**2020– 2021 Lampasas Badger Band Handbook**

Directors

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Introduction

This handbook is designed to inform band students and parents about the organization and policies of the Lampasas High School Band.  This is a working document, and any suggestions for improvements to its contents are welcome.

Philosophy

This band program is designed to be something special and extraordinary, and the students who fully participate in the program throughout their high school careers should leave knowing that they have been part of something special.  Band students will work hard, play hard, learn things that will benefit them for their entire lives, and make life-long friends.

Mission Statement

The Lampasas High School Badger Band program exists to provide the Lampasas ISD students in grades six through twelve a supportive, caring learning environment in which to learn music, develop and expand personal musical technique, and to enhance desirable personal characteristics.  These characteristics include, but are not limited to, self-discipline, honesty, integrity, punctuality, the ability to function as a member of a team, and a strong personal work ethic.  Additionally, the band serves the school and community by instilling pride and esprit de corps.  The band strives to be the musical ambassadors of the Lampasas ISD and the City of Lampasas. Our goal is to represent ourselves and the citizens of Lampasas in a first-class manner.

Organization

The Lampasas High School Band program consists of the Mighty Badger Marching Band, the Wind Ensemble, the Symphonic Band, the Jazz Band, and the Illusion Color Guard.  Membership in these organizations is open to any Lampasas High School student, with the approval of the band director.  Students seeking membership should be able to read music at a skill level appropriate to their grade and be able to play a musical instrument that is consistent with the instrumentation of the ensemble in which they desire to participate in.  Prospective band members must also have a demonstrated record of academic eligibility.  Students who wish to perform with the Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, or Color Guard are required to audition for Region Band and participate in UIL Solo/Ensemble.

Grades

Band Grades will include a daily grade that will be determined by the student’s daily participation.  Low daily grades will result from excessive absences, lack of effort during class, failure to bring music, instruments, and supplies (including suitable marching shoes during marching season) to class, and/or the inability to perform the assigned music at minimum acceptable levels.  A student whose instrument is in the shop for repair must bring a note from home in order to receive an excused daily grade.  Test/performance grade will be given for co-curricular performances.  Failure to attend a co-curricular performance for reasons other than a medical emergency will result in no credit given.  Other weekly tests may include playing off music by memory, scales, etudes, and other selections to be determined by the director.  Semester and final exams will also be given and may be written and/or performance oriented.  Students are always encouraged to retest in order to receive the highest grade possible.  Retests will normally not be conducted during regular class time.  Students should make arrangements with the band director for a retest time.

First Semester Grades will be determined by the following:

1st Nine Weeks- participation/attendance and playing off marching music.

2nd Nine Weeks-participation/attendance and playing off assigned region music.

Second Semester-participation/attendance, playing off a solo or ensemble, and playing off UIL concert music.

Participation

All band members are expected to participate in every scheduled rehearsal, sectional, and performance of the band outside the regular school day.  Students who are unable or unwilling to attend rehearsals and/or performances should strongly consider not enrolling in band.  If you have an unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance, you will not be allowed to attend the next performance or football game.  Absences and tardies will affect your spot in the marching show and your band placement.

If you miss a graded after school rehearsal or performance, you will be excused only if you missed due to a medical situation or a conflict with another LHS function that we are told about in advance.  Missing events due to transportation problems or having to work are not excused.  Being excused means that you will be given the opportunity to make up the points by doing an alternate assignment.  You are responsible for providing documentation to prove that your absence was medical or school related, and it is your responsibility to coordinate with the band director for an alternate assignment.

Grades are awarded as follows:

Daily grade- 3 points

Performance grade (concerts/games)- 10 points

Music play-off grade- 30 points

**Eligibility**

Students that are habitually ineligible will not be approved for continued membership in the band.

Band Officers

Band officers are appointed by the band directors.  Band officers, squad leaders and drum majors are expected to lead by example.  They should arrive for rehearsals and performances early and stay late.  They are expected to maintain academic eligibility.  Service to the band as a band officer is an honor and a privilege; failure of an officer to meet stated or implied obligations will result in removal from the position.  Band officers are required to attend all LHS Band sponsored leadership training.

ATSSB All Region Band and UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest

Students will have the opportunity to audition for the Association of Texas Small School Bands (ATSSB) All Region Band in December.  Students who place highly in the Region will have further opportunities to audition for the Area and State bands.  The University Interscholastic League (UIL) Solo and Ensemble contest is held in February.  All students are strongly encouraged to participate.

