

Band Handbook

2024-2025

Directors

Alan Lang • Kolby Kelly • Zack Riley

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Dear high school band student and parents,

WELCOME to one of the most exciting experiences in which you can be a part of – BAND! The ultimate goal of the band program is to provide our students with a lifelong understanding and appreciation for quality music and music making. In addition, we get to use the medium of music to teach some wonderful life lessons as part of our comprehensive program here at Lamar High School.

The band program has established a reputation for excellence, success, and friendliness that is known throughout the area, and the band directors are excited about the opportunity to take this band to new heights. You are the backbone of this organization, and your hard work and dedication will take us further down the road toward achieving our goals. Below are skills you will develop in the Lamar Band:

- Teamwork
- Patience
- Grit (mental toughness)
- Respect
- Musicianship
- Music Mastery

We continue to provide a well-rounded, comprehensive experience for our students. For the upcoming year, we are excited to offer many opportunities to perform outside of school. We want you to be successful as a member of the band, as an individual musician, and as a person. We have three simple goals:

1. For all members to make consistent improvement on their instrument.
2. For the art of music making to be an enjoyable experience.
3. For all the ensembles to be held to a superior standard of excellence.

In order to realize this commitment to success, we have provided you with this handbook, which outlines your responsibilities and rights as band members and parents. If you have any questions do not hesitate to call, we are here to help you.

We look forward to helping you become an excellent musician!

Musically Yours,
Alan Lang, Band Director
Zack Riley, Associate Band Director
Kolby Kelly, Associate Band Director

Handbook Acknowledgement Signature Page

I have read, understand, and will comply with all rules and procedures in the Lamar Band handbook.

Instrument and Uniform Contract

I understand that I am personally responsible for the instrument and uniform items assigned to me, and that I will be financially responsible for all damage and any parts that are lost or damaged due to neglect or abuse. I also agree to take care of the instrument uniform as directed. I will report any missing or damaged items immediately. I understand that failure to follow these rules will result in immediate disciplinary action.

Letter of Mutual Consent

I, the undersigned student, accept membership in the Lamar High School School Band and understand that I am responsible for all the policies as set forth in the Band Handbook. I fully agree to carry out my responsibilities to the very best of my ability.

(Student Signature) (Date)

I, the undersigned parent or guardian, have read and understand the policies as set forth in the Band Handbook. I also grant full permission for my child to be an active member of the Lamar High School Band. In addition, my child has full permission to attend all band functions. Furthermore, I understand that I must meet all financial obligations.

(Parent Signature) (Date)

BAND CLASSES

All members of the band program are assigned by audition to one of several concert bands that meet as TEKS based academic classes. Auditions are held twice each year at the end of the fall and spring semester. New students are auditioned upon arrival.

Double Block Requirement for Band

Band at Lamar is a year long, double blocked course. Students will be enrolled based on their ability level as a musician. **All members of the band program will enroll in the 7th period marching band class.** In the spring semester, the B day (7th period) will change to the 9th period for woodwinds, and 10th period for percussionists.

Students with scheduling issues must first discuss the matter with a band director. The directors often know of a solution to the issue. If needed, students and their parents/guardians will fill out a [request to single block band form](#). It must be completed and submitted. If approved by the band director, it will be sent to the counseling office for the schedule adjustment.

The most common reasons that are typically approved are athletic, fine arts, and CTC class conflicts. Off periods will not be approved.

Boosting your GPA by Double Blocking Band

To help with GPA, juniors and seniors may GPA exempt one of their two band courses. Unique to AISD, sophomores, juniors, and seniors may earn the honors music credit for one of their band classes for a GPA boost like any AP class would award them. To do this, students enroll in the normal band courses while completing the advanced assignments required for honors music. For more detailed information, request a packet for Honors Music.

Wind Ensemble – Varsity Concert Band

The Wind Ensemble is composed of the most advanced musicians in the Lamar band program. This group is able to perform major works for band. The Wind Ensemble performs several concerts per year, as well as preparing for the UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. The members of this ensemble are expected to participate in All City, All Region, Solo and Ensemble Contests. A weekly rehearsal or sectional (outside of class time) will be scheduled. Members of the Wind Ensemble are required to register for the corresponding section of Instrumental Ensemble Class. The top players in each section are required to perform with the Full Orchestra as needed (this does require additional before/after school rehearsal time). TEKS Level IV.

