

Hays Rebel Band



Handbook - 2019-2020

BAND BOOSTERS:

The Hays Band Boosters organization is dedicated to support the students, directors, and the mission of the band program as they strive towards the highest level of curricular and artistic goals in music education and performance. By becoming an official Booster, you are supporting the students directly. Your votes in general meetings allow you to guide our development and fundraising efforts. Our Mission is worthwhile: "The Hays Band Boosters organization is dedicated to support the students, directors and the mission of the band program as they strive towards the highest level of curricular and artistic goals in music education and performance."

It is impossible for this organization to function as it was intended without the support from all of the band parents. Each family that has a child in band (9-12) is asked to help the organization in any way that he/she can throughout the year. The Hays Band Boosters meet at 6:30 PM in the HHS Music Building, on the 1st Tuesday of the month unless otherwise called by the Booster President.

DISCLAIMER:

The rules set forth by Federal Law, Texas State Law, Texas Education Agency (TEA), and University Interscholastic League (UIL) supersedes that of any policies in this handbook that are found to be in conflict. This handbook adopts policies that are more stringent than those adopted by Hays CISD and HHS.

PURPOSE:

This handbook was written to serve as a guide to help students and parents understand policies that will be followed on a daily basis in the Hays High School Band. Understand that it covers some policies already set forth in the HCISD Handbooks and additional policies that are unique to the Hays High School Band. Students are required to follow all guidelines within. Students are also expected to follow ALL rules and regulations set forth by the organizations listed in the "Disclaimer" section. If an issue arises that is not covered in this document, the Band Director will decide on the appropriate action.

ORGANIZATIONAL PHILOSOPHY:

Hays High School Band Students will learn the importance of dependability, teamwork, and music. HHS Band Students will also learn that hard work is the only path that leads to success. By doing this, students will be prepared to become good citizens and future leaders in our society.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

In order to be admitted into the Hays High School Band the student must:

1. Be recommended for enrollment by the Middle School Band Director.
2. Have been enrolled in band and in good standing at the time of transition to HHS.
3. Be able to read, write, count, and perform simple music examples.
4. Be free of major discipline problems in the previous calendar year. Any activity that results in an office referral is considered major.
5. Understand that band is an academic class according to the State of Texas and be willing to spend time daily outside of class practicing his/her instrument just as he/she would do homework in any other class.
6. Be able to play a standard band instrument at the level of a typical 4th year player.

In order to continue enrollment in the Hays High School Band after admittance the student must:

1. Show measurable improvement on his/her instrument.
2. Practice his/her instrument on a regular basis.
3. Be free of constant discipline problems.
4. Maintain passing grades in all classes in accordance with the rules of the University Interscholastic League.
5. Attend all scheduled practices and performances.
6. Maintain a clean criminal record.

NOTE: Admittance and continued enrollment in the Hays High School Band is the decision of the Director of Bands and Principal. Students that do not meet the above qualifications may or may not be allowed to participate in the Hays High School Band. Students that change his/her schedule out of band will not be allowed to get back into band unless there is an extenuating circumstance as decided by the Director of Bands.

STUDENT/PARENT COMPLAINTS:

Students and parents are asked to follow HCISD policy when dealing with complaints. Basically, complaints should be presented to the following people in order:

1. Asst. Band Director (if complaints deal specifically with that person) and/or Director of Bands
2. High School Assistant Principal
3. High School Principal
4. Superintendent
5. School Board

From time to time it is necessary to hire outside help (clinicians and sponsors) from outside the school district. Those clinicians and sponsors are hired on a contract basis and are not to be approached with complaints. In the event that a student or parent has a complaint about a clinician or sponsor, he/she is asked to file the complaint with the Director of Bands.

GENERAL REGULATIONS:

Students involved with the Hays High School Band are looked at as “band students” even at times when he/she is not formally participating in a band activity. Because of this, these students are expected to be good examples to all other students in his/her classes and in the community. Students that are in conflict with this philosophy will be removed from band at the discretion of the Director of Bands and Principal.

Band members are expected to follow all Hays CISD policies regarding appropriate student behavior. Violation of the following policies will be handled by existing school policy in addition to the “HHS Band Consequences” listed below: boy/girl relationships, skipping class (during or after school), destruction of school property, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, smoking, fighting, knives or weapons, profanity, sexual harassment, stealing, tardiness, and insubordination.

