

Brazos Band Handbook

2025-2026

Band Staff: Allynn Garcia, Alexandria Holcomb, and Kimball Swiger

Allynn Garcia and Alexandria Holcomb are the team teaching staff for the Brazos High School Marching/Concert Band, Brazos Middle School 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Bands. Kimball Swiger is the Instructor of the Brazos High School Color and Winter Guard.

MARCHING BAND (HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)

The marching band performs at all HS pep rallies, HS Football games, marching contests, parades and exhibitions. Membership in the Marching Band is required of all band students. The Marching Band rehearses from 6:00-8:00pm on Monday and Tuesday evenings at the Middle School parking lot and High School Band Hall. Every performance and rehearsal is used as a school grade (worth 100 points). Marching Band students are eligible to receive a physical education waiver for membership in Marching Band.

CONCERT BAND (ALL BAND STUDENTS)

There is only one Concert Band at Brazos High School, and a Beginner, Non-Varsity and Varsity Band at Brazos Middle School. Students may and will be asked to play, "play-offs," with less than 2 weeks notice at some points during the spring semester. The concert bands provide a wide range of playing abilities and time commitment. With team teaching, students will have the opportunity to experience full band, sectionals, and individual attention. In the Spring Semester, the 7th Grade, 8th Grade and High School Bands will give ample notice before any after-school rehearsals. Every performance and rehearsal is used as a school grade (100 points).

JAZZ ENSEMBLE (HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)

The Jazz Ensemble is a class that meets year round at Brazos High School. Mr. Garcia will only take newcomers in the Spring semester on a case by case basis. A student must be a member of the marching band and concert band in order to be a member of the Jazz Ensemble. The Jazz Ensemble may compete/perform at a Jazz Festival this school year.. This group is composed of students in grades 9-12. Every performance and rehearsal is used as a school grade (100 points).

ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS (ALL BAND STUDENTS)

A yearly band calendar has been included with the class syllabus for your use in planning your family schedule for the 2025-2026 school year. In addition, the Directors will send out a monthly Band Newsletter for the HS and MS Bands respectively. It is imperative that we have 100% attendance for all rehearsals and performances. If a student needs to miss a rehearsal or performance for a prior family commitment (i.e. weddings, graduations, etc); please communicate this with the directors within two weeks of the event, and it will be handled on an individual basis. Student job commitments and, "select sports," are NOT an excused absence from band performances and rehearsals. We suggest that these students take a copy of the band calendar to their employer and/or coach and clear all band performances and rehearsals. Most employers are very understanding and are flexible if they know of a band commitment well in advance, and they understand that band performances are a required and vital part of their course work. Work with your employers about clearing Monday and Tuesday night rehearsals from 6:00-8:00pm. We will be glad to talk with your employer to validate your student commitment. Excessive unexcused absences could result in removal from the band program!

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS (ALL BAND STUDENTS)

It is imperative that students are organized and prepared for every rehearsal. It is important that students arrive **EARLY** to every rehearsal. **TO BE EARLY IS TO BE ON TIME, TO BE ON TIME IS TO BE LATE!** Students should make sure that their instrument is in working order and have all music and accessories ready at the beginning of rehearsal. If students need music, valve oil, cork grease, or other needs they need to inform a Director **BEFORE** rehearsal begins. Students are expected to be quiet and attentive during rehearsal so that rehearsals can be as productive and efficient as possible. More than anything, students should show up to rehearsals with a positive attitude! Failure to meet the expectations set could result in a lower grade and possible removal from the band program.

GRADING (ALL BAND STUDENTS)

Grading in band is based on attendance, participation, performances and playing evaluations. Band students will receive a grade for all rehearsals, games, concerts, contests, parades, playing and written tests. Students must have equipment in good working order and be present at all required rehearsals and performances for their participation grade. If these expectations are not met, the participation grade will be affected.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY (ALL BAND STUDENTS)

All music organizations adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and Brazos ISD. To be eligible at the high school level for competitions, games, and all other events, the student must fulfill some requirements. Students must maintain a grade of 70 or above in all classes. If a student's grade drops below 70 in any class at the end of the six-week grading period, that student will be ineligible to participate at any games or contests for the following six week grading period. Students will be able to regain eligibility if they are passing all classes with a 70 or above after a three week progress report. The Brazos Band Staff will enforce all eligibility rules and regulations.

Students who are ineligible will continue to rehearse during his/her band class, all after school rehearsals and participate in curricular performances such as pep rallies and on campus concerts. Be advised that excessive absences from school may also result in academic ineligibility. The band staff and Brazos High School Staff work to assist and encourage band students to perform up to their potential in ALL classes. Students who are ineligible for 2 consecutive six-week grading periods will be put on academic probation. If they do not become eligible the following six week grading period, they will be removed from the band program. This will allow the student to focus on passing academic classes during the next semester. Students wishing for reinstatement following this probation must bring documentation (report card) to a band director proving academic success during each grading period of the succeeding semester for all classes. Students must also maintain a clean discipline record with the school.

