

2022-2023

Hamlin Band Handbook



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Foreword

The success of any organization is dependent upon the spirit, pride, leadership, teamwork, dedication, and cooperation of its members. Certain rules, policies, and procedures are necessary so that the overall goals of the group are met and the welfare of each individual member is best served.

By accepting membership in the Hamlin Collegiate High School Band, you are agreeing to perform to the best of your abilities and work together with the band staff in making this year's band the finest musical organization that our combined efforts can produce. In order for this to occur, students will need to be responsible, attentive, and respectful, have a positive attitude, and follow the HCISD Student Code of Conduct. The director will do his best to ensure that every student will be provided the opportunity to be successful, regardless of their ability as an incoming student or of their career ambitions following graduation.

The Marching Green Band Director (Mr. Strebeck) has developed this handbook to familiarize each band member with general operation and procedures of the Marching Green Band and standards by which all band members are expected to conduct themselves. The handbook is not intended to be all-inclusive, as every possible situation and question cannot be predicted in advance; however, a thorough knowledge of these materials is essential to the smooth operation and success of the band this year.

Goals and Objectives

Mental and physical discipline

- Memorize music
- Learn techniques of preparation as they relate to group and individual performances
- Develop self and group discipline
- Develop leadership abilities
- Develop responsibility
- Develop ability to cooperate with others and to work as a team member
- Develop diligence
- Develop mutual respect
- Physical conditioning
- Develop strength, stamina, endurance and coordination
- Cultural growth
- Provide opportunities to attain knowledge of music history through performance of various types of instrumental literature

In addition to the State of Texas guidelines, the Hamlin Collegiate Marching Green High School Band will strive to:

- Provide any interested student with opportunities for musical knowledge, musical fellowship, and fun through participation in band
- Provide for the mental, physical, social, and emotional development of students
- Instill pride and discipline in each student
- Provide each student with solo and group endeavors to achieve personal goals and satisfaction

Communication

The director encourages positive communication and is willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress in band with his/her parents. Mr. Strebeck's email address is jstrebeck@hamlin.esc14.net. My office number is (325) 576-3025.

Basic Band Hall Rules

1. Always be ON TIME!
2. NO gum, food, or drink of any kind (except water).
3. If it is not yours, DO NOT TOUCH IT!
4. DO NOT talk, pass notes, do homework, text or call during rehearsals.
5. Do not disrupt rehearsals through talking, poor choice of behavior, or cell phone use. Disruptions caused by cell phones will result in the phone being taken away from the student.
6. There will be absolutely NO destruction of property in the band hall at any time. If you are caught destroying or defacing anything in the band hall, you will be appropriately disciplined according to the code of student conduct and may be removed from the band program.

Rehearsal Procedures and Regulations

1. The primary rule for all rehearsals is to be there, be on time, and have all related equipment and instruments ready to play. Rehearsals will begin at exactly the time specified and will always, with very few exceptions, end at the time stated. Please tell your parents that they may rely on this and to pick you up on time.
2. All cases and personal items are to be left on the shelves in the instrument area. They are not to be left by your chair (except flute, and clarinet).
3. As soon as you arrive for rehearsal, begin putting air through your instrument to expedite warm-up and tune-up.
4. Have your music and a pencil with you at **EVERY** rehearsal! This includes the marching field.
5. Oil your valves; clean your horn, etc. BEFORE rehearsal - NOT DURING!
6. Please help us keep the band hall neat and clean. If you see paper on the floor, pick it up. Put all equipment and music folders away properly at the end of rehearsal and keep chairs and stands in order.
7. **ALL TALKING AND PLAYING WILL IMMEDIATELY STOP WHEN THE DIRECTOR STEPS UP TO HIS STAND!**

Attendance

In order to have and maintain a high-quality band program, attendance from all members is essential. While the HHS band follows all school and district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the HHS band. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held outside of the school day.

Roll Check

Roll will be checked and documented promptly at the start of rehearsal.

Tardiness

Students not in their designated area at the appropriate time will be marked tardy. A tardy will be converted to a mark of absent 15 minutes after the rehearsal begins.

Excused Tardiness

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

Absence

Students not present at the appropriate time may be marked absent.

Excused Absence

Absences will be excused at the discretion of the director. Appointments, tutorials etc. will not be an excuse for absence. Absence due to personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances (approved by director) may be considered for excused status. Students who are continually ill may be required to provide a doctor's note releasing them from participation in order to ensure the well-being of the child and to reduce concerns of the band director. If in doubt, an absence should be checked with a director.