All negative student behavior (while in band, other classes, or in public) will be evaluated by the Director of Bands and appropriate disciplinary action will be determined based on the severity of the incident and its impact on the band.

HHS Band Consequences are as follows:

- Before or after-practice marching fundamentals.
- After school detention.
- Office referral.
- Sitting out of one or more performances.
- Up to a 15 point grade reduction for that nine weeks grading period.
- Exclusion from a special band trip.
- Expulsion from auxiliary unit.
- Not allowed to audition for auxiliary unit or SLT/BLT.
- Expulsion from band at the end of the semester.
- Immediate expulsion from band with loss of credit.
- (If away from school) sent home at the parent’s expense.
- Turned over to the local police.

It should be noted that three things will result in immediate expulsion from the HHS Band Program:

- Theft of any kind.
- Open defiance towards a band director (or other teaching staff) Telling any member of the teaching staff "NO" or refusing to do what is asked leaves no other resolution.
- Any activity that could lead to the arrest and conviction of a student.

In the unfortunate event that a student must be expelled from the band program, parents are asked to consider that his/her child has usually received ample warnings and "chances" to correct his/her behavior. Band is an elective in which the student must truly want to participate. Actions speak louder than words and if a student doesn't "act" like he/she wants to be in band, he/she will be asked to find another class in which to participate.

The following rules will be in affect when the band is at a practice or away from school:

- While traveling on a bus, students are expected to behave in a manner that is not distracting to the driver.
- While students are on the bus he/she is to: stay seated, keep feet off of the seat, and maintain a low volume level.
- Students are to ride on the bus that he/she is assigned.
- Absolutely no public displays of affection are allowed while in band uniform.
- When arriving at the destination, the students are to sit quietly and wait on the bus for further instruction from the band directors/chaperones.
- Students are expected to follow the itinerary as set forth by the Band Director.
- Students are not allowed to go anywhere that he/she does not have prior permission to go.

Any HHS Band student found guilty, charged, arrested, detained, or ticketed for/of unlawful acts by law enforcement agencies is subject to punishment and/or permanent expulsion from the entire HHS Fine Arts program.

ALCOHOL:

Drinking alcoholic beverages is dangerous, unhealthy, and unlawful for teenagers. Any HCISD Band Student who consumes alcoholic beverages jeopardizes his/her own chances for success during the school year. Drinking of alcoholic beverages by a HHS Band Student will be dealt with in the following manner:

First Offense:

- 30% game/contest in-season suspension
- 30 days Probation to include extra work assigned by the Director of Bands
- Completion of an alcohol-awareness program at student/parent expense

Second Offense:

- One calendar year removal from all HHS Band activities/classes
- Student/Parents/Director of Bands/Fine Arts Supervisor conference at the beginning and at the conclusion of the suspension if the student desires to continue in the HHS Band Program.

Third Offense:

- Permanent removal from HHS Band activities/classes

USE OF TECHNOLOGY:

For any communication such as Twitter, Facebook, photo sharing, e-mailing, texting, etc... appearing on the internet is public domain even if it is marked private. HHS Band Students are subject to disciplinary action for any electronic expression deemed inappropriate that occurs on school property, at a school-related event or school sponsored activity, in a vehicle operated by the district, or

which attempts to portray the student as a representative of the school district (i.e., in school uniform/dress). Punishment will be determined by the Director of Bands and could be extra work, suspension from contests, or removal from the Band Program.

DISMISSAL TO A PARENT/GUARDIAN:

Students are expected to travel with the band to and from all activities. If a parent finds it necessary to drive a student to or from a band activity, the following policy will apply:

- Directors must have a signed note from a parent/guardian at least 24 hours in advance, requesting permission to ride home with the parent/guardian after a performance.
- Early dismissal will not be permitted unless there is a special circumstance pre-approved by the Director of Bands.
- Students will only be permitted to leave with his/her parents or guardian.
- A director must see the student leave with the parent or guardian.
- The band will not wait/make an additional stop for the student to leave with that person.

ATTENDANCE AND SCHEDULE:

The band competes and performs as a unit. If individuals are not present at rehearsals or performances, the entire group is affected. Because the schedule is given to the students prior to the completion of Summer Bands, students are aware of the band schedule well in advance. Students are expected to make arrangements to attend ALL performances and rehearsals. (This includes pre-school rehearsals.)

A schedule for the next school year will be posted for students/families in the summer and a finalized schedule posted online during the first week of school. In the event a change is made in a scheduled performance or rehearsal, students are expected to make every effort to adapt to that change. If ample notice of the change is not possible, the policy on absence will be adjusted accordingly.

An excused absence will only be granted with prior notification in writing/email. Emergencies require a phone call as soon as possible. **The number to the Mr. Rauschuber is: 512-268-2911 x 46227.** Parents or students need to leave a voicemail message if there is no answer. In the event of an emergency absence, the student should bring written documentation upon his/her return to school in order for the absence to be excused.

Students that are absent from school must email/call the band director BEFORE the end of the school day in order to be excused from an after-school practice or performance. Acceptable excused absences are as follows: severe personal illness, death in the family, school related performances, or a "once in a lifetime event." Absences that a student wishes to be considered as a "once in a lifetime event" must be submitted at least 2 weeks in advance of the projected absence. Absences from a contest must be requested at least 30 days in advance. The Director of Bands will make the decision whether or not to excuse the absence in a case-by-case manner. Work, dentist appointments (non-serious nature), orthodontist appointments, outside-of-school organizational activities, club meetings (school or otherwise), and non-serious family member illnesses will not be excused and will result in the proper grade reduction. Dental emergencies (ie. severe toothache, tooth knocked out, abscess, etc.) will be covered by the "severe personal illness" excuse. If a student is found to have an attendance problem, regardless of the nature, the student may be excluded from special activities or removed from band.

****Note that if we advance into the play-offs, students are expected to be at all play-off games at the end of the regular season. If a student misses a play-off game, his/her grade will be adversely affected.**

ELIGIBILITY:

TEA and UIL have very strict policies in regards to eligibility and events that are deemed “extracurricular.” Some activities the band participates in are curricular or academic, and others are extracurricular. Either way, in order for a band student to participate fully in the band program, he/she must make a 70% or higher in all of his/her classes.

It takes many hours of preparation for the band to become a quality unit. If individuals become ineligible, the band has to be re-taught and valuable time is lost. Students that have excessive eligibility problems will be excluded from the marching show and Wind Ensemble/Wind Symphony until a time comes in which he/she can prove he/she can consistently remain eligible. Students that are ineligible for more than three consecutive grading periods will be asked to choose an elective other than band. SLT/BLT as well as members of auxiliary units of the band will be removed from his/her position if he/she becomes ineligible at any time during the year and will not be allowed to audition or apply for any position in the future. Students that miss competitions because he/she is ineligible will not be able to attend the next band trip.

In the event that a student becomes ineligible he/she will not be allowed to practice with the contest band. Instead, he/she will be given alternate assignments in order to make up for his/her lost time. TEA and UIL does not allow students that are ineligible to participate in football games, pep-rallies, parades, or any competitions. However, ineligible students are allowed (and required) to participate in school concerts in order to satisfy requirements in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills.

GRADING:

It is important to remember that it is a requirement of each student to participate in every performance given by the band. Failure to meet the performance schedule will result in a serious grade reduction.

Individual classes will have specific grading policies which will be outlined at the beginning of each semester by the director. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for understanding how they are graded and the status of their grade at any given time during the grading period. While grading parameters will change from the fall semester to the spring semester, some of the major factors in determining your grade are:

- Participation in all rehearsals, sectionals, performances, and contests
- Possession of general classroom materials
- Class participation and preparation
- Recorded playing assignments
- Music memorization tests
- Weekly Play-off Expectations

An unexcused absence from a scheduled rehearsal or performance will result in a zero. Consequences for excessive tardiness/absences from rehearsal and performances include:

- Failing grades
- Limited participation
- Loss of marching spot
- Removal from program

Students exhibiting good attendance, proper preparation, and a positive attitude can expect a very high grade. All students should also strive for a high level of musicianship on all playing tests and performances in order to earn the best grade possible.

Grades will be earned based on the student's ability to: demonstrate professionalism in practices and performances, attend all scheduled practices and performances, and show musical ability and marked progress. Grades will be divided into three categories. These categories are: Rehearsals (Practices), Performances, and Musicianship.

