

# ***Lake Belton High School Band***



## ***Handbook***

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9809 FM 2483, Temple, TX 76502

**Bobby Yerigan** - Director of Bands - bobby.yerigan@bisd.net - (254) 316-6251  
**Craig George** - Associate Director of Bands, Percussion - craig.george@bisd.net - (254) 316-6250  
**Jacob Guerrero** - Assistant Director, Woodwinds/Jazz - jacob.guerrero@bisd.net - (254) 316-6249  
**Grant Shane** - Assistant Director, Low Brass - grant.shane@bisd.net - (254) 316-6438  
**Jessie Arbolay** - Colorguard Director - jessie.arbolay@bisd.net - (254) 316-6250

## **Forward**

The Lake Belton band staff has developed this handbook to familiarize each band member with general operation and procedures of The Stampede and standards by which all band members are expected to conduct themselves. The handbook is not intended to be all-inclusive, as every possible situation and question cannot be predicted in advance. However, a thorough knowledge of these materials is essential to the smooth operation and success of the band this year.

## **Mission**

The Lake Belton High School Band is a TEAM, whose success through goal achievement, is attributed to its unconditional pride and devotion to the program. We strive for EXCELLENCE in all that we do.

## **Goals and Objectives**

### Mental and physical discipline

- Develop powers of concentration
- Read and Memorize music
- Learn techniques of preparation as they relate to group and individual performances
- Develop self and group discipline

### Citizenship through group endeavor

- Develop leadership abilities
- Develop responsibility
- Develop ability to cooperate with others and to work as a team member
- Develop diligence
- Develop mutual respect

### Physical Conditioning

- Develop strength, stamina, endurance and coordination

### Cultural growth

- Provide opportunities to attain knowledge of music history through performance of of instrumental literature

### Value Judgments

- Ability to make musical value (as they pertain to a musical setting) judgments through critical listening
- Recognition of quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation

### Music theory

- Know and utilize note values and rest
- Know and utilize keys, key signatures, and scales
- Know and utilize musical terms, signs, and symbols
- Recognize and tune intervals and harmony
- Ear training/listening skills

### Proper instrumental technique

- Care of the instrument
- Assume correct posture and playing position
- Develop the embouchure/stick grip/hand position
- Develop characteristic instrumental tone
- Develop proper breathing techniques
- Develop technical instrumental proficiency (fingering, articulation, rudiments, scales, etc.)

*Creative self-expression*

- Express oneself in every performance experience
- Explore careers
- In addition to the State of Texas guidelines, the Lake Belton High School Band will strive to:
  - Provide any interested student with opportunities for musical knowledge, musical fellowship, and fun through participation in band
  - Provide for the mental, physical, social, and emotional development of students
  - Instill pride and discipline in each student
  - Provide each student with solo and group endeavors to achieve personal goals and satisfaction
  - Provide basic psychological needs such as recognition, belonging, self-respect, and a feeling of achievement

***Communication***

The directors encourage positive communication and are willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress in band with his/her parents. Specific directors' office phone numbers and email addresses can be found on the band website ([lakebeltonhsband.com](http://lakebeltonhsband.com))

***Conduct/Expectations***

Band members will observe all policies set forth by Belton ISD, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

- Any behavior, which is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the band program. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both public and private events.
- All students are expected to conduct themselves in alignment with the campus values of Pride, Community, and Trust. Display of profanity, temper, flagrant violation of rules, etc., will not be tolerated. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection of the group.
- Students will follow directors' instructions.
- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area ready to work at the set rehearsal time with all equipment, including music, pencil, instrument, and supplies to rehearsals daily (see detailed supply list for each instrument).
- Students will keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.
- Students will not use or play on equipment they do not own without permission from a director.
- Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
- Students should request permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that time will be utilized wisely and as efficiently as possible.
- When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.
- Students will respect the property of others, and return their equipment to its proper storage place when not in use. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area, and keep said storage area clean and neat in appearance. Students who demonstrate great difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band hall.
- Students will not deface or mark on music stands, chairs, walls, etc.
- Students will not write on a dry-erase board without permission from a director.
- Students will utilize their assigned storage slot/locker for instrument cases during rehearsals. Cases should not be brought into rehearsals unless requested by a director (exceptions: flute, clarinet, oboe).

## ***Sexual Harassment***

Inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature at school is prohibited by school board policy. Sexual harassment is prohibited against members of the same sex as well as against members of the opposite sex. Any student who experiences a sexually offensive comment or action by another student or adult at school or school-sponsored function is strongly encouraged to tell a parent, teacher, counselor, or principal. Parents/guardians who have reason to believe that their child has been subjected to sexual harassment should report this behavior to the principal.

Any report of possible sexual harassment will be communicated to the administration of Lake Belton High School. A formal investigation will be conducted. Students in violation may be removed from the extra-curricular portions of the program for a time period established between the directors and the administration. Reinstatement will be evaluated after the end of the school year. Removal may be permanent based upon the findings of the administrative report.

## ***Digital Citizenship***

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that band member websites are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Members are responsible for their personal websites and postings, as well as posting from or on other students' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include but are not limited to: profane, foul, or disrespectful language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, references to alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, and postings (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening towards other BISD teaching staff or band students, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other bands. Any such incident will result in review by the principal (or designee) and may lead to probation or dismissal from the band and may result in a discipline referral to campus administration.

Students who violate the above guidelines shall be subject to the following:

- Upon confirmation of a violation, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the website(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal, directors, and band students.
- Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior.
- If a violation occurs that is deemed to be of a more serious nature, including but not limited to a threat, bullying, inappropriate and/or foul language, or a series of violations, the student may be subject to a higher level of discipline as determined by the director and school administration, such as suspension, probation, or dismissal from the band.

## ***Due Process***

All Belton ISD students are entitled to due process in accordance with BISD guidelines. Our goal as a staff is to ensure that all students are treated fairly. Please contact one of the directors with any concerns.

## ***Financial Obligations***

It is the philosophy of the Lake Belton High School Band that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact the director.

### *Full Program Cost*

Dependent on the year and need of the band student. Costs change year to year, and the number of years in the program may affect what students owe. Each student will receive an estimated expense sheet with their applicable expenses. This sheet is typically made available on or before "Everything Day" (band registration).

## ***Fundraising***

The Lake Belton High School Band and Band Booster Organization engage in fundraising activities throughout each year. The monies raised from fundraising activities will be credited to an activity account held by the school district, and is subject to all state laws. This money will be used only for the direct benefit of the band program. There may also be fundraising activities to benefit individual student accounts for trips, etc.

## ***Care of the Band Facilities***

No gum, food or drinks are allowed in the building except when authorized by the directors. All trash is to be deposited in the wastebaskets provided. Acts of vandalism or willful misuse of school property will be dealt with severely and appropriately. Every band member is responsible to help the directors monitor the facility and control vandalism, which includes writing or carving on walls, destroying music, or breaking school property.

