

## **Brazos High School Band Handbook**

*Mr. Billy Mere, Director of Bands*

### **Forward:**

The purpose of this handbook is to provide valuable information about the Brazos High School Band program. To achieve and maintain the high standards of excellence desired by the band, members should familiarize themselves with the regulations, procedures, and traditions for the band. It is a desire that some of the questions that students and parents have about the operation of the band program will be answered in this handbook. All band members and parents should read this booklet carefully in order to avoid any conflicts with band policies.

### **Philosophy of the Band Program**

It is the philosophy of the band program to work toward providing a well-rounded, balanced program of music education for all interested students who demonstrate the desire and proper attitude to be members of the band. Each student must be willing to share the responsibility of establishing and maintaining high standards of excellence. Further, each student must show respect for authority and cooperation with his/her fellow band members.

Discipline must be strict, and it is vital to the success of the band that both the student and parent be willing to accept the ideals, principles, and rules of the organization.

### **Brazos High School Band Objectives**

The BHS Band forms an integral part of student life, and is recognized as a co-curricular activity. It is the single largest student group on campus, and its members form an active cosmopolitan group. The primary objectives are:

1. **Education:** To develop interested and well-trained musicians skilled in the basic fundamentals of instrumental ensemble skills.
2. **Cultural:** To encourage development of musical appreciation and understanding
3. **Citizenship:** To develop a set of basic values in the areas of responsibility, service and pride in the school and community.
4. **Recreational:** To provide students with an opportunity for worthy use of leisure time, and emotional outlet, and appropriate social experience.

### **How To Become A Band Member:**

Membership is open to all interested students on a voluntary basis. New students are admitted upon the recommendation of the previous band director. All students will be placed in the appropriate band for them by the director.

Membership in the band is a privilege, with this privilege comes responsibility-our character counts. All members understand that in addition to our playing standards, we also have behavior standards.

Any infractions to school rules will be dealt with on an individual basis by the directors and the school administration. Serious infractions may result in dismissal from the band program.

#### Classroom/Bus/Concert Expectations:

A band will perform in the exact manner in which it practices. Class rules are very important for the smooth daily operation of the band program at BHS. The rules are established for the band are based on common sense, and are meant to be very clear with definite penalties for students who choose not to observe any of them.

1. Students will be considered tardy if they are not in the band hall when the final bell rings. If they are not seated with everything they need for class after the bell the student will be considered tardy.
2. When the conductor steps on the podium, all students will cease talking immediately.
3. If a student has a question he/she will raise his/her hand and WAIT for the conductor to recognize the student
4. There is absolutely no candy, gum, drink, or any other eating material allowed in the band hall at any time, unless otherwise stated by the directors.
5. Students should refrain from writing on or otherwise defacing any school property, including music stands, walls or any other surfaces. Making notes on music in pencil is acceptable.
6. Students will respect other students and BHS equipment. Students found in other student's instrument cases will be referred to the administration immediately. Students will also be responsible for the care and upkeep of the instrument issued. All instrument cases are to be stored in the proper cubby holes or designated shelving area.
7. Yes Sir, No Sir, Yes Ma'am, No ma'am will be used at all times.

#### Behavior Policies and Punishments:

The Brazos Band is on a points system. The system is listed in detail later in the handbook. The band program will not tolerate any disrespect in any classroom, band or otherwise. These are very important:

1. If You Are Written Up in Any Class during a Semester:

Consequence: Suspension from game for that week. There will be work that will need to be done to make up for the game missed, and the grade can be no more than a 70. During concert season you will be placed in the developmental band for one week, and you will have to audition to get your spot back, and will be last chair. Any leader who has a referral will be removed from their leadership position. Parent will be notified

2. If you are Written Up Twice in Any Class during a semester:

Consequence: Suspension from games for the next two weeks. There will be work that will need to be done to make for the games missed, and the grades can be no more than a 70. During concert season

you will be placed in the developmental band for two weeks, and you will have to audition to get your spot back, and will be last chair. Parent will be notified

**3. If you are Written Up Three Times in Any Class during a Semester:**

**Consequence:** Automatic removal from band program. For the rest of that semester you will have music homework that will supplement for your grade. Parent will be notified.

**All-Minor Infractions:**

Will be evaluated by the band director, and re-direction will be handed out by the band director.

Minor infractions could lead to and not limited to:

- -Help painting practice field
- -Phone call to parent
- -Letter or e-mail home
- -Clean band hall
- -Extra Practice on music
- -Suspension from game

**Minor Infractions Include:** Talking back, not following directions, late, not bring materials, leaving materials out

**Major Infractions:**

**In School Suspension (ISS) Procedures**

A band member that is assigned ISS will be permitted to practice. The band member will become eligible for competition at the end of the school day on the final day of the ISS assignment. The band student will not be allowed to leave ISS prior to the end of the school day to travel to a competition. If the competition is on a Saturday and the student has ISS on Friday, will only be permitted to compete if the Friday is the last day of their ISS assignment.

