

Douglas MacArthur High School Band



2025-2026 HANDBOOK

2025-2026 Band Directors and Staff

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Douglas MacArthur High School Band

Member Handbook

**CONGRATULATIONS on your decision to be a part of the fine tradition of the
MACARTHUR HIGH SCHOOL BAND!**

This Handbook is designed as a guide for parents and students. It includes specific details concerning all aspects of the Band program, including the Color Guard (Flags). Every effort has been made to make this handbook complete; however, the Band Director and/or school administration have the right to make revisions during the school year. All information in this handbook is superseded by the NEISD school board, district administration, and campus administration policy.

MISSION STATEMENT

The intent of the MacArthur Band programs is to offer every student a well-rounded and enriching music education through participation in individual and group performance-based activities. Throughout their band experience, members develop the values of teamwork, commitment, pride and accomplishment. By successfully developing these skills, the MacArthur Band proudly represents our school district and community.

ABOUT THE BAND

MacArthur High School is proud to hold the title of the original school of North East Independent School District. Opened originally as North East Rural High School, the school was renamed Douglas MacArthur High School for the 1958-1959 school year. The MacArthur band prides itself on over 70 years of traditions dating back to the first bands of the school. The fight song is based off of the University of Wisconsin fight song, "On Wisconsin", and the school alma mater is based off of the American Civil War song "Aura Lee". Over the course of the school history, the band has been awarded consistent first division ratings in both UIL Marching and Concert contests and was named State Champions of the UIL Marching Contest in both 1985 and 1986. The proud history of the band continues today as students strive to achieve the highest level of recognition for a Texas marching band.

BAND ORGANIZATIONS

MARCHING BAND

The Marching Band is a combination of all Concert Bands. Marching Band members receive a P.E. waiver for membership and a Fine Arts credit (two-year participation requirement). The MacArthur High School Band performs at all pep rallies, football games, and marching contests. Membership in the Marching Band is required of all Band students. Positions on the field for the Marching Band are determined through audition by the Directors based on memorization of the required music, marching skill, attendance, and the overall attitude and self-discipline of the student.

Special Note: Marching shows are developed during the previous school year. Due to this, drill design and positions on the field are determined based on enrollment projections. Drill design cannot be re-written for the exact number of students enrolled in the program in the late summer and fall semester. When there are more students in particular sections than positions charted for the field, students may be assigned a shared or temporary position with another student or assigned to a position on the field that marches only at halftime during games. Unfortunately, due to "No Pass, No Play," extenuating circumstances, and/or the above mentioned, a position cannot be guaranteed for every student on the field for competition.

DRUM LINE

Drum Line auditions are held during the spring semester of the previous school year. The percussion director at MacArthur High School assigns students specific percussion instrument parts for the upcoming fall Marching Band. The decision of the Percussion Director concerning instrument/part assignments is final. There will be extra rehearsals required of members of the Front Ensemble and Battery Percussion.

INDOOR PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

The competitive indoor percussion ensemble will run every two years to allow for a balanced education with marching and concert percussion. Selection for the ensemble will be determined by competitive audition and open to all students in the

program. The indoor percussion will compete in its own events, similar to the indoor color guard program. Spots in the ensemble will be determined by the percussion director and will be final.

COLOR GUARD

Color guard is a competitive performing art. Performers combine their equipment (flags, rifles, and sabres) with interpretive body movements (dancing/marching/acting). During the fall, Color guard members perform with the band at all football games, UIL competitions, and contests as selected by the directors. Color guard members perform in winterguard contests at various venues in the Spring. During winterguard, members develop an indoor, color guard-specific show and perform at multiple competitions leading to the state finals. Members will audition for winterguard teams at the end of the fall semester.

CONCERT BANDS

Band students are placed into concert bands by audition according to their performance level, participation, eligibility, and instrumentation needs. The concert bands provide for a wide range of playing abilities and require a certain time commitment. The director's decision on band placement is final. Students will have the chance to reaudition their band placement at the end of the fall and spring semester.