Absolutely no student is allowed in the workroom without permission. The copy machine is off limits without permission. Practice & Ensemble Rooms are designed for practicing, not social gatherings. For Director offices, please knock, and if you are invited in, you may enter. Otherwise, they are off-limits to students. Students may not use the director's phone without permission.

## ***Attendance Policy***

In order to have and maintain a high-quality band program, attendance from all members is essential. While the LBHS band follows all school and district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the LBHS band. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held outside of the school day. Failure to participate in either rehearsals or performances may result in student removal from the organization at the discretion of the band directors.

### *Roll Check*

Roll will be checked and documented promptly at the start of rehearsal.

### *Tardiness*

Students not in their designated area at the appropriate time will be marked tardy. A tardy will be converted to a mark of "Absent" 15 minutes after the rehearsal begins.

### *Excused Tardiness*

Tardiness may be excused at the discretion of the directors. Tutorials, homework, appointments, work, etc. will not be an excuse for tardiness unless prior arrangements, with written documentation, are made and approved by a director.

### *Unexcused Tardiness*

Students who have more than one unexcused tardy shall make up missed time at a time to be arranged by the director and may be subject to one of the following consequences at the discretion of the band directors:

- Loss of spot as a primary marcher
- Loss of marching privilege (for one game) at a football game
- Requirement to stay after rehearsal or report early to the next rehearsal to make up lost time
- Requirement to make up 15 minutes of fundamental marching with his/her section leader

### *Absence*

Students not present at the appropriate time will be marked absent.

### Excused Absence

Absences will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Appointments, homework, tutorials, work, etc. will not be an excuse for absence. Absence due to personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances (approved by director) may be considered for excused status. An email or written note from a parent must be sent with the excuse clearly stated in order for an absence to be excused. A student telling his/her section leader they will be absent WILL NOT constitute an excused absence. Students telling a director they will be absent WILL NOT constitute an excused absence. Students who are continually ill may be required to provide a doctor's note releasing them from participation in order to ensure the well-being of the child and to reduce concerns of the band directors. If in doubt, an absence should be checked with a director.

**\*Special note:** If band students have a day during the week without a rehearsal, that day should be used for appointments and routine professional visits. During the concert season, students will generally be responsible for only ONE weekly section rehearsal and group rehearsals as needed.

### Unexcused Absence

Students who have an unexcused absence may be subject to one or more of the following consequences at the discretion of the directors:

- Make up missed time if absence was a missed rehearsal and if feasible.
- Loss of spot as a primary marcher.
- Loss of marching privilege for one game.
- Loss of attendance privilege at one game.
- Removal from the marching band.
- Parents will be notified immediately.

### Pep Rallies

Roll will be taken at a designated time for all pep rallies. These are required performances for all eligible and ineligible students and grades are assigned for these performances. Uniform requirements are applicable as well. The band hall will be locked at a designated time while the pep rally is going on, therefore, no late band students will be permitted into the band hall beyond the designated lock time and they will receive a 0 for their pep rally grade. **DO NOT BE LATE!** No student will be allowed to remain in the band hall while the pep rally is taking place. Some absences will be allowed with prior director approval. At least 24 hours' notice.

## **Daily Materials**

The following list is what each student should plan to bring to the appropriate rehearsal and/or performance. Other items may be added at the discretion of the directors.

- All issued music
- Pencils - at least 2 sharpened with erasers
- Instrument
- All supplies relative to his/her instrument
- All marching related equipment (during marching season)
- Drill/dot book/lanyard/coordinate sheet/electronic device if using UDB
- Lyre/flip folder
- Other marching equipment as needed (could vary from year to year)
- In addition, a metronome and tuner should be part of a band member's tools for home practice.

The following list for each instrument is comprised of preferred or highly recommended supplies and equipment. Any deviance from this list should be approved by a director. Private lesson teachers may make recommendations that stray from this list after consulting with a LBHS band director.

Flutes

- Tuning and cleaning rods
- Cleaning cloth
- Key oil
- Approved type instrument (see BISD list)
- Screwdriver Set

Clarinets

- Four good playable reeds. (Mitchell Lurie, Vandoren Blue Box, and V-12's are the approved reeds)
- **\*All clarinet players should be on 3.5 or 4 strength reeds in high school**
- Reed guard (plastic, with rubber bands to hold reed in the guard are preferred)
- Ligature (Bonade Inverted or Rovner Dark are strongly recommended)
- Proper mouthpiece with cap (Vandoren 5 RV Lyre)
- Key oil (Case Storage)
- Bore oil (Home Storage)
- Cleaning swab (silk handkerchief style, with covered weight)
- Approved type instrument (Buffet R13 preferred)
- Cork grease
- Screwdriver set

Saxes/Bass Clarinet as applicable

- Four good playable reeds. Vandoren is the approved reed.
- Reed guard
- Ligature
- Proper mouthpiece (**Saxes:** Vandoren Optimum **Bass Clarinet:** Vandoren Bass Clarinet )
- Neck Strap (Bass Clarinet players included)
- Pad and neck saver
- Approved type instrument
- Screwdriver set

Trumpet

- Valve oil (Blue Juice or Al Cass)
- Polishing cloth
- Mouthpiece (Bach 3c or 5c) or other director approved mouthpiece
- Approved type instrument

French Horn

- Valve/Rotary oil - (Blue Juice or Al Cass - Marching Horn) (Holton Rotary - Concert Horn)
- Polishing cloth
- Approved mouthpiece (Holton Farkas)
- Approved type instrument (provided by district)

Trombone

- Slide cream (Slide-O-Mix)
- Spray Water Bottle
- Polishing Cloth
- Mouthpiece (Bach 5G or 51D) or other director approved mouthpiece
- Approved type instrument

Baritone/Euphonium

- Valve oil (Blue Juice or Al Cass)
- Mouthpiece (Bach 5G or 51D) or other director approved mouthpiece
- Polishing cloth
- Approved type instrument (provided by school)

Tuba

- Valve/Rotary oil - (Blue Juice or Al Cass -Sousa Valves /Holton ... Concert Rotors)
- Mouthpiece (Bach 24 AW, Helleberg, or Miraphone Rose Model)
- Polishing cloth
- Approved type instrument (provided by district)

Percussion

- Mallets/Sticks for your drumline instrument
- Fundamentals Snare Sticks (Vic Firth SD1 General, a pair of 5A or 7A plastic-tip drumstick for drumset)
- Practice Pad (RAM Pad preferred)
- Metronome
- 2 Three-ring binders with plastic sleeves (one for Marching Season and the other for Concert, Region, S+E)
- Any sticks/mallets you need for your solo (Solo & Ens. contest)
- Any stick bag for your locker

Colorguard

Speak with the Colorguard instructor for exact items to purchase. A Colorguard Handbook will be made available to each member each year. **PLEASE DO NOT PURCHASE ANYTHING WITHOUT SPEAKING TO INSTRUCTOR FIRST!**

BISD will provide a limited number of instruments for student use. These instruments include highly expensive instruments such as the bassoon, oboe, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, french horn, euphonium, tuba, and general percussion equipment. This equipment is generally purchased by the school district for student use because of its extremely high expense. Thus, district owned equipment must be handled with optimum care. Students failing to take proper care of their school-issued instrument may lose the privilege to use such an instrument and may be charged for their repair or replacement.

