

Shiner ISD High School 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. Students in the high school band are receiving a P.E. credit; therefore, the high school students will be required to perform more strenuous physical activities. We will make sure that each policy is clearly identified as to which students it will impact.

It is expected that your student should be willing to work hard so that he or she continues to improve on their respective instrument and marching. 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 Comanche Band must be made up of students who are dedicated to this program. They must be willing to work hard, sweat, 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 see 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 high school band. Please contact a band director if you need any clarification or if 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 manual has been composed to help all students and parents understand the expectations they must adhere to as a member of the High School Band. All students enrolled in the 8th through 12th grade of Shiner ISD have the option of participating in the High School Band program. Students without prior band or music experience may participate in the high school 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 SHS Band Website found at **shinerbands.weebly.com**. This website will be updated with calendar information, forms, and other announcements. We will also communicate with students through the band app and Google classroom. All students have been sent an invitation for Google Classroom to their school email.

Contact Information

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Administration

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Superintendent	Secondary Principal	Elementary Principal
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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 beginning 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 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 or marching is highly recommended.
- 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 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 from ourselves.
- It is expected that every student should bring his or her instrument and music to 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 or leadership crew.
 - Disregard for the safety of themselves.
 - Disregard for the safety of their fellow band members.
 - Lack of commitment to the Shiner band program.
 - 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 the leadership crew, 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 Intermediate Band. They are:

Daily Work	50%
Test Grades	50%

Daily Work

Daily Work grades will be given for assignments given during the class setting. Students will start with a grade of 100 and will lose points based on lack of preparation, poor performance, or poor behavior.

Test Grades

Test grades will occur in band, although they may not involve a traditional test setting. During the first semester, test grades will be given for every football game and marching performance attended. A student will receive a 100 unless they lose points based on lack of preparation, lack of practice, poor performance, poor behavior, or failure to attend the game or competition. Failure to attend a game or performance without prior notification to and approval from the band director may result in a failing grade. It is at the band director's sole discretion to allow a student to be excused from a test grade situation or to allow the student to make up the grade.

Students will also receive test grades throughout the year by being asked to pass off portions of their music. During the fall, students will receive test grades based on passing off their marching band music by memory. Failure to pass off the music on time will result in a late penalty. All late assignments will be graded in accordance with the secondary late policy.

During the spring semester, students will be required to pass off excerpts of their concert music. It is not required that the piece be memorized, but the grading procedures will still meet the same expectations as listed above.

Marching Band & Concert Band

Students enrolled in the high school band during the fall semester will participate in the marching band program. Students are required to attend all practices and performances (including football games) on time in conjunction with the marching band. Students will receive P.E. credit for participating with the marching band during the fall semester. Students taking marching band as their P.E. credit, while not enrolled in another P.E. or athletic class, will be required to complete a Fitness Gram at some point during the school year per state requirements.

Students enrolled in the high school band class during the spring semester will participate in the concert band. Students are required to attend all practices and performances on time in conjunction with the concert band.

Instruments

Students are expected to take extreme care of all instruments whether the instrument belongs to any 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 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.

Students using a school instrument will be charged a maintenance fee of \$20 for the 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.**

Uniforms

During marching season, each student will be issued a uniform. The uniform will be cleaned prior to the start of the year and will consist of black pants, a jacket, black polo, and hat. Some sections will have a modified version of the uniform. Students will be shown the proper way to wear the uniform and, when instructed to do so, students will be required to wear the uniform as shown at football games, marching contests, or other scheduled performances. **When dressed in full uniform, no jewelry, watches, or earrings are to be worn.** All hair longer than the collar of the band jacket will need to be tucked in the hat.

Students are required to keep the uniform clean and take utmost care of it. **If the uniform becomes damaged due to improper use or neglect, the student will be held responsible for repairing or replacing the uniform.** If the uniform becomes excessively dirty, the student is responsible for cleaning it. If any part of the uniform becomes damaged due to normal aging or wear and tear, it is the student's responsibility to notify the director that the uniform needs to be repaired. In this case, the school will take care of the repair.

Rehearsals After School

Participation in after school rehearsals and performances is required of all members of the Shiner Comanche Band, and is an integral part of each student's grade in band. Failure to attend a rehearsal with no notice may result in the student receiving a failing test grade.