Unexcused Absence

Students who have unexcused absences may be subject to consequences made by the director and/or the principal.

Daily Supplies

The following list is what each student should plan to bring to the appropriate rehearsal and/or performance. Other items may be added at the discretion of the director.

- All issued music
- Pencil

- Instrument
- All supplies relative to their instrument
- All marching related equipment (during marching season)
- Drill/dot book/lanyard/coordinate sheet
- Lyre/folder
- Other marching equipment as needed (could vary from year to year)

In addition, a metronome and tuner should be part of a band member's tools for home practice.

The following list for each instrument is comprised of preferred or highly recommended supplies and equipment.

Flutes

- Tuning and cleaning rods
- Cleaning cloth
- Key oil
- Approved type instrument

Clarinets

- Three good playable reeds. Vandoren Blue Box, and V-12's are the approved reeds.
- Reed guard (plastic, with rubber bands to hold reed in the guard are preferred)
- Ligature (Bonade, Inverted strongly recommended)
- Proper mouthpiece with cap (Vandoren 5 RV Lyre)
- Cleaning swab (silk handkerchief style, with covered weight)
- Approved type instrument
- Cork grease

Saxes /Bass Clarinet as applicable

- Three good playable reeds. Vandoren is the approved reed.
- Reed guard
- Ligature
- Proper mouthpiece (Selmer C star)
- Neck Strap (Bass Clarinet players included)
- Pad and neck saver
- Approved type instrument

Trumpet

- Valve oil (Al Cass)
- Polishing cloth
- Mouthpiece (Bach 3c or 5c)
- Approved type instrument

French Horn

- Valve/Rotary oil - (Al Cass - Marching Horn) (Holton Rotary - Concert Horn)
- Polishing cloth
- Approved mouthpiece
- Approved type instrument

Trombone

- Slide cream
- Spray Water Bottle
- Polishing Cloth
- Mouthpiece (Bach 5G or 51D)
- Approved type instrument

Baritone/Euphonium

- Valve oil (Al Cass)
- Mouthpiece (Bach 5G or 51D)
- Polishing cloth
- Approved type instrument

Tuba

- Valve/Rotary oil - (Al Cass –Sousa Valves /Holton – Concert Rotors)
- Mouthpiece (Bach 24 AW, Helleberg, or Miraphone Rose Model)
- Polishing cloth
- Approved type instrument (provided by district)

Percussion

- Snare sticks - Vic Firth SD1 General

- Xylophone mallets (Innovative Percussion-IP902, Vic Firth M141)
- Vibes/Marimba mallet (Innovative Percussion-IP240, Vic Firth M212)
- Timpani mallets (Firth T1 General)
- Stick bag

District-Owned Instruments

Students are expected to keep their instruments clean and in good working order. Students should keep, with their instrument at all times, appropriate oils, grease, reeds and polishing cloths. Any damage of an instrument due to abuse or a student's negligence will be repaired at the expense of the student responsible for said damage.

Hamlin CISD has instruments available to students unable to provide their own instruments. The student is responsible for any damage an instrument receives while that instrument is in his or her care, and that student will be charged for the repair of that instrument.

Grading Guidelines

Students are expected to prepare their music BEFORE rehearsals. Grades will be given according to how well a student plays his or her part, marches his spot, or performs on a test, with full consideration given to his or her prior experience on the instrument. Obviously, it is unrealistic to expect a freshman with only three years of experience to perform as well as a senior with six years of experience. Preparation of required music, periodic instrument and uniform inspections, and attendance at required functions are also considered in the grading.

Students receiving grades below 75 should realize that their performance is well below the standard expected in the Hamlin bands. A grade level of 85 means the student is doing well, but not as well as he or she could. A grade of 90 to 95 means a student is doing very well and working close to his or her potential. A grade level above 95 is reserved only for those students who put forth more effort than is expected of them.

Band students are also graded for each performance (marching performances, concerts, competitions, etc.). Extra activities such as working with some of the younger

students in the program, participation in solos and ensembles, and participation in all-district, all-region, all-area, or all -state band auditions will be reflected in the students grades. The student that participates in these extra activities is clearly showing that he or she is making a greater effort to improve themselves, and, therefore the band program. Students will also be graded by how well they maintain their instruments. Instruments, whether privately or school owned, are expensive and will be cleaned and maintained by the students using those instruments. Daily classroom participation grades are derived from playing quizzes, and participation in daily rehearsals. Students will receive test grades from playing tests and performances. Daily grades weigh for 50% of a student's grade, tests are the other 50%

Concert Ensembles

Concert Band — this is the only concert ensemble at HHS. Members in this ensemble are encouraged to participate in the ATSSB Region Band process and UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest. The Concert Band will give numerous performances both on and off campus. This ensemble will go to the UIL Concert and Sightreading evaluation.

