

SWEETWATER HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK

Objectives of the Sweetwater High School Band

1. Personal Development
 - a. Develop self-discipline
 - b. Develop good work habits
 - c. Assume responsibility
 - d. Learn and apply cooperation
 - e. Learn and apply courtesy and respect for others
2. Musical Development
 - a. Work for continuous individual musical growth
 - b. Develop an appreciation of different varieties and styles of music
 - c. Encourage high quality musical performances
 - d. Maintain a well-organized instrumental program
3. Contribute to the spirit and morale of the school
4. Work with all departments and administrative personnel to insure an integrated instrumental program to the total educational goal.

Grading Policy

Students grades will be based on three areas:

1. Ensemble skills
 2. Playing tests
 3. Performance/contest attendance
- Students must have their instrument in hand and in good working order
 - Students must have **ALL** materials and music (this includes a pencil)
 - Students must be on time and attentive
 - Students must abide by the rules and requirements set forth by the director
 - Students must attend all rehearsals outside of the school day unless prior arrangements have been made with the director at least a week in advance. All rehearsals and performances are graded.
 - Students must attend the Christmas concert and Spring concert. These are the semester exam grades.

Grading Percentages:

1. Ensemble skills – 40%
 2. Tests – 50%
 3. Homework/Written assignments – 10%
- Each student is able to receive 200 points for each performance (this includes Friday night football games). 100 for attendance and 100 for proper behavior.

- Each student is able to receive points each day for abiding by the rules and requirements
- If a student does not abide by the rules and requirements the director will determine the number of points the student should receive.

Discipline Management Policy

General Conduct Statement:

It is expected and requested that each student act like a lady or gentleman at all times. Polite and courteous behavior is a credit to the organization and the school. Loud and boisterous behavior does not convey to the public an image that we would like to represent, and thus is discouraged. Band members are encouraged to cultivate an attitude of exceptional discipline and attention during rehearsal. Each rehearsal should be a musical learning experience for each student. Each performance can only be as good as its best rehearsal. Constant disturbances by any band member shows a lack of interest and respect to the band, and therefore it may be necessary for them to find another place or activity that might hold their attention and respect.

Rules and Requirements:

1. Allow teaching/learning to happen.
2. No gum, candy, etc., while playing an instrument or in the band hall.
3. Be courteous and respectful to all.
4. Have all materials for rehearsals.
5. Be on time and on task.
6. Pick up after yourself.
7. Follow directions the first time.
8. Learn the rules.

Consequences:

1. All disciplinary action is up to the discretion of the directors.
2. Frequency and attitude will be considered when addressing inappropriate behavior.
3. Expulsion from the band program will be a consequence for serious infractions or as deemed necessary by the director.

Band as an Extracurricular Activity (As stated in the SHS Handbook)

Extracurricular activities are a privilege. Students participating in these activities can and may be held to a higher standard than non-participating students. Any participant found true or guilty of criminal misconduct outside of school activities, or other conduct unbecoming an extracurricular participant, shall be subject to discipline as determined by their respective sponsors and/or as specified in the student code of conduct. This includes any admission of guilt or wrongdoing on the internet or any other electronic device.

(For more information on this rule, please consult your SISD Code of Student Conduct and the SHS Student/Parent handbook)

Attendance Policies

Band members are expected to attend **ALL** rehearsals and performances. It is a performance-oriented class and regular attendance and promptness are vital to the success of the entire organization. Attendance will be taken at every rehearsal and performance.

Absences and tardies will be excused in the following cases:

1. Illness documented by a note from parent or doctor
2. Medical emergency or personal injury
3. Death in the family
4. Conflict with another school activity documented at least **one week** in advance.
5. Written notification of the absence must be given at least **one week** in advance.

Examples of unexcused absences and tardies include, but are not limited to

1. Forgetfulness
2. Oversleeping
3. No arrangements for transportation
4. Anything deemed unexcused by directors

Possible penalties for unexcused absences/tardies:

1. Detention
2. Call to parents
3. Administrative consequences (expulsion from band if necessary)

Rehearsals:

Rehearsals must begin on time! On time is defined as: In your chair or spot on the field with your instrument out and ready to play the first note. During marching season there will be rehearsals outside of class. This will be determined during the first week of school.

Tardies:

Tardies will only be excused with a note from a teacher or parent explaining why you are late.

Materials:

All students are expected to have all the materials it takes to participate with the band. This includes, but is not limited to: instrument, drill charts, high-lighter,

proper marching shoes (no sandals or flip-flops at any time) music, pencil, and reeds or valve oil. Reed players should have at least three good reeds at all times. If there is a problem purchasing items, please see the director.

