

SEVEN LAKES HIGH SCHOOL BAND



2024-2025 HANDBOOK

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Foreword

The success of any organization is dependent upon the spirit, pride, leadership, teamwork, dedication, and cooperation of its members. Certain rules, policies, and procedures are necessary so that the overall goals of the group are met, and the welfare of each individual member is best served. By accepting membership in the Seven Lakes High School Band, you are agreeing to perform to the best of your abilities and work together with the band staff in making this year's band the finest musical organization that our combined efforts can produce. For this to occur, students will need to be responsible, attentive, respectful, have a positive attitude, and follow the KISD Student Code of Conduct. The directors will do their best to ensure that every student will be provided the opportunity to be successful, regardless of their ability as an incoming student or of their career ambitions following graduation. The Seven Lakes High School band staff has developed this handbook to familiarize each band member with the general operation and procedures of SLHS Band and standards by which all band members are expected to conduct themselves. The handbook is not intended to be all-inclusive, as every possible situation and question cannot be predicted in advance; however, a thorough knowledge of these materials is essential to the smooth operation and success of the band this year.

Goals and Objectives

Mental and physical discipline

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

Citizenship through group endeavor

- Develop leadership abilities
- Develop responsibility
- Develop ability to cooperate with others and to work as a member of a team
- Develop diligence
- Develop mutual respect

Physical conditioning

- Develop strength, stamina, endurance and coordination

Cultural growth

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

Value judgments

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

Music theory

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

Proper instrumental technique

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

Creative self-expression

- Express oneself in every performance experience
- Explore careers

In addition to the State of Texas guidelines, The Seven Lakes High School Band will strive to:

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

Communication

The directors encourage positive communication and are willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress in band with his/her parents. Specific directors' email addresses can be found on the band website.

Conduct/Expectations

Students in band serve as representatives of both Seven Lakes High School and Katy ISD at many public extracurricular functions. Membership in this organization is a privilege and it is within the right of any director to deny membership to a student if they believe that they would not positively represent the

organization. Band members will observe all policies set forth by Katy ISD and Seven Lakes High School, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

- Any behavior, which is not representative of good citizenship, *as perceived by the band staff*, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the band program. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both *public and private events*.
- All students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner. Display of profanity, temper, flagrant violation of rules, etc., will not be tolerated. Individual behavior during a band function reflects the group.
- Students will follow directors' instructions.
- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area ready to work at the set rehearsal time with all equipment, including music, pencil, instrument, and all supplies to rehearsals daily (see detailed supply list for each instrument).
- Students will keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.
- Students will not use or play on equipment they do not own without permission from a director.
- Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
- Students should request permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that time will be utilized wisely and as efficiently as possible.
- When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.
- Students will respect the property of others and return their equipment to its proper storage place when not in use. Students should keep their equipment in their designated locker and keep their locker area clean and neat in appearance. *Students who demonstrate great difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a locker in the band hall.*
- Students will utilize their assigned storage slot/locker for instrument cases during rehearsals. Cases should not be brought into rehearsals unless requested by a director (exceptions: flute, clarinet, oboe, and bassoon).
- Students will not deface or mark on music stands, chairs, walls, etc.

Bullying

Bullying is when a student or group of students engages in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that occurs on school property, at a school-sponsored or school related activity, or in a vehicle operated by the district.

These behaviors are, but are not limited to:

Physical: hitting, kicking, grabbing, spitting

Verbal: name calling, racist remarks, put-downs, extortion

Indirect: spreading rumors, wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice, exclusion from peer group, taking and hiding or destroying another's papers or other possessions

Written: threatening email, notes, graffiti, or social media of any kind

Coercion: forcing other students into acts against their wishes

In The Seven Lakes High School Band we treat each other with respect and care for our fellow teammates. All acts of bullying will result in consequences outlined in the 2024-2025 Katy ISD Student Code of Conduct.

