

Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City I.S.D. High School Band

Student/Parent Handbook

**CONGRATULATIONS on your decision to be a part of the fine tradition of the
SCUC ISD HIGH SCHOOL BANDS!**

This Handbook is designed as a guide for parents and students. It includes specific details concerning all aspects of the Band program, including the Color Guard. The Color Guard will also have its own specific Constitution and Rules in addition to the Band. Every effort has been made to make this handbook as complete as possible, however the Band Director and/or school administration have the right to make revisions during the school year. All information in this handbook is superseded by SCUCISD school board, district administration, and campus administration policy.

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the intent of the SCUC ISD Band programs to offer every student a well-rounded and enriching music education through participation in individual and group performance-based activities. Throughout their band experience, members develop the values of teamwork, commitment, pride and accomplishment. By successfully developing these skills, the SCUC ISD Bands proudly represent our school district and community.

BAND ORGANIZATIONS

MARCHING BAND

The Marching Band is a combination of all Concert Bands. Marching Band members receive a P.E. waiver for membership in the Marching Band as well as a Fine Arts credit. The SCUC ISD High School Bands perform at all pep rallies, varsity football games, and various marching contests. Membership in the Marching Band is required of all Band students. Positions on the field for the Marching Band are determined through audition by the Directors based on memorization of the required music, marching skill, attendance, and the overall attitude and self-discipline of the student.

Special Note: Marching shows are developed during the previous spring semester. Due to this, drill design and positions on the field are determined based on enrollment projections. Drill design cannot be re-written for the exact number of students who are enrolled in the program in the late summer and fall semester. When there are more students in particular sections than positions charted for the field, students may be assigned a shared or temporary position with another student. Students may be assigned to setting and moving props as an integral part of the show. Unfortunately, due to “No Pass, No Play”, extenuating circumstances, and/or the above mentioned, a position cannot be guaranteed for each and every student on the field for games and/or competitions.

DRUM LINE

Drum Line auditions are held during the spring semester of the previous school year. The percussion instructor at each High School assigns students specific percussion instrument parts for the upcoming fall Marching Band. The decision of the Percussion Instructor concerning instrument/part assignments is final. Many double reed players play in the Front Line Ensemble as well as a few chosen woodwind students. There are numerous extra rehearsals required of members of both the Front Line Ensemble and Battery Percussion.

COLOR GUARD

The Color Guard is a competitive performing art. Performers combine their equipment (flags, rifles, sabers) with interpretive body movements (dancing/marching/acting). During the fall semester, Color Guard members perform with the Band at all football games, UIL competitions, and contests as selected by the directors. Color Guard members perform in Winter Guard contests at various schools in the spring. During Winter Guard, members develop an indoor show and perform at multiple competitions leading to the state finals. Members will audition for Winter Guard teams at the end of the fall semester. Please view the Color Guard handbook for more specific information.

TWIRLING

Twirling is a competitive performing art. The performer combines his/her equipment with interpretive body movements (dancing/marching/acting). The twirler is not used in the competitive marching show; however, he/she may perform at various times during halftime performances throughout the football season at the discretion of the Head Band Director. Since a twirler is not used in the competition show, he/she must be a participant in the Color Guard for one year before he/she is eligible to audition as a twirler in the High School Band. The twirler audition may be held in conjunction with the Color Guard officer try-outs in the spring. Once selected as a twirler, he/she must remain as a participant in the Color Guard for all marching band competition shows. Twirler(s) who are in the Color Guard must participate in all Winter Guard competitions in the spring semester, as well as all recruiting demonstrations and performances as a member of the Color Guard. A twirler may see a director to inquire about the U.I.L. Twirling Competition held in the spring each year.

CONCERT BANDS

Band students are placed into concert bands by audition according to their performance level, attitude, participation, eligibility and instrumentation needs. The concert bands provide for a wide range of playing abilities and require a certain time commitment. The director's decision on band placement is final. Students may have the opportunity to change band placement at certain points throughout the school year.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Membership in the Jazz Ensemble is by audition and/or invitation only and must be approved by the Directors. A student must be enrolled as a member of one of the High School Concert Bands to qualify for entrance to the Jazz Ensemble.

APPLIED MUSIC CLASS

All students who wish to be in an Applied Music course must be a member of the Wind Ensemble for the entire school year. Students are required to participate in all TMEA and UIL events. They must perform a UIL Class I Solo and Ensemble, mentor other music students in our school district zone (providing written documentation for accountability). Other requirements may be included within the scope of the course. There must be a minimum number of students enrolled in Applied Music class for the course to be scheduled.