Symphonic Band – Non-Varsity Concert Band

Symphonic Band is made up of intermediate to advanced musicians from the Lamar Band program. These students are able to perform works for band in the medium to difficult levels. The focus of this group is performance and improvement of technical and musical ability. This group performs at UIL and other contests the same as the Wind Symphony. The members of this ensemble are expected to participate in All City and All Region competitions. They are also required to perform a solo or ensemble during the spring semester. A weekly rehearsal or sectional (outside of class time) will be scheduled. Members of the Symphonic Band are expected to register for the corresponding section of Instrumental Ensemble Class. TEKS Level III.

Freshman Band – Sub Non-Varsity Concert Band

The Freshman Band is for all 9th grade students in the Lamar Band. These students are able to perform works for band in the medium easy to medium levels. The focus of this group is performance and

improvement of technical and musical ability. This group performs at UIL and other contests the same as the Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band when instrumentation allows. The members of these ensembles are encouraged to participate in All City and All Region auditions and are required to perform a solo or ensemble during the spring semester. A weekly rehearsal or sectional (outside of class time) will be scheduled. Members of the Freshmen Band are expected to register for the corresponding section of Instrumental Ensemble Class. TEKS Level I, II.

Jazz Band (Grades 9 - 12)

Jazz Orchestra consists mainly of students who are participating in their second or third year of jazz studies. This group continues to work on developing all jazz styles and improvisation. Students are prepared to perform concerts and compete at Jazz Festivals. All Jazz band members are required to be concurrently enrolled in another Band class, or for certain instruments (Guitar, Piano, and Bass) may be enrolled in orchestra. TEKS Level IV.

Marching Band (fall only) ALL members of The Lamar Band will enroll in 7th period marching band class for the fall semester. Rehearsal will start at 6:30am flowing into 7th period. In the spring semester, students will be in their typical ensemble classes. TEKS Level I-IV

Brass Ensemble

The brass ensemble class consists of all the brass players in the entire band program. The class focuses on building technique and flexibility, and students receive instruction on the All-Region and All-City music.

Woodwind Ensemble

The woodwind ensemble class consists of all the woodwind players in the entire band program. The class focuses on building technique and flexibility, and students receive instruction on the All-Region and All-City music.

Percussion Ensemble

All percussionists who perform in the battery or front ensemble must be enrolled in this class. In the spring percussionists will learn percussion ensembles for their two percussion concerts, A Night of Percussion and Viking Thunder.

Color Guard

All members of the color guard must adhere to the Lamar Band Handbook. Color guard is a part of the band, just like the percussion section or trumpet section. Details specific to color guard are outlined in the color guard handbook.

Students who play an instrument in band may not join color guard in the fall marching band season. The option for these students is to join the winterguard program in the spring semester.

Marching Band (Grades 9 - 12)

Background Information

Arlington 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, Arlington ISD's philosophy is that educationally, historically, and musically, marching band is an essential ingredient in a well-rounded music education in band. AISD 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/UIIL guidelines which govern all Texas schools.

Physical Education Requirement Waived

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 credit) 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. All students who attend summer marching camp(s), and make a conscientious effort to improve WILL perform sometime during the marching season. However, performances of the contest show will be limited to those students who demonstrate the most advanced skills for performance, both marching and playing.

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 are 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 for a UIL contest presentation prior to August 1. In addition, no more than twenty 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 twenty-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 include preparation immediately before games and competitions. AISD observes all of these guidelines.

Rehearsal and Performance Schedules

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

Instruments

Marching band students who play an instrument that AISD provides are responsible for all maintenance on their instrument, and must pay for any damage to the instrument.

Marching Band Positions

Primary Marchers

Students who earn a position in the 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) loss of position as a primary marcher, b) loss of performance opportunity, or c) performance as a marcher only.

Secondary Performers/Alternates/Shadows/Aces

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 the same attendance, rehearsal, memorization, academic, and performance requirements of primary marchers. 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 roles 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, Color Guard, Prop Performer, Prop Crew, Pit Crew, and Tech Crew.

