

Humble High School Band Handbook



2023-2024

Welcome

Welcome to the Humble High School Band Family! We are so excited that you have decided to be a part of such a wonderful organization. In this program, we strive to accomplish three major goals:

1. **Work Hard:** We want each student to learn, develop, and have an appreciation for working hard and accomplishing the difficult things. Through band, students will learn how to persevere, problem solve, work as a team, contribute as an individual, push the boundaries, overcome adversary, get out of their comfort zone, and develop grit.
2. **Have Fun:** Students in band have a unique opportunity to work closely with their peers and develop bonds seldom found in other areas of life. Students will create lifelong friendships and memories that will last forever. From football games to social events to contests and beyond, we want students to enjoy their time in the HHS Band Program. Music should be a source of enjoyment, beauty, love, comfort, and great escape.
3. **Never Stop Getting Better:** Above all else, we are musicians. We are artists. Our job is never done. We can all always get better at our craft, from professional musicians who have been performing for decades to a brand new beginner getting out their instrument for the first time. Our goal is to always make something better than before. Every rep in every rehearsal in every week of every month of every year, we should always strive to make something better. Tiny adjustments now equate to massive improvements over time.

Humble ISD Fine Arts Philosophy

The study and performance of all Fine Arts is an opportunity that our young people truly need. Our goal, as teachers, is to enable students to fully enjoy the life-long benefits of learning Fine Arts and expressing themselves through their discipline. The skills learned in our school Fine Arts programs — fostering the development of creativity and self-expression, self-discipline, increased self-esteem, commitment, responsibility to self and to a group, teamwork, higher level critical thinking skills — will be reflected in a successful adult life. Knowing that great performances are the fruit of a considerable investment in preparation, hard work, and lessons learned from failure, the opportunity to enjoy a new level of communication and self-expression is the goal for every Fine Arts person. Creativity is within us all, and Fine Arts serve as the perfect vehicle for this journey in personal growth and in the development of knowledge and skills.

Citizenship

We expect our band students to maintain the highest level of citizenship and representation outside the four walls of the band hall. Our students are expected to abide by all rules and regulations of Humble ISD, the Humble Fine Arts Office, and Humble High School.

By enrolling in this course, you agree and understand that being a member of the Wildcat Band is a privilege. Our students will be respectful to their peers, teachers, and administrators.

Students who engage in behavior that is contrary to the expectations of Humble ISD will have their placement in band compromised. Fighting, Out of School Suspensions, DAEP placements, and repeated behavior referrals can all lead to loss of privileges within the Humble High School Band program including but not limited to marching status, concert band placement, battery/drumline assignments, colorguard/winterguard acceptance, and membership in general.

Any student who voluntarily quits or is removed from the program will not be allowed to rejoin the program at a later time.

Performing Ensembles/Course Offerings

The Humble High School band program is made up of several different performing ensembles, which allows for students to engage in a variety of performance experiences.

Marching Band

The Humble High School Marching Band is the most visible aspect of the entire band program. The marching band performs at all varsity football games, 3-4 marching contests per year, pep rallies, parades, and other school and community events as invited. We strive to be a major contributor to the overall school spirit of the campus and community and should be a great source of individual pride for each student. It is comprised of all students who are enrolled the wind, percussion, and color guard classes.

Participation in all aspects of the marching band is part of the curriculum and is not optional. Students will be evaluated by playing tests and general observations from the directors. Please see the grading policy for a comprehensive outline of how rehearsals and performances are graded.

Rehearsal Schedule and Attendance Policy

Marching Band rehearsals are generally scheduled for Monday/Tuesday from 4p-7p and Thursdays from 3:30-5:30. Wednesdays are reserved for campus wide tutorials, doctors appointments, etc.

Students must attend all rehearsals in order to perform at the game at the end of the week **WHETHER OR NOT** the absence is excused. Simply put, if you aren't there to learn the material, then you won't be able to perform the material. Any missed rehearsals may result in the student not being able to perform at the game but will still be allowed to attend the game. *Students who miss all rehearsals for the week will not be allowed to attend the game and will be given an alternate assignment.*

Placement/retention of a marching spot

Students will be placed in the competitive marching show in either a primary or secondary marching spot based on several factors including but not limited to:

- Summer band attendance
- Rehearsal attendance and punctuality
- Current/past eligibility status
- Music pass offs
- Effort, attitude, and rehearsal etiquette.

Failure to accomplish the above list satisfactorily may result in the loss of a primary marching spot.

ALL STUDENTS regardless of marching status are expected to be at all rehearsals and performances. All students will have the opportunity to march as long as they are in good standing with attendance, pass offs, and eligibility. Everyone wears the same uniform, everyone contributes to the ensemble, everyone is important to the operation and success of the marching band.

Battery (Drumline) and Front Ensemble (keyboards, accessories, electronics) placements

- Placement in the Battery is by audition only. Each spring, pad camps will be held for all percussionists (including incoming 9th graders) to be placed in the battery or the front ensemble. Student ability, past/current eligibility, and director recommendations are all part of the determining process. Dates for these camps will be published on the website and communicated to all middle school directors. Failure to attend all drum/pad camps may result in automatic placement in the front ensemble.

