

# **Traditions, Policies And Guidelines**

**of the  
2015-2016**

## **Brenham Cub Band**

**Be The  
CUB  
BAND**

<http://classroom.brenhamisd.net/webs/cubband/>

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## **THE MAN IN THE GLASS**

When you get what you want in the struggle for self,  
And the world makes you king for a day,  
Just go to the mirror and look at yourself,  
And see what that man has to say.

The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life,  
Is the one staring back from the glass.  
He's the fellow to please, never mind all the rest,  
For he's with you clear to the end  
And you've passed your most dangerous difficult test,  
If the man in the glass is your friend

You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years,  
And get pats on the back, as you pass,  
But the final reward will be heartaches and tears  
If you have cheated the man in the glass.

*---Author Unknown*

# **ATTENDANCE**

**Attendance is our number one priority!!!** First, we want to be sensitive to the individual needs of students and their individual circumstances. However, when those needs and circumstances are in conflict with the bands goal of performing at the highest level, the interests of the many take precedence to the needs of the individual. Sometimes this is painful for the individual but the bottom line is that students in the band work very hard trying to be outstanding and deserve to feel like they have the best chance to give their most outstanding performance every time they perform. If individuals miss too much practice time, it makes it impossible for band members to feel like they have prepared to have their best performance. By virtue of being a member of the band, attendance at all performances and rehearsals both during school time and outside of school time is necessary and mandatory. Absence and tardiness affect the entire band. Sometimes, when students miss rehearsal, it is a sign of a tired and not "hard working" attitude. If that is the case, that kind of attitude can be a virus to the students around them. That is another factor we can use when we make decisions about band placements, marching spots, awards and even writing recommendations.

## **Other extra-curricular activities and band;**

Some extra-curricular activities work very well with the band and the students don't have to miss any rehearsal or a very limited amount of rehearsal time. Others have overlapping schedules and students have to miss a little to quite a bit of rehearsal time. We want to work with the students and the other organizations but not penalize the hard working band students who are here all of the time.

We have tried to make accommodations for students who are involved with other extra-curricular activities. We have accepted that those individuals will miss more rehearsal than we are necessarily comfortable with. With the complexity of our music and drill, it is important that students who are doing other extra-curricular activities are able to keep up with what we are doing and that the students who are present are not put in unnecessarily difficult performance circumstances. If, as the season progresses, we notice students are falling behind because of extra-curricular absences, we will do everything we can to make sure that the individuals are not put in embarrassing performance circumstances and the other students are not penalized due to lack of sufficient preparation.

To take the pressure off of Freshman who are trying to experience many activities in the fall of their freshman year, we will try to have them share a marching spot with another student. If they are able to keep up and there is a spot, due to grades or other students not showing up to rehearsal, we will work diligently to allow them to march with us at contest. More importantly, this is a situation where they can be a member of the band, sit with us at football games, travel with us to football games and marching contests and help us move equipment on and off the field. But they won't have the pressure of performing our high demand music and drill without adequate rehearsal time. We don't want them to feel overwhelmed and want to quit. As they get older and have marched more, they will be able to handle added responsibility.

## **Marching Band;**

Sometimes, when I talk to students about missing rehearsal, they say things like, "I know my spot." The issue sometimes is not about knowing your own spot. It is about how an empty space on the field affects the other students on the field. The spacing is not accurate and the sound is not present to work on balance and music ensemble concepts.

If a student is at school all day and misses marching band last period without talking to a band director, that is considered an unexcused absence. As a member of a group that is trying to perform at the highest level, it is imperative that the members try to be present at each and every rehearsal. Part of being in band is learning self-sacrifice for the greater good. If a student leaves school right before rehearsal without communicating to a band director, they are not learning one of our most valuable life lessons. If a student does this, we will try to talk to the student and help them understand this important life lesson. If it continues, we will put someone else in their marching spot so the band is not put in a bad position because of their poor judgement.

If someone misses rehearsal and someone else is at rehearsal and does not have a spot, it is not fair to the individual who is present at the rehearsal to march in a spot and if they are capable, to perform in the spot that they show up and rehearse for.

Occasionally, students become ill or injured. Our most important responsibility at that point is the welfare of the student. If a student is sick for a day or has to sit out for part of an occasional rehearsal, when they start feeling better, we will immediately put them back on the field. If, however, a student is sick for a long period of time or on a regular basis, we will consider changing their work load on the field so they can have plenty of time to get feeling better and not have to miss school or re-aggravate an injury. If someone is put in a spot due to someone else's illness, we are not going to remove that person if they are doing a good job. We will work the person who is returning into another spot, if one is available, or find other ways to help. While we do this, we will monitor to make sure the student is not having a tough time health or the injury.

## Concert Band;

If a student is at school all day and misses band last period without talking to a band director, that is considered an unexcused absence. As a member of a group that is trying to perform at the highest level, it is imperative that the members try to be present at each and every rehearsal. Part of being in band is learning self-sacrifice for the greater good. If a student leaves school right before rehearsal without communicating to a band director, they are not learning one of our most valuable life lessons. If a student does this, we will try to talk to the student and help them understand this important life lesson. If it continues, we may lower their chair and even put them in a band that has less commitment level.