Special Note: There may be more percussionist than percussion spot in the different concert ensembles. Unfortunately, the nature of the percussion section involves a fixed number of parts for each concert piece that cannot be doubled by multiple players. Acceptance into one of the concert bands will be determined by competitive audition and the percussion director will make final decisions. Students not involved in a concert band will still be a part of the percussion ensemble, and will have performances at the end of the spring just like the performing bands.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Membership in the Jazz Ensemble is by audition and/or invitation only and must be approved by the Directors. A student must be enrolled in a concert band to participate in the Jazz Ensemble.

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE MUSIC CLASS

All students who wish to be in an Instrumental Ensemble course must be a member of one of the regular performing ensembles as well. Students are required to participate in all TMEA and UIL events. They must perform a UIL Class I Solo and Ensemble piece as part of their participation in the course. Other requirements may be included within the course's scope. There must be a minimum number of students enrolled in Instrumental Ensemble class for the course to be scheduled. Students may be required to participate in private instruction at the student's own expense.

AUDITIONS/CHAIR PLACEMENT

Every band member must audition at the end of each semester. The results will reflect the instrumentation selected by the directors for each ensemble. Audition results are final.

Chair placement can vary depending on the needs of each piece. For example, the first chair may play a 1st part for one piece, and a 3rd part for another.

BAND FEES & OBLIGATIONS

There are fees and obligations required of each member that are due at the annual "Round Up" fee collection. These fees and obligations are described in detail in an information handout distributed in the previous spring. The amounts of these fees vary with the needs of the individual student. Freshmen and first year students to the program usually have the higher totals due to the need to acquire Marching Band shoes, band gear, etc. The amount usually decreases each year for upperclassmen, assuming that there would not be a need to replace reusable items. Some fees such as the general band fee, uniform cleaning/maintenance fee, and gloves will be a yearly obligation throughout a student's career in High School Band. There will be several opportunities to fundraise money towards student fees and will have the option to volunteer working concessions for additional credits towards fees. MBPA board members qualify for an additional \$100 discount off a student's band fees.

BAND SHIRT/UNIFORM ACCESSORIES

Formal band uniforms are provided by NEISD for the musicians and will be kept at the school between events. The uniforms will be sent out together for cleaning several times during the year. Students are fitted for a uniform as needed throughout the year. Students are responsible for ensuring they have all appropriate parts of the uniform for performances. Uniform parts will depend on the type of performance (concert band, marching band, color guard, etc.). Students must also purchase the band attire as part of an informal uniform. Before departing for an event, students must check in with their bus' chaperone with everything needed for each performance.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

NEISD may provide a school own instrument as needed, and if one is available in the inventory. School instruments are checked out for a maintenance fee of \$35.00. The fee covers only the general maintenance of the instrument. *Any damage done to the instrument will be the sole responsibility of the student to have repaired.* Since NEISD carries no instrument insurance, it is highly recommended that the instrument be added to your household insurance policy to cover any theft or damage that might occur. If the instrument is stolen or damaged while checked out to a student, it is the student's responsibility to replace or repair the instrument.

ELIGIBILITY

Students must be academically eligible (passing all classes with at least a 70) at the end of each grading period, with the exception of the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading evaluation.

The University Interscholastic League (UIL) mandates every school in the state to check student academic eligibility after the first 6 weeks of school. Since NEISD schools are on nine-week grading periods, our students are checked for academic eligibility after the nine-week grading period as well. However, students who lose eligibility at any nine week grading period may regain eligibility at the three-week progress report or the at the six week progress report. In order to achieve or regain academic eligibility, students must pass **ALL** regular classes with a grade of seventy or higher.

Students earning a grade lower than 70 in a Pre-AP, AP, Honors, or other advanced class may obtain an eligibility waiver from the campus principal. Students are responsible for obtaining and filling out the waiver form promptly (one week after progress reports).

Students are not suspended from practices, rehearsals or concerts unless the event is a pep rally, admission is charged or if the event is a competition. A few band activities are designated by the state as curricular. These activities are a natural extension of the learning taking place in the classroom. An example of this type of activity is a free, non-competitive public concert. This type of activity is not governed by state eligibility law.

SECTIONAL REHEARSAL POLICY

Attendance at sectionals is required throughout the school year. Section rehearsals are scheduled before or after school to accommodate most students in each section. Students receive a grade for participation and attendance at sectionals. Students who participate in other school sponsored activities are expected to split time between after-school activities.