**Suspension from Band Members:**

Each director will have the authority, with the concurrence of the Head Band Director, to suspend or place on probation for an extended period of time, any student for major or minor infractions of

rules for that band. Any student suspended from band must be given:

1. The reason(s) for the suspension.
2. The time and provisions of the suspension.
3. The procedures for reentering the program.
4. Information on class schedule change or options, and
5. The opportunity to appeal.

**Appeal:**

The student and/or parent shall have the right to appeal any decision to suspend a student, expel a

student, or place a student on probation from the band program.

#### **Appeal Process:**

- 1. Personal visit with the assistant band director and head band director.**
- 2. Personal visit with the head band director.**
- 3. Personal visit with the Principal.**
- 4. Personal visit with the Superintendent.**

**An appeal by the student and/or parent of suspension, expulsion, or probation from band shall be considered by the appropriate school personnel, not on the basis of individual judgement(s), but on the basis of:**

- 1. Variation from printed policy, administrative procedures, regulations, or rules and standards for membership, and participation in band;**
- 2. Failure to establish reasonable documentation that the student's conduct/behavior has violated the standards for suspension or expulsion from band;**
- 3. Failure to give the student/parent due process (notice of the facts being alleged) about the conduct/ behavior and opportunity to refute the charges.**

#### **Performance Ensembles:**

**Marching Band:** This is the primary ensemble in the fall, and is a requirement for all groups at Brazos High School. The marching band performs at football games and pep rallies. The band travels to two festivals/competitions each year, and at occasional functions throughout the Brazos community. The marching band rehearses Monday Night from 6:00-8:30pm. Weekly Sectionals will be at 7:15 am, and is as follows:

- **Tuesday Mornings: Woodwinds**
- **Thursday Mornings: Brass and Percussion**

**If you miss the Monday Night Rehearsal or the sectionals, then you will not March at the next football game, although you will still be required to go to the game, and perform in the stands with the students.**

**Symphonic Band/Development Band:** This ensemble meets year-round, and is the primary performance group for the Spring Semester. The band goes to two or three festivals/competitions each year, and at occasional functions throughout the Brazos Community. The symphonic band will have rehearsals from 6:00-8:30pm every Monday Night. Development band may attend these rehearsals, so they can work their way into the Symphonic Band. Weekly Sectionals will be at 7:15am, and is as follows:

- **Mondays Mornings: Trumpet**
- **Tuesday Mornings: Woodwinds**
- **Wednesday Mornings: Brass**

- **Thursday Mornings: Percussion**

During the Spring, Monday Night rehearsals and sectionals are grade based. If you miss more than three Monday night rehearsals or sectionals you will be placed in development band.

**Jazz Band:** Is open to any student who would like to be in Jazz Band, who is a member of the Marching/Symphonic/Development Band. You may not take Jazz Band, if you do not participate in Marching/Symphonic/Development Band, you cannot be in Jazz Band.

#### **Grading Policies:**

The purpose of grading is to provide the parents, and the students with the most accurate picture possible of the student's work. The grading process is an integral part of instruction. All activities that relate to the students' performance are considered when arriving at a grade the student earns every six weeks. The grading procedure is as follows:

- **Class Participation-** The student must have his/her instrument, all materials necessary for class, and a positive attitude. Each week is a 100 points, and points will be deducted for not having material, and/or being late
- **Playing and written tests:** Each will be 100 points, and they will be given on a bi-weekly basis
- **Before/Afterschool Attendance:** Each rehearsal is 100 points, if the student is tardy, then points will be deducted for being tardy.
- **Performance Requirements:** Each performance is worth 300 points, (3 test grades). If the student is tardy for a performance, or is not in proper uniform then points will be deducted.

The six weeks grade is arrived, by adding all points earned, and dividing the total earned points by the total number of points possible, and assigning the appropriate letter grade to the percentage arrived at after the division.

#### **Expenses:**

Band fees and other expenses will be collected during band camp. You may write a single check for all expenses, (fees, shoes, shirt, etc.) if you desire. All fees will be due by the fourth football game. If you need to make special arrangements to pay your fees, please speak to the director privately. We would be happy to discuss payment plan if necessary, or ways to make it work for you. If a student is removed from the band he/she will be responsible for all expenses. Band fees must be paid before ordering a Letterman Jacket.