### **When a Student is going to miss a rehearsal, the following procedure should be followed:**

- A telephone call must be made to the director in advance of the rehearsal which will be missed. 277-6570 ext. 4050 before rehearsal.
- A note, written by the student, should be given to the director upon return in order that a record of the absence is on file and excused.
- Either, make sure you are caught up before the next rehearsal or if the band director thinks it is necessary the student should make up work missed by making an appointment with the director within 5 school days from the time the student returns.
- Reasons which will be accepted as excused absences will include:
  - Student Illness
  - Death of a family member
  - Other as approved by the director
- Any absence, even when an excused absence, can result in the loss of a marching spot. If an appropriate shadow marcher is available, they will be placed in the open spot. The student that misses part or all of rehearsal will then become a shadow marcher. We need everyone at rehearsals to clean the drill. Any empty spot creates spacing problems.
- A shadow marcher will be allowed to challenge a non-shadow marcher at anytime when a director can judge the challenge. Once the entire drill is on the field, challenges will not be accepted unless a spot becomes available.
- Attendance, tardiness, attitude, and playing and marching ability are all factors in deciding the outcome of challenges.
- **REMEMBER: Work schedules are NOT viable reasons for missing a rehearsal or a performance!!!! Use the calendar provided and plan accordingly!**
- DO not make appointments during our rehearsal time. Remember when you miss a rehearsal, it affects everybody on the team.
- If you miss rehearsal and are at the rest of school and do not come by and talk to Mr. Rettig that day, the absence will be an unexcused absence.
- During marching and concert season unexcused absences will result in removal from the performance ensemble. The student will be placed in a practice room or in an alternate marching spot and given a playing assignment that will facilitate their personal musical growth without penalizing the rest of the ensemble.
- If a student misses a performance, they will be expected to play music selected by a director for a grade that will make up for the missed performance.

**AN unexcused absence from a performance at anytime during the year, can result in immediate removal from the traveling/performing ensemble. A plan will be put in place that will facilitate their personal musical growth without penalizing the rest of the ensemble. At the end of the semester, the student will choose a new elective.**

### **Tardies:**

Please make every effort to be on time to rehearsal! If a student starts is late on a regular basis, we will talk to the student and ask them to take care of their responsibility, If they continue to be late, we will make arrangements to insure that the rest of the band does not get penalized because that individual is missing the ensemble drill time and skill building portion of rehearsal.

Rehearsal start times will be based on Cell Phone time that is beamed down from the satellites. We will try to keep the clock in the band hall set to that time as much as possible. Please plan ahead and take care of your business so you are on time for rehearsal. Being on time is a life skill that is on the top of items employers say is missing in the work force. Remember; "To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late!!!" Please learn this valuable life skill.

### **Tutorials:**

- We used to have rehearsal in the morning and students would come and tell me “the only time the teachers will allow tutorials is in the morning during rehearsal.” Now that we have moved rehearsals to after school, the students tell me “the only time the teachers will allow tutorials is after school during rehearsal.”
- We want our students to excel in their classes! We also want them to learn time management and living up to their commitment.
- We will always allow a student to leave rehearsal for tutorials.
- If a student is leaving rehearsal and they are not able to keep up with their band obligations, drill and music, or causing the band students who are present to the end of rehearsal to not have their most outstanding performances, the band directors will put someone else in that spot or remove the spot from the field. This will allow the student to have additional time for tutorials and allow the band to have a better chance to have outstanding performances.
- If we have reason to believe that a student is not being honest with us and is not going to tutorials but is actually going to hang out with their friends, we will follow up with the teacher they say they are going to see. If a student chooses to be dishonest about missing rehearsal, they are also choosing to not be an active part of the band. The students that are staying, working and sacrificing should have the best chance of performing at the highest level and they cannot do that when their fellow band members are not there to rehearse.

### **Officers:**

It is even more critical for officers to be at rehearsal. They should plan on being early and staying late. Often we have things to be passed out and we need officers there early so they can get the materials and be ready to pass them out. Sometimes we have very brief leadership meetings at the end of rehearsal and officers need to be there to get the information so they are ready for the next rehearsal. If officers make a habit of missing leadership meetings, they can be removed from being an officer.

## **Colorguard, Drumline, and Drum Majors**

Keeping in mind that we are trying to be the best band we can possibly be, and that we put a spot on the field for every Color Guard member, Drum Line member and Drum Major, it is critical that these individuals are at rehearsal. We do not have alternates sitting on the side line that can step in and learn the musical/drill/equipment work that these members are responsible for. If students in these special sections start missing too much rehearsal, we talk to them and try to appeal to their sense of what is right for the greater good. If they continue to miss, there will be consequences starting with standing on the sideline for a performance to being removed from the color guard, drumline or drum majors. Decisions like that would be very difficult and consultation with the parent to let them know that their son or daughter is having a tough time and they need to be present will be had before anything final.

## **Individual Student Evaluations:**

From time to time, a student will be asked to prepare materials for a grade. There are several ways to evaluate student achievement and progress.

