

# IRVING HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK



## COMPONENTS OF THE IRVING HIGH SCHOOL BAND

### Marching Band

The Marching Band is the primary performing organization in the fall semester for the Irving High School Band. The Marching Band includes Winds, Percussion, and Color Guard. The Tiger Marching Band rehearses Monday-Thursday each week, from 5-6:30pm. Information for the IHS Marching Band will be communicated through the band website, "Talking Points", weekly director emails, and through the band leadership team. Membership in this organization is by audition, summer band attendance, music memory performance, and approval of the directors. Membership carries the following responsibilities:

1. Attendance at all rehearsals, sectionals, clinics, and performances
2. Mastery of marching band music/routines from memory
3. Mastery of marching fundamentals & drill coordinates from memory
4. Maintenance of academic eligibility
5. Abide by all IHS Band Handbook policies
6. Abide by all dress/hair code policies for Marching Band:
  - a. Students should wear athletic shoes to rehearsal
  - b. Students must keep their shirt on during rehearsal, however, tank tops and other athletic tops are allowed
  - c. Spandex bottoms are only allowed under the uniform. Please bring other shorts to rehearse in or wear over the spandex until the uniform is being put on.
  - d. "Show Hair" will be communicated by the directors during the season. Students with long hair might be asked to wear it in a braid/bun for games and competitions, etc.

### Marching Band Assignment of Roles

All Band students are assigned a role in the Irving Marching Band. Roles are either considered "Varsity" or "Junior Varsity". The assignment of a student's role is based on a variety of factors including, but not limited to: marching skill, playing skill, overall coordination, number of varsity spots based on geometric instrumentation, academic history, attendance history and the needs of the marching show. Varsity and Junior Varsity members participate in all rehearsals and performances including marching during halftime at all football games. Varsity members march at all competitions while some Junior Varsity members are assigned support roles at these competitions. Should a Varsity spot become available during the season, Junior Varsity members will be considered to fill the vacancy based on the same factors listed above, including demonstrating improvement in these areas.

## Varsity Member Criteria

Varsity members of the marching band are successful in all of the above responsibilities and maintain a competition spot in the show for all football games, contests and other marching band performances including school parades and pep rallies. Infractions on any of these responsibilities may result in reassignment of Varsity member role to Junior Varsity member role. Unexcused absences, including those during the communicated summer band practices, will factor into the status of a student's Varsity membership.

## Junior Varsity (JV) Member Criteria

Junior Varsity members of the Irving Marching Band are accountable for the same requirements of all Marching Band members, as listed above. Students maintain a JV spot in the marching show for all football games and non-contest performances. Some JV members will attend all contests and support the Marching Band for the duration of the competition schedule.

## Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble is the varsity performance ensemble in the Irving High School program. Students will prepare/perform an advanced music curriculum and have a strong commitment to rehearsal and practice time. Membership in this ensemble is by audition and selection by the directors. Audition materials regularly include All-State/All-Region Etudes, scales, and sight reading. Membership carries the following responsibilities:

1. Attendance at all rehearsals, sectionals, clinics, and performances
2. Preparation of the All-State/All Region Band etudes during the Fall semester
3. Required to audition for the Irving ISD All-City Band
4. Encouraged to audition for the All-State/All-Region Band
5. Preparation and performance of a solo at the IISD solo/ensemble contest
6. Maintenance of academic eligibility
7. Abide by all IHS Band Handbook policies

## Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is the non-varsity performing ensemble in the Irving High School band program. Membership carries the following responsibilities:

1. Attendance at all rehearsals, sectionals, clinics, and performances
2. Encouraged to prepare All-State/All Region Etudes in the Fall semester
3. Encouraged to audition for the Irving ISD All-City Band and All-State/All-Region Band

4. Preparation and performance of a solo at the IISD solo/ensemble contest
5. Maintenance of academic eligibility
6. Abide by all IHS Band Handbook policies

#### Concert Band

The Concert Band and Foundations Band are the sub-non-varsity performing ensemble in the Irving High School band program. Membership carries the following responsibilities:

1. Attendance at all rehearsals, sectionals, clinics, and performances
2. Preparation of the All Region Band etudes during the Fall semester or director approved alternative
3. Audition for the All-Region Band with approval by a director
4. Preparation and performance of a solo at the IISD solo/ensemble contest
5. Maintenance of academic eligibility
6. Abide by all IHS Band Handbook policies

#### Drumline/Percussion

Percussionists will be enrolled in percussion class alongside the Band class they audition into. These ensembles work as part of the marching band and concert bands, as well as attending other competitive festivals throughout the year. Percussionists will perform with a concert band during the spring semester, and are placed via auditions. Percussionists are required to be enrolled in the band program for the entire year.

