

Shiner ISD 7th Grade Band



**2025 - 2026
Handbook**

Dear Band Parents,

It is our distinct pleasure to be teaching your children during the 2025 - 2026 school year. We are excited to begin a journey with them towards music literacy and the wonderful experience of them playing in the Shiner Comanche Band! It is our sincere desire to instill several things in your children including hard work, determination, team work, perseverance, drive, a passion for music, and a sense of pride and accomplishment through being a member of the Shiner Comanche Band.

This handbook is to provide you, the parent, with a look into our band policies, discipline, procedures, and expectations. We are always available to discuss them with anyone who has concerns.

It is expected that your student will be willing to work hard so that he or she continues to improve on their respective instrument. We have had tremendous growth in the band, not only in the number of participants, but in the dedication and effort put into it. Because of this, we are making great strides and improvement in the quality of the Shiner band program. We are looking to capitalize on that surge so we can continue to be one of the best Class AA bands in the entire state. In order for the high school band to achieve that goal, the 7th Grade Band has to work hard in order to ensure their success when they are high school band members.

Students must be willing to work hard, overcome frustrations, and, most importantly, never give up! They should have big dreams and all work together to achieve them. Please always know that we will personally do all that we can, as musicians and as teachers, to help those dreams come true for the students and community of Shiner.

On the following pages are the Shiner ISD's policies, procedures, and expectations for the 7th Grade Band. Please contact any band director if you need any clarification or you have concerns about any of this information.

Sincerely,

Zachary Sims, Whitney Sims, and Dr. Adam Lynskey

Shiner ISD Band Directors

Purpose and Membership

This handbook has been composed to help all students and parents understand the expectations they must adhere to as a member of the 7th Grade Band. All students enrolled in the 7th grade at Shiner ISD have the option of participating in the 7th Grade Band program. Students without prior band or music experience may participate in the 7th Grade Band at the band director's discretion, which will require extra practice sessions outside of class.

Website

Parents and students are encouraged to frequently visit the band website found at shinerbands.weebly.com. This website will be updated with calendar information, forms, and other announcements. We will also be communicating with students through the band app and Google classroom. An invite code has been sent to the student's email for the Google classroom. I will be sending out an invite code for the band app.

Contact Information

Band Hall:	(361) 594-3131 x 462	Zachary Sims: simsz@shinerisd.net
FAX:	(361) 594-4295	Whitney Sims: simsw@shinerisd.net
		Dr. Adam Lynskey: lynskaya@shinerisd.net

Administration

Dr. Lee Vi Moses Superintendent (361) 594-3121 mosesl@shinerisd.net	Chris Wegener Secondary Principal (361) 594-3131 x 367 wegenerc@shinerisd.net	Dr. Michelle Turek Elementary Principal (361) 594-3131 x 353 turekm@shinerisd.net
--	--	--

Shiner ISD Standards of Behavior

All expectations and regulations that have already been presented in the Shiner ISD Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct must be followed at all times and precede all expectations set in this band handbook.

Students are to follow all rules and policies set in the handbook at all band practices, as well as when traveling off campus with the band for a competition or other music related event sponsored by Shiner ISD. A copy of the Shiner ISD Code of Conduct will be issued to every student at the Intermediate of the school year.

Participation in school and school-related activities is an excellent way for a student to develop talents, receive individual recognition, and build strong friendships with other students. Participation, however, is a privilege, not a right. Eligibility for participation in many of these activities is governed by state law, as well as rules of the University Interscholastic League (UIL) a statewide association overseeing inter-district competition. The following requirements apply to all extracurricular activities:

- A student who receives, at the end of any grade evaluation period, a grade below 70 in any academic class, other than identified honors or advanced by either the State Board of Education or by the local Board of Trustees—may not participate in extracurricular competitions for at least three school weeks.
- A student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) may not participate for at least three school weeks.
- An ineligible student may practice or rehearse.
- A student is allowed in a school year up to ten absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of five absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of two absences for state competition. All extracurricular activities and public performances, whether UIL or other activities approved by the school board, are subject to these restrictions.
- A student who misses a class because of participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.

Student Expectations

- Be committed to this program. Committing yourself to 5 to 10 minutes a day of practicing your instrument is highly encouraged.
- It is expected that students are respectful to their fellow band members and to the director at all times. If respect isn't evident on behalf of the student, then some redirection will become necessary. If this continues to be a problem, the situation will be addressed with the principal.
- Be ready to follow all instructions given, and always be willing to do what is asked of you. Realize that we are not asking anything that we would not expect of ourselves.
- It is expected that every student brings his or her instrument and music each and every rehearsal. If a student forgets to bring their instrument or music, we will provide whatever is needed to use for the day, but the student's participation grade may be lowered for the week.
- If the severity of a student's actions are extreme, the student may be terminated from membership in the Shiner Comanche Band. Extreme actions that merit removal from the program may include:
 - Insubordination related to the director.
 - Disregard for the safety of themselves.
 - Disregard for the safety of their fellow band members.
 - Abuse of school equipment and, or band uniform.
 - Behavior that might cast a poor reflection or damage the reputation of the Shiner band.
 - Any negative behavior toward volunteers, Shiner ISD staff, or the director of the Shiner band.
 - Severe discipline infractions.
- If a student exhibits these behaviors, a meeting with the director, student, parents, and principal will occur to discuss removal from the program.