- **Live Auditions, check-offs:** Students will be asked periodically to play/march a live auditions for their chair order, marching spot, making sure the students have the skills to play the music we are working on and/or band placement. These evaluations will be done before/after school and during sectional times and/or during rehearsals both during and after school. These grades can be considered test grades and will carry the weight of similar grades in other courses.
- **Memorization playoffs for Marching Band:** Students will be expected to perform from memory each selection from our UIL marching contest show while marking time. This is done on a pass/fail bases. Student officers may assist in listening to these try-outs, but only officers from the same platoon. Band directors may ask to hear individuals check off music at anytime based on “Rehearsal Walk-bys”. Sometimes at marching or contest festivals, individuals may be asked to leave out some or all parts of the music for the good of the rest of the ensemble.

# Awards

It is important to us to recognize students who have displayed outstanding qualities during our marching and concert seasons. Excellence in both musicianship and service deserve praise and recognition.

At the conclusion of the fall Marching Season, we have a small celebration, our glow in the dark show. After we perform that show, we have a short guest speaker and recognize the seniors. Either that night or soon after, the seniors are given a "super marcher" shirt with their graduation year on the back.

In the spring we have our band banquet where we recognize active (currently enrolled) band students for their work during the year. If a Senior chooses not to be in band the second semester of their senior year, they will not be recognized at the banquet. Color guard members that do not play an instrument do not have to be enrolled in band but they must be in the winter guard to be recognized. Some of the awards given out at the band banquet are, John Phillip Sousa, Arion Award, and Distinguished Musicianship Awards: Senior students are recognized for their leadership, musicianship, and by nomination of fellow band members and confirmation of the directors. Personal achievement at musical contests, attitude, and leadership abilities are all considerations for these awards.

Band graduates also are given a chord to wear at the graduation ceremony.

Criteria for wearing a band chord Pink, at Graduation.

1. The graduate must be a current band member \*positively contributing until graduation.
  - a. "Positively contributing" is defined as;
    - i. The student is participating in daily rehearsals
    - ii. The student is showing up on time with their instrument and music (guard equipment)
    - iii. The student is behaving in a manner that is consistent with the standards that have been in place and they have been following all of their time in band.
  - b. Students who are not enrolled in band but participate in a \*positive contributing manner in Winter Guard until the end also meet the \*current band member status.
2. The graduate must have been in band for 4 semesters during High School. We will allow students who participate in High School Band in a different school and transfer to BHS.

"You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do."  
-Henry Ford

## Varsity, Concert, and Symphonic Bands

Brenham High School currently has 3 performing concert ensembles; Varsity band, Concert band, and Symphonic band. The bands are split with 2 objectives in mind. First, we must challenge individuals to better themselves as ensemble players. Second, it is also our goal that all three ensembles be capable of receiving superior ratings at the festivals they attend. Occasionally, there are scheduling conflicts that will not allow some students to be placed in the band that we feel is best for them. Arrangements will be made to best meet our two objectives. Symphonic band is made up of the most outstanding musicians at Brenham High School. The members are expected to perform at the highest levels, be prompt at every extra rehearsal, attend more varsity level festivals, and rise to the highest musical challenges. All members are expected to participate in the All-State process and attend every level that they qualify for. In addition, they are expected to perform at UIL Solo and Ensemble contest.

# Uniforms

When in uniform (either your marching uniform, or your formal concert uniform) you are a representative of your school and your community. The Brenham Band Parents Club and the Brenham School District spent \$100,000 on uniforms. We are very grateful for the contribution. The following information is helpful in keeping the uniforms looking new and professional.

## Marching Uniforms

A marching uniform is issued to each band member at the beginning of the year at no cost to the student. The uniform consists of a hat, coat, collar liner, 2 sashes (a game sash and a contest sash), jacket, gauntlets, and bib pants. Each student will furnish his own black Drill Master shoes and black socks. The school will schedule periodic cleaning of the uniforms. Any additional cleanings needed, as well as any minor repairs, will be the responsibility of the student.

## Care and Wear of the Marching Uniform

- When the uniform is worn, the entire suit is worn unless a director tells you otherwise.
- Use extreme care in hanging your uniforms. If you have not been shown the appropriate way, ask a director and take pride in hanging your uniform correctly.
- No eating in uniform unless a director gives you the food and says it is OK.
  
- Students MUST wear a "wind-type" short or a pair of shorts that will not show lines from seams through the uniform pant. If it gets cold enough to wear layers, a director will tell you what is acceptable to wear underneath the uniform. No lines from shirts or shorts should show underneath the uniform.
- The current year band t-shirt will be worn underneath your uniform. When the weather is hot, you will be allowed to remove your uniform jacket, and your t-shirt will keep a uniform appearance for the band. It also protects the coat from perspiration.
- Head coverings should be worn straight on top of the head. Hair extending below the collar should be worn inside the hat. Tuba players will wear berets; other marching members will wear a shako and plume (unless there are adverse weather conditions). Color guard members will have a coordinating head covering or similar hairstyles.
- The coat will be worn completely buttoned and fastened at all times. This includes the hooks on the collar. Sashes must be properly attached. If a director instructs you to remove your coat please take proper care of your coat.
- Bib pants should be adjusted as long as possible and still have no break in the crease. They are to look like uniform pants—not a casual pant. A "high water" look is appropriate.
- Gloves will be issued before the performances. Please take care in keeping them clean and white.
- Shoes should be kept black and spotless. Only DRILL MASTER Shoes will be worn in uniform. This is a special marching shoe and no other shoe is acceptable.
- Solid, long, black socks should be worn. No other color is acceptable.
- No jewelry should be worn. Clear any exceptions with a band director.
- Auxiliary units may use appropriate make-up, however, all wind and percussion players will refrain from the use of make-up or fingernail polish.

