

The El Paso High School Band Program

The EPHS Band Program includes several different musical groups throughout the year which give students a variety of experiences: Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble, and various 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 as there is no beginning band class offered at EPHS.

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/fall semester and performs at all varsity football games, pep rallies, contests (UIL, EPISD, SISD) and other events. All students enrolled in marching band (fall 0 period) will receive PE credit.

All band students are expected to participate in marching band. The only exception to this rule is 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. 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 directors and athletic coaches to develop special rehearsal/practice schedules for these students so they may participate in both organizations. It is expected that all band members will 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.

Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band

During the spring semester (“concert season”), all band students take part in either Wind Ensemble and/or Symphonic 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 or excerpts from the chosen UIL Concert Music. The goal of these groups is to refine students’ musicianship through the rehearsal and performance of works from the standard band repertoire at their developmental level. Regarding UIL, the Wind Ensemble is the Varsity Band while the Symphonic Band is the Junior Varsity Band. The main performances for these groups are the EPISD and UIL Concert and Sightreading Evaluations.

Jazz Ensemble

The Jazz Ensemble provides interested students with the opportunity to perform the uniquely American art form of Jazz and related styles. 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 the Marching Band/Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band to take part in the Jazz Ensemble. The exceptions to this rule are guitar, bass, and piano players.

Chamber (Small) Ensembles

Chamber Ensembles are small groups (usually comprised of three to five members) such as brass quintets, clarinet trios/quartets, saxophone quartets, percussion ensembles, and woodwind trios. The main contests groups perform at are the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contests. All band students are required to take part in chamber ensembles for solo and ensemble contests because they are extremely beneficial to musical development. Unlike the large groups, each student in a chamber ensemble contributes to the musical decisions of the group and therefore provides musical leadership.

Color Guard/Winter Guard

The Color Guard 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. After football season, the Color Guard members have the option to perform in what is known as Winter Guard, which competes as part of the West Texas Color Guard Association. All Color Guard members are required to be enrolled in 0 period marching band in the fall. During the spring semester, Color Guard members can combine with members from other schools for the competitive Winter Guard season.

EPHS Band Program Standards/Goals

- UIL “Sweepstakes”-first divisions at concert, sight-reading and marching contests.
- Advancement to UIL Area Marching Contest.
- All band students participating at the UIL Regional Solo and Ensemble Contest with 10% selected to advance to the State Solo and Ensemble Contest.
- 10% of all band students earning positions in the TMEA All-Region Bands and/or All-Region Jazz Ensembles (auditioning is required of Drum Majors/Section Leaders).

Tiger Pride Band Ethics Statement

We encourage all members, both adult and student, to be positive and discreet when discussing our organization as well as others. The very nature of music education embodies a broad spectrum of methods, expressions, needs, and paths to arrive at artistic and educational goals. All members are highly encouraged to recognize and remain open to varied approaches and celebrate both our differences and similarities.

Grading Policies and Rules

Overall grades in band will be determined by the following every week:

Participation grades:

- Following class rules, procedures, and policies as outlined in the band handbook.
- Punctually attending and participating in class and rehearsals.
- Having all necessary supplies.

Assessment grades:

- Semi-weekly individual/small group playing assignments and/or band performances.

General rules/expectations:

1. At all band functions students must conduct themselves in a manner so that they are a positive reflection of their home, school, city, and the El Paso High School Tiger Pride Band.
2. All general EPISD and EPHS rules remain in force during all band activities.
3. Students must listen to and cooperate with adult and student leaders during all band functions.
4. Students are responsible for ensuring school property is properly handled and returned in good condition.
5. Students are to be on time for all band activities with the proper equipment, attire, and attitude (this means arriving at least 10-15 minutes before the designated rehearsal start time so there is time to set up).
6. Food and drink, except for water, are prohibited in band facilities without permission.
7. Students are not allowed in any fine arts facilities unsupervised outside of class/rehearsal time unless an instructor is present. Students found in fine arts facilities outside of class or rehearsal times with no instructor present may be subject to immediate discipline referrals or other administrative action.
8. The use of practice rooms must be requested and used only for All-Region, Solo and Ensemble, or sectional/personal practice. At all other times they must remain locked and vacant.