The following is a list of general procedures for district-owned instruments

- Order of distribution will be done based on chair order. If possible, students who play large instruments and are dependent upon BISD buses may be issued one instrument for home use and one for school use. This will be at the discretion of the directors and will be based on instrument availability and transportation needs.
- BISD does not provide insurance for individually owned or district-owned equipment. It is required of all students utilizing district-owned instruments to provide insurance coverage for the instrument that has been issued to them.
- Students will be held responsible for all district-owned instruments issued to them. This responsibility will include fire, theft, accidental damage, abuse and general maintenance not incurred through normal use.
- Students and parents must sign an instrument checkout form before the student can use the instrument.
- Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition. Each issued instrument will be checked and cleaned prior to issue. Students are expected to maintain their issued instruments accordingly.
- The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him or her. All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.



**\*Special Note:** District-owned instruments are not to be treated as "free" instruments. Basic supplies must still be purchased and repairs must still be made just like personally owned instruments. Please strive to treat these instruments as if they were your own. Most district-owned instruments exceed \$2,000 in value.

## ***Grading Guidelines***

BISD band programs have instructional objectives that relate to the mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for grade level subjects or courses. These objectives are aligned to address the academic skills needed for successful performance in the next grade or next course in a sequence of courses. Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, and other instructional activities are designed so that the student's performance indicates the level of mastery of the instructional objectives. The student's mastery level of these objectives is a major factor in determining the grade for a subject or course. Students will be expected to meet the responsibilities for each band class as determined by the director. Since band is an academic music class with some extra-curricular activities attached, the band student's grade will reflect achievement in both curricular and extracurricular areas. A band member's grades will be determined from the following items (As per the BISD set grading category percentage assignments):

- **Minor Grades - 35%:** These can include supply checks, playing and written assignments and daily participation.
- **Major Grades - 65%:** These can include sectional and after school practices, playing assignments, performances and major projects.

For more specific information pertaining to how a student's grade is determined, please consult the director (conductor) of the particular ensemble in which your child participates.

The following list is provided to give students and parents examples of items that can be subject to grading (additional assignments may be given at the discretion of the director):

- The student will receive a grade for each before or after school sectional and rehearsal during a grading period.
- The students will also receive a grade for each performance assigned including pep rallies.
- The student will be on task and focused during all rehearsals.
- The student will have instruments, music, pencil, and supplies.
- The student will be prepared to play his/her part successfully.
- The student will mark music and take notes as needed.
- The student will be expected to improve individual music skills.
- The student's individual skill development will be evaluated through frequent assessments.
- The student will be evaluated on improvement of ensemble skills during daily rehearsals.
- The student will be expected to improve his/her individual performance fundamentals.
- The student will be evaluated for improvement of his/her individual music fundamentals through daily observation during rehearsals and sectionals.
- The student will be expected to demonstrate correct posture, hand position, embouchure, air production, and articulation as monitored during rehearsals.
- The student will be expected to develop a historical knowledge of literature relative to their respective instrument and understand the mechanics and technique needed to execute the music at a high level as well as troubleshoot problem notes on the instrument.
- The student will receive a grade for each performance during a grading period and for participation at certain contests at the discretion of the band directors.

## ***Eligibility***

All BISD Bands adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and BISD. Some band activities are designated as extra-curricular. Students participating in these activities are governed by eligibility requirements. A student shall be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school

district during the six-week or nine-week grading period in which the student received a grade lower than seventy in any regular credit class. Loss of eligibility does not take effect until seven days after the end of the reporting period. Ineligible students are not suspended from practice or rehearsal of extra-curricular activities. The student is not suspended from participation during the period in which school is recessed for the summer or any other vacation time. Students may regain eligibility under certain circumstances. If a student has been suspended as a result of failing, he/she may regain eligibility by passing ALL regular credit courses in the third week of the affected grading period. Reinstatement of eligibility would occur seven days after the three-week progress report period. A BISD eligibility calendar will be made available to parents through the BISD website and/or the Lake Belton HS Band website. Activities that are considered curricular components of any course are not affected by the eligibility law. Examples of these activities are all rehearsals and performances that take place as a regular extension of classroom instruction. (Pep rallies, parades, or concerts not affiliated with any sort of contest). Any performance that is competitive in nature or for which admission is charged is deemed extra-curricular.

## ***Travel Guidelines***

The band will frequently travel on either school buses or commercial buses. Student conduct is expected to be at the highest level on any trip. Students must travel to events and return from events on the bus. Students must have all necessary forms (Medical/Travel Release) completed and on file with the band office to travel on any trip with the band.

While on the bus students will:

- Remain seated at all times.
- Sit properly in a forward position.
- Keep the bus clear of food, drinks, and debris (eating allowed only with prior permission)
- Keep all body parts inside the bus.
- Use only approved type/headset radios (no music played out loud).
- Remain silent when addressed by the person in charge on the bus.
- Refrain from loud, boisterous talking, singing, screaming, whistling, inappropriate jokes etc.
- No public displays of affection.
- Remain quiet from the time they step onto the bus until otherwise instructed.

**\*Special Note:** Students are reminded that all performances start and conclude at the band hall. As a member of the band, you are a representative of your school. Always be on your best behavior. If you are in doubt about an action, do not do it! Your conduct at all times should be considered a good reflection on the school, the band, your home, yourself, and the community.

**Chaperones:** Adult chaperones are a great asset for the band program. Students will treat them as an extension of the band staff. Proper respect will be shown to all adults at all times.

**Spring Trip:** The band will occasionally take a trip in the Spring semester. These trips are typically optional and do cost extra money not included in any pre-assessed fees. Eligibility does count on school trips AND there has to be an academic element meaning that the students must have a performance of some sort or educational workshop while on the trip in accordance with school district policy. *Fundraising can help individual students pay for these trips.*

## ***Picking Up Your Student After An Event***

We want to emphasize the importance of timely student pickup after any travel (games, competitions, etc.) including band practices here on campus. A timely student pickup after an on campus rehearsal would be within 15 minutes of the known rehearsal ending. A timely student pickup after returning from travel would be within 30 minutes of our return to campus. Your cooperation in this matter is essential for the smooth operation of our program and the safety of all of our students.

To ensure that all students are promptly returned home, we will be implementing the following system due to parent pickup concerns. This system is cumulative throughout the students time in the band program:

- **First offense:** A written warning will be issued to the student and parent/guardian.
- **Second offense:** A parent/guardian meeting will be scheduled with the band director to discuss the issue.
- **Third offense:** The student may be removed from the band program.