Public Appearance:

Every member of the band must attend every public performance made by the band (including Friday night games). The only excuses accepted for absences are either death in the immediate family, contagious illness, or a doctor's note. You must report to the designated place with enough time to assemble your instrument and be ready to play at the time specified. Students should not plan to leave a public performance in advance of the group's dismissal time unless the director has given permission. Details concerning all performances will be given to the students during regular rehearsals. During any performance the students must conduct themselves in a manner to bring credit to themselves and the band. Dress at public appearances is to follow school dress code.

ALL BAND STUDENTS WILL BE DRESSED IN THEIR FULL UNIFORM FOR ALL PUBLIC PERFORMANCES. AT NO TIME WILL ANYONE BE ALLOWED TO REMOVE A PART OF THE UNIFORM. THIS INCLUDES BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO BAND T-SHIRTS AND MARCHING UNIFORMS.

Missing a public performance:

If a student misses a performance for any reason, an alternate assignment will be made in order to make up the grade. The assignment will be left up to the discretion of the directors. This will only be allowed if the directors excuse the absence in advance. **Otherwise, it is a zero.**

Travel:

On band trips the students must go and return on the same bus. A student must go and return with the school group unless the parent personally requests the student go with them because of extenuating circumstances. Students riding home with parents must have their parent sign them out at their bus with the directors. Any time the bus stops the students must remain seated and listen for any instructions from the director. There will be no playing of instruments on or off the bus until instructed to do so by the director. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that their instrument, uniform, and music has been loaded on the bus. When arriving home, it is the student's responsibility to take their instrument/equipment home or to the band hall.

Bus Rules:

1. Pick up after yourself
2. No glass containers on the bus
3. Nothing out the window (hands, arms, feet, heads, instruments, or trash)
4. No climbing over seats

5. No loitering or standing in the aisle
6. Earphones must be used on all stereos or personal CD players – No music is to be played out loud without the permission of the director.

Drum Majors /Section Leaders:

The responsibility of the drum major/section leader is to act as a student director and a liaison between the students and directors. They will also be expected to perform duties designated by the director. They will also be responsible for helping to maintain the spirit and morale of the band.

Friday Night Game Rules and Requirements:

1. For home games the students will arrive at the school and change into their assigned uniform
2. There are to be no non-band members in the band section at any time. This includes the band hall prior to games. You will forfeit 3rd quarter privileges indefinitely if you do not abide by this.
3. **Students are not to leave the band at any time without the permission of the directors.**
4. No hats, except band hats, are to be worn.
5. Do not miss the first note of a song.
6. No food or drink (except water) will be allowed in the stands except during 3rd quarter at home games.
7. Students who are tardy to 4th quarter will lose 3rd quarter privileges for the following week.
8. Take care of your instrument in the stands. Do not lay it on the bleachers. Either hold on to it or put it in your case while we are not playing. Dropping it will result in the loss of 3rd quarter privileges.
9. Students are to remain in their section. If this becomes a problem a seating chart will be instituted.
10. There will be no “hackers” during the game. (Definition of a “hacker” – someone who plays on their instrument without being instructed to do so by the director.) Hackers will enjoy spending 3rd quarter in the stands

Uniforms: Total uniform replacement cost is approximately \$390.00

(Please see the attached agreement for the Use of Band Uniform.)

- Marching band jacket
- Marching band hat
- Black socks and marching shoes
- No jewelry is to be worn at any time
- No black or outrageous nail polish
- No face paint, hair paint, body glitter, etc...

Any deviation from the above listed uniform will result in the loss of 3rd quarter privileges.

***Students must be in full uniform at all times.**

***Marching band jackets may only be taken of with permission of the director and if the official band t-shirt is underneath.**

***Be aware of the weather before you come to the game.**

Travel Uniform

When the band travels together, no matter the event or location, everyone will travel in pants and the designated band shirt. We are a band, a unity of people that have come together for the same purpose. We should be proud of who we are and show our pride. Failing to travel in uniform will result in loss of 3rd quarter privileges.

Ineligibility

Students are expected to be eligible (passing all classes) for the duration of the year. Any student who misses any performance (including Friday night games) due to ineligibility will not be allowed to participate in the spring trip. You will not be allowed to attend any other events the band might participate in. If it is a continued problem, you may be asked to change your schedule. If a student misses a performance due to ineligibility, they will be responsible for making up lost points by doing an alternate assignment as assigned by the directors.