9. No personal items (clothes, backpacks, etc.) can be left in any storage or practice rooms. All students have an assigned locker where these can be kept along with instruments and are responsible for bringing their own lock and securing their belongings. All personal items left anywhere other than assigned lockers will be turned into the lost and found. Quartermasters will do regular checks for this.

10. Changing clothes must occur in the dressing rooms or restrooms, not in any storage or practice room.

11. Due to the fragile instruments worth thousands of dollars sitting at any given time in the band room, there is to be no throwing of any objects inside any band facilities. Doing so may result in immediate disciplinary action.

12. All students will be assigned a locker for their personal belongings and instrument(s). Any personal items left outside of locked lockers are to be considered left at your own personal risk and may be susceptible to damage or theft.

13. Phones must be out of sight during all rehearsals. Although an exception is made during the learning new drill, checking in for attendance (UDB app) and tuning, all phones seen out or being used during rehearsals will be confiscated and processed in accordance with Texas State Law.

Football Game Rules:

1. The band enters and exits stadiums/performance venues together as a group. No one is to go anywhere alone.
2. Non-band members are not allowed to sit in with the band.
3. Parents may sit next to, but not in, the band, and these parents (including band boosters) must be cleared through VIPS with EPISD.
4. There is no playing instruments in the stands unless the entire band is playing together.
5. Students are to remain in designated areas during all scheduled band activities. Any departure or absence without parental and staff permission is grounds for disciplinary action, including removal from the band program.
6. Band boosters will supply the students with meals before games as well as water during games. No other food or drink is allowed in the stands during games.
7. Phones must be put away during the game/performance.

8. Students must always be near their instruments in the stands and prepared to play with short notice.

After a warning, consequences for not following any rules, procedures, or instructions may include any or all the following:

- Assignment to logistical duties (carrying equipment, cleaning, etc.).
- Assignment to makeup rehearsal time.
- Lowered weekly grade.
- Physical activity such as push-ups, planks, crunches, etc. (during marching band as this class is a PE credit).
- Writing an apology and corrective action plan to the appropriate individuals.
- Loss of performance or other participation privileges at the band director's discretion (suspension from one or more games, loss of marching spot, removal from trips, etc.).

Constant or severe disruptions may result in administrative action including discipline referrals and/or removal from the band program.

Rehearsal and performance attendance policies:

Any conflicts with performance dates or rehearsals must be submitted to the band directors in writing via email or Band app, *before the day of the performance (preferably as soon as one knows of the conflict)*. Absences can only be excused if they are accompanied by a message from a parent or teacher documenting a family emergency/event, travel, illness/injury, medical appointment, or mandatory tutoring.

It is extremely important to the success of the entire program that every member participates in every full band performance and rehearsal. An absence by any individual hurts the entire group. **Students with two unexcused absences from rehearsals will lose performance privileges.**

All students are expected to be prepared to play their instruments and be in their designated places by given rehearsal start times.

Students who are late after the rehearsal start time will have their weekly grade lowered by ten points for each occurrence and must make up that lost time immediately after rehearsal by either rehearsing longer or moving equipment.

Students who come to rehearsal fifteen minutes late or more without notification will receive an unexcused absence and a failing weekly participation grade.

Phones must be out of sight during all rehearsals. Although an exception is made during the learning new drill, checking in for attendance (UDB app) and tuning, all phones seen out or

being used during rehearsals will be confiscated and processed in accordance with Texas State Law.

Transportation and Travel

Students must have all required forms (band handbook, physical, parent permission slip) on file before they may travel anywhere, including local destinations, with the band.