Drug and Alcohol Use

Consumption of alcoholic beverages, the use of illegal drugs, or "conduct unbecoming of a SLHS Band member" while with the band at any performance, rehearsal, or Seven Lakes High School sponsored/related activity will not be allowed. Individuals in violation of the drug and/or alcohol code of the KISD disciplinary plan (Student Code of Conduct) may be sent home immediately from events or trips at the individual's (or parents') own expense and may be permanently removed from the ensemble or band program.

If a student is caught outside of band involved in illegal activities or an act considered to be "conduct unbecoming of a SLHS Band member," the student at the directors' discretion, may be removed from the program.

Digital Citizenship

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that band member social media accounts are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication such as Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, photo sharing, emailing, or texting, etc., appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Members are responsible for their personal accounts and postings, as well as posting from or on other students' accounts. The areas of appropriateness will include but are not limited to profane, foul, or disrespectful language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, references to alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, and postings (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening towards other KISD teaching staff or band members, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other bands. Any such incident will result in review by the principal (or designee) and may lead to probation or dismissal from the band program.

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

- Upon confirmation of a first violation, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the social media platform(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal (or designee), directors, and band members affected. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior.
- Upon confirmation of a second offense, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the social media platform(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal (or designee), directors, and band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior. In addition, the student will be suspended from all band activities for a period of 3 days to 3 weeks. This will also, of course, result in a grade deduction.

- Upon confirmation of a third offense, the member will be removed from the band program.

Due Process

Our goal as a staff is to ensure that all students are treated fairly. Please contact one of the directors if you have any concerns. We will work with you to resolve problems. We are here to provide a quality music and life education for all our students.

Financial Obligations

Financial obligations for the current school year are outlined on the band website. It is the philosophy of the Seven Lakes High School Band that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact the director, or band booster treasurer.

Fundraising

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

Attendance

To have and maintain a high-quality band program, attendance from all members is essential. While the SLHS band follows all school and district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the SLHS band. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held outside of the school day. Failure to participate in either rehearsals or performances may result in student removal from the organization at the discretion of the band directors.

For outside of school rehearsals, students are expected to arrive at the rehearsal location *no later than 15 minutes* prior to the rehearsal start time. "To be early is to be on time..."

Tardiness

Students not in their designated area at the appropriate time will be marked tardy.

Excused Tardiness

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

Unexcused Tardiness

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

****NOTE:** the consequences listed below also apply to misconduct in any band activity**

- Physical remediation (pushups, running, etc.)
- Loss of spot as a primary marcher

- Loss of marching privilege (for one game) at a football game
- Loss of pep rally participation
- Sit with chaperone during game, will not perform in stands
- Requirement to stay after rehearsal or report early to next rehearsal to make up lost time
- Requirement to make up 15 minutes of fundamental marching with his/her section leader

Absences

Students who are not present at the appropriate time may be marked absent.

Excused Absence

Absences will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Appointments, tutorials etc. will not be an excuse for absence. Absence due to personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances (approved by director) may be considered for excused status.

Students who are continually ill may be required to provide a doctor's note releasing them from participation to ensure the well-being of the child and to reduce concerns of the band directors. *Two absences (even excused) within one week, may result in loss of performance status for that week, to ensure the safety of everyone and maintain the ultimate performance quality of the group. If in doubt, an absence should be checked with a director.*

Missing a "Dress Rehearsal" (the rehearsal before a performance) for any reason, may be subject to temporary loss of performance status.

Special note: Students have multiple afternoons free per week during the marching band season. These days should be used for appointments, routine professional visits, and tutorials.

During the concert season, students will generally be responsible for only ONE weekly section rehearsal and ONE ensemble rehearsal. Thus, students will have ample days available for tutorials and appointments.

Unexcused Absence

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

- Make up missed time.
- Loss of spot as a primary marcher.
- Loss of marching privilege for one game.
- Sit with a chaperone during the game, will not perform in stands.
- Loss of attendance privilege at one game.
- Removal from the marching band and loss of physical education waiver.

District-Owned Instruments

KISD will provide a limited number of instruments for student use. These instruments include highly expensive instruments such as bassoon, oboe, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, french horn, euphonium, tuba, and general percussion equipment. This equipment is generally purchased by the school district for student use because of its extremely high expense. Thus, all district owned equipment must be handled with optimum care. Students failing to take proper care of their district-issued instrument may lose the privilege to use such instruments.

