

## **The El Paso High School Band Program**

The El Paso High School Band Program includes several different groups: the Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble and Chamber Ensembles. During the marching season, these groups are combined to form the Tiger Pride Marching Band. Those joining the band are expected to have had prior musical training, but those that have an interest in becoming a member of the band program must come and talk to the director and get approval first.

### **The Tiger Pride Marching Band**

The Tiger Pride Marching Band is the public face of the El Paso High School Music Program. This group is seen by more members of the community than any other, so it is therefore essential to the pride, morale and public image of El Paso High School. The Marching Band is in operation during football season and performs lively, entertaining shows at all varsity football games, pep rallies, contests (UIL, EPISD, NMSU) and special events. All students who actively participate in the marching band will receive a PE credit.

All band students are required to participate in marching band. The only exception to this rule are students who are unable to participate due to the orders of a medical professional. In cases such as these, written documentation must be provided to both the band director and administration by said medical professional. Students who do not participate in both marching and concert band will not be allowed to audition for section leader or drum major. It is recognized that some students may have scheduling conflicts with marching band due to participation in an athletic program. In cases such as these, every effort will be made between the band director and athletic coach to develop special rehearsal/practice schedules for these students so they may participate in both organizations. It is expected that all band members participate in both marching and concert seasons as it develops a greater sense of unity within the organization as a whole and holds all students to the same high standard.

### **The El Paso High School Wind Ensemble and Concert Band**

After the conclusion of football season and during the spring semester, all band students take part in either Wind Ensemble or Concert Band. Placement in either group is determined by an audition at the end of the fall semester using a small segment of the TMEA All-Region audition music. The goal of these groups is to refine students' musicianship through the rehearsal and performance of works from the standard band repertoire. Both groups take part in contests (EPISD, UIL) and public performances (Holiday Concert, Year End Concert, etc.). In regards to UIL, the Wind Ensemble is the Varsity Band while the Concert Band is the Junior Varsity Band. The Wind Ensemble will perform literature in a true "wind ensemble setting" (meaning approximately one musician per part), therefore it will be comprised of approximately 25 to 30 students.

## **The El Paso High School Jazz Ensemble**

The Jazz Ensemble provides interested students with the opportunity to perform the uniquely American art form of Jazz and related styles: swing, samba, bossa nova, funk, and so on. Participating students will also be introduced to and trained in the art of improvisation, which involves the study of music theory and aural tradition. Interested students *must* be enrolled in Marching Band/Wind Ensemble/Concert Band in order to take part in the Jazz Ensemble (the only exceptions to this are guitar, bass and piano players). The Jazz Ensemble takes part in Jazz Festivals (Hanks, EPISD) and other public performances.

## **Chamber Ensembles**

Chamber Ensembles are small groups (usually comprised of three to five members) that perform music in more informal or intimate settings. Chamber ensembles include: brass quintets, clarinet trios/quartets, saxophone quartets, percussion ensembles and other combinations of instruments. The main contests chamber groups perform at are the Regional and State Solo and Ensemble Contests. Other performances may include places where having large groups such as the Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band or Jazz Ensemble may be difficult or inappropriate (hospitals, libraries, etc.) Students are highly encouraged to take part in chamber ensembles because they are extremely beneficial to musical development as well as a lettering requirement. Unlike the large groups, each student in a chamber ensemble contributes to the musical decisions of the group and therefore provides musical leadership (instead of a conductor). Additionally, most post-college performance opportunities involve small ensemble settings (they are also easier to organize among friends and colleagues).

## **Prestige Colorguard/Winterguard**

Prestige performs alongside the Marching Band and adds to the overall visual effect of the halftime show by incorporating movement and dance in combination with flags, sabers and rifles. After football season, colorguard is known as the winterguard and competes as part of the West Texas Color Guard Association. Band students may join the winterguard (or floor crew) with approval of the color guard instructor and band director.

## **Goals of the El Paso High School Band Program**

- UIL “Sweepstakes” (first divisions at UIL marching, concert and sight-reading contests).
- Advancement to the UIL Area Marching Contest on advancing years.
- First Divisions at the Hanks and EPISD Jazz Festivals.
- Approximately 50% of all band students participating in the regional UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest.

- Approximately 10% of all band students earning positions in the TMEA All-Region Bands/Jazz Ensembles.
- Approximately 2% of all band students earning positions in a TMEA All-State group.
- Students leaving the program with an appreciation for music and many great memories!

### **Grading Policies, Rules and Instrument Supplies**

Overall grades in band will be determined by the following:

1. Daily grades (60% of semester grade)-these include:
  - Following class rules and procedures as outlined in the band handbook.
  - Actively attending and participating in class and rehearsals (including sectionals).
  - Having all class supplies.
  
