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GISD Secondary Band Handbook

Foreword

The purpose of this handbook is to help all students gain the most from their experience in a GISD High School Band as well as to provide guidance for the everyday procedures of the band program. This handbook is the comprehensive source for information on the policies and procedures of the GISD High School Bands, however it is not possible to predict every possible situation or question in advance. The Director of Bands, Campus Principal and/or Director of Fine Arts will make all final decisions in situations not specifically covered herein.

Mission

We, the members of the East View Patriot Band, are a family driven by excellence and class. We provide a safe environment for students to express themselves through music. Guided by our tradition of high standards, we strive for improvement every day. We inspire every member to exercise a strong work ethic and maturity both in music and life. We leave no one behind. We are one band, one community, one family.

Goals and Objectives

Develop mental and physical discipline through fostering diligence, improving concentration, and learning techniques of preparation; using music and dance technique as a vehicle.

Develop scholarship through accountability and productivity.

Develop character and citizenship through encouraging mutual respect, fellowship, cooperation, responsibility, and leadership.

Improve physical conditioning by developing strength, stamina, endurance, and coordination.

Enhance cultural sensitivity by studying the historical and cultural contexts of various types of instrumental literature.

Increase critical thinking by enhancing the ability to make value judgments about elements of performance such as posture, position, breath, tone, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, articulation, musical instrument technical proficiency, guard equipment technique and dance technique.

Expand knowledge of basic music theory by regularly identifying and utilizing the written elements of music that commonly appear in high school band literature including recognizing intervals and harmony.

Increase confidence and abilities of communication by developing creative self-expression through artistic performance.

In addition to the State of Texas guidelines, the GISD Bands will strive to:

Promote school spirit, good sportsmanship, loyalty, and dedication.
Provide any interested student with opportunities to enjoy their participation in band.
Provide experiences that instill pride and self-respect, give students a sense of belonging, allow students to earn recognition, and create feelings of accomplishment and achievement.
Provide a safe, supportive environment in which to experience Band.

Communication

The directors encourage positive communication and are willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress in band with their parents. Specific directors' office contact information can be found on the band web sites at www.eastviewband.org for East View High School or www.georgetowneagleband.org for Georgetown High School.

Communication can be enhanced by students and parents working to inform themselves. Ensure all information is correct and updated in Cut Time, Sign up for our email list/Remind groups, follow us on social media and frequently check the band website to stay caught up!

Auditions

Any student who is interested in participating in the program and who will abide by the expectations in this handbook will be accepted regardless of their starting ability. Auditions are for placement in select performing ensembles only and admittance to smaller organizations within the band program. The directors will determine audition requirements and notify students of audition dates, requirements, and results. Directors or their designated proxies will serve as evaluators during auditions. Audition material will reflect the directors' anticipated performance level for the students and will be based on prior learning. Auditions may be played live or via recording. Students will be re-evaluated periodically for placement and/or participation in select performance ensembles.

Conduct Expectations

Band members often serve as representatives of the school and community at many public events and are expected to exhibit above average conduct at all times. Band members will observe all expectations and disciplinary consequences set forth in the GISD Student Code of Conduct. In addition, band members will also observe these expectations.

Any behavior that does not meet these expectations as perceived by the band staff, will result in a consequence. Consequences are at the discretion of the directors and may range from verbal redirection to dismissal from the program. These expectations also apply to the words and actions of student leaders in both public and private events.

Students will not use or handle equipment, uniforms, personal items that they do not own without permission from a director.

Students will remain in their designated rehearsal area and may only leave with permission. We must know where you are in order to keep you safe.

All rehearsals will be extremely quiet so that our time may be utilized as wisely and

efficiently as possible. Students should request permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged.

When allowed in the band hall, before, during, or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.

Hazing, Bullying and Intimidation in GISD Fine Arts Programs

We believe that students have the right to a safe and positive learning environment that encourages a life-long love of participation in and support of the arts. Hazing, bullying, intimidations, and physical or emotional threats are serious impediments to the learning process and will not be tolerated. Any event such as these must be reported to school district personnel within 24 hours so that corrective actions can be made before events can escalate. Witnesses, victims, and their parents should feel confident that they can make reports to school district personnel in confidence and without fear of reprisal. All reports will be swiftly and thoroughly investigated by school personnel and handled according to district policy.

Social/Electronic Media

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct also includes ensuring that band member electronic communication and use of social media is appropriate. In addition to the specific guidelines outlined by the GISD Student Code of Conduct, band members must remember that as representatives of the school and community, they are responsible for their posts and communication via phone, email, text message, etc. or through all third-party sites and applications such as Facebook or Twitter, even when they are not acting as members. The language and content standards for appropriate online communication and posts are the same as for communication at school. This includes allusions and abbreviations to language, behavior, negativity, or threats toward a GISD program, student or staff member and demonstrating poor sportsmanship or a negative attitude toward other programs. Band members who violate these expectations are subject to disciplinary consequences at the discretion of the directors or campus level administrators.

