

# Athens High School

“Pride of the Hornets”

## Band Handbook



2017-2018

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## **ATHENS HIGH SCHOOL BAND PHILOSOPHY**

The goal of our effort is that we, the directors, are striving to mold young students into successful, productive adults. Just as music enriches student's lives with opportunities for self-expression, creativity, emotional and aesthetic development, membership and participation in this organization will be an opportunity for students to learn valuable life skills such as responsibility, commitment, goal setting, self-discipline, teamwork, and leadership. It is the philosophy of this band program to use these opportunities as our goals and to use music to help make our students intelligent, sensitive members of adult society.

## **PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

Prospective Athens High School band students must have had prior training through the AISD band program (or equivalent). Membership and retention in the Athens High School Band is determined through a required annual audition as well as continued evaluation throughout each school year. The criterion that involves this process includes an evaluation of the following things:

1. Enrollment in the A.I.S.D Middle or High School Band Program (or its equivalent) for all of the previous school year
2. Student's technical proficiency on their primary instrument
3. Student's leadership skills
4. Student's reliability and personal commitment to band requirements
5. Student's eligibility information
6. The Band Program's instrumentation limitations and needs

Every prospective Athens High School Band Student will be offered fair and equitable opportunities for placement and retention in so long as these criteria are met. It must be understood that "Primary Instrument", that is mentioned in criteria number two, refers to the band instrument in which the student received at least one full year of consistent training the previous school year through the A.I.S.D. Band Program or another school band program. Furthermore, the above listed criteria have no correlation with the number of years that a student has been in the band program.

All prospective Athens High School Band students are required to go through an audition process on the band instrument that they have received prior training. The audition information can be obtained through their campus director. Students who were enrolled in the band program must complete the audition that takes place during the Spring Semester in order to be considered for membership the following year. Transfer students must complete their audition by appointment with the High School directors.

Audition material consists of designated major scales with relative scales in thirds, a chromatic scale and a brief etude. Each student playing the audition material for one of the band directors conducts auditions privately. The audition process is completed and membership granted only when the student performs an "acceptable audition". An acceptable audition takes place when all parts of the music requirements are played in their entirety. Each student will be placed in "chair order" based on the scores of each phase of the audition process.

## BANDS

Band is a two semester course. Members may not sign up for only one semester.

### MARCHING BAND

Summer Band practice will begin the first week of August. Rehearsals will consist of full band and section rehearsals each day. All students will audition for a place in the marching band which includes playing prescribed music, sight-reading and scales. Band members who fail to pass musical and marching requirements, or have unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances are selected as alternates. Activities include performances in the stands and on the field at football games, pep rallies, adding to the spirit of athletic events, and parades. ALL members, including alternates, attend ALL performances. **ANY STUDENT WHO HAS AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM A PERFORMANCE WILL BE DISMISSED FROM THE BAND PROGRAM.**

Students participate during marching season (August – November) in the following activities:

- a. Summer Band
- b. Monday Night Rehearsal (7:00-9:15 p.m.)
- c. One Section Rehearsal a week
- d. All football games (includes playing in the stands and playoff games)
- e. U.I.L. Marching Contests (this includes Area and State on qualifying years)
- g. Christmas Parade
- h. Any other marching performance required by the director.

### WIND ENSEMBLE

The Wind Ensemble is organized each year the week following football season. Membership is by audition only, and consists of students in grades 9-12. Students must demonstrate an advanced degree of proficiency on their instrument, and show good potential for improvement. Also, the student must have shown a positive work attitude during marching season. The directors may elect to use some students in the Wind Ensemble on a trial basis if attitude and grades have a potential to improve. Students participate during the school year in the following activities:

- a. Auditions for the All Region Band
- b. Participation in All Region Band Clinic and Concert
- c. U.I.L. Solo & Ensemble Contest
- d. Pre U.I.L. and Spring Concerts
- e. All rehearsals in preparation for U.I.L. Contest
- f. U.I.L. Concert & Sightreading Contest

### CONCERT BAND

The Concert Band is organized each year the week following football season. Membership is by audition and consists of students in grades 9-12. The band is generally made up of students who have not had sufficient experience in playing to qualify for the Wind Ensemble. Students must have a fundamental background, and expect to advance rapidly on their instruments.