Travel and performance times will be announced in advance via the Band app. Travel anywhere, including local destinations, often runs on a tight schedule due to bus driver requirements and performance site schedules. Because of this, it is important that students be on time for all announced departure times. Apart from accidents/emergencies requiring medical attention, students who have not boarded a bus by the announced departure time will be left behind and it will be the responsibility of their parent/guardian to provide transportation from that point forward.

For out of town/overnight travel, students and parents must sign and agree to the EPISD Fine Arts “Rules of the Road” before departure. This form will be handed out beforehand.

In certain situations, such as events not featuring the full band (solo and ensemble, drumline, jazz groups, etc.) students will be responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from the performance site.

In some instances, students may not wish to return on the bus from a full band event with the band due to other engagements. This will be allowed only if documentation/permission is provided in writing (including email or Band app) and given to a director beforehand. This documentation can ONLY come from a student’s parent/legal guardian.

After all band events, it is expected that students be picked up promptly. Estimated return times will be sent out via the Band app, and students are expected to communicate with parents as to when we are returning to campus. Once students leave the fine arts building after any event, they are no longer the responsibility of EPISD.

Required Supplies

- Reeds (Vandoren or D’Addario size 3 to 3.5 are recommended; at least 3-4 in working condition), cork grease, and swabs for clarinet and saxophone players.
- Valve oil for brass players.
- Drumsticks and yarn mallets for percussionists.
- All students marching in the halftime show will need to download the Ultimate Drill Book app (UDBapp) to their phones as this is what will be used for the purposes of learning drill as well as attendance during marching season (more information on that below).

Students are also encouraged to have their own mouthpieces if using school-owned instruments (contact the directors for recommendations).

Renting School Instruments vs. Buying Your Own

If a student needs an instrument (especially flute, clarinet, saxophone, and trumpet), they are strongly encouraged to rent or purchase an instrument *before* renting from our school. The school inventory is limited and is mostly centered around larger, more expensive instruments: tubas, baritones, French horns, percussion, etc. 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, White's Music Box, Woodwind Brasswind, or Saxquest (Amazon is NOT RECOMMENDED).

Band Performance Attire

Students must have the following appropriate attire for performances and events. Directors, staff, 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 have the appropriate attire will not be allowed to perform with the band.**

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)

Concert Season (Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band)

- Tuxedo coat, vest, shirt, pants, bow tie (men; issued by the school)
- Black gown/dress (women; issued by the school)
- Nice black dress shoes with appropriate socks (purchased by students)

Jazz Band

- Nice all black slacks and black button-down shirt or blouse (purchased by students)
- Nice black dress shoes with appropriate socks (purchased by students)

Informal Performances (pep rallies and certain public performances, purchased by students via band fair share)

- Tiger Band shirt and shorts or jeans (for any band event, students must always assume they will need to have their band shirt).

More on Uniforms- Uniforms are the property of EPISD. Any damage or loss due to mistreatment or improper care of the uniform will be the responsibility of the student and parents. Never cut the material to alter a uniform. No eating is allowed while in full uniform. Students must remain in full uniform at all marching band events until instructed otherwise by the band director.

The following must be worn underneath/with marching band uniforms:

1. Band shirt or show shirt
2. Athletic shorts (or thermals/leggings in cold weather)
3. LONG black socks and gloves
4. Black Drillmaster marching shoes

Checking Uniforms In/Out

No students other than quartermasters are allowed into the uniform room.

Students may take their uniforms home for washing, but they must be returned undamaged. When uniforms are returned, they must be properly hung, and all personal items (including shoes and gloves) must be removed from the garment bag. Quartermasters will check for this.

Uniforms not returned by the end of the school year will be reported as being stolen and the student's parents will be financially responsible for replacing them.

