

Taft High School Band Students,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you into the Taft High School Band.

This booklet is intended to inform you about our band and your responsibilities throughout the current school year. The grading procedures, performances, challenges, eligibility and guidelines will be discussed, as well student behavior. You should be aware of what is expected of you as a member of the Taft High School Band.

The most important part of the band is YOU, and your willingness to work and uphold the high standards and ideals of the Band.

In order to be a successful band member, you must develop self-discipline, self-motivation, dedication, good work ethic, responsibility, cooperation and pride. Through these, you will be able to demonstrate your ability to learn and perform music to the highest ability and the willingness to work well and get along with other members of the band.

BAND MOTTO

“ THE BAND WITH PRIDE ”

ELIGIBILITY

No student shall take part in band activities/performances unless he/she is passing all classes at the end of each grading period with a grade of no less than a 70. (Students wishing to try out for drum major or color guard should check with the rules governing those tryouts.)

NOTIFICATION

Students who cannot attend a performance or practice must notify the directors in advance. Students are asked to check the band calendar, note the required performances and all competitions. All band students are required to attend any performance/competition in which the band is entered.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Public performances are considered part of the classroom activities and a part of the Texas essential elements of the music curriculum. All students are required to participate in all performances unless excused by the Directors.

Each member of the Band will be expected to attend all public appearances. Serious personal illness or death in the immediate family will be the only accepted excuses, unless excused in advance by the directors.

All members will report to the designated place with enough time to spare so that they can assemble their instruments and be ready to play at the designated time. All members are required to be present in full uniform including going to and from performances where the general public might observe a band member. All rehearsal regulations are in effect during a performance and an unexcused absence from a performance will result in lowering the final average for the current six weeks by 20 points.

INSTRUMENT RENT

Students who play school owned instruments will be required to pay rent for the use of those instruments. An annual maintenance fee of \$25.00 and must be paid by the end of the first six weeks of the school year.

REHEARSALS

Time is one of the most valuable parts of rehearsals and if one person delays the rehearsal by one minute, each member of the band is forced to waste one minute. These minutes add up to many lost instructional hours which may hurt the overall success of the band.

The following regulations are the foundation of our rehearsal procedures:

1. When you arrive to the band room, assemble your instrument, put the case back in your storage area and have all music and equipment necessary for the rehearsal.
2. Warm-up: Instruments should be warmed up softly by playing a warm-up exercise and percussionists should get all equipment ready. Inappropriate playing of any instrument is not allowed at any time.
3. When the director steps onto the podium all playing and conversation should stop immediately.
4. When the rehearsal is in progress, students should give their undivided attention to the director even though the director might be directing his attention to another section of the band. Talking or playing while the director is speaking will not be tolerated. Do not let your actions and behavior disrupt the rehearsal.

5. A student will be considered tardy if said student is not seated in the proper chair with music and music stand in the proper place. **DO NOT WAIT FOR THE DIRECTOR TO START MOVING TOWARDS THE PODIUM BEFORE MOVING TOWARDS YOUR OWN SEAT.**
6. All rehearsal rooms should be kept neat and orderly at all times. Each student is expected to do their part keeping instruments/folders in their respective storage areas and keep all areas clean. Do not throw trash on the floor, write on music stands or destroy school property.
7. **DO NOT BRING FOOD OR DRINKS INTO THE BAND ROOM**

MARCHING BAND

It is recognized that there are educational values in marching bands that are not to be found in any other organization. It is also recognized that the marching band has a decided service and entertainment value for the community, exerting a cohesive force in unifying the school and community.

The marching band serves two main purposes. First, it serves as an instrument in teaching a vital phase of music education that cannot be taught elsewhere. Besides being a unique organization as a marching musical group, it employs a music repertoire all of its own. In addition, it teaches all the fundamentals that the concert band teaches plus an even greater emphasis on the development of coordination, rhythm, organized thinking, self-discipline and physical activity. It affords a great opportunity for the development of leadership qualities and abilities. Second, the purpose of the marching band is to serve as a public relations and entertainment media in providing half-time programs at football games and other school and community functions.