Marching Band Rehearsals

- Respect everyone on the 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 10 minutes before practice begins.
- Water breaks are meant for your health and comfort. **DRINK WATER!!!** Return on time after the whistle.
- During all rehearsals, students will be silent when receiving instruction. At LHS, when on the field, we are silent to maximize learning.
- Standing is the only acceptable position on the marching band field unless instructed otherwise (ex: when a director tells you to kneel while he gives instructions).
- At various times in a rehearsal, you may be asked to count vocally, sing, clap, or some other non-musical method of rehearsal. Your 100% participation is expected.
- Pay attention to general instructions at all times. Listen attentively and respond appropriately.
- FUN-damentals will make us successful. Therefore, we expect everyone to participate fully.
- Band members are encouraged to wear a “fanny pack” during all marching rehearsals. The “fanny pack” should contain coordinate sheets for each movement, smartphone with the UDBapp installed, a pencil, breathing tube, chapstick, and sunscreen. Other items may be contained in the fanny pack as needed and as approved by the leadership.
- Move when instructed quickly and quietly (ex: moving from set to set or after a discussion with a leader).
- When setting forms, keep your feet together.
- Remain at attention until you are told to relax. “Attention” is eyes forward, no talking, no moving.
- “Relax” means silently standing in the ready position.
- When adjusting the forms, use your coordinate sheets or UDBapp at all times unless instructed otherwise.
- To keep your spot on the marching field, meet all music memorization deadlines.
- Jewelry and clothing that impede your performance on the rehearsal field must not be worn.

Morning Marching Band Rehearsal Attendance Policy

We start promptly at 6:30am. Students arriving to practice after 6:30 will be considered tardy. This will equal a 70 in the gradebook for that day. Absences from our morning practices will result in a zero for that daily grade. The attendance for the school during our 7th period class will be taken just as any other class.

Conduct Expectations

Students in band serve as representatives of the school and school district at many public extracurricular functions. Membership in these organizations is a privilege and it is within the right of any director to deny membership to a student if they believe that they would not positively represent the organization. Band members will observe all policies set forth by Arlington 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.
- 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 all 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 will not deface or mark on music stands, chairs, walls, instrument lockers, etc.
- Students will not write on 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, saxophone and bassoon).

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. 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.

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 AISD teaching staff or band members, 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.

In addition to considerations listed above under Probation and Dismissal, band members that 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 members. 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.

SUMMER CAMP GUIDELINES

1. ALWAYS eat something before outside rehearsals. Foods high in carbohydrates, such as cereal, bread, etc. are best. Fruit is also good. Stay away from dairy products and meat (especially fried). Drinks that have caffeine or carbonated water should also be avoided.
2. ALWAYS wear plenty of sunscreen and a hat. You should wear loose-fitting clothes that are lightly colored. Light colors reflect heat, while dark colors absorb heat. You will be much hotter if you wear dark clothing!
3. You MUST wear running shoes with comfortable socks. Slides, flip flops, and sandals, are unsafe and will result in being sent home for appropriate footwear.
4. You will be given plenty of water breaks and water will be provided for you. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EACH! If you drink a little water often, you will be in good shape. Always have a container of water (canteen, water bottle) with you on the field. You will be able to take in more water that way. Try to drink only water or sports drinks such as Gatorade. Carbonated drinks may make you sick to your stomach.
5. If you begin to feel dizzy or nauseated, DO NOT WAIT. Get to a drum major or a director for assistance. If you are careful and take the proper precautions, the heat will not become a problem for you.

REHEARSAL / PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE

All band students are required to attend all practices and events. All practices outside of school hours are considered classwork. Band is a performance based, co-curricular activity that follows the instrumental music TEKS. Therefore, performances at marching band contests, football games, concerts, and other events are part of the overall grade in band. Approved absences are the decision of the band directors. Parents will fill out the absence request form.

For ALL absences, the following procedure must be followed by all students and parents:

1. Director must be notified in advance.
2. A [Lamar Band Absence Request Form](#) must be filled out and on file.
3. For illness, a parent note or doctor's excuse must be submitted.
4. Although cleared by the school office, absences from a band activity the same day must be cleared with the director as well – please call or email directors.
5. In extreme cases, an email from a parent to a director can be accepted in an emergency. Follow-up is the sole responsibility of the student/parent.

Marching Band

One unexcused absence from any rehearsal during the week will result in the student being banned from the next football game. Points will be deducted from the daily grade. Any additional unexcused absences in a week will result in being banned from future football games. Directors will decide whether or not the student will be allowed to retain their marching show performer assignment. Being tardy will be a deduction from the daily grade. Two tardies will result in being banned from the next football game.

Non-Marching Band

The attendance policy applies in the same way for rehearsals in any other band sub-group. Instead of consequences of a football game, the group's next performance or public event will be considered.

Examples of excused absences:

- Students who are home sick must have an email from a parent/guardian.
- Religious events are excused with an email from a parent/guardian.

