hours of director-supervised instructional time may be devoted to marching fundamentals between the end of the previous school term and August 1." Music preparation is not affected by this ten-hour rule. Between August 1 and the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school, practice schedules are determined by the Head Band Director. During the school year, no more than 8 hours of rehearsal per week, outside of the school day, is allowed. Exceptions to the 8-hour rule include preparation immediately before games and competitions. LISD observes all of these guidelines.

### Rehearsal and Performance Schedules

Rehearsal and performance schedules are determined by each band staff and will be published in hardcopy form, on the internet, and also available through e-mail.

### Instruments:

Marching band students who play an instrument that BISD does not provide must personally provide, march and perform with the same instrument they use in band or a second instrument of the same type that is approved by the Head Band Director.

Students are responsible for all maintenance on their instrument, whether it is a district-owned or personally owned instrument.

### **Marching Band Positions:**

#### Primary Marchers:

Students who earn a position in the marching band will carry the designation of primary marcher. A primary Marcher is a student who:

- Successfully completes the audition requirements by the appropriate time, if there is a need for an audition.
- Demonstrates high quality marching skills
- Is punctual to all band related activities
- Is present at rehearsals and performances
- Maintains academic eligibility
- Represents the school, school district, band program, and themselves with the highest possible decorum and behavioral standards.

Special Note: Students who fail to meet the music memorization requirement may be penalized by one of the following: a) loss of position as a primary marcher, b) loss of performance opportunity, or c) performance as a marcher only.

### *Non-Primary/Alternates/Shadows*

The band directors will keep the number of alternates to a minimum; however, they are a necessary and vital aspect of our program due to the UIL "No Pass/No Play" rules and to prepare for possible substitutions due to injury, sustained illness, etc. Alternates will meet the same attendance, rehearsal, memorization, academic, and performance requirements of primary marchers. Specific drill may be written and music may be edited for those students who are not yet able to achieve the physical and musical demands required of primary marchers. This will help improve their individual skill level and will prepare them for future performance opportunities. As a band staff, we are committed to providing performance opportunities for all students. However, the level of performance participation may be limited by eligibility and individual performance ability.

There are many ingredients that are vital to a successful marching program and no one part is more valuable than any other. Examples of ways that students can contribute to the performance are: Marching Winds, Marching Percussion, Pit Percussion, Color Guard, Stage Crew, Pit Crew, and Tech Crew.

### **Marching Band Rehearsals:**

- Respect everyone on the marching field-we are all working towards the same goal
- Prior to rehearsals, eat healthy and drink a lot of water
- Be punctual. Aim to arrive five minutes before practice.
- Water breaks are meant for your health and comfort. DRINK WATER!! Return on time after the whistle
- Rehearsal will be silent when directors are talking
- Standing is the only acceptable position on the marching field unless instructed otherwise.
- Everyone will be expected to vocally count at all times
- Pay attention to general instructions at all times Listen attentively and respond appropriately
- FUN-damentals will make us successful. Therefore, we expect everyone to participate fully
- Section leaders are responsible for keeping coordinate books. You will receive your coordinate books from your section leader at beginning of rehearsal, and it will be given back at the end.
- Band members should have their coordinate books at all time
- Move when instructed quickly and quietly. (The director maybe giving instructions)
- Attention is eyes forward, no talking, no moving.
- When setting forms keep your feet together and mouth closed
- Remain at attention until you are told to relax.
- Relax means silently standing in the ready position
- When adjusting the forms, use your coordinate books at all times unless instructed otherwise
- To keep your spot on the marching field meet all music memorization deadlines.

### **Health and Safety of Band Students:**

The health and safety of our students is our first priority. Every effort will be made to keep our students out of harm's way at all times.

#### *Extreme Weather Conditions-Lighting*

A lightning detector is used at rehearsals, games, and contests to determine our activities. We, like the athletic teams, make it a practice to go inside when lightning occurs multiple times in a small amount of time within 8 miles of our location. Discretion is used to determine immediate threat, as we take lightning and the safety of our students very seriously.