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

- KISD does not provide insurance for individually owned or district-owned equipment. *It is recommended of all students utilizing district-owned instruments to provide insurance coverage for the instrument that has been issued to them.* Students will be held responsible for all district-owned instruments issued to them. This responsibility will include fire, theft, accidental damage, abuse and general maintenance not incurred through normal use.
- Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition. Each issued instrument will be checked and cleaned prior to issue. Students are expected to maintain their issued instruments accordingly.
- The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him or her.
- All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.
- **KISD will assess a fee for routine (end of year) cleaning and maintenance of district-owned instruments. This fee will be collected at the beginning of each school year.**

Grading Guidelines

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

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

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

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

- The student will receive a grade for each before/after school sectional and rehearsal during a grading period.
- The student will be on task and focused during all rehearsals.
- The student will have their instrument, music, pencil, and supplies.
- The student will be prepared to play his/her part successfully.
- The student will mark music and take notes as needed.
- The student will be expected to improve individual music skills.
- The student will be evaluated on improvement of ensemble skills during daily rehearsals.
- The student will be expected to improve his/her performance fundamentals.
- The student will be evaluated for improvement of his/her music fundamentals through daily observation during the “fundamentals” part of each rehearsal and during sectionals.
- The student will be expected to demonstrate correct posture, hand position, embouchure, air production, and articulation as monitored during rehearsals.
- The student will receive a grade for each performance during a grading period.

Eligibility

All KISD bands adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and KISD. Some band activities are designated as extra-curricular. Students participating in these activities are governed by eligibility requirements. A student shall be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the six-week period following a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than seventy in any class that does not fall under the AP umbrella. Loss of eligibility does not take effect until seven days after the end of the reporting period. Ineligible students are not suspended from practice or rehearsal of extra-curricular activities. The student is not suspended from participation during the period in which school is recessed for the summer or any other vacation time.

Students may regain eligibility under certain circumstances. If a student has been suspended because of failing, he/she may regain eligibility by passing ALL courses in the third week of the affected grading period. Reinstatement of eligibility would occur seven days after the three-week progress report period (see TEA/UIIL Side by Side).

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

Travel Guidelines

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

Students must travel to events and return from events on the bus, unless they are cleared to drive themselves or have a parent drive, after submitting the required documentation. Any student wishing to leave with his/her parent must submit the proper documentation prior to the event. Permission will be granted or denied based on the circumstances of the occasion.

Students must have all necessary forms (Medical/Travel Release) completed and on file with the band office to travel on any trip with the band.

While on the bus students will:

- Always remain seated.
- Sit properly in a forward position.
- Keep the bus clear of food, drinks, and debris (At times it may be necessary to eat a pre-game or post-game dinner on the bus. Every effort should be made to keep your area clean.).
- Keep all body parts inside the bus.
- Remain silent when addressed by person in charge on the bus.
- Refrain from loud, boisterous talking, singing, screaming, whistling, inappropriate jokes, etc.
- No public displays of affection.

Special Note:

Students are reminded that all performances start and conclude at the band hall. As a member of the band, you are a representative of your school. Always be on your best behavior. If you are in doubt about an action, do not do it! Your conduct always should be considered a good reflection on the school, the band, your home, yourself, and the community.

Chaperones

Adult chaperones are a great asset for the band program. Students will treat them as an extension of the band staff. Proper respect will be always shown to all adults.

Care of the Band Facilities

- Refreshments – No gum, food or drinks are allowed in the building except when authorized by the directors.
- Litter – All trash (paper, broken reeds/drumsticks, etc.) is to be deposited in the trash cans provided.
- Vandalism – Acts of vandalism or the willful misuse of school property will be dealt with severely and appropriately. Every band member is responsible to help the directors monitor the facility and control vandalism, which includes writing or carving on walls, destroying music, or breaking school property.
- Practice & Ensemble Rooms – Are designed for practicing, not social gatherings.