## Concert Uniforms

Every student will receive a formal uniform for the concert season. Gentlemen will receive tuxedo pants and jacket, tie and cummerbund, and a white tuxedo shirt. Ladies will receive a long black dress. This gives a very professional look to our band. Periodic cleaning will be provided by the school. Any other cleaning or minor repairs are the responsibility of the students.

## Wear and Care of Concert Uniforms

- These uniforms wrinkle and crease easily. Please take the time to hang them properly.
- Men should wear black socks and black shoes. Your Drill Master marching shoes are fine.



- Ladies should wear dark hose and closed toe black shoes.
- The tuxedo pants should touch the top of the shoes.
- Dresses should be ankle length.
- Please do not wear jewelry in uniform. Clear any exceptions with a director.

#### Check in and Check out Information

Marching and Concert uniforms will be checked out prior to each performance. IMMEDIATELY following every performance the uniform will be checked in to the uniform room. Uniforms left hanging in the band hall or not checked in can get stolen or damaged. Because of the pride our community has invested in us, like unattended instruments, a \$20 fine (or 4 hours work) will be issued to anyone who leaves his/her uniform unattended. Take care of your uniform—it's a matter of pride.

“When you are passionate you're focused, purposeful, and determined, without even having to try. Your body, mind, and spirit are all working in unison towards the same goal.”  
-Marcia Weider

## Instruments and Equipment

The larger and/or more expensive instruments will be furnished by the school. Those using school instruments are responsible for any damage incurred while the instrument is checked out to them. Those using school instruments will sign an instrument check out card which indicates it is their responsibility and no one else's. Do not let someone else use your instrument! A rental fee of \$40 used for general maintenance on these instruments will be assessed yearly. The most advanced players will receive the higher quality instruments. Instruments may be reassigned at any time at the director's discretion. If a student has unexcused absences to sectionals, rehearsals or performances, shows he/she is not practicing, or displays a poor attitude, instruments will be redistributed.

It is a good idea to make sure any personal instruments are covered on your parent's homeowners insurance or by some other means. We encourage students that have personal instruments to have a written record at home with the make, serial number, and finish. This information is critical if the instrument should be lost or stolen.

Regardless of whether or not your instrument is school-owned or a personal one, make sure it is taken care of.

- Keep your instrument in good working condition all year long. Keep it clean, inside and out: valves or slides working, mouthpiece clean, keys and wood oiled, clarinets swabbed out, etc.
- Have all necessary equipment for your instrument. Keep a supply of valve or slide oil, a minimum of 3 good reeds, swab etc. Have a music lyre and a flip folder/concert folder. Percussionists, be sure that you have sticks and a carrier before each marching performance and all of the appropriate sticks and mallets for marching and concert season.
- Each person is responsible for his own equipment (including music) Drums, cymbals, and mallet instruments must be in cases or covers before leaving on a trip. Everyone should make sure his/her own equipment gets unloaded and put away when we return from a trip. Help keep the band areas as neat and clean as possible.
- Every student will be assigned a locker for his/her instrument and a lock. It is YOUR responsibility to keep your instrument and music in your LOCKED LOCKER! Lockers should be kept clean.
- Instruments left unattended in the band hall are at risk of being damaged or stolen. For this reason, band directors will pick these up and take care of them for a \$20 service fee (or 4 hours work).
- All color guard equipment should be neatly stored in the designated area.
- Keeping our band hall, lockers, practice field and equipment clean and in excellent condition is simply a matter of pride.

# Eligibility

All band members that travel or perform with the band must be eligible in accordance with UIL and BHS rules. If a student loses a position in the band because of eligibility, the position will be filled with an eligible student or it will be closed. If eligibility is regained, the student will not be put back in the original place unless another student has circumstances that would not allow them to participate.

## Inspection and Report Duty

Being a cohesive team of individuals is our most challenging opportunity. The inspection process is designed to assist each member of the band as they prepare themselves mentally and physically for the performance. We can alleviate much of the stress associated with equipment and uniforms through a process of inspecting each person's equipment and uniform. Keep in mind that the inspection process is designed to help you in your preparation for the game or performance. Use this systematic approach to each and every performance you encounter.

Inspection is a serious part of our pre-game activities and will be carried on in a military and business-like manner. Any discrepancy discovered during inspection will result in report duty following each inspection. The checklist for inspection will be posted in the band hall and is provided below.

### Inspection Sequence

1. Assemble
2. Call to attention. Remember to stay silent and still.
3. Officers inspected
4. Platoon Inspected:  
**Music folder and lyre must be present**  
**Proper tailoring and completeness of uniform will be checked.**  
**Cleanliness of instrument, body, and uniform is required.**
5. After the entire platoon is inspected, the entire platoon may go to "check" (remain silent and still). "At ease" is given after inspection is complete. Talking may result in report duty.