- a. Auditions for the All Region Band
- b. Participation in All Region Band Clinic and Concert
- c. U.I.L. Solo & Ensemble Contest
- d. Pre U.I.L. and Spring Concerts
- e. All rehearsals in preparation for U.I.L. Contest
- f. U.I.L. Concert & Sightreading Contest

# **GENERAL BAND REGULATIONS**

## **ATTENDANCE POLICIES**

All band members are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances unless excused by the Band Director. If a band member is absent from rehearsal or performance, the parents should notify the Band Director in writing the following day or the absence will remain unexcused. The absence will be excused at the directors' discretion. Students absent during summer band rehearsals will forfeit their places in the marching line up and will serve as alternates. If their absence was caused by an emergency, they will be returned to their positions as soon as possible. If the absence was for other reasons, such as vacation, camp attendance, participation in other events, work, etc., they will serve as alternates until places become vacant in the marching line up. If a student misses all of summer band, they will be dismissed from the band program. Punctuality is of vital importance in the band. The nature of the band's operation at football games, concerts, and travel away from home make strict adherence to a schedule very important. Students who are habitually tardy or absent will forfeit any position or responsibility of honor with the band and may be transferred out of the Athens Band program.

## **CONDUCT REQUIREMENTS**

Discipline is the most important element in any successful endeavor. Without self and group discipline our organization will not improve its level of performance or reach its goal. You are member of the AHS band during and outside of band activities, therefore, you must maintain an extremely high standard of conduct at all times. It is expected that each student act like a lady or gentlemen at all times and uphold all Athens ISD rules and regulations as written in the district and campus handbooks and Code of Conduct.

## **BAND HALL RULES**

Bandsmen are encouraged to cultivate an attitude of good discipline and attention during rehearsal. Each rehearsal should be a musical learning experience for each student. Each performance will be only as good as its best rehearsal. Constant disturbance by any bandsman in rehearsal shows lack of interest and respect to the band; therefore, these students should find another activity to hold their attention.

1. No gum, candy, food, or drink in the band hall at any time.
2. No horseplay at any time.
3. Get a drink of water and go to the restroom before rehearsal begins.
4. Do not get up out of your chair for any reason after rehearsal begins unless it is an emergency.
5. Check your instrument before rehearsal and get it fixed at that time.
6. Get necessary supplies (reed, oils, etc.) before time for rehearsal to begin.
7. Get all notes signed before rehearsal or wait until after rehearsal.
8. **BE IN YOUR CHAIR WITH YOUR INSTRUMENT, AND EVERYTHING YOU NEED; MUSIC PENCIL, GOOD REED, ETC. AT THE SCHEDULED REHEARSAL TIME!**
9. When the director stops the band, it is to give instructions for the benefit of the band. It is not for talking or discussion.
10. Do not talk during rehearsal for any reason, except to ask the director about the music or about some instructions that have been given.
11. The use of cell phones during any band rehearsal or performance is prohibited.
12. Most importantly, give the director your total attention at all times.

## **BUS TRIP GUIDELINES**

1. Once seated, remain seated during trip. Do not stand up at any time.
2. No movement in aisles except for loading and unloading bus.
3. No changing busses. Student must remain on the same bus.
4. Conversations must be kept at moderate voice level. After a second warning, the student will be moved to a seat with a chaperone.
5. Avoid sudden blasts of high-pitched laughter. No singing!
6. Any time the bus stops, be silent.
7. No talking, yelling, throwing things, etc. out of the windows.
8. No placing hands, arms, head, etc. out of the windows.
9. No food or drinks are allowed on Athens ISD busses.
10. When the bus arrives at the destination, remain seated on the bus until further instructions are given.
11. Do not change into uniforms until instructions are given to do so.
12. Make sure uniforms are complete before unloading.
13. After unloading the bus, time will be given for a restroom break.
14. After unloading instruments, assemble in formation near the instrument truck.
15. After the return to Athens, make sure your instrument is put in its proper place.
16. All AV equipment must use headphones.
17. Students are not released until their uniform is properly returned to the uniform room and they have checked out with a director at the conclusion of the trip.
18. Do not exit at the rear of the bus.
19. Students should not change clothes on the bus.
20. Chaperone will report all violations of these guidelines to the Band Director.