Color Guard

- Admission into the color guard is by audition only. Students will be evaluated on their overall proficiency and potential for proficiency in traditional color guard equipment and dance. Other contributing factors include but are not limited to overall behavior, current/past eligibility status, effort, attitude, and rehearsal etiquette.
- Toward the end of the outdoor season, the color guard will begin to work on winterguard activities, which is the indoor version of what we do in the fall. Competitions are held indoors in gymnasiums all throughout our area. Members will be expected to be at all rehearsals and competitions just as in marching season.
- All No Pass No Play laws apply for winterguard season.

Concert Ensembles

At the conclusion of the marching season close to the beginning of November, the marching band process moves into concert season where each band class becomes their own entity. Students are placed in the Wind Symphony (varsity), Symphonic Band (non varsity), and Concert Band (sub non varsity) ensembles.

- Each ensemble is determined by a formal audition, as well as current/past eligibility status, rehearsal attendance and punctuality, and overall effort, attitude, and rehearsal etiquette.
- Each performing group will work on their own concert program with the end goal being a performance at UIL Concert and Sight Reading in the spring.
- Music is chosen based on UIL guidelines and will be best suited for the level of each group.
- A detailed calendar of after school sectionals and rehearsals will be posted on the band website.

Also a part of the concert band season includes auditioning for region band, participating in solo and ensemble, and other individual opportunities as they arise. Some concert ensembles may have more expectations than other based on performance level.

Jazz Band

Jazz Band is an afterschool ensemble that meets at a few points throughout the year to work on traditional jazz music to perform at concerts and other events as invited. Entry is voluntary. More information will be made available as it becomes available.

Applied Music

Applied music is a course offered as a secondary course to band students currently enrolled to serve as an additional period to practice independently, submit playing assignments, or receive help as needed. *Students must be enrolled in a primary band class to join the applied music class.*

Summer Band

Summer band is a period of time before the school year starts where we get a jump start on our competitive marching show. Attendance at summer band is critical to the success of the band program. Summer band rehearsals are common amongst nearly every competitive band program in the country and has become standard procedure for decades.

In summer band we learn marching fundamentals, competitive marching show drill, competitive show music, and stand music. Missing summer band puts a students significantly behind the rest of the students and hinders the process of putting together our marching show.

Any student not attending summer band for any reason will automatically be assigned to a secondary marching spot. If you aren't there, you don't learn the information. Those students **may** obtain a marching spot later in the season through challenges and outperforming other students.

Band Fees and Supplies

Recurring Fees: These are fees that are owed by each student each year.

- Fair Share Fee: \$200
 - The district gives us very limited funding to help run the band program. Without the fair share fee, we would be unable to provide for the students things that are necessary to have a successful program. Things such as music, marching drill, props, clinicians, equipment, accompanists, etc. 100% of the fair share fee goes directly back to the benefit of the students.
- Show Shirt: \$10
 - Each year, a custom shirt is designed to match the marching show. Each student needs this shirt because we will wear them together as a group. It is often used under the marching uniform on game days. Any student not wearing their show shirt will not be allowed to take off their jacket with everyone else.
- Ultimate Drill Book App: \$20
 - This is an app that each student needs to learn their spots on the drill. It is an interactive app that demonstrates the animated drill, step sizes, paths, and relationships to those around them.
- Volunteer Deposit Fee: \$50
 - This is a refundable deposit to incentivize volunteering with the boosters. We cannot operate without our support system! This deposit can be refunded after three volunteering opportunities or applied to your spring trip.

Non-recurring fees: These fees are for items required of every student, but do not have to be repurchased year to year as long as the supplies remain in good condition.

- Purple Polo: \$25
 - This is what we wear in the stands at football games while it is too hot to wear our uniforms. We will also wear this periodically throughout the year as uniformed events take place. This can be worn year to year as long as they are in good condition.
- Grey Dri Fit: \$10
 - This is to be worn at designated practices or at designated football games. When it is the designated game days shirt, any student not wearing their dry fit will not be allowed to take off their jacket with everyone else. This can be worn year to year as long as they are in good condition.
- Marching Shoes: \$45
 - Every student must wear the approved pair of marching black shoe. We wear the Viper marching shoe, but students who were previously given a different approved pair due to covid supply issues in the past will be allowed to wear those. These can be worn year to year as long as they are in good condition.
- Lyre and flipfolder: Price Varies
 - Each student must have the appropriate lyre and flip folder for their instrument. The flipfolder is the flipbook that holds the marching music, and the lyre is what

attaches it to your instrument (or arm if you are a flute player. It's one piece and it's called a flutist friend.). Every student must have a lyre and a flipfolder with the exception of the tubas and percussion. Tubas and percussion must still have the flipfolders, but lyres are not required. These can be purchased at music and arts, swicegood, H&H, and sometimes Amazon.