Concert Ensembles

Wind Symphony — selection into this group is by audition, director recommendation, and demonstration of musical and academic proficiency. Members in this ensemble will participate in the TMEA Region Band process, UIL Marching Contest, and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. Members of this group will have a section rehearsal and a full ensemble rehearsal each week outside of the school day. The Wind Symphony will give numerous performances both on and off campus. In UIL activities, this group will be designated the “Varsity” band.

Symphonic Winds, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band — selection into either of these groups is by audition. These groups, at varying levels, will participate in UIL Marching Contest and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. Members of the Symphonic Winds Band will participate in the TMEA Region Band process. Members of this group will have a section rehearsal and a full ensemble rehearsal each week outside of the school day. These groups will give a variety of performances. In UIL activities, these groups will be designated as the “Non-Varsity” and “Sub Non-Varsity” bands.

Students in the band program will be placed in a concert ensemble by audition, as well as observation throughout the year. The second semester placement will include the progress of students in the assessment process that takes place over the course of the fall semester and an audition using the region etudes each November.

Auditions

All students are required to audition for select performance ensembles.

Students will audition at the end of each school year for band placement for the upcoming fall semester. The band directors will determine audition requirements, and directors will notify students of audition dates, requirements, and results. Directors will serve as an evaluator during auditions. Audition material will reflect the director’s anticipated performance level for the students and will be based on prior learning, and auditions may be live or taped at the director’s discretion. Students will be re-evaluated periodically for participation in select performance ensembles.

Students will be evaluated over the course of the fall semester on a series of playing assessments. These assessments will be made up of select cuts from the All-Region band music, as well as a selection of scales. Students will be evaluated on tone, pitch accuracy, musicianship, articulation accuracy, pulse and rhythm. The results of these assessments will serve as the student’s audition for their spring semester band placement.

Performance/Rehearsal Requirements for Concert Ensembles

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

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

- Pre-UIL Concert
- UIL Concert & Sight-Reading

- Spring Concert
- Others as needed

Concerts/Performances

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

- All concerts are a group effort; thus, attendance is required.
- All concerts are an extension of the classroom and will be graded accordingly.
- Students should be punctual and prepared for each performance/concert.
- In the event a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up all missed work.
- The appropriate dress for all concerts will be a dress uniform (see Uniforms).
- Students are expected to stay for the entire duration of the concert as communicated by their director unless otherwise told
- Students are expected to help move equipment and “stack-n-rack” chairs and stands when needed.

Sectionals/Full Band Rehearsals

Section rehearsals will begin in January and will be held through the UIL Contest season. After football season, all students will have one weekly sectional with their concert band’s section. The sectional and full band rehearsal will be directed by the band director of the concert ensemble and will be primarily focused on music that the student’s concert ensemble is preparing for future concerts and contests. Students are expected to be punctual and prepared on a weekly basis. Absence from section rehearsals/full band rehearsals must be in accordance with the attendance policy. Students must make every effort to attend. These rehearsals are an extension of the classroom and are graded accordingly.

Private Lesson Program

This is a district wide program that provides a high-quality enhancement to classroom instruction. Teachers are all specialists on their instruments. Most of our teachers are professional musicians/teachers in the Houston area and have advanced degrees in the performance of their instruments. Lessons are extremely valuable to the individual student and are highly encouraged.

- ALL students are **ENCOURAGED** to take individualized private instruction.
- Teachers are screened and interviewed by the district and band directors.
- Lessons will be given weekly.

- If there is a need for before/after school lessons, every effort will be made to schedule private lessons at times that do not conflict with marching rehearsals, sectionals, or other activities.

Marching Band

Background Information

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

Marching Band Participation

As an integral part of the band program, Katy ISD's philosophy is that educationally, historically, and musically, marching band is an essential ingredient in a well-rounded music education in band. KISD believes that music students need to develop the ability to participate and perform in different ensemble experiences which, for band students, includes the marching band. As a result, marching band is required for all high school students who elect to take an academic band performance course at Seven Lakes High School. Philosophy regarding all aspects of high school band stems from TEA/UII guidelines which govern all Texas schools.