If a student were to miss a rehearsal for any reason, the time missed in the rehearsal must be made up before the end of that week. For example, if a member were to miss a two hour practice, they will be expected to make up two hours of time in the band hall before the end of that week. Time missed for school related activities (football, volleyball, cross country, cheer, etc.) will not need to be made up. If the student does not make up their time, they may not be allowed to participate with the band during the football game.

Football games and contests

Football games and contests are also a required part of participating in the Shiner Comanche Band. If a student were to miss a football game or contest for any reason other than school related activities, the time will need to be made up. Failure to attend a football game or contest with no notice may result in the student receiving a failing test grade.

A football game missed will equal two hours of time to be made up by the individual band member. A missed contest will equal four hours of time to be made up. Time owed is to be made up before or after school.

Sectionals

Sectionals will help us focus on a smaller group of students, thus enriching their learning. Sectionals will not be called often, but when they are called, they will be counted as a test grade. Date and times of sectionals will be discussed with students in advance to identify a time that all students can attend.

Trips and Travel

The SHS Band will travel many times throughout the year to various contests and football games, as it is a requirement of being a member of the band. Shiner ISD will provide transportation to all band activities taking place outside of Shiner ISD. Students are required to ride the school bus to all official band/school related functions, but 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.

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. Such supplies and activities may include purchasing of new instruments or equipment, providing meals to the band for away football games, providing special treats and prizes throughout the year, and providing scholarships to our seniors. Parents may help as much or as little as you would like but all help will certainly be needed and appreciated!

Drum Major and Leadership Crew Duties

The Shiner band would not be successful without the help of its student leaders. Students with high leadership qualities may choose to audition for drum major or leadership crew. Audition requirements and procedures have been listed below. Drum majors and leadership crew members are expected to be helpful and positive influences on all band members, as they are role models for everyone. While students in these positions see much of their work taking place in the fall, the leadership opportunities last all year. Duties for all positions are stated below. Failure for a drum major or leadership member crew to fulfill these duties will result in the removal from their position.

Students who are awarded the title of drum major must attend a drum major camp with the other drum major recipients.

Drum Majors

The amount of students who earn the title of drum major will be based on the amount of students projected to participate in the high school band for the following year, as well as the quality of candidates auditioning. Students will be eligible to audition for drum major after they have completed one year of marching band. The drum majors' duties include:

- Directing marching band performances during half time or contests
- Directing stand tunes during football games
- Assisting band directors during practices or performances
- Maintaining a positive, helpful attitude at all times
- Arriving early or staying after all practices
- Scheduling meetings with leadership crews
- Attending every practice and performance
- Auditioning for All-Region Band and/or Solo & Ensemble
- Maintain eligibility at all times

Section Leaders

All Section Leaders are expected to serve as leaders and role models for their respective sections.

- Set and complete any sectionals they deem necessary to improve their section.
- Provide all music for their section and help their section with any missing music.

Drill Instructors

All Drill Instructors are expected to serve as leaders in helping teach the band how to march.

- Be assigned to and help run their marching group, or family.
- Assist any members of the band that they see struggling with marching in the show.

Loading Crew

Responsible for the organizing and loading/unloading of the band trailer at all functions where the trailer is being used.

Uniform Crew

Members are responsible for the organizing of the band uniforms and performing uniform checks after every performance where uniforms are used.

Librarian

Members are responsible for maintaining the music library and helping students if they were to lose their music.

Drum Major / Section Leader / Drill Instructor / Loading Crew / Uniform Crew Audition Requirements

To audition for the position of drum major or leadership crew, the student interested must meet the following requirements:

1. Marched for a minimum of 1 year OR entering the 9th grade with at least one year of marching band experience in Shiner ISD.
2. Must have been eligible and marched in the UIL Region Marching Contest.
3. Must have been eligible and participated in the UIL Concert & Sightreading Contest.
4. Must have been eligible for 4 full six weeks periods in the current school year.
5. Must have been eligible at all contests during the current school year.
6. Must show leadership qualities and the ability to be a teacher and role model.
7. Must be of best disciplinary behavior.
 - a. Must not have been placed in ISS or DAEP during the current year.
 - b. Must have 3 or fewer office referrals.
8. Must be able to attend all practices.
9. Must be able to attend all football games, performances, and concerts.
10. Must have a positive attitude and willingness to maintain a strong work ethic.

The following items are not requirements, but could help with choosing individuals for drum major or leadership crews:

1. Participation and advancement in the All-Region Band audition.
2. Participation and advancement in the UIL Solo & Ensemble (instrumental) process.
3. Prior leadership experience.

The audition for drum major will be held each spring. Drum major candidates will audition in front of three judges. These judges are third party judges who are not affiliated with Shiner ISD and have no prior knowledge of any of the students auditioning. The final decision for drum major rests with these judges and the approval of the band directors and SISD administration.

The final decision for section leader and drill instructor rests with the band directors and SISD administration. Previous participation, experience, and dedication will be taken into account when filling these positions.

All students interested in uniform crew and loading crew will need to sign up in the band hall. The final decision for uniform crew and loading crew will rest with the band directors and SISD administration. Previous participation, experience, and dedication will be taken into account when filling these positions.

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 our band program. They will include: Fall Showcase (October - 6th & 7th), Christmas Concert (December - 6th, 7th, & HS), Spring Showcase (March - 6th & 7th), and the Summer Concert (May - 6th, 7th, & HS).

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.

Please note that the Christmas Concert and Summer Concert are not affected by UIL rules on eligibility. These concerts are state requirements of the music curriculum requiring students involved in a music performance class to publicly perform a minimum of once per semester.

Fundraisers

Fundraisers play a vital role in 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, scholarships for seniors, 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.

Scholarships

The Shiner Band Booster Organization works hard to raise funds for scholarships. Seniors will be eligible for a Band Booster Scholarship that will be awarded at the end of the year. An application will be made available to all interested seniors. Seniors must be attending a college, university, or trade school to receive the funds.

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.

All-Region Band Audition Process

All 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. 8th grade students will compete in the Junior High All-Region Band contest held in November while the High School contest is held in December. Students will compete against other students in this audition 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.

UIL 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. In this competition you are not competing against any other students, only yourself!

High School students receiving First Division ratings on a class 1 solo (memorized) or ensemble will have the opportunity to advance to the Texas State Solo & Ensemble Contest held at the end of the year.

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 Letter Jacket Policy

Students will earn 25 points for each year of membership in band. Members will automatically earn their letter jacket for band if you accomplish any one of the following:

Individually

1. Place high enough in the ATSSB High School All-Region Band to advance to the Area contest.
2. Receive a First Division rating on a Class 1 Solo or Ensemble at the UIL Region Solo & Ensemble Contest.
3. Earn a leadership role in the SHS Band as a drum major.
4. Be in the spring semester of your junior year without having previously earned a letter jacket.

As a full band

1. Be awarded as the State Champion of the State Marching Contest or the State Honor Band.

In the event the above does not take place, you can still earn your letter jacket based on the point system listed below. You must earn 150 points to receive your letter jacket.

Individual Accomplishments

Audition for JH or HS All-Region Band	5 points
Earn a chair in JH or HS All-Region band	5 points
Make first chair in JH or HS All-Region band	10 points
Advance to ATSSB Area	automatic letter jacket
Advance to ATSSB All-State	automatic letter jacket
Audition for Solo & Ensemble (JH & HS)	5 points
Receive a Division 1 on a solo or ensemble	5 points
Earn a position as Uniform Crew	15 points
Earn a position as Loading Crew	15 points
Earn a position as Section Leader	15 points
Earn a position as Drill Instructor	15 points
Earn a position as Drum Major	automatic letter jacket

Marching Band Accomplishments

First Division at UIL Region Marching	5 points
UIL Area Marching Contest Finalist	5 points
State Marching Contest Participant	5 points
State Marching Contest Finalist	10 points

Concert Band Accomplishments

First Division UIL Concert	5 points
First Division UIL Sight Reading	5 points
Sweepstakes	10 points
State Outstanding Performance Series Finalist	10 points (per piece)
Advance to Area Honor Band Contest	10 points
Finalist in State Honor Band Contest	15 points

*Should a student earn their letter jacket during their 8th grade year, they will be fitted for and receive their jacket during their freshman year per UIL rules.

The band director will keep an ongoing record of points accumulated by each student. Letter jackets will be fitted each spring with them arriving by the end of the school year. The points will be reviewed annually within approximately two weeks of the fitting of the letter jackets.

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