Optional Fees:

- Game Day Meal Plan: \$115
 - This allows the students to pay upfront for meals to be brought to them prior to football games. Students are allowed to leave campus or have food brought to them after game day run-throughs, but this makes it much easier and more convenient for everyone.
- TMF Spirit Store Items: Prices vary
 - Additional Humble Wildcat band merch can be purchased in the online store. Information will be made available as the store opens.

Grading Policy

Overview:

Band is a team activity in all aspects of the class. The band environment is set up so that each student will be able to achieve their own highest level of musicianship, which will in turn translate to each student's contributing to the overall success of the group in an integral way. Strong band programs don't exist without strong, independent, dedicated musicians. Musical fundamentals such as rhythmic proficiency, internal pulse, note reading, expression, and aural skills, as well as personal life skills which include (but are not limited to) personal accountability, teamwork, punctuality, grit, problem solving, fortitude, and passion.

Formative Grades: 40%

- Weekly rehearsals*
- Smaller weekly pass offs
- Theory sheets, rhythm sheets as assigned
- Supply checks

*For marching band, each week's worth of rehearsal will be calculated as one grade starting at a 100, and points will be deducted for each rehearsal i.e. 1 missed rehearsal= 85, 2= 70, 3=60. Please refer to pages 3-4 for the full attendance policy.

Summative Grades: 60%

- Performances such as UIL events, football games, marching contests, concerts
- Playing exams
- Individual performances such as UIL Solo/Ensemble

A few notes

- Outside of the day rehearsals and performances are a required part of the class, therefore they will contribute to the overall grade. Both marching and concert aspects of the program are required by all.
- In music, the goal is always 100% accuracy. Some students take longer than others to achieve this standard. Any student receiving anything less than a 100 may resubmit as many times as needed/desired until a grade of a 100 is reached. Our goal is for students to keep practicing so constant progress is happening!
- Playing assignments will be submitted either in google classroom or in Smartmusic.
- Students are expected to show up to class and rehearsals prepared with all necessary supplies: Instrument, music, pencil, reeds, oils

Absence policy from required performances as stated in the Humble ISD Fine Arts Handbook:

- An absence from a required performance can be excused when a student has a conflict, however, it must meet the following criteria:
 - The conflict must be with another school organization's event (basketball game, dance contest, Science Olympiad, etc.).
 - The director must be notified by the student in advance.
 - The student and director must work with the other campus sponsor to determine whether a compromise can be made that allows the student to participate in both events (ex.: student arrives late to call time, coach requests earlier/later time in track meet).
 - Unexpected emergencies can be excused as long as the parent informs the director of the situation as soon as possible.
- An absence from a required performance should not be excused for:
 - Doctor's appointments (unless related to an illness that day)
 - Out of town trips (unless scheduled prior to the announcement of the performance)
 - Non-campus related activities or events

Cell Phone Usage

- Students are allowed and encouraged to use their cell phones or other devices for the use of personal tuners or metronomes only.
- All students while in marching band rehearsals will be expected to use their cell phones or other devices to use the Ultimate Drill Book app.

Academic Eligibility

In accordance with House Bill 72, the University Interscholastic League (UIL), and the Texas Education Agency (TEA), all rules regarding No Pass No Play will be enforced.

In order for a student to remain academically eligible, all classes must be passed with a grade of 70 or higher on each grade check.

When a student becomes academically ineligible, that student is no longer allowed to participate in events such as (including but not limited to) football games, marching contests, region band, UIL solo/ensemble, parades, pep rallies, or any performance that charges admission until the next grade check opportunity.

When can a student LOSE academic eligibility?

The grade checks that can cause a student to lose academic eligibility are:

- The very first 6-weeks progress report. This is the only progress report where a student can lose eligibility.
- Each subsequent 9 weeks report card

When can a student REGAIN eligibility?

- A student can regain eligibility on each 3 weeks progress report and 9 weeks report card. If a student
- Aside from the first 6 weeks report card, a student cannot *lose* eligibility on a progress report. They can only regain. Students who pass all their classes on the report card are eligible for the entirety of the next 9 weeks grading period.

How does a student regain eligibility?

- When a student loses eligibility as determined by an official grade check, that student will remain ineligible for at least three (3) weeks until the next grade check. In order for a student to regain eligibility, ALL classes must be in passing status, not just the class failed. For example, if a student fails math on a report card, but on the next progress report they are passing math but failing English, **that student has not regained eligibility.** All classes must be passing.

Academic ineligibility only applies to performances and other activities listed above. Students are still required to attend after school rehearsals to continue learning the material in preparation for regaining eligibility.

Spring Trip

Each year, the Humble High School Band takes a spring trip. Historically, every other year is an out of state trip and the alternating years are in state. This year in March 2024, the band will be traveling too Hawaii. Additional information will be made available as it becomes available.

Note: Students must be academically eligible to travel on the spring trip. Refunds will not be given on the basis of ineligibility.

Contact Us

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Social Media:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HumbleHSBand/>
- Instagram: @humblehs_band
- Twitter: @HHSWildcat_Band

Band Website:

- <https://humblewildcatband.com/>