#### *Rain*

Under rainy conditions, the director may still rehearse and/or perform at the discretion



of the band staff

### Heath/Hydration

We stress to students the importance of hydration at all times, and especially in periods of extreme heat. During extreme heat conditions, we decrease the amount of time between water breaks and/or increase the amount of time used for the break. The weather conditions as well as the physical and mental conditions of our students are monitored continually and adjustments are made to accommodate whenever necessary.

It is very important that every student bring and use their own personal water bottle. Sharing water (and food) leads to the spreading of germs that cause viruses such as cold, flu, mononucleosis, and Hepatitis B as well as many other bacterial infections. Sharing water is not acceptable.

### **Nutrition**

It is important for all students to eat healthy and well-balanced meals every day. During summer band camp, students need to eat a healthy breakfast every morning. Stay away from milk and greasy foods.

Students need to bring a healthy sack lunch to summer camp. We do not recommend fried foods, salty snacks, soft drinks, or sweets.

Drink plenty of water!

As the new school year begins, students should continue their healthy diet throughout the day. Continue to eat a healthy breakfast every morning. Eat a healthy lunch. Stay away from greasy foods such as pizza, chips, and candy during the school day. Lunch from the vending machines is not appropriate.

Students should continue to drink plenty of water throughout the day to stay well-hydrated for afternoon rehearsals.

Eating healthy meals and drinking plenty of water is essential so students can remain in good health.

### **Marching Band Performances**

The primary performances of the marching band will be at the football games. The marching band will also perform at various competitive marching festivals and UIL Marching Contests, as well as possible local and national parades.

### Brazos ISD Marching Band Performance Guidelines:

The band directors in Brazos ISD recognize that the health and safety of their students is a primary concern, as well as their scholastic performance in all of their subjects. The band directors also acknowledge that the season for marching band competitive performances is contained within a brief but intense period of time during the months of September through November. Additionally, BISD recognizes the intrinsic value

gained by the students from the pursuit of excellence in these programs.

After lengthy study of current practices of state and national marching band programs and to provide a balance of the above beliefs, BISD Marching Bands will participate in competitive/festival performances for no more than five consecutive weeks during a marching season. This guideline refers to competitive/festival performances involving the entire marching band and does not include performances at football games.

Performance Procedures:

- *Report Time:* This will be the designated time at which all members should be at the high school or set location. Students should have all attire and necessary items for the designated performance prior to the report time.
- *Load Time:* This will be the designated time at which all members should be on the appropriate bus with all equipment loaded. All equipment will be checked by the section leaders. Students without appropriate equipment will be sent home and an unexcused absence recorded.
- *Return Time:* This will be the approximate time of return to the band hall.

What to Bring:

- Garment Bag
- Black Shoes
- Black Socks
- Water Bottle
- Flip Folder
- Lyre (if necessary)
- Instrument with accessories
- Band Shirt
- Rain Coat – On Truck
- Uniform Apparel
- Proper under garments
- Hair Accessories (Hair spray, gel, bobby pins)

Pre-Performance Practice:

Wear black shoes, black socks, and band shirt

No fingernail polish

No Jewelry

Bring all equipment weather permitting that means everything

Music Inspection

Music inspection will occur before all football games and marching band performances that will utilize music, which is not part of the field/competition show. Students will be asked to display music, lyre (if appropriate), and flip folder. Students who do not pass music inspection may not be allowed to perform.

### Uniform Inspection

Prior to student departure for a marching band performance, students must pass a uniform inspection. In order to board the bus, students must have complete uniform, raincoat/poncho, music, flip folder, and other components for the marching performance. Students who do not pass the uniform inspection may not be allowed to attend the event. Students not meeting uniform, music, and loading guidelines will be subject to disciplinary consequences.

### **Football Game Procedure:**

The football game is viewed as a performance of the band program. Such performances include all aspects of the game from arrival to departure.