**Colorguard/Winter Guard** This is a full year activity that performs as part of the Marching Band in the fall semester and as the Winter Guard in the spring semester. This group works toward competitive festivals as part of the varsity Marching Band in the fall. Winter Guard is the activity for the Spring Semester, which involves movement, equipment, dance and drill. It rehearses as a unit outside of the school day. Auditions for Colorguard are in the spring semester and are open to any student. Auditions for Winter Guard are in the fall semester.

#### ATTENDANCE

All band students must abide by the Irving High School Band attendance policies. Attendance is required at all rehearsals, sectionals, clinics, and performances. Attendance counts toward your daily participation grade and your performance grade. Parents should attempt to schedule doctor's appointments so as not to conflict with scheduled practices or events. Scheduling conflicts may arise between school activities. Notify the directors and your school sponsor as soon as the conflict is known in order to allow the directors and school sponsors to work out the conflict in advance. It is the

general policy of Irving High School that school activities (including Band), take precedence over club or select activities outside of IISD.

Excused Absences are categorized as excused by virtue of three occurrences:

- Student illness rendering them incapable of observation or participation
- Religious Holy Day
- Family emergency (Director approved) Circumstances may justify an excused absence for reasons other than listed above. In the case of illness, religious holy day or family emergency, explanatory parent communication prior to the rehearsal/performance is appropriate.

### Unexcused

All other absences are considered elective and are indicated as unexcused unless deemed otherwise by the band directors. Examples of unexcused absences include but are not limited to:

- Getting called into work or not finding a cover for a work shift
- Birthday party or celebration
- Concert tickets scheduled on a required Band event
- Attending tutorials without notice for directors to arrange options with teacher
- Vacations
- Drivers Ed.
- Scouts
- Non-school athletic events
- Tutorials (Students are expected to use non-rehearsal day or times)
- Testing i.e. SAT, PSAT, ACT, etc.

Notifying the directors of an absence is appreciated and the directors will consult school policy and use their discretion to determine if the provided reason is considered excused or unexcused. It should be clearly understood that communicating an absence does NOT automatically mean that it is excused. All absences must be submitted 24hrs in advance through the google form available in google classroom. Absence from rehearsal will require a parent contact after each missed practice. A parent conference will be scheduled after the 3<sup>rd</sup> missed rehearsal.

### Make-Up of Any Absence

Any absence, whether excused or unexcused, are to be “made-up” before a student is cleared to rejoin the next scheduled Band performance. A “make-up” rehearsal or

sectional will consist of supervised practice time by a section leader, executive officer and/or director either before or after school. When a student misses practice they are missing valuable material that ensures the preparation of their performance and that of the students around them. There may be times when there is not enough time for a student to “make-up” an absence before the next scheduled performance. In this case, the student will not perform at the next performance and a “make-up” opportunity will be developed to assist the student in preparing for the following scheduled performance. Performances and clinic absences cannot be “made-up” although an alternative assignment may be offered at the director’s discretion. An unexcused absence from a practice or a performance will result in the student sitting out the following performance, and may result in another student replacing their performance role.

#### Run-Through of Marching Show each Rehearsal

At the end of each marching rehearsal, the band performs a run through of the entire show performance for that week. This is to ensure that each student is evaluated on their ability to perform their assigned role at the next upcoming performance. If a student misses the run-through of the show at practice, whether for an excused or unexcused reason, the student’s status for the next performance will either be to not perform the show with the band or will be pending based on the director’s discretion and review of the student’s mastery of the material missed. This is to ensure the safety of the other members, the proper preparation of the individual student and the integrity of the Band’s performance.

#### FOOTBALL/CONTEST PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE

All Irving Band members will attend football games, so long as they are academically eligible according to UIL policies, and are in good standing with the administration of Irving High School. Any absence from a performance must be turned in 7 days in advance and a parent conference, with the director, must be held 5 days prior to the missed performance. Varsity members will automatically be moved to a JV spot in marching band. If a second performance is missed then a conference with an administrator will be scheduled. Emergencies do arise and will require a parent contact within 3 days of the missed performance.