2. Test grades (40% of semester grade)-these include:
  - All performances throughout the year.
  - Weekly individual performance assessments.

Following these rules will always result a great and successful school year:

1. Always conduct yourself in a manner that brings credit to you, your family, your community, and your school; and such that you are a positive reflection of the traditions of the El Paso High School Tiger Pride Band.
2. Always be loyal, honest, courteous and sportsmanlike in all dealings with everyone and anyone.
3. The use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages or drugs are prohibited.
4. Refrain from foul language and comments. This is a reflection on you, your family and the El Paso High Community.
5. Adult chaperones are available to assist you. They should receive your complete cooperation and respect at all times.
6. Watch, listen and cooperate with adult and student leaders during band functions.
7. Make sure personal and school property is properly maintained and returned in good condition.

8. Be at the right place at the right time for all band activities with the proper equipment, attire, and attitude.

9. Food and drink (with the exception of water) are prohibited in the band room except on special occasions.

10. Non-band students are not allowed in the band room.

Consequences for not following any of these rules or any classroom procedures may include any or all of the following:

- A warning.
- Lowered daily grade by a whole letter for each additional warning.
- Loss of performance or other participation privileges.

Constant or severe disruptions may result in the following:

- Office referrals.
- Removal from the band program.

*\*Note: Any conflicts with performance dates must be submitted to the band director in writing (including email or Remind) before the day of the performance. It is extremely important to the success of the entire program that every member participates in every performance. An absence by any individual hurts the entire group. As a result, we must be very strict with performances and attendance guidelines. Also note that work is not an excuse for absences.*

Football Game Etiquette:

1. The band will enter and exit the stands as a unit.
2. Non-band members will not be allowed to sit in with the band.
3. Do not play your instrument in the stands unless the entire band plays together.
4. Students are to remain in designated areas during all scheduled band activities. Any departure or absence without parental and staff permission is grounds for permanent dismissal from the program.
5. The band parents will supply the students with drinks after half time at games. No other food or drink is allowed in the stands during the games.

6. During the game, the band will be playing a lot of music. While the band is not playing, you may visit with your neighbors or watch the game. Do not bring books, magazines, electronic devices into the stadium. Phones must be put away during the game/performance.

7. Have your instrument with you at all times. If you must place it down, make sure it is still near you and in a place where it cannot fall or be stepped on.

8. The entire band stands when playing music and will be seated when instructed.

10. Have fun in the stands supporting our team but with **COMMITMENT TO THE MUSIC AND THE PROGRAM.**

#### Transportation and Alternate Transportation:

Students must have a medical release form/permission slip on file before they may travel with the band. Travel and performance times will be announced in advance via the band calendar and Remind app.

Students are responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from the report site if necessary. Please arrange for your transportation to pick you up on time, especially after late trips. In some instances, members of the band may wish not to return from an away game or band activity with the band due to other engagements. In this case, students may leave only with their own parent or guardian and **MUST** be seen leaving by the band director, **NO EXCEPTIONS.** This will be documented in travel logs.

## Instrument Supplies

The following materials are needed in order to keep your instrument functioning as best as possible. We will discuss proper instrument care in class and lessons, but please be sure you have all of the required and recommended materials that correspond to your instrument as they will be counted for as a grade.

### Flute

\_\_\_ Silk Cleaning Cloth

### Oboe

\_\_\_ Silk Oboe Swab

\_\_\_ At least 3 reeds (Jones or Edmund Nielsen Brown/Green Reeds are recommended)

\_\_\_ Small Water Container (for soaking reeds)

### Bassoon

\_\_\_ Silk Bassoon Swab

\_\_\_ At least 3 reeds (Jones reeds are recommended)

\_\_\_ Small Water Container (for soaking reeds)

### Clarinet

\_\_\_ At least 3 Vandoren (Blue Box or V12) OR D'Addario Reserve reeds-size 3-3 ½

\_\_\_ Silk Swab

\_\_\_ Vandoren 5RV Lyre Series 13 OR M30 Series 13 Mouthpiece (preferred)

\_\_\_ Rovner or Vandoren Ligature

\_\_\_ Mouthpiece Patch

### Bass Clarinet

\_\_\_ At least 4 Vandoren (Blue Box or V12) or D'Addario Reserve reeds-size 3-3 ½

\_\_\_ Silk Swab

\_\_\_ Mouthpiece Patch

### Saxophone

\_\_\_ At least 3 Vandoren (Blue Box or V12) or D'Addario Reserve reeds-size 3

\_\_\_ Silk Swab

\_\_\_ Selmer C\*, Selmer S90 190 or Vandoren Optimum AL3/AL4 Mouthpiece (preferred)

\_\_\_ Mouthpiece Patch

\*An additional mouthpiece/reeds will be needed for Jazz Ensemble: Jody Jazz HR\*,  
D'Addario Select Jazz and Vandoren V16 are all recommended mouthpieces.

