

TENAHA HIGH SCHOOL

ROARIN' BAND FROM TIGERLAND



HANDBOOK

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PHILOSOPHY OF THE TENAHA ROARIN' BAND FROM TIGERLAND

BAND DOES MORE THAN TEACH A STUDENT HOW TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT. BUILT WITHIN THE PROGRAM, A STUDENT RECEIVES A VARIETY OF OUTSTANDING QUALITIES SUCH AS: RESPONSIBILITY, DEDICATION, LOYALTY, GROUP EFFORT, A SENSE OF DUTY, HONESTY, DEPENDABILITY, PROMPTNESS, ENTHUSIASM, INITIATIVE, AND PRIDE IN A JOB WELL DONE. IN ADDITION, IT ALLOWS INDIVIDUALS TO EXAMINE, PRACTICE, AND EXPERIENCE THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF MUSIC WHICH GIVE STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCOVER AND EXPAND UPON THEIR INDIVIDUAL TALENTS.

MEMBERSHIP

1. Students who have successfully completed the middle school band program in Tenaha I.S.D will be admitted to the Tenaha high school band at the recommendation of the Jr. high school band director. Recommendations will be based on performance ability, ability to follow instructions, and general attitude.
2. Students moving into Tenaha I.S.D. must audition for a Tenaha band director.
3. Band is a full year course.
4. A student who quits band may not be readmitted to the program unless approved by the director of bands and the principal through an interview and audition process.
5. Band membership is a prerequisite in order to participate with any jazz band or other instrumental ensemble.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Students are responsible for returning all school issued equipment and uniforms in good condition. Replacement values may be assigned for abused or missing items.

BAND FEE

Students will be responsible for providing a small \$30 band fee. This is due the first week of school, and goes to cover band shirts, band shoes, mouthpieces, reeds, valve oil, slide grease, binders, music books, sheet music, flip folders, and the many other supplies needed for the year. This also helps cover the cost of meals during travel.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The Tenaha Band always conducts itself as a 1st class organization – especially when traveling. No immature or childish behavior will be tolerated in restaurants, hotels, buses, etc....
2. Students will maintain proper discipline and image in all classes and activities. Any conduct requiring principal intervention, law enforcement intervention, and/or band director may be cause for removal from the band. Director’s discretion.
3. When eating in cafeterias or restaurants, band students should always allow bus driver and parents to move ahead of them if they choose. Always be courteous to all restaurant staff.
4. The Tenaha Band never says anything negative or acts in a negative way toward any other organization regardless of circumstances.
5. Tenaha Band students always project a positive image toward band and to all other band students.

SYSTEM OF GRADING

The band grade is determined by general attitude, attendance, participation, football games, UIL contests, public performances, and periodic individual auditions/ pass offs.

MORNING REHEARSALS

High School rehearsals start at 7:30am during each school day unless otherwise notified. 7:30am rehearsals are calculated as 10% of the student’s grade. Students will lose a point for every minute they are late up to 100 minutes per week. Students can also lose 3rd quarter for being late to these rehearsals.

GENERAL REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

1. Students should be in chairs, warmed up, and ready to begin at the start of the scheduled rehearsal. Everyone will get quiet immediately and look forward when the director steps on the podium.
2. Listen for instructions and act immediately regardless of location. (band hall, practice field, stadium, bus, etc....)

3. When we are rehearsing, we work. Anything which distracts from this focus such as talking, laughing, chewing gum, or any other means of goofing off while we are in rehearsals will not be tolerated and can result in removal from the group.
4. Continued problems in discipline or work ethic may result in a lower grade or may be cause for removal from the band entirely as determined by the director.
5. Any discipline requiring principal intervention may be cause for removal from band.
6. Unexcused absences that result in missed assignments will be required to be made up.
7. Time lost by any individual in rehearsal hurts the entire group. Follow these guidelines so that you don't lose rehearsal time.
 - A. Always be early and have all items needed for rehearsal (Instrument, pencil, music, drill book, etc.).
 - B. Do not schedule doctor's, dentist's appointments, etc. during band rehearsal times if at all possible.
 - C. If you miss, have someone fill you in on all details of rehearsal.
 - D. If something is wrong with your instrument, let a director know as soon as possible so that it can be repaired before the next rehearsal. Never walk up just before rehearsal with a broken instrument unless it just occurred in that moment.
 - E. Always be prepared on your part. The more individual practice you do, the less group practice will be needed.
 - F. If you know you are going to have to miss rehearsal, always let the band director's know as soon as possible so that they can be prepared for your absence. COMMUNICATION IS KEY!!
 - G. Any absence must have a parental phone call or a written note from a parent or admit slip from the office or it will be considered unexcused.
 - H. During marching season, if you are absent for an unexcused reason, you may be replaced. Band director will explain method of returning to position.
 - I. During concert season, unexcused or excessive absences may be cause for removal from a student's primary performing group.
 - J. Work is not an excused absence. Make sure that your employer does not schedule you to work at the same time as your rehearsals or performances. Employers must understand that schoolwork comes first.

