

Notes

Saginaw High School

Spirit of Saginaw High School Band



2008 - 2009 Handbook

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Summation

Participation in the Saginaw High School Band is dependent upon effort and a true desire to succeed.

The rules stated in this handbook are easy to understand. The band directors and administration of the EMSISD felt these rules are fair, just, and are in the best interest of the overall Saginaw High School Band, school, and each individual who participates.

The final decision is yours. There is no place for weakness and complacency in this band! An organization is only as strong as its weakest link.

The Saginaw High School Band does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or handicap.

Rehearsal and Performance Schedules

- *Participation at sectionals, rehearsals, and performances is required and will be integrated into the student's grade in accordance with the EMSISD Instructional Operating Guide (I.O.G.) and TEA UIL guidelines.*
- *A schedule of activities and events will be provided to students and parents in May of the previous year and the first week of the new school year. Supplemental schedules are provided as needed to students and parents allowing a minimum of one week's notice of a new or updated activity or event.*
- *Regularly scheduled sectionals, rehearsals, and concerts are curricular and have no academic eligibility requirements.*
- *The director, or someone designated by the director, will supervise all required practices, rehearsals, and/or performances that are school-sponsored.*
- *In addition to local performances, special performance ensembles make numerous other appearances during the year.*
- *Performance courses in Band involve outside of school rehearsals and performances. Students who are members of principal performing groups are expected to fully participate in all performance activities including approved travel.*

Saginaw Band Specifics

A complete schedule for summer marching band (the first two weeks of August) will be given to student at the end May. These rehearsals are necessary to prepare the band for performances early in the school year. During the school year, the following schedules will be observed: M - F, 6:30 AM - 8 AM

Forward

As a member of the **Saginaw High School Band** you will be a part of Saginaw High School's most respected school organizations. The success of the Band will depend on the **Loyalty, Cooperation, and Dedication** of *each and every member*.

The guidelines outlined on the following pages are simple, sound, and easy to understand and follow. They reflect years of experience and hours of careful thought and planning. In following them, you are meeting an obligation that you owe to your Band, School, community, and most importantly - **To Yourself!**

Philosophy

To teach an appreciation and understanding of the performing arts and how music influences and reflects history and culture.

To teach the importance of self-discipline, cooperation, loyalty, and respect for others, as well as the importance of responsibility.

To create in students a desire and appreciation for excellence in performance of any endeavor.

To teach students how to set individual goals in life, and how to accomplish those goals.

To teach students the skills and tools needed to perform to the best of their ability.

Band Members Responsibility

Be regular in attendance and account for all absences.

Become responsible for and expect to assume the consequences of his/her actions.

Be personally clean, neat, and dressed appropriately.

Have the proper respect for authority.

Be personally responsible for all information regarding the band, rehearsals, events, schedules, and be responsible for relaying such information to parents and/or guardians.

Be honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music, and school life in general.

Cooperate with fellow band members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are part of the band program.

Make a real effort to learn and improve daily, to read and play music with insight and expression.

Know the Saginaw High School Band creed and demonstrate, by your actions, what it stands for.

Band Creed

***We the Members of the Spirit of Saginaw High School Band,
In order to become a more successful organization,
shall strive to our very best to become a group that will not
settle for second best.***

We are a group with honesty, dignity, strength, and pride.

Only through hard work shall we achieve our dreams!

Voluntary Music Enrichment Program

Private lessons are provided for interested students as an enrichment program in band.

- *The Head Director coordinates the private lesson program at Saginaw High School in collaboration with the Director of Fine Arts.*
- *The private teachers are contract labor through the EMSISD and are hired by the Head Director at the high school and teach at the secondary campus.*
- *The private teachers teach at the secondary campus and are supervised by the Directors at that campus.*
- *Private study fees are consistent throughout the program and are determined through the school district band directors.*
- *Students are responsible for payment to the private teacher contractor.*
- *While private study is not a requirement for participation in any of the music organizations, students are encouraged to participate.*