## **BAND TRIPS**

All members ride to and from the destination on the designated busses. Students may not change busses on the return trip. The only exceptions to this rule:

1. A band member may be released by the director to a parent after the band has finished its performance and been released by the director to go home. However the parent must:
  - a. complete, sign and return a pre-arranged release form.
  - b. come to the band director personally to pick up their child.
2. A band member may ride home with someone other than their parent providing:
  - a. the parent completes a pre-arranged release form stating who is to pick up their child, PRIOR TO THE TRIP.
  - b. the parent has written approval from a school administrator, PRIOR TO THE TRIP.
  - c. follow criteria from #1.
3. In case of an emergency, the Band Director may approve other means of transportation. All parents must sign an Emergency Medical and Release Form before students make any trip with the band.

On out of state trips, which are usually made every two years, all eligibility requirements will be enforced. In addition students who are placed in D.A.E.P. for disciplinary reasons are not eligible to participate. Read all trip guidelines carefully. A student in violation of the guidelines will be sent home at the parent's expense.

## **DISMISSAL FROM THE BAND PROGRAM**

Any student may be dismissed from the band program by the Band Director due to **unexcused** absences from rehearsals or performances, repeated or severe misbehavior, lack of cooperation, refusal to conform to rules and regulations, or a general poor attitude.

## **GRADING POLICY**

In accordance with the guidelines of the Texas Education Agency, band is considered to be a Fine Arts Class and is deemed curricular in nature. Because band is curricular in nature playing and written tests and assignments are a part of the graded curriculum. Because Band is a fine arts class, outside of class rehearsals are considered to be “extensions of the classroom” and are also a part of the graded curriculum. Other examples of activities that are outside of the school day that are graded are: Annual Sneak Preview Performance, Section Rehearsals, Full Band Rehearsals, Ensemble Rehearsals, Small Group Sectionals, Ensemble Recitals, and Concerts. Additionally, Weekly Participation Grades, which includes the director’s assessment of each student’s level of participation in the class, can be given on a weekly basis. Weekly Participation Grades are comprised of an evaluation of the following things:

- \*Promptly and appropriately seated at the beginning of class
- \*Displays a positive/supportive attitude
- \*Uses proper body posture
- \*Demonstrates a characteristic tone quality
- \*Uses proper instrument position while playing
- \*Shows care and respect for the instrument
- \*Listens to instructions
- \*Brings all band materials to class and stores them properly
- \*Prepares assignments carefully
- \*Respects the right of other classmate’s opportunity to learn

## **SEATING AND PLACEMENT**

Several times during the year, each student will be given the opportunity to play for one of the directors so that his grade and placement in his section can be determined. Material for these auditions will vary. They may include major and minor scales, All Region music, Solo & Ensemble music, etudes, music in the folder and sight reading.

## **CHALLENGE SYSTEM**

1. Pick up a challenge sheet
2.
  - a. you sign beside challenger
  - b. they sign beside challengee – they must accept
3. Give the challenge sheet to your director
4. Look at the returned challenge sheet for assigned music, day and time of challenge

- \*You do not have to challenge the person ahead of you, but if someone challenges you, you must accept.
- \*If you do not accept, you forfeit your chair to the challenger.
- \*You may only challenge the person one chair ahead of you.
- \*If a person loses a challenge, they must wait one week to re-challenge.
- \*Challenges will be used at the director’s discretion.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

All students who participate in band are responsible for maintaining high academic standards, which include earning grades of 70 or above in each subject at the end of each grading period. A student is declared academically ineligible if they have received an average grade of 69 or lower in one or more subjects at the end of a six weeks reporting period. Students who have failed a class, however, are required to attend after-school rehearsals and on-campus performances during the time that they are academically ineligible. Students who failed a class may be reinstated for U.I.L. or off-campus performances if they are passing all subjects at the end of the fourth week after the new six weeks has begun. It is the recommendation of the Band Department that a student reconsider their interest in band if the student is consistently declared academically ineligible. In this particular case the student could obviously benefit from not being required to attend after school band rehearsals by utilizing their time more wisely in structured study or tutoring programs as well as spending more time on homework.