- Students will remain on campus after school on game days for a brief rehearsal and then for food attained by the boosters. This is in consideration of time, organization, and safety. Please do not ask for exceptions to this.
- Students will arrive at the designated reported time.
- Students will load and be prepared to travel at the designated load time
- Students will load the buses with all equipment needed for the performance. The section leaders will inspect all students boarding buses prior to departure. Students with long hair must have hair up before allowed on bus. Students not meeting uniform, music, and loading guidelines may be sent home and not allowed to participate. Students will receive an unexcused absence for such occurrences.
- Upon arrival at the performance area, students will don all uniform components and prepare equipment for unloading. Students will unload buses when instructed to do so by a chaperone or director. Exit the bus in proper uniform as instructed by the directors, carrying all necessary equipment in garment bag unless instructed otherwise.
- Instruments that arrived via equipment truck/trailer will be picked up at the designated area when instructed. All cases must be put back in original location with latches closed.
- Students will report to the entrance formation for final inspection. Upon instruction from a Drum Major or director, students will file silently into the stadium.
- Upon arrival to the seating area, students will remain standing until all band members have arrived and are prepared to be seated. Students will sit when instructed by a Drum Major or director. Students will sit in assigned seat and section. Students will remain in that seat and section at all times. Any movement in this bleacher adds risk to the safety of students and their instruments.
- The band boosters will provide water after the halftime performance. Students must bring their band water jug into the stands with them. No other food or drink will be allowed in the stands during the game. Students will refrain from accepting food or drinks from parents, relatives, or friends. Parents: please do not offer refreshments to your children.
- A director, chaperone, or selected student leader may grant restroom breaks. Every effort will be made to accommodate needs without jeopardizing the integrity of the section. Restroom breaks will not be granted in the second quarter of a football game.

- Students will be expected to listen for and watch the directors and drum majors during the game. Students will need to be prepared to perform at all times and at a moment's notice.
- Students will refrain from playing their instruments on an individual basis. The band will perform as a group or with approved small ensembles. While playing, always pay attention to the director/drum major.
- At the appropriate time, the band will be dismissed from the stands for the half-time performance. At this time, the band must move quickly, quietly, and efficiently to the appropriate area. Students will need to be focused on the directors' and Drum Majors' instructions.
- At the conclusion of the half-time performance, students will return to the stands and continue in the stand performance throughout the remainder of the game.
- During the 3rd quarter, we will participate in the good sportsmanship procedures of officer meetings and introductions. The band president will create a schedule of which student leaders participate in this event each week.
- At the conclusion of the game, students will load busses quickly and efficiently.
- Upon return to the band hall, students will ensure that all personal items, uniforms and instruments are placed in the proper storage areas.
- At the conclusion of each engagement, there may be a brief meeting before dismissal.

### **Color Guard Information**

#### *Dressing Out*

Dressing out is required during rehearsal and is part of the daily grade. Dress-out clothes consist of:

- T-shirt
- shorts
- socks
- tennis shoes
- sweat shirt (when cold)
- sweat pants (when cold)
- additional items (at directors discretion)

#### *Practice:*

When practicing, concentrate on technique. Pay attention to the details of both body and equipment. Do not "just go through the moves/routines" half-heartedly reiterating mistakes. Define each move as explained in class.

### **Uniform Guidelines:**

Students are expected to follow the listed uniform guidelines. No variations will be allowed.

#### *General:*

- Marching Band uniforms will be issued during summer band camp. Band uniforms will be stored at school in the uniform storage area.
- Students will be held financially responsible for the uniform(s) and all components.

### Issue and Return

- Students will pick up uniforms from storage room or band hall
- Students should follow the posted pickup/return guidelines
- Students will be issued a uniform storage number. This number should be memorized or recorded in a readily accessible location. Students will use this number to pick up their uniform from the storage room
- Students not properly hanging the uniform will receive a community service assignment.

### Donning the Uniform:

- Always wear and treat your uniform with pride. The uniform should be worn as a complete unit at all times when in public. The only exception to this will be when a director instructs you that you may remove your hat or coat. Loading crews may be exempt from wearing the uniform during loading/unloading procedures. *Do not run while in uniform!*
- The band tee-shirt (official “show shirt”) is to be worn under your uniform. The band shirt will be part of pre-performance inspections. The band tee-shirt does not pertain to the Concert Band uniform (dress or tux).
- You must wear approved black band shoes and black socks (Student purchases)
- Jewelry, hair ribbons, and bright colored nail polish etc. are unacceptable while in uniform. These items hinder the uniform appearance of the band.
- Band students with long hair will need to put it up before loading the bus. Hair must not touch the collar of the jacket and must be above the top of the ear or pulled behind it. No visible hair on forehead.
- No consumption of food and drinks other than water while in uniform without permission

### Alterations and Care

The Brazos Band Boosters will take care of all initial uniform alterations

- Keep the collar hooked and the jacket zipped while hanging to retain shape of coat.
- Always hang the pants by the crease, careful to avoid wrinkles, and lock the dowel into the metal catch to keep the pants secure
- Label your uniform garment bag. Uniform crew may label these for you.

