

S&S High School



Ram Band Handbook

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LETTER TO BAND PARENTS

Dear Parent,

I'd like to thank you for taking time to read this handbook to help you understand what it takes to build a band program and achieve its goal of success.

As a parent, there are many things you can do to encourage your child in band. First of all, you can show your visible support by being at attendance for performances and volunteering your time to help with the band in its various activities. At home, you can encourage your child to prepare their music for class by making sure that he/she practices. You can also make sure that your child attends all functions and practices of the band. These are just a sample of things that you can do to be involved in your child's music education and will help us to build a band program that the school and community of Blooming Grove can be proud.

I hope that this handbook answers any questions you may have. However, if it has not answered all of your questions, please feel free to contact me.

A form will be sent home for each student and parent to sign as an acknowledgement of the electronic receipt of this handbook.

Thank You,

Terry Lovett
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INTRODUCTION

Why band? Band is a challenging and fun activity. However, what makes any activity the most fun is when a high level of success can be achieved. In order to be successful, each student must be willing to develop the discipline and work ethic needed to achieve this goal. Something to take to heart is the saying, “a band is only as strong as its weakest member”.

Band also is very important in the development of you as an individual. I strongly believe that, in order to get the ultimate enjoyment out the music to which you listen either by radio, television, or compact disk, it would help to understand how the music is made. Playing music also helps develop upper level decision making and thinking skills. Think of it this way: in order to play music, one must decide what notes must be played and how to produce those notes all in a matter of a split second.

Being in a small school in Texas gives you a unique opportunity to experience many different types of activities that those in other states or larger schools can not. In many states, any form of musical activity is limited only to the largest schools. In large schools in Texas, many students are limited to one activity (sports, vocational, or music). In our smaller setting, you have the opportunity to be a part of all of these organizations. Being able to do this, affords you an opportunity that many future employers along with colleges and universities find desirable. Also, it gives you more of an opportunity to receive financial aid in college.

The purpose of this handbook isn't to take the fun away from band, but to help and guide you to becoming the best band student that you can be. This will enable the S & S band program to grow and be successful while making it something of which the school and communities can be proud.

BAND HALL GUIDELINES

- No gum, candy, food, or drinks (except water) are allowed in the band hall, unless approved by the band director.
- Be respectful of all school property..
- The band hall phone is not for student use, unless the director gives permission.
- Please do not enter the band office or the music library with out permission from the director.
- Only band students are allowed in the band hall.
- The sound equipment is off limits to all students, unless a director gives permission.
- All percussion instruments are off limits to non – percussionists.
- There will be no running, fighting, or inappropriate playing of an instrument in the band hall.
- Play your own instrument or the one assigned to you.
- Be respectful of other students' property.
- Each student is expected to keep music, instruments, and equipment in its proper storage place, when it's not in use.
- Keep music slots, instrument storage areas, and band hall free of any personal items other than instruments or music.
- Students are not allowed to add or remove items from the bulletin board, without permission.
- All trash should be put in the trash can.
- PDA (Public Display of Affection) is not allowed in the band hall or band functions of any type.

EQUIPMENT

- All students are responsible for the care of all of their equipment, whether it is school owned or not.
- Any damages to school owned instruments, music, uniforms, or any other equipment will be repaired or replaced at the student's expense.
- Storage areas are provided for musical instruments during the school day.

MUSIC

- All music issued is property of the S & S CISD band program. When original copies are issued, students will be responsible for the care of the music.
- Do not write or mark on the original music with ink. If original copies are lost or abused, the student will have to pay to replace the music. The replacement costs vary from \$1.00 to \$5.00 per copy.

- Storage areas are provided for music during the school day.

UNIFORMS

Marching Band

Marching band uniforms are provided to each student by the school at great cost. Because of this, each student will be expected to properly maintain and store the uniform assigned so that wear and tear may be kept to an absolute minimum. Also, since wearing this uniform designates you as being a representative of the school and communities of Sadler and Southmayd, you will be expected to wear it in a manner that will reflect positively on the school and community.