## **MULTIPLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

Occasionally there are students in the band who elect to participate in other school activities and organizations. It is the philosophy of Athens High School for sponsors and coaches to work together so that students can be successful in each organization that they choose to participate in. Conflicts with band performances and other school activities rarely occur. When it does occur it is the student's responsibility to inform the band director of the conflict. These conflicts are generally worked out on an individual basis to the best benefit of the child, the organization and the activity involved. If no solution can be met between the student and both organizations, make up tests and grades must be given by a director so a zero can be avoided. This can range from playing off music from a contest/concert to a director for a re-test grade to a written assignment given to the student as a re-test grade. As per district grading policy, the highest grade that a student may obtain on a re-test is a 70.

## **FACILITIES**

Treat the Band Hall and all of the equipment and contents with the utmost respect. Do not handle personal belongings of fellow band members. Food or drink is not allowed in the band hall. Due to the amount of money invested in band instruments, equipment as well as the facilities, non-band members are not welcome in the band hall. The instrument storage slots are the property of Athens ISD and are to be used as storage compartments for instruments, music and other instrument supplies. During the marching season students may also store clothes for marching practice as well as a water bottle. The slots are not to be used for permanent book or backpack storage. The slots are not to be defaced in any way.

## **SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS**

Students who do not own a personal band instrument will, in most cases, be issued a school-owned Athens ISD band instrument. Students are responsible for the cleaning, care and upkeep of the school owned instruments. Athens ISD will pay for all repairs that may occur as a result of normal use. However, it is the student's responsibility to pay for repairs in cases where there is evidence of neglect or miss-use of the instrument. Additionally, the student may be required to return the instrument that they were issued in cases of abuse or neglect.



## **MARCHING UNIFORMS**

The marching uniforms are the property of the Athens Independent School District. Any loss or damage to any part of the uniform will need to be paid for by the student who is responsible for the uniform. No student will be issued a uniform unless the Uniform Contract and cleaning fee has been turned in to the directors at the beginning of the marching season. White marching shoes must be stored at home. It is the responsibility of the student to clean the shoes prior to each performance. As uniformity is the key to a successful marching band, any form of drawing attention to an individual while in uniform is not acceptable. Jewelry, nail polish, glitter, face paint, hair paint, etc. are not a part of the uniform and should not be worn to any marching performance. The official AHS Band T-shirt should be worn under the uniform to protect the fabric of the uniform coat. Students should have their uniforms completely on or completely off (as opposed to half on or off).

*The marching uniform should be worn with pride and handled with respect.*

## **BAND JACKETS**

The right to wear a band jacket is an honor at Athens High School. A student must meet at least one of the following three criterion to earn an award jacket: (1) Be a senior member of the Athens High School Band (2) Have earned a chair in the High School All-Region Band (an alternate position does not fulfill the criterion) (3) Have earned a first division at UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest. The band director has the right to confiscate the award jacket if school policies or band policies are not upheld.

## **CONCLUSION**

Know that our program is built on pride, dedication and a commitment to Excellence!

<b>P</b>	<b>Persistence</b>
<b>R</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>Intensity/Integrity</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Determination</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Excellence</b>

This handbook is dedicated to you, the members of the Athens High School Band. The purpose of this handbook is to foster the success of the Band Program, to inform students and their parents, and to address questions and concerns that may arise throughout the school year. It has been prepared with the hope that it will serve as a reference that is capable of equipping each band student with the tools that will enable them to enjoy what will be one of the most positive experiences during their tenure at Athens High School. Success in our program can be attributed to the dedication and support of our students, parents, directors and administrators. As you read through this handbook please become aware of your responsibilities to ensure that you will reap the many benefits of our band program. Upon signing and returning the Agreement page found in this handbook you enter a contractual agreement that states your understanding of the information. If you have any questions regarding any area in this handbook please feel free to call the Band Hall at 903-677-6920 ext. 6223 with any questions that you might have.