### **Trumpet**

\_\_\_ Bach 5C (preferred) Mouthpiece

\_\_\_ Valve Oil

\_\_\_ Slide Grease

### **Horn**

\_\_\_ Farkas MC (preferred) Mouthpiece

\_\_\_ Valve Oil

\_\_\_ Slide Grease

### **Trombone/Euphonium**

\_\_\_ Bach 6 ½ AL (preferred) Mouthpiece

\_\_\_ Slide Cream

\_\_\_ Slide Grease

### **Tuba**

\_\_\_ Bach 18 (preferred) Mouthpiece

\_\_\_ Valve Oil

\_\_\_ Slide Grease

## **Performance Attire**

Students must have the following appropriate attire for performances and events. Drum majors and section leaders will conduct a uniform inspection before every performance to make sure all students have the necessary/appropriate attire and equipment. Students who do not pass inspection may not be allowed to perform. Please also note that makeup and jewelry (with the exception of small ear studs) are not allowed with marching uniforms and public display of affection is prohibited while students are representing El Paso High School in any performance setting.

### **Marching Band**

\_\_\_ Marching uniform and its components (issued out by the school)

\_\_\_ Black Drillmaster marching shoes (purchased by students)

\_\_\_ LONG black socks (purchased by students)

\_\_\_ Black marching gloves (purchased by students)

\*Note: Drum Majors must purchase white shoes and gloves.

### **Formal Concerts (Men, purchased by students)**

\_\_\_ Black suit, white button-down shirt, black belt and tie

\_\_\_ Black dress shoes

\_\_\_ LONG black socks

### **Formal Concerts (Ladies, purchased by students)**

\_\_\_ Black dress/skirt that meets school dress code OR black blouse and dress pants

\_\_\_ Black flats (high heels not recommended)

### **Formal Concerts (Jazz Ensemble, purchased by students)**

\_\_\_ Black suit, orange button-down shirt, black belt and black tie (men)

\_\_\_ Black dress shoes (men), black flats (ladies, high heels not recommended)

\_\_\_ LONG black dress socks (men)

\_\_\_ Black dress/skirt that meets school dress code OR black blouse and dress pants (ladies)

### **Informal Performances (pep rallies and certain public performances, purchased by students)**

\_\_\_ Tiger Band T-shirt

\_\_\_ Blue jeans



## **Renting School Instruments vs. Buying Your Own**

If a student is in need of an instrument (especially flute, clarinet, saxophone and trumpet), they are strongly encouraged to rent or purchase an instrument before renting from our school. Most of our school instruments are very old and are not in good condition. Also, our inventory is limited. Keep in mind that school instruments are property of EPISD and any loss or theft will be reported to district police and administration. Should a student wish to purchase their own instrument, it is recommended they contact a band director or band staff member first as they will be able to provide advice on specific brands and assess the quality of any used instrument being considered for purchase. Overall, it is best to purchase from a reputable dealer in band instruments such as Olivas Music, Woodwind Brasswind or Saxquest.

## **Uniforms**

Band uniforms are the property of EPISD. Any damage due to the mistreatment or improper care of the uniform will be the responsibility of the student and parents. By having a uniform issued to you, you are agreeing to the responsibility of replacement cost due to improper care or loss. Students are fitted as closely as possible during checkout. Never cut the material in an attempt to alter a uniform.

## **Regulations for Marching Uniforms**

Uniforms must and will last if they are cared for with pride and responsibility. Students will be financially responsible for the damage or loss of any uniform items.

1. Be sure your uniform and hat are placed where they will not get dirty, wrinkled or damaged when not being worn.
2. Never wash or launder your uniform. Uniforms will be dry cleaned periodically by a professional service. The band director will let you know when this will occur.
3. NO EATING will be allowed while in uniform.
4. When in transport, uniforms must be placed in garment bags if not being worn.
5. Keep your hat in the hatbox at all times when not being worn, except when the hat is wet from rain.

## **Checking Uniforms In and Out**

1. Quartermasters are responsible for checking out and returning uniforms. You are responsible for the care of them while they are checked out.
2. Do not ask another person to return your uniform or to return the uniform of another person unless that person has an approved early dismissal form from an event.

3. Remove all personal items/music from inside the hat boxes, uniform pockets and garment bags.

4. If your uniform is not properly placed on a hanger, it will not be accepted into the uniform room or hanging rack. Uniform quartermasters will instruct you how to properly place it.