Attendance

Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area ready to work at the set rehearsal time with all equipment, including music, pencil, instrument, color guard equipment, and all supplies to rehearsals daily (see detailed supply list for each instrument). These attendance guidelines apply to activities held inside and outside of the school day.

Roll will be checked and documented promptly at the start of rehearsal. Students not in their designated area at the appropriate time will be marked tardy. A tardy will be converted to an absence ten minutes after the rehearsal begins.

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

Absences may be excused at the discretion of the directors. Appointments, tutorials, part-time jobs, and many other conflicts will not likely be excused absences. Absence due to illness, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances approved by your director may be considered excused. In order to obtain an excused absence, students must provide documentation in the form of an email or written note from a parent or doctor. 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. Many of these instances are unpredictable, but if you are able to communicate and do so as far in advance as possible your chances of being excused are much higher.

Absence from school on a performance day may result in ineligibility for performance in an extra-curricular activity. If the student is absent *because* of a band performance, the student is responsible to make up all missed work. Students who have an **unexcused tardy or unexcused absence** will have their parent or guardian notified immediately and may be subject to one or more of the following consequences at the discretion of the directors:

- A grade of a "zero" for the day's activity, without chance for make-up
- Requirement to make up missed time
- Temporary or permanent loss of spot as a primary marcher
- Suspension from attending performances
- Removal from the program and loss of physical education credit

Make ups for missed performances will not possible in most cases, because it is impossible to simulate the performance environment. Attendance for all performances is mandatory and absences may not be excused.

Rehearsal and performance schedules are determined by each band staff and are published on the band web sites at www.eastviewband.org for East View High School or www.georgetowneagleband.org for Georgetown High School.

Grading Guidelines

GISD band programs have instructional objectives that relate to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for grade level subjects or courses. These objectives are aligned to address the academic skills and knowledge needed for successful performance in the next grade or next course in a sequence of courses. Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, and other instructional activities are designed so that the student's performance indicates the level of mastery of the instructional objectives. The student's mastery level of these objectives is a major factor in determining the grade for a subject or course.

Students will be expected to meet the responsibilities for each band class as determined by the director. Since band is an academic class with some extra-curricular activities attached, the band student's grade will reflect achievement in both curricular and extracurricular areas. A band member's nine weeks grade will be determined from the following items: student's daily preparation and participation, individual testing, performances, and extended classroom activities such as sectionals and before/after school rehearsals. Please consult the director for more specific information pertaining to how a student's grade is determined.

Eligibility

Some band activities are designated as extra-curricular. Students participating in these activities are governed by eligibility requirements. A student shall be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district following a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than 70 (seventy) in any class other than an identified class, eligible for exemption. The student will remain ineligible until the next grading period, at which time their grades will determine their new eligibility status. Students may regain eligibility before the end of the next reporting period under certain circumstances. They may regain eligibility by passing ALL courses at the first progress report of the affected grading period. Loss and reinstatement of eligibility occurs after a predetermined grace period after the grade-reporting period. Ineligible students are not suspended from curricular events such as practice or rehearsal of extra-curricular activities nor are they suspended from performances that are an extension of classroom instruction and thus are expected to attend and participate at every practice and rehearsal. Any performance that is competitive in nature or for which admission is charged is deemed extra-curricular. All students are eligible during a school holiday of a full calendar week or more.

For a list of courses that are exempt from eligibility requirements or for questions about specific circumstances, please contact your director.

Travel Guidelines

The band will frequently **travel on school buses or charter buses**. Student will exhibit the highest level of conduct on any trip.

Students must travel to events and return from events on the bus. Any student wishing to arrive or leave with his/her parent must notify a director in writing with parent signature, well before the event. Permission will be granted or denied based on the circumstances of the occasion. *Students must have all necessary forms (Medical/Travel Release) completed and on file with the band office to travel on any trip with the band.*

While on the bus students will:

- Follow the directions of the student leaders or any adults accompanying the band on the trip.
- Sit safely and quietly in their seat.
- Keep the bus as clean as possible.
- Listen to music in headphones only.
- Refrain from public displays of affection.

Adult chaperones are a great asset for the band program. Students will treat them as an extension of the band staff. Show proper respect to all adults at all times.

The GISD Bands may, or may not, take a **Spring Trip** each year during the second semester. These trips may include in-state traveling to local contests or festivals, but may also include out-of-state trips. Each GISD Director of Bands will communicate the cost, fee schedules, itinerary, and other details of the trip in a timely manner, allowing families to have

ample time to plan. The Spring Trips are not required events, but can include either portions of the band program, the entire band program, or all GISD Fine Arts.