Examples of unexcused absences:

- Missing rehearsal for work is an unexcused absence.
- Non-school sponsored activities, teams, organizations, or jobs must not conflict in any way with the practice/performance schedule of the band.
- Transportation issues of any kind are unexcused.
- Any absences due to medical issues must be accompanied with a doctor's note.
- Birthday or birthday parties are unexcused.

Students in other school activities (athletics, fine arts, etc.) must plan ahead to avoid conflicts. However, other group organizations that may change schedules or make demands of students on short notice will not be allowed to interfere with long scheduled rehearsals or performances of the band. Students who find themselves involved in such activities may have to make a choice to drop one or the other if such conflicts arise.

Varsity marching band assignments are at the discretion of the directors. Excessive absences could result in the loss of a varsity marching position. **It is highly encouraged that medical and dental appointments be scheduled on afternoons that we do not practice.**

BUS TRIPS

Many of the band's performances involve a bus trip. For these trips, all students are assigned to a bus according to sections. Members are expected to conduct themselves with dignity during each trip. The following policies will be in effect for all bus trips:

1. Remain in your seat while the bus is moving.
2. Keep your head, hands, etc. inside the bus at all times.
3. Do not play your instruments inside the bus.
4. Follow all directions of directors, chaperones, and drivers the first time given.
5. Food or drinks of any kind are not allowed on the bus without DIRECTOR permission.
6. Music must be played with headphones or at an appropriate volume at the discretion of the director, chaperone, or bus driver.
7. Chaperones have the authority to assign seats if they deem necessary.
8. Keep all talking, etc. at a reasonable volume.
9. Remain on the bus until given permission to get off.
10. All students are expected to ride the bus to each performance and back to the school. Any exceptions must be cleared with a director in advance and students are only allowed to leave an event with a parent / guardian.

FOOTBALL GAME PROCEDURES

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

1. Students will arrive at the set report time, and will load and be prepared to travel at the set load time.
2. Students will load the buses with all equipment needed for the performance, and the section leaders will inspect all students boarding buses prior to departure.
3. Upon arrival at the performance area, students will don all uniform components and prepare equipment for unloading. Students will unload busses when instructed to do so by a chaperone or director.
4. Students will report to the warm-up formation for final inspection.
5. Students will report to the seating area, and 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 assigned sections, and will remain in those sections at all times.**
6. Students will remain in the band seating section at all times during the game. Any snacks will be provided by the band parent organization. Students will refrain from accepting food or drinks from parents, relatives, or friends.
7. Students needing a restroom break must go in pairs.
8. **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.**

9. Students will refrain from playing their instruments on an individual basis. The band will perform as a group or with approved small ensembles. (Small ensembles will only be approved after all members have played-off their show music.)
10. 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.
11. At the conclusion of the game, students will load busses quickly and efficiently.
12. Upon return to the band hall, students will insure that all personal items, uniforms, instruments, equipment, and props are placed in the proper storage areas.

MARCHING UNIFORM GUIDELINES

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

General

1. Marching uniforms will be issued by the band staff and Lamar Band Booster Club.
2. Students will be held financially responsible for the uniform and its components.
3. Uniforms will be returned to the uniform racks, neatly and properly hung and bagged, after every performance unless the students are given specific instructions to do something else.

Wearing the uniform

1. 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. The band shirt will be part of pre-performance inspections.
2. You must wear approved black band shoes and black socks (student purchases).
3. Jewelry, hair ribbons, and bright colored nail polish etc. is unacceptable while in uniform. Uniformity of every visible part of the body not covered by a costume or uniform is important.
4. Band students with long hair will need to put it up under their hat during performances, in a bun. Headbands are allowed if it is solid black and used to help control your hair under the shako.
5. Natural hair colors are the preferred style of color. Each marching band show has a theme and any visible hair during a performance must match the theme of the show.
6. No consumption of food and drinks while in uniform without permission
7. Makeup can stain the uniforms / costumes. Unless approved by the band staff, NO makeup will be allowed.

Uniform Costs

If a uniform part is damaged beyond repair or lost, the student will be responsible for the replacement costs. Color guard will be required to purchase uniforms seasonally.

CALENDAR

The official calendar for the band is located on the Lamar Band website: www.lamarmusic.org. Avoid schedule conflicts by checking this calendar first, and make sure you DO NOT schedule SAT or ACT exams on band competition dates.

COMMUNICATION

If you have any questions concerning the band program, please consult the directors first. Problems are often a result of miscommunication and can usually be resolved quickly through a phone call. To better communicate with you, a band newsletter will be sent to your address a couple of times during the school year. It will contain helpful information about upcoming concerts, booster meetings, and other band events. If you find that you are not receiving these newsletters, please call so that we may correct the situation. We will keep information posted on the internet and through email.

Ways to stay connected

www.lamarmusic.org

Band Hall Phone Line (682) 867-7006

Facebook: Lamar Viking Band

Band App: Lamar Band <https://band.us/@lamarband>

Instagram: @Lamarband

Twitter: @VikingBand (general band)

Blog: lamarbandnews.wordpress.com

REHEARSAL BEHAVIOR

1. Students are expected to have all equipment and supplies at every rehearsal. This includes instrument and all accessories, music, pencil, notebook, and personal tuners.
2. Students are expected to be in the classroom by the warning tone and seated with instrument by tardy tone.
3. There should be no talking while the director is on the podium and/or giving instructions. A student who continually disrupts rehearsal may be asked to put up their instrument and be separated from the group or be assigned band detention during lunch or after school.
4. Severe disruptions will be handled through the student's assistant principal and may result in being placed in a non-performing band.
5. The band directors will enforce the school cell phone policy.
6. During lunch, students may be allowed in the band to practice their primary instrument or study at the directors discretion.
7. No students are allowed in the band room during non-assigned class periods. Exceptions are only permitted with prior approval from the band directors.

PERFORMANCE BEHAVIOR

1. Students are expected to be ready to perform at the specified time.
2. Students are expected to have all equipment at every performance
3. Students are expected to arrive at the performance in complete uniform, ready for inspection.
4. Once activities related to the performance begin, there should be no talking while the director is on the podium or giving instructions.

5. During the performance, students will give their undivided attention to the person or persons conducting the performance.
6. Severe disruptions will be handled through the student's assistant principal and may result in being placed in a non-performing band.

GRADES

Performance grades: (Public or in class) 40% of overall band class grade

Performances include live concerts on stage, marching band performances, and other opportunities for the teachers to assess student ability as a musical performer.

Ensemble grades: 30% of overall band class grade

Ensemble grades include any opportunities for the teacher to assess the music student as a member of a musical performance group. This includes concert band rehearsals, marching band rehearsals, small group practice such as sectionals or chamber music groups.

Technical grades: 30% of overall band class grade

Technical grades include the objectives outlined by the teacher that will be based on the individual student's progress on their instrument. This includes fundamentals, tone exercises, technical exercises, and experts of concert / marching music. These are assessed by recordings or in-person playing

BOOSTER CLUB

We encourage parents to become active in the Lamar Band Booster Club (LBBC). This organization is invaluable both in the financial support and the moral support they give to the students and directors. They need all parents to help them in their endeavors. If you can give an evening or two during the football season to help at the games, they will greatly appreciate it, and you will have a great time getting to know other parents who want to support the students. Meeting times will be posted on the internet, or will be listed in periodic emails and newsletters. The band boosters meet regularly to plan activities and projects for our students. Information on upcoming concert and event dates, fundraising activities, social activities, and service opportunities are presented at these meetings and any questions you may have can be answered directly from the source. Please consider becoming a part of this vital parent support organization.

AISD PRIVATE LESSONS PROGRAM

Applied instructors assist students with preparation of music for All Region, Area and State tryouts, and Solo & Ensemble Contest. Teachers will include an organized lesson plan of fundamentals that need to be practiced consistently in order to receive the greatest benefits from private lessons. Parents should become informed about the lesson content, expectations of the teacher, and their student's rate of progress. Parents should contact the band directors with questions about lessons or private teachers. Lessons are not free, and payment is made directly to

the teacher. Private instruction is offered as enrichment, NOT remedial instruction, and is encouraged for the complete development of each student.

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

All City Auditions – Expected of every member of the Lamar Band.

All Region Auditions – Expected of Wind Symphony, encouraged for all others.

All-Region Jazz Auditions - Expected of the top jazz band students

All State Auditions – Requires qualification at All Region auditions.

UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest – All Lamar Band students will perform a solo or ensemble for a grade and are encouraged to participate in the UIL competition (which can substitute for the recital).