Physical Education Requirement Waived

As an artistic endeavor, each rehearsal and performance by the marching band is mentally and physically demanding. For the full marching band performance, students are always on task and must bring to the experience their best performance skills. As a result, each student in the marching band is eligible to receive a physical education substitution credit (maximum 1 credit) in accordance with TEA guidelines.

Marching Band an Integral Component of State Curriculum Requirements

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

High Academic Standards Maintained by Students

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

Grading

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

accordance with TEA/UII guidelines.

Practice Time Limits

Marching band practice times are regulated by TEA/UII guidelines. Adherence to these guidelines is the responsibility of the Head Band Director at each high school. During the school year, no more than 8 hours of rehearsal per week, outside of the school day, is allowed. Exceptions to the 8-hour rule include preparation immediately before games and competitions. KISD observes all these guidelines.

Rehearsal and Performance Schedules

Rehearsal and performance schedules are published on the Google calendar for the duration of the marching season.

It is up to the parent and student to be aware of the practice/event schedule throughout the year. Reminders will be communicated regularly.

Instruments

Marching band students who play an instrument that KISD does not provide (flute, clarinet, alto sax, trumpet and trombone) must personally provide, march and perform with the same instrument they use in band or a second instrument of the same type.

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

Marching Band Positions

Primary Marchers

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

- Successfully completes the audition requirements by the appropriate time.
- Demonstrates high quality marching skills
- Is punctual in report times
- Is present at rehearsals and performances
- Maintains academic eligibility
- Represents the school, school district, band program and themselves with the highest possible decorum and behavioral standards

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

Marching Band Rehearsals

- Respect everyone on the marching band field - we are all working toward the same goal.
- Prior to all rehearsals, eat healthy and drink a lot of water.

- Be punctual. Aim to arrive 15 minutes before practice begins.
- Water breaks are meant for your health and comfort. DRINK WATER!!!
- During all rehearsals, students will be silent when receiving instruction. At SLHS, when on the field, we are silent to maximize learning.
- Standing is the only acceptable position on the marching band field unless instructed otherwise (ex: when a director tells you to kneel while giving instructions).
- At various times in a rehearsal, you may be asked to count vocally, sing, clap, or some other non-musical method of rehearsal. Your 100% participation is expected.
- Always pay attention to general instructions. Listen attentively and respond appropriately.¹³
- FUN-damentals will make us successful. Therefore, we expect everyone to participate fully.
- Band members should always have their phones/UDB app, and a pencil with them.
- Move when instructed quickly and quietly (ex: moving from set to set or after a discussion with a leader). No one walks.
- “Set” are eyes forward, no talking, no moving.
When setting forms keep your feet together and mouth closed.
Remain at set until you are told to relax.
“Standby” means silently standing in the ready position.
- When adjusting the forms, always use your UDB app unless instructed otherwise.
- *To keep your spot on the marching field, meet all music memorization deadlines.*

Marching Band Performances

The primary performances of the marching band will be at the football games. The marching band will also perform at various BOA Marching Contests and UIL Marching Contests.

Katy ISD Marching Band Performance Guideline

The band directors in Katy ISD recognize that the health and safety of the students is a primary concern, as well as their scholastic performance in all their subjects. The band directors also acknowledge that the season for marching band competitive performances is contained within a brief but intense period during the months of August through November. Additionally, KISD recognizes the intrinsic value gained by the students from the pursuit of excellence in these programs.

Performance Procedures

Report Time: This will be the designated time at which all members should be at the high school or set location. Students should have all attire and necessary items for the designated performance prior to the report time.

What to bring:

- Garment Bag

- Tote Bag
- Black or Show Gloves
- Black Shoes
- Black Socks (LONG - no ankle socks!!)
- Black Shorts
- Band or Show Shirt
- Blue Gallon Water Jug
- Instrument with accessories
- Band Ball Cap
- Proper undergarments/compression wear
- Hair Accessories (Hair spray, gel, bobby pins, headbands)

Pre-performance Practice:

- Wear black shoes, black socks, black shorts, and blue band shirt
- No jewelry
- Bring all equipment (weather permitting): that means everything (drums, uniforms, instruments etc.)