### **Marching Uniform Replacement Costs**

Coat: \$250.00-\$300.00

Pants: \$100.00-\$200.00

Hat: \$105.00-\$150.00

Plume: \$35.00-\$50.00

Hat Box: \$20.00-\$25.00

Overlay: \$200.00

## Materials and Supplies Needed at the Beginning of Each School Year (1<sup>st</sup> Assessment Grade)

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Case name tag/label.

Every instrument needs to have a name tag on the handle with a luggage tag or on the side of the case itself with masking tape.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Binder

A 1” or 1.5” hardbound binder is the best, any bigger and the rings wear out. Make sure your name clearly labeled on it.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Method Book-*Foundations for Superior Performance* by R. Williams and J. King

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Pencil(s)

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Instrument Supplies

Please see the instrument supply lists in the band handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Lyre

A lyre is a little wire stand that grips or hooks on an instrument (except flute, oboe, tuba, bari sax, and percussion). We will use them in the stands and the students will continue to need them throughout their high school marching careers.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Flip Folder

A flip folder clips onto the lyre and is what actually holds the music. Students insert their music and coordinate sheets into the clear sleeves of the folder so they can see their music.

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. Black Drillmaster marching shoes and gloves

## Band Curriculum Timeline

### August-early November

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Before School (7:00-8:15)	Marching Band	Marching Band	Marching Band	Marching Band	Marching Band
During Class	Sight-Reading, Fundamentals, Marching Music, All-Region Lessons	Sight-Reading, Fundamentals, Marching Music, All-Region Lessons	Sight-Reading, Fundamentals, Marching Music, All-Region Lessons	Sight-Reading, Fundamentals, Marching Music, All-Region Lessons	Sight-Reading, Fundamentals, Marching Music, All-Region Lessons
After School	Marching Band (6:30-8:30)	Sectionals/All-Region Lessons (4:00-5:00)	Sectionals/All-Region Lessons (4:00-5:00)	Sectionals/All-Region Lessons (4:00-5:00)	Football Games (4:30-10:30ish)

### November-December

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Before School (7:15-8:15)	Jazz Ensemble	Jazz Ensemble	Jazz Ensemble	Jazz Ensemble	Jazz Ensemble
During Class	Sight-Reading, Holiday Music, All-Region Lessons	Sight-Reading, Holiday Music, All-Region Lessons	Sight-Reading, Holiday Music, All-Region Lessons	Sight-Reading, Holiday Music, All-Region Lessons	Sight-Reading, Holiday Music, All-Region Lessons
After School (4:00-5:00)	All-Region/Solo and Ensemble Lessons	All-Region/Solo and Ensemble Lessons	All-Region/Solo and Ensemble Lessons	All-Region/Solo and Ensemble Lessons	All-Region/Solo and Ensemble Lessons

### January

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Before School (7:15-8:15)	Jazz Ensemble	Jazz Ensemble	Jazz Ensemble	Jazz Ensemble	Jazz Ensemble

During Class	Solo and Ensemble	Solo and Ensemble	Solo and Ensemble	Solo and Ensemble	Solo and Ensemble
After School (4:00-5:00)	Solo and Ensemble	Solo and Ensemble	Solo and Ensemble	Solo and Ensemble	Solo and Ensemble

### February-April

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School (7:15-8:15)	Jazz Ensemble/Full Band UIL Rehearsal	Jazz Ensemble	Jazz Ensemble/Full Band UIL Rehearsal	Jazz Ensemble	Jazz Ensemble/Full Band UIL Rehearsal
During Class	UIL Concert/Sight-reading Music	UIL Concert/Sight-reading Music	UIL Concert/Sight-reading Music	UIL Concert/Sight-reading Music	UIL Concert/Sight-reading Music
After School (4:00-5:00)					

### May

May will generally be free of before/after school activities with the exception of band officer/leadership camps and auditions (dates TBA). Class time will be devoted to final concert/graduation music.

#### Sample In-Class Rehearsal Outline

- (20 min.) Warm-up: breathing exercises, long tones, lip slurs, scales with varying articulations.
- (20 min) Sight-reading exercises.
- (45 min.) Performance repertoire/all-region lessons.

\*Note: Rehearsal schedules (particularly those before/after school) may be adjusted for excessive heat, dangerous weather conditions, holidays or other considerations as determined by the director. Makeup rehearsals due to bad weather, holidays or conflicting school activities that would prevent the entire band from rehearsing on a regular scheduled day will be determined by the band director.