The following is a representation on how grades will be figured:

- Rehearsals (Practices) – 30%
- Performances – 30%
- Musicianship/Pass-offs – 40%

REHEARSALS (PRACTICES):

The following procedures and policies are in effect for rehearsals:

- Students are expected to be in the designated area with all of his/her materials at the designated time.
- No talking is allowed during the rehearsal.
- Students will be graded on his/her level of participation during rehearsal.
- When the director is working with an individual section or student, the rest of the band is to remain quiet.
- Students are not allowed to leave rehearsal until the band director has dismissed them.
- Students should take care of restroom issues before or after rehearsal.
- Students are reminded that they are to adhere to the school dress code at all times.
- Students will be given a break(s) during marching rehearsal to get water.
- Students are required to wear athletic shoes to marching practice. Students that do not have the proper foot attire will be required to wear band shoes. **Do not** wear sandals or boots.

PERFORMANCES:

These procedures and policies will be in effect for band performances:

- Students must be at the band hall at the designated time (call-time).
- Students will be given instructions as to where he/she will change into uniform.
- Students are to wear the uniform in the appropriate manner unless otherwise noted by the director. Either way, all band students will be "uniform" at all times.
- Students are not allowed to go about as he/she pleases. He/She must be in the appropriate place at the appropriate time.
- If the band stops to eat, students must go only to the restaurant(s) designated by the Band Director. Students are not allowed to go in other places of business unless the Band Director has given prior permission.
- Students should always have the appropriate "bad weather" uniform in case of inclement weather.
- There is to be absolutely no playing on the instruments unless instructed to do so.
- Students must sit in his/her designated area at ALL times.
- Students are expected to adhere to a high level of professionalism at all times.
- Students must follow the itinerary given to them by the directors.

Students may be asked to sit out of a performance with loss of credit for any of the following reasons:

- He/she does not have all proper uniform items
- His/her uniform looks unkempt, stained, or wrinkled due to poor care
- His/her shoes are not properly cleaned and polished
- He/she does not know his/her music, drill, or routine
- He/she fails to complete and return medical/permission forms
- He/she has certain behavior infractions
- He/she does not have all of the items he/she needs to perform
- He/she is unprepared (even if due to extended excused absence)

FOOTBALL GAMES:

- No “outsiders” are allowed in the band set-up. This also applies to sitting immediately next to the band.
- Students are expected to remain seated in his/her spot and relatively quiet unless celebrating for a good play.

CONTEST:

- Students are expected to be quiet and concentrating on putting on a good performance.
- While not performing (or preparing to perform), students must sit together in the designated area.
- Students are allowed to go to the concession stand and the restroom between the performances of the other bands.

LETTER JACKET:

The following policies will be in affect when awarding band letter jackets:

- Students that are awarded and receive a letter jacket are required to continue his/her enrollment in band until his/her graduation. If a student quits band before he/she graduates, he/she will be required to refund \$60 back to the HHS Band Program.
- Letter jackets will be ordered only for those students that are actively participating in band that have met the requirements.
- The Band Director reserves the right to deny a letter jacket to a student that has discipline, attendance, or eligibility problems.

Letter Jacket forms are available from a Band Director and it is the responsibility of the student/parent to fill it out correctly and turn it in before the letter jacket fitting date.

LETTER JACKET REQUIREMENTS:

A student must earn 10 points in Band to letter. Points are awarded for the following:

- 4 pts.** – Region Band or Region Orchestra
- 3 pts.** – Area Band or Area Orchestra
- 2 pts.** – All State Band or Orchestra
- 2 pts.** – First Division on Class Two Solo at **UIL** Solo and Ensemble Contest
- 2 pts.** – First Division on Class Two Ensemble at **UIL** Solo and Ensemble Contest
- 3 pts.** – First Division on Class One Solo at **UIL** Solo and Ensemble Contest
- 3 pts.** – First Division on Class One Ensemble at **UIL** Solo and Ensemble Contest
- 4 pts.** – First Division on Solo at the **UIL** Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest
- 2 pts.** – ******Member in good standing, awarded at the end of each year and will carry over

*** A member in good standing is determined by participation in all UIL activities and in all events required for that organization. Excused absences will be determined by the Directors and would only include personal illness and bereavement.

Beginning of year point values:

9th Grade	0 pts
10th Grade	2 pts earned from member in good standing from 9th grade
11th Grade	4 pts earned form member in good standing from 9th, 10th grade
12th Grade	6 pts earned from member in good standing from 9th, 10th, 11th grade