AUDITIONS/CHAIR PLACEMENT/CHALLENGES

Placement in all Bands is on the basis of playing auditions and/or by decision of the Director. Placement auditions are held at the discretion of the directors. Audition material is selected by the directors.

Chair placement in all concert bands is on the basis of playing auditions. Chair placement auditions are held throughout the year, at the discretion of the band director. Students are placed in chair-order only on the basis of how he/she performs the audition music. District/Region Band Auditions may play a role in chair/band replacement.

Students are highly encouraged to challenge throughout the year. Challenges allow students the opportunity to earn higher chairs within a concert band, as well as opportunity to move into a more challenging concert band. Only students who consistently earn 1st chair within their current concert band will be afforded the opportunity to challenge the last chair in the higher level band. Since this type of challenge requires a schedule change, students may have to wait until the end of the semester before a schedule change is made.

BAND FEES & OBLIGATIONS

There are fees and obligations required of each member that are due at the annual Mandatory Parent Meeting held usually in early August. These fees and obligations are described in detail on the band website and/or in an information handout distributed at the meeting. The amounts of these fees vary with the needs of the individual student. Freshmen and first year students to the program usually have the higher totals due to the need to acquire Marching Band shoes, band shirt, etc. The amount usually decreases each year for upperclassmen, assuming that there would not be a need to replace reusable items.

Some fees such as the show fee, show shirt fee, and uniform cleaning/maintenance fee will be a yearly obligation throughout a student's career in High School Band.

BAND SHIRT/UNIFORM ACCESSORIES

Formal band uniforms are provided by SCUCISD for the musicians and will be kept at the school between events. The uniforms will be sent out together for cleaning several times during the year. Students are fitted for a uniform during summer band rehearsals. Students are responsible for ensuring they have all appropriate parts of the uniform for performances. Students must also purchase band shirts as part of an informal uniform.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

SCUC ISD provides school instruments in the double reed and low woodwind sections as well as many marching, concert brass, and percussion equipment. These instruments are quite costly and are not normally owned by individual students. School instruments are checked out for a maintenance fee of \$80.00. The fee covers only the general maintenance of the instrument. *Any damage done to the instrument will be the sole responsibility of the student to have repaired.* Since SCUCISD carries no instrument insurance, it is highly recommended that the instrument be added to your household insurance policy to cover any theft or damage that might occur. If the instrument is stolen or damaged while checked out to a student, it is the student's responsibility to replace or repair the instrument.

ELIGIBILITY

Many band activities are designated by the state as extra-curricular. These activities are therefore governed by the state laws regarding participation (House Bill 72). 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 nine week period following a grade-reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than seventy in any one class.

The University Interscholastic League (UIL) mandates every school in the state to check student academic eligibility after the first 6 weeks of school. Since SCUC ISD schools are on nine week grading periods, our students are checked for academic eligibility after the nine week grading period as well. However, students who lose eligibility at any nine week grading period may regain eligibility at the three week progress report or the at the six week progress report. In order to achieve or regain academic eligibility, students must pass **ALL** classes with a grade of seventy or higher.

Students earning a grade no lower than 60 in a Pre-AP, AP, Pre-IB, IB, Honors, Dual Credit, or other advanced class are allowed eligibility.

Students are not suspended from practices, rehearsals or concerts unless the event is a parade, pep rally, an event when admission is charged, or if the event is a competition. A few band activities are designated by the state as curricular. These activities are a natural extension of the learning taking place in the classroom. An example of this type of activity is a free, non-competitive public concert. This type of activity is not governed by state eligibility law.

GRADING

SCUC ISD Band staff utilizes the SCUC ISD policy on grading. Please view the District's Grading Guidelines in the most current Student Handbook for details.

ATTENDANCE AND COMMITMENT

Because SCUC ISD Bands function as a team and count on each member's presence at rehearsal to accomplish the goals of the group, prompt attendance at each and every band function is crucial to the success of the programs. *For attendance purposes, a band function is defined as: Any rehearsal, sectional, performance, trip, or event scheduled by a director.* Each member is responsible to be at the required location, properly attired, with his or her instrument and all of the necessary equipment *before* the appointed time (or call time).

“To be early is to be on time ...”

The directors will establish a call time for each band event. Students should arrive at least 10 minutes prior to this time to allow for unpacking, and other preparations for the rehearsal. Larger instruments such as percussion and Sousaphones/tubas should plan for arriving at least 15 minutes early to every rehearsal and event.

Specific guidelines are addressed within each campus band's attendance policy.