## **Band Trips**

Travel can be one of life's greatest pleasures. It provides new and different perspectives on life by exposing us to different cultures and ways of living. Band trips are usually to relatively "local" locations such as San Antonio, Austin and Los Angeles, but hopefully, band trips will include major travel destinations throughout Europe and America every four years or so. Band trips are selected by the band director in consultation with the booster organization and taken only following the approval of both EPHS and EPISD Administration. All school, band and EPISD Board policies are in effect during trips. Students who violate regulations on trips will be subject to disciplinary action upon return and/or may be sent home from the trip at the parent's expense.

## **Band Student Leadership**

Running a band program is a lot of work! There are so many factors that go into running a band program that band directors and staff can't do it all on their own. Because of this, great student leaders are needed to help everything run smoothly. Band student leaders are called officers and represent the best the program has to offer. They must be dedicated band students and should expect nothing less than the best from themselves and their peers. Officers fall into two categories: command officers and administrative officers. Command officers include drum majors and section leaders; administrative officers include a president, vice president, secretary and several quartermasters. Command officers are chosen by interview/audition while administrative officers are either chosen by election or appointed. All officers have specific duties:

**Drum Majors:** conduct the band during marching performances, assist in teaching marching fundamentals and drill, assist in running sectionals and carry out any other duties assigned to them by the band staff (band room set up/clean up, assisting quartermasters, etc.).

**Section Leaders:** run sectionals, assist in teaching marching fundamentals and drill, make sure everyone in their section knows their music by the required time and carry out any other duties assigned to them by the band staff.

**Band President:** helps organize social activities (such as the band banquet), acts as the main student representative of the band program to the school and community at large, ensures the vice president, secretary and quartermasters are performing their duties and assists them when necessary, and carries out any other duties given to him/her by the band directors.

**Band Vice President:** assists the band president in carrying out his/her duties and takes over the duties of the band president in the case of his/her absence or removal.

**Band Secretary:** assists the band directors/staff in organizing and maintaining the music library and certain databases, maintains a written record of all band officer meetings.

**Quartermasters:** organize and help maintain all school-owned instruments, equipment and uniforms, assist the band directors in taking and updating an inventory of all school-owned instruments, equipment and uniforms, check in/out uniforms to band members and carry out any other duties assigned to them by the band directors.

Students interested in leadership positions must meet the following criteria:

**Section Leaders:** must be a sophomore, junior or senior in the upcoming school year and take part in an audition/interview process.

**Drum Majors:** must be a sophomore, junior or senior in the upcoming school year and take part in the audition/interview process for section leader before taking part in an additional audition/interview.

**All officers:** must be a sophomore, junior or senior in the upcoming school year and be elected by popular vote among all band members (Band Vice President is the only position that will go to the student who receives the second highest number of votes in the Band Presidential election).

Information regarding the audition/interview/election process as well as specific obligations officers must meet while in office will be given to interested students around late April as auditions/elections are typically held in May.

The number of drum majors and section leaders chosen will depend on the projected size of the band program for the following year. Generally speaking, a band with 50 members or less should have one drum major, a band with 50 to 100 members should have two, and so on. The size of each section will also determine the number of section leaders chosen. In some cases, it may be necessary to combine several small sections under the leadership of one or two section leaders. For example, if there are only two tubas, three trombones and two baritones, they may all be combined under one or two low brass section leaders.

Officers may hold more than one office provided that the other office held is of a different category. For example, a student may be both a drum major (command) and the band president (administrative), but may not be both a drum major and section leader or president and secretary during the same school year.

### **Lettering Policy for the El Paso High School Band**

A band student can earn a letter for being involved in the Tiger Band by meeting the following criteria:

1. Be a member in good standing of the Tiger Pride Band for the entire year and have all Band/Guard fair share paid off.

2. Participate in all functions and activities of the band that year.
3. Demonstrate a positive attitude, maintain satisfactory citizenship/conduct and contribute in a positive way to the EPHS band program.
4. Audition for the TMEA All-Region Band or Jazz Ensemble and place within the top half of all students auditioning on their given instrument (for example, if a student auditions on alto saxophone and there are a total of 30 alto saxophones auditioning from across the region, he/she must rank 15<sup>th</sup> or higher to meet this requirement).
5. Perform all 12 major scales from memory as notated in *Foundations for Superior Performance* (in eighth notes) at 120bpm in one sitting.

\*Note: guard members must meet the same expectations as band students with the exception of auditioning for All-Region and performing all 12 major scales. Instead, they must participate in all winterguard contests during the spring semester.

### **Band Awards and Honors**

Besides lettering, there are many opportunities for interested, driven students to go above and beyond regular band activities and obligations in order to earn distinction at the school, regional and state level. Working towards all of these activities only makes students better musicians, regardless of the final outcomes. Therefore, band students are highly encouraged to take part in these activities because the better musician each student is individually, the better the band will be as a whole!