## Checklist for Inspection

### Percussion

- Clean drum head, drums
- Polished pit equipment. All wing nuts tightened on pit equipment.
- Properly fitted, neat, **wrinkle free** uniforms and a band shirt
- Clean, freshly polished Drill Master black shoes and full length black socks
- NO visible garments under uniform
- No fingernail polish
- No jewelry—except Senior Rings
- No make-up
- Hair under hat during performance
- Black flip folder and music with name on it
- All music with visuals checked off
- Extra pair sticks- pit, snares, and quints
- Pit- black rubber band for hair

Excellence is not an act,  
It's a Habit.  
-Aristotle

## **Brass**

- Clean and working and polished instrument and mouthpiece
- Properly fitted, neat, **wrinkle free** uniforms, gloves, gauntlets, and band shirt
- No visible garments under uniform
- Clean, full length black socks and Drill Master band shoes
- No fingernail polish, jewelry (except Senior rings), or make-up
- Hair under hat during performance
- Flip folder and music with name on both
- All music checked off

## **Woodwinds**

- Clean and working instrument and mouthpiece
- 3 clean, unchipped, playable reeds or 1 plastic reed
- No visible garments under uniform
- Clean, full length black socks and Drill Master band shoes
- No fingernail polish, jewelry (except Senior rings), or make-up
- Hair under hat during performance
- Flip folder and music with name on both
- All music checked off

## **Colorguard**

Every student needs to show up with a positive attitude and follow the rules and procedures of inspection.

There will be officers on hand with shoe polish, plastic bags, paint markers, nail polish remover, etc. in order to fix some problems with inspection on the spot. Drum Majors will coordinate this. If you forget your black socks, and the band directors have any left, we will SELL you a pair for \$5 or one hour of band hall work.

You will do one report duty for the week the infraction occurs and you must individually work out with a director any problem you may have in serving your report at the assigned time. Report meets on Mondays after rehearsal, or at other times as determined by the students and/or directors. Failure to attend report duty may result in loss of marching spot and/or removal from the performance/traveling ensemble. It is a matter of pride.

Report duty is used as a reminder to take care of your responsibilities. Each of us depends on the other. The following are guidelines that will be used for report duty:

- Report duty will be handled by a director
- Report duty will NOT involve demeaning tasks or services
- Report duty WILL involve service rendered to the Marching Band and/or time spent "Duck-walking", reinforcing Marching Skills, etc.
- Failure to comply with instructions could result in the following:
  - Double duty on Monday night, after rehearsal
  - Band Membership and/or traveling privileges jeopardized until duty is performed
  - Officers who fail to comply with report duty guidelines for the second time will be suspended from their officer duties for one week
  - Officers who get on report duty 2 times could lose marching spot for the rest of the season.
  - Other members of the band who get on report duty 3 times could lose your marching spot for the rest of the season.
  - You may always appeal the report duty to a band director. You will be notified before the game by a student officer if you have been assigned report duty.

# Travel Procedures

The appearance of the band at all times (whether at football games or in formal concert attire) is very important. Make every band's performance a great one—from the time we leave Brenham until the time we come home. Many people will see our band and the impression they receive is a direct reflection of our pride. When traveling with the band, you are no longer just an individual. You are an ambassador of your community. Remember: play your part and do so with pride.

We are lucky to have so many people volunteer their time to go on trips with the band. Let your conduct on trips be a credit to you, your parents, the band, the school, and the community. Be polite to these parents and make sure they know how much you appreciate them. Just remember to be ladies and gentlemen.

## **Calendar and Trip Sheets**

A band calendar of events will be given to each student at the beginning of the year. Mark these dates and check for conflicts immediately. This calendar is passed out to give you plenty of time to resolve any work conflicts and to let your parents know when our events are scheduled.

A trip sheet will be provided before every major event that the band participates in. Football trip sheets are usually given out the Wednesday before the following Friday game. Trip sheet for other major events will be made available in ample time to make any necessary arrangements. These trip sheets will include times, dates, places, and any other important information relative to the trip. Most of the time a map will be provided, but if not, please ask a director—we always have that information. An APPROXIMATE return time will be put on each trip sheet. Please keep in mind that sometimes forces beyond our control cause us to get home early or late. We will give our best guess. Trip sheets and calendar information will be available by e-mail as well as by a hard copy. Please give us your email address if you are not already on our list and would like to be.

# Travel

## **CONTEST:**

The Cub Band participates in the UIL Solo and Ensemble, Marching and Concert and Sight Reading Contests. A Student must be eligible under the UIL rules for the competition and must meet the standards set by the band staff to participate in these contests.

## **FESTIVAL COMPETITION**

The Cub Band participates in music festivals of national recognition each year. A student must meet all eligibility requirements set by the director and UIL. In addition, he/she must meet the monetary obligations of the trip if not otherwise funded.

## **DISTRICT, REGION, AND ALL-STATE BAND**

Students are eligible to compete for positions in these groups on a voluntary basis. The fall music curriculum will include excerpts from these audition materials.

## **BUS TRAVEL**

The Cub Band travels to all varsity football games and many events through out the year. All students will travel as a group via school approved transportation. IF OTHER ARRANGEMENTS NEED TO BE MET, MEMBERS WILL FOLLOW THE SCHOOL DISTRICT PROCEDURES. Please find out about these in advance.

## **COMMON SENSE:**

There are a few rules that are just common sense, but need saying none the less. These rules are not meant to punish students, but when traveling with as many people as we travel with, it is important to have rules that insure safety.