The marching band must maintain the highest standards of excellence as it is on public display at many functions. It is the responsibility of each member of the band to maintain these high standards of excellence established by the directors and former band members. This will allow the school and the general public to continue to enjoy the pride and traditions that are part of the legacy of the Taft High School Band.

The following procedures are used for the Taft High School Marching Band:

1. During the marching season, rehearsals will be held daily from 7:30 a.m. until the end of 1st period, unless changed by the directors. It is important that rehearsals begin on time so that they can end on time.
2. Students should have comfortable shoes suitable for marching practice. Tennis shoes are the preferred kind of marching shoes for rehearsals and they should fit properly.
3. If it is necessary to schedule medical appointments, it is recommended that these be scheduled on Tuesday or Wednesdays. Mondays are usually the days that new material is introduced and Thursdays are the final polishing rehearsals for performances.

STUDENT CONDUCT

Students should conduct themselves as young ladies and gentlemen at all times. This also includes conduct in all other classes and school related functions. Students should behave in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, their families, the band and their school.

If a band student is placed in AEP/ISS he/she will not participate in practice or performances until the student has been released and has been admitted back into the regular classroom.

Any inappropriate actions by a band student who publicly or privately draws negative attention towards the Taft High School band may be subject to the following actions by the band director:

1. Removal from public performances until further notice.
2. Removal from the band class until further notice.
3. Removal from any leadership positions until further notice.
4. Removal from a band trip.
5. Removal from the band.

FOOTBALL GAMES

The following regulations will be in force at all football games:

1. Check the board each day as information concerning the games may be posted. Also listen to the Directors' instructions given throughout the week for bus schedules, loading times, departure times and return times as these will be closely followed. Return times are given so that parents will know when to pick up students after trips.
2. At home games, the band will meet in the band room for a warm-up time together and will march in formation into the stadium. Each member is to have all equipment ready and be in full uniform at this time.
3. As we march into the stadium, we want people to stop and watch. Do your best to give a favorable impression at all times.
4. Allow yourself plenty of time to be at the proper places with the right equipment and in the proper uniform.
5. Students will be given an assigned seat in the stadium and the same assigned seats will be used for the entire season. Students are to stay in their assigned seats and not move during the games. Instruments are to be held except for percussion and tubas to keep the instruments from being damaged.
6. **DO NOT TAKE UNAUTHORIZED REFRESHMENTS AT ANY TIME DURING THE GAME.** If the Director decides to do so, the Band will be given the third quarter off to buy refreshments. Be extra careful while wearing the uniform to avoid spilling drinks on the uniform. Take care of restroom needs before the band leaves for the stadium. This avoids a lot of confusion and problems with moving in and out of the band seating area.
7. Do not chew gum at any time while participating in a band activity and while wearing the band uniform.
8. Do not play your horn when the band is not playing.
9. No one but uniformed members, designated helpers and sponsors are allowed in the band section unless approved by a band director.

10. **WATCH THE DIRECTORS WHEN THEY ARE IN FRONT FACING YOU, GET YOUR MUSIC READY QUICKLY AND BE READY TO PLAY AT THE PROPER TIME.**
11. Be completely and properly uniformed at all times in public
12. Treat guests with respect and courtesy.
13. Each student is responsible for his/her own instrument and music at all games. A music lyre and flip folder is required for holding the music while playing in the stands.
14. All band members should help promote school spirit and participate in chants etc.
15. All rules and regulations concerning school-sponsored activities will be in force before and during all games and trips.
16. No cell phones, MP3 players or audible/video device is allowed.

BAND JACKET AWARDS

1. Seniors who enter band in their freshman year and complete four years as members of the Taft High School Band may receive a jacket.
2. Seniors with less than four years of service must first receive authorization from the Director in order to receive a jacket.
3. Seniors dropping Band before the end of the year may not receive a jacket.
4. U.I.L. rules state that a student may receive only one letter jacket for the entire four years of high school. Students who will receive awards in other organizations must notify the directors which award he/she would like to receive.
5. A Junior may earn a jacket by making the region band and area band
6. A Sophomore can earn a jacket by making the region band, area band and all state band.
7. A Freshman can earn a jacket by making the region band, area band and all state band.