### **TMEA All-Region and All-State Bands/Jazz Ensembles**

The Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) oversees the Texas All-Region/All-State Audition Process, which is open to all public, private and home school students in Texas in grades 9-12.

TMEA and UIL have divided the state into 32 regions and grouped these regions into 8 areas. Region 22 includes all of El Paso County and is in Area A, which includes nearly all of West Texas and the panhandle. Students interested in auditioning for the All-Region/All-State Bands/Jazz Ensembles prepare a set of three etudes (short, difficult solo pieces; students interested in auditioning for the Jazz Ensembles must prepare an additional etude which demonstrates their improvisational skills). Students from across Region 22 individually compete with others on their instrument by performing a blind audition for five judges in order to earn a position in one of the All-Region Bands/Jazz Ensembles. Here in Region 22, our All-Region



groups currently consist of three bands (one of which is specifically for freshmen) and two jazz ensembles.

The highest placing band students at the region level are allowed to advance to area auditions (usually held in Midland/Odessa), where they then compete with the highest placing students from three other regions in order to earn a position in one of the All-State groups. At this level, students are also divided by their school size classifications (5A/6A). The highest placing students at these auditions earn an all-expense paid trip to San Antonio to perform at the annual TMEA Convention with one of the All-State Bands. Currently, there are three TMEA All-State Bands (two 6A bands and one 5A band). Once at the convention in San Antonio, All-State students perform one more audition to be placed into a final ranking.

The highest placing jazz ensemble students at the region level are likewise allowed to advance to the next round of auditions, however, these students record an audition in a studio and send it in to be blindly judged in order to earn a position in one of the two All-State Jazz Ensembles (there are no area auditions, so the top region jazz students compete directly with students from all of the other 31 regions; additionally, there is no 5A/6A division in the All-State Jazz process).

### **Solo and Ensemble**

Students may compete as a soloist or as part of a small ensemble (usually three to five members) for a judge at the Regional UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest. Instead of a ranking (as in the All-Region/State process), students and/or their ensembles receive a division rating between 1 and 5, with division 1 being the best rating and division 5 being the worst. Students have a choice of performing music from an approved list of pieces of varying difficulty, which are categorized by “grade”. At the high school level, students can play either grade 2 (high school level) or grade 1 (advanced/college level) music for UIL Solo and Ensemble. Only freshmen are allowed to perform grade 3 (middle school level) music. Additionally, soloists or ensembles who receive a division 1 rating playing a grade 1 piece are allowed to advance to the UIL State Solo and Ensemble Contest (held in Austin) where they perform once again for an additional rating.

### **TMEA Texas Music Scholar Award**

The Texas Music Scholar Award is a distinction given to high school students who demonstrate excellence in the areas of scholarship, musicianship and citizenship. In order to be nominated for this award, students must meet the following criteria during the school year:

- Be a viable member of the school’s musical organization for the entire school year and participate in all scheduled events of said organization.

- Maintain an overall “A” average for the current school year and remain academically eligible.
- Attend, as an audience member, two director-approved concert events of high school, collegiate or professional level during a school year.
- Audition for, be selected to, and participate in a TMEA All-Region organization (band, jazz ensemble, orchestra, or choir).
- Perform a UIL Class 1 solo for Solo and Ensemble Contest or public performance.
- Consistently exhibit behavior which brings honor to the school and community.

These criteria may be met through participation singularly or in any combination of band, orchestra, or vocal organizations. The distinction may be achieved each school year.

### **The Sousa Award**

First introduced in 1955 by The Instrumentalist Magazine, the John Philip Sousa Band Award recognizes outstanding musicianship and dedication to a band program. It was created with the approval of Helen Sousa Albert and Priscilla Sousa, daughters of the famous composer and commander/conductor of the United States Marine Band from 1880 to 1892. John Phillip Sousa is widely credited with increasing the popularity and level of musicianship of concert/symphonic bands throughout the United States in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. This is a nationally recognized award and all band programs across the nation are limited to giving the award to one student per year. Although not a requirement, this award is often given to an outstanding senior as a culmination of their four years and dedication and service to their band program.

### **The Louis Armstrong Jazz Award**

This award is essentially the Jazz version of the Sousa award. It is a nationally recognized award (also limited to one student per school) usually given to an outstanding senior who has demonstrated exemplary musicianship and dedication to the Jazz Ensemble over the course of their high school career. This award was established in 1974 by the Instrumentalist Magazine with the permission of Louis Armstrong’s widow. Louis Armstrong (1901-1971) is widely considered to be the father of Jazz (many Jazz musicians simply refer to him as “Pops”) and played pivotal roles in the development of this uniquely American art form over the course of his 50-year professional career.