Grading Procedures

Students will receive a grade for participating in band class. The six weeks grading structure will be set up in the following manner. Shiner secondary now has a universal grading policy. Late work for classes will be 20 points off for the first day, 10 additional points for the second day, 10 additional points for the third day, and 10 additional points for the fourth day. After the fourth day the teacher has the ability to count the assignment as a zero. We will have two grading categories for 7th Grade Band. They are:

Daily Work	50%
Test Grades	50%

Daily Work

Daily work grades will consist of a grade given for rehearsals and assignments during school. Students will start with a grade of 100 and will lose points based on lack of preparation, lack of practice, or poor performance. Late assignments will abide in accordance with the secondary district policy.

Test Grades

Students will receive test grades throughout the grading period by being asked to play portions of their music. The testing date will be given in advance so the students can prepare the material. Some tests will be a section test, which will consist of students in the same section playing set material. Other tests will be a chair test, which will have the students ranked based on how well they played the prepared material.

Instruments

Students are expected to take extreme care of all instruments, whether the instrument belongs to a student or Shiner ISD.

Students bringing personally owned instruments to school are expected to keep the instrument in good playing condition and will be responsible for any repairs needed. A list of serial numbers will be kept on file with the band director in the event a personal instrument becomes damaged or misplaced.

Students will have the opportunity to use a school owned instrument. Students using these instruments will be required to sign a contract stating they will take the best care of the instrument and will be responsible for any damages due to neglect or improper use. Shiner ISD will be responsible for repairing all damages to the instrument due to normal aging or wear and tear. Once a school instrument has been issued to a student, the student becomes responsible for the instrument. If the instrument becomes lost or stolen, the student will be responsible for replacing the instrument of equal value.

Students using a school instrument will be charged a maintenance fee of \$20 for the entire year. This fee assists in the cleaning of the instrument at the end of each year to help prevent the spread of any germs, viruses, bacteria, etc. It also helps keep all instruments in the best condition. **Percussionists will not be charged this fee as cleaning is not necessary for percussion equipment; however, percussionists will be charged a \$20 fee to replace drum heads.**

We understand that some families may struggle paying for the rental fee or drum head fee. Families are more than welcome to pay for the fees in payments. No student will ever not be allowed to be in band because they can not pay for the rental fee. Please contact a director if you have any questions about the rental or drum head fee.

Trips and Travel

Shiner ISD will provide transportation to all band activities taking place outside of Shiner ISD. Students may ride home with parents after the contest pending notification from the parent to the band directors.

Students who wish to ride home from any band activity with someone who is not their mother, father, or legal guardian MUST have prior approval from Shiner ISD. Written notification must be given in advance.

Students are required to have a permission slip signed by a parent/guardian on file. Students are not allowed to travel with the band without this permission slip being signed.

While on trips, students are a direct reflection of themselves, the band, and Shiner ISD. Students will be expected to comply with all policies, regulations, and standards of Shiner ISD. Any violations of school policies will be considered significant and will be dealt with immediately. Please direct any questions or concerns about the field trip fees to a band director.

Band Boosters

All parents, friends, and supporters of the Comanche Bands are encouraged to become a part of the Shiner Band Boosters organization. The band boosters work hard throughout the year to raise funds to help with supplies and activities for our band students. Parents may help as much or as little as you would like but all help will certainly be needed and appreciated!

Concerts

Concerts are a very valuable and rewarding activity of the band program in which we showcase the musical talents and hard work of the incredible students of Shiner ISD. There will be four planned concerts for the year. They will include: Fall Showcase (October), Christmas Concert (December), Spring Showcase (March), and the Summer Concert (May).

Once the dates for the concerts are set, attendance will be required for students and taken as a test grade. If a student misses a concert, written notice by a parent/guardian must be presented in advance. If a student were to miss the concert a project will be given to replace the concert missed. Students will receive a test grade for the project.

Fundraisers

Fundraisers are vital to the financial success of the band program. Two fundraisers will be scheduled throughout the year. All fundraising goes to assist the purchasing of new instruments, equipment, students wishing to participate in a band camp, spring trips and festival performances. All students in the band will be expected to help with fundraising.

Solo & Ensemble Contest

The Solo & Ensemble contest is held each spring semester and all students are encouraged to participate in this activity. For this contest, students may choose to perform a musical selection by themselves (solo) or perform with a group of friends (ensemble). There are many different levels of music for the different capabilities each student has.

Once students have signed up for the event, we will enter the students for the contest. Once the deadline has passed, students are expected to participate. **If a student does not attend the contest once the student has been entered, they may be expected to pay the fee for their entry.**

All-Region Band Process

All 7th Grade Band students are encouraged to participate in the All-Region Band process. Auditions for this event take place in the fall semester each year. At the beginning of the year, each student will be given the audition music for the contest. At the audition, students will compete against other students from our region for a spot in the prestigious All-Region Band.

Once students have signed up for the event, we will enter the students for the contest. Once the deadline has passed, students are expected to participate. **If a student does not attend the contest once the student has been entered, they may be expected to pay the fee for their entry.**

Band Camps

Band and music camps are available every summer from many colleges and universities across the state. Band camps typically last one full week and are incredible educational opportunities for band students to gain more musical knowledge. Students attending band camps have the opportunity to meet faculty from different universities as well as meeting many new friends.

Handbook

This handbook is updated frequently. Any questions or concerns about the material located in the handbook should be directed toward a band director.