Band members are encouraged to cultivate an attitude of good discipline and attention during rehearsal. Each rehearsal should be a musical learning experience for each student. Each performance will only be as good as every rehearsal. Constant disturbances by any band member in rehearsal shows a lack of interest and respect to the band: therefore, these students will be encouraged to find another activity to hold their attention.

SUMMER REHEARSAL

Summer Band rehearsals begin with band camp. These rehearsals are of extreme importance to our program and attendance is mandatory. We learn much of our contest show and other pop music during this time and work on marching fundamentals.

This time is of vital importance in creating a strong cohesiveness within our program. This is especially important to all new incoming students. Absence from this function can result in assignment to an alternate status in the band, or loss of membership.

After band camp, daily rehearsals will continue in order to advance our preparation for marching season. Those required rehearsals will be scheduled and mailed home.

MARCHING REHEARSALS

1. Marching rehearsals are hot—you may want to bring shorts to change into if you have time. **Warning: Don't be late to rehearsal because you had to change clothes!**
2. Since marching is essentially walking in tempo, you should wear comfortable shoes that support and cushion your feet. Never wear boots, sandals, flip flops, crocs, or go barefooted while marching.
3. If you are absent or tardy during marching rehearsal you will be replaced and will have to work your way back into position. The band cannot rehearse with empty spots in the drill.
4. Water breaks are usually done by sections of the band. Don't disrupt students who are still working.
5. Take time to memorize all tunes that will be performed on the field.
6. Student Leaders have been chosen to assist you. They are here to help you with all aspects of membership, teach you how to march properly, and to help you learn your music. The drum majors are the right hand of the director, and they deserve the same respect and authority whether in the presence or absence of the director.

MARCHING ALTERNATES

It is the desire of the band department to include all students in every marching performance and every effort will be made to do so. However, since the adoption of the "No Pass, No Play" rule, it has been necessary to chart marching drills for fewer players than are on the roster, thus, not all students may march every performance.

Students can be chosen as alternate if they have difficulty in passing all classes,

have difficulty marching or playing, or if they have excessive absences/ tardies.

Alternates can earn a spot in the marching drill by demonstrating playing, marching improvement, maintaining a passing status, good attendance habits and maintaining a good attitude as positions in the drill become available.

Alternates are valuable band members and are expected to participate in all rehearsals and performance as determined by the band director.

FOOTBALL GAMES

ATTENDANCE AT ALL GAMES IS MANDATORY INCLUDING PLAYOFF GAMES. THE BAND DIRECTOR WILL PERSONALLY HANDLE ALL CASES OF MISSED GAMES. ANY STUDENT WITH AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM ANY PERFORMANCE WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE ASSIGNED DISCIPLINARY ACTION, HAVE THEIR GRADE LOWERED, AND COULD BE REMOVED FROM THE MARCHING BAND FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEASON (AND POSSIBLY THE BAND PROGRAM ALL TOGETHER) AT THE DISCRETION OF THE BAND DIRECTOR. STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO STAY FOR THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE GAME UNLESS OTHERWISE APPROVED.

PRE-GAME WARM UP (Home Games)

Report to the band hall at a pre-announced time...

INSPECTION

Inspection will take place before EVERY football game and contest, before we march into the stands. Inspectors will be looking for:

- * Black socks (calf length and no stripes)
- * Black BAND shoes (no other kind)
- * Correct trouser length
- * Neatly pressed uniform
- * No missing buttons
- * Clean, polished instrument (especially brass instruments)
- * Clean hat
- * No jewelry may be worn with uniform; only exception is class ring
- * Young men must be clean shaven and hair length should be consistent with THS policy.

DURING THE GAME

1. You are performing as soon as you enter the stadium. People are watching you; therefore, image is important.
2. You will be assigned a spot in the stadium. You will remain in your assigned area during the game.
3. When the band plays, everyone is expected to play. Always be ready to do your job.
4. Support the team, but don't embarrass yourself or the band program.
5. There are to be no soft drinks or food in the stands except during third quarter.
6. Third quarter free time is a privilege – don't be late coming back or you will lose it.
7. Stay in complete uniform unless otherwise directed. Never wear head coverings, caps, jackets, or any other footwear besides the approved band shoes unless otherwise approved by the directors.

OUT-OF-TOWN GAMES

1. All the above rules apply to out of town games.
2. Departure time will be announced during the week.
3. Food will be provided at away games only, and is based on need and circumstances related to distance traveled and time of departure.
4. Make sure you give yourself enough time to have all parts of your uniform, instrument, or anything else you need.
5. You may ride home with only your parents from out of town games if they are there after the game for the band director to release you to them. We must have a note signed by the parent, a parent present at the game, and the parent must physically speak to a band director before the student can be released from the band.
6. BE ON TIME! If you are late, you may not be allowed to travel to the game.

AFTER GAME PROCEDURE

ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE SURE OF THE FOLLOWING: BUS IS CLEAN, ALL EQUIPMENT IS UNLOADED AND ORGANIZED IN THE BAND HALL, BAND HALL IS CLEAN, AND UNIFORM IS PROPERLY HUNG AND RETURNED.