## **Graduation Cords**

Seniors may be entitled to wear certain ceremonial cords as part of their graduation regalia if they meet the following requirements:

Royal Blue Cord-must have been enrolled in band all four years of high school and have no unexcused absences from full band performances and events; must be in good standing with fair share and any fees (Solo and Ensemble, All-Region) paid off.

Purple Cord-must have participated in colorguard/winterguard all four years of high school and have no unexcused absences from performances; must be in good standing with fair share paid off. Band students who participate in winterguard must meet these same requirements for two out of their four years of high school provided that they also meet all the requirements for the blue cord.

Silver Cord-must have earned a position in and performed with the TMEA All-Region Bands/Jazz Ensembles OR performed at the UIL State Solo and Ensemble in at least one of their last three years of high school; must be in good standing with fair share and any fees paid off.

Gold Cord-must have earned a position in and performed with a TMEA All-State Band/Jazz Ensemble at any point during their high school years; must be in good standing with fair share and any fees paid off.

## **Band Boosters**

The Tiger Band Boosters is a non-profit organization open to anyone with an interest in supporting the El Paso High School Tiger Band. All parents are encouraged to join this extremely active and valuable organization. You will find your involvement with this association to be a positive and rewarding experience as it greatly benefits the band program and it provides an opportunity to be involved in your child's high school life. The Tiger Band Boosters continuously engage in fund raising activities (with the help of band students, too) which help pay for a variety of activities, equipment and staff (discussed below). All individuals interested in joining the band boosters must first register as a volunteer through EPISD.

## **Band/Guard Fair Share and Funds**

Like any performing group (dance, cheerleading, theater, etc.) band and guard are expensive activities. EPISD does provide some funding for the program, however, all of these funds typically go towards purchasing a new instrument or two and sheet music (just one good quality instrument can cost between \$2,000 and \$7,000, depending on the type of instrument). Additionally, school funds can only be used with EPISD-approved vendors, which can at times

limit where they can be spent. The band boosters also engage in fundraising activities year round, but due to the limited number of boosters and the large expenses needed, these funds are often used quickly. Therefore, it is essential to ask each band and guard member to contribute a fair share to the band booster account. A fair share is a non-refundable monetary contribution per year, per student to the program which helps provide a backbone of funds to help pay for the following:

- Performance equipment (props, instrument supplies, etc.)
- Securing the copyright for music used in the marching show
- Marching show music arranger
- Marching show drill writer
- Marching show percussion arranger
- Instructional staff (percussion instructor, guard instructor, marching techs, etc.)
- Food for students during every full band contest and before every football game
- Contest entry fees not covered by EPISD
- Equipment truck rental fees
- Band shirts
- Uniform dry-cleaning costs
- Guard uniforms and silks

The 2019-2020 fair share for **band members is \$160** and for **guard members it is \$250\***.

\*Band members who participate in winterguard will only be required to pay their band fair share of \$160, however they may be required to purchase a winterguard uniform and silks at their expense.

*Students are always allowed to participate in all band/guard activities even if their fair share is not paid, however, students who do not have their fair share paid off will not be allowed to audition for any type of leadership position and will not be eligible for any type of award unless said fair share is paid off. Additionally, the fair share must be paid off before any payments towards major trips can be made. This policy is in place to ensure everyone has a minimum equal financial responsibility/commitment to the program.*

Should a student or their family require any kind of assistance in paying off their fair share (or if they have multiple children in the program), they simply need to contact both the band booster board *and* band director to discuss their situation and develop a solution on a case-by-case basis.

It is the policy of the band boosters to be completely transparent in regards to funds. All financial records of the band booster organization are available upon request from the booster board. Additionally, a financial report is made to both the band director and the general booster membership at every booster meeting throughout the school year.

## Possible Additional Expenses

It is important to realize that additional expenses may be required of certain band/guard members under certain circumstances. Some of these are one-time expenses, others may be required each year of enrollment. Here is a list of these expenses (with *approximate* prices) which are the responsibility of both parents and students:

- Drillmaster marching shoes (one-time purchase unless lost, approximately \$35 at Olivas Music)
- Marching gloves (\$2.50 to \$3.50 per pair)
- Concert/Jazz performance attire (price varies with individual, see Performance Attire section of this handbook)
- Lyre and flip folder (one-time purchase unless lost, approximately \$10-\$15)
- Clarinet or saxophone reeds (\$25 to \$30 per box of 10 reeds depending on brand and instrument; may be purchased online at Woodwind Brasswind, Saxquest or Amazon)
- Winterguard uniform, makeup and accessories (price will vary depending on needs of the show and determination of the winterguard instructor)
- All-Region audition fee (\$10-only applicable to students auditioning for a TMEA All-Region group)
- UIL Solo and Ensemble entry fee (\$10 per student, per event; for example, if a student is performing both a solo and in an ensemble, the cost will be \$20)
- Piano accompanist fee (\$30-\$35 per student-only applicable to students performing a solo which requires a piano accompaniment at UIL Solo and Ensemble)
- Food at contests not involving the full band (Solo and Ensemble, Jazz Festivals, etc.)
- Drum major camp (approximately \$120)