We understand that unexpected delays can occur, but it is crucial that you make every effort to be on time. If you anticipate a delay, please contact the band director as soon as possible.

When traveling, prior communication is given via itineraries that are sent through one or more of our lines of communication such as Cut Time, Parent Square, and/or Remind. These itineraries contain approximate times that we would be leaving to return home. Upon leaving a site to return home, communication is given via Remind with an estimated time of arrival back on campus. Multiple updates of ETA back on campus are given on longer trips. Your student should also be contacting you when we leave a site to let you know they are on the way home and to come to the school to pick them up.

By implementing this system and maintaining open communication, we can create a safe and efficient environment for all band members. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

## ***Ensembles***

### *Wind Ensemble*

Selection into this group is by audition, director recommendation, and demonstration of academic proficiency as well as a history of suitable rehearsal etiquette skills displayed by the performers' previous patterns of behavior in rehearsals. Members in this ensemble are required to do the following: Take private lessons from a district approved private lesson teacher (financial aid is available), Prepare the TMEA All State audition music and attend the audition, Participate in UIL Marching Contest, prepare a UIL Solo and Ensemble for Contest, and Participate in the UIL Concert and Sight-reading evaluation. Members of this group will have a one-hour section rehearsal outside of the school day. The Wind Ensemble will give numerous performances both on and off campus. In UIL activities, this group will be designated the "Varsity" band.

### *Wind Symphony*

Selection into this group is by audition, director recommendation, and demonstration of academic proficiency as well as a history of suitable rehearsal etiquette skills displayed by the performers' previous patterns of behavior in rehearsals. Members in this ensemble are highly encouraged to do the following: Take private lessons from a district approved private lesson teacher (financial aid is available), Prepare the TMEA All State audition music and attend the audition, Participate in UIL Marching Contest, prepare a UIL Solo and Ensemble for Contest, and Participate in the UIL Concert and Sight-reading evaluation. Members of this group will have a one-hour section rehearsal outside of the school day. In UIL activities, this group will be designated the "Non-Varsity" band.

### Symphonic Band and Concert Band

Selection into either of these groups is by audition. These groups, at varying levels, will participate in UIL Marching Contest, UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest, and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. Members of the Symphonic and Concert Band are highly encouraged to take private lessons from district approved lesson teachers and prepare for the TMEA All State auditions if they are taking private lessons. Members in these groups will have a one-hour section rehearsal outside of the school day. These groups will give a variety of performances. In UIL activities, these groups will be designated as the "Sub Non-Varsity" bands. Students in the band program will be placed in a concert ensemble by audition, as well as observation throughout the year.

### **Jazz Band**

A woodwind, brass, or percussion student who wishes to participate in Jazz Band MUST also be enrolled in the parent organization (in a concert band and participate in marching band) to be enrolled in Jazz Band. The only exceptions are non-traditional band instruments such as string or electric bass, guitar and piano.

### **Auditions**

All students are required to audition for select performance ensembles. The directors determine audition requirements, and directors will notify students of audition dates, requirements, and results. Directors will serve as evaluators during auditions. Audition material will reflect the director's anticipated performance level for the students and will be based on prior learning, and auditions may be live and/or recorded at the director's discretion. Students may be re-evaluated periodically for participation in select performance ensembles.

### **Performance/Rehearsal Requirements**

Each of the concert ensembles will perform at various times throughout the school year. Students are expected to participate in the performances of their assigned ensemble. Failure to participate in either rehearsals or performances may result in student removal from the organization at the discretion of the band directors (see Attendance Policy).

Performances of the concert ensembles will include but are not limited to the following:

- Music Camp Performance (1st performance of the show)
- Winter Concert
- Spring Concert
- Band Festivals/Pre-UIL Concert
- UIL Evaluation
- Spring Trip Festival
- Honor Band Recording(s) - April & May

### Concerts / Performances

Concerts and performances are an integral component of the band curriculum. Students should consult their schedules for dates and times. Periodically, the schedule may change and updates will be communicated. Concerts are considered to have three parts: warm-up, performance, and listening. The concert begins for the students at the warm-up (often referred to as the "call time"). Punctuality is essential. A concert concludes when the last group performs and directors have given permission for students to be dismissed. A general report time will be given for all students. All concerts are a group effort; thus, attendance is required. All concerts are an extension of the classroom and will be graded accordingly. Students should be punctual, in the proper uniform or clothing, and prepared for each performance/concert. In the event a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up for all missed work!

Students are expected to stay the entire concert, unless prior directives have been made from a director

Students are expected to help move equipment and "stack-n-rack" chairs and stands when needed.

**There is NO WAY TO MAKE UP A MISSED PERFORMANCE. This experience cannot be replicated.**

## **Sectionals / Master Classes**

Sectionals (section rehearsals) and Master Classes will begin in August and will be held the entire school year. During football season, students may have a weekly Master Class for the fundamentals of instrument technique and region music preparation. These Master Classes may be taught by a professional on the specific instrument (such as a private lesson teacher) or by a band director. Master Classes may begin in August and continue through region band auditions. These are separate from all other rehearsals. After football season, all students will have one weekly Sectional and may have one full ensemble rehearsal with their concert band. The Sectional will be directed by the band director of the concert ensemble and will be primarily focused on music that the student's concert ensemble is preparing for future concerts and contests. Students are expected to be punctual and prepared on a weekly basis. Absence from section rehearsals must be in accordance with the Attendance Policy. Students must make every effort to attend. Sectionals are an extension of the classroom and are graded accordingly. Sectional schedules may be found on the band website or by contacting the student's director.

## **Private Lesson Program**

This is a district wide program that provides a high-quality enhancement to classroom instruction. Teachers are all specialists on their instruments. Most of our teachers are professional musicians in the Belton, Temple, Waco, and Austin areas and have advanced degrees in the performance of their instruments. Lessons are extremely valuable to the individual student and are highly encouraged.

- ALL students are strongly encouraged to take individualized private instruction. This is mandatory for students in the top two concert ensembles - Wind Ensemble & Wind Symphony. Financial aid is available!
- Teachers are screened and interviewed by the district.
- Lessons will be given weekly, preferably during the band classes along with before or after school as needed.
- If there is a need for before/after school lessons, every effort will be made to schedule private lessons at times that do not conflict with marching rehearsals, sectionals, or other activities.
- Detailed information will be distributed on the private lesson program. Lesson teacher contact info. Is available on the band website - click on "Private Lesson Teachers".
- Students/Parents are responsible for contacting approved private lesson teachers and setting up lessons as well as paying the private teachers directly.

Here are some of the many benefits students receive when taking private lessons on their instrument:

### *Private lesson teachers model a professional sound on their instrument*

How do babies learn to talk? By listening to people talk. How do instrumentalists learn to play with a characteristic sound? By hearing a characteristic sound.