Performance/Rehearsal Requirements for Concert Ensembles

Concerts and performances are an integral component of the band curriculum. Students should consult their schedules for dates and times. Periodically, the schedule may change and updates will be communicated. Concerts are considered to have three parts: warm-up, performance, and listening. The concert begins for the student 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 general report time will be given for all students.

- All concerts are a group effort, thus, attendance is required.
- All concerts are an extension of the classroom and will be graded accordingly.
- Students should be punctual and prepared for each performance/concert.
- In the event a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up all missed work!
- The appropriate dress for all concerts will be a dress uniform (see Uniforms).
- Students are expected to stay the entire concert.

- Students are expected to help move equipment and “stack-n-rack” chairs and stands when needed.

Section Rehearsals

Throughout the school year, we will have weekly sectionals every wednesday after school, except for the first day of school and any half days we may have. It is important that everyone show up to rehearsals when they do not have a direct school conflict, such as a volleyball or basketball game. These sectionals will greatly assist in increasing the level of musicianship in our high school band.

Marching Band Rehearsals

- Respect everyone on the marching band field - we are all working toward the same goal.
- Prior to all rehearsals, eat healthy and drink a lot of water.
- Be punctual. Aim to arrive 5 minutes before practice begins.
- Water breaks are meant for your health and comfort. DRINK WATER!!! Return on time when called to do so.
- Rehearsal will be silent at all times.
- Standing is the only acceptable position on the marching band field unless instructed otherwise (ex: when a director tells you to kneel while he gives instructions).
- Everyone will be expected to vocally count at all times.
- Pay attention to general instructions at all times. Listen attentively and respond appropriately.
- FUN-damentals will make us successful. Therefore, we expect everyone to participate fully.
- Section leaders are responsible for keeping coordinate books. You will receive your coordinate books from your section leader at the beginning of rehearsal, and it will be given back to them at the end.
- Band members should wear their coordinate book at all times.
- Move when instructed quickly and quietly (ex: moving from set to set or after a discussion with a leader).
- “Attention” is eyes forward, no talking, no moving.
- When setting forms keep your feet together and mouth closed.

- Remain at attention until you are told to relax.
- “Relax” means silently standing in the ready position.
- When adjusting the forms, use your coordinate books at all times unless instructed otherwise.
- No jewelry during rehearsals except watches.

Home Football Game Rules

Students will be in their assigned seats at the band hall AT LEAST two hours before performance time. This means that students should have ALL appropriate equipment in uniform and should be ready to play. Any students not seated in full uniform and ready to play two hours before performance time shall be considered tardy to a performance.

During the game, there will be no horseplay, no moving around from assigned seats, or other general disruptions. NO food or drinks (except water) are allowed in the stands. This includes CHEWING GUM! You are representing Hamlin Collegiate ISD, and you should act accordingly. I want you to enjoy the game, but you must also remember your responsibilities.

Restroom breaks are to be kept to a minimum. Only two students will be allowed to go at one time, and there shall be no meandering on the way to, or coming back from the restroom. If you abuse this privilege, you will not be allowed to use the restroom without a chaperone as an escort.

If, in the opinion of the band director, the band performs as well as it should at half time, the band will be given the third quarter as a break. **YOU MUST REMAIN IN THE STADIUM AND IN FULL UNIFORM DURING THIS TIME!**

If you get the third quarter off, you must be back in your seat at the assigned time. If you are late getting back, you will lose the opportunity of having a break during the next game. Students are responsible for any stains/damage while in uniform, please be sure and eat before all home games (a meal will be provided during away games). Remember, you are responsible for keeping your uniform clean. You **MUST** finish your drinks before returning to the stands. Only water is permitted in the stands.

Away Games

Students should arrive at the band hall with all equipment and uniform at the stated time. **STUDENTS MUST BE ON TIME FOR AWAY PERFORMANCE DEPARTURES!** If you are late for an away performance departure, it is your responsibility to get to the game any way you can. Missing the busses is not an excuse for absence from a game. Students follow district rules for food and drink when traveling.

