

The Highlander Band

STUDENT HANDBOOK 2017-2018

This handbook is provided to help you understand the rules and procedures for the Highlander Band. The goal of the rules and procedures are to make your experience in the Highlander Band program as beneficial as possible.

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations! You are a member of the Highland Park High School Highlander Band program. As a member of the Highlander Band, you are part of one of the most outstanding high school music programs in the State of Texas. A band program rich in tradition, the Highlander Bands have received numerous honors and awards and represent the entire school district at performances and contests around DFW and the state. This year, we endeavor to reach new heights and further develop our band program's already excellent reputation.

PURPOSE

- To develop an understanding and appreciation for symphonic and jazz instrumental music.
- To develop the students' physical fitness by way of our marching band.
- To develop the students' personal and musical growth through his/her contribution in all aspects of the band organization.
- To assist students in growing into responsible and successful members of society, possessing the essential characteristics of integrity, dependability and loyalty.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Reagan Brumley	Director of Instrumental Music	214-780-3737 brumler@hpsid.org
Corey Parks	Associate Director of Bands	214-780-3737 parksc@hpsid.org
James LaBrecque	Associate Director of Bands	214-780-3737 labrecj@hpsid.org
Danny Martinez	Color Guard Instructor	214-780-3737 hpcolorguard@gmail.com
Rob and Leslie Kibby	Highlander Band Booster Presidents	214-924-7642 highlander.band.president@gmail.com

BAND MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

All band students at Highland Park High School are part of the Highlander Marching Band. The marching band consists of woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments, and also features a color guard and may have a feature twirler. The marching band practices every Monday afternoon from 4pm – 6pm and Tuesday through Friday mornings from 6:45am – 7:50am through the competitive marching season,

which is the 1st day of school through early November. Each band student is enrolled in either 1st, 2nd, or 3rd period band, or 8th period for color guard.

MARCHING BAND DRILL SPOTS

Every Highlander Band student will perform in the stands at each football game, and every Highlander Band student will march at several football games. During Summer Band, students will be put in either the varsity or junior varsity block of the marching band. The varsity block consists of mainly 10th–12th graders, though it is possible for a freshman to be in the varsity block. The varsity block performs at all marching contests. The junior varsity block performs the halftime show combined with the varsity block during the first several football games, and attends all marching contests. Junior Varsity marchers assist with show staging at marching contests and are expected to observe all facets of this experience so they are ready to step into varsity status when ready. Students who are part of the junior varsity block and maintain their academic eligibility after the 1st 6 weeks may be moved into the varsity block at that time. ***(Note: Any grade lower than 70 at the end of any 6 week grading period causes a student to lose their academic eligibility)***

HIGHLANDER BAND CLASS AND ENSEMBLE STRUCTURE

WIND SYMPHONY: The members of this ensemble demonstrate the highest level of musical maturity, technical proficiency, and a commitment to detailed rehearsal and individual practice. Students in this ensemble are required to prepare the All-Region audition material and audition for the All-Region Band at the Director of Bands' discretion, and to perform a Class 1 solo at the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest. Private lessons are strongly encouraged. The Wind Symphony meets during 1st period, and each student will have a required section rehearsal at 7am or 3:30pm once a week during the spring, as well as several early starts (usually 7am or 7:30am) throughout the Spring.

SYMPHONIC BAND: The members of this ensemble demonstrate a growing musical maturity, as well as a commitment to detailed rehearsal and individual practice. Students in this ensemble are strongly encouraged to prepare the All-Region Band audition material and to audition for the All-Region Band at the discretion of the Director of Bands. In addition, members of this ensemble must perform a solo at the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest. Private lessons are encouraged to aid the students in their continued growth. The Symphonic Band meets during 2nd period each day. Each student in this ensemble will have a required section rehearsal once a week at 7am or 3:30pm during the spring.

CONCERT BAND: The members of this ensemble are those who are eager to improve upon their fundamental understanding of their instrument. Class emphasis is on proper tone production, technical proficiency, and ensemble skills.