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES – UIL

Due to the no-pass/no-play rule in Texas, members of the Lamar High School Band who fail one or more classes are not able to perform with the band at extra-curricular activities such as football games, solo contest, UIL concert and sight-reading contest and other festivals. The only exceptions are Lamar High School sponsored concerts such as the holiday concert, the Pre-UIL concert, and the spring concert. Each student must pass every class each six weeks. A 69 in one class will make a student ineligible for these activities. They will remain ineligible until passing all classes on a three-week progress report or six weeks grade report. Please stay informed about your grades in all your classes, and notify the band directors of any potential problems well in advance. If a student is academically ineligible to participate in a required activity, he or she will not have their band grade lowered. The Lamar band has an extensive peer tutoring system set up. If a student is struggling in a class or subject, the directors will set them up with another student to tutor them during the study time during their lunch.

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE

Each student should allow time outside of rehearsals to practice; setting aside just 30-60 minutes a day results in astonishing improvement. Five to seven hours a week are typical and expected.

As with any activity, you get out of it what you put into it. Band will not be rewarding unless you practice! There are many values in the study of music as a discipline that transfer to other areas of life. Although this will not immediately happen, persistent practice will lead to enthusiastic, driven practice. Remember: “Perfect Practice makes Perfect!” Here is a suggested plan of study:

- Pick a set time each day
- Have a set place to practice
- Stretch and do breathing exercises prior to warm-up
- Use our daily warm-up “Lamar Band Fundamentals” & think “tone”
- Play some form of scales at every practice session
- Take a break every 20 minutes
- Work on technique (articulations, accents, etc.)
- Be musical and use the tuner for part of your practice session
- Increase your dynamic range (work pianissimo to fortissimo)
- Increase your endurance (15 minutes of FULL TONE playing)
- Increase your range (highest note with a good tone)
- Use a metronome for a specific portion of your practice session
- “I will start with _____ minutes and increase to _____ minutes ...”

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Band Activity Fees are normally paid on band registration day in August. These are due at the beginning of the school year. At times the financial obligation may be heavy, but no member will be denied the opportunities of our organization due to financial difficulties. Please talk with us if you have financial issues so that we may look into financial aid including payment plans.

Each student must pay their fair share to the program. It takes an incredible amount of funding to run a large band program in the state of Texas. If every student and parent does their part, it is manageable. We expect all students and parents to participate in fundraising efforts throughout the year.

Supplies are essential items for band class and can be obtained locally through retail music dealers. Students will learn proper care for each instrument and what supplies are necessary to keep the instrument in working order.

The following supplies are required at every rehearsal

Woodwind: Instrument, cleaning cloth, 3 to 5 good reeds, a reed case, swab, binder/music, pencil, metronome/tuner

Brass: Instrument, cleaning cloth, valve oil, slide grease, binder/music, pencil, BERP (highly encouraged), metronome/tuner

Percussion: Stick bag, metronome, snare sticks, mallets, timpani mallets, drum pad, binder/music, pencil

Marching Rehearsals: In addition to the above – water jug, lyre, flip folio, lanyard, and coordinate sheets. “Fanny packs” are strongly encouraged for marching band rehearsals.

SCHOOL OWNED / ISSUED INSTRUMENTS

AISD provides many instruments for student use that are of high quality. This equipment is purchased by the school district for student use because of its extremely high value. Thus, all school owned equipment must be handled with optimum care. **Students failing to care for their school issued instrument will lose the privilege to use such instruments.** The following is a list of general procedures for school owned instruments:

1. If possible, students may be issued one instrument for home use and one for school use. Order of distribution will be done based on chair order.
2. Arlington ISD does not provide insurance for individual or school owned equipment. **Students will be held responsible for school owned instruments issued to them. This responsibility will include fire, theft, accidental damage, abuse and general maintenance not incurred through normal use.**
3. Damage to a school instrument beyond the normal wear and tear is the student's responsibility for repair.
4. Students and parents must sign an instrument checkout form before the student can use the instrument.
5. 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.
6. The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him or her.
7. All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.
8. School 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 school owned instruments exceed a \$2,000.00 value. Since the expense of purchasing, leasing or renting is deterred, students using school owned instruments are strongly encouraged to participate in the private lesson program.**

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

We believe in the abilities of our students and each year carefully pick a student leadership team. This team will have a very active role in the daily activity of the band program. A summary of our leadership structure follows.

Leadership positions available:

- Field Leadership – football season only. All activities related to the marching program.
 - Drum Major
 - Captain
 - Section Leader
 - Team Leader - Ladders, Props, Water, etc.
- Band Council – year round. All activities not-related to the marching program.
 - President (Junior or Senior)
 - Vice President (Junior or Senior)
 - Secretary
 - Social Chair