The Hamlin band polo and jeans are to be worn on the bus. Students may want to bring blankets, pillows, etc. as many of our trips are quite long. There will be a chaperone on the bus

with you, they are to be treated with respect. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action that is up to the directors discretion.

Because of the chances of problems beyond our control in some places other than Hamlin, students may be required to be accompanied by chaperones anytime they are leaving the stands.

All other rules that apply to home performances also apply to away performances.

All students must take school provided transportation to the performance, unless that student is late, then that student is responsible to get to the performance any way you can. All students must return to Hamlin on School provided transportation. You may, under certain circumstances, be released ONLY to your PARENTS or LEGAL GUARDIAN for the return trip. If you are going to ride home with a parent or guardian, you must present the band director with a note signed by the parent or guardian PRIOR to the game. Please plan ahead and go through the proper procedure. You can be released only to YOUR parents or legal guardian. We CANNOT release you to a brother, sister, or to someone else's parents unless approved in writing by the principal or superintendent.

Instrument Loading/Unloading

Large instruments will be transported on the band trailer/instrument trucks. All others (flutes & clarinets) will transport their instruments on the bus. Students will be responsible for ensuring that their instrument or empty case is in the proper location. After the instrument truck/band trailer has been unloaded, each student will be responsible for picking up their instrument and storing it correctly.

Band Banquet

A band banquet is held each spring near the end of the school year. This special evening brings the band together one last time to review the year and to wish the seniors a fond farewell. The location may vary from year to year, but it will usually be held at Hamlin HS and is considered a formal evening. Tickets are sold to cover the cost of the dinner, decorations, etc.

Band Boosters

The Hamlin Band Boosters exist to assist the band directors in reaching the band program goals. Support activities provided by the boosters include serving meals to students before games, providing chaperones for trips, providing chaperones for social events, financing of social events, providing parents to assist in various aspects of the marching band production, and numerous other activities. There is a place for every parent in this organization. Your service is not only encouraged, but also needed.

Letter Jackets

Letter jackets are earned by participating in both a marching contest and a concert contest for two years. One must participate in BOTH concert and marching in order to earn a letter jacket in band.

Solo and Ensemble

Students are encouraged to participate in UIL solo and ensemble competition. Students serious about competing in Solo and Ensemble contest should begin working on their music in October. Students benefit both musically and technically from playing in an ensemble, or playing a solo. Participation in solo/ensemble events adds to our musical experiences and thus to our overall musicianship. The school will pay all entry fees and provide piano players for the event. If a student enters the solo and ensemble contest, it is a COMMITMENT on his/her part and they are expected to fulfill the commitment.

Hamlin High School Band Agreement

This statement must be signed by you and your parents or guardians, and returned to the director.

Students Name (print please) _____

STATEMENT OF STUDENT

I hereby certify that I have read and understand the Alpine Buck Band Handbook in its entirety. I agree to abide by all rules, policies, and procedures described therein.

Student's Signature

Date

STATEMENT OF PARENT/GUARDIAN

I hereby certify that I have read and understand the Hamlin Band Handbook in its entirety. I give my son/daughter permission to participate in band activities, and I agree to be supportive of all band rules, policies, and procedures.

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

PARENT/STUDENT UIL MARCHING BAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

No student may be required to attend practice for marching band for more than eight hours of rehearsal outside the academic school day per calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). This provision applies to students in all components of the marching band. On performance days (football games, competitions and other public performances) bands may hold up to one additional hour of warm-up and practice beyond the scheduled warm-up time at the performance site. Multiple performances on the same day do not allow for additional practice and/or warm-up time.

Examples Of Activities Subject To The UIL Marching Band Eight-Hour Rule.

- Marching Band Rehearsal (Both Full Band and Components)
- Any Marching Band Group Instructional Activity
- Breaks
- Announcements
- Debriefing And Viewing Marching Band Videos
- Playing Off Marching Band Music
- Marching Band Sectionals (Both Director And Student Led)
- Clinics For The Marching Band Or Any Of Its Components

The Following Activities Are Not Included In The Eight Hour Time Allotment:

- Travel Time To and From Rehearsals And/or Performances
- Rehearsal Set-Up Time
- Pep Rallies, Parades and Other Public Performances
- Instruction and Practice for Music Activities Other Than Marching Band And

Its Components

NOTE: An extensive Q&A for the Eight Hour Rule for Marching Band can be found on the Music Page of the UIL Web Site at: www.uil.utexas.edu

“We have read and understand the Eight-Hour Rule for Marching Band as stated above and agree to abide by these regulations.”

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____