SPECIAL NOTE:

Student job commitments are not recognized as reasonable excuses from Band performances or rehearsals and are graded accordingly.

Many Band students are employed and participate successfully in Band. We suggest that the Band student visits the calendar on the band website (macbandsa.com) and clears all Band performances and rehearsals. The majority of employers understand and are flexible if they know of Band commitments well in advance, and they understand that Band performances are a required, graded, and vital part of the course work (band directors are glad to talk to employers to validate student commitments.).

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to perform at the end of year Solo and Ensemble event as part of their final grade. The exact performance requirements will be at the discretion of your student's individual band director. Your directors and/or private lesson teachers will gladly assist you in choosing appropriate music for this event. Students may participate in the UIL Solo and Ensemble Competition in February; however, the UIL performance is not mandatory. Earning a first division superior

rating at UIL Solo and Ensemble on a Class 1 Ensemble, or a Class 1 solo *by memory* qualifies the event for the Texas State Solo & Ensemble contest.

TRANSPORTATION

Normal school policy dictates that Band students ride to and return from band performances as a group on school or chartered buses (for long distance contests or games). On occasion, parents desire to pick up their band child at the conclusion of performing events, rather than have them return to the Band Hall on the bus. The procedure that **MUST** be used is as follows:

AFTER all student responsibilities are met and the performing event is over, parents should meet their child at their designated bus and speak with a director. Prior communication and a valid photo ID are needed for the student to leave. *The student is responsible for their own equipment, even if they leave with an adult.*

FLIP FOLDERS/MUSIC, BLACK SOCKS, BLACK GLOVES, UNIFORM, ETC. WILL BE CHECKED **BEFORE** ANY STUDENT IS ALLOWED ON THE BUS. ANY STUDENT NOT ALLOWED ON THE BUS MUST RETURN TO THE END OF THE LINE, REGARDLESS OF SENIORITY. CHAPERONES WILL BE NOTIFIED OF ANY STUDENTS WHO ARE INELIGIBLE OR WILL NOT BE RIDING ON THE BUS BEFORE THE BUSES LEAVE THE SCHOOL.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons to improve their individual playing skills. Rehearsals during the school day provide students with broad goals on their instruments, concepts to improve upon, and train each band member in ensemble listening and performance skills. However, we cannot stress enough the importance of one-on-one private instruction with a *qualified* specialist to aid each student in his or her individual quest for musical excellence. A weekly lesson with a private instructor will give students individual attention on all state music, band music, and fundamental concepts, all of which will improve the band program's overall level.

We are extremely fortunate to have some excellent private lesson instructors in our area who are available during the school day for extra instruction. If you would like to enroll your child in private lessons, please call or e-mail for further information. *All private lesson teachers should be approved by the Band Director before the student begins their lessons.* All consultants and private lesson teachers teaching on campus must be cleared through the school district and DPS fingerprinting and background check process before having any contact with students.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

We are extremely fortunate at MacArthur High School to have outstanding student leaders. These students are valuable to the band program's success. Drum Majors and Color Guard Captains are selected by the band staff and/or judges. All returning students have an opportunity to sign up for leadership positions.

Any student who holds a Leader or Drum Major position and does not demonstrate the responsibilities expected of their post as determined by the Band Director or school administration may be relieved of their position. In the case of removal, a replacement may be appointed by the Band Director. A specific leadership contract will be issued to all leaders prior to accepting the positions that will state the guidelines and responsibilities of the position. This will change year to year to fit the needs of the specific positions and needs of the band.

DRUM MAJOR/COLOR GUARD CAPTAIN AUDITIONS

Any returning student interested in auditioning for Drum Major or Color guard Captain must attend the first Drum Major/Color guard officer audition preparation meeting. Candidates for Drum Major or Guard officer will receive an audition packet at this meeting, which will take place in late Spring. **THE DECISION OF THE DIRECTORS AND JUDGES IS FINAL.**

USE OF BAND HALL FACILITIES

Students are welcome to use the Band Hall practice rooms for practice either before school, after school or during lunch if the facility is available. Sometimes, however, the number of available places is limited, since both sectionals and private lessons take place in these rooms.