COLOR GUARD/WINTER GUARD: This is a highly important part of the marching band as the most visual aspect of the ensemble. Membership is by audition to non-brass band members and non-band members. The Winter Guard is the Spring version of the activity. The Color Guard competes and performs with the rest of the marching band during the fall, while the unit competes on their own at contests in the spring, under the auspices of the Highlander Band. Because the Spring contests are prepared for outside of school, there are fees associated with this activity that are above and beyond base band fees.

DRUM LINE/PERCUSSION: In addition to their responsibilities as part of the marching band during the fall, the drum line performs at several events in addition to the normal marching band schedule. These include, but are not limited to, send-offs for various groups, various athletic competitions, and

performing as a unit at contests in both the fall and the spring. The combined percussion studio presents an extensive and heavily attended production during the Spring.

JAZZ BAND: This ensemble meets both semesters and rehearses after school. Membership is by audition.

HIGHLANDER BAGPIPE CORPS: This ensemble has a long, rich, and unique history at HPHS. The Piper Corps is an auxiliary unit of the Highlander Band and is under the direct supervision of the band directors. These students represent HPHS at athletic events, private gatherings, and major community functions. This group meets to rehearse after school once a week through both Fall and Spring.

REQUIRED SUPPLIES FOR BAND

To begin the school year, each student will be given a black binder. In the event the black binder is lost or damaged, the student will be responsible for its replacement. Each student must bring their binder with all music and handouts given by the directors, as well as a pencil, every day. In addition, all students are required to have all components of the concert uniform (mentioned below) and the marching band uniforms. Detailed uniform information is released annually by the Highlander Band Boosters and band staff.

GRADING SYSTEM

The grading system is broken down into four categories, each accounting for 25% of a student's grade:

1. Performances: Games, concerts, contests, All-Region, Solo & Ensemble, etc.
2. Attendance: Full band rehearsals, clinics, sectionals. (Punctuality to all outside rehearsals and the student's band class is taken into account)
3. Skills: Playing assignments (pass-offs), equipment checks, playing/written assignments.
4. Participation: Class/rehearsal contributions and compliance.

REHEARSALS and SECTIONALS

The rehearsal schedule for each ensemble will be released at the beginning of each semester. Deviations to the posted schedules are kept to a minimum and are communicated to students and parents in a timely manner.

LATE WORK TURN-IN POLICY

- Late work is not accepted.
- Absences and special circumstances will be taken under consideration by the director on an individual basis.
- If the student is in class the day the assignment is made but absent the day it is due, the assignment is due the day the student returns to class. If the student is absent both the days the assignment was made and due, the student will have the number of days he/she was absent to get the assignment turned in to the teacher. In most instances, assignments are playing tests/objectives. On occasion, written work may be assigned.

BAND REHEARSAL/CLASS PROCEDURE

Proper rehearsal procedure is the best way for a musical group to improve and reach its potential. We will emulate the rehearsal practices of professional and collegiate wind ensembles:

- Backpacks and books placed at the back or sides of the room
- Students seated in their chair when the tardy bell rings with instrument and band binder ready

- A student will be considered tardy if he/she is not in their chair when the bell rings or at the time designated by that band's conductor
- Tardy students will be handled according to rehearsal procedure and school policy
- Students will remain seated unless asked or given permission to move
- Students shall always sit with the posture that encourages greatest playing efficiency, as directed by their conductor

BAND AND PRACTICE ROOM ETIQUETTE

Students are expected to show respect for each other, directors, adults, and the facilities at all times in the band hall and all practice areas. The utmost care should be taken with instruments and with all room equipment. Food and drinks are prohibited in the facilities with the exception of the director's approval.

BEHAVIOR/DISCIPLINE REFERRALS

All behavior problems are handled on an individual basis. Misbehavior, disturbance, or disrespect in the classroom will not be tolerated. Students and parents should see the Code of Conduct for specific information on Discipline Referrals.