### Communication is Key!

The Remind app is the main and quickest mode of electronic communication between students, the band boosters and the band director. All announcements regarding rehearsals, performances, meeting times or other events of importance will be made via this app, therefore it is essential that ALL students AND parents make use of it. Individual and small group messages may also be made on the Remind app. **To register for Remind, simply text @rlechuga to 81010. You can also download the app to your phone and/or log in on a computer.**

Should the need for longer communications be needed, the following outlets may be used:

Mr. Vilardell's email- [ravilard@episd.org](mailto:ravilard@episd.org)

Band Booster's email- [ephbandboosters.iaatk@gmail.com](mailto:ephbandboosters.iaatk@gmail.com)

Please note that it is very important to follow district protocol when communicating comments, questions or concerns regarding the band program. The first stage of communication should always be at the campus level starting with the Band Director and an Assistant Principal. If questions/comments/concerns are unable to be addressed at this level, communicating with the Principal is the next step. If the Principal is unable to provide answers/solutions, communicating with the District Fine Arts Director or another District-level administrator is the following step. Please be aware that any questions/comments/concerns regarding the band program and policies laid out in this handbook made to District-level administration will automatically be referred back to the campus level if protocol has not been followed. Also, please be aware that comments and/or concerns made regarding the band program or policies laid out in this handbook to the Band Director will be documented and reported to a campus administrator and vice versa.

### **Online Resources**

General information regarding the band program (including this handbook) may be found on the official Tiger Pride Band Website: <https://ephstigerprideband.com>

Below is a list of useful websites that contain valuable resources:

<https://www.tmea.org/> The Texas Music Educators Association

<https://www.texasmusicforms.com/regions/22/> UIL Region 22 Music Website

<https://www.wbw.com/> Woodwind and Brasswind-Band Instruments and Supplies

<https://www.saxquest.com/> Woodwind supplies and accessories

## Band Handbook Acknowledgement Form

*\*Failure or refusal to sign this form may be considered grounds for removal from the program.*

“We have read all of the information in this handbook regarding the El Paso High School Tiger Pride Band and Colorguard. We understand all that is required of us in this organization in terms of rules, procedures, consequences, supplies and the fair share. We understand that we are making a commitment to this program and will always strive to do our best to meet the expectations laid out. We also acknowledge that the EPHS Band Director and Administration may amend or adjust any of the policies and procedures laid out in this handbook on a case-by-case basis under unusual or unforeseen circumstances.”

Student name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email/contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Summer Band Schedule**

By the start of summer band, all students/parents must have the following forms turned in: Band Handbook Acknowledgement Form, Parent/Student UIL Marching Band Acknowledgement Form, a district activity/travel permission slip. **BE PREPARED FOR THE HEAT DURING MARCHING SEASON!** Wear shorts, cotton tops, socks and athletic shoes to every marching rehearsal. A good hat, sunglasses, water jug and sunscreen would be in your best interest.

### **July 22nd to August 2nd, Monday-Friday, 7:30am-2:30pm**

7:30-8:00 Physical warm-up/exercise

8:00-10:00 Marching fundamentals

10:00-12:00 Brunch

12:00-12:30 Full band music warm-up and fundamentals

12:30-1:30 Music sectionals

1:30-2:30 Full band music rehearsal

### **August 5th to 9th, Monday-Friday, 4:30pm-7:30pm**

4:30-5:45 Full band music warm-up and rehearsal

6:00-7:30 Marching show rehearsal



## **2019-2020 Tiger Pride Band Student Leadership**

Athena Rueda: Band President and Low Brass Section Leader

Brisa Castor: Band Vice President and Woodwind Section Leader

Manny Olivas: Band Secretary and Low Brass Section Leader

Alex Valles: Uniform Quartermaster

Anna Brunnick: Percussion Section Leader and Equipment Quartermaster

Josh Bush: Percussion Section Leader

Amber Carrillo: High Brass Section Leader and Equipment Quartermaster

Nick Cardona: High Brass Section Leader

Evelyn Gallegos: Woodwind Section Leader

Miguel Mauricio: Woodwind Section Leader

Jacob Aguirre: Drum Major

Isa Juaregui: Drum Major and Uniform Quartermaster