- Marching band uniforms will be checked-out before each performance and returned immediately after. Under no circumstances is a uniform to be taken home without permission from the band director. If the uniform needs alterations, those will be done by a designated person. Any damages to any part of the uniform will be repaired or replaced at the student's expense. Before being released, each student must show an adult or designated student that the uniform has been hung properly.
- All students will be expected to be in full uniform for each performance. Students will be expected to stay in full uniform unless otherwise instructed.
- No jewelry should be worn with the marching uniform. Stud earrings are acceptable (females only). **Hair longer than collar length should be worn in a manner to remain above the collar of the uniform and out of the student's face.**
- Caps or hats not part of the uniform may not be worn at any time.
- Sunglasses are not to be worn unless approved by the band director.
- When not being worn, the uniform should be hung properly and stored in a hanging bag.

Full marching band uniform consists of the following items:

- Jacket – worn properly with buttons buttoned.
- Pants – worn with all snaps and buttons fastened and straps adjusted so that the length is proper.
- Hat – worn properly on the head and stored when not in use.
- Black Shoes (provided by the school) – kept cleaned.
- Black Socks (provided by the student) – a clean, washed pair for each performance.
- Black Gloves (first pair provided – extra pair gloves \$2.00 ea.) – stored with the hat.
- Band T-shirt – to be worn on all band functions when not in uniform and underneath the jacket when in uniform. It should be kept clean and as free from wrinkles as possible.

INSTRUMENT REPAIR

If a student's instrument is in need of repair, please follow these steps to get the instrument repaired.

1. Notify the director as soon as possible.

2. The director will suggest one of the local music stores to assist you in getting the instrument repaired.

Band Rehearsals

Remembering that, “a band is only as good as its weakest member”, our limited rehearsal times are very important for the success of our organization. As the director, I spend hours preparing and scheduling each one of these to get the most out of each of these times and to avoid wasting your precious time. I will strive to keep each rehearsal as business-like as possible and to avoid having you sit without doing something. A large portion of your grade is determined on how you conduct yourself in each of these rehearsals.

Inside Rehearsals

- Be on time. This means in your seat with instrument ready to play and not walking through the door. Any student not doing this will be considered as being tardy to class.
- As soon as the director is on the podium, each student is expected to be focused on the director and not talking without permission. It is permissible to help another student with the music if it is done without causing a distraction to the rest of the class or the director. When the director is off of the podium, students may converse quietly.
- Students should have all equipment and music needed at every rehearsal and performance, and it should be in proper working order. Brass should check and attend to the lubrication of instruments before the rehearsal. Woodwind players are expected to have three working reeds in their possession at all times. Percussionists should have all equipment for the days’ rehearsal laid out and ready to go.
- Check the boards daily for announcements and news.
- Instrument cases should not be at your seat. Please keep cases in the storage lockers or off to the side.
- Music should be placed in the proper order according to instructions on the board.
- Music stands should be adjusted to the correct height so that you can see the director and the music at the same time.
- Supplies may be purchased either after the rehearsal or before and after school.
- When seated students must sit on the edge of the chair, with their back straight, and both feet flat on the floor.
- The director, not the bell, will dismiss students from class / rehearsal.

Outside Rehearsals

- Students are expected to be in their first set for roll check 2 minutes after the second bell rings.
- While working on the marching drill, students are expected to remain in position unless given permission by either the director or drum major to get out of that position.

- Students should have all equipment and music needed at every rehearsal and performance, and it should be in proper working order. Brass should check and attend to the lubrication of instruments before the rehearsal. Woodwind players are expected to have three working reeds in their possession at all times.
- Students should play their instrument only when instructed.
- No gum, candy, food, or drinks (except water) are allowed.

TRAVEL GUIDELINES

One of the more enjoyable parts of being is the trips. However, whenever the band leaves S&S, it becomes a representative of the school and communities. Each band member should strive to be the best representative that he or she can possibly be.