The Highlander Band program has a **no tolerance** policy for any illegal substance or alcohol use or possession. In addition to the ramifications discussed in the *Kiltie*, the Director of Instrumental Music reserves the right to remove any student from the band program for use or possession of illegal substances or alcohol during any band function, including when traveling with the band. If a student is known to be using illegal substances outside of the school or band setting, any band leadership position held may be revoked at the discretion of the Director of Instrumental Music.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

All band students must abide by the Highland Park High School attendance policy. Students who are members of the Highlander Band will be expected to participate in **all** activities of the organization; including rehearsals, sectionals, chamber music events, and performances. Students are highly encouraged to attend the annual band trip, though it is not a requirement.

Absences will be excused for the following cases:

- Death in the family
- Medical emergency or illness
- Religious holiday
- Private lessons during band class

The Director of Instrumental Music, Reagan Brumley, must be notified by the parent in the event of an excused absence.

Absences will be unexcused for the following cases and any similar situations:

- Family Trips
- Jobs
- Personal business or entertainment

REQUESTS FOR AN EXCUSED ABSENCE

- Requests for an excused absence from a performance or required event must be submitted by a written request or parent phone call at least **two weeks prior to the event**.
- In the case of illness or family emergency, an explanatory telephone, email or written note from the parent as soon as possible is appreciated.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- Unexcused absences will adversely affect the student's musical progress, the progress of the band, and his/her band grade.
- If attendance is a problem, it will jeopardize the student's membership in the group.
- Rules for absences apply to the entire rehearsal, before or after school.
- Being tardy to any rehearsal is the same as an unexcused absence for the portion missed of the rehearsal. Consequences will be determined by the length and reason for the tardiness.

****Mr. Brumley reserves the right to review any exceptions to the absence policy (either for or against) depending on individual circumstances.**

ELIGIBILITY

A student becomes ineligible (by State Law) to participate in band competitions and football games if his/her six weeks grade in any class is 69% or below. The penalty period, which begins one week after the grade is issued, lasts for three weeks. At the three weeks period progress report, an ineligible student can regain eligibility if all grades for all classes are 70% or above. Academic achievement must be of the highest priority to the members of the Highlander Band. A student with consistent problems with eligibility jeopardizes his/her opportunities for participation with the band. A student in the Wind Symphony could be moved to Symphonic Band, and a Symphonic Band student may be moved to Concert Band, if consistent eligibility problems occur. In addition, students in the color guard or the battery component of the drum line may lose their right to be considered for those groups for the following school year if loss of eligibility is a consistent problem.

PRIVATE LESSON PROGRAM

Private lessons are invaluable to the development of every music student's musical and technical growth. Lessons can be scheduled before or after school or during the student's band class. For lessons occurring at school, the band staff will be happy to help arrange lessons with highly qualified private teachers on each instrument. The cost at school will be \$20.00 dollars for half of a class period once a week. Checks are made payable to the individual private teacher.

The Director of Bands, Reagan Brumley, is the coordinator of our private lesson program. Please contact him at brumler@hpsid.org to place your child with a private teacher.

Private instruction on a musical instrument is considered enrichment to the musical growth of your student, not remedial instruction. The program is highly recommend for all students.

UNIFORMS: CONCERT

BOYS

- Tuxedo purchased from a designated tuxedo store in Dallas.
- Black Dress Shoes
- Black Dress Socks

GIRLS

- Long black dress which will be ordered for the girls. **The cost for the dress is approximately \$70.00**
- Black dress shoes (closed toe)
- Black stockings
- **NO FLIP FLOPS**

STUDENT LEADERS

The Highlander Band offers numerous opportunities for students to hold leadership positions. These offices enable the students to develop leadership skills as they make a strong contribution to the quality of the band program. Student leadership positions are determined by audition. Audition requirements will be posted and explained well in advance of the audition, and band staff members will be available to help the students in their preparations for the audition.

BAND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The band executive council is a panel of elected leadership positions selected by the band students. Positions include president, vice president, secretary, senior representative, junior representative, and sophomore representative. Other positions may be created at the discretion of the band staff to meet the needs of the band program.