Band Curriculum Timeline/Rehearsal Schedules

August-October

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
0 period (7:15-8:15)	Marching Band	Marching Band	Marching Band	Marching Band	Marching Band
During Class	Marching Music, All-Region	Marching Music, All-Region	Marching Music, All-Region	Marching Music, All-Region	Marching Music, All-Region
After School	Marching Band (4:30-7:30)	Masterclass (4:30-5:30)	Masterclass (4:30-5:30)	Masterclass (4:30-5:30)	Football Games (4:30-10:30ish)

November-December

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
0 period (7:30-8:20)	Jazz, Solo and Ensemble	Jazz, Solo and Ensemble	Jazz, Solo and Ensemble	Jazz, Solo and Ensemble	Jazz, Solo and Ensemble
During Class	Holiday Music, All-Region, Solo and Ensemble	Holiday Music, All-Region, Solo and Ensemble	Holiday Music, All-Region, Solo and Ensemble	Holiday Music, All-Region, Solo and Ensemble	Holiday Music, All-Region, Solo and Ensemble

January

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
0 period (7:30-8:20)	Jazz, Solo and Ensemble	Jazz, Solo and Ensemble	Jazz, Solo and Ensemble	Jazz, Solo and Ensemble	Jazz, Solo and Ensemble
During Class	Solo and Ensemble	Solo and Ensemble	Solo and Ensemble	Solo and Ensemble	Solo and Ensemble

February-April

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
0 period (7:30-8:20)	Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble	Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble	Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble	Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble	Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble
During Class	UIL Contest Music	UIL Contest Music	UIL Contest Music	UIL Contest Music	UIL Contest Music

May

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
0 period (7:30-8:20)	State Solo and Ensembles	State Solo and Ensembles	State Solo and Ensembles	State Solo and Ensembles	State Solo and Ensembles
During Class	Prep for next season	Prep for next season	Prep for next season	Prep for next season	Prep for next season

Approximate In-Class Rehearsal Outline

15 min.-Warm-up: long tones, scales, etc.

15 min-Sight-reading exercises.

1 hr.-Performance repertoire, All-Region/Solo and Ensemble practice.

Monday Evening Rehearsal Outline

4:30-5:15- Sectionals or warm-up and music rehearsal

5:15-5:30- Transition to field

5:30-7:30- Show rehearsal

*Note: Rehearsal schedules may be adjusted for 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 regularly scheduled day will be determined by the band director.

Band Class Periods

Band classes during the school day are divided by instrument type. Please make every effort to enroll in the correct period relating to your instrument. It is understood that at times, scheduling conflicts with other classes may be inevitable. If a scheduling conflict does occur, the next best option would be to enroll in any band class your schedule will allow, even if it does not match your instrument type. **ALL BAND MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO ENROLL IN 0 PERIOD EVERY YEAR FOR BOTH THE FALL AND SPRING SEMESTERS.** 0 period is crucial as it is the main time the band rehearses as a full group. Students not enrolled in 0 period band cannot participate in band contests and therefore cannot be selected as a primary marcher (more information on that below). The current schedule of band classes at El Paso High is as follows:

0 Period-Full Band

1st Period-Percussion

2nd Period-Brass

5th Period-Jazz

6th Period-Woodwinds

*Note: students who are *only* participating in colorguard are required to enroll in 0 period band (Fall semester only) *and* a dance class. Any student enrolled in a band class during the regular school day is *required* to play an instrument and complete playing assignments. Students may double block (take two) band classes during the school day if their schedule allows with permission of the director. Students who double block band classes will be required to audition for All-Region and perform a class 1 solo for solo and ensemble contest as final test grades.