Care of the Band Facilities

Only band members should be in the band hall or attached rooms.

Students will keep all areas clean and neat in appearance, storing equipment and personal belongings in designated areas.

Students will not deface or mark on music stands, chairs, walls, etc. Acts of vandalism or the willful misuse of school property will be dealt with severely and appropriately. Every band member is responsible to help the director's monitor the facility and control vandalism, which includes writing or carving on walls, destroying music, or breaking school property.

Students should not bring gum, food, or drinks into the band areas except when authorized by the directors.

Students will deposit trash (paper, broken reeds/drum sticks, etc.) in recycle or trash bins.

The practice rooms, equipment and uniform storage rooms, all have purposes. Students should not "hang out" in these spaces. Students will leave the chairs and stands neat when they exit a room.

Students will only enter directors' offices with permission. If the door is closed, please knock on office doors before entering. Students may not use directors' phones without permission.

Students who demonstrate difficulty in adhering to these expectations may lose privilege of having a storage area in the band hall.

Daily Supplies

The list below is a list of the general supplies that students should have at every rehearsal. Other items may be added at the discretion of the directors.

All issued music; flip-folder, lyre, show coordinates or completed dot books for marching band

Pencil

Instruments/sticks and mallets/guard equipment

All supplies related to their instrument (listed below)

Any show-specific or piece-specific supplies or equipment

Appropriate attire and footwear for rehearsal

The following list is the recommended supplies and equipment for each instrument. Please consult your band director to approve any variation from specific items on this list. There are many instruments available for purchase and they are definitely not made equally, even across the same brand and sometimes the same model number. **Consult your band director anytime you intend to make an instrument or mouthpiece purchase. Woodwinds should consult their director about reed strength.**

In addition, a metronome and tuner should be part of a wind player's or percussionist's tools for home practice.

Flutes

- Tuning and cleaning rods
- Cleaning cloth
- Key oil
- Intermediate: Yamaha 3 or 4 Series with offset G, Sonare 601
Professional: Yamaha 5 or 6 Series with offset G, Muramatsu EX
- Precision Screwdriver (from eyeglass repair kit)

Oboe/Bassoon

- Two good playable reeds approved by director
- Reed case and reed soaking receptacle
- Cleaning swab (silk handkerchief style, with covered weight)
- Key oil
- Instrument provided by district
- Precision Screwdriver (from eyeglass repair kit)

Clarinets

- Four good playable reeds Vandoren Traditional or V-12 (approved strength)
- Reed guard
- Ligature (Bonade Inverted)
- Mouthpiece with cap (Vandoren M30 or M13 consult director for fit)
- Key oil
- Cleaning swab (silk handkerchief style, with covered weight)
- Buffet (R13 or E12), Yamaha (YCL-450, 650, or CSV)
- Cork grease
- Precision Screwdriver (from eyeglass repair kit)

Bass Clarinets

- Four good playable reeds Legere or Vandoren Traditional (approved strength)
- Reed guard
- Ligature
- Mouthpiece with cap (Vandoren B44)
- Key oil
- Cleaning swab (silk handkerchief style, with covered weight)
- Instrument provided by district
- Precision Screwdriver (from eyeglass repair kit)

Saxes

- Four good playable reeds Vandoren Traditional or V12 (approved strength)
- Reed guard
- Ligature
- Mouthpiece with (Vandoren AL3)
- Neck Strap
- Yamaha YAS-875EX, 82Z, 62, 480, Selmer SuperAction 80
- Tenor and baritone saxophones provided by district
- Precision Screwdriver (from eyeglass repair kit)

Trumpet

- Valve oil and slide grease (Hetman or Yamaha light oil and slide gel)
- Polishing cloth
- Mouthpiece - Bach 3C, 5C (consult director for fit)
- Bach Stradivarius, Yamaha Xeno
- BERP

French Horn

- Valve oil, rotor oil, and slide grease (Hetman or Yamaha oil, and slide gel)
- Polishing cloth
- Mouthpiece - Holton Farkas MC, MDC (consult director for fit)
- Instrument provided by district
- BERP

Trombone

- Slide cream (Trombotine or Slide-O-Mix)
- Spray Water Bottle
- Polishing Cloth
- Mouthpiece - Bach 5G, Schilke 51D, Perantucci 4C (consult director for fit)
- Bach Stradivarius Model 42 BO, Yamaha Xeno, Edwards T350
- BERP

Baritone/Euphonium

- Valve oil and slide grease (Hetman Piston Oil, Hetman Slide Gel)
- Polishing cloth
- Mouthpiece - Bach 5G, Schilke, 51D or other director approved mouthpiece
- Instrument provided by district
- BERP