Instruments

Any member of the band must have their instrument in excellent playing condition. Brass players must wash their instruments frequently. Slides must be pulled and lubricated. Valves must be kept well oiled. Reed instruments should be sent to the shop once a year for preventative maintenance. The school does not assume any responsibility for any privately owned instrument or school owned instrument when in the possession of the student outside the band hall. Privately owned instruments are left in the band hall at the owner's risk. No one is allowed to use anyone else's property without written permission of that person, their parents, your parents, and the director. No one shall use school equipment unless it is checked out to that person.

School Owned Instruments

To give the band a full instrumentation the school owns a number of instruments. It is the responsibility of each student playing a school instrument to take the best possible care of that instrument. Normal wear and tear is expected, but the student must pay for bent keys, valves or slides, lost parts, broken heads, or other damage attributed to carelessness.

Concert Behavior

At concerts, band members are expected to show only the best behavior. These are some guidelines to follow

- Be courteous to other groups performing
- Do not leave or enter during a performance
- Do not talk or make any other kinds of noise during a performance
- Applaud at the end of performances
- Do not whistle or scream at any point during a concert
- Do not have cell phones on
- Do not have any type of game on your person
- Stand at the end of a group's last selection and applaud them
- If an adult other than the directors ask you to do something, do it.
- If you do not agree to the request, do it anyway and report to one of the directors after the concert.

UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest:

All students are encouraged to participate in UIL Solo and Ensemble contest. Students must be eligible to participate.

Private Lessons:

Each student is encouraged, not required, to take private lessons. Private lessons can help individual improvement tremendously. There is access to private teachers for each instrument in the band. If a student is interested in private lessons, all they need to do is talk to the director.

Playing Tests:

There will be playing tests at various times throughout the school year. Playing tests will be over any material. Material for playing tests will be given to students a minimum of one week prior to the date of the test. This is to allow for ample preparation time.

Chair Tests:

Chair tests may be administered at any point during the school year. Chair tests may be announced or unannounced. Music for chair tests will be something the students have been working on in class or something assigned for individual preparation. Any student who participates in a chair test will earn an automatic 100% for playing. Any student who decides not to play will earn a 0% and will not be able to make up that grade at a later date.

Graduation:

Everyone in grades 9 -11 is required to perform with the band at graduation each year. Failure to do so may result in loss of eligibility for the band trip the following year.

Charms:

All students must be registered on Charms and students will be required to check their Charms account throughout the year.

Letter Jacket Policy:

The Sweetwater Band Program offers letter jackets to those students who successfully compete and/or are four-year members of the SHS band. In order to receive a jacket, a student must EARN the required 100 points by participating in the following:

- Member of the SHS Band – 25 points per year
- UIL Region Marching Contest – 10 points
- UIL Area Marching Contest – 15 points
- UIL state Marching Contest – 100 points
- UIL Region Solo and Ensemble – 10 points
- UIL State Solo and Ensemble Participation – 20 points
- UIL State Solo and Ensemble 1st Division – 40 points
- Region Band auditions – 10 points
- Region Band membership 20 points
- Are Band auditions – 20 points
- All State Band participation – 100 points
- Eligibility for all contests – 5 points
- UIL region Concert and Sight-reading contest – 10 points

Additional points can be awarded at the director's discretion.

The directors can be reached at:

- High School: (325) 235-4371
- Middle School: (325) 236-6303
- Email: Mr. Faucett – shane.faucett@sweetwaterisd.net
Ms. Fox – jessica.fox@sweetwaterisd.net

MUSTANG HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

I have read all of the information contained within the Sweetwater High School Band handbook and understand that these guidelines have been set with the band member's best interests in mind. I understand that as a member of the Sweetwater High School Mustang band it is my responsibility to ensure that these guidelines are met on a daily basis. I understand that the directors and/or principals may add additional requirements as the year progresses. I agree to all guidelines found within this handbook and will see that they are met. I agree to continue to be a positive influence and a productive member of our band program. Failure to return this form within five (5) days means agreement and/or acceptance of the policies stated.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

TRAVEL AND MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

I, _____, the legal parent/guardian of
_____, give permission in the event of an
emergency (medical or otherwise) for the appropriate actions to be taken on my
child's behalf. I also absolve the band directors, chaperones, and the school of any
wrongdoing in the event of such an emergency.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE STATEMENT.

Parent Signature

Date

Insurance Carrier: _____

Group/Policy Number: _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Cell _____

Person to contact in an emergency if parent is unavailable:

Name: _____ Phone _____

Please list any medications that your child takes on a regular basis:

Please list any medications your child is allergic to:
