

SHS Bearcat Band Handbook/Syllabus



2025-2026

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* Required Annually.

BAND ORGANIZATIONS

Band is a full year course consisting of two distinct semesters or “seasons”. The fall semester is primarily considered the marching season while the spring semester is considered the concert season. **You must be a member of the marching band to be in the concert bands and vice versa.** The following is a brief description of the various groups that are associated with the Sherman High School band program:

MARCHING BAND

Directors: Ryan Jenkins, Flint Weed, Logan Stinson, and Michaela Bocock

The Sherman Bearcat Marching Band is made up of students from all three concert bands. When combined with the Drumline and Color Guard, the entire group is known as the “Bearcat Marching Band”. The marching band performs at all SHS pep rallies, at all SHS football games, and at marching contests and exhibitions. **Membership in the Marching Band is required of all band students in the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band.** Concert band students will have the chance to earn a spot. The Marching Band rehearses from 5:00 – 8:00 on Monday and 6:45-8:15am Tuesday through Friday. Marching Band students are eligible to receive a physical education waiver for membership in Marching Band.

SHS BANDS

There are three concert bands at Sherman High School. Students are placed in a concert band according to their playing ability, attitude, participation, instrumentation needs, and audition. Students may move from band to band as deemed necessary or appropriate. The three concert bands provide for a wide range of playing abilities and time commitment. With team teaching, students will have the opportunity to experience full band, sectionals, and individual attention.

WIND ENSEMBLE

Director: Ryan Jenkins

The WIND ENSEMBLE is the top performing concert band at Sherman High School. This band performs college level literature and performs numerous concerts during the year. Wind Ensemble Students are required to attend sectionals outside of school time each week; moreover, they are required to participate in the all region band auditions and must learn all region music for their semester exam grade. They are also highly encouraged to participate in Solo and Ensemble events. Members of the Wind Ensemble are required to participate in the private lesson program. These students are quite serious about improving their musical abilities; therefore, most of these students have invested in professional quality musical instruments. The Wind Ensemble performs on all major band department concerts and attends a major music festival each spring, competing against the best concert bands from across the state and the nation. Special community events, school functions, and other performances will be required of every student in the Wind Ensemble.

SYMPHONIC BAND

Director: Chris Dickson

The SYMPHONIC BAND is the second level concert band at Sherman High School. This band performs upper-level high school concert band literature. Symphonic Band students are required to attend sectionals outside of school time each week. Students are highly encouraged to audition for the All-Region band. Participation in U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble contests is highly encouraged as well. Placement in this ensemble will be determined by performance of a portion of the All-State audition music. A majority of Symphonic Band members have invested in a professional quality instrument and participate in the private lesson program. The Symphonic Band enters U.I.L. competitions each year, performs on all major band department concerts and attends a major music festival each spring, competing against the best concert bands from across the state and the nation. The Symphonic Band serves for many students as a preparation for the Wind Ensemble. This group will be comprised of students in grades 9 – 12.

CONCERT BAND

Director: Michaela Bocock

The CONCERT BAND is the third level concert band at Sherman High School. This band performs high school concert band literature and focuses on basic fundamentals. Students are highly encouraged to audition for All-Region band and participate in U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble contests. Placement in this ensemble will be determined by auditions. A majority of Concert Band members have invested in a professional quality instrument and participate in the private lesson program. The Concert Band will have the opportunity to play multiple performances in the spring semester. The Concert Band serves for many students as a preparation for the Symphonic Band. This group will be comprised of students in grades 9 – 12.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Director: Chris Dickson

The Jazz Ensemble is a year round class at Sherman High School. The Jazz Ensemble meets every day during the 7B period. Membership in the Jazz Ensemble is by audition and approval of the directors only. A student **must** be a member of one of the performing ensembles at Sherman H.S. in order to be a member of the Jazz Ensemble. Special circumstances will be dealt with on a case by case basis. Members are encouraged, not required, to try out for the All-Region Jazz Band. The Jazz Ensemble may compete/perform at U.I.L. Solo & Ensemble and a spring Jazz Festival as well as local elementary school celebrations and numerous Sherman area performances, many occurring outside the school day hours. This group will be comprised of students in grades 9 – 12.

INDOOR AND MARCHING DRUM LINE

Director: Logan Stinson

The Indoor and Marching Drum Line consists of every percussionist at SHS. This group will meet during the same periods as the wind ensemble although they will not practice together. In the fall, this group dedicates it's time to working on the marching band show. In the spring, it will prepare for various competition/concert experiences to be determined by Mr. Stinson. Also in the spring, this group will be broken into three groups to perform with the concert bands at their various performances. All rules for the concert bands apply. The students will be encouraged, but not required, to compete in solo and ensemble. This group will be comprised of students in grades 9 – 12.

INDOOR AND OUTDOOR COLORGUARD

Director: Michaela Bocock

Color Guard and Winter Guard are open by audition only. All students are invited to audition and participate in the audition process. Color Guard consists flags, rifles, sabers, and dance choreography. Students who participate in the Outdoor Color Guard group will use this time to work on the marching show choreography while building skills that can be used indoors as well. Focus during the marching season will be given to group performance, working as a team, and large group choreography. Students who participate in the indoor Winter Guard season will expand upon skills learned during the marching season while including more advanced and intricate flag, weapon and dance skills. During the Winter Guard season the group participates in several contests throughout the North Texas area in conjunction with the North Texas Color Guard Association (NTCA) and Winter Guard International (WGI). Color Guard members must be enrolled in both semesters. This group will consist of students in grades 9 – 12.

PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

A yearly band calendar is given out for your use in planning your family schedule for the 2024-2025 school year. **Each** band student is important to the success of our many activities. We **must** be able to count on 100% attendance at these performances. If a family emergency occurs unexpectedly, PARENTS, please call the high school at 903-891-6440. Occasionally, there may be family commitments (weddings, graduations, etc.); in which case, we will **try** to be flexible and work with you on an individual basis. This must be discussed in detail (a month or more!). Check the band website at <https://www.shermanisd.net/Domain/562> for updates and schedules.

Student job commitments and “select sports” are **NOT** reasons for an excused absence from band performances or rehearsals! Many band students work and participate in “select sports” and participate successfully in band. We suggest that these students take a copy of the “Yearly Band Calendar” to his/her employer and/or coach and clear all band performances and rehearsals. Ninety-nine percent of employers are very understanding and are flexible **if** they know of band commitments well in advance, and they understand that band performances are a **required** and a vital part of the course work. (We are glad to talk to employers to validate student commitment.) **If a band student has an unexcused absence from a performance/required function, they are subject to immediate removal from the band program.**

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

In band rehearsals, we not only deal with a creative process, but also with a larger number of students at one time than do other classroom teachers. Because of this, it is imperative that band students be **organized** and **prepared** for every rehearsal. When an individual is not able to play his musical instrument during a rehearsal, it hurts the GROUP as well as the individual. It is important that the student's musical instrument be in good working condition, that (s)he has a pencil to mark his/her music, and that (s)he has important accessories such as drill books, mutes, reeds, and valve oil for **EVERY** rehearsal. It is also imperative to the creative process that we work in a quiet, attentive atmosphere in the classroom. Students who do not live up to the high rehearsal expectations of the Sherman Bearcat Band will be counseled, and, if necessary, moved to a lower level band or be removed from the band program completely. **This is part of your grade!**

GRADING

Grading in band is based upon participation, attitude, and playing tests. Grades for band students are usually higher than the average SHS student. This is understandable, since we have the "cream-of-the-crop" from the student body in the band program. Students are in our program because they "want to be," not because they "have to be!" Band students receive a grade of "100" for each performance attended: i.e., football games, concerts, competitions, sectionals etc. As part of their six weeks grade in the fall, students must pass off daily warm ups, the fight song, school song, star spangled banner and show music by memory. This music must be memorized and passed off in order to march and participate at football games. A large part of every student's grade is showing up prepared, participation and having all required supplies. In order for every student to be successful and maintain a high grade, attendance at all events, including sectionals, and knowing your music is mandatory. Band grades are not given, they are earned. Show up prepared, know your music, have a good attitude, and you will be successful!

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

All music organizations adhere to the eligibility rules and regulation as stated by TEA, UIL, and SISD. Any student whose recorded nine weeks grade average **in any course** is lower than 70 at the end of a six-weeks period shall be suspended from participation during the next nine-weeks period. However, a student may regain eligibility seven calendar days after the three-week evaluation period if the student is passing **all courses** on the last day of the three-school-week period. Students enrolled in certain upper-level courses may apply for a waiver from the eligibility requirements. The district provides a list of these courses and policies associated with waivers.

The Sherman Band Staff will enforce all eligibility rules and regulations. Students who are ineligible will continue to rehearse during his/her band classes and before and after school and participate in curricular performances to earn his/her band grade. Ineligible students may not travel with the band or participate in extracurricular performances. An example of a curricular performance would be a spring concert and an extracurricular performance would be a football halftime or any type of contest. Be advised that excessive absences from school may also result in a student being declared ineligible.

Because academics come first with all of our students, we must insist that each student remains eligible for the entire academic year. If you are not eligible, you can not participate and therefore may hurt the band because you will become unreliable. We must have students that are reliable. **Therefore, any student that fails 2 six weeks in an academic year will finish the year in their present spot but will be less likely to earn a spot with the marching band or a chair in one of the top concert bands the following school year.**

The band staff and Sherman High School staff work hard to assist and encourage band students to perform up to their potential in **ALL** classes. Since both Marching Band and Concert Band are group activities, each individual band student plays an important part in the success of the group. The band staff consults both with teachers and students for strategies for improving individual student performance. Obviously, we cannot be successful as a band unless our students are successfully passing **ALL** classes. Please feel free to meet with a director if you are having problems in any classes. We are here to help you succeed at Sherman High School.

CHAIR PLACEMENT

Chair placement in all Concert Bands is on the basis of playing auditions. Chair placement auditions may be held throughout the school year. Students are placed in chair order **only** on the basis of how they perform the audition music. The classification of a student is no factor. There will be 1 audition in every academic year. The auditions will occur in late April/early May, and will be the chair and band placement for the following school year. All Sherman High School band students will be required to learn 2 excerpts of music to be determined by the directors for chair placement. Chair tests may be given at anytime during the year. It is up to the director of each band to where students are placed. When possible, 2 or more directors will hear the auditions.

ALL-REGION AUDITIONS

Students in the Wind Ensemble are required to prepare for and attend the All-Region auditions held in December. Students in the Symphonic and Concert bands are encouraged to audition as well. The dates and location can be found on the yearly calendar given to students in May of the previous school year. The idea of participating in All-Region auditions are to prepare students for the pressures of performing in front of judges in order to help them during contests in both the marching and concert band seasons.

If a student is unable to attend the All-Region auditions because of illness or unforeseen situation, it is the responsibility of that student and his or her parents to let the directors know before the auditions. Also, a doctor's note must be produced the following week in class.

PRIVATE LESSONS

All students are encouraged to take private lessons in order to improve their individual playing skills. While directors are skilled instructors on the various instruments in the band, there is simply no substitution for private instruction received from someone who is considered to be a professional performer on a particular instrument. We are extremely fortunate in Sherman to have numerous professional private lesson teachers available to help students reach that "next level" of performance. The Sherman directors will assist band students in scheduling lessons with the qualified teachers; however, we suggest you be aggressive in "locking in" with a teacher as soon as possible. **Private lessons are mandatory for all Wind Ensemble members.** Scholarships are available for qualified families that apply but are only offered once per year by the band Boosters. Deadline is September 2nd. Scholarships reduce lessons by up to 50% making them accessible to everyone. Individual instruction from a qualified specialist on an individual musical instrument can make all the difference in a student's progress on his musical instrument, thus making for a more enjoyable experience in band. Your students private lesson instructors name and phone number will be on your monthly invoice.

USE OF BAND HALL FACILITIES

Students are welcome to use the band hall practice rooms for practice either before or after school. Sometimes, however, the number of available places is limited, since both sectionals and private lessons take place before and after school. Due to the many thousands of dollars worth of musical instruments that are in the band hall, we do ask that **ONLY** band students come into the band wing during the school day **and** before or after school (the band wing consists of the band hall hallway, practice rooms, and band halls). Students must ask their friends who are not in the band to wait for them either in the school hallway or outside. The Band Room is a "safe haven." We stress to all band students to be responsible and keep their equipment **PUT UP** in their lockers at all times. Many times clean-up duty is assigned to those untidy housekeepers to help develop orderly skills. If a student leaves an instrument out in the band hall and not their locker, they will be required to write a one page paper explaining the importance of proper instrument maintenance. No food or drinks are allowed in the band hall except when directors allow at special times. Water is allowed at all times! Students are not allowed in directors offices without a director present.

We spend most of our day at the band hall and would ask that everyone treat it with respect and does their part to keep it clean. If you see trash on the floor, please pick it up.

Instruments left out on the floor and not put up in lockers or on top of lockers will be confiscated and returned for a \$5 clean up fee. Clean up fees will be used to better our band hall. Everyone gets one free warning. Please keep your instrument locked in your lockers so as to preserve their safety and condition. All backpacks, clothing, and extra belongings will be put up and offered at the same \$5 clean up fee as stated above. We are not responsible for lost or stolen articles. Please help us all maintain a clean, safe, and working home for the SHS Band Program. Anything left on the floor after classes or school is subject to being lost, stolen, or trashed.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

Sherman ISD provides school musical instruments in the double reed and low woodwind sections, as well as selected low brass and percussion sections for a very modest \$100.00 per year. This \$100.00 fee covers multiple instruments if the students require different ones for marching and concert. Percussion students will be required to pay an additional \$125.00 sticks and mallets fee for all marching and concert necessities. These instruments are quite costly (example: concert Tuba - \$9,000) and are not normally owned by individuals. All of these instruments are sent to the repair shop and reconditioned during the summer. **Any damage or normal adjustment during the year is the responsibility of the band student who has signed for the instrument.** We expect the instrument to be returned in the same condition as when issued. Dings, dents, and other damage will be repaired at the student's expense. The \$100.00 fee covers the end-of-year flush and cleaning required of all instruments. Mouthpieces and neck straps are required for all applicable instruments and it is the responsibility of the student to provide these. Sherman ISD carries **NO** insurance on school instruments. If the instrument is stolen while checked out to a student, it is the **student's responsibility** to replace the instrument. Many parents carry an insurance rider to cover a checked-out school musical instrument. In addition, students may obtain inexpensive coverage on a school or privately owned instrument from the *Music Agency, Inc.*, Arlington, Texas. Application forms for this insurance are available online.

BAND UNIFORMS

It is a **privilege** to wear the Sherman High School Band uniform. Make sure you have all parts of the uniform at each performance. **KEEP YOUR UNIFORM CLEAN AND PRESSED!** If your uniform does not meet the high standard required in the Sherman Band, you are subject to being removed from a performance or not traveling with the band. This uniform is a symbol of pride and will be worn accordingly. **You must wear all of the uniform (minus the hat) or none of the uniform!** Most students choose to wear light weight shorts with their black band T-shirt shirt, under their uniform, giving them the option to remove it at appropriate times. If a band member is seen wearing the uniform incorrectly **at any time**, 25 push-ups or the uniform will be asked of that student! Band uniforms are not to be worn at eating establishments, after games or performances, or to social functions. Eating and drinking soft drinks should be done before you put on or after you remove your uniform. Here are some do's and don'ts that will help you and your uniform look great at all times:

- ♫ **DO:** remember your gray band Under Armor shirt, gray socks, and marching shoes each time you will be wearing your uniform.
- ♫ **DO NOT:** remove any material from the uniform if alterations are necessary.
- ♫ **DO:** transport your uniform in a garment bag and your hat in the hat box. Every time!
- ♫ **DO NOT:** store your uniform in the garment bag. This will cause it to mildew and get that "funny" smell. This odor will never leave the garment. EVER!
- ♫ **DO:** take extra time and care when hanging up your uniform. Pants hang folded on the crease, not the seat.
- ♫ **DO:** Always store your hat in its hat box.
- ♫ **DO NOT:** attempt to wash and/or dry your uniform at home.
- ♫ **DO:** remember to bring your instrument in spite of your excitement over your uniform!

UNIFORM ACCESSORIES

The Sherman Band uniform and all the major accessories are provided by SISD. Band students will need to provide:

- ♪ A pair of **black Drillmaster Band Shoes**. (These shoes will be painted gray by a director.)
- ♪ A pair of **gray socks**
- ♪ A **black band t-shirt** to be worn under the marching jacket.

All section, jazz band, and drum line shirts must be approved by a director. Shoe fitting and cost information will be provided during registration at the beginning of each year. Shoes will be ordered in bulk to insure low cost and uniformity of style. All band students are required to purchase a Sherman **Band Polo Shirt** and Sherman Band gray Under Armor shirt at the beginning of each school year. The polo shirt, along with khaki shorts and tennis shoes are worn at pep rallies, trip activities, and at other performances where less formal attire is appropriate. This is referred to as our 'casual uniform.'

BAND BOOSTERS

The Sherman Bearcat Band has a very active, supportive parent organization known as the Sherman Bearcat Band Booster Association. The booster association includes parents from band, drum line, and color guard. Without the hard work and dedication of the parents, the band program at Sherman could not be as successful and productive as it is. There are numerous areas in which interested parents can be involved in supporting the activities of the band. General meetings of the boosters are held throughout the school year; however, numerous committees do most of the booster organization planning. There are no dues or membership fees for band boosters. All parents with students in the band program are automatically boosters.

BAND LETTER JACKETS

A STUDENT QUALIFIES FOR A BAND LETTER JACKET WHEN HE OR SHE:

1. Completes four semesters in Band, with participation in the fifth semester; or
2. is a member of the All Region Band or earns a 1st division on a class one solo at UIL Solo and Ensemble contest; or
3. completes two marching semesters in the color guard with participation in the third semester
4. completes two semesters of participation in Jazz Band with participation in the third semester

OFF CAMPUS TRAVEL POLICIES - GENERAL

Students who represent the Sherman ISD on out-of-town trips are expected to maintain very high standards in every respect at all times. They are expected to attend and be on time for all sessions and activities scheduled for them. In the event of overnight trips, they are expected to be in their rooms at the times designated by their sponsors.

Each student will be responsible to one or more faculty sponsors who will supervise the activities of the student for the trip. Negligence in attending sessions, in meeting curfew requirements, or in failing to maintain our standards of conduct may make it necessary for the sponsor to send the student home at his/her own expense.

Student conduct on school-related trips: Self-discipline is the key element for a pleasant experience for both the sponsor and the student when the student is on a school-related trip. Students who are involved in a serious

disciplinary offense on a school-related trip, such as the use, possession of, or being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol, stealing, fighting, going in the room of a member of the opposite sex, or some other serious offense will face disciplinary action which may include one or more of the following:

1. The student will be sent home from the trip at the parents' expense.
2. The student will be held liable for damages to property.
3. The student may be removed from this school activity as well as other school co-curricular activities.
4. The student may be placed in Suspension at Campus (SAC), Off-Campus-Suspension, or Alternative Education Placement.

Students' attire during school activities outside the school day should be in good taste. If there is any question of taste, the director's decision is final. All adults on trips serve as sponsors. Students will be expected to treat them with respect at all times. In the event a parent sponsor gives needed supervision, band students must honor that with utmost respect.

GENERAL – Even though you will not always have a band shirt on, people will find out where you are from. You have the opportunity to make a tremendous name for Sherman and for yourself. Be courteous and polite at all times. There is no way we can anticipate every possible scenario, so we ask for good judgement. Please use common sense. RULE OF THUMB: If there is any question in your mind as to whether you should do something or not...DON'T DO IT! It is better to be safe than sorry.

IMPORTANT

Medical Release, Travel Release, and Handbook Compliance Forms must be on file with the band staff before a student can participate in any band event requiring travel. The forms are found on pages 15, 16, & 17 of this handbook.

WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEMS. IF WE ANTICIPATED A PROBLEM, WE WOULD NOT TRAVEL.

FOOTBALL GAME POLICY

Normal school policy dictates that band students ride to and return from all off-campus performances as a group using transportation provided by the district. On **rare** occasions, an emergency or conflict with other school-sponsored events necessitates that parents provide transportation to or from an off-campus performance. In such a situation a note signed by the parent should be presented to a director, and one of the directors must physically see the parent take the student. This protects both the parents and the school. Any other types of releases from a performance must be cleared **in advance** through the office of Sherman High School Principal.

Football games are fun, and we are there to support the team. However, we must maintain a class act at all times. Band members can stand up and YELL and SCREAM in support of the team throughout the game, but should always remain in his/her "spot." It is important to remain alert concerning all of the expensive equipment around you as well as the need to be ready to play at a moment's notice. **Only band students are allowed in the band section.** We will try to have a section for alumni. You are only allowed to play **your** instrument at games. No one else's! Students who choose to play at inappropriate times and do not follow rules will be warned once. Further action will come in the form of the student being asked to leave the band formation, change out of their uniform, and sit at the front of the band with chaperones. At home games, students will be asked to leave the stadium. Please no food, drinks, or gum during 1, 2, or 4th quarters. The 3rd quarter is your time off. Be back when then directors tell you to. Failure to follow these rules may lead to losing 3rd quarter privileges or not being allowed to come to games. All wind players must have a lyre and flip folder with all of their music in it at all marching band events.

Have fun at games, but represent Sherman with pride, class, and dignity. We only ask that you be aware of your surroundings and be on time for warm up, half time, and 4th quarter. Act accordingly and we all will have fun!

SISD Band Travel Rules

General Rules

1. Students may choose which bus they ride and who they sit with on bus rides. However, that is a privilege that can be taken away if a student breaks one or more of these rules. At that time, a band director will choose which bus they ride and that student will sit in the front of the bus with that band director.
2. Once a student has chosen which bus they will ride, they must come home on the same bus so that chaperones can take an accurate roll count before we leave.
3. Students should understand that any instructions they are given by a chaperone while on a band trip are the same as if a band director gave those same instructions. Chaperones have been given instructions/rules by the band directors and are only repeating those instructions/rules.
4. Chaperones are volunteers who have given their time and energy to the band in order to keep them safe, fed, and well equipped. They should be given the utmost respect at all times and thanked for their service to the band program.
5. Blankets are allowed on buses only when a student is sitting by themselves. If they are in the seat with another student, the use of the blanket is prohibited. This applies to any mixing of boy/girl, boy/boy, or girl/girl.
6. Shirts must be worn at all times by both male and female students while on the buses. This should only be an issue when we travel to football games since we eat first when we arrive. We will be in half uniform when we travel to contests.
7. If it is too hot or too cold on the buses, students should inform the band director at the front of the bus. The director will work with the bus driver to rectify the situation. This should be done if it is too hot so that shirts may be worn in comfort. This should also be done when it is too cold and a student wants to sit in the same seat as another student and is unable to use a blanket.
8. Music should be played while using ear buds of some kind and should not be audible to students in the area. Many students use a bus ride to do homework or catch up on sleep and should be afforded the opportunity to do so.
9. Any movies that a student wants to watch on a charter bus must be approved by the band directors prior to the start of a trip. Chaperones are excused of that responsibility and should not be asked to approve a movie while on the trip. If a director does not give their permission, that movie may not be shown on the bus video system. Only movies rated G and PG will be given approval.
10. Students found to be in possession of or under the influence of any illegal substances will be referred to their assistant principal and will be dealt with under the rules of Sherman High School. Their parents will be notified immediately and in many instances, be told to come and get their student from the event.

Directors

1. One director will ride each bus. We have 4 full time directors which will allow us to staff 4 of the 5 buses using a district employee. We also have chaperones who are SISD employees and we can place them on the 5th bus (when available).
2. Directors will guide the chaperones on where to sit since they will know the students best.
3. Directors should be available to handle any problems that the chaperones may have while we are on a trip. Medical, emotional, and behavioral problems must be dealt with in a timely manner.
4. If a student is found to possess or is under the influence of illegal substances, a band director should make immediate contact with that student's assistant principal. The principal will consult with Mr. Johnston on how best to handle the situation.

Chaperones

Chaperones must complete and submit a background check through Sherman ISD and be approved before they may assist the band.

1. Chaperones will sit in the following seats on each bus:
 - a. 4 Chaperones per bus - 2 up front, 1 in the middle, 1 in the back
 - b. 3 Chaperones per bus - 1 up front, 1 in the middle, 1 in the back
 - c. 2 Chaperones per bus - 1 in the middle, 1 in the back
2. Chaperones will have an attendance folder and first aid kit for each bus.
3. An attendance sheet should be passed around the bus as we leave so that the students may sign in. That same sheet will be used to take attendance at the end of each event before we leave.
4. Chaperones should count the number of students on each bus as well as calling out the students' names before we leave from each event.
5. Many times, chaperones will also act as food handlers for the band once we arrive at an event. They will assist the meal organizer in handing out meals to the students at both football games and marching contests.
6. On some occasions, chaperones may also be asked to help move pit equipment and props onto the field. Proper clothing and footwear should be worn to avoid injuries.
7. It is suggested that chaperones wear clothing that easily identifies them as band parents. That may take the form of that year's show shirt, a band booster polo, or a name tag. The name tags are especially helpful for the students to learn your name and be more willing to come to you for help.

FUNDRAISING

All out-of-town band festival trips (football trips and UIL events excluded) are funded completely by band members, either through private sources (student jobs, parents, etc.) or through student fund-raising. Individual student accounts for festival trips are set up and administered through the band boosters. Profits from fund-raising activities or other deposits to trip funds are maintained/supervised by the director and booster treasurers. Specific payment schedules are set up for spring trips. Students are subject to being dropped from the spring festival trip if published payment schedules are not adhered to. During the year if you need any specific information concerning individual account balances, etc., contact the band booster Treasurers or Presidents.

STUDENT ACCOUNT GUIDELINES

1. Profits gained from individual fund-raising projects are placed in the student activity accounts in the student's name.
2. A student's individual account is non-transferable to another student (does not apply to siblings).
3. If a band student drops from the band program, moves, or is removed from the band program, all fundraising monies in his/her individual account revert to the general account, SINCE THE MONEY WAS RAISED IN THE NAME OF THE BAND. Funds raised in the current school year may be carried over to the next school up to a maximum of \$600 over the cost of this year's trip.
4. **CASH DEPOSITS** (not from fund-raising profits) **are** refundable, provided they are requested in writing before published trip refund deadlines.
5. All deposits will be made by students or parents into the band safe in directors' office. Directors do not want to be in charge or have to handle the money.

REHEARSAL GUIDELINES

- Be seated with instrument, music, pencil, and supplies at the announced time.
- Show good rehearsal etiquette by being a good team player—study your part quietly while the director works with another section.
- Remain on task at all times; do not talk or interrupt the focus of a rehearsal.
- Absolutely NO CELL PHONES! This is getting harder and harder!!
- Maintain proper posture at all times, which is important for all players.
- Raise your hand and ask questions if you need more individual help.
- Leave your instrument cases in your locker during rehearsal and your backpacks at the side of the room.
- Do not leave purses or other valuables unlocked in the band hall.
- All instruments remain in cases with latches closed inside a locker when not in use.
- Lockers shall remain clean. Items other than instruments, music, and books should not be kept in lockers.
- Do not have homework out during class. You are not allowed to do homework during class.
- Disorderly behavior and abusive language will not be tolerated.
- Please be considerate of directors' requests for assistance and/or performance of little tasks around the band hall.
- Do not leave rehearsal without permission from the director

EXCUSED ABSENCES

The following situations constitute an excused absence:

- 1) Illness--Requires a note from doctor.
- 2) Death in the family--Requires a note from parent.
- 3) Extreme family emergency--Requires a note or phone call from parent.
- 4) All other circumstances considered to be extenuating according to the Sherman I.S.D. attendance policy.

Note: **All absences require a note!!!**

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Most other absences are unexcused and will be treated on a case by case basis at the discretion of the director. The following actions will be taken for unexcused absences:

- 1) In marching season, content and valuable instruction time will be lost and cannot be recovered. As a result, a substantial number of points will be deducted from the academic grade.
Continued unexcused absences could result in removal from the marching formation.
- 2) Doctor appointment (emergency)--Requires note or call from parent. Please schedule all doctors' appointments around rehearsals and concerts. (Wednesdays work well for doctor's visits)
At least 24 hours notice please!
- 3) In concert season, the same policies will apply as mentioned above. Repeated absences could result in being moved to last chair, and/ or being moved down a band. A reduction in grade may occur.
- 4) Second unexcused absence in either marching or concert band will result in parent conference and possible removal from band program. A reduction in grade may occur.
- 5) Repeated unexcused absences **will** result in removal from band.
- 6) Work is not an excuse. Please schedule your work in advance.
- 7) In short, be responsible for your own actions concerning these matters!
- 8) Unexcused absences may result in being pulled from a performance opportunity.

EXTRA REHEARSALS AND SECTIONALS

In addition to regular rehearsals during school time, each member is required to attend additional rehearsals each week. These are required rehearsals and the same absentee rules apply to them as apply to our regular rehearsals! The day and time of sectionals are varied according to which section the student is in.

PERFORMANCES

All band members are required to participate in **ALL** performances. Please keep track of the calendar that is passed out at the beginning of summer band for football games and marching competitions, as well as concerts and festivals. Please understand that times and dates may change, but ample notification will be given to all parties involved. *Traditionally, the fall schedule includes every Friday in August, September, October, and the first few weeks of November, as well as all Saturdays in October!* Playoff games are to be expected with the winning tradition set forth by our football team. Playoff games are mandatory. Missing a performance results in a failing grade for the six weeks and may possibly jeopardize the member's chance for going to contests and trips with the band. Excessive absences will result in termination from the band program (exceptions will be made on a case by case basis).

TARDIES

Members should arrive no later than 10 minutes before the designated time for rehearsals and concerts. Get there in time to get instrument, music, stands, etc. and get in your seat, ready to play at the appointed time. Keep the following items in mind concerning tardies:

- 1) Any one who arrives later than the scheduled time and is not in their assigned place is tardy.
- 2) Anyone arriving more than 15 minutes late results in missing valuable instruction time, and the academic grade may be affected accordingly.
- 3) Detentions are not excused absences. As leaders of the SHS student body, band students do not receive detentions nor will they be tolerated. Set the example!!!!
- 4) Students must have notes from teachers for excused tardies dealing with tutorials.
- 5) Excessive tardies may result in loss of spot on the marching field or even termination from the band program. Two successive tardies during the week of a marching performance will result in being pulled from the performance.

BAND PLACEMENT

Every student who is signed up for band must audition to be placed in a band class. Placement in Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble is based on a series of criteria. Some of these criteria are: the audition itself, participation in All-Region, conduct, attitude, dependability, eligibility, attendance for rehearsals and performances, and the student's demonstrated ability to perform the level of the music for the band in which they are placed. We consider many aspects of potential members, all of which are just as important, if not more important, than playing ability. The ones you have control of are your preparedness, your attitude, your professionalism and your prior and current academic standing. We want to see your best, so please keep these aspects in mind as you prepare well for your individual audition.

CONDUCT

The conduct of each band member should be beyond reproach. By the time a student reaches high school, he/she should know how to show appropriate behavior. The high standards set by the Sherman Bearcat Band will be strictly enforced. Poor behavior is a sign of lack of pride and a lack of concern for the band. Members who continually display inappropriate conduct or violate the policies of the school could be removed from band.

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

Just like in a performance venue, you are in public and you are representing yourselves, your directors, and your school. Always be on your best behavior, as your behavior reflects those three things listed.

- 1)** No pictures in uniforms / tracks of show music / show concepts or ideas may be released to ANY social networking site until director approval has been given.
- 2)** Inappropriate comments are not permitted regarding the Sherman Band Program, members, staff, design, etc. (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, Tik Tok, etc.)
- 3)** Using social media in a negative way will result in strict consequences. Do not jeopardize the image of the Sherman Bearcat Band.

RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the student to call or email the director in advance when you are going to be absent. If you are going to be absent, call the band hall early before rehearsal so that we may plan for your substitute.

It is also the responsibility of the student to present to the director any notes for absences at the first rehearsal that you are back. You have this responsibility, as we do not often have time to hunt you down for your excuse. If we receive no note from your parents, then we will assume the absence is unexcused. Of course, all regular school rules apply to our band as well.

The main office phone number at Sherman is **903-891-6440**

Ryan Jenkins.....	Director of Bands (Brass Studies) Sherman High School 903-891-6440 ex 4648 rjenkins@shermanisd.net
Chris Dickson.....	Assistant Director (Jazz Studies) Sherman High School 903-891-6440 ex 4648 cdickson@shermanisd.net
Logan Stinson.....	Assistant Director (Percussive Studies) Sherman High School 903-891-6440 ex 4647 lstinson@shermanisd.net
Michaela Bocock...	Assistant Director/Colorguard Director (Woodwind Studies) Sherman ISD 903-891-6440 ex 4647 mbocock@shermanisd.net

COLORGUARD

The Sherman High School Color guard meets every day during 7th period as well as all required after school rehearsals. You must be enrolled in the class in the fall semester in order to participate in the marching band. Likewise, you must be enrolled in the class in the spring semester in order to participate in the winter guard. Membership is by audition only!

Auditions: Auditions are a three day process and all three days are mandatory. Absences will be handled as stated in the Band Handbook and will be treated on a case by case basis. Members will be selected on the sole basis of attendance, participation, attitude, preparedness, and performance. The number of color guard spots is limited. Color guard manager(s) will be personally selected by Ms. Bocock. Students who failed more than two nine weeks the previous school year will not qualify for membership. Colorguard and marching band are not an individual sport and owe its entire success on team effort. Your team has to be able to count on you!

Uniforms: Uniforms, makeup, and hairdo will all be decided upon by Ms. Bocock and are not up for discussion. Uniforms are expensive and almost impossible to replace if not ordered in bulk. In order to keep our uniforms in top condition, members should not eat or drink anything but booster provided snacks and water while in uniform (not at halftime, competitions, etc.). Color guard members will with no exceptions and at all times wear either the full uniform or none of the uniform.

Color guard Room: Colorguard members will take turns maintaining a clean and orderly colorguard room. This will be done by classification (freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior) and rotated on a weekly basis. Anyone found not contributing to keeping a tidy room, will be asked to take on the entire responsibility for a day. If everyone helps, this task will not be impossible! Remember, this is participation and does affect your grade.

Equipment: Colorguard members will be required to purchase a personal equipment carrier. Every member will be responsible for their own equipment (even loading and unloading for performances). Every flag pole, silk, and prop that is school property must be returned in the approximate condition it was checked out in. A damage and/or replacement fee sheet will be handed out to be signed by student and parent and returned to Ms. Bocock.

Fees: Colorguard fees are set by Ms. Bocock every year. Ms. Bocock will make members aware of fee totals and due dates at the end of each school year. The approximate cost to be a member of the SHS color guard in the fall semester is \$500.00. In the spring semester, we will try not to exceed \$200 in fees. This will cover the uniform, flag carrier, gloves, shoes, t-shirt, pole, practice flag, and makeup. Alternate arrangements can be made if need be. Please contact Ms. Bocock. 903-891-6440, ext. 4647.

THE COLORGUARD IS PART OF THE MARCHING BAND AND WILL ALSO ABIDE BY ALL OF THE BAND HANDBOOK.

SHERMAN BEARCAT BAND PERMISSION AND EMERGENCY RELEASE

As part of its educational program, the Sherman Independent School District (“SISD”) has organized a variety of educational and learning activities and trips in which your child will have an opportunity to participate. These trips and activities are designed to benefit students by providing unique learning experiences and exposure to new and different people and places in a supervised setting. School personnel will keep you informed of the upcoming activities in which your child will have the opportunity to participate.

I, the undersigned, the parent and/or legal guardian of the student identified below, a minor, hereby acknowledge that said minor is presently under my care, custody and control. I hereby give the student identified below my express permission to travel with school personnel on the educational enrichment activities and trips the school has planned and to participate in all scheduled activities involved in the trip or activity.

In the event of an emergency necessitating medical attention to the student identified below, I hereby authorize that treatment be given by qualified and licensed medical personnel. I understand that I will be notified as soon as possible and that all expenses incurred in treatment will be assumed either directly by me or by my insurance coverage as noted.

I acknowledge that liability of SISD, the SISD Board of Trustees, and any agents, employees, representatives, insurers, successors, and assignees of the entities just named, is narrowly defined and extremely limited by Texas law and local policy.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Student's Name: _____ Sex _____ Age _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____
 Last First MI

Present Address: _____

Street	City	State	Zip
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Parents or Legal Guardians: _____ Home Telephone: _____ Business Telephone: _____

Other responsible party: _____ Home Telephone: _____ Business Telephone: _____

Health Insurance Co.: _____ Policy Number: _____ Health Ins. Tel.# _____

Medical History of Student: (Please check Yes or No)				** Please check medication your child can receive				
	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No
Diabetes	_____	_____	Dizziness	_____	_____	Acetaminophen (Tylenol)	_____	_____
Drug Allergies	_____	_____	Convulsions	_____	_____	Ibuprofen (Advil)	_____	_____
Asthma	_____	_____	High Blood Pressure	_____	_____	Throat Lozenges/cough drops	_____	_____
Epilepsy	_____	_____	Heart Disease	_____	_____	Antacids (Tums)	_____	_____
Fainting Spells	_____	_____	Stomach Disorder	_____	_____	Lotions, Creams, ointments	_____	_____
Kidney Disease	_____	_____	Hay Fever	_____	_____	Diphenhydramine (Benadryl)	_____	_____
Liver Disease	_____	_____	Parent/Guardian Signature _____			Date _____		

Surgery/ies (within the last year): _____

Emotional problem (i.e. hyperventilation, hysteria): _____

Serious medical problems not mentioned above: _____

Any special problems in the past: _____

Tetanus (last injection date): _____

Allergies to drugs: _____

Allergies to foods & other agents: _____

List ANY medications the student might have cause to use on a trip (i.e. anti-convulsive, anti-histamine, insulin, any tranquilizer, etc.)

Please describe any medical/mental problems which the student might have which have not been covered on this form and about which you think the directors should know. _____

STUDENT/PARENT AUTHORIZATION & RELEASE
FOR OFF-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

The Sherman Independent School District ("SISD") offers a variety of learning activities at designated off-campus locations in which students will have an opportunity to participate. I hereby give permission for my son/daughter to participate in the various off-campus activities associated with the Sherman Band program. I understand that SISD may not provide transportation to and from all activities. Students are expected to use school transportation to and from ALL activities, if provided. In the event that SISD does not provide such transportation, I further understand that I must provide transportation for my son/daughter as a condition of his/her participation in that activity.

In consideration for allowing my son/daughter to participate in off-campus activities, I knowingly and voluntarily agree to assume full responsibility and assume all risk for any accident, loss, damage, and injuries he or she may sustain as a result of or arising out of any aspect of the activity. Furthermore, I, on behalf of myself, my son/daughter named below, our respective family members, and our respective heirs, legatees, executors, administrators, and assignees, hereby agree to release, acquit, discharge, and hold harmless SISD, the SISD Board of Trustees, and any agents, employees, representatives, insurers, successors, and assignees of the entities just named from any and all claims, demands, liabilities, actions or causes of action, of whatever kind or character, whether known or unknown, whether arising out of federal, state, or local statute or common law, including claims resulting from negligence, that I or my son/daughter may sustain arising out of any aspect of the off-campus activity, including, but not limited to, driving or riding to or from the off-campus activity.

*****The Band Handbook is on-line. Please read and review before signing and returning this release form!**

PARENT/GUARDIAN – STUDENT RELEASE & AGREEMENT

I HAVE DISCUSSED AND REVIEWED ALL THE INFORMATION IN THE SHERMAN BEARCAT BAND HANDBOOK WITH MY SON/DAUGHTER, AND I UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS AND MY RESPONSIBILITY AS TO THESE POLICIES AND CONDITIONS. MY SON/DAUGHTER HAS MY PERMISSION TO ATTEND DISTRICT AND OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRIPS AND SCHOOL-SPONSORED EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. I UNDERSTAND THAT SHERMAN ISD AND SHERMAN HIGH SCHOOL WILL NOT BE LIABLE FOR INJURIES AND MEDICAL COST FOR STUDENTS. MY SIGNATURE ALSO SERVES AS PERMISSION FOR MY SON/DAUGHTER TO OBTAIN MEDICAL TREATMENT ON A SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRIP.

Student Name

Parent/Guardian Name

Student SIGNATURE

Parent/Guardian SIGNATURE

Date

Date

Parent/Student Handbook Compliance Form

I, _____, state that I have read and understand all information contained in this handbook and will comply with all rules and regulations contained in it.

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Name

Student Signature

Date

Sherman ISD Bands



Dear Sherman Band Parent,

The Sherman ISD offers an excellent enrichment program to all band students. This program consists of a 30 minute private lesson, taken once a week, taught by a specialist on your child's instrument. We hope each parent will consider the opportunity offered by this program. Listed below are a few points to consider about this valuable program.

- Private lessons give students an opportunity to work with a specialist on their instrument.
- Private lessons allow gifted students to move at a pace comfortable to his/her needs.
- Private lessons can help motivate a struggling student by providing a more personal approach.
- Private lessons offer insights and experiences on a musical level not available in a classroom of 30+ students.
- Private lessons help meet individual needs.
- Private lessons are required of all Wind Ensemble members.
- If your student wants, but cannot afford private lessons, partial scholarships are available. Please ask a director for the additional forms. Excluding any extenuating circumstances, scholarships are offered once per year. The deadline to submit an application is September 2nd.

Much careful attention is directed towards acquiring the very best private instructors for the Sherman Band program. These teachers all have degrees in music and most participate actively as performers in the north Texas area. The private instructor, once notified that you are interested in lessons for your child, will contact you to arrange a mutually convenient lesson time. Lessons are generally held at Sherman High School, Sherman Middle School or Piner Middle School. Lessons cost \$20.00 each and are paid on a monthly basis. A month with four weeks would cost \$80.00.

Please Remember The Sherman Band Boosters will no longer be billing each student for lessons in order to pay the instructors. Instead, each student will receive a monthly statement from the instructor indicating the number of lessons taken for that month and the amount due. Some instructors may set a payment schedule differently so be sure to ask them once you begin taking lessons from them. Unexcused absences will be billed as a lesson. Please give the private lesson teacher 24 hour notice. Plan to pay your balance each month. Lessons will be stopped on any account 60 days past due.

We hope you will seriously consider private lessons for your child. It could really make a difference! Please do not hesitate to call if you have any additional questions about this program.

Sincerely,

Ryan Jenkins

Director of Bands SHS	891-6440	Annette Mitchell, Sherman Middle School	891-6400
Flint Weed, SHS	891-6440	Caitlyn Hilliard, Sherman Middle School	891-6400
Logan Stinson SHS	891-6440	Melinda Najera, Piner	891-6481
Michaela Bocoek, SHS	891-6440	Josue Rodriguez, Piner	891-6481

***Please fill out the following form and return it to your band director.
A private lesson teacher will contact you to schedule your lessons.***

Student's Name: _____ Instrument _____

Student ID #: _____ Campus _____ Grade _____

If you studied privately last year, who was your teacher? _____

Parent's Name _____ Home # _____

Work # _____ Cell # _____

Email address for billing via email _____

Mailing Address _____