*A note about cell phones and other Personal Electronic Devices: Students are welcome to have these at performance activities. *However, they should not be used in the stands at all.* Their use is helpful in emergency situations or when an arrival time may need to be changed. Phones will not be used in rehearsals. Security of electronic devices will be your responsibility.

Football Game Procedures

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

- Students will remain on campus after school on game days for a brief rehearsal and then for food.
This is in consideration of time, organization, and safety. Please do not ask for exceptions to this.
- Students will arrive at the designated call time.
- Students will load the buses with all equipment needed for the performance.
- Upon arrival at the performance area, students will put on all uniform components and prepare equipment for unloading. Students will unload buses when instructed to do so by a chaperone or director. Exit the bus in proper uniform as instructed by the directors, carrying all necessary equipment as instructed.
- Instruments that arrived via equipment truck/trailer will be picked up at the designated area when instructed. All cases must be put back in their original location with latches closed.

- Upon arrival to the seating area, students will remain standing until all band members have arrived and are prepared to be seated. Students will sit when instructed by a Drum Major or director. Students will sit in assigned seats and sections. Students will always remain in that seat and section. Any movement in the bleachers adds risk to the safety of students and their instruments.
- Students must bring their band water jug into the stands with them. *No other food or drink will be allowed in the stands during the game.* Students will refrain from accepting food or drinks from parents, relatives, or friends. Parents: please do not offer refreshments to your children.
- Students will be expected to listen for and watch the directors and drum majors during the game. Students will need to be prepared to always perform and at a moment's notice. • *Students will refrain from playing their instruments on an individual basis.* The band will perform as a group or with approved small ensembles. While playing, always pay attention to the director/drum major.
- At the appropriate time, the band will be dismissed from the stands for the half-time performance. At this time, the band must move quickly, quietly, and efficiently to the appropriate warm-up area. Students will need to be focused on the directors' and Drum Majors' instructions.
- At the conclusion of the half-time performance, students will return to the stands and continue in the stand performance throughout the remainder of the game.
- At the conclusion of the game, students will load buses quickly and efficiently.
- Upon return to the band hall, students will ensure that all personal items, uniforms and instruments are placed in the proper storage areas.

Instrument Loading/Unloading

Large instruments will be transported on the instrument truck. All others (flutes & clarinets) will transport their instruments on the bus. Students will be responsible for ensuring that their instrument or empty case is in the proper location. After the instrument truck has been unloaded, each student will be responsible for picking up their instrument and storing it correctly. *Students who display difficulty in following the loading and unloading procedures may lose the privilege of utilizing the instrument truck.*

Health & Safety of Band Students

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

Extreme Weather Conditions - Lightning

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

Rain

Under rainy conditions, the band may still rehearse and/or perform at the discretion of the band staff.

Heat/Hydration

We always stress to students the importance of hydration, and especially in periods of extreme heat.

During extreme heat conditions, we decrease the amount of time between water breaks and/or increase the amount of time used for the break. The weather conditions as well as the physical and mental conditions of our students are monitored continually, and adjustments are made to accommodate whenever necessary.

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

Nutrition

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

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

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

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

Uniform Guidelines

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

GENERAL

- Marching Band uniforms will be issued during summer band camp. Band uniforms will be stored at school in the uniform room. *Uniforms are NEVER to be taken home unless instructed by a director.*
- Tuxedo jackets, bowties and dress pants will be issued in the Spring for all boys. Boys are responsible for providing a tuxedo shirt, black socks & dress shoes. Concert dresses will be provided for all females in the Symphonic Band and Concert Bands. Female students in the top two bands will wear professional black attire, self-provided.
- Students will be held financially responsible for the uniform(s) and all components.

ISSUE AND RETURN

- Students will pick up marching uniforms from the uniform room prior to uniform check.
- Students should follow all pick up/return guidelines. Students who do not follow these guidelines will be sent to the end of the pick-up/return line.

