

Goals of the Raider Band Program

- ❑ To give each student an opportunity for musical growth through individual and group activities.
- ❑ To let each student discover their leadership qualities.
- ❑ To foster self-esteem and determination through membership in a high quality musical organization.
- ❑ To build character through competition and public performance.
- ❑ To develop a life-long love and appreciation of music.

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This handbook is designed to help you understand the policies of the Southwest High School Raider Band. We hope it can be used to answer questions that might come up during the year. This handbook is to be used in conjunction with the Southwest High School handbook and the official policies of the Fort Worth Independent School District. The band handbook is an addendum to the school and Fort Worth I. S. D. policies and does not replace them. If you need information that does not appear here, please ask the director.

The Booster Club is a vital part of our music program. We would like to invite you to join this organization. Become a member and together we can make a difference. Or website is: www.shsband.org

President: Mr. Gonzalez

Mr. Dunn – Head Director and in charge of all brass. He plays the tuba. He has a Bachelors Degree in Music Education from VanderCook College of Music. He has taught 23 years in Texas.

Mr. Garcia – Assistant Band Director and in charge of all woodwinds. He plays the Clarinet and Bass Clarinet. He has a Bachelors Degree in Music Education from UNLV. Mr. Garcia has performed at many concert halls around the world.

Mr. Mathena- Assistant Band Director in charge of all percussion. He has a bachelors in Music Education from Auburn University and a Masters Degree in performance from University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

Mr. Brown – Head Director and in charge of the Orchestra program. He plays upright and electric bass. He has a Bachelors Degree in Church Music from Arlington Baptist College and a Bachelors Degree from UTA in Orchestral Music Education. He has taught 12 years and maintains an active bass studio for over 26 years with over 35 All State Bass players.

Booster Club

General Membership Meetings

The general membership meetings for the Southwest Band/Orchestra Booster Club are scheduled on Monday.

Booster Club Membership

Why would you want to become a member of the Booster Club? For \$10.00 per individual and 15.00 per family the band/orchestra booster club offers a network of people to talk with and become friends with. Our children have something in common – music. Our band and orchestra programs are outstanding. Over the past 5 years the Band and orchestra programs have received 13 UIL 1st Division trophies and 7 UIL Sweepstakes Awards.

The booster club offers general membership meetings once a month where you can find out what is going on with the band and the orchestra. (In case your student doesn't make it home with the handouts.) This is where you voice your concerns.

General membership meetings are where you find out all the information you will need concerning fund raisers to help your child earn money for the spring band trip. There are a lot of fund raising opportunities for you and your child, which cuts your out-of-pocket costs for the band trip.

Here you will find support from other parents. We need many volunteers. You can help in so many ways. You have talents that are needed to assist the booster club. We need your talents. It doesn't matter how insignificant you may think your talent is, let us know what you can do, chances are, we can find a place for you. It takes the whole of the membership to make us a great booster club.

Won't you join the Band/Orchestra booster club? Become a part of a great organization today.

Band Hall Rules

1. No food or drinks allowed in the band hall.
2. No gum or candy in the band hall.
3. No horseplay in the band hall. If you are in the band hall you should be practicing.
4. Always ask permission before entering the directors' office and never take an item from the office that does not belong to you.
5. The phone will not be available for use during the school day. If you have an emergency after school, you must ask permission to use the phone.
6. Only band students are allowed in the band hall.
7. Students must follow all school district policies and codes.

Rehearsal Procedures

1. The band hall is a rehearsal area. When you enter the band hall you need to be ready to practice.
2. All band hall rules should be followed.
3. You need to have all band materials ready for use when you take your seat.
4. You should be in your seat at the scheduled rehearsal time warmed up.
5. Please have your case out of the way during rehearsal.
6. No talking during rehearsal.
7. Please respect the property of others.
8. After rehearsal, you need to put away your instrument, music and accessories.
9. If you have a question, please raise your hand.
10. After rehearsals make sure your area is clean.

Football Game Procedures

1. Arrive at designated time in full uniform (this does not include loading crew).
2. Your rain poncho should be with you at all games (I recommend keeping them folded in your hatbox or instrument case).
3. Clothing and other personal items should be locked in your locker.
4. Leave your hat in your hatbox and put it under your chair (do not put snacks in your hatbox).
5. Sit in your chair and wait for announcements.
6. Line up for inspection.
7. Go out to practice lot for marching warm-up prior to game departure with everything you will be using at game.