Band Student Leadership

Band student leaders fall into two categories: field officers and administrative officers. Instructional officers include drum majors and section leaders; administrative officers include a president, vice president, and quartermasters. Instructional 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 rehearsals and performances
- Begin full band warm-up
- Assist in teaching marching fundamentals and drill
- Assist in running sectionals (filling in if a section leader is absent)
- Lead by example in terms of musicianship, punctuality, work ethic, and character

Section Leaders

- Run sectionals
- Teach marching fundamentals and drill to their sections
- Make sure everyone in their section knows their music by the required time
- Lead by example in terms of musicianship, punctuality, work ethic, and character

Band President

- Acts as the main student representative of the band program to the school and community at large by sitting on the Tiger Leads Council and giving interviews or public speeches if needed
- Ensures all other officers are performing their duties and assists them when necessary

Vice President of Operations

- Also represents the band on the Tiger Leads Council and assists the band president in carrying out their duties
- Oversees and assists all quartermasters in carrying out their duties such as band room cleanup, uniform/equipment inspections, copying music, etc.

Vice President of Communications and Recruitment

- Also represents the band on the Tiger Leads Council and assists the band president in carrying out their duties
- Maintains a positive, welcoming, and professional presence of the Tiger Band on social media by posting videos/pictures of all activities/events
- Reaches out to potential future members of the program via these social media posts

Quartermasters

- Organize and help maintain all school-owned instruments, equipment, and uniforms
- Assist in taking/updating an inventory of all school-owned instruments, equipment, and uniforms
- Check in/out and inspect uniforms
- Help maintain/organize the music library
- Assist in keeping the band room clean

*The 2026-2027 Tiger Band will feature five quartermaster positions: one woodwind quartermaster, one brass quartermaster, one percussion quartermaster, and two uniform and sheet music quartermasters.

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

The number of student leaders chosen will depend on the projected size of the band program for the following year. The overall size of the band will determine the number of drum majors chosen. 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 a brass section leader/captain. Likewise, particularly large sections may require more than one section leader. These determinations are made each year at the discretion of the band directors.

If a leadership position does not have any viable candidates auditioning, the director has the authority to directly appoint a student to that position. The director also has the right to remove any student from a leadership position if they fail to meet the expectations of their position as outlined in a contract they will need to sign if selected.

Band Staff

One of the most challenging aspects of administering a band program is the fact the performance techniques of all the instruments are so different from one another. Playing a trumpet is quite different from playing a saxophone which is very different from playing percussion and so on.

Additionally, marching band requires learning how to move expressively and the use of visual components. As a result, a team of specialized instructors in each of these areas is needed to help the different sections of the band perform at their absolute best. While band directors learn the basics of all instruments while earning their music education degrees, instructors who have spent many years performing on a certain instrument can teach it on a more advanced level. It should be noted that band directors also have main instruments they themselves have performed on since their school years, so most band programs devote more resources to hiring instructors of instruments their director(s) do not specialize in. Below are the criteria and duties for members of the band staff:

Woodwind and Brass Instructors

- Must be classified at least as a junior or senior at a four-year college/university with a major or minor in music OR already hold a degree with a major or minor in music.
- Give weekly lessons/masterclasses on instrumental fundamentals, All-Region audition music and solo/ensemble music, etc.

Percussion Instructors

- Must be classified at least as a junior or senior at a four-year college/university with a major or minor in music OR already hold a degree with a major or minor in music.
- Must attend summer band as well as all performances of the band program throughout the school year.
- Oversee the percussion section as a whole and develop fundamental performance skills in all areas of pitched and unpitched percussion instruments in both marching and concert band settings.

Marching/Visual Instructors

- Must have graduated from high school at least two years prior to hiring.
- Teach fundamentals of marching.
- Assist in coordinating the visual aspects of the marching show to reinforce and complement its musical aspects.
- Must attend summer band, Monday evening rehearsals, as well as all marching band performances throughout the season.

Guard Instructors

- Must have graduated from high school at least two years prior to hiring.
- Must have a minimum of four years performing experience in colorguard/winterguard.

- Instruct guard members in aspects of dance and flag technique.
- Must attend all guard practices and performances throughout the school year.