Tuba

- Valve/Rotary oil - (Hetman or Yamaha light oil and rotary oil if applicable)
- Polishing cloth
- Mouthpiece – Helleberg, Miraphone Rose Model 25, Perantucci 50
- Instrument provided by district
- BERP

Percussion

- Appropriate stick bag
- General snare sticks
- Marimba mallets (consult director)
- Timpani mallets (consult director)
- Pad

Color Guard

- Pole and flag provided by district
- Rifle provided by district (if applicable)
- Sabre provided by district (if applicable)
- Electrical tape
- All uniform items, including hair products, make-up and accessories (see comprehensive lists in Color Guard Information section)

District-Owned Instruments and Equipment

The Georgetown Independent School District is able to provide a limited number of musical instruments and guard equipment for student use throughout the school year. This includes percussion equipment. GISD staff members will provide appropriate instructions on the safe care and handling of the GISD-owned musical instruments. The usage fee for the year is \$100. This fee covers the actual rental plus regular maintenance to be determined by GISD Band Directors. This fee does not include repairs or replacement cost caused by student or parent/guardian negligence. GISD staff members will verify the condition of the instrument upon checkout and document this condition. The full repair for any damage caused or the replacement cost for irreparable damage caused by negligence after checkout will be the sole responsibility of the student and the parent/guardian. As with all GISD property, once the student leaves the program due to transfer, graduation or by choice, the instrument is to be immediately returned to the directors.

Students may be allowed to learn a **Secondary Instrument** in special cases. Certain instruments are required for specific ensembles such as marching band or jazz band. Students must consult with their directors if they wish to play a secondary instrument. Final decision on placement and availability of school owned instruments to facilitate a secondary instrument assignment will be decided at the discretion of the directors. Students that are chosen to play instruments that are not generally provided by GISD (flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet and trombone) must plan to provide their own instrument. These instruments are not guaranteed to be provided by the band programs.

Financial Obligations

It is the philosophy of GISD Bands that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact the director.

All GISD Band members will be responsible for **Annual Band Fees**. The purpose of the band fee is to help with the various expenses that are necessary to run a quality band

program, but are not covered by the school district. These include but are not limited to such items as meals, additional instruction, contest entry fees, printing specialty items, general supplies, marching band design, charter bus rentals, social activities, and more. Band fees may also include general supplies for students including gloves, shoes, uniform cleaning, etc. These fees may or may not match identically between both East View High School and Georgetown High School due to differences in item selection. Contact your director for details of your fees.

Fee Refunds will only be given for items that have not been purchased. Directors will communicate as clearly as possible about those details, but assume that if you have paid a fee, that the money has been spent as that is the case with most of the money we collect.

If band elects to take a **Spring Trip**, all cost and fee schedules, including refund policies, will be communicated ahead of time. All trip payments must be made on the schedule outlined by the directors in order to avoid late fees or losing you position on a trip. Parents should reach out the Director of bands to arrange for special accommodations if necessary. If possible, we will make any allowance that we can. Refunds for any reason, including a student losing their eligibility, will only be made according to the refund policy in place. A full refund is never guaranteed.

Fundraising

The GISD Band and Band Booster Club engage in fundraising activities throughout each year. Funds raised will not go into individual student accounts. Funds raised go to the direct benefit of the entire band program and offset the fees paid by members. For the fundraisers to be successful, 100% of the members must participate in promoting our campaigns. The more successful our fundraisers are, the lower fees can be and the more opportunities we can provide for the students.

Marching Band

Georgetown ISD has enjoyed an outstanding reputation for excellence in music performance, including marching band, for many years. The marching band is the most visible aspect of the band program. The marching band provides performance opportunities for band students while integrating the band program into school and community activities.

GISD's philosophy is that educationally, historically, and musically, **marching band is essential to providing a well-rounded music education in band**. GISD believes that music students need to develop the ability to participate and perform through different ensemble experiences, which for band students includes the marching band. As a result, marching band is required for all high school students who elect to take an academic band performance course. However, students who have medical conditions or physical disabilities for whom, there is not a reasonable way to include them in marching band may be excused from participation at the discretion of the Director of Bands. The philosophy regarding all aspects of high school band stems from TEA/UIIL guidelines, which govern all Texas schools. The curriculum specifically includes requirements such as demonstrating musical skill and artistry, performing in different musical mediums, and experiencing music through a wider range of music literature. Marching band addresses each of those requirements. Each

performance by the marching band provides students the opportunity to demonstrate musical artistry through the ensemble, individual music performance skills and techniques, marching performance skills and techniques, and critical thinking skills that include auditory, spatial, and visual awareness.