Loading and Unloading Buses

1. You will load by sections.
2. You will be dismissed by sections.
3. Load your designated bus with all necessary equipment.
4. You should be in full uniform when you leave the band hall. (except loading crew)
5. At no time should your uniform be opened or improperly worn when in public.
6. When we arrive at the game site, loading crew, tubas and percussion will exit the bus first. Everyone else will remain on the bus until instructed to get their instruments from the truck and fall into a block.

Arrival at Game Site

1. Silently “fall in” to block formation.
2. Officers should assist their squad so they are neat, orderly and ready for inspection.
3. Block will be called to “attention” and prepared for inspection.
4. You will then be called to an “at ease”
5. Get prepared for an “attention” and move out into lines to our band area.
6. Your music should be in order and in your floppy windows ready for each game.
7. It is your responsibility to be organized and prepared for each game. Don’t expect others to tell you what to do – take charge and be responsible for yourself.
8. Warm instruments and prepare for group warm-up.

During the Game

1. Listen at all times for instructions.
2. You should be in full uniform dress at all times.
3. No food, drinks or gum in the stands.
4. Each band member must sit in his or hers section in assigned location during the game.
5. Never play any warm-up notes of any kind unless instructed to do so by the directors.
6. You can enjoy the game, but when a selection is called, you must focus all your attention on the performance. Be a leader and *DO YOUR JOB WELL!!!*
7. Do not play your instruments unless it is an organized performance approved by the directors. All features must be approved *prior* to the game.
8. No horseplay or dancing when playing instruments in the stands. Instrument “moving” routines are appropriate when organized by squad leaders and approved by the directors. All “moving” routines should be prepared and carefully choreographed. Always remember-embouchure and proper care of your instrument are your top priorities!
9. When we are on the home side, hats will go on with FIVE (5) minutes remaining on the clock in the SECOND (2nd) quarter. When we are on the visiting side, hats will go on with SIX (6) minutes remaining.
10. If the band is listening and performing well, we will give you a third quarter break. All band members must return to the stands before the end of the third quarter. I recommend you start moving back to your seat when the clock is near TWO (2) minutes remaining in the THIRD (3rd) quarter.
11. Band members are not allowed to have any food or drinks in the stands, water is the only exception.

Halftime Show

1. File orderly and silently from the stands to the assembly point before the performance. Always move in a single file. NEVER play instruments when moving from the stands.
2. Think through the show and review your moves – Don’t waste time!
3. During the THIRD (3rd) quarter, soft drinks will be provided in the bus area. Those who need to use the restrooms must ask the directors. Go only to restrooms and back – do not go anywhere else.
4. All trash must be disposed of properly before returning to the stands.
- 5.

When Game is Over

1. Loading crew and pit percussion will be dismissed with FOUR (4) minutes remaining in the game.
2. When our football team wins, we will play the fight song to show our support.
3. At the conclusion of the game we always play the Alma Mater to show our support.
4. At the conclusion of the game, tubas and percussion will be dismissed first.
5. The band will be dismissed by rows, and should leave the stands in single file.
6. If your instrument belongs on the loading truck, put your instruments case in the designated area.
7. Board your bus and take you seat.
8. NEVER put your hands or head outside a bus window. This is a very important safety rule, and will be strictly enforced.
9. NEVER scream out your window at passing vehicles. This makes others think you are disrespectful. We are very proud of you, and we want everyone to see how well you perform and behave.

Care and Use of the Uniform

**You should always wear the Raider Band uniform with pride.
Participation in the band program and the use of the uniform is a privilege.**

The Fort Worth ISD provides the main parts of the band uniform (pants, jacket, hat and plume). These uniforms are very expensive, and should be well cared for.

1. The pants and jacket should be **DRY CLEANED ONLY – NEVER LAUNDERED.**
The moisture and oils of a person's body can break down the fabric if the uniform is left unclean for an extended period of time.
2. The hat can be cleaned using a mild non-abrasive cleaner, and then wiped clean with a soft cloth.
3. Items to be provided by the student:
 - a. Black marching shoes
 - b. Black socks
 - c. Band T-shirt

Alterations

1. No material should be cut or removed from uniform during alterations.
2. Altering hems should be done by a qualified person. After alterations are completed, you can have them pressed by a dry cleaner.