- Departure times will be strictly adhered to.
- Each band member will wear the proper uniform or clothing as stated by the director.
- When not in uniform, school dress codes will be in force.
- Loud and boisterous activity by band members when in public is not good for the band's image and will not be tolerated.

BUS GUIDELINES

The bus trip's sole purpose is to transport the band to and from an event. In order to keep each of you as safe as possible, each student will follow all of the following rules and guidelines. Students displaying improper behavior on the bus will be punished appropriately.

- Each student will show respect to the bus driver and all sponsors.
- Follow the instructions of the sponsors, bus drivers, and director.
- No talking during roll call.
- Do not stand or leave your seat when the bus is in motion.
- Only portable audio equipment with headphones will be allowed.
- PDA (public displays of affection) is not appropriate for a school bus or school event.
- No screaming or loud talking - use a normal tone of voice.
- Students may lose their privilege to talk on the bus if the noise level is not contained.
- Vulgar/abusive language or obscene gestures will not be tolerated.
- No clapping hands or playing sticks or mallets.
- No hair products, perfumes, lotions or polish should be used on the bus.

- Food and drinks will only be allowed with the director's permission. (No glass bottles or open containers)
- Students will be expected to keep the bus clean. Put trash in trash bags/cans. Cups/cans must be empty to be thrown away. If not, hold it or drink it.
- Do not deface the bus and/or its equipment.
- Do not put head, hands, arms, feet, or legs out of the window at any time.
- Do not hold any object out of the window or throw objects within or out of the bus.
- Keep the aisle clear of feet and objects.
- Upon arrival to our destination, students must remain seated until dismissed by director or Sponsor in charge.
- Students must ride the bus to the event.
- Students must ride the bus home from an event unless signed out by a parent. The student must have a designated person to care for his or her uniform and equipment. Failure to do so will result in the student not being allowed to ride home with parents.
- Students must have an approved note from the principal in order to ride home with someone other than your parent.
- All usual S&S CISD bus policies will be in effect for band trips.

FOOTBALL GAMES

At football games, students must remember that you are representing the school district and our community, so appropriate behavior is very important.

- Only current band personnel and parents are allowed in the band section, unless authorized by the director.
- Students must sit or stand in their assigned location. No student will be allowed to leave this assigned position unless given permission by the director.
- Food, drinks, or gum will not be allowed at any time while the band is in the bleachers except during third quarter. As soon as third quarter is over, students must dispose of any food or drink items or save them until after the game.
- Members of the band are not allowed to play unless told to do so by the director.
- Watch the director at all times. Enjoy being at the game, but remember that the band is at the football game to show support for the team and to enhance the spirit of the fans. Be aware enough of what's going on to have your music ready for performance.
- Show respect to all other bands, teams, organizations, and all who attend or are a part of the game.

- The uniform will be worn completely and properly at all times. There will be no variation from the proper wearing of the uniform unless authorized by the director.
- Inappropriate language or behavior during a school sponsored event will not be tolerated.
- Cell phones and any type of music listening equipment (MP3's, CD players, etc.) are not allowed up in the stands during football games. These will be taken up by the director and kept until the end of the function if they are being used.
- As long as the event lasts, which includes arrival time to dismissal time, all rules from the S&S handbook will be in effect.

ATTENDANCE

- Attendance at ALL rehearsals, sectionals, and performances is necessary for the success of our band program.
- Students who are ineligible due to No pass/No play are still expected to attend all rehearsals and sectionals.
- For planned absences, the band director must receive a written or verbal notice from a parent/guardian *at least one week prior* to the scheduled event. In the case of medical emergencies or death in the family the director must receive notification as soon as possible. Anything else is considered as unexcused.

Excused Absence

Absences will be excused in the following cases:

- An illness which was excused from school for that day
- Medical emergency or personal injury
- Death in the family
- Special circumstances (to be determined on a case by case basis by the director)

GRADING SYSTEM

Six-Week Grades

During marching season:

- Participation grade (instrument position, sitting or standing position, paying attention during class, playing off marching music by memory) 70%
- Attendance for band rehearsals, competitions, and functions 30%

During concert season:

- Participation grade (instrument position, sitting paying attention during class, playing off concert music) 60%
- Attendance at concerts and contests. 40%

Ineligible Students:

- Students who can not attend band events because of failing an academic subject may be require to make up the events that they can not attend by working outside of the school day with the director.