Each rehearsal and performance by the marching band is mentally and physically demanding. Students must always be on task and must bring to every performance their best performance skills. As a result, each student in the marching band is eligible to receive a **Physical Education Substitution Credit**, up to the full requirement for graduation

Marching Band Positions

In order to account for unforeseen circumstances (injury, illness or ineligibility), and to provide an appropriate, “on-level” experience for all members, it may be necessary to designate a fixed number **Primary and Alternate Marchers** each year. The band staff will keep the number of alternates to the absolute minimum. All students will have the opportunity to earn a primary position beginning in summer band camp. Directors will make these designations by evaluating each student on the following criteria:

Grade history (eligibility)
Playing/dance ability
Marching ability
Attendance record
Attitude

A **primary marcher** is a student who:

- Successfully completes the audition requirements by the appropriate time.
- Demonstrates high quality marching skills
- Maintains an exceptional punctuality and attendance records
- Maintains academic eligibility
- Represents the school, school district, band program and themselves with the highest possible decorum and conduct standards
- Demonstrates adequate preparation and participation including music memorization

Special Note: Students who fail to meet the above criteria may be penalized by one of the following:

- Loss of position as a primary marcher
- Loss of performance opportunity
- Performance as a marcher only without playing

Alternate marchers will meet the same attendance, rehearsal, memorization, academic, and performance requirements of primary marchers. Directors will continually evaluate and substitute marchers as necessary. Specific drill may also be written and music may be edited for those students who are not yet able to achieve the physical and musical demands required of primary marchers. This will help improve their individual skill level and will prepare them for future performance opportunities. **All marchers** perform in the stands and in parades.

Health and Safety of Band Students

For the health and safety of students in band, all GISD students are required to have an annual physical prior to beginning any band activity. This physical is a cursory exam to determine if the student has developed a condition that might make it hazardous to participate in an athletic activity. Each GISD student is also required to carry a catastrophic injury insurance. Please contact your director for details.

Lightning poses a very serious threat to safety. Directors will monitor conditions during band events using a lightning detector at rehearsals, games, and contests to determine the safety of our activities. We will move rehearsal inside when lightning occurs multiple times in a small amount of time within 8 miles of our location.

Rain has the potential to pose a serious threat to safety and equipment condition. The band may still rehearse and/or perform in light rain at the discretion of the band staff. Some instruments will move indoors, or moved to a covered area, while others will continue to rehearse outside if deemed safe by the staff.

Extreme heat poses the greatest threat to health and safety due to our Texas climate. **Preparation and hydration** are key to staying safe in these conditions. Students must hydrate before, during, and after extended periods in extreme heat and should prepare by spending time outside during the summer months. During extreme heat conditions, we decrease the amount of time between water breaks and increase the amount of time used for the break. The staff will monitor weather conditions as well as the physical and mental conditions of our students and make adjustments to accommodate whenever necessary.

It is very important that all students bring and use their own personal water bottle. Sharing water (and food) leads to the spreading of germs that cause viruses such as cold, flu, mononucleosis, and many other bacterial infections. Sharing water in extreme heat or during long rehearsals may also limit a student's water intake to a level below their required amount. Sharing water is not acceptable.

Nutrition

Students should eat healthy, well-balanced meals and hydrate continually every day during summer band camp, and throughout the school year in preparation for afternoon marching rehearsals. This includes a light breakfast every morning (stay away from dairy and greasy foods), a healthy lunch (stay away from fried foods, salty snacks, soft drinks, or sweets) and sensible, healthy dinners that adhere to the same guidelines.

It cannot be understated: Students should drink plenty of water throughout everyday to stay healthy during the next rehearsal whether it is in the morning or afternoon.

Marching Band Rehearsal Expectations

Marching band is in the unique position of having a major performance the first week of school. To meet the demands and schedule of our activity, we must rehearse in the summer and outside of the school day during the year. The schedule for rehearsals is on the band website.

Be Respectful

- Respect everyone in the rehearsal space - we are all working toward the same goal.
- Respect the heat and activity by eating healthily and drinking a lot of water before, during, and after rehearsal.
- Respect each other's time by being punctual. Plan to arrive no later than 5 minutes before practice begins.

Be Engaged

- Put forth your maximum effort and pay attention to all instructions the first time they are given.
- All students should participate in verbal responses to questions, counting, etc.
- Marching and music fundamentals will make us successful. Use that time to get better rather than "going through the motions."

Be Productive

- Please only play and speak when directed.
- Remain standing unless directed to do otherwise.
- Remain at "Attention" or "Stand-by" until directed to do otherwise.
- Wear and bring onto the field only necessary items to minimize distractions.
- Move when instructed quickly and quietly.
- Arrive to rehearsal prepared with all materials including water and sunscreen, music practiced and memorized, and completed dot books.