#### SECTIONAL ATTENDANCE

Sectionals will be held weekly for both Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Bands at Irving High School beginning in November of each year. Students in these ensembles will be required to attend their assigned sectional time once a week. If a student needs to miss a sectional it should be communicated by google form by 8:30am on Mondays in order to reschedule that student into another sectional time. Absences from a sectional will always require a director contact with a parent. If a student misses 3 sectionals then a parent conference will be scheduled.

## BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Behavioral expectations are designed to create an environment that enhances student learning and performance. These expectations are based upon the premise that every student has a right to participate in the learning process without interference.

Responsibility for behavior lies directly with the individual student. General Behavioral Expectations:

1. Students are expected to adhere to the "Code of Conduct" as detailed in the IISD student handbook.
2. Students are expected to participate in band activities with a supportive and positive spirit.
3. Students are expected to treat all directors, instructors, and clinicians with courtesy and respect. They are expected to respond appropriately to instruction with positive word choice.
4. Negatively-charged verbal displays or nonverbal actions are considered inappropriate. This policy also applies to the internet. Students are expected to maintain a mature level of decorum at all times while representing the Irving Band, and never speaking on behalf of the band online.
5. Each student is expected to be in class, in the rehearsal setting, or present for travel or performances on time and with the required equipment and materials.
6. Cell phones and other mobile electronic devices are not permitted during the rehearsals or performances.
7. Gum, candy, soft drinks, and other food items are prohibited in all band areas.
8. Students are expected to help maintain a clean environment in facilities and during travel scenarios.
9. Students are expected to take proper care of all band/color guard equipment, including instruments, music, uniforms, and facilities.
10. Rough-housing/horseplay of any form is prohibited.
11. Students should refrain from public displays of affection during all rehearsal and performance situations.
12. Students are expected to refrain from the use of degrading verbiage, profanity, and/or obscene gestures. Harassment of any form will not be tolerated.
13. Any form of hazing is strictly prohibited.
14. Band students will not partake of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs while they are a member of the Irving High School Band.

## Discipline Procedures

Behavioral infractions are considered particularly serious in such a public group. Therefore, the handling of disciplinary issues will be treated as such. As the ensemble is under the public eye, students must maintain a professional and dignified appearance at all times. Game time spirit in the form of verbal or physical encouragement should include the use of good judgement and taste at all times. Procedures for handling disciplinary infractions are as follows:

1. 1st offense - Warning
2. 2nd offense - Relocate student
3. 3rd offense - Behavior contract/parent contact
4. 4th offense - Detention or possible removal from the band program
5. 5th offense - Referral to the Dean of Students
6. Immediate parent conference with band directors and an administrator present:
  1. Students fighting
  2. Student appears to be under the influence of a substance.
  3. Profanity towards a teacher
  4. Destruction of property
  5. Leaving any band activity without prior permission from a band director.

## FOOTBALL GAME ETIQUETTE

Varsity football games are highly visible and public performance venues for the Irving Marching Band. It is imperative that students remain attentive and focused within the ensemble to help insure the intended functions of the band at these games:

1. To provide musical support to the Varsity football team
2. To provide a quality and noteworthy halftime performance

Stand and Pep-Rally Behavioral Expectations:

- Each band member is to remain in his or her assigned seat during the entire game. Restroom visits are granted only by securing permission from a band director.
- Band members must be ready to play immediately following a tune request. Students must pay attention to drum majors/directors for visual cues so that professional musical entrances are always achieved.
- The marching band uniform must be worn in its entirety unless specific instructions from directors indicate otherwise.



- The marching band (including all sections within) should present only organized musical efforts. There are to be no spontaneous “hacking” or jam sessions by individuals or sections either in the stands or en route to or from the performance.
- Students should play with their printed music at all times and without exception. Parts should be played exactly as written.
- Water is the only drink to be consumed in uniform.
- Cell phones are prohibited any time while the band is in session. Attempted use will result in the temporary confiscation of the device.

Students should be polite to everyone in manner and in spirit; however, they should avoid being too sociable in performance settings. Once preparation for a performance has begun, members should avoid contact with outsiders and should be focused on the task at hand. Visitors in the stands will only be allowed into the band with prior approval from a band director. While watching other bands perform, members should remain silent, attentive, and should avoid visual or verbal criticism of any sort in public. When a band finishes a performance, enthusiastic applause and acknowledgement is always appropriate.