### *Students are able to perform by themselves weekly and get concentrated feedback*

In band it is rare for students to perform by themselves and if they do, feedback is usually limited to 10-15 seconds. Performing weekly for a teacher helps them become a more confident and independent player. They also have more time to give feedback, try again and continue to work on a problem until it improves because it is an individual setting.

### *Students are able to focus on supplemental exercises written specifically for their instrument*

These fundamentals are crucial for later development and more advanced playing ability.

### *Method books written just for their instrument are far superior to band music for developing well-rounded players*

Method books, because of their methodical nature, do a much more complete job of covering full range, key signatures, rhythms, duets, alternate fingerings and styles than the curriculum in band class allows.

### *Region/district band auditions can be approached on an individual level*

Teachers can meet a child where they are to begin the region band music and help them develop an individual game plan to prepare them for the audition. This helps students learn how to set goals - long term and weekly goals.

*Instructors give students a chance to play a unique solo that they love at solo contest*

Lesson teachers, experts on solos for their instruments, are able to offer students a number of solos that are ideal for their development level. They can also choose solos that work on goals for that student such as focusing on objectives such as extending range, improving articulation, or extreme key signatures. Giving students more options means they are more likely to find a solo that personality and that they enjoy playing.

*Private lesson teachers provide a role model for students that can be a strong motivation for students to continue in band and excel on an individual level*

While students move through different classes, grade levels and schools, it is possible they would have the same lesson teacher for 7 or more years. Lesson teachers often have a long-term plan for each student's development. Private teachers can guide a student all the way from the first sounds in a beginner band through a professional level solo as a senior in high school and they know how to get them from one point to the next.

## **Marching Band**

*Background Information*

Belton ISD has enjoyed a high reputation for excellence in music performance, including marching band, for many years. The marching band is the most visible aspect of the band program. The marching band provides performance opportunities for band students while integrating the band program into school and community activities.

*Marching Band Participation*

As an integral part of the band program, the Belton ISD philosophy is that educationally, historically, and musically, marching band is an essential ingredient in a well-rounded music education. BISD believes that music students need to develop the ability to participate and perform in different ensemble experiences which, for band students, includes the marching band. As a result, marching band is required for all high school students who elect to take an academic band performance course. However, students who have medical complications or physical disabilities may be excused from participation at the discretion of the head band director. Philosophy regarding all aspects of high school band stems from TEA/UIL guidelines which govern all Texas schools.

*Physical Education Substitution Credit*

As an artistic endeavor, each rehearsal and performance by the marching band is mentally and physically demanding. For the full marching band performance, students are always on task and must bring to the experience their best performance skills. As a result, each student in the marching band is eligible to receive a physical education substitution credit (maximum 1.5 credits) in accordance with TEA guidelines.

*Marching Band an Integral Component of State Curriculum Requirements*

The music and performance skills and techniques, along with the associated academic skills in the band program, are derived from implementation of the expectations found in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). The curriculum specifically includes requirements such as demonstrating musical skills and artistry, performing in different musical mediums, and experiencing music through a wider range of music literature, which are addressed through the marching band. Each performance by the marching band provides students the opportunity to demonstrate musical artistry through the ensemble, individual music performance skills and techniques, marching performance skills and techniques, and critical thinking skills that include auditory, spatial, and visual awareness.

*High Academic Standards Maintained by Students*

The opportunity for weekly performance is a motivating factor for academic achievement for marching band students, since only by maintaining their eligibility can they continue to perform. As a result, the directors have documented the fact that the least number of ineligible band students during the year occurs during the marching season.

### Colorguard

Students in Colorguard are an integral part of the marching band and participate in all activities, including Winter Guard. Students in Colorguard must be enrolled in the band elective. Band students may also be allowed to be enrolled in Colorguard class if their schedule allows room for both. Students not in band may audition for and participate in Colorguard with the approval of the Head Band Director. As members of the marching band, Colorguard students receive a physical education substitution credit.

### Grading

Since marching band is a part of the academic band course and therefore, part of the graded curriculum, students in marching band are responsible for assimilating the academic aspects of the band elective as found in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Attendance at rehearsals and performances is mandatory and will be integrated into the student's grade for band in accordance with TEA/UIIL guidelines.

### Practice Time Limits

Marching band practice times are regulated by TEA/UIIL guidelines. Adherence to these guidelines is the responsibility of the Head Band Director at each high school. As per TEA and UIL rules, "The members of a marching band or any of its components may not begin the marching preparation (drill) for a UIL contest presentation prior to August 1. In addition, no more than ten hours of director-supervised instructional time may be devoted to marching fundamentals between the end of the previous school term and August 1. Music preparation is not affected by this ten-hour rule. Between August 1 and the 1st day of school, practice schedules are determined by the Head Band Director. During the school year, no more than 8 hours of rehearsal per week, outside of the school day, is allowed. Exceptions to the 8-hour rule includes preparation immediately before games and competitions. BISD observes all of these guidelines.

### Rehearsal and Performance Schedules

Rehearsal and performance schedules are determined by the band staff and are published on the band's website.

### Summer Band Camp

A vital part of the Lake Belton High School Band program is Summer Band Camp. This camp is held annually before the start of the school instructional calendar (traditionally starting the last few weeks of July). Students must attend the entire Summer Band Camp to be eligible for membership in the Varsity (competition) band. Excused absences from the camp are based solely at the Director's discretion. Any student with unexcused absences from summer band camp will automatically join the JV marching band.

## **Marching Band Positions**

### Primary Marchers - Varsity status

Students who earn a position in the Varsity marching band will carry the designation of primary marcher. A primary marcher is a student who:

- Successfully completes the audition requirements by the appropriate time.
- Demonstrates high quality marching skills
- Is punctual in report times
- Is present at rehearsals and performances
- Maintains academic eligibility
- Represents the school, school district, band program and themselves with the highest possible decorum and behavioral standards

**\*Special Note:** Students who fail to meet the music memorization requirement may be penalized by one of the following: a) perform at football game without a mouthpiece b) loss of position as a primary

marcher, c) loss of performance opportunity, or d) performance as a marcher only.

### Alternates - JV status

The band directors will keep the number of alternates to a minimum, however, they are a necessary and vital aspect of our program due to the UIL "No Pass/No Play" rules and to prepare for possible substitutions due to injury, sustained illness, etc. Alternates will meet specific attendance, rehearsal, memorization, academic, and performance requirements. Specific drill may be written and music may be edited for those students who are not yet able to achieve the physical and musical demands required of primary marchers. This will help improve their individual skill level and will prepare them for future performance opportunities. As a band staff, we are committed to providing performance opportunities for all students. However, the level of performance participation may be limited by eligibility and individual performance ability. There are many ingredients that are vital to a successful marching program and no one part is more valuable than any other. Examples of ways that students can contribute to the performance are: Marching Winds, Marching Percussion, Pit Percussion, Colorguard, Stage Crew, Pit Crew, and Tech Crew.

## **Marching Band Rehearsals**

Respect everyone on the marching band field - we are all working toward the same goal.