Band Awards and Honors

Letters

A band student can earn a letter (lyre) by meeting the following criteria:

1. Be a member of the Tiger Pride Band the entire year, participating in both marching and concert seasons.
2. Participate in all full band performances throughout the year with no unexcused absences.
3. Perform a solo for solo and ensemble contest.

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 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 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 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 soloists or as part of a small ensemble 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 can perform grade 3 (middle school level) music.

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. 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 John Philip Sousa Band Award

First introduced in 1955 by The Instrumentalist Magazine, the John Philip Sousa Band Award recognizes outstanding musicianship and dedication to a band program. 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 Instrumentalist Magazine with the permission of Louis Armstrong's widow.

Graduation Stoles

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

- Be a member of the Tiger Pride Band the entire year, participating in both marching and concert seasons.
- Participate in all full band performances throughout the year with no unexcused absences.
- Participate in solo and ensemble contest.
- For guard members, participate in all contests/performances during both marching AND winterguard seasons during the year.

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 which help pay for a variety of activities, equipment, and staff. The band boosters also provide band students with various social activities throughout the year, such as the summer band cookout and band banquet. All individuals interested in joining the band boosters must first register as a volunteer through EPISD. For more information on the booster organization, please consult the band website (listed near the end of this handbook).

Band/Guard Fair Share and Funds

Like any performing group, band and guard are expensive activities. EPISD does provide some funding for the program, however, all these funds typically go towards purchasing new instruments and sheet music (just one good quality instrument can cost between \$2,000 and \$12,000, depending on the type of instrument). Additionally, school funds can only be used with EPISD-approved vendors, which can limit where and when 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 pay for the following:**

- Field props, printed screens, colorguard silks
- Securing the copyright for music used in the marching show
- Marching show music arranger, drill writer, and instrumental instructors, plus UDBapp accounts for students.
- Marching show percussion arranger
- Food for students during full band contests and before every football game
- Full band contest entry fees not covered by EPISD
- Equipment truck rental fees
- Band shirts

The fair share is \$200

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.

Additional Expenses for Required Materials

It is important to realize that additional out-of-pocket expenses may be needed for certain performance materials. Some of these are one-time expenses, others may be required each year of enrollment. Examples include:

- Black Drillmaster marching shoes
- Black marching gloves (drum majors will need white gloves)
- Long black socks
- Lyre and flip folder
- Clarinet, saxophone, oboe, or bassoon reeds
- Guard uniforms (marching show, pep outfit, winterguard), makeup, and accessories
- All-Region audition fee (\$15- only applicable to students auditioning for a TMEA All-Region group). This fee is a requirement of TMEA, not the school or band program.

- UIL Solo and Ensemble entry fee (\$15 per student, per event; for example, if a student is performing both a solo and an ensemble, the cost will be \$30). This fee is a requirement of UIL, not the school or band program.
- Food at contests not involving the full band (Solo and Ensemble, Jazz Festivals, etc.)

All payments to the band boosters must be made on the band website:

<https://ephstigerprideband.com>

Anyone without the ability to pay online must contact the band booster treasurer.

It is highly encouraged to have fair shares paid off as early as possible in the fall semester as marching season is by far our most expensive activity.

It is the policy of the band boosters to be completely transparent regarding 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.

Communication is Key!

All students and parents must join our Band app group. The Band app is a private group only for invited and approved members. **The Band app is where weekly announcements, updates, and reminders are posted; therefore, it is essential that everyone has this app to stay in the loop.** Invitations to join the Band app group are available upon request. Any current member can invite a new member. There is also a link to join on the band website.

You can message Mr. V or Mr. R directly on the band app, or through email at: ravilard@episd.org and nrrodrig@episd.org

You can also visit or talk on the phone with Mr. V or Mr. R during their conference periods, but please reach out beforehand to schedule an appointment. Band directors are not always in their offices during their prep/PLC periods and may be at another part of campus, off campus running errands, or attending meetings/other events.