### Color Guard:

- Make up will be worn as instructed by the director
- Hair will be styled as instructed by the director
- Only prescribed accessories that are part of the uniform may be worn.
- Changes in hairstyle should be approved by Guard Director prior to making any changes, this could affect performances

### Uniform Costs

If a uniform part is damaged or lost, the student will be responsible for the replacement costs. All marching uniforms are professionally cleaned at the same time to prevent unequal discoloration and fading. The costs for cleaning are collected from each student in advance (see Financial).

### **Concert Ensembles:**

Symphonic Winds -- selection into this group is by audition, director recommendation,

and demonstration of academic proficiency. Members in this ensemble will participate in the TMEA Region Band process, UIL Marching Contest, UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest, preparations for special possible honor concerts and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest.

- All Section Leaders Will:
  - Tryout for region band/Jazz
  - Participate in Solo and Ensemble

Middle School Band: selection into this group is by audition, director recommendation, and demonstration of academic proficiency. Members in this ensemble will participate in the TMEA Region Band process, UIL Marching Contest, UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest, preparations for special possible honor concerts and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest.

### **Performance/Rehearsal Requirements for Concert Ensembles:**

Each of the concert ensembles will perform at various times throughout the school year. Students are expected to participate in the performances of their assigned ensemble. Failure to participate in either rehearsals or performances may result in student removal from the organization at the discretion of the band directors (see general attendance policies).

Performances of the concert ensembles will include but are not limited to the following:

- Football Games
- Winter Concert
- Spring Concert
- Concert and Sight-reading
- Marching Contests
- Spring Trip
- Orchard Parade
- Wallis Parade
- Sealy Parade

### Concerts/Performances

Concerts and performances are an integral component of the band curriculum. Students should consult their schedules for dates and times. Periodically, the schedule may change and updates will be communicated. Concerts are considered to have three parts: warm-up, performance, and listening. The concert begins for the student at the warm-up. Punctuality is essential. A concert concludes when the last group performs and directors have given permission for students to be dismissed. A general report time will be given for all students.

- All concerts are a group effort, thus, attendance is required
- All concerts are an extension of the classroom and will be graded accordingly
- Students should be punctual and prepared for each performance/concert
- In the event of a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up all missed work
- The appropriate dress for all concerts will be a dress uniform

- Students are expected to stay for the entire concert
- Students are expected to help move equipment and chairs when needed.

**Financial Obligations:**

It is the philosophy of the Brazos High School Band that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact the director.

**TO BE DETERMINED**

**Fundraising:**

The Brazos High School Band and Band Booster Club engage in fundraising activities throughout each year. The monies raised from fundraising activities will be credited to an account held by the Booster Club and is subject to all state laws. This money will be used only for the direct benefit of the band program.

**Student Leadership:**

The high school band programs in Brazos ISD provide many opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills with a variety of offerings. Students can audition and/or apply for both selected officer positions and elected officer positions. In this manner, students can not only serve their band program but also refine skills that they will be able to use in other school organizations, as well as in their future careers. Audition criteria is selected at the discretion of the directors and is communicated to the students. The directors evaluate all selected officer candidates based on their performance both during the audition and during their performance during the current school year.

Student leaders are held to higher standards of performance and behavior than a general band student. They are expected to be positive role models for all band members at all times. Please see Conduct Expectation #1 pertaining to general conduct of students as well as student leadership positions. All student leaders are leaders throughout the school year.

**Marching Band Student Leadership Positions:**

Drum Major(s)

The Drum Major(s) will be the field commander(s) and conductor(s) for the marching ensemble. A Drum Major will serve the marching season for which he/she is selected. In the event that an underclassman is selected as Drum Major, he/she must reenter the selection process the next school year. Drum Majors will be selected through an audition process. Specific elements of the drum major audition process may vary from year to year at the discretion of the directors.