CHAIR PLACEMENT/CHALLENGES (ALL BAND STUDENTS)

Chair placement in all concert bands is on the basis of playing auditions. Chair placement auditions may be held throughout the school year. Students are placed in chair order only on the accuracy of the performance of the music chosen. The classification of a student is no factor. The chair order will be determined by the directors by ranking the performance of all students from highest to lowest. Marching spots are decided in a similar fashion. If someone wishes to challenge for a spot, he/she must inform a director and the person they are challenging 24 hours in advance.

PRIVATE LESSONS (ALL BAND STUDENTS)

All students are encouraged to take private lessons in order to improve their individual playing skills. Students may take private lessons with one of the Brazos Band Directors or we can try to find a suitable private lesson teacher for each student's instrument.

USE OF BAND HALL FACILITIES

Students are welcome to use the band hall for practice before and after school. Due to the thousands of dollars of musical equipment in the band hall, we ask that ONLY band students come into the band hall before, during and after school. Students must ask their friends who are not in band to wait for them in the hallway or outside. No food or drinks (other than water) are allowed in the band hall unless approved by the directors.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

All school owned instruments are sent to the repair shop and reconditioned during the summer. Any damage or normal adjustments during the year is the responsibility of the band student who has checked out the instrument. We expect the instrument to be returned in the same condition as when issued. Dings, dents, and other damages will be repaired at the student's expense. Brazos ISD carries casualty insurance on school instruments. If the instrument is stolen while checked out to a student, it is the student's responsibility to replace the instrument.

MONDAY/TUESDAY NIGHT REHEARSALS (HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)

Band members are required to attend and participate in Monday/Tuesday Night Rehearsals from 6:00-8:00pm. If there is an absence for any reason, one of the following must be presented to Mr. Garcia in order for it to be considered an excused absence:

1. A note from a doctor
2. A call/text from a parent phone number
3. An email from a parent email address

A handwritten note from a parent WILL NOT be accepted

Please try not to schedule doctor's appointments, hair appointments, etc. on Monday/Tuesday nights unless it is unavoidable. Missed rehearsals with no notice/explanation from a parent or doctor will result in a zero for that rehearsal. Multiple unexcused absences may result in removal from the band program.

BAND UNIFORMS

Marching Band (High School Only): It is a privilege to wear a Brazos High School Band uniform. Students must have all parts of the uniform for every performance. **KEEP YOUR UNIFORM CLEAN!!** If your uniform does not meet the requirements of the band, you may be asked not to perform, travel with the band, or lose third quarter break privileges. Students will enter the football stadium in full uniform minus the hat. Once in the stands, students may take off their jackets during the game as long as the students are wearing this year's band shirt. Students must also wear long black socks and black marching shoes with this uniform.

Concert Band (All Band Students): Uniform for Concert Band will be Concert Black. That includes: Long sleeved, button down black dress shirt with a collar, black dress slacks, long black socks and black dress shoes. Ladies may wear a black blouse and black slacks or long black dress which follows the school dress code.

DRESS CODE

Students must dress according to the Brazos ISD dress code.

DISCIPLINE

Students are expected to follow the student code of conduct as explained in the Brazos ISD Student Handbook at all times. Failure to do so may result in a lower participation grade, loss of third quarter break privileges, a write up, or eventual removal from the band program depending on the severity of the offense or frequency of offenses. The following are band related offenses and the consequences:

- **Disrespecting a Director/Refusal to Follow Directions/Not being prepared for Class:** Grade for that rehearsal will be lowered. Repeated offense will result in a phone call to a parent. If behavior continues, a write up will occur. This will be at the discretion of the directors.