Please note that it is particularly important to follow district protocol when communicating comments, questions, or concerns regarding the band program:

For questions or concerns regarding students or band performances/events, the first point of contact should always be with a band director. For issues regarding students, per administration, parents must limit their inquiries to issues affecting their child only.

For questions or concerns regarding booster activities such as fundraisers, volunteering at events, etc., the first point of contact should be the Band Booster President or Vice President.

If questions or concerns are unable to be addressed after first points of contact, reaching out to an assistant principal is the next step. If, after consultation with an assistant principal, concerns are still unable to be addressed at this level, the campus principal will then be consulted.

District-level administrators such as assistant superintendents or the fine arts director should only be consulted regarding issues at the district level (i.e. involving all or multiple campuses).

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 to the campus level. Also, please be aware that comments and/or concerns made regarding the band program or policies laid out in this handbook to a band director will be documented and reported to a campus administrator and vice versa.

Advice for Parents on How to Have a Great Year

1. Help your student learn how to set priorities. Encourage, remind and offer assistance, but do not do everything for your child. While this may seem daunting, your child, as others have before them, will find time to make friends and excel in academics!
2. Help your student learn time management. Taking responsibility for their own performance (both musical and non-musical) in different groups is one of the most valuable life skills your child will learn through band. Inform your child ahead of time of the consequences of potential misjudgments and let them handle their schedule and situations. We have had many band students achieve success in multiple activities, including football, basketball, swimming, cheer, and many others.
3. Be prompt. It is important to your child's development of self-discipline and it is important to the entire band program. This means arriving 10-15 minutes before rehearsal start times to set up.
4. Stay informed. Read the band handbook and Band App posts from the band directors and boosters carefully and regularly; keep an eye on the calendar. Attend our monthly parent meetings. This is the easiest way to stay up to date on band activities, learn of any changes, and meet other members of your 'band family'.
5. Communicate concerns or conflicts directly and appropriately to the band directors so that they can be resolved. The best way to get in touch is through their school email or by a private message on the Band app. If one method doesn't receive an answer within 24 hours, try another (take a look at the band handbook for communication protocol).
6. Volunteer! The band boosters need the involvement of every parent! This is also the best way to get to know other students and band parents. Your child will be aware of your support, just don't expect them to always acknowledge it. :)

7. Participate in the band's activities by cheering at competitions and half-time performances. It is hard to perform your best to an absent or silent audience. The band will perform better with you cheering in the stands!

8. Be flexible. In the band world, as in all performing arts, plans can sometimes change in a minute! Mistakes will occasionally be made, and unanticipated circumstances will sometimes occur, so take them in stride and view them as opportunities for improvement.

9. **KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BIG PICTURE!** While there are definitely opportunities for individual showcases and recognition, band is an overall team effort. Everyone is always welcome to voice their opinions and have their ideas to be taken into consideration, but ultimately the decisions made by the band directors, staff, and booster board must be in service to **EVERYONE** over the long term, not necessarily just one individual, section, or grade level. This may sound blunt, but please leave your ego at the door. Think more "we", less "me". If disagreements or problems occur, ask yourself: "Will this issue matter in a week? in a month? in a year?"

10. **STAY POSITIVE AND PROFESSIONAL!** Find things to compliment, praise, or encourage. This will pay off the most over the course of the season/year. **EVERYTHING** we do and say as adults has an impact on our students and the program, especially the way we handle disappointments or setbacks. Remember, ultimately band should be fun!

Required Forms for Band Participation

Parents and students must sign complete the following forms prior to participating in band events (due at the beginning of summer band). Students who do not have these forms turned in cannot participate in any events outside of band class (football games, contests, etc.) until they do so.