CARE OF EQUIPMENT

Storage space in the band room will be provided to each student as a place to keep their instrument, marching music, and marching clothes. This space will be tagged with the students' name and should be kept neat and clean. All unnecessary items should be cleared out so that the band hall presents a neat appearance at all times. This storage space is not to be used to keep school books.

All instruments should be tagged with the students' name and Taft High School Band for easy identification. Tags will be provided at the band room and all cases should be completely closed while in the storage space with all latches fastened.

Students are not allowed to open other students' cases or play on instruments other than their own instrument without permission from the directors.

All marching music folders should be labeled with the students' name and instrument part. Students are responsible for all music that is issued to them and must take proper care of all music parts.

Students are encouraged to bring comfortable marching clothes and shoes and socks to school to use during marching rehearsals. Time to change will be given and storage areas may be used to keep them in the band room. **These clothes should be taken home frequently to be washed and cleaned.**

INSPECTIONS

Regular inspections will be held on all instruments used by the students and grades will be given. Instructions on proper care and cleaning of instruments will be given by the directors. Dates for inspections will be posted well in advance.

Students must check with the directors, immediately, if a school instrument assigned to them needs repair. Repairs will be paid for by the school unless the damage is a result of negligence on the part of the student, in which case he/she will be required to pay the repair bill.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

Since the Taft Independent School District provides the best possible instruments available, extra care must be taken to insure that they are kept in good condition. Each student using a school instrument will complete an instrument checkout form.

PROPER CARE OF THE UNIFORM

Students will pick up their uniforms from the band hall prior to each performance as specified by the directors. Students are expected to wear the uniform with pride and wear it properly at all times.

HANGER

The hanger should have the same number on it as the uniform. Memorize your uniform number. Always carry your uniform on a hanger.

BIBBER PANTS

When hanging the pants take special care to make sure the seam is aligned.

COAT

Hang the coat on the hanger so that the curved side of the hanger is to the back of the coat. Snap the coat together so it does not fall off the hanger.

HAT

Store the hat in the hat case. The hat case will be carried into the stadium, so this is a very important piece of equipment. The case can be used to store gloves, raincoats, and plumes.

SHOES

Each student is responsible for purchasing his/her own pair of Black Marching shoes. The shoes will be made available to each student at the beginning of each marching season. Students should write their names on the inside of the shoes. This will help you keep track of them. Students should wear calf high black socks with the uniform.

REPLACEMENT COST FOR UNIFORM PARTS

The students will be charged the following replacement fees for loss or damage to uniform parts caused by student neglect.

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|-------------|---------|
| COAT | \$162.44 | PLUME | \$35.15 |
| PANTS | \$ 69.20 | SILVER CAPE | \$29.61 |
| HAT | \$54.08 | GUANLETS | \$36.77 |
| UNIFORM BAG | \$15.85 | HANGER | \$1.50 |

WINTER GUARD & INDOOR DRUM LINE

Students choosing to be in winter guard or indoor drum line may have to pay a minimal fee to help cover the cost of uniforms/t-shirts etc. The fee amount will be determined per year and students will need to pay such fee before attending any rehearsals. The fee will be non-refundable after uniforms etc. have been purchased. Any student who quits before the season is over will also forfeit their fee.

Color guard & Drum Major

TRYOUT RULES

Each May color guard & drum major tryouts will begin. The tryouts will be judged by three band directors from a neighboring school district. Any student, currently enrolled in band, between grades 8-11 meeting the following requirements may try out for color guard. A student must be between grades 9-11 to try out for drum major.