- Prior to all rehearsals, eat healthy and drink a lot of water.
- Be punctual. Aim to arrive early, before practice begins, so you are ready right at the start time.
- Water breaks are meant for your health and comfort. DRINK WATER!!! Return on time after the
- Whistle.
- Standing is the only acceptable position on the marching band field unless instructed otherwise
- Everyone will be expected to vocally count at all times unless otherwise instructed
- Pay attention to general instructions at all times.
- Listen attentively and respond appropriately.
- Fundamentals will make us successful. Therefore, we expect everyone to participate fully.
- Section leaders are responsible for keeping coordinate sheets or dot books. You will receive your coordinate sheets or dot books from your section leader at the beginning of rehearsal, and they/it will be given back to them at the end.
- Move when instructed quickly and quietly (ex: moving from set to set)
- Remain at attention until you are told to relax.
- No jewelry during rehearsals except watches.
- Students are allowed to wear appropriate rehearsal clothing. Male and female students must always wear a shirt in addition to shorts or pants (depending on the weather). Tennis shoes are required. Students may be instructed to wear a certain shirt and/or shorts for some rehearsals AND/OR marching shoes in preparation for a contest. We have also worn shakos for some rehearsals. Prior instruction will be given in these circumstances.

## **Marching Band Performances**

The primary performances of the marching band will be at the football games. The marching band will also perform at various competitive marching festivals and UIL Marching Contests, as well as possible local parades.

### Belton ISD Marching Band Performance Guideline

The band directors in Belton ISD recognize that the health and safety of their students is a primary concern, as well as their scholastic performance in all of their subjects. The band directors also acknowledge that the season for marching band competitive performances is contained within a brief but an intense period of time during the months of September through November. Additionally, BISD recognizes the intrinsic value gained by the students from the pursuit of excellence in these programs.



After lengthy study of current practices of state and national marching band programs and to provide a balance of the above beliefs, BISD Marching Bands will participate in competitive/festival performances for no more than five consecutive weeks during a marching season. This guideline refers to competitive/festival Performances involving the entire marching band. It does not include performances at football games or performances/competitions by auxiliary groups such as Drumline contest or separate Colorguard contests.

### Performance Procedures

- Report time (call time): This will be the designated time at which all members should be at the high school or set location. Students should have all attire and necessary items for the designated performance prior to the report time.
- Load Time: This will be the designated time at which all members should be on the appropriate bus with all equipment loaded. All equipment will be checked by the section leaders. Students without appropriate equipment will be sent home and an unexcused absence recorded. Students can only be sent home BY A DIRECTOR, NOT A SECTION LEADER. Any student without their proper equipment or uniform part should see a director first before attempting to leave any inspection or band function.
- Return Time: This will be the approximate time of return to the band hall.

### What to bring

(When the informal uniform is worn, the students will need to wear their band compression shirt, band athletic shorts, black socks, and marching shoes.)

- Garment bag
- Long Solid Black socks (no logos or any markings. Solid black)
- Black marching shoes
- Stampede Water Jug
- Flip Folder with all stand tunes
- Lyre to football games and pep rallies
- Instrument with accessories
- Stampede Compression Shirt and Stampede Shorts
- Shako in shako box
- Proper undergarments - you may wear black long underwear under the uniform when it gets cold
- Hair accessories - hair spray, gel, bobby pins
- No jewelry

Inspection will occur before all football games and marching band performances. Inspection criteria will be communicated to students during summer band. In order to board the bus, students must pass inspection by having all the appropriate items for that performance. Students who do not pass inspection may not be allowed to attend the event. Students not meeting uniform, music, and loading guidelines will be subject to disciplinary consequences.

## ***Football Game Procedures***

The football game is viewed as a performance of the band program. Such performances include all aspects of the game from arrival to departure

- Students will remain on campus after school on ALL game days. Activities to include: possible brief rehearsal, video study, eating dinner, then to change for the performance. This is in consideration of time, organization, and safety. Please do not ask for exceptions to this.
- Students will arrive at the designated report time.
- Students will load and be prepared to travel at the designated load time.

- Students will load the buses with all equipment needed for the performance (some instruments will go on the trailer). The section leaders will inspect students boarding buses prior to departure. Students not meeting uniform, music, and loading guidelines may be asked to remain on campus and someone to pick them up and not allowed to participate. Students will receive an unexcused absence for such occurrences.
- Upon arrival at the performance area, students will exit the bus in full uniform unless otherwise instructed and prepare to unload equipment from the trailer (if applicable). Students will only unload buses when instructed to do so by a director or chaperone.
- Instruments that arrived via equipment truck/trailer will be picked up at the designated area when instructed. All cases must be put back in the original location with latches closed.
- Students will report to the entrance formation for final inspection. Upon instruction from a Drum Major or director, students will move into the stadium.
- Upon arrival to the seating area, students will remain standing until all band members have arrived and are prepared to be seated. Students will sit when instructed by a Drum Major or director. Students will sit in the assigned seat and section. Students will remain in that seat and section at all times. Any movement in this bleacher adds risk to the safety of students and their instruments.
- Water is available at all times from the students' water jug and there are refills available in large coolers throughout the bleachers. No other food or drink will be allowed in the stands during the game. Students with special dietary needs should speak with a director prior to the marching season starting about exceptions to this rule based on doctor recommendation and prescription. Students without dietary needs will refrain from accepting food or drinks from parents, relatives, or friends. Parents: please do not offer food or drinks to your children.
- Restroom breaks may be granted by a director. Every effort will be made to accommodate needs without jeopardizing the integrity of the section. Restroom breaks will be granted in the second quarter of a football game only on an emergency basis. Students will be expected to be accompanied to the restroom by a chaperone. Only 4 students per chaperone may be escorted to the restroom. That's 4 boys with a male chaperone and 4 girls with a female chaperone at a time. No more.
- Students will be expected to listen for and watch the directors and drum majors during the game.
- Students will need to be prepared to perform at all times and at a moment's notice.
- Students will refrain from playing their instruments on an individual basis. The band will perform as a group or with approved small ensembles. While playing, always pay attention to the director/drum major.
- At the appropriate time, the band will be dismissed from the stands for the half-time performance. At this time, the band must move quickly, quietly, and efficiently to the appropriate area. Students will need to be focused on the directors' and Drum Majors' instructions.
- At the conclusion of the half-time performance, students will return to the stands and continue in the stand performance throughout the remainder of the game. Students will stand in a uniform, quiet, respectful manner and watch the opposing team's band perform during halftime. Applause will be given at the end of all other performances during half time.
- During the 3rd quarter, we will participate in the good sportsmanship procedures of officer meetings and introductions for a limited amount of time. The band president or drum major will create a schedule of which student leaders participate in this event each week.
- At the conclusion of the game, students will load busses quickly and efficiently. Upon return to the band hall, students will ensure that all personal items, uniforms and instruments are placed in the proper storage areas.