In Band rehearsals we not only are involved with a creative process, but also with many more students than other classroom teachers. Because of this, it is imperative that Band students be organized and prepared for every rehearsal. When an individual is not able to play his/her instrument during a rehearsal, it hurts the entire GROUP, as well as the individual. It is important that the student's instrument is in good working condition, has a pencil to mark music, and has important accessories such as mutes, reeds and/or valve oil for EVERY rehearsal. It is also conducive to the creative process that we maintain a quiet, attentive atmosphere in the classroom and on the practice field. Students who do not live up to the high rehearsal expectations of the SCUC ISD High School Band programs will be counseled, and if necessary, removed from the performing ensemble.

SECTIONAL REHEARSAL POLICY

With college-level and upper high school level concert music being performed, section rehearsals for all Bands are vital to the successful performance of such a high level of music. Section rehearsals are scheduled either before school, after school to accommodate the greatest majority of students in a given section. Students receive a grade for participation at sectionals. Sectional absences are made up at the discretion of the Band Director.

SPECIAL NOTE:

Student job commitments are not recognized as reasonable excuses from Band performances or rehearsals and are graded accordingly.

Many Band students are employed and participate successfully in Band. We suggest that the Band student take a copy of the “Yearly Band Calendar” to their employer and clear all Band performances and rehearsals. The majority of employers understand and are flexible if they know of Band commitments well in advance, and they understand that Band performances are a required, graded and vital part of the course work (band directors are glad to talk to employers to validate student commitments.).

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE PARTICIPATION

The University Interscholastic League (UIL) sponsors both individual and group music competitions for high school band students. Competitions include individual solos as well as ensembles. Students are highly encouraged to perform at UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest. The exact performance requirements will be at the discretion of your student's individual band director. Soloists must perform with piano accompaniment if an accompaniment is published with the solo. Each student is highly encouraged to find his/her own accompanist. Your directors and/or private lesson teachers will gladly assist you in choosing appropriate music for this event. Wind Ensemble members are expected to perform a solo from the Class I UIL Prescribed Music List. Earning a first division superior rating on a Class 1 solo *by memory* qualifies the event for the Texas State Solo & Ensemble contest. *Participation and specific results at U.I.L. Solo & Ensemble Contest are considered in respect to certain levels of qualifying for a Band Letter Jacket.* Check the Letter Jacket requirements in this Handbook for specific information.

TRANSPORTATION

Normal school policy dictates that Band students ride to, and return from, Band performances as a group on school or chartered buses (on long distance contests or games). On occasion, parents desire to pick up their Band child at the conclusion of football games, rather than have them return to the Band Hall on the bus. The procedure that **MUST** be used is as follows:

Immediately **AFTER** the football game is over and the Band has finished playing the school and fight songs, parents should meet their child at their designated bus and let the parent sponsor of that bus know that he/she is riding home with you. *The student is responsible for arranging for their instrument and uniform to be properly taken off the bus and/or truck and stored in the Band Hall in the appropriate place by a reliable student.* The parent may also be required to sign your child's bus card indicating that you picked up your child from the game as well as show proper identification. *Parents must make sure that there is documentation in writing that their child is being released to them and is seen by the bus chaperone before leaving.*

THE CHAPARONE HANDS OUT THE BUS ATTENDANCE CARD TO EACH STUDENT AS THE STUDENT BOARDS THE BUS. FLIP FOLDERS/MUSIC, BLACK SOCKS, BLACK GLOVES, UNIFORM, ETC. WILL BE CHECKED BEFORE ANY STUDENT IS ALLOWED ON THE BUS. ANY STUDENT NOT ALLOWED ON THE BUS MUST RETURN TO THE END OF THE LINE, REGARDLESS OF SENIORITY.

THE CHAPARONE PICKS UP THE CARD WHEN THE STUDENT GETS OFF THE BUS *FOR ANY REASON*. THE CHAPARONE TAKES NOTE OF ANY CARD LOST WHILE THE STUDENT IS ON THE BUS AND NOTIFIES THE DIRECTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO A REPLACEMENT CARD CAN BE MADE. *A CHARGE MAY BE ASSESSED ANY STUDENT WHO LOSES OR DAMAGES HIS/HER ATTENDANCE CARD.* CHAPARONES WILL BE NOTIFIED OF ANY STUDENTS WHO ARE INELIGIBLE OR WILL NOT BE RIDING ON THE BUS BEFORE THE BUSES LEAVE THE SCHOOL.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons in order to improve their individual playing skills. Rehearsals during the school day provide students with broad goals on their instruments, concepts to improve upon, and train each band member in ensemble listening and performance skills. However, we cannot stress enough the importance of one-on-one private instruction with a *qualified* specialist to aid each student in his or her individual quest for musical excellence. A weekly lesson with a private instructor will provide students with individual attention on all state music, band music, and fundamental concepts, all of which will serve to improve the overall level of the band program.