WEARING THE UNIFORM

- Always wear and treat your uniform with pride. The uniform should be always worn as a complete unit when in public. The only exception to this will be when a director instructs you

that you may remove your hat or coat. Loading crews may be exempt from wearing the uniform during loading/unloading procedures. Do not run while in uniform!

- Compression wear is to be worn under your uniform.
- You must wear approved black band shoes and long black socks (student purchases).
- Jewelry, hair ribbons, and bright colored nail polish etc. are unacceptable while in uniform. These items hinder the uniform appearance of the band.
- All Students, male and female, will have a natural hair color, such as blonde, brunette, auburn, black, or “natural” red, for both marching and concert performances. This is to ensure a uniform look and to not draw undue attention to any one individual.
- Band students with long hair will need to put it up under their hat during performances. Hair must not touch the collar of the jacket and must be above the top of the ear or pulled behind it. No visible hair on forehead.
- *No consumption of food and drinks (other than H2O) while in uniform without permission.*

CARE OF UNIFORM

- All uniforms must be always hung properly.
- Always hang the pants by the crease to avoid wrinkles.
- Label your uniform garment bag if not done already.

Student Leadership

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

Student leaders are held to higher standards of performance and behavior than a general band student. They are expected to always be positive role models for all band members. Please see Conduct/Expectations pertaining to general conduct of students as well as student leadership positions.

Student Leadership Requirements: To be considered for a leadership position for the following school year, the student must have completed the following requirements during the *current school year*:

- Maintained eligibility entire duration of school year
- Auditioned for Region Band (or completed all requirements to audition pending director approval)
- Completed all necessary paperwork/peer & teacher evaluations

Marching Band Student Leadership Positions

Drum Major(s)

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

Section Leaders

Section leaders will be responsible for efficient operations of their sections. *They will maintain field discipline, provide instruction, serve as positive role models, and assist the drum majors and directors as needed.* Candidates will be selected through completion of an audition packet of teacher and peer evaluations, short answer and essay responses and peer elections.

Band Council

Students who have fulfilled specific requirements communicated by the directors are eligible to apply/audition for Band council positions. The specific requirements for positions may vary according to the responsibilities of the office. The band council shall serve as an advisory/action body for numerous band functions. The council shall assist the band directors and band students in planning, preparing, and executing various band functions. Student leadership positions range from service areas to executive areas and may change annually. Examples of student leadership positions are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Historian. These offices may change in name and duties from year to year. Candidates will be selected through completion of an audition packet of teacher and peer evaluations, short answer and essay responses and peer elections.

Letter Jackets

The SLHS Band Letter Jacket is a recognition of “Significant Service and Dedication” and “Outstanding Achievement” to the SLHS Band Program, manifested by hours upon hours of practice, patience, and perseverance as well as sacrificial giving of time and energy for the good of fellow bandmates, the directors, and the band.

Therefore, every student who has completed the proper requirements and earned enough letter jacket points will be eligible for a band letter jacket.

To letter in band, you must earn at least a total of 15 points through various opportunities:

- 1.) Students earn points by each year completed in the band program
- 2.) Students can earn points by making Region Jazz Band, Region Band, Region Orchestra, Area, All-State
- 3.) Students can earn letter jacket points by earning a division one rating at the Seven Lakes High School Band Solo & Ensemble Contest

Region Band/Orchestra Guidelines

All Wind Symphony and Symphonic Wind students are expected/required to audition for All-Region Band. All other band students are encouraged to audition and will be entered into the audition process at the discretion of a director.

Auditioning for the All-Region Band (an elite group) is a privilege and deserves one’s best effort and

preparation. Students will be assessed on their preparation and performance of all or part of the All-Region Music, regardless of their participation in the auditions.

Students who are selected are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances pertaining to this event. This is a TMEA Regional Event, and a distinct honor and privilege. Attendance (if selected) should take precedence over all other extra-curricular activities.

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

Solo & Ensemble

All students are required to prepare and perform a solo and/or an ensemble in the annual Seven Lakes Solo & Ensemble Contest each April/May. Information about this required event will be communicated to students and parents in the late fall semester.