### ***Instrument Loading/Unloading***

Large instruments will be transported on the band trailer/instrument trucks. All others will transport their instruments on the bus. Students will be informed prior to each event as to what instruments will be loaded and which ones will be carried on to the bus. Students will be responsible for ensuring that their instrument or empty case is in the proper

location. After the instrument truck/band trailer has been unloaded, each student will be responsible for picking up their instrument and storing it correctly. Students who display difficulty in following the loading and unloading procedures may lose the privilege of utilizing the instrument truck and/or the school-owned instrument.

## ***Health and Safety of Band Students***

The health and safety of our students is our first priority. Every effort will be made to keep our students out of harm's way at all times.

### *Extreme Weather Conditions - Lightning*

A lightning detector located at Bronco stadium is used at rehearsals, games, and contests to determine our activities. We, like the athletic teams, make it a practice to go inside when lightning occurs multiple times in a small amount of time within 10 miles of our location. Discretion is used to determine immediate threat, as we take lightning and the safety of our students very seriously.

### *Rain*

Under rainy conditions, the band may still rehearse and/or perform at the discretion of the band staff. We will not rehearse in lightning.

### *Heat/Hydration*

We stress to students the importance of hydration at all times, and especially in periods of extreme heat. During extreme heat conditions, we decrease the amount of time between water breaks and/or increase the amount of time used for the break. The weather conditions as well as the physical and mental conditions of our students are monitored continually and adjustments are made to accommodate whenever necessary. It is very important that every student brings and uses their own personal water jug. Sharing water (and food) leads to the spreading of germs that cause viruses such as cold, flu, mononucleosis, and Hepatitis B as well as many other bacterial infections. Sharing water is not acceptable.

### **\*\*NO ENERGY DRINKS DURING MARCHING SEASON\*\***

Energy drinks will not be allowed in any capacity, at any time during marching season. Inside or outside of band class/rehearsals. There will be consequences if you are caught drinking an energy drink.

**1<sup>st</sup> offense:** If a student is caught with an energy drink, they will lose their performance status for the week.

**2<sup>nd</sup> offense:** If a student is caught with an energy drink, they will lose their performance status for the week, and they will become an alternate in the show.

**3<sup>rd</sup> offense:** If a student is caught with an energy drink, they will lose their performance status for the remainder of the marching season

### *Nutrition*

It is important for all students to eat healthy and well-balanced meals every day. During summer band camp, students need to eat a healthy breakfast every morning. Stay away from milk and greasy foods. Students need to bring a healthy sack lunch to summer camp. We do not recommend fried foods, salty snacks, soft drinks, or sweets. Even when you are not exercising, drink plenty of water! As the new school year begins, students should continue their healthy diet throughout the day. Continue to eat a healthy breakfast every morning. Eat a healthy lunch. Stay away from greasy foods such as pizza, chips, and candy during the school day. Lunch from the vending machines is not appropriate. Students should continue to drink plenty of water throughout the day to stay well-hydrated for afternoon rehearsals. Eating healthy meals and drinking plenty of water is essential SO students can remain in good health.

## ***Uniform Guidelines***

Students are expected to follow the listed uniform guidelines. No variations will be allowed.

### *General*

- Marching Band uniforms will be issued during summer band camp. Band uniforms will be stored at school in the uniform storage area. Students and parents are financially responsible for the items if they are damaged or lost.
- Concert Uniforms are formal black attire. These items will be supplied by the school with the exception of men's white dress shirt and black dress shoes, but students and parents are still financially responsible for the items if they are damaged or lost. These items will also stay in the band hall uniform room when not in use.

#### Issue and Return

- Students will pick up uniforms from the storage racks at least 15 minutes prior to inspection time for any event.
- Students should follow the posted pick up/return guidelines. Students who do not follow these guidelines will be sent to the end of the pick-up/return line.
- Students not properly hanging the uniform will receive a community service assignment or a band detention.

#### Wearing the Uniform

- Always wear and treat your uniform with pride. The uniform should be worn as a complete unit at all times when in public. The only exception to this will be when a director instructs you that you may remove your hat or coat.
- Loading crews may be exempt from wearing the uniform during loading/unloading procedures.
- Do not run while in uniform!
- The Stampede compression shirt is to be worn under your uniform. The Stampede Compression Shirt will be part of pre-performance inspections. (Marching Band only)
- You must wear approved black band shoes and black socks (student purchases).
- Jewelry, hair ribbons, and bright colored nail polish etc. are unacceptable while in uniform. These items hinder the uniform appearance of the band.
- Band students with long hair will need to put it up under their hat during performances. Hair must not touch the collar of the jacket and must be above the top of the ear or pulled behind it. No visible hair on forehead. (marching band)
- No consumption of food and drinks (other than H<sub>2</sub>O) while in uniform without permission.

#### Alterations and Care

- The LBHS Band Boosters will hire tailors to perform the initial uniform alterations as needed. In the unusual circumstance that you are asked to alter your own uniform, never cut any material from the band uniform.
- Hem your pants so that the crease does not "break" when you are standing straight up with your band shoes on. The pant leg should come to the top of the band shoe.
- Keep the collar hooked and the jacket zipped while hanging to retain the shape of the coat.
- Always hang the pants by the crease, careful to avoid wrinkles, and lock the dowel into the metal catch to keep the pants secure.
- Label your uniform garment bag. (typically already done for you by uniform management team)

#### Uniform Costs

- If a uniform part is damaged or lost, the student/parent will be responsible for the replacement costs.
- All marching and concert uniforms are professionally cleaned at the same time to prevent unequal discoloration and fading. The costs for cleaning are collected from each student in advance (see Financial).

## **Colorguard Uniform Guidelines**

#### Colorguard Uniforms

- Make-up will be worn as instructed by the director.
- Hair will be styled as instructed by the director.
- Only prescribed accessories that are part of the uniform may be worn.

- Changes in hairstyle should be approved by the Guard Director prior to making any change. This could affect the performances for both marching band and winter guard.
- A professional seamstress will alter the colorguard uniform.
- Do not wash the colorguard uniform or have it professionally cleaned unless instructed to do so by the director.

### Dressing Out

Dressing out is required during rehearsal and is part of the daily grade. Dress-out clothes requirements will be communicated by the colorguard director.

### Tote Bags

Tote bags are a required item for colorguard students. A colorguard director will instruct students as to what they need to bring in their tote bags for practices and performances.

### Practice

When practicing, concentrate on technique and performance quality. Pay attention to the details of both body and equipment. Do not "just go through the moves/routines" half-heartedly reiterating mistakes. Define each move as explained in class.

### Winterguard

Students in the Colorguard will also take part in the Winter Guard program during the spring semester. Wind players who would like to participate in Winter Guard must continue to "double block" band. Winter Guard rehearsal dates, performances, and cost will be determined and communicated to the participating students and their parents.