Marching Band Performance Expectations

The Marching Band gives over 30 performances a year including varsity football games, marching contests, parades, pep rallies and various other community engagements. The band directors in GISD recognize that the health and safety of their students is a primary concern, as well as their scholastic performance in all of their subjects. The band directors also acknowledge that the season for marching band competitive performances is contained within a brief but intense period during the months of September through November.

Additionally, GISD recognizes the intrinsic value gained by the students from the pursuit of excellence in these programs.

After lengthy study of current practices of state and national marching band programs and to provide a balance of the above beliefs, GISD Marching Bands will participate in competitive/festival performances (not including football games) for no more than five consecutive weeks during a marching season. Please see the band website for an up to date schedule of performances.

Color Guard Information

Students in Color Guard are a part of the band program and participate in all program-wide activities. All decisions made regarding the color guard are made through the collaboration of the Color Guard Director and Director of Bands.

Brass, woodwind, and percussion students in color guard must enroll in the yearlong Band course and the Color Guard course. All other students in color guard must enroll in the yearlong Color Guard course. Yearlong participation in marching band and winter guard is expected of all members.

In the **Fall Semester**, the color guard performs as a section of the marching band. Rehearsals and performances are coordinated around the football season schedule. We perform in the stands during the game and on the field during the halftime. Following marching band season, students in color guard begin preparation, training and auditions for Winter Guard season.

In the **Spring Semester**, the color guard rehearses and performs almost entirely as a separate entity from the marching band. The Winter Guard meets in class and after school to rehearse for their competitions beginning in late January and ending in March. There are typically 5-7 competitions at the State, Regional and in perhaps World level circuits. Competitions usually occur on Saturday, but could be Friday or Sunday in certain circumstances. Following winter guard season, there are typically community performances, parades, and a final concert featuring all of the ensembles of the band program. Please see the band website for an up to date schedule of performances.

All Member Uniform Expectations

Always wear and treat your uniform with pride. The uniform should be worn as a complete unit at all times when in public. The only exception to this will be when a director instructs the group to remove part of it for comfort or storage. Loading crews may be exempt from wearing the uniform during loading/unloading procedures.

To preserve the uniform look of the band, visible jewelry, hair ribbons, and bright colored nail polish may be worn while in uniform. All hair colors should be natural human colors. Cover or do not make visible markings on the skin including permanent or temporary tattoos, ink drawings, etc. Exceptions apply when items are assigned parts of your uniform.

Refrain from eating and drinking (except water) while in uniform without permission.

Keep uniforms in nice condition and fitting well by storing them correctly. Hang inside garment bag. Keep hooks connected, zippers zipped, hang pants by the crease to prevent wrinkles.

Label your garment bag.

Uniform cleaning instructions vary by campus and section. If a uniform part is damaged or lost, the student will be responsible for the replacement costs. See your director for instructions and a list of uniform costs.

Color Guard Uniform Expectations

Guard uniforms are often intricate and difficult to maintain and clean. In addition to the main part of the costume, there may be several other important accessories, pieces, and beauty products required to get into performance uniform. Due to the very athletic nature of our activity, we have very specific guidelines for rehearsal attire.

Dressing out is required during rehearsal and is part of the daily grade. Dress-out clothes consist of:

- T-shirt
- Shorts
- Socks
- Tennis shoes
- Sweat shirt (when cold)
- Sweat pants (when cold)
- Items necessary to keep hair tied back
- Additional items (at director's discretion)

The following items are to be kept in the **tote bags**. Additional items may be included at the discretion of the director.

- Hair spray
- Bobby pins
- Hair clips
- Deodorant
- Make-up (in sealable plastic bag)
- Towel (in sealable plastic bag)
- Facial tissue
- Band t-shirt
- Uniform parts (gloves, shoes, costume, shorts, etc.)
- Electrical tape
- Warm ups (when applicable)
- Feminine products (if applicable)

Color guard costumes and uniforms are property of GISD unless specifically noted otherwise. Color guard uniforms will be stored at school in the uniform storage area. Performers missing parts of their uniform, including any assigned accessory, jewelry, make-up, or hair product, may not be allowed to perform. As with all district property, students are financially responsible for loss and damage due to negligence of any uniform item. Color guard costumes should only be worn by guard members and to color guard events only.

Instrumentalist Uniform Expectations

Wind and percussion students will be issued **marching band and concert band uniforms**. Marching band and concert band uniforms are property of GISD. Instrumentalist uniforms will

be stored at school in the uniform storage area. Performers missing parts of their uniform may not be allowed to perform. As with all district property, students are financially responsible for loss and damage due to negligence of any uniform item.

Wind and percussion students are responsible for providing shoes, gloves, band t-shirts and shorts to wear with the **marching uniform**. The band orders all of these items except shorts, during summer camp.

For less formal or hot weather performances we may wear a **summer uniform** that consists of shorts and a shirt. Directors will provide specifics during summer camp, but students will need to have appropriate, shoes, socks, and the shirt. **Students with long hair** will uniformly braid or conceal their hair inside their hats for marching band performances as designated by the directors.