Instruments and Equipment

It is the student’s responsibility to have a good quality, serviceable instrument always.  Students must maintain reeds, oil, cleaning supplies and other required accessories.  Instruments that need maintenance or repair work can be given to the band director to be taken to **Music and Arts** in Harker Heights.  Students who misuse or mistreat a school owned instrument will lose the privilege of using it.  At no time should any student handle or play and instrument that does not belong (or is not assigned) to them.

Lettering Criteria

Lettering in band is an honor reserved for those students who represent the Lampasas Badger Band in an exemplary manner and who exhibit the outstanding musicianship that we are striving to achieve.  The lettering criteria for the 2020-2021 school year will be a point system as follows:

All after school practices (5 points each)

Football games (15 points each)

Marching Contests (25 points each)

Auditioning for the ATSSB Region Band (50 points)

Making the ATSSB Region Band (100 points)

Advancing to Area Auditions (200 points)

Advancing to State (400 points)

Participating in UIL Solo and Ensemble (must play a minimum of a grade 3)

Playing a grade 3 and earning a 1st division or 2nd division (50 points, 25 points)

Playing a grade 2 and earning a 1st division or 2nd division (75 points, 60 points)

Playing a grade 1 and earning a 1st division or a 2nd division (100 points, 85 points)

Playing a grade 1 solo memorized and advancing to State Solo and Ensemble (125 points)

Attending UIL Concert and Sight Reading (100 points)

Being a member of the Jazz Band or Illusion Color Guard (100 points)

Completing a service project assigned by the band director to their satisfaction (up to 100 points)

The total points needed to earn a letter jacket in band are 500. The combination of events attended to receive a letter jacket will very between each student. Once a letter jacket is earned, the band will pay for the actual jacket. The student is responsible for any additional letter jacket expenses. Once a student receives their letter jacket for the first time, they

Rules

All actions of individual band members should create positive representation of the Lampasas High School Band, Lampasas High School, and Lampasas.  The Lampasas High School Band is not measured in statistics.  It is reflected by an attitude!

All Lampasas High School student policies (as outlined in the LHS Student Handbook) must be followed during all band activities.

Each band member is to be punctual when meeting the organizations responsibilities (rehearsals, warm-ups, performances).

Band members are not allowed to wear jewelry while in uniform except for small, stud type earrings (girls only), small unobtrusive rings, and watches.  This includes necklaces.

Band members in uniform are expected to always wear the uniform properly while in public view.  This means keeping their marching coat zipped, suspenders worn properly, and do not wear the hat backwards.

Band members are to be in assigned place with instrument, music, pencil, and necessary supplies at the start of rehearsal.  During school hours, this is when the tardy bell rings or other times assigned by the director.

There is to be no discussion/conversation among band members while instructions are being given.

Follow instructions the first time they are given.

Food, drink, and gum are not allowed in the rehearsal or performance areas.

Students who are not in band are not allowed in the Band Room.

Travel Guidelines

Each band member must ride on the transportation provided by LISD to and from all band activities.  A student may ride home with his/her parent/guardian provided a written, signed note is submitted prior to trip departure.  (This enables us to mark the bus lists, facilitating roll check for the return trip).

Follow all LISD bus rules posted at the front of each bus.

The back door of the bus is not to be used except in case of emergency, or as instructed by the director.

Upon arrival at destination, remain seated until the director has given instructions.

Directors, drivers, and chaperones have the authority to assign seating to any student in the event of disciplinary problems or failure to abide by bus rules by any individual.

Leave all buses clean of trash and personal belongings upon return.

Any electronic devices may be taken on the bus provided they are used with headphones.  The school, district, and band program are not responsible in the event of loss or theft.

Football Games

The Lampasas High School Band performs at all LHS football games, both at home and away, including play-off games.  The band not only performs its halftime show with pride and spirit, but also carries on the tradition of that pride and spirit in the stands.

HOME GAMES: Students should eat dinner before reporting for band on game days, since there will not be an opportunity to eat at the game.  Band members will fall in for a “run-through” of the halftime show at 5:45 on game days.  The run-through will be in black shoes, black socks, band pants, and band t shirt.  After the run-through, the students will load the trailer.  All students must ride the buses to the stadium.  Before students get off the buses, they must be in full band uniform.  Upon return to the band hall after all games/performances, each student will change out of their uniform, hang the uniform properly, and check the uniform in before they can leave.

AWAY GAMES: These are treated essentially the same as home games.  The only differences are the time at which the students are to report (due to the length of the trip to the game site), and the fact that we will feed the students for games that are a significant distance from Lampasas.