BUS RIDING GUIDELINES

1. Follow all instructions given.
2. Make sure you hang your uniform.
3. Stay seated while the bus is moving.
4. Keep hands, arms, and heads inside the windows. On chartered buses, do not open any windows.
5. Small mp3 players, smart phone, or iPads are permissible only with headphones or ear buds, and the volume must be turned down so that only the wearer can hear it. Tenaha I.S.D. is not responsible for any personal belongings if they are stolen, lost, etc....

6. No loud singing, yelling, or cheering is allowed on the bus. Save it for the stands and pep rallies.
7. Eating and/or drinking on a bus is a privilege that we enjoy as long as we meet our responsibilities of keeping the bus clean. Everybody needs to help.

PERFORMANCE POLICY

All students will be given the opportunity to perform with the band. However, there are circumstances under which a student may not be allowed to perform:

1. Failure to perform music or marching fundamentals at acceptable levels.
2. Students who are absent from, or tardy to, rehearsals.
3. Discipline Issues (director discretion).
4. Failing a course (state law).

BAND SOLO AND ENSEMBLE GUIDELINES

GENERAL

According to UIL rules, students cannot be entered in more than two events. There are a few exceptions; see band directors for clarification.

ENSEMBLES

This unique opportunity allows work in smaller group settings, which also promotes more accountability for each person. Furthermore, directors are able to focus on individual's strengths and weaknesses in order to assist each student more effectively.

SOLO

This opportunity allows students to showcase their individual talents in a performance setting accompanied by a pianist. Solos are not required but highly encouraged. Once a student commits to performing a solo, the expectations are that preparations to perform that solo are taken seriously. Directors will be available for individual instruction.

Our goal is to issue solos before the Christmas Holidays. If a student chooses to acquire their own accompanist, they are responsible for getting a copy of their piano part, scheduling their own practices with the pianist, and scheduling sessions to have a director listen to them perform with their accompanist before the contest. Student is also responsible for their accompanist's fee. All students must be heard and approved by a director before performing their solo at contest.

HIGH SCHOOL BAND UNIFORM

The school furnishes uniforms, without cost to the student.

The school provides storage for the uniform, but it is up to each student to make sure all parts stay clean.

The school also furnishes students a band shirt to be worn under the coat. Black socks must be provided by the student.

The uniform must be clean and neatly pressed when worn. No jewelry should be worn with the uniform. Only exception is class ring. For security reasons, it would be best to leave your jewelry at home.

LETTER JACKET POLICY

Students at Tenaha High School may earn a band letter jacket at any time by meeting any one of the following requirements:

1. Earning a chair in the ATSSB High School All-Region Band as a 9th Grader
2. Advancing to State UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest on a solo or an ensemble as a 9th grader
3. Participating in the Tenaha Varsity High School Band for 2 full years (9th & 10th grade)
 - You must be at least a 9th grader to be awarded a letter jacket
 - All band letter jacket final decisions are made by the head band director

Band Trip Requirements

1. Meet all requirements to participate in UIL Marching contest, thus earning required trip points needed. Those requirements include:
 - A. Meet all departmental requirements for fall music pass offs as set forth by the director
 - B. Have *NO UNEXCUSED ABSENCES from fall full band rehearsals or sectionals
 - C. Be academically eligible at the time of UIL Marching Contest
 - D. Must perform/ travel with the band on the day of UIL Marching Contest
2. Meet all requirements to participate in Spring Band Contests. Those requirements include:
 - A. Meet all departmental requirements for spring music pass offs as set forth by the director

B. Have *NO UNEXCUSED ABSENCES from any spring full band rehearsals or sectionals

3. Have *NO UNEXCUSED ABSENCES from any performances.
4. Be academically eligible at the time of the trip.
5. The band director makes all final decisions on who attends the trip.

Point System

Students start the year with “zero” points. Students that show “zero” point balance or positive points at the end of the year will travel on the spring trip. Students that show negative points may not be allowed to attend the spring trip

How students might lose points:

1. You will lose one (1) point for every absence from a practice and/or two tardies.
2. You will lose one (1) point for discipline issues at band practices or performances.
3. You will lose one (1) point for not putting up your uniform, books, instrument, or refusing to help put clean up following practices or events.
4. You will lose one (1) point for each music and marching pass off deadline you miss during marching and concert season.
5. You will lose one (1) points for discipline issues in the classroom
6. You will lose two (2) points if you are placed in ISS or blatant disrespect towards teachers.
7. You will lose two (2) points each six weeks you are ineligible. If you are at zero points, but are ineligible at the time of the spring trip, you will not be eligible to attend.
8. You lose five (5) points for any missed band performances.

You can earn points by coming in for extra practice or service to the band by helping the directors clean and organize. To earn one (1) point, you must put in 30 minutes of practice or service. You can also earn one (1) extra point by working at the concession stand for one night. You can also earn extra points by selling more than two items on our annual Fan Cloth fundraiser, and one (1) additional point for every 5 items sold.

Students do not get extra points for what they are already expected to do with regards to practices and performances

* Unexcused absences will be determined by the director.