1. Band Handbook Acknowledgement Form (last page of this document)
2. EPISD Acknowledgement of Rules
3. UIL 8-hour Rule Acknowledgment Form
4. EPISD Parent Permission for Student Travel
5. Physical Evaluation Form
6. Instrument Check-out Form (only if using a school instrument)

These forms can be found on the Tiger Band website and the EPISD Instrumental Music website: <https://episdinstrumentalmusic.weebly.com/forms.html>
<https://ephstigerprideband.com/downloads>

2026 EPHS Summer Band Schedule Info

Week 1: July 20-24

Goals for the week:

- Forward march, back march and slides in an 8 to 5 step size at 100bpm.
- Perform box drill with correct posture.
- Perform warm-up sequence while marking time.
- Perform the following stand tunes: Fight Song, National Anthem, Pretty Fly, Funkytown, Stadium Jams

7:30-8:00- Full band warm up (percussion warm up separately)

8:00-8:45- Sectionals (stand tunes, percussion work on cadences)

9:00-11:30- Marching fundamentals (percussion work on cadences and show music)

11:30-12:30- Lunch (on your own)

12:45-1:45- Sectionals (show music)

1:45-2:30- Full band rehearsal (show music)

***Note: the schedule on one of these days may be altered due to Cub Camp. Check the Band app around that time for the latest updates.**

Week 2: July 27-31

Goals for the week:

- Forward march, back march, and slides at 100 to 160bpm in various step sizes.
- Perform box drill with correct posture.
- Perform warm-up sequence while marking time.
- Perform all stand tunes.
- Perform the music of the first movement of the show.

4:00-4:30- Music warm-up/fundamentals

4:30-5:30- Full band music rehearsal

5:30-5:45- Move to field

5:45-7:00- Marching fundamentals (percussion work on show music)

****WE WILL BE HAVING OUR ANNUAL BAND POOL PARTY THE EVENING OF JULY 31****

***Note: we will may be making adjustments to the schedule for this second week due to tentative EPISD activities. Check the Band app around that time for the latest updates.**

BE PREPARED FOR THE HEAT DURING MARCHING BAND. Strong recommendations for dealing with the heat include:

- Wear comfortable, breathable clothing and athletic shoes.
- Wear a hat and sunscreen.
- Bring your own water jug.
- Come well-hydrated by drinking plenty of water beforehand.

- Acclimate yourself to the heat by safely spending short amounts of time outside before summer band starts.
- Eat a modest breakfast beforehand, but NOT eggs or dairy (the heat can cause these to spoil in your stomach which is not fun).

Attendance is required for summer band. It is during summer band that the final determination of how many marching spots in the show will be made. All woodwind and brass students will be required to demonstrate the following fundamentals for the band staff at the end of summer band for consideration of a primary marching spot:

1. Perform a box drill at 120 bpm.
2. Perform the opening movement of the show from memory.
3. Show proof of registration/enrollment in 0 period band.

Marching Show Spots/Positions

Based on the results of these demonstrations, the band staff will determine primary and secondary positions. Secondary marchers can challenge for a primary spot every Monday evening or Thursday morning rehearsal. They may “shadow” any primary marcher they are interested in challenging beforehand to learn their drill. Challenge results will be based on individual marching and playing technique. For marching band contests, secondary marchers may be assigned to manipulate props and/or operate sound equipment or perform their music from the sideline. Secondary marchers may also be assigned a primary marching spot if a primary marcher has excessive absences, tardies, or is academically ineligible. **The number of primary marching spots for the 2026 show will be determined at the end of the first week of summer band.**

Band Handbook Acknowledgement Form

“I have read all the information in this handbook regarding the El Paso High School Tiger Pride Band and I understand all that is required of me in this organization in terms of rules, policies, procedures, consequences, and supplies. I understand that I am making a commitment to this program and will always strive to do my best in everything I do both inside and outside of band class. I further understand that any policies or procedures outlined in this handbook may be altered or adjusted by the band director or administration under special or unusual circumstances.”

Student name (print): _____

Student signature: _____

Date: _____

Email: _____

Parent/guardian name (print): _____

Parent/guardian signature: _____

Date: _____

Email: _____