

# **Young Men's Leadership Academy Band Handbook**



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## **YMLA Band Expectations**

A YMLA Band member should exhibit the highest standards of character, honesty, and integrity in everything that he does. Every YMLA Band member is expected to follow the guidelines outlined in the YMLA Student Handbook and those guidelines of the YMLA campus.

### **Band Hall Guidelines**

1. No food, drink, gum, or candy in the Band Hall unless approved by a director.
2. Respect the Band Hall furniture and electrical equipment. Defacing Band Hall equipment will not be tolerated. Band students should not use classroom metronomes and tuners without permission from a director.
3. Only percussionists have permission to touch the percussion equipment at any time.
4. Do not touch another student's instrument, even with his permission.
5. For your protection and for practicing purposes, instruments are to be taken home everyday.

### **Classroom Procedures**

1. Enter the Band Hall calmly and quietly; get materials out quickly. Be alert to where the director is, and when the director steps on the podium, all talking should cease. There is to be no talking during class unless a class or individual response is solicited.
2. Behavior that interferes with the learning process or delays the class will not be tolerated.

3. Be in your seat immediately following the tardy bell with band binder, pencils, oils, reeds, mallets and sticks, instrument, and whatever else you need to fully participate in class.
4. During class, all instrument cases need to be closed and stored in assigned spots except for tubas and percussion. Small instrument cases that can be stowed safely under or beside chair will be allowed in the Band set-up.
5. When not playing, students should be actively engaged in the rehearsal i.e.. fingering, slide positions, or stickings. All students need to be prepared play at any moment of rehearsal.

**Consequences for misbehavior may include:**

1. First Offense- a warning issued.
2. Second Offense- seating may be changed and student will be counseled following class as to what behavior modifications need to take place.
3. Third Offense- parent contact will be made. Band detention may be assigned. (Band detention includes service work in band hall i.e.. Cleaning, organizing, etc.)
4. Fourth Offense- Student/Parent Conference
5. Fifth Offense- Office Referral
6. Serious Offense- as outlined in the CMS Student Code of Conduct, serious offenses warrant an immediate office referral with school consequences.

# YMLA Band Grading Policy

## **Band Grades will be based on the following criteria:**

1. Playing and written assessments and objectives outside of or during class
2. Sectional attendance and participation
3. Participation in public performances and/or competitions
4. Daily Participation and Effort.

## Definitions of Grading Categories:

1. **Quiz Grade (10%):** Consists of assigned material on which students are tested in class, at home, sectionals, or before and after school. This also includes practice journals.
2. **Daily Participation (50%):** This grade is a reflection of each individual student's effort. Includes full participation in class such as having all equipment necessary (instrument, binder, pencils, reeds, sticks and mallets, etc.) and being cooperative in attempting techniques as instructed by director.
3. **Test Grade (40%):** Attendance at all sectionals and performances is mandatory. This grade is based on attendance, participation and preparation. Sectionals and performances occur mostly before or after school. Lots of specific information is taught in sectionals, so attendance is imperative. Performances (Fall Concert, Football Games, Pep rallies, etc) are culminating events to weeks and months of preparation and reflect the efforts of the entire band.

## Attendance Policy

As a member of the Band you have an obligation to your fellow band members to be at all rehearsals on time, to be prepared, and to have all necessary equipment and materials. Absences or tardies from rehearsals place an unfair burden on the rest of the students. Performances are even more crucial; conflicts to the published band calendar should be brought to the director's attention one month in advance to allow time for alternative plans. Communication (from a parent) is vital to insure correct information and that all possible solutions are considered.

### Attendance

1. All band students must abide by the YMLA attendance policies.
2. Attendance is required at all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances.
3. Directors must be notified in at least 1 week in **advance** whenever possible about any conflict or emergency regarding an absence or tardy. Notification the day of a performance or event is not acceptable, unless there is an emergency.
4. Absence or tardy arrival will be **EXCUSED** in the following cases:
  - a. Medical emergency or personal injury
  - b. Death in the family
  - c. Religious holiday
  - d. Conflict with another school activity, documented in **advance**. This will be resolved between the band directors and the sponsor of the conflicting activity.

A major part of the music curriculum is the development of performance skills. Therefore, “unexcused” absences from a sectional, rehearsal, or performance, which are integral to developing these skills, will lower a student’s grade as follows:

1. Sectionals, rehearsals and performances require interaction from members of a group and cannot "truly" be made up. Therefore “unexcused” absences from these events will lower a student’s grade.
2. Students who follow proper procedure for excused absences will be allowed to make up points by way of an alternate written assignment .