Recommended rehearsal attire for brass, woodwind and percussionists in marching band is athletic clothes. Shorts and t-shirts are perfect for our activity, long sleeves and pant legs acceptable for colder temperatures. There are two non-negotiables for rehearsal attire: students must be able to comfortably execute all marching and choreography without coming out of GISD dress code and students must wear low-top athletic shoes. If in doubt about whether an item is appropriate for rehearsal, ask your director.

Both men and women will have a required **concert uniform** set by the Director of Bands. Boys will be responsible for their own black shoes (we recommend using the marching shoes), prescribed white tuxedo shirt (wingtip collar, pleats, and no ruffles), studs, and cufflinks (optional). Girls are responsible for black closed-toe shoes and black hose (optional). Any additional accessories must be black and approved by a director.

Practice vs. Rehearsal

Practice and rehearsal are not the same thing. This is an extremely important distinction for the success of any band or color guard unit. Practice is working your personal fundamentals, technique and individual part of an ensemble piece. Rehearsal is putting together all of the individuals and sections. Rehearsal cannot happen if the individuals do not know their parts.

When practicing, concentrate on fundamentals and technique. Pay attention to the details of that we work on in class. Do not “just go through the motions” half-heartedly, reiterating mistakes. Also remember that several short practice sessions is often more beneficial than one long one.

Private Lesson Program

GISD has a district wide program that provides a high quality enhancement to classroom instruction. All teachers are all specialists on their instruments. Most of our teachers are professional musicians in the Austin area and have advanced degrees in the performance of their instruments. All teachers are screened and background checked by GISD. **Private lessons are the best way for an individual student to improve their performance on their instrument and are highly encouraged.** Weekly lessons are at least 30 minutes in length. Lessons may take place during band classes, but may need to happen before or after school depending on teacher availability. Contact your director for details.

Concert Ensembles

The wind and percussion students will be placed in one or more concert ensembles, designated by ability level. Placement into these ensembles is by audition, as well as observation throughout the year. See **Auditions** section above.

For questions regarding the concert ensemble names and set up, contact your campus director.

Performance/Rehearsal Requirements for Concert Ensembles

Masterclasses will begin during summer camp and will continue the entire school year. During the fall, students will have a periodic masterclass for the fundamentals of instrument technique and TMEA Audition music preparation. These masterclasses may be taught by a professional on the specific instrument, such as a private lesson teacher, or by a band director. It may be necessary to schedule these classes outside of the school day to secure the best time for the students and the teachers to meet. See your director for details.

After football season, all students will have at least one weekly **Section Rehearsal** with their concert band section. The sectional will be primarily focused on music that the student's concert ensemble is preparing for future concerts and contests. All rehearsals are extensions of the classroom and as such are major grades and the attendance policy will affect any absence or tardiness. Section rehearsal schedules may be found on the band website or by contacting the student's director.

Concerts and Performances are an integral component of the band curriculum. Each of the concert ensembles will perform at various times throughout the school year. All performances are extensions of the classroom and as such are major grades and the attendance policy will affect any absence or tardiness. Please see the band website for an up-to-date schedule of performances.

There are three parts to a concert: warm-up, performance, and listening. The concert begins for the student at the warm-up. A concert concludes when the last group performs and directors dismiss the students. This usually happens after all items are put away and we have "racked and stacked." Correct concert attire is required for all concerts. Student out of uniform may not be allowed to perform or may not receive full credit for the assignment.

Region Band/Orchestra Guidelines

All students will prepare part or all of the TMEA Audition music and are highly encouraged to participate in the Region Band Audition. Students will be graded on their preparation of the music. Students who qualify for the TMEA Region Band through audition will attend rehearsals and performances. See the band website calendar for dates.

It is quite an honor to be selected to the All Region Band. Hundreds of students throughout the region will audition. Even if you are not selected, the experience you receive by preparing will enhance your musical ability and education!

Solo and Ensemble

All GISD band members will prepare and perform a piece of solo repertoire for a judge. Grades will be issued for preparation and participation in the Solo and Ensemble process. Students who wish to qualify for the UIL Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest, another huge honor, will perform at the region UIL Solo and Ensemble contest in February for a chance to qualify. All other students will perform in the spring at the GISD Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Students must use an approved accompanist. The accompanist fee is set each year by the directors at each campus. Scholarship opportunities for accompanists may also be available; please see the Director of Bands at each campus for details.

Jazz Band

Jazz Band is a yearlong curricular course dedicated to performing and appreciating America's unique art form. Jazz band is open to any band member with non-band members eligible to audition on piano, guitar, or bass only. Membership is earned through audition. Rehearsals will happen during the school day and after school as scheduled by the director. Topics covered will include ensemble musicianship, improvisation, jazz style, and music history.