Section Leaders:

Section leaders will be responsible for efficient operations of their sections. They will complete weekly inspections, maintain field discipline, provide instruction, serve as positive role models, and assist the drum majors as needed. They will be selected

through the first portion of the Drum Major audition process.

### Drill Instructors

These students will support the Drum Majors and Section leaders, but they will be specialized in just the marching aspects. They are responsible for being able to teach and point out all marching fundamentals. At times they will be in charge of running fundamentals for the band.

### Band Banquet:

A band banquet is held each spring near the end of the school year. This special evening brings the band together one last time to review the year and to wish the seniors a fond farewell. The location may vary from year to year, but it will usually be held at a banquet room in the area and is considered a formal evening. Tickets are sold to cover the cost of the dinner, decorations, DJ, etc. This event is entirely planned by the student leaders.

### **Band Boosters:**

The Brazos Band Boosters exist to assist the band directors in reaching the band program goals. The boosters usually meet on the second Monday of every month. The meetings are open to the public and begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Brazos Band Hall. Support activities provided by the boosters include serving meals to students before games, providing chaperones for trips, providing chaperones for social events, financing of social events, providing parents to assist in various aspects of the marching band production, and numerous other activities. There is a place for every parent in this organization. Your service is not only encouraged, but also needed.

### **Instrument Loading/Unloading**

- All instruments except clarinets and flutes will be expected to transport instruments on the band trailer/instrument truck.
- Meet with section leaders in designated area
- ALL equipment ready for inspection: uniform, hat box, plume, gloves, gauntlets, vestee, rain coat, lyre, flip folder (in stand tune order), black socks, black shoes, water bottle, complete instrument (with all accessories: reeds, mouthpieces, valve oil, etc.), band shirt.
- Case should be closed and secure. Instruments in the wrong area maybe overlooked and not loaded
- Students will be responsible for seeing that their instrument or empty case is in the proper location

### Unloading Procedures

Students should uncase their instrument and leave cases in the appropriate area. Unloading should be done in a timely efficient manner. Keep all music in the appropriate folder or notebook.



### Arrival At BISD

- Students will also be responsible to see that their instrument is picked up and stored correctly upon the unloading of the instrument truck.
- No one departs the Band Hall until the instrument truck is loaded
- Get YOUR instrument out of the way once it is unloaded, and put it away
- Return uniform (hung properly) to uniform room
- Help loading crew unload by taking items to appropriate areas
- When truck is completely unloaded and everything is put up, then the tape of the performance will be played in the Band Hall. You are not required to stay for the tape. This is optional!
- GO HOME!!! You are loved, but we need to get home
- Section leaders help hang uniforms for the first game
- Students who display difficulty in following the loading and unloading procedures may lose the privilege of utilizing the instrument truck and be charged a maintenance fee.

### **Region Band/Jazz Band Guidelines**

- All first chair and section leaders must audition for All-Region Band, if you would like to audition, and you are not a section leader or first chair, you may still tryout, and it is encouraged
- All students that tryout will be ranked in class the way they ranked in the All-Region Audition

*It is quite an honor to be selected to the All Region Band. Hundreds of students throughout the region will audition. Even if you are not selected, the experience you receive by preparing will enhance your musical ability and education!*

### **Solo and Ensemble**

All band members will prepare and perform a solo.

Grades will be issued for preparation and participation in the Solo and Ensemble process. Students must use an approved accompanist. The accompanist fee is set each year.

### **Eligibility And Band Probation:**

Many band activities are designated by the state as extra-curricular. These activities are therefore governed by the state laws regarding participation. The state law is such that a student shall be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the six week period following a grade reporting period in which the student receives a grade lower than 70 in any one class. Students are not suspended from practice or rehearsal of extra-curricular activities, nor are they exempt from practice or rehearsal of extra-curricular activities.

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 in the in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the affected grading period. Thus he/she may regain eligibility at the conclusion of the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the suspension period.

A few band activities are designated by the state as co-curricular. These activities are those which occur on campus, and are a natural extension of the classroom. Examples of this type activity are the public concerts, which are presented at Brazos High School. The state eligibility law does not govern these activities.

## Band Handbook Signature Page

Please return this page to your band director.