We require all Band students to be responsible and keep their equipment and personal items *LOCKED UP* in their lockers at all times. Do not risk the theft of valuables and/or money from purses or backpacks left on the floor or in the restroom. *We must stress again that every effort is made to maintain a secure facility, but the Directors and school district are not responsible for items missing or stolen from the Band Hall (including lockers).* The Directors may temporarily remove and confiscate any equipment or personal belongings left unsecured.

The band hall facilities are only available for practicing, you must be actively practicing your instrument when visiting the band hall.

BAND BOOSTERS

The MacArthur Band Parent Association is a very active, supportive organization. Without the hard work and dedication of the band parents, the band program at MacArthur would not be as successful and productive as it could be. There are many areas in which interested parents can be involved in supporting the band's activities. General meetings of the BPA are held monthly in the Mac Band Hall. Most of the work of the booster organization is done through various committees. For questions, contact one of the band booster officers.

BAND BANQUET

Band students in good financial standing with the program may attend the Band Banquet held in the Spring Semester of each school year. Students must also complete the full year with the program to attend. Students that move in over the course of the year will still be invited to participate. Due to capacity limitations, the banquet may be limited to students and immediate family only. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend the banquet. The banquet will be an excellent celebration of the band's hard work over the school year with a catered meal and a dance to follow. Attire for the event will be formal to promote the celebratory but professional atmosphere of the evening. **Students that owe band program fees may not be allowed to participate in the banquet.**

GRADING/ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The MacArthur Band staff utilizes the NEISD policy on grading. Please view the District's Grading Guidelines in the most current Student Handbook for details. All band and color guard students will be evaluated based on multiple criteria during both fall and spring semesters. Students will be assessed a weekly performance evaluation to include all rehearsals, a weekly preparation and materials grade for all rehearsals and performances, assessments from all performances including football games, contests, concerts, or others noted by the directors, and assessments based on individual skill performance.

Students will be given a weekly participation grade. That grade will be an 80 for missing one rehearsal, 60 for two, and a 0 if you missed all rehearsals for the week.

The individual skill performance assessments will be assigned on a week-to-week basis, and will include checks for memorization of music, memorization of guard work, progress on musical and visual exercises, and continued progress on show music and work. Rubrics for the assignments will be explained before assessment.

A make-up assignment may be made available by decision of the band director. Make-up assignments for missed performances will award an opportunity for the student to earn up to 70% of the original points from the assignment. This is in line with the NEISD grading policy regarding late work. Any work completed after the performance is considered late.

FULL YEAR PARTICIPATION POLICY

MacArthur Band program students will participate for the whole school year, not just by semester. Band at MacArthur is considered a full year course and may only be participated in if committed to the entire year. Financial planning for the entire year takes place in the spring before the new school year begins based on member participation through the spring

semester. Participation in only marching or concert band is not a possibility. Members of the color guard will also perform in both the outdoor and indoor seasons.

ATTENDANCE AND COMMITMENT TO “BE THERE”

Because the MacArthur Band functions as a team and counts on each member’s presence at rehearsal to accomplish the group’s goals, prompt attendance at each band function is crucial to the program’s success. *For attendance purposes, a band function is defined as: Any rehearsal, sectional, performance, trip, or event scheduled by a director.* Each member is responsible for being in the required location, properly attired, with their instrument and all necessary equipment before the appointed time (or call time).

“To be early is to be on time ...”

The directors will establish a call time for each band event. Students should arrive at least 15 minutes prior to this time to allow for unpacking, and other preparations for the rehearsal.

In band rehearsals, we are not only involved with a creative process, but also with many more students than other classroom teachers. Because of this, it is imperative that Band students be organized and prepared for every rehearsal. When an individual cannot play his/her instrument during a rehearsal, it hurts the ENTIRE GROUP and the individual. It is important that the student’s instrument is in good working condition, has a pencil to mark music, and has important accessories such as mutes, reeds, and/or valve oil for EVERY rehearsal. It is also conducive to the creative process that we maintain a quiet, attentive atmosphere in the classroom and on the practice field. Students who do not live up to the high rehearsal expectations of the MacArthur High School Band programs will be counseled, and if necessary, removed from the performing ensemble.

The following guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the marching band:

Tardiness

Students not in the attendance block at the call time will be marked tardy.

Excused Tardiness

Tardiness will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Tutorials, appointments, homework, etc. will not be an excuse for tardiness unless prior arrangements are made and approved by a director.