1. Students must be academically eligible to attend tryout practices.
2. Each student shall be allowed up to three excused absences. Each additional absence shall be minus 5 points on the overall tryout score.
3. Any student who displays a poor attitude by refusing to cooperate with instructions will not be allowed to tryout or to attend practices.
4. There will be a column on the tryout sheet for past band performances such as making all region band, symphonic band, solos, or section leader etc.

Color guard is a year round organization and returning members will be required to re audition.

GRADES IN ALL CLASSES

Since grade requirements in all classes determine eligibility for participation in band activities, each student must do his/her best to be passing all of their classes at all times. Low grades in classes are generally the result of the student not being prepared for tests, not turning in home assignments, not understanding the material being presented, or excessive absences when the material is presented.

Students should make every effort to attend all classes, be on time and devote their energy to learning to the best of their abilities. Tutorials are offered to help students catch up on classes that are giving them problems. The Band Directors, as teachers, are also available to help students do their best. The teachers at Taft High School are vitally interested in helping the students to learn their subjects and the students should seek help from them when necessary.

Students should set up a schedule that will enable them to prepare their work for all of their classes. Have homework done on time and turned in on time. Study for tests early so that you will understand the material being tested and start assignments as soon as they are given so that you will be fully prepared.

Younger students will find that the pace of the schedule at Taft High School may be quite different from what they are used to and they will need to adjust their schedules so that they can keep up. don't be afraid to ask someone for help in order to be a good student and make passing grades.

Keep track of the work you are doing in all of your classes. Average your grades daily or weekly so that you know before the end of the six weeks grading period what your grades will be. Ask yourself each day: **AM I PASSING ALL OF MY SUBJECTS TODAY?**

TARDIES

Rehearsals for marching band begin at 7:30 a.m., unless announced otherwise. A tardy to a regularly scheduled rehearsal will follow the THS tardy policy. If a student misses morning rehearsal due to morning detention, the student will have make-up time after school. Students having to retest will need a pass from their teacher with a departing time. Students who have been retesting will not be required to make-up missed time.

MUSIC LIBRARY

The Taft High School Band Library consists of complete arrangements and transcriptions for band. There are also method books, solos, and ensembles, and recording of band music. With the cost of music being extremely high, we ask students to take good care of their own music. Students are to stay out of the library unless they are given permission by the directors.

Any writing or marking on music must be done in pencil so that it can be erased before checking in the music.

MARCHING FOLDERS

During marching season, each student is assigned a marching music folder that will contain all music used during the marching season. Each student is responsible for this folder and any music that is missing from the folder should be reported immediately so that a replacement can be made. Lost folders may be charged at the replacement cost for the folder and the music windows.

CONCERT FOLDERS

No more than two students will share a concert folder and each student is responsible for the music checked out during concert season. All concert music and method books will be turned in at certain times during the year and students will be charged for any missing parts or books according to the replacement cost.

GRADING SYSTEM

The grading system for Taft High School Band students will be based on individual performance assignments and instrument inspections given during the school year. These will be graded by one of

the directors during their regularly scheduled class. These assignments will cover all of the Essential Elements as prescribed by the Curriculum Guide for Instrumental Music.

These Assignments will include but not be limited to:

Music for marching band (memorized)

Marching fundamentals and maneuvers

Technical Studies (for the development of technique and dexterity)

Solos

Music for concerts and contests

Rhythm exercises (written and playing)

Musical terms

Instrument Inspections (proper care and cleaning of the instrument)

Class participation

Assignments are announced in advance of the due date for completion of the assignment. Students must do their best to be prepared for all grading times.

Six weeks averages may be lowered for unexcused absences from any scheduled rehearsal and performances, including performances for winter guard and indoor drum line.

Students,

Please read through this booklet and when you have finished, please sign the bottom of this page and return it to the band directors. If you ever have a question about the band, please refer to the handbook first, and then contact the directors. Also, please understand that it is impossible to include everything about our band in this handbook, but we feel that this booklet will certainly answer most questions.

Please return this signature letter to Mr Lichtenberger within a week after you receive it.

Sincerely,

Ramiro Lichtenberger, Director

Taft High School Band

528-2636 ext. 3444

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

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