LETTERING REQUIREMENTS

The criteria for earning a letter jacket are divided into two areas; participation and achievement.

Participation

1. Perform at all scheduled events including football games, contests, concerts and related activities unless the absence is excused prior to the performance.
2. Audition for the All-Region Band
3. Perform at Solo and Ensemble Contest
4. Color guard members who complete two years of participation in both color guard and winter guard are eligible to receive their jacket and letter
5. Bagpipe Corps members who have had full pipe privileges for two full school years (4 consecutive semesters) may earn a letter. If a full-time band member at the beginning of their pipe career, they must maintain their full-time band enrollment status to earn the letter.

Achievement

1. Make the All-Region Band and attend the clinic/concert.
2. And/or a division one rating on a class one solo/ensemble

HONORS CREDIT

Students are eligible for honors credit by being a part of the Highlander Band program, or another school band program if a transfer student, for 8 consecutive semesters (***senior year only***).

Requirements: 100% attendance for all concerts and performances and be eligible for all UIL events. In addition, there will be one additional assignment due each six weeks. Work must be turned in by Friday of the fifth week in order to receive Honors Credit, otherwise your grade for this category will be a zero.

****Mr. Brumley reserves the right to review individual exceptions.**

SENIOR PINK HONOR GRADUATION CORDS

A senior band student is eligible for a Pink Honor Graduation Cord if he/she has fulfilled all of the obligations of receiving Honors Credit every six weeks of his/her senior year. Most importantly, this includes completing the special Honors assignment at every six-week grading period.

SPRING TRIP—PERFORMANCE AND TRAVEL

The Highlander Band plans on taking one trip every year and all band students are expected to travel with the group if at all possible. Students will be advised of the amount required for the trip as soon as arrangements are solidified. Obligations may be met through direct payment, donations, or through fundraising activities. Requirements for all travel performances are:

- Students must meet all local and state **eligibility requirements** to participate in travel or competitions.
- Students must be able to perform satisfactorily the materials assigned for performance
- Students must have attended scheduled rehearsals necessary for the preparation for the performance
- Students must fulfill their financial obligations to the organization
- Students must meet the minimum required fundraising quota for the year

HIGHLANDER BAND/HIGHLANDER BAND BOOSTERS FINANCIAL POLICY

The Highland Park Independent School District (“District”) considers the instruction offered within the classroom during normal classroom hours to be curricular and the other instruction and activities outside the normal classroom hours to be co-curricular. Co-curricular activities therefore include all activities outside of normal classroom instruction. Included within these co-curricular activities is student participation in the annual spring trip.

The Highlander Band Boosters (“HBB”) fund expenses, not covered by the District, of nearly \$1,200 per band member per year. As a result, HBB has implemented fundraising quotas to ensure adequate program funding. To ensure equity among band members, students of families who fail to reach their annual fundraising quotas will not be allowed to participate in the annual spring trip and other co-curricular activities as deemed appropriate by the Director.

It is the strong desire of the HBB and all associated with the band program, that none of our students miss out on the opportunities to participate in the annual spring trip due to finances. If you believe that a band member’s participation is contingent upon further modification of the band fees or quotas, please privately contact the director, HBB President, or HBB Treasurer.

HIGHLANDER BAND/HIGHLANDER BAND BOOSTERS REFUND POLICY

The Highlander Band Boosters (HBB) may refund portions of fees paid by band students under certain conditions. If a student withdraws between the registration date and the first day of fall classes, HBB will refund a portion of the registration fee paid by the student. All other fees will be forfeited, while refunds may be available for any portion of other charges that can be avoided. For example, if a meal package can be cancelled for refund, that refund will be returned to the student. Band merchandise that can be re-used (e.g., an unused Water Bottle or pair of gloves) will be accepted back for a \$15 restocking fee. Items that have been personalized for the student may not be returned and become the property of the student regardless of his or her status in the band. Merchandise refund policies remain unchanged throughout the school year. If a student withdraws after the first day of fall classes all other fees will be fully forfeited.