We are extremely fortunate to have some excellent private lesson instructors in our area who are available during the school day for extra instruction. If you would like to enroll your child in private lessons, please call or e-mail for further information. ***All private lesson teachers should be approved by the Band Director prior to the student beginning their lessons.*** All consultants and private lesson teachers teaching on campus must be cleared through the school district background check process before having any contact with students.

LETTER JACKETS

The following guidelines have been established for awarding letters and jackets to students who meet the criteria. Letter awards will be given for exemplary representation of the school and the band program. All fee obligations must be paid in full before any student is eligible to be measured for a letter or letter jacket. All students must be eligible for all contests of their qualifying year to be eligible for a letter jacket and be in good standing in the program as determined by the Director and/or Administration. The status of "good standing" includes discipline and attendance/participation at band events. Band letter jackets are measured in May and distributed in October. The school district purchases the letter jacket *based on available funding*. *Students that have previously earned a jacket can only receive a Band letter. All extra patches, names, etc. must be paid by the student at the time the jacket is ordered.*

The criteria for earning a band letter jacket is as follows:

Freshmen

- 2 semester member
- Successfully participated in UIL Marching, Concert and Sight Reading Contests.

And

- Selected to and participation in the TMEA All-State Band

OR

- 1st Division Rating on his/her UIL Solo at State Solo & Ensemble Contest. The solo performed must be on a traditional woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument.

Sophomore

- 4 semester member
- Successfully participated in UIL Marching, Concert and Sight Reading Contests.

And

- Selected for the TMEA All-District Band

OR

- 1st Division Rating on a Class 1 or Class 2 Solo at UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest. The solo performed must be on a traditional woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument.

Junior

- 6 semester member
- Successfully participated in UIL Marching, Concert and Sight Reading Contests.

Senior

- 8 semester member.
- Successfully participated in UIL Marching, Concert and Sight Reading Contests.

GUARD LETTER JACKETS

The following guidelines have been established for awarding letters and jackets to students who meet the criteria. Letter awards will be given for exemplary representation of the school and the band program. All fee obligations must be paid in full before any student is eligible to be measured for a letter or letter jacket. All students must be eligible for all contests of their qualifying year to be eligible for a letter jacket and be in good standing in the program as determined by the Director and/or Administration. The status of "good standing" includes discipline and attendance/participation at band events. Band letter jackets are measured in May and distributed in October. The school district purchases the letter jacket *based on available funding*. *All extra patches, names, etc. must be paid by the student at the time the jacket is ordered.*

The criteria for earning a band letter jacket is as follows:

First Year Member

- 2 semester member

And

- Participation in all Marching Contests including UIL

And

- Participation in all Winter Guard Contests concluding with earning a State Championship in their circuit

Second Year Member

- 2 semester member

And

- Participation in all Marching Contests including UIL

And

- Participation in all Winter Guard Contests concluding with earning a State Championship in their circuit

Third Year Member

- 6 semester member

And

- Participation in all Marching Contests including UIL

And

- Participation in all Winter Guard Contests

Fourth Year Member

- 8 semester member

And

- Participation in all Marching Contests including UIL

And

- Participation in all Winter Guard Contests

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

SCUCISD High School student leaders are chosen by application and/or audition. These students are extremely valuable to the success of the band program. Drum majors and Color Guard officers are also selected by application and audition. All returning students have an opportunity to sign up for leadership positions.

Any student who holds an Officer, Leader or Drum Major position and does not demonstrate the responsibilities that are expected of their post as determined by the Band Director or school administration may be relieved of their position. In the case of removal, a replacement may be appointed by the Band Director with the approval of the school administration.

DRUM MAJOR/ GUARD OFFICER AUDITIONS

Any returning student interested in auditioning for Drum Major or Color Guard Officer must attend the first Drum Major/ Color Guard officer audition preparation meeting. Candidates for Drum Major or Guard Officer will receive an audition packet at this meeting, which will take place in late spring. **THE DECISION OF THE DIRECTORS AND JUDGES IS FINAL.**

BAND OFFICERS

Students who will be in the 10th, 11th or 12th grades for the next school year are eligible to become band officers. Band Officers are chosen by application and are selected based on references from teachers and band students. Interested students receive detailed information concerning these offices from the Band Director prior to the nomination and election process. Since Drum Majors are already considered members of the Band Council, they are not eligible to hold an officer position. *Any student nominated for a Band Officer position must be registered for Band and on the printed roster for the next school year and have all Band fees and obligations paid in full.*

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AT FOOTBALL GAMES

The following are the only students who will be allowed to visit with another school Band's representatives during the third quarter of a football game, if allowed by stadium officials or the Band Director. *Some stadiums and schools prohibit the meeting of student representatives during games.* Visitation will only be during the third quarter. All students will be back in the stands with the Band by the beginning of the fourth quarter.

The only band students allowed to serve as representatives are (one of the following in each officer title): Drum Major, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, one Guard Leader, and one Twirler (if the other program has a twirler).

Absolutely no other student will be allowed, and there will be no substitutions for the above mentioned students. The Head Band Director and/or school administration has the authority to restrict any of the above listed students from serving as a representative at any game.

The above listed students will check in with the Head Band Director as a group before being allowed to proceed to the Visitor Band. A Parent chaperone will be assigned to accompany the group.

Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action for the student. The Head Band Director and/or school administration has the authority to amend this policy.

BATTERY PERCUSSION PERFORMANCES DURING FOOTBALL GAME THIRD QUARTERS

Battery percussion performances during football game third quarters is a privilege and not a right. A Director or School Administration may prohibit a student from performing during the third quarter at any football game. Some stadiums prohibit track performances. There will be expectations with behavior and uniforms as required by the Band Director. Failure to adhere to any behavioral or uniform expectations may cause a student to be not allowed to participate and could result in disciplinary action.

BAND LOCKER CHECK-OUT

Each student will be issued a locker and lock prior to the beginning of the school year. They must use one of the school supplied locks, so directors or school administration can open the lock if necessary. Any personal locks, unless approved by the band director, will be removed (“cut” off the locker). All students must keep their instrument and personal belongings in their locked lockers. Storage of money and/or valuables in lockers *at any time* is highly discouraged. Every effort is made to maintain a secure facility, however the directors and the school district are not responsible for items that are missing or stolen from the Band Hall or lockers. *Students’ belongings can be safe only if the students lock their lockers.* Students will be financially responsible for lost or stolen locks or damage to their lockers. *There will be a \$20.00 replacement charge for missing locks.* Lockers are never considered personal property and are always subject to inspection by the Directors and/or school Administration. *Unless absolutely necessary, and assigned specifically by the Band Director, the sharing of lockers is not allowed.*

USE OF BAND HALL FACILITIES

Students are welcome to use the Band Hall practice rooms for practice either before school, after school or during lunch if the facility is available. Sometimes, however, the number of available places is limited, since both sectionals and private lessons take place in these rooms.

We require all Band students to be responsible and keep their equipment and personal items **LOCKED UP** in their lockers at all times. Do not risk the theft of valuables and/or money from purses or backpacks that are left on the floor or in the restroom. *We must stress again that every effort is made to maintain a secure facility, however **the Directors and the school district are not responsible for items that are missing or stolen from the Band Hall (including lockers).*** The Directors may temporarily remove and confiscate any equipment or personal belongings left unsecured.

The beverage machine (if any) in the main Band Hall is for the convenience of our Band students at appropriate times [decided by the Director]. We stress individual responsibility in properly disposing of containers and other trash.

Absolutely no hats are to be worn in the Band Hall facility (complies with the official School Handbook policy).

REMOVAL FROM THE BAND PROGRAM

A student may be removed from the Band program for severe disciplinary action as determined by the Band Director and/or school and district administration, especially when placed in an alternative location (BAC, DAEP, Suspension, etc.). This will include, but not be exclusive to drug, tobacco and/or alcohol use or possession, use of anything considered a weapon, criminal mischief, or any other unlawful act towards any property or towards another student or adult. Unacceptable

communication including the use of social media may also result in removal from the Band program. Band fees paid will not be refundable. All outstanding Band fees will remain due to the Band organization.

BAND BOOSTERS

SCUC ISD has very active, supportive Band Booster Organizations. Without the hard work and dedication of our parents, the Band programs would not be as successful and productive as they are. There are numerous areas in which parents are involved in supporting the activities of the Band. Most of the work of the Booster Organization is done through numerous committees.

With a few exceptions, general meetings of the Band Boosters are held monthly or quarterly in their school's Band Hall. Everyone is encouraged to consult the Band Calendar to confirm each scheduled meeting.

SCUC ISD Band Student/ Parent Handbook Agreement

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the guidelines set forth in the SCUC ISD and Clemens Band Parent/Student Handbook.

Parent's signature _____

Parent's printed name _____

Student's signature _____

Student's printed name _____

RETURN BY

Friday, August 23, 2019.