**Color Guard Fee:** The fee is determined by the cost of the uniform, flags, and make-up. Will not exceed

**\$350.00.**

**Band Shirt/Shoes/Gloves:** Band shirt - \$20.00/ Band Shoes - \$30.00/ Gloves - 10.00

#### **Absences and Tardies:**

Participation in the Brazos High School Band Requires a unique commitment of energy and time, because of limited rehearsal time, absences and tardies must be avoided. Attendance will be taken at all regularly scheduled band functions, rehearsals, and performances. You must present a written notice to the director at least 24 hours prior to the rehearsal. In emergencies or other unavoidable situations please notify by the band director by phone at 479-409-0080.

All events are absolutely mandatory (Games, concerts, parades, contest, and other community events). Other activities must not conflict with previously scheduled band commitments. The director will work hard, before each event is scheduled to make sure it does not conflict with other sporting or extracurricular events.

Absence from a performance is a serious offense. Absence from a performance affects everyone in the organization. Therefore, absence from a performance for any reason other than emergencies or serious illness can result in forfeiture of your position in the organization, as well as a failing grade for that period.

Every member of this organization is expected to conduct themselves in a mature and professional manner. We have made every effort to provide a quality musical experience with minimum time commitment, to not invade on the time of other activities.

#### Travel Conduct:

All students must have a travel waiver on file in the Brazos High School office in order to travel with the Brazos High School Band.

1. The band director may have permanent bus assignments, if behavior is not satisfactory on road trips.
2. Stay seated at all times, while the bus is in motion.
3. Keep arms, hands, and feet inside the bus at all times.
4. DO NOT Shout-inside the bus or outside.
5. No food or drink on the bus without permission of the director
6. Personal audio devices may be used only with headphones! You are responsible for the safety of your equipment
7. Upon arrival at destination, stay seated and await instructions.
8. No one is dismissed following a trip until the busses are spotless-pick up your trash, and do not leave personal items on the bus.
9. Be respectful and courteous to the driver and chaperones! The chaperones are in charge in the absence of behavior.

#### Stadium Rules:

1. Following our march into the stadium, remain at attention in front of your seat until the drum majors put you at ease. You may remove your hat and gloves.
2. Visitors are not allowed in the band seating area nor may anything be brought to a student during the course of a game, unless it's an emergency.

3. Be attentive and alert at all times. We play a lot. Your horn and flip folder should be ready at all times.
4. Do not play without permission
5. Water and or Gatorade will be provided in the stands-Do not bring other drinks or food into the setup.
6. We will not leave until all trash is picked up in our area.
7. Conduct yourself with class at all times... In the stands, at the concession stand, in the restroom etc. You represent not only yourself, but also your band, your school, your city, and your parents.

#### Uniform:

- **Marching Uniform:** Our uniform is the most identifiable aspect of our band and should be treated with respect and worn with pride. You will be fitted and issued a uniform at the beginning of the year. All uniforms will remain in the band hall. We will hem and clean the uniforms for you. You are not dismissed after a game until you return your uniform to the uniform room, and it has been checked by the Uniform manger, chaperones, or band director.
1. Wear band t-shirt under your uniform. If one person does not comply then we will not be able to remove jackets at games, no matter the weather
  2. No jewelry maybe worn while in uniform
  3. Do not remove any part of the uniform without permission from the directors.
- **Color Guard Uniform:**
    - Before Half-time, you must be wearing your color guard shirt, and blue jeans that DO NOT have holes in them.
    - You will stay in this uniform until the second quarter
    - During the second quarter you will change into your Half-time (show) uniform.
    - After halftime, you will return to busses or restroom, and dress back in color guard shirt and blue jeans.

#### Inspection:

All students must report for inspection before every game. Do not lose points being late. This is our opportunity to make a final check as well as give any last minute instructions. Pay attention to the following guidelines.

1. You must be in bib pants with hat and jacket in hand.
2. Shoes and gloves should have your initials
3. Please have all music in your flip folder and your instrument
4. Reed players must have a total of 4 reeds on them at all times

#### Conclusion:

**Musical success consists of three ingredients: Parents, students, and teacher-all working together. The success of the instrumental music program is in large part dependent upon each student doing their particular task well. If one or two parts of the team fall behind the progress of the group will suffer.**

**We have attempted to provide a clear and comprehensive picture of the band program at Brazos High School. The band program has grown a proud tradition of enrichment for the lives of its members. Participation in the school band is a unique experience that should be taken advantage of. Parents are urged to support their child in this endeavor.**

**We are ready and willing to meet with parents to discuss the band program. Please feel free to call me. My phone number is 479-409-0080.**

**Thank You,**

**Brazos High School Band Program**