I have reviewed and understand the policies and guidelines in the Cedar Park High School Band Handbook and the Instrumental Music Code. I understand that Band is a Full Year course. I further agree to abide by the procedures set forth. T

**Student Name** **X** \_\_\_\_\_  
(print)

**Student Signature** **X** \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name** **X** \_\_\_\_\_  
(print)

**Parent Signature** **X** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Student Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last, First)

Please provide the following information and signatures and return to the Brazos Band Staff. This must be signed for participation in the band program.

This information is located at [brazosband.wikispace.com](http://brazosband.wikispace.com).

If you wish to have a printed copy, please indicate here.

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**MEDICAL/TRAVEL RELEASE FORM**

I hereby give permission for my son/daughter to travel on transportation provided by Brazos ISD to BHS band functions during the 2011-2012 school year and furthermore release Brazos ISD, Braozs High School, and the BHS band staff from any liability related to such travel with the band.

I do further understand the BHS band directors will seek medical attention for my child in case of an emergency (911). I understand that I am responsible for expenses that may arise from such treatment.

**Parent/Guardian Signature** **X** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Printed Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_

(C) \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last / First

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Permission to Administer "Over The Counter"**

**Medications:**

I also grant permission to Brazos I.S.D. representative to administer "over-the-counter" medication (Ibuprofen, Acetaminophen, Pepto Bismol, Midol, Maalox, Tums, Benadryl, etc.) at student's request. I understand that LISD personnel will protect my child and **not** administer medication if this form is not completed. Exceptions to "over the counter" medication **NOT** be given:

List drug or food allergies: List Medical Conditions (asthma, contacts, etc.)

Doctor's Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature X** \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Permission to Administer Prescription Medications (in the event that prescription medication may be necessary at some point during the year when traveling with the band):**

I request that Brazos I.S.D. representative administers the medication listed below to my child according to the physician's instructions. I agree to furnish an adequate amount of medication in the original container. I understand that Brazos I.S.D. personnel will protect my child and not administer medication if this form is not completed or the medication is not furnished as required. (\*\*BISD representative must administer Prescription drugs not the student: exceptions are Inhalers. When traveling all prescription meds need to be checked in with the adult first aider.)

Signing this form when no prescriptions are present allows for dispensing of a prescription drug at a later date if necessary (ie: band trips, short term illness etc.)

Name of Medication: \_\_\_\_\_

Dosage: \_\_\_\_\_

Time to be given: \_\_\_\_\_

Do not administer after this date: \_\_\_\_\_

Side Effects to report to Doctor:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature X** \_\_\_\_\_ Date:

Parent Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_

(C) \_\_\_\_\_

**RELEASE:**

I, **X** \_\_\_\_\_, release BISD designated personnel from responsibility of wrongdoing (parent/guardian signature) regarding medication approval stipulated on this form.

# PARENT/STUDENT MARCHING BAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

No student may be required to attend practice for marching band for more than eight hours of rehearsal outside the academic school day per calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). This provision applies to students in all components of the marching band.

On performance days (football games, competitions and other public performances) bands may hold up to one additional hour of warm-up and practice beyond the scheduled warm-up time at the performance site. Multiple performances on the same day do not allow for additional practice and/or warm-up time.

Examples of activities subject to the UIL Marching Band Eight Hour Rule  
Marching Band Rehearsal (both full band and components)  
Any Marching Band Group Instructional Activity  
Breaks  
Announcements  
Debriefing and Viewing Marching Band Videos  
Playing off Marching Band music  
Marching Band Sectionals (both director and student led)  
Clinics for the Marching Band or any of its components.

The following activities are not included in the eight hour time allotment:  
Travel time to and from rehearsals and/or performances  
Rehearsal set-up time  
Pep rallies, parades and other public performances  
Instruction and Practice for individual activities such as All-Region/Area/State try-outs and Solo-Ensemble preparation

NOTE: An extensive Q&A for the Eight Hour Rule for Marching Band can be found on the Music Page of the UIL Web Site at: [www.uil.utexas.edu](http://www.uil.utexas.edu)

*“We have read and understand the Eight-Hour Rule for Marching Band as stated above. We agree to abide by these regulations and understand our responsibility to report any violations to the school authorities”*

Parent Signature **X** \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature **X** \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name Printed \_\_\_\_\_