## **Student Leadership**

The high school band programs in Belton ISD provide many opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills with a variety of offerings. Students can apply for both selected officer positions and elected officer positions. In this manner, students can not only serve their band program but also refine skills that they will be able to use in other school organizations, as well as in their future careers. Application criteria is selected at the discretion of the directors and is communicated to the students. The directors evaluate all selected officer candidates based on their performance both during the audition and during their performance during the current school year. Student leaders are held to higher standards of performance and behavior than a general band student. They are expected to be positive role models for all band members at all times. Please see Conduct Expectation #1 pertaining to general conduct of students as well as student leadership positions.

## **Marching Band Student Leadership Positions**

### Drum Majors

The Drum Majors will be the field commanders and conductors for the marching ensemble. A Drum Major will serve the marching season for which he/she is selected. In the event that an underclassman is selected as Drum Major, he/she must re-enter the selection process the next school year. Drum Majors will be selected through an audition process. Specific elements of the drum major audition process may vary from year to year at the discretion of the directors. Audition criteria will be shared well in advance of the audition.

### Section Leaders

These leaders will be responsible for efficient operations of their sections. They will complete weekly inspections, maintain field and stand (bleachers) discipline, provide instruction, serve as positive role models, and assist the drum majors as needed. They will be selected through an application process.

### Band Council

All band students are eligible to apply/audition for Band council positions. The specific requirements for positions may vary according to the responsibilities of the office. The band council shall serve as an advisory/action body for numerous band functions. The council shall assist the band directors and band students in planning, preparing, and executing various band functions. Student leadership positions range from service areas to executive areas and may change annually. Examples of student leadership positions are President, Vice- President, Secretary, Historian, and Social Officers. These offices may change in name and duties from year to year. Candidates for these offices are screened through an audition process.

#### Loss of Leadership position

A student may lose a position of leadership because of the following:

- Multiple infractions in the areas of tardiness, unexcused absences from practices and/or performances
- Poor attitude - negative, not supportive of fellow student leadership or directors, lazy
- Ineligibility
- Ill preparedness - not having all supplies for practices and/or performances, not having music memorized, spot learned
- Inappropriate behavior during practices/performances or documented on social media. Behavior not in line with the standards expected of a member or leader in The Stampede.

A student **WILL** lose their leadership role and possible membership in The Stampede if caught/documented (seen live, issued a discipline measure by school administration or police or documented on social media) with an illegal substance such as a vape, cigarettes, alcohol or illegal drugs. Loss of leadership roles will be immediate and can be done at any time of the school year. A student may also not try out for leadership at any time in the future if caught/documented with any of these substances.

### ***Band Banquet***

A band banquet is held each spring near the end of the school year. This special evening brings the band together one last time to review the year and to wish the seniors a fond farewell. The location may vary from year to year, but it will usually be held at the Expo Center and is considered a formal evening. Tickets are sold to cover the cost of the dinner, decorations, DJ, etc. All members of The Stampede are welcome, however, students who drop out of the band during the school year may not attend the end of the year banquet.

### ***Band Boosters***

The Lake Belton Band Boosters exist to assist the band directors in reaching the band program goals. The boosters usually meet on the second Tuesday of every month. The meetings are open to the public. Support activities provided by the boosters include serving meals to students before games, providing chaperones for trips, providing chaperones for social events, financing of social events, providing parents to assist in various aspects of the marching band production, and numerous other activities. There is a place for every parent in this organization. Your service is not only encouraged, but also needed. For more information, please visit our website at [www.lakebeltonhsband.com](http://www.lakebeltonhsband.com) and look for the various contact numbers.

### ***Letter Jackets***

The LBHS Band Letter is first a recognition of significant service and dedication to the LBHS Band Program, manifested by hours upon hours of practice, patience, and perseverance as well as sacrificial giving of time and energy for the good of fellow bandmates, the directors, and the band as a whole. The qualifications to be met in order to purchase a letter jacket are as follows:

*Freshmen-Seniors*

You can earn a jacket IF you participate in both the TMEA Region Band auditions AND UIL Solo & Ensemble contest (with a solo or a solo and ensemble). You must earn a spot in an All Region Band OR get a rating of a "1" on a Class 1 Solo or Ensemble. Students pay for their senior jackets – the school does not provide the jacket or any patches or letters. Price typically ranges from about \$90+

*Colorguard*

Members of the LBHS Colorguard will use the same criteria system as the band. However, in the spring season, eligibility and participation must be maintained for the entire season. Members of the colorguard will be instructed by their director as to the relative qualifications in regards to freshmen earning a jacket.

***All-Region Band/Orchestra Guidelines***

- All Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony students will be prepared to audition for All-Region Band.
- All other band students are encouraged to audition. Decisions to audition for these students will be on a case-by-case basis and private lessons are HIGHLY encouraged when preparing audition music.
- Students will be graded on preparation for this event.
- Any person who is fortunate to be selected will attend all rehearsals and the performance of the All-Region Band. (Check your calendar for dates.)

It is quite an honor to be selected to the All-Region Band. Hundreds of students throughout the region will audition. Even if you are not selected, the experience you receive by preparing will enhance your musical ability and education!

***Solo and Ensemble***

All band members will prepare and perform a solo and/or an ensemble. Grades will be issued for preparation and participation in the Solo and Ensemble process. Students must use an approved accompanist assigned by a director. The accompanist fee is set each year (approximately \$50). Students/Parents are financially responsible to pay for the accompaniment fee but not for the sign-up fee to participate in the contest. Students must get director approval for an unaccompanied solo. Any student who does not attend the contest or decides they cannot participate after the sign up deadline has passed will owe the district for the sign-up fee (typically \$9-\$12 per student per event) AND will still be responsible for paying the accompaniment fee as that accompanist has either worked on his/her own time to prepare the music and/or has already worked with a student in one of the two rehearsals that are included in the fee. No student will perform or prepare the same solo or ensemble for multiple years during their high school career at LBHS regardless of whether or not they performed the music at a competition. This is not educationally beneficial for the student.

***Percussion Ensemble Concerts***

These are concerts held in the winter and spring featuring LBHS percussionists and possibly students from feeder middle schools. The winter performance may be held in conjunction with other concerts and will generally feature lighter/holiday-oriented music. The concert in the spring will feature more complex literature, and some students may be selected to perform music that they have learned for Solo & Ensemble Contest as well.

***CHARMS Privacy Notice***

~~CHARMS is an online data information and communication website that we use to keep members informed about events, practices, and other important updates. Depending on the level of access set by the director or teacher, the website may contain contact information for students and parents, directory information for students, and confidential information such as payments made, account balances, uniforms, grades, practice logs, etc. Users and administrators of the website agree to protect the privacy of the information, and agree not to use any information for non-program related purposes.~~

***Band Handbook Signature Page***

Please return this page to your band director.

I have received and reviewed the policies and guidelines in the Lake Belton High School Band Handbook. I further agree to abide by the procedures set forth.

Student Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

I have received and reviewed the Band Handbook and agree to the policies and procedures outlined in this document.

Parent Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Cell Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Student Name (Last, First): \_\_\_\_\_