- When in another town, be very careful of the remarks made to local students and citizens. Show good sportsmanship at all times.

## **REMEMBER THE THREE BAND GOLDEN RULES!!!!**

1. Stay in groups of 4 or more band students from Brenham!
2. On ALL overnight trips: NO BOYS IN GIRLS ROOMS AND NO BOYS IN GIRLS ROOMS UNLESS A CHAPRONE IS IN THE ROOM AT ALL TIMES!!!! There are no exceptions.
3. There are times when we have check-ins to make sure everyone is still alive. Never miss these times.

## **Smoking or drinking alcoholic beverages is not allowed.**

This is not only a violation of district policy, but also against the law. If caught, the students will not be able to participate in any other activities the rest of the trip. They will receive appropriate discipline from the school. They will not be able to travel with the band for the rest of the year. They will have to travel to and from contests with their parents.

### **Bus Reminders**

- Be Polite and respectful to the adults on the bus.
- Each person is responsible for his or her own equipment at all times.
- Stay seated when the bus is moving
- File off of the buses in an orderly manner. Do not crowd or push. Do not leave the buses until a Band Director instructs you to do so.
- Normal singing on the bus is all right, but no loud singing or yelling is permitted.
- Please be quiet when going through towns.
- Be considerate of others on the bus in regards to hair spray, perfume, etc.
- Headphones should be worn when listening to music. Please do not bring stereos on the bus that can not be listened to without headphones.
- Find an ending for "The Song that Never Ends!"

### **Bus Clean Up**

- The entire band is responsible for the condition of the buses after trips.
- The parent bus captain will notify each bus about what needs to be done to clean the bus.
- Make sure all trash is passed to the front of the bus during the trip on order to keep the bus clean.
- The bus captain will bring all lost articles and give them to one of the directors. After a reasonable time, the articles will be taken to the school lost and found. Check the green box for any lost items.
- When we travel and eat on the buses, do not bring glass containers. Deposit all trash in trash bags located on each bus.
- Bus Cleanup may be assigned as part of report duty.

## **Chaperone Information**

- The cub band welcomes chaperones and their support. There are a few guidelines to clarify your duties as chaperone. If you are interested in chaperoning, talk to a band director or band parent officer and we will get your name on the list. It can be a lot of fun! Sometimes, young people do not want their parents to chaperone but we take so many busses and travel with so many people, you rarely have to see your son or daughter if they embarrass you. They will actually enjoy having you on the trip so they can get spending money. We cannot take trips unless we have enough responsible adults to help.
- Being a chaperone is a privilege, not a right. If the band directors feel like an individual will have a negative influence on a trip, the band directors have the responsibility to not take that individual as a chaperone on the trip.
- Chaperones will be assigned to buses by one of the Band Parent officers. This bus is your responsibility the entire trip. Please do not change buses without notifying the head chaperone.
- Roll check is the responsibility of the chaperones. The procedure for doing this is as follows: Require the students' undivided attention. Call each student's name and make eye-contact with the student. Do not allow students to answer for each other. **ROLL CALL IS YOUR MOST IMPROTANT DUTY!**
- Before the bus is in motion, the students need to be seated and remain seated until the bus arrives at the destination. There is to be no standing up or moving from one seat to another while the bus is in motion. At no time should any student place arms or head out of the windows.
- Please help our students remember all of the bus rules listed above. If an emergency or problem should occur, instruct the bus driver to stop and get the attention of one of the directors. A flexible, positive attitude will get better results from a student. Allow the band directors to be the heavy disciplinarians.
- It is important for chaperones to have a positive attitude and be willing to go with the flow on band trips. When we travel with this large number of students, things sometimes happen and changes are necessary. Please be willing to be flexible adjust when necessary.
- Chaperones should not bring or consume alcohol or illegal substances on band trips.

# Football Game Procedures

The Cub Band is a direct reflection of Brenham High School and the Brenham community. From start to finish, let's make our image an outstanding one. At the half: point your toes, play your part, and control the field with pride.

There are specific rules and policies that we follow to make traveling with and participating in such a large group easier.

- Stay 100% focused during performances. Our performance starts when we enter the stadium and stops when we exit the stadium.
- Make sure you are responsible for everything that you will need for a football game. This includes: your instrument (including 3 reeds, properly working valves/slides, etc.), your music in a flip folder with your name on it, ALL parts of your uniform (current band t-shirt, trousers, jacket, BLACK socks and shoes, gloves, gauntlets, hat).
- Do not bring food/drinks into the stands during the game. After the halftime show, refreshments will be provided by the Band Parents Club. They will also provide water and sport's drinks on hot games. No eating in uniform is allowed.
- When a director instructs you to do so, get your instrument and get into inspection quickly and remain quiet and attentive.
- Be properly uniformed at all times. Never walk around or sit in the stands with your coat off or collar unbuttoned unless instructed to do so by a director.
- If it is hot, we will all remove our jackets. Take care of it as we are sitting in the stands. Only those with a current year band t-shirt on will be allowed to take off jackets when instructed to do so.
- Move quickly to the stands and be ready to play the Star Spangled Banner, Alma Mater, and Fight song.
- Sit in assigned section. Do not move about or between sections during the game.
- No "noodling". While marching around the track or at anytime the band is not playing. Everybody plays or nobody plays.
- During the game stay focused on your job: entertainment and spirit. Many of the fans come to the game only to watch and listen to you perform. Stay tuned-in to a director or drum major.
- Watch the director at all times when he/she is standing in front of the band. Get music up quickly when it is called. Watch closely for cut offs in the music as the band may have to stop playing suddenly.
- Cheer with the cheerleaders, but avoid "clique cheering". Treat visitors, other directors, and guests politely at all times. No student will be permitted to run onto the field after the game to greet players, etc.
- No one but band personnel is allowed in the band section. This includes the area with the color guard, and pit. Parents may walk in and out to provide necessary assistance, but there is not room for parents to sit with the band at games. No non-uniformed band members are allowed in the band seats.
- Restroom breaks must be cleared by a drum major. Section leaders should be notified as well. Restroom breaks should be short and are not meant for you to socialize or buy things from the concession stand.
- File orderly from the stands to the formation before the half time show. Do not play instruments until instructed to do so. If it is cold, blow air through the instruments to warm-up. Be sure to pick a plume and gloves. Get quickly into formation so the entrance on to the field can be made as soon as halftime begins. Do not loiter around out to formation.
- Make sure you have all necessary music for feature tunes.

# PEP RALLIES

There will be several pep rallies to foster school spirit during the school year. As the backbone of the Brenham High School Spirit of Pride, Honor and Integrity, remember the following things:

- All band members are required to perform with the band at every Pep Rally.
- Students should wear a current year band shirt, or dress in the spirit dress theme for the week.
- Be prepared with all pep tunes and feature tunes.

## LEADERS, OFFICERS & SENIORS

Everyone in the band has the opportunity to lead in his/her own way. Whether you are an elected or non-elected officer or a band member, remember that a positive attitude and outlook are both important. By achieving this level of participation in the band, a student should be an exemplary student in our program.

All band student officers will be elected by the band members with the exception of: drum majors and color guard officers. Officers should set an example with their actions and should assume a degree of responsibility for encouraging other band students to do the same. Officers should also encourage all members of the band to maintain a high performance level all year long. All officers must be members of band both semesters. All officers will assist the directors and chaperones in every way possible on trips and will plan many activities.

### Specific Duties

**BAND CAPTAIN:** To see that all responsibilities are implemented. Has direct responsibility for all leadership of the band. Corresponds to president. The Captain is elected by all members.

**FIRST LIEUTENANT:** Has similar duties to the band captain. Similar in scope to a vice president. Is responsible for the overall leadership of the band and will serve as principle leader in the absence of the captain.

**DRUM MAJORS:** In charge or coordinating the efforts of the band in regards to the Marching Organization. Will be in charge of the weekly inspection. Coordinate the efforts of the band as they relate to spirit.

**WOODWIND, BRASS AND PERCUSSION LTS:** Each is directly responsible for the cultivating spirit in their respective sections. Will assist the directors in listening to students play-off their music for the marching band. Should be outstanding players on their respective instruments.

**EQUIPMENT LTS:** Has responsibility for all equipment during the course of the year. Will assist in "moving the band" to every performance. Duties include selecting the equipment crew and generally guiding the band efficiently to manage our tremendous amount of equipment.

**UNIFORM LTS:** Has the responsibility for all uniform parts during the year. Will assist in uniform fitting, check-in/check-out, and assist with the uniform and uniform room maintenance. Will also select a uniform committee to assist with these duties.

**MORALE AND BIRTHDAY LIEUTENANTS:** Responsible for recognizing the band students on their birthdays. Also responsible for monitoring the bands morale status and coming up with morale builders when needed.

**REPORTER:** Has the responsibility for helping to write press releases about the band and any other necessary correspondence.

**HISTORIAN:** Prepares the band's annual slide show to be presented at the annual spring banquet.

**SECRETARY:** Responsible for keeping minutes for all officer meeting and writing "thank yous" to chaperones after trips, guest clinicians, etc.

**LIBRARIANS:** Responsible for helping sort, pass out, take up, and file music during the year. Selects a committee to help in these duties.

**CHAPLAIN:** Responsible for leading in prayer at appropriate times: before performances etc.

**GUARD OFFICERS:** Responsible for helping write, teach, and polish routines as per staff assignment. Selected on basis of performance and leadership skills/capabilities.

**FRESHMAN COORDINATORS:** Responsible for organizing the incoming freshmen class, particularly for summer band. Will assign Big Brother and Big Sisters to freshmen. Will call freshmen prior to summer band and make initial contact with the students/parents. Will organize an information meeting for new parents and freshmen.

**PLATOON LEADERS:** Are responsible for teaching students in their platoon marching fundamentals and assist them in the marching show. Will prepare platoon for the "Platoon Competition". Is in charge of the spirit of the platoon.

If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more  
and become more, then, you are an excellent leader.

-Dolly Parton

# GUIDELINES FOR BIG BROTHERS AND BIG SISTERS

- Contact your little sister/brother before summer band begins.
- Offer rides to and from rehearsals and activities if possible.
- Help your little brother/sister learn, practice, and/or play off music
- Encourage your little brother/sister to do their best.
- Give moral support.
- Tell your little brother/sister they're doing a great job, and give suggestions for improvement when things aren't going too well.
- Answer any questions they may ask to your fullest knowledge. Direct them to the proper people if you don't know all of the answers.
- Help and guide your little brother/sister at football games and contests when things are hectic, with their uniform and with equipment.
- Most of all, just be there for them.

There's a powerful transformative effect when you surround yourself with like-minded people. Peer pressure is a great thing when it helps you accomplish your goals instead of distracting you from them.

-Po Bronson

## What do we look for in a LEADER?

Included in this handbook is the form: "Request for a Recommendation." Also for the student offices that are selected by band directors, the qualities on that form are considered as well as these other qualities.

When we look for leaders, we think about the qualities on this sheet. Also, do students follow through what they start? Do they practice their instrument? (After all, this is a band) Are they pleasant? Do people like to be around them? Do they have supportive parents? Often times student leaders have to use their parents to help collect money and help facilitate small group activities and it is something we very seldom have to consider while looking at the entire leadership potential of an individual.

Excellent strategies and expectations for student leaders can be found in our Leadership hand book which is on our website. We will be more than happy to give you a copy if you request one.



# Hazing

When I was a sophomore in High School, I moved from Colorado to Texas. The band at my new school was very welcoming and like a family. My mom, brother and sisters had to stay in Colorado until we sold our house. I confidently admit that without the group of friends I made, I would have been miserable. Our band should also be a place where not only new students but also incoming freshman feel welcome.

Hazing is such an ugly practice. There was a time when it was accepted in bands, athletic teams, fraternities and all sorts of groups and organizations. It is not only in poor taste and against Brenham ISD policies but also illegal. Just because something was done to you or somebody you know “when we were freshman,” does not make it alright. Hazing is not tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with BISD policies and procedures.

## Color Guard Membership

The color guard has traditionally been members of the band. Band parent and school district money that supports all color guard activities comes out of band funds. In recent years, we have had a desire to increase the size of the color guard without decreasing the number of winds marching. When we made that decision, we wanted to make sure that we would not create a situation in which girls would stop playing their instruments and become solely color guard members. The benefits of playing musical instruments are well-documented, and we believe there is no substitute. In addition, our bands in the spring rely on all their members to be successful. If guard members drop out, it penalizes all of the bands. For these reasons, we have two membership tracks.

### **Track One**

#### **Instrument playing members**

These are members that have previously been in band and play an instrument. To be a member of the color guard or winter guard, they must still be playing their instruments in a performing ensemble. These members must be a sophomore or above.

### **Track Two**

#### **Non-instrumentalists**

These are color guard members that have not played an instrument in band for over a calendar year. If in the past they were band members, they must have left the band in good standing. In order for non-instrumentalists to receive a senior award jacket, they must have been involved with color guard and winter guard every year they were eligible.

### **Color guard financial responsibilities**

Color guard members are expected purchase items to be members. They are mostly clothing items that are individualized that are personalized and kept by the members after the season is complete. Once the items have been ordered, the individuals are expected to purchase the items even if they choose not to continue with their guard membership. The items cannot be returned and there is not Brenham ISD or Brenham Band Parent money that is available to cover these costs. The guard does lots of fundraising and many students pay for their entire fee with fundraising.

# Twirlers

At the current time, Brenham High School does not have twirlers. We do have a highly motivated and award winning Colorguard that contributes visually to the marching show and offers opportunities for students to use skills in dance as well as weapon and flag work.

# Cell Phones

For safety purposes, the district permits students to possess cell phones; however, cell phones must remain turned off during the instructional day. Students shall not use or display telecommunication devices, including paging devices or cellular phones, during the school day, (7:52 a.m. until 3:04 p.m.). The school day is defined as the time between the starting and dismissal times at Brenham High School. We will extend this policy to meet the band schedule. District employees shall confiscate any paging devices or cellular phones in violation of this policy. Confiscated devices will be turned into the Assistant Principal's secretary who will document and secure the device. Students refusing to comply with an employee's request to relinquish the device will face additional disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

1st Offense: \$15 fine: parent/guardian must reclaim device at the end of school day.

2nd Offense: \$15 fine: parent/guardian may reclaim device after 3 school days.

3rd Offense: \$15 fine: parent/guardian may reclaim device at the end of the semester.

The district is not responsible for any loss or theft of these devices and school employees will not be utilized for the purpose of finding or reclaiming these devices. FNCE (legal)

## Radios, CD Players, Games, and other Electronic Devices

Students are not permitted to use or display such items as radios, CD Players, tape recorders, camcorders, Ipods, MP3 Players, DVD players, cameras, or additional electronic devices during the instructional day. The school day is defined as the time between the starting and dismissal times at Brenham High School (7:52 a.m. until 3:04 p.m). We will extend this policy to meet the band schedule. Confiscated devices will be turned into the Assistant Principal's secretary, who will document and secure the device. Students refusing to comply with an employee's request to relinquish the device will face additional disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

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The district is not responsible for any loss or theft of these devices and school employees will not be utilized for the purpose of finding or reclaiming these devices. FNCE (legal)

Football games will be considered an extension of the classroom. Cell phones will not be allowed in the stands. The consequences will be the same as having them at Brenham High School during the game.