Extra Credit

Sources of extra credit:

- Participation in ATSSB All-Region band auditions. Director must hear these students.
- Participation in the TMEA Solo and Ensemble contest. Director must hear these students

- Attendance of professional and/or community musical performances or concerts.

ELIGIBILITY

The S&S HS Band will abide by the State Board of Education guidelines on eligibility. A student not passing all classes at the end of a grading period will be considered ineligible from extracurricular events starting at the end of the school day one week from the end of the grading period. A student may regain eligibility by passing all subjects at the end of the 3 week reporting period or by passing all subjects one week after the next grading period. For band, extracurricular events include football games, basketball games, University Interscholastic League, Texas Music Educator's Association, or Association of Small School Bands competitions, and any concert in which a fee for admission is levied. An ineligible student may perform at any free concert given by the organization as a service to the community and as a part of the course requirements. Ineligible students may also attend all after and before school practices.

- The S&S High School Band will adhere to UIL eligibility policies.
- Students who are ineligible due to grades are still expected to attend all band rehearsals and sectionals.
- Students who are ineligible due to grades are also expected to perform at any free, public performances which are required by the TEKS.

BAND LETTER JACKET

Members of the high school band may earn a letter and/or letter jacket at the conclusion of each school year. UIL rules state that a student may receive only ONE letter jacket whether it is for band, academics, or athletics. Students may be eligible to receive a band letter jacket, if the following requirements are met:

- Student must have no unexcused absences from any rehearsal for the year.
- Student must have a proper attitude during all rehearsals, outside practices, and performances.
- Student must participation in all UIL marching and concert contests each year
- Following five semesters of high school band, each member in good standing is awarded a letter jacket.
- Students may get their jackets earlier than 5 semesters if they make a first division at a UIL Solo and Ensemble contest or make the All-Region Band or if the band advances in UIL competition.

BAND TRIPS

- Student must have been eligible for and attended both the fall UIL Marching Contest and the Spring Concert and Sight Reading Contest.
- Since these trips are every other year, the student must have been enrolled in band continuously during that time period. In other words, students will not be allowed to go on a trip if their enrollment in the class was for the express purpose of going on the band trip. Exceptions will be made for transfer students from other schools.
- If students are either ineligible to go due to grades or don't wish to attend, their slots may be taken by a student who has participated in at least one of the UIL contests.
- Students must be grade eligible according to state guidelines to go on a trip.
- Although these band trips can be fun, state law (UIL Side by Side) insists that these trips be educational. The local district policy is that the band is required to perform for the public whether in an adjudicated or non adjudicated setting.

- Students will be required to furnish 24 hour emergency contact numbers to the band director in order to be allowed to go on the trip.
- The itinerary and other rules for the trip will be sent home to parents with a form to be signed and returned.

RANDOM DRUG TESTING

At S&S C.I.S.D. extra-curricular participants will be subject to random drug testing throughout the school year. Parental consent is required for testing to be done. Any student that does not obtain parental consent **will not** be allowed in the band program. Any band student that tests positive for illegal substances will be immediately suspended from all band activities. This suspension will remain in effect until a follow up test shows the student to be drug free. The main reason for drug testing is to get help for those students who might be experimenting with drugs. Any and all results will be kept confidential.

S & S High School Band Handbook Acknowledgement Form

STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I have read the 2010 - 2011 S & S High School Band Handbook. I understand the guidelines and expectations outlined in the handbook. I also understand that my participation in the S&S HS Band program dictates that I must follow these guidelines.

Date: _____

Signature of Student: _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I have read the 2010 - 2011 S & S High School Band Handbook. I understand the guidelines and expectations outlined in the handbook. I also understand that my student's participation in the S&S HS Band program dictates that they must follow these guidelines.

Date: _____

Signature of Parent / Guardian: _____