Stephen Morman, Director of Bands  
Cheyenne Handorf, Assistant High School Director  
Steven Reiss, Head Middle School Director  
Andy Nguyen, Assistant Middle School Director

# Athens High School Band

## Handbook Acceptance & Travel Form

This book is the property of the pupil whose name appears below. It is valuable and should be kept for reference throughout high school for both parents and students.

In accepting this band handbook, I accept the privileges and responsibilities as a member of the Athens Band Program and promise to uphold in my actions and attitudes those qualities which will honor the band and school.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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The following information must be filled out and presented to the Band Director before a student may make any Athens Band Trip.

\_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to participate in all band trips.

(Print Student Name)

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
\_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to swim in hotel swimming pools with the understanding that there will be no lifeguards on duty, only our parent chaperones.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# Athens High School Band

“Pride of the Hornets”

## Marching Uniform Contract

I, (print name) \_\_\_\_\_, agree to give the uniform that I am issued, which belongs to the Athens Independent School District, the best of care during the time this uniform is in my possession. This care includes using a reputable dry cleaning service when cleaning is needed apart from the Director-scheduled cleaning of the uniforms. This care also includes payment for necessary alterations and repairs of uniform during the time of my possession. I also agree to pay a uniform cleaning fee of \$20.00, which will be used to pay for the Director-scheduled cleanings during the marching season. I realize that I cannot be fitted for a uniform unless this fee is paid at the time of my scheduled fitting. I also agree to pay for any damage to or loss of any art of the uniform that is not attributable to normal wear.

I realize that no cutting of permanent alterations can be made to any District-owned uniform. Alterations that can be “reversed” for a later fitting for a future band student are the only ones that are permitted.

I acknowledge my responsibility in the care of the band uniform that is issued to me.

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

### PARENT ENDORSEMENT

I acknowledge my responsibility in the care of the band uniform issued by the Athens Independent School District to my child (print) \_\_\_\_\_.

I understand that any needed alterations, repairs and optional cleanings are at my expense while the uniform is in the possession of my child and that I am financially responsible for any damage that is attributed to negligence.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to AHS Band in the amount of \$20.00. Cash will be accepted.**

-----  
**Below for Band Office Use Only**

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Cash Payment: YES or NO

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT/STUDENT UIL, MARCHING BAND  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

No student may be required to attend practice for marching band for more than eight hours of rehearsal outside the academic school day per calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). This provision applies to students in all components of the marching band.

On performance days (football games, competitions and other public performances) bands may hold up to one additional hour of warm-up and practice beyond the scheduled warm-up time at the performance site. Multiple performances on the same day do not allow for additional practice and/or warm-up time.

Examples Of Activities Subject To The UIL Marching Band Eight Hour Rule.

- Marching Band Rehearsal (Both Full Band And Components)
- Any Marching Band Group Instructional Activity
- Breaks
- Announcements
- Debriefing And Viewing Marching Band Videos
- Playing Off Marching Band Music
- Marching Band Sectionals (Both Director And Student Led)
- Clinics For The Marching Band Or Any Of Its Components

The Following Activities Are Not Included In The Eight Hour Time Allotment:

- Travel Time To And From Rehearsals And/Or Performances
- Rehearsal Set-Up Time
- Pep Rallies, Parades And Other Public Performances
- Instruction And Practice For Music Activities Other Than Marching Band And Its Components

NOTE: An extensive Q&A for the Eight Hour Rule for Marching Band can be found on the Music Page of the UIL Web Site at: [www.uil.utexas.edu](http://www.uil.utexas.edu)

"We have read and understand the Eight-Hour Rule for Marching Band as stated above and agree to abide by these regulations."

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

This form is to be kept on file by the local school district.