Uniform Decorum

1. There will be no variations from the proper dress of the uniform. Sunglasses, other hats, etc. are not acceptable.
2. Uniforms will go home after each use. Please do your alterations and dry cleaning before the first game, if possible.
3. Never leave your uniform at school or in your instrument locker.
4. All uniforms must be neat and without wrinkles.
5. After each use, be sure your uniform is placed on its hanger.
6. If you leave your uniform at school, you will be fined a \$5.00 fee and a letter will be sent to your parents.
7. Memorize your band uniform number. Do not exchange parts of your uniform with another band member.
8. The uniform **MUST** be hung up after each performance.
9. Uniforms will be inspected before they are accepted into the uniform storage area.
10. Never wear bracelets, necklaces, earrings, watches or jewelry of any kind.
11. If you are eating in uniform, be very careful. If you stain your uniform, see a director as soon as possible. It will be your responsibility to get your uniform dry-cleaned. Make sure the uniform staff is aware of the problem.
12. Improper care the uniform will result in the following action:
 - a. If your uniform is left out, you will be fined \$5.00 before the uniform will be reissued.
 - b. A 2nd offense may result in a parent conference.

The historic background of a uniform has deep military significance. It should be worn with pride. The respect of the uniform is expected at all times.

Preparation for Inspection

1. Uniform dry-cleaned by game
2. Hat fitted by squad leaders before inspection time
3. Black shoes
4. Black socks
5. White gloves
6. Band T-shirt

At Inspection.....

- a. In full uniform – hat in box
- b. Upperclassmen will tell you where and how to set up!!
 - i. Instrument open with equipment visible
 - ii. Music and floppy
 - iii. Lyre
 - iv. Gloves
 - v. Rain pancho
- c. Hat should stay in boxes until you are told to put them on. Squad leaders will help adjust angles.

Grading Policy

There are three areas that will determine your grade in band:

- Attendance
- Performance
- Participation

Attendance

1. Attendance is required at all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances.
2. Absences will be excused in the following cases:
 - a. Medical emergency or personal injury
 - b. Death in the family
 - c. Religious holiday (letter from parent required)
3. All absences should be reported by parents *in writing* to the directors. In case of an illness or family emergency, a telephone call prior to the rehearsal or performance is sufficient.
4. Unexcused absences will result in, but are not limited to:
 - a. Lower citizen grade
 - b. Grade reduction
 - c. Loss of performance status
 - d. Forfeiture of marching spot
5. Marching Tardy Policy
 - a. Each student is allowed TWO (2) tardies. After the third tardy, the student will be assigned to an alternate spot in the marching show.

Performance

1. Performance of playoffs, playing tests, tape recorded assignments, and marching tests.
2. Performance on written tests concerning such items music vocabulary, music theory, music history, composers, etc.
3. Improvement on your instrument
4. Inspection – you are expected to care for your instrument, equipment and uniform. Inspections are held regularly to determine the condition of these items. Inspection is a determining factor in the final grade.

Qualification For Lettering and Letter Jackets

1. The band jacket is based on years of service or you have to make the All Region Band or receive a 1st division on a class 1 solo. All band students qualify for a band jacket during their fourth year of service. If a high school student entered the band program their freshman year they would qualify for a jacket during their senior year. Each jacket comes complete with one letter, years of service bars and “BAND” on the letter. Students meeting the criteria will be sized at the conclusion of each year. Jackets should arrive near the beginning of the student’s senior year. Any band member may buy their own jacket, see the directors.
2. To letter each year you must participate in the following activities and maintain a level of involvement.
 - a. Marching Band
 - b. Sectionals
 - c. Football Games
 - d. Band Contest
 - e. Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble
 - f. All parades

Source of extra credit and honors credit for Band (Required participation in the Marching Band or Concert Band Course.)

This contract must be signed, dated and returned to the band office within the first 5 days of each semester. If for any reason you do not adhere to these requirements your grade will be lowered to a starting point of a 90. If for any reason you do not meet these Honors requirements your grade will be lowered 10 points (A starting point of 90) for each six weeks grading period.

1st semester requirements for Honors credit:

- b. Participate in District tryouts
- c. Participate in Region tryouts
- d. Individual Lessons (SHS Faculty or Approved Outside Instructor)
- e. Marching Band

2nd Semester requirements for Honors Credit:

- a. Participate in Solo/Ensemble contest and recitals
- b. Individual Lessons (SHS Faculty or Approved Outside Instructor)
- c. Must be in Wind Ensemble or Symphonic Band

I will adhere to the Honors Credit guidelines stated above. I understand that if I do not meet the Honors Band Credit requirements at any time during the semester my grade will be lowered 10 points for each six weeks grading period. This contract must be signed, dated and returned to the band office during the first 5 days of each semester. If I do not submit this request to the band office or it is not properly signed and dated in the first 5 days of each semester, I understand that I am not eligible for Band Honors Credit.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date