Because of the smaller ensemble size, jazz band will play and many events in the school and community each year as well as festivals throughout Texas. All standards regarding preparation and conduct apply to this ensemble as well.

Student Leadership

The GISD Bands provide many opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills with a variety of offerings. Students can audition/apply for various **Instructional, Administrative, and Officer Positions**. In this manner, students can not only serve their band program but also refine skills that they will be able to use in other school organizations as well as in their future careers. Audition criteria are selected by the directors and are communicated to the students. The directors will evaluate all candidates based on their performance both during auditions, interviews, elections and their performance during their time in the program. In reality, your audition begins the day you meet your directors.

Student leaders are held to the highest standards of performance and conduct. They are expected to be positive role models for all band members at all times. All positions are yearlong appointments. See your directors for details about available leadership positions.

Band Boosters

The GISD band booster organizations exist to support the band directors in reaching the band program goals. The boosters meet once a month; please see the band website calendar for the meeting dates, times and locations. There is a place for every parent in this organization and it really is a fun group. Membership in the Band Boosters is open to every parent of a GISD Band Member. There is no membership cost. Your service is not only encouraged, but also needed and greatly appreciated. For more information, please visit our website at www.eastviewband.org or www.georgetowneagleband.org and look for the various contact numbers.

Band Banquet

One of the major events that the boosters are able to provide for band students is a banquet 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 will vary from year to year, but it will usually be held in a banquet room in the area and is considered a formal evening. Tickets are sold to cover the cost of the dinner, decorations, DJ, etc. This event is planned entirely by the student leaders and booster parents.

Letter Jackets (Wind, Percussion and Color Guard)

Band students entering their senior year who have completed 3 years of satisfactory service are eligible for a letter jacket (at District expense). Band members who joined as a sophomore and completed 2 years of satisfactory service are eligible for a letter jacket (at District expense). For any senior who has completed less than 3 years of satisfactory service, they may purchase a jacket at their own expense. Members who become Color Guard Officers are eligible for their jackets immediately. Students must attend all performances and UIL activities. Exceptions will be granted at the discretion of the director (illness, death, etc.) Students not adhering to performance or conduct standards of the school and program may forfeit their eligibility for the letter jacket. Any violation of these rules during their senior year may result in the forfeiture of the jacket. A student with a physical handicap, who meets all other requirements, but cannot march, may qualify for an award after serving three years. Students may also earn their letter jacket faster through this point system. 40 points required. **Withdrawal or dismissal from the program prior to graduation of their senior year result in forfeiture or restitution of the jacket.**

FULL PARTICIPATION IN GISD ORGANIZATION

Participation		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Subtotal
Band	5 pts/season				

FULL PARTICIPATION IN GISD AUX ENSEMBLE

Participation		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Subtotal
Full Orchestra	3 pts/season				
Musical Pit	3 pts/season				
Jazz Band	3 pts/season				
Winter Guard	4 pts/season				
Indoor Drumline	4 pts/season				

TMEA HONOR ORGANIZATION AUDITION & PARTICIPATION (CUMULATIVE POINTS)

	Audition	Participation	Total	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Subtotal
District	1	2	3				
Region	2	3	5				
Area		7	7				
All-State		40	40				

UIL REGION OR GISD SOLO & ENSEMBLE

	Perform	1 st Division	Total	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Subtotal
Class 1 solo	1	3	4				
Class 2 solo	1	2	3				
Class 3 solo	1	1	2				
Class 1 ens.	1	2	3				
Class 2 ens.	1	1	2				
Class 3 ens.	.5	.5	1				
Medium ens.	1	1	2				

UIL TEXAS STATE SOLO & ENSEMBLE

	Perform	2 nd Division or higher	Total	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Subtotal
Solo	3	3	6				
Ensemble	2	2	4				

EXTRA SERVICE ACTIVITY, PERFORMANCES, CONCERTS ATTENDED

Event	Date	Points	Event	Date	Points

Band Handbook Signature Page

Please return this page to your band director.

I have reviewed and understand the policies and guidelines in the GISD Band Handbook and the GISD Student Code of Conduct. I understand that Band is a Full Year course. I further agree to abide by the procedures set forth. The band handbook is located at www.eastviewband.org for East View High School or www.georgetowneagleband.org for Georgetown High School.



Print **Student** Name **X** _____

Student Signature **X** _____

Grade: 9 10 11 12 (circle one)



Print **Parent** Name **X** _____

Parent Signature **X** _____

Today's Date _____



Please provide the following information and signatures and return to the GISD Staff. This must be signed for participation in the band program.

This information is located at www.eastviewband.org for East View High School or www.georgetowneagleband.org for Georgetown High School.