## SOCIAL MEDIA ETIQUETTE

There are an abundance of social media platforms, newsgroups and bulletin boards frequented by band students, parents and members of the IHS and IISD community. These sites are a great way to hear about what our own IHS band is up to, as well as what bands are doing around the country. Some of the most popular include Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, GroupMe and the BOA forum. While most postings to these mediums are helpful or entertaining, many students may not realize that as a member of the IHS Band, their comments reflect on the entire group. We have had incidents where a member of the IHS Band posted something in these mediums that they thought was innocent, but it led to miscommunication, misunderstanding or upset others when taken a certain way. Even when not intended, these kinds of posts can be a negative experience for other band members and create a negative impression of the IHS Band. If something is posted that is critical of another individual or group, or reflects negatively on the IHS Band, it will be addressed by the directors. The safest way to avoid any negative attention is to ensure that what you are saying is helpful to members of the band and community and that you would feel comfortable with your parents, directors and principal reading your posts. If you choose to post comments, remember that you are a member of the IHS Band and your posts reflect on the band program and on IHS. We want our students to communicate positively with each other and reflect positively on the IHS Band program, and to continue our first-class reputation in the community. The primary purpose for band social media is to effectively communicate with ALL members of the band as a unit and quickly pass along information between groups and sections. Social media that serves under a heading of the Irving Band may not exclude

any individuals and must fall under the behavior and conduct policies of the school and band program. A director will monitor all social media mediums that are used to communicate Band-related information and have access to edit content and view all posts to ensure proper conduct and etiquette. Intentionally posting incorrect information or misrepresenting the band in any way will result in consequences according to the behavioral expectations in the handbook. Impersonating another member of the band or a staff member is considered unacceptable and will result in a parent/teacher/student conference to review the action and review their membership in the Irving Band program.

## GRADING POLICIES

Band Grades are based on a) attendance and participation during scheduled events and rehearsals, b) the student's ability to prepare playing and marching assignments punctually and correctly, and c) the presence of required materials at all rehearsals and performances. Performances include, but are not limited to, concerts, contests, football games, and community appearances. Student participation will be assessed for the regular possession of required equipment and supplies. All students will be held accountable for specific daily assignments, playing tests, section rehearsals, and participation/citizenship.

### Grading Categories

Rehearsals (minor grades): 100pts per week

4 rehearsals-25pts each, 3 rehearsals-33pts each

Performances (major grades): 100pts per event

Sectionals (minor grades): 100pts per week

50pts attendance, 50pts pass off assignments

## ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

A grade average below 70 in any class will cause a student to become "academically ineligible," and deny students' competitive performance privileges and football game attendance for a majority of a six-week period until eligibility is regained. Academic ineligibility can virtually destroy an unbelievable amount of individual and collective work. Parents, we ask that you carefully supervise your children's academic progress. Students must understand that their classroom performance/grades have a direct impact on many other students. Make sure that you take care of your academic responsibilities from the very first day of school. You are at Irving High School first and foremost to earn an academic education. Pass your classes. Some form of organized tutorials may be set up and attendance made mandatory to assist struggling students. Here are some simple steps that will help you pass your classes:

1. Remember you are in class for one thing and that is to learn.
2. Review your class notes daily.
3. Complete and turn in all homework assignments.
4. Prepare for tests and projects well in advance.
5. Treat your teachers with the same courtesy that you expect from them.
6. Ask for help.

#### CARE OF INSTRUMENTS & EQUIPMENT

All IISD instruments and equipment are property of IISD and the IHS Band program. Band instruments and equipment are issued to students for their sole use and they are not permitted to be shared with any other members or students. This is to protect both the student and the instrument/equipment. **DO NOT USE ANYONE ELSE'S EQUIPMENT WITHOUT THEIR & DIRECTOR CONSENT. DO NOT GIVE ANYONE ELSE PERMISSION TO USE YOUR EQUIPMENT** Students that play school-owned instruments will be required to pay an instrument usage fee as part of their band fee each year. The instrument fee is used to pay for routine maintenance for the instrument that may not be covered by IISD. Any damage other than that caused by normal usage will be assessed to the student.