ALL GAMES: Parents, please be on time to pick up your band member.  We are seldom over 15 minutes later that the announced approximate time of arrival at the band hall.  Many times, we are even early.  We have no control over the length of the football game, traffic, etc.  Be sure that your student knows how to get in touch with you after games.  We must remain at the school until all students have been picked up.  Please help us by being there to get your son/daughter as soon as possible. Any adjustments in return times will be sent via Remind and posted on the Lampasas Badger Band Facebook page.

STAND BEHAVIOR

All band members are to play their instruments while in the stands.  (Exception:  drum majors) This means everyone must have his or her own instrument, lyre, and flip folder.

Because we are the largest spirit body present at the games, each member is to demonstrate school spirit and pride by cheering with the cheerleaders and being prepared to play any music when called to by the director.

Each band member is to stay in his/her seating location and not move about the band during the game.

NO FOOD OR DRINKS are permitted in the stands except for the purchased Badger Band water jug.  Your parents, siblings, or friends may not bring food or drinks to you during the game.  No one will be allowed to go to the concession stands.

Do not play your instrument at any time the band is not playing.  Percussionists are to play only with the full band, with cheers, or as a section in an organized cadence or feature.

No one except band personnel is allowed in the band section. (Special visitors are sometimes exceptions, but only by special permission from the director).

Do not make disrespectful remarks to anyone.

Illusion Color Guard

The Illusion Color Guard is an auxiliary section of the band.  Membership in the color guard is by separate audition and acceptance in the color guard is determined by the needs of the band.  Students wishing to try out for the color guard must be able to attend all rehearsals and performances and must have a proven past track record in band of following band rules and attendance at band functions.  During football season, membership is normally limited to woodwind players since many brass musicians are needed for the musical portion of the halftime show.  All members of the band are eligible to participate in Winter Guard, which starts at the end of football season provided they successfully auditioned the previous spring.  Color guard members are required to audition for Region Band and participate in UIL Solo/Ensemble contest. Color guard members are required to maintain academic eligibility.  Specific color guard requirements are outlined in the LHS Color guard handbook.

Private Lessons

Individual private instruction is an invaluable aid to students, particularly to those who aspire to make the ATSSB Region, Area, and State Bands.  **Music and Arts** in Harker Heights offers private instruction on most band instruments.

Practice

Every band member must realize that the key to improvement is individual practice.  Each student is expected to practice a minimum of 30 minutes a day.  The band room is open both before and after school for student practice.  Students who do not practice are not only hurting their own chances for success, but also the chances of the rest of the band.  Practice!

Band Camp

Each summer, band camps are held throughout the state.  These camps offer comprehensive courses of instruction in all facets of instrumental performance.  Our directors will make information about band camps available to all band students around spring break.  All band members are urged to attend band camp.

Uniforms

Uniforms will be worn completely and with pride.  Students who do not have the proper accessories or who wear the uniform in a deliberately sloppy or haphazard manner will not be allowed to perform until the deficiency is corrected.  Students are required to provide some accessories for their uniform, including black shoes, black socks, and white tuxedo shirt with ¼ inch pleats.

Uniforms are checked out of the uniform room before each event and checked back in at the conclusion of that event.  Students who fail to satisfactorily turn their uniforms in are subject to disciplinary actions.

Spring Trips

Each Spring, the band will take a trip.  The purpose of these trips is to compete and to reward students for their hard work throughout the year.  All band students are expected to be excellent representatives of our school and our community while traveling with the band.  Students who do not fully participate in band or who have been referred to DAEP will not be allowed to participate in these trips.  In order to properly plan for our trip, students will be asked to commit to going on the trip (and raising funds) during the fall semester.  Once a student commits, the money he or she raises is not refundable, since the buses and rooms must be paid for whether the student attends or not.  It is therefore extremely important that each student stays academically eligible and carefully checks his or her schedule for the spring.

Fund-raising

Each year the band conducts fund-raisers in order to raise money for out trips and other expenses.  Fundraisers are strictly voluntary, and students who participated in them are liable for any money or product that they lose while in their possession. Funds raised belong to the band and not to the individual that raised them.  Funds will be used to aid in band travel and/or to purchase equipment and supplies needed by the band.

Building the Band

We are going to build the Badger Band by:

Having great attitudes.

Having great student leadership.

Being proud of our band, our school, and our community.

Celebrating our successes and learning from our failures.

Encouraging one another.

Diligently practicing every day.

Trying out for All-Region Band.

Participating in Solo/Ensemble contest

Lettering in Band.

Trying our best to be our best.

Having Fun!