## **Digital Media**

It is important that we all remember that each family member, student, and staff, are constantly representing the attitude and quality of this program. When statements are made via Internet (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, forums, YouTube, etc) you symbolize the beliefs and opinions of the entire program. This being said, there are consequences for any kind of inappropriate behavior. No negative comment about our program or ANY other program should ever be made in public or on any site or video. This is disrespectful to your group and any group you decide to mention

## **Academic Requirements (No Pass, No Play)**

Excerpted from TEA-UIL Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities Handbook

“A student who receives, at the end of any grading period (after the first six weeks of the school year), a grade below 70 in any class (other than an identified class eligible for exemption) or a student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) may not participate in extracurricular activities for three school weeks. An ineligible student may practice or rehearse, however. The student regains eligibility after the seven calendar day waiting period has ended following a grading period or the three school week evaluation period when the principal and teachers determine that he or she has earned a passing grade (70 or above) in all classes, other than those that are exempted.

All schools must check grades for all participants at the end of the first six weeks of the school year. From that point, grades are checked at the end of the grading period whether it is six, nine, or twelve weeks in length. Students who pass remain eligible until the end of the next grading period. All activity coaches and directors are responsible for obtaining official grade reports from the individual the principal designates as the keeper of official grades before the student represents the school. This provision applies to all grading periods. It also applies to all three-school week evaluation periods for ineligible students.”

## **Band Binder**

The Band Binder consists of:

1. A hard-sided one inch three ring binder (black or navy blue)
2. Approximately 20 clear, plastic cover protective sheets (page protectors)
3. Composition Notebook
4. 5 dividers
5. at least one pencil EVERYDAY
6. Weekly Practice Log

Band binders should be labeled with the student's name, instrument and band class/period. Please ensure that your child has a functional band notebook to help protect his or her music and keep it organized.

## **Band Supplies**

**Woodwind students should have:**

1. Reed guard that holds three to four reeds
2. At least four working reeds
3. Cork grease and key oil
4. Proper swab designed for instrument
5. Metronome and tuner (optional free app)
6. A container to soak reeds in (double reeds)
7. Tuning/cleaning rod along with cloth swab (flutes)
8. Foundations for Superior Performance (Symphonic and Concert)
9. Standard of Excellence (Beginners)

**Brass students should have:**

1. Valve Oil
2. Slide lubricant (trombones)
3. Tuning slide grease
4. Mouthpiece brush and snake to clean instrument (to be kept at home)
5. Metronome and tuner
6. Soft cloth to wipe away any grease and grime
7. Foundations for Superior Performance (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders)
8. Tradition of Excellence (6<sup>th</sup> graders)

**Percussion students should have:**

1. This section still under construction

# **Ensembles at YMLA**

## **Symphonic Band**

The Symphonic Band is comprised of musically and technically advanced students and is the flagship musical ensemble of the YMLA band program. Membership in this organization is earned through the combination of audition, behavior, effort, proper balanced instrumentation of the ensemble and overall performance history. The Symphonic Band performs many concerts throughout the year and competes in UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest, festivals, pep rallies, and award ceremonies.

The highest performance and participation expectations are placed on the members of Symphonic band. Representing the YMLA Symphonic band is a privilege and responsibility, members failing to adequately prepare may forfeit the right to audition or perform with the Symphonic band. Other consequences may include loss of chair placement or placement in a lower performing ensemble at the director's discretion.

Performance requirements include:

- Preparing All-District and All-Region music
- Perform at Solo and Ensemble contest.
- Weekly sectional attendance throughout the year.
- Symphonic Band students will be expected to participate in before or after school full band rehearsals and weekend performances.

## **Concert Band**

The Concert Band is comprised of students with at least one full year of musical and technical skills. Membership is determined by audition, daily behavior and effort, proper balanced instrumentation, and overall performance history. The Concert Band performs multiple concerts throughout the year and may or may not compete in UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest. Additional performances may include festivals or contests, pep rallies, and ceremonies.

Performance requirements include:

- Members are required to participate in Solo and Ensemble contest.
- Members are encouraged to participate in All-District and All-Region tryouts.
- Sectionals will be held all year and are mandatory.
- Concert Band students will be expected to participate in some after school full band rehearsals.

## **Beginner Band**

The Beginner Band is comprised of students who are in the first year of starting their instrument. They will perform multiple concerts throughout the year. Additional performances may include festivals or contest and the annual Christmas Parade.

Performance requirements include:

- Members are required to participate in the Beginner Solo and Ensemble Contest in the spring.
- Beginning Band students will be expected to participate in some after school full band rehearsals.

## **Instrument Maintenance and Repair**

Regular cleaning and maintenance of the instrument by the student will prevent many common problems and repairs. However, in the event that a repair must be done, do not attempt to fix the instrument on your own! Contact the band director immediately. If your child's band director cannot fix the problem, then he or she will send it in to Music & Arts or Rivard Brothers for repair. Instruments are usually sent-in and returned once per week. For emergency repairs, please drive to either one of these businesses to take care of these matters quickly.

## **School- Owned Instruments**

We are very lucky in GPISD to have professional grade instruments for our band programs. When a student is issued one of these instruments, they are to handle and use it with the utmost care. Student/Parent may be responsible for any damage beyond normal wear.

## **Step-Up Instruments**

In many cases, students are ready for a step-up (professional) model instrument after the first or second year of band. A well-cared-for professional instrument is far superior to a brand new beginning or intermediate line of instrument. As a general rule, if your child is placed in either the Concert Band or Symphonic Bands, then he ready for a step-up instrument.

The following instruments require a step-up model for advanced students: flute, clarinet, saxophone, cornet/trumpet, and trombone. Please do not buy any step-up model off the shelf. Please contact your child's band director for a list of district-approved step-up models. More often than not, used models of the district-approved instruments can be found for a reasonable price.

## **Band T-Shirt**

Each band member will have a Band T-Shirt as a part of his or her informal band uniform. This shirt will have a school band logo. The informal uniform will consist of the Band T-Shirt and blue jeans or black dress pants with close-toed shoes. Jean appearance should adhere to the GPISD Dress. All band students are recommended to order a Band T-Shirt.

## **Formal vs. Informal Concert Uniform**

The Concert Band and Symphonic Band students will be required to wear an informal uniform and formal for concert performances.

- **Informal**- YMLA Band Blue Polo, black dress pants, black belt, long black socks, and solid black dress shoes (NO tennis shoes). (For some performances a Band T-shirt will also be used students will be notified on these occasions).
- **Formal**- White Button Down Collared Dress Shirt (no logos or other color accepted), black dress pants, black belt (no large buckles) long black socks and solid black dress shoes- (no tennis shoes)

Denim of any color or leggings are NOT appropriate for

formal concert performances.

## **Band Performances and Events**

### **Band Fundraisers**

The YMLA Bands will participate in a few fundraisers throughout the school year. These fundraisers will help defray the costs of running the band program by purchasing items needed by the program. These fundraisers will also help with the costs of the trips and activities we have during the school year.

### **All-District and All-Region Band Auditions**

Phase 1 of All-Region will be on ***Saturday, November 13, 2015***, students who make it past Phase 1 will audition at Phase 2 for the All-Region Band. The All-Region Band is comprised of the top musicians from the middle schools across Region 20. Auditions involve every student to memorize assigned scales and to perfect two musical etudes that they will perform portions of for a panel of judges. A panel of area band directors who will use the students' scores to place them in these elite groups evaluates the students.

### **Region Band Clinic & Concert**

Students who gain membership in the Region Symphonic and Concert Bands will perform TBA at the Region Band Clinic & Concert. Students rehearse an entire concert program of music during the day with a guest clinician and perform a concert that same night! The attire for the clinic is the band shirt and appropriate blue jeans (weather permitting). The attire for the concert will be nice dress clothes. The concerts usually begin around 7:00 PM and all parents are strongly encouraged to attend.

## **GPISD Middle School Solo & Ensemble Contest**

GPISD Schools will host the annual GPISD Middle School Ensemble Contest. All Concert and Symphonic Band members are required to perform a solo and members are strongly encouraged to prepare an ensemble. The band program will provide all ensemble music.

### **Fall Concert**

The Fall Concert is a great introduction to formal performances for the year. The Concert Band and Symphonic Band will perform at our Fall Concert in October. Students will wear their informal concert uniform. Specific details will be distributed closer to this event.

### **Holiday Concert**

The Holiday Concert is a time to get into the Holiday spirit! All YMLA Bands will perform at our annual YMLA Holiday Concert. These concerts will take place in the YMLA Auditorium. Concert and Symphonic Band students will wear their formal concert uniform. Beginner Band students will wear the informal uniform. Specific details will be distributed closer to this event.

### **Spring Concert**

All of the YMLA will perform at our Spring Concert. These concerts will take place at the GHS Auditorium. This is the final performance of the year, and all parents are highly encouraged to attend. The uniform for the Honor and Symphonic Bands will be formal and the Beginner Band will

be informally dressed.

### **Pre-UIL Concert& Sightreading**

In preparation for the UIL Concert& Sightreading Contest, the students will perform at a Pre-UIL event to stimulate the real contest experience. The Honor Band and Symphonic Band will be involved with this activity on Thursday, February 26, 2015. Students will wear their formal concert uniform for this event. Our bands will be evaluated by some of the area's finest band directors. These directors will give us constructive criticism to help on our quest to do our best at UIL. Parents are highly encouraged to attend.

### **UIL Concert & Sightreading Contest**

This is our biggest competition of the year! The Symphonic Band will perform at the UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest at the Little Elm HS Auditorium on March 2-3, 2015. The Honor Band will perform at the Wakeland HS Auditorium on March 25-27, 2013. Exact performance times will be announced closer to this event. The uniform for this event is our formal concert uniform. All parents are highly encouraged to attend both the Concert and Sightreading portions of the contest.

### **Calendar**

A full band calendar will be made available online and hard copies will be sent home with your student.

Thank You Sincerely for allowing your student to be apart of the YMLA Band

# **Forms**