- **Using a Phone During Rehearsal:** Student cell phone use is prohibited during school hours. If a student is caught using their cell phone, it will be taken up and taken to the campus front office. Students may use their cell phone during after school rehearsals and football games **with permission from a director or if it is an emergency!!** This will be at the discretion of the Directors.
- **Skipping an After School Rehearsal:** What counts as a “skipped” rehearsal is if a student does not attend an after school rehearsal with no reason given to the directors prior to the rehearsal from a parent. If this occurs, a phone call will be made to a parent to find out if the absence is excusable. If the absence is excusable, the student will need to make up that rehearsal with a director. If it is determined that the absence is not excusable, the student will receive a zero for that rehearsal and/or lose third quarter break privileges at that week’s football game. Repeated offenses could result in the student not being allowed to travel with the band, and could result in removal from the band program. This will be at the discretion of the directors.
- **Skipping a Band Performance:** What counts as a, “skipped,” performance is if a student does not attend a football game, contest, concert, parade or exhibition with no notice given to the directors prior to the event from a parent. If this occurs, a phone call to a parent will be made to determine if the absence is excusable. If it is excusable, the student will need to complete an alternate assignment to make up that performance grade. If it is determined that the absence is not excusable, the student will receive a zero for that performance and lose third quarter break privileges at the following week’s football game. Repeated offenses could result in the student not being allowed to travel with the band, and could result in removal from the band program. This will be at the discretion of the directors.
- **ISS or Suspension from School:** If a student receives ISS or is suspended on the day of a competition or performance, that student will not be allowed to participate in that performance or competition. If a competition is on a Saturday and a student receives ISS on Friday, they will not be allowed to compete at that contest. Students who cannot participate in band due to ISS or School Suspension will have to complete an alternate assignment for up to 70% credit to make up that performance or contest grade. Repeated suspension or ISS could result in removal from the band program. We need you in class to be able to perform!
- **Stealing School or Band Property/Defacing School or Band Property/Use of Drugs or Other Illegal Substances:** Students caught stealing or defacing school or band property or using drugs or other illegal substances will face immediate removal from the Band Program. There will be a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy on this.

BAND SHIRT

All band students will receive two Brazos Band shirts. One will be an, “Activity Shirt,” and the other will be a, “Show Shirt,” The activity shirt will be worn to events like football games, pep rallies and parades. The show shirt will be worn on contest days.

BAND LETTER JACKETS

Letter Jackets may be earned by a band member if he/she achieves one of the following:

1. Makes ATSSB High School All Region Band/Choir
2. Advances to the UIL State Solo and Ensemble Contest
3. Earn a Superior Rating at a Color Guard Festival
4. The Marching Band Competes at the UIL State Marching Contest
5. If the student is a member of the High School Band for three consecutive years and is in good standing.

FOOTBALL GAME POLICY

Normal school policy dictates that band students ride to and from all off-campus performances as a group using transportation provided by the district. Students may leave an away football game, off campus event or contest with a parent **AFTER** the event has concluded and must be signed out by a parent with a director. Students may leave with the parent of another student **ONLY AFTER THAT STUDENT'S PARENT GIVES CONSENT BY EITHER CALL, TEXT OR EMAIL TO A DIRECTOR.** If a parent must sign out a student during an event, please communicate beforehand with a director the reason for pulling their student out during the event. That student will still need to be signed out with a director by a parent upon leaving. This protects the parents, students and the school.

Football games are fun, and we are there to support the team. However, we must maintain a class act at all times. Band members can stand up, yell and scream in support of the team throughout the game, but should remain in his/her spot. It is important to be ready to play at a moment's notice. **Only band students are allowed in the band section. Students are not allowed to have food or drinks in the bleachers EXCEPT for water.**

- **Third Quarter Break: THIRD QUARTER BREAK IS NOT A RIGHT, IT'S A PRIVILEGE.** Students will be given a break after performing at halftime and after the football teams have entered the field for the third quarter. Students will have time to get something from the concession stand, use the restroom, and socialize with friends and family, and are given a time on the scoreboard clock to be back in their spots in the Band Section. It is important that band students return to their spots by the time given to them by the directors. Students who fail to be back in their spot **WILL LOSE** third quarter break for the following week's game.

FUNDRAISING

All out of town band festival trips (football and UIL events excluded) are funded by band members, either through private sources (student jobs, parents, etc.) or through student fundraisers. Profits from fundraising activities or other deposits to trip funds are maintained/supervised by the director and administrative assistant. Specific payment schedules are set up for spring trips. Students are subject to being dropped from the spring trip if published payment schedules are not adhered to. During the year if you need any specific information concerning individual account balances, etc., you can make a meeting with the head band director.

INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNT GUIDELINES

1. Profits gained from individual fundraising projects are placed in the student activity accounts in the student's name.
2. A student's individual account is non-transferable to another student (does not apply to siblings).
3. If a band student drops from the band program, moves, or is removed from the band program, all fundraising monies in his/her individual account revert to the general account, since the money was raised in the name of the band.
4. Money earned over and above basic trip costs (up to \$100.00) will be refunded to the individual student for additional trip expenses.
5. Funds raised in the current school year may be carried over to the next school year up to a maximum of \$100 over the cost of this year's trip.
6. CASH DEPOSITS (not from fundraising profits) are refundable provided they are requested in writing before published trip refund deadlines.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Band Student Leadership (Drum Majors, Captains, Officers) are invaluable to the success of the band program. Student leaders are selected after an audition process judged by non Brazos ISD employees. Student Leaders are expected to represent the Brazos Band program both in and out of the classroom. Ideal student leaders should exhibit the following qualities: a high playing ability, attendance/promptness, citizenship, academic achievement, discipline, initiative, and leadership skills/potential as it relates to the band environment. While many students may audition for a leadership position, not all can be selected. There is an expectation that ALL Brazos Band students foster and develop positive leadership skills throughout their time in Band regardless of their position in the Band. Student Leadership auditions will occur in the spring semester. Those chosen as Student Leaders are encouraged to attend a leadership camp over the summer. Fundraiser money may be used to pay for the expenses of a Summer Leadership Camp.