Unexcused Tardiness

Students that accumulate more than one unexcused tardy per semester are subject to one of the following consequences, issued at the discretion of the directors. One of these consequences may also be issued for each additional tardy:

1. Lowering of weekly rehearsal performance evaluation grade
2. Loss of marching privilege (for one game) at a football game.
3. Removal from the competition band.

Absence

A tardy will be converted to a mark of “absent” 15 minutes after the rehearsal begins.

Excused Absence

The student’s MacArthur High School Band grade will reflect successful performance in rehearsal and performances. Coming to rehearsal prepared continues to reign paramount over all things, enabling students to enjoy successful performances.

Excused absences are limited to:

1. Medical Emergency (doctor’s note required)
2. Death in the Family
3. Academic Intervention

4. School Sanctioned Competition/Athletic event (prior approval from band director required)

For advanced notice absences, students should submit a note, signed by a parent/guardian, no later than 48 hours prior to the missed event. For illness/emergency, students should submit a note, signed by a parent/guardian no later than 48 hours after returning to rehearsal. Students who are continually ill should provide a doctor's note in case there are special instructions the directors need to follow. When in doubt, an absence should be checked with a director.

Without question, schoolwork and academics remain the top priority for all students at MacArthur High School, whether they participate in a varsity sport or co-curricular ensemble. With that said, "I had a lot of homework last night ..." or "I had family over last night..." will not suffice as an acceptable excuse for missing a rehearsal. It is up to the student to learn how to balance their time responsibly. Directors will help with this, but planning is key!

Unexcused Absence

Participation in the MacArthur Band means a commitment to one's own time management and personal improvement and to other team members. All students shall receive detailed information on the number of hours of rehearsal each week to plan for. In signing this handbook, students and parents agree to develop a time management plan that would allow balance between school and band.

Barring unforeseen medical emergencies, loss of a family member, academic intervention or prior approval of another school sanctioned event, no further conflicts are expected or accepted. Should an academic conflict arise, parents should schedule a meeting with the Band Director immediately to discuss possible scenarios. Absences considered unexcused may include events such as driver's training, work, orthodontist/doctor's scheduled appointments, family reunions/get-togethers, and non-school sanctioned events (club sports). Please view the previously stated excused absences for clarification. The attendance policy regarding unexcused absences will apply to all playoff football games too. **Please note that this may include a game over the Thanksgiving holiday in November.**

Students that acquire an unexcused absence, including any playoff games, may be subject to one of the following consequences at the discretion of the directors:

1. Lowering of weekly performance assessment grade.
2. Receive a zero for the performance grade.
3. Loss of marching privilege for one performance.
4. Loss of attendance privilege at one performance.

Students that acquire multiple unexcused absences will receive a zero for each missed rehearsal/performance in the grade book and may also be subject to one of the following consequences at the discretion of the directors:

1. Loss of marching privilege for one or more performance(s).
2. Loss of attendance privilege at one or more performance(s).
3. Removal from the competition band.
4. Removal from the marching band.

Concerts / Performances

Concerts and performances are frequent with all bands. Students should consult their schedules for dates and times. Periodically, the schedule will change, and updates will be made on the band website, in the Charms calendar, sent home, and/or emailed. Concerts have three parts: warm-up, performance, and listening. The concert begins for the students at the warm-up. Punctuality is essential. A concert concludes when the last group performs, and directors have given permission for students to be dismissed. A report or call time will be given.

Concert / Performance Guidelines

1. All concerts are a group effort; thus, attendance is required.
2. All concerts are an extension of the classroom and will be graded accordingly.
3. Students should be punctual and prepared for each performance / concert.
4. In the event a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible for making up all the missed work.
5. The appropriate dress for all concerts will be a formal uniform. (See "Uniforms")
6. Students are expected to stay for the entire concert to appropriately support all bands.

INCLEMENT WEATHER STATEMENT

Marching Band is an outdoor performing activity, meaning that students will often have to deal with the elements for rehearsals and performances. **Please note** that inclement weather is **not** an excuse to miss band practice. The Band Directors will decide to hold, cancel, move, or reschedule practice based on severe weather that may impact the band during marching season. Rain is not considered inclement weather if it is not accompanied by lightning or severe storms. Obviously, the safety of our students is our top priority in our outdoor activity, but marching band is an outdoor activity capable of and frequently takes part through non-ideal weather circumstances. Extreme heat, rain, and cold will all take place over the season. We also follow the new UIL guidelines with a WBGT (Wet Bulb Globe Temperature) thermometer.

Students must be prepared for all weather circumstances. The student is responsible for proper weather attire. Proper athletic shorts, shoes, and loose-fitting shirts will be required during hotter practices. A rain jacket, sweatshirts, sweatpants, and any other protective cold weather/rain gear will be required for those circumstances too. Please be reminded that all clothes must allow students to complete their visual responsibilities properly. No jeans or restricted clothing will be permitted at any time. Failure to comply with attire requirements will result in a loss of points towards the materials portion of the student grade for that week.

GENERAL CONDUCT/EXPECTATIONS

Band members will observe all policies set forth by the North East Independent School District and Douglas MacArthur High School, in addition to the following guidelines, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting. Students discipline will be addressed following the Band Demerit System,

1. All students must always conduct themselves properly. Display of affection, profanity, temper, flagrant violation of rules, etc., will not be tolerated. Individual behavior during a band function reflects the entire group.
2. Students will follow the director's instructions.
3. Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area ready to work at the set rehearsal or call time.
4. Students will bring all equipment including music, pencil, instrument, and all supplies to rehearsals daily. (See detailed supply list for each instrument.)
5. Students will keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.
6. Students will not consume food, drinks, candy or gum during any rehearsal or class.
7. Students will not play on equipment they do not own or have permission from a director to use. Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
8. Students should ask for permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so our time will be utilized efficiently.
9. When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.
10. Students will respect the property of others, and return their equipment, including shoes, to its proper storage place when not in use. Each student is responsible for keeping his or her storage area clean.
11. Students will not enter the directors' offices without permission.
12. Students will not deface or mark music stands, walls, chairs, etc.
13. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area and keep said storage area clean and neat in appearance. Students who demonstrate great difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band hall.
14. Students will utilize their assigned storage slot/locker for instrument cases during rehearsals. Cases should not be brought into rehearsal areas unless requested by a director.
15. Any behavior not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand and the band program. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both public and private events.
16. **CELL PHONES ARE NOT PERMITTED ON A STUDENT'S PERSON WHILE IN ANY MACARTHUR BAND UNIFORM OR DURING INSTRUCTIONAL TIME.** Phones are to be left on the bus, in the band hall, or at any point of origin for the performance. Since games, rehearsals, and performances outside of the school day are a natural extension of the classroom, the district policy regarding electronic devices will be extended to functions outside of the school day. This will eliminate unnecessary distractions. Cell phones must be used on the buses or after practice to phone home but will be collected by the Band Director if seen during a game, or performance.

17. At no time should a student be in the practice rooms, uniform room, or ensemble rooms without permission from a director.

18. Students will treat other members of the program with respect. There is a strict no-tolerance policy for bullying, gossip, or any other harmful behavior intended to hurt another student in the program.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

All students in the MacArthur band program are representatives of the program and greater MacArthur High School. This includes our presence on social media. All students, regardless of leadership or general membership position in the band program, will be held accountable for any negative representative of the band program or high school on any social media platform. Any student found to have posted inappropriate language as determined by the band director, inappropriate pictures or images as determined by the band director, offensive commentary on anything related to the music program, offensive commentary on anything related to MacArthur High School, or any other negative representation of the band program will be subject to potential immediate removal from the band program.

BAND DISCIPLINE PLAN

For a violation of any State Law, NEISD policy, MacArthur High School rule, UIL rule, Mac Band rule or requirement, the following disciplinary actions may be imposed at the discretion of a director:

1. Student correction and/or counseling
2. Parent notification
3. Placement on Behavior Contract
4. Office referral
5. Loss of band privileges
6. Exclusion or removal from the band program

The previously stated information outlines the general plan for most disciplinary issues. However, the disciplinary action imposed in each instance will be at the discretion of the Band Director, who will consider the nature and severity of the conduct, the circumstances of the conduct, its frequency and prior warnings or action, consistency of action considering other situations, and other relevant factors. All appeals must follow the "Chain of Command" listed below. Following discussion with a director, appeals may then go to the Vice-Principal. Appeals to the Principal's office should be made only after the Band Directors and then the Vice-Principals have responded.

PARENT CONFERENCES

The preferred method of contacting the Band Directors is by e-mail. Addresses can be found on the handbook's front page and on the band website. Should a conference be necessary, parents/guardians may e-mail a band director to schedule a conference. Parents/guardians may not simply show up in the band hall and expect to have a conference with a band director, as we have classes to conduct and responsibilities throughout the day. We ask parents/guardians to use common courtesy by following the Chain of Command (listed below) if a question or concern should arise.

Chain of Command:

1. Director involved in question or concern
2. Head Band Director
3. Vice-principal for your child
4. Principal
5. Director of Fine Arts

REMOVAL FROM THE BAND PROGRAM

A student may be removed from the Band program for severe disciplinary action as determined by the Band Director and/or school and district administration, especially when placed in an alternative location (AHS, suspension, etc.). This will include, but not be exclusive to drug, tobacco and/or alcohol use or possession, use of anything considered a weapon, criminal mischief, or any other unlawful act towards any property or towards another student or adult. Band fees paid will not be refundable. All outstanding Band fees will remain due to the Band organization.

TRAVEL GUIDELINES

The band will frequently travel on both school and commercial buses. Student conduct is expected to be at the highest level on all trips.

1. Students must travel to events and return from events on the bus. Any student wishing to arrive or leave with their parent/guardian must notify a director in writing prior to the event. A decision will be rendered based on the circumstances provided. After being approved by a director, the student must inform the bus's parent chaperone of their intent to leave with their parent after the event.
2. Students must have all necessary forms completed and returned to travel on any trip with the band.
3. While on the bus, students will:
 - A. Always remain seated
 - B. Sit properly in a forward position
 - C. Keep the bus clear of food, drinks, and debris
 - D. Keep all body parts inside the bus
 - E. Remain silent when addressed by person in charge on the bus
 - F. Refrain from loud, boisterous talking, screaming, whistling, etc...
 - G. Refrain from public displays of affection

CHAPERONES

Our chaperones bring together the finest volunteers at MacArthur High School to ensure the safety of our band students while on trips. Students should afford chaperones the same respect they would a Band Director or member of the MacArthur High School Administration. Chaperones will communicate with and follow the procedures of the head chaperone, who will be a member of the Band Booster Board. This person will be the immediate source of communication to the band directors and will pass along any new policies and procedures.

PERFORMANCE / REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS FOR CONCERT ENSEMBLES

Each of the concert ensembles will perform at various times throughout the school year. Students are expected to participate in the performances of their assigned ensemble. Failure to participate in either rehearsals or performances will result in student removal from the organization at the discretion of the band directors. (See attendance policies as stated under "Unexcused absences.")

Performances of the concert ensembles will include but are not limited to the following:

- Fall Concert
- Winter Concert
- Fine Arts Festival
- Spring Concert
- Band Festivals / Pre-UIL Contest
- UIL Contest

INSTRUMENT SUPPLIES

The following is a list of supplies members must have at each rehearsal. This list is not all inclusive:

- A. All issued music
- B. Pencil
- C. Instrument
- D. All supplies relative to their instrument.
- E. All marching related equipment (during marching season)
 1. Band shoes
 2. Drill / chart book
 3. Lyre / plastic sheets
 4. All issued music in a flip folder
 5. Other marching equipment as needed.
- F. Tuner & Metronome
- G. Technique Book as required by student's director

UNIFORMS

Formal band uniforms are provided by NEISD for the musicians and will be kept at the school between events. The uniforms will be sent out together for cleaning several times during the year. Students are fitted for a uniform at the end of the summer before school begins. Students are responsible for ensuring they have all the appropriate parts of the uniform for the occasion. The requirements depend on the performance's needs and will be specified by the directors.

Each incoming band student must purchase a pair of black marching shoes. Color guard members may need to purchase black and/or tan shoes, depending on the uniform design. The band shoes are purchased one time only through the Band Boosters (unless the student must re-order due to a size change, normal wear and tear, color change (for guard) or loss). *Marching shoes are worn with long, solid black socks at all performances. During concert season, with the formal uniform, ladies will wear closed-toe dress shoes with no more than a 1" heel.*

Uniform Guidelines

- **No jewelry may be worn during performances.** This ensures uniformity within the ensemble and the safety of the members.
- No fingernail polish is allowed. Additionally, nails must be worn naturally without enhancements.
- No make-up is allowed except show make-up requirements. This will be specified by the directors. Wind players are not allowed to wear lip color/gloss, as it damages instruments. Color guard make-up restrictions will be defined by the color guard director based on the uniform for the current show. They should always default to the requirements of the color guard director in this instance.
- Black shoes and black socks are worn with the uniform. If a student is wearing heels, they should be kept to a conservative height.
- Shakos will be issued with the uniform. Students will be assigned a shako number and are responsible for taking their shako and shako box to and from events.
- Uniforms are stored at school. Students pick them up before each event and hang them up afterwards.
- Formal uniforms will be issued. Further guidelines for concert attire will be given prior to performances.
- Directors will address how hair should be worn for the type of performing event. Students are expected to adhere to those guidelines.

Uniform "DO's" and "DON'Ts"

DO's

- Inspect your uniform completely. Report any torn seams, hems, or broken snaps immediately to parent volunteers or the uniform crew so the uniform can be repaired before the next performance.
- Keep track of all the uniform parts. Report any missing parts immediately. Very often they show up, but we need to know to start looking.
- Always check to see that you are indeed putting on your uniform. If for some reason the numbers get mixed up, it is very difficult to find the right uniform once everyone is already dressed and on the buses!
- Hang your uniform properly and completely on the appropriate rack every time. Also make sure to hang your uniform in numerical order.
- Put your name IN your band shoes with permanent ink. We have a big problem with shoes being misplaced. Don't mark the soles of your shoes for ID – it shows when you march.
- Remember to bring YOUR shoes for every performance.
- Wear the CURRENT YEAR member shirt (or previous year's "M" Shirt), compression shorts, and knee high solid black socks under your uniform. If your seams rip (and it DOES happen), we want only black to show. If needed, black socks can be purchased from the uniform closet.
- Clean out your shako and shako box. Never store anything in your hat box!
- Respect the uniforms we have and understand they are a huge financial investment that must last us more than one year. Parent volunteers and the uniform crew spend a lot of time making sure the uniforms are ready to go for the next performance.

DON'T's

- Do not wear headgear or covers of any sort with the uniform. Nothing, except the official band hat (shako), can be worn on the head while representing the MacArthur Band. No bandanas or any other headgear will be allowed.
- Do not drag your uniform on the ground.

- Do not wad up your uniform and stuff it in your locker, backpack, garment bag or car trunk.
- Do not touch the plume feather with your hands. Carefully remove the plume from the shako by the base and hand the plume to the band parents that collect them.
- Do not put on or take off your bibbers with your shoes on. Pant hems get torn out easily this way and the bibbers get dirty. Always put on your shoes AFTER your bibbers and always take off your shoes BEFORE your bibbers.
- Do not hang your jacket hanger (with the jacket on it) on the front or back of your bibbers while walking to/from the bus. This can damage the bibbers.
- Do not switch uniform parts with any other student without permission from a parent volunteer. For example, if you switch hats with someone and the hat is lost or damaged, YOU will be charged because that piece of equipment is YOUR responsibility.
- DON'T USE YOUR CELL PHONE while in public when in uniform (concert or marching). You may use your cell phone once back on a bus, or in the band hall.
- Do not run when in uniform unless told by the directors to do so in an emergency.

Inspections

Prior to student departure for a marching band performance, students must pass a uniform inspection. To board the bus, students must have complete uniform, music, flip folder, water bottle, and other components for the marching performance. Students who do not pass the uniform inspection will not be allowed to attend the event. Students that miss an event due to a failed inspection will be treated as an unexcused absence.

MacArthur High School Band Member Handbook Agreement

By signing this document, I agree that I have received and understand the guidelines set forth in the MacArthur High School Band Parent/Student Handbook. Without signature, I understand that the policies and procedures set forth for the band will still apply.

Parent signature _____

Parent printed name _____

Student signature _____

Student printed name _____

RETURN BY *Friday, August 16, 2024.*