LOADING CREW

Band members who want to be on the Loading Crew will work with the Loading Crew Officer and other students to ensure that all instruments and equipment are loaded onto the trailer before departing for a game/contest/parade/etc.

UNIFORM CREW

Band members who want to be on the Uniform Crew will work with the Uniform Officer to ensure that all students have their uniforms inspected for performances.

BAND BOOSTERS

The Brazos Band has a very active, supportive parent organization in the Brazos Band Boosters. The Booster organization includes parents from both band and color guard. Without the hard work and dedication of these parents, the band program at Brazos could not be as successful and productive as it is. There are numerous areas in which interested parents can be involved in supporting the activities of the band. General meetings of the Boosters are held throughout the year; however, numerous committees do most of the Booster organization planning.

BAND BOOSTER SCHOLARSHIP

In order to be eligible for this scholarship as a senior, you must meet the following requirements:

1. Students must be a great “helper,” i.e. they must be a supportive member of the band and aid the Boosters in their efforts.
2. Students must have their parents within the Band Booster program.
3. Students must continue in band after high school. In other words, they must show a transcript with a band/music class shown for their college/university.
4. Students must finish 9-12th Grade within the Brazos Band program.
5. Students must write an essay and turn it in and all other components by the deadline set by the Band Boosters.

BUS TRAVEL GUIDELINES

Students must follow these rules when riding on a bus to and from school related events:

1. Students must remain seated at all times while the bus is moving. If a student must be asked to sit down multiple times, a phone call to a parent will be made.
2. No loud talking and music while the bus is in motion. Music should be listened to on headphones/earbuds only. The bus driver must be able to hear. This is for the safety of everyone on the bus and on the road.
3. If two buses are taken for trips, there will be a girls bus and a boys bus. If there is one bus taken, there will be a girls side and a boys side. There are no exceptions!

OFF CAMPUS TRAVEL POLICY

Students who represent Brazos ISD on out of town trips are expected to maintain very high standards and respect at all times. They are expected to attend and be on time for all sessions and activities scheduled for them. In the event of overnight trips, they are expected to be in their rooms at the times designated by their sponsors. Each student will be responsible to one or more faculty sponsors who will supervise the activities of the student for the trip. Negligence in attending sessions, in meeting curfew requirements, or in failing to maintain our standards of conduct may make it necessary for the sponsor to send the student home at his/her own expense.

STUDENT CONDUCT ON SCHOOL RELATED TRIPS

Self-discipline is the key element for a pleasant experience for both the sponsor and student when the student is on a school related trip. Students who are involved in a serious disciplinary offense on a school related trip; such as the use, possession of, or being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol, stealing, fighting, going in the room of a member of the opposite sex, or some other serious offense will face disciplinary action which may include one or more of the following:

1. The student will be sent home from the trip at the parent's expense.
2. The student will be held liable for damages to property.
3. The student may be removed from this school activity as well as other school co-curricular activities.
4. The student may be placed in ISS, Out of School Suspension, or Alternative Education Placement. Student's attire during school activities outside the school day should be in good taste and follow the dress code set in the Brazos ISD Student Handbook. If there is any question about taste, it is most likely not appropriate. All adults on trips serve as sponsors. Students will be expected to treat them with respect at all times. In the event a parent sponsor gives needed supervision, band students must honor that with the utmost respect. **Even though you will not always have a band shirt on, people will find out where you are from.** You have the opportunity to make a tremendous name for Brazos and yourself. Be courteous and polite at all times. There is no way we can anticipate every possible scenario, so we ask for good judgment. Please use common sense. Basically, if you have to think about if what you are about to do is right or wrong, don't do it! Better safe than sorry.

2025-2026 Brazos Band Handbook Acknowledgement From

By signing below, my child and I acknowledge and agree to the policies and guidelines forth set by the Brazos Band Staff. We also understand that if at any time, and/or for any reason, my child cannot follow the policies and guidelines set forth by the director, classroom teachers, or a school administrator, he/she will be subject to the consequences stated in this handbook as well as the Brazos ISD Student Handbook.

Furthermore, we are all here to work together to make the Brazos Band program an outstanding organization. Therefore, we also acknowledge our intent to contribute positively, as a parent and student, to the Brazos Band Program.

Student Name(Signature)

Date

Parent Name(Signature)

Date