Auditions

- *Students are required to audition for select performance ensembles.*
- *The Head Band Director determines audition requirements.*
- *Directors will notify students of audition dates, requirements, and results in a timely fashion.*
- *Directors will serve as an evaluator during auditions.*
- *Students will be re-evaluated periodically for participation in select performance ensembles.*
- *Auditions may be live or taped at the director's discretion.*
- *Audition material will reflect the director's anticipated performance level for the students and will be based on prior learning.*

Saginaw Band Specifics

- There will be two major auditions each year to place students in band classes.
- Students will audition in May for the following fall semester and in November for the following spring semester. Audition material will include music and scales assigned by the directors.
- Audition material for the November audition will be available the first week of school.
- Audition material for the May audition will be available one month before the audition.
- Students will be evaluated by the directors at these auditions.
- Student chair placement within a band may change during the semester at the director's discretion based on performance.
- Auditions for marching band auxiliary groups will be announced and held during the spring. These include drum majors, color guard officers and members, band officers and members, and squad leaders.
- Audition dates are posted in the band calendar.
- Directors will evaluate these auditions.

Behavior and Discipline

Exemplary behavior is expected of all band members at all times. Remember, you are a representative of your band, your band is a representative of your school, and your school is a representative of your community.

There is no way to list all the do's and don'ts of being a band member. Common sense must prevail. The Director of Bands reserves the right to exercise the authority to make the final decision regarding disciplinary action/removal from the band program. The following infractions are some of the more obvious that qualify for disciplinary action, and or immediate removal from the program.

1. Any disrespectful behavior such as foul or abusive language to students or teachers.
2. Excessive tardiness or absences at rehearsal or performances.
3. Any misuse or abuse of school property, or property of others.
4. Alcohol, smoking or drug use at any school function at any time.
5. Any action which dishonors or disgraces the Saginaw High School Band or the school in any way.
6. Other infractions of the rules stated in the Saginaw High School Student Handbook, or as stated in the Saginaw High School Band Handbook.
7. ***Repeated disregard of Band Member Rules.***

Band Member Rules

1. Be prepared for rehearsal on time (instrument, music, pencil, etc.).
2. Be prepared for performances on time (all necessary items).
3. Eating, drinking, or chewing gum is not allowed in the bandhall at any time.
4. Play your own instrument and no one else's unless with director approval.
5. Instrument, case, music, books, etc., should be kept in their proper place before, during, and after rehearsals.
6. Give 100% effort during all rehearsals and performances. Do not disrupt or disturb rehearsal with inappropriate activities.
7. Play your instrument in the right way, time, and place.
8. Always conduct yourself with honor and integrity. Hoesplay and pranks are activities which are not allowed.
9. Absences should be reported in advance, in writing if possible, to be excused. (see attendance) Notification of absence after an event is excusable under extreme circumstances. (emergencies) Excessive absences are unacceptable, and will result in failing grades, student placed on alternate status, and ultimately dismissal from the program (Director of Bands discretion).
10. Always strive, persevere, and maintain a positive attitude toward achieving your goals as a band member during the tough times as well as the good times. **No one is expected to be perfect... but everyone is expected to give their all!**

Fund Raising

Fund raising is a part of our band program that allows you to raise funds needed for band trips and other band related activities. Your participation in fund raising activities is regulated by the following guidelines:

- All funds are the property of the band or band boosters.
- All funds must be used on band activities.
- Each student will have an account that will maintain his/her profit share during trip years.
- Profit share funds of students who withdraw or graduate from the program will be transferred to the activity fund.
- Cash deposits made to an account are refundable, if request for refund or cancellation of participation is made before the appointed deadline(s).
- Profit share margins will be set at the actual profit margin of the fund raising project.
- Profit shares must be used in the year they are earned.

The handling of projects will be done in the following manner:

- Orders, if applicable, will be taken by the use of a form.
- Forms will be submitted to the band secretary.
- All forms must be submitted by the appointed deadline in order to be processed.
- Merchandise, if applicable, will be collated for each student and the student will initial when receiving the merchandise. The student's account will be charged for the total cost of the merchandise at that time.
- Students, failing to pick up their orders after the appointed deadline, will lose that order. The total order, or a portion of the order may be transferred to another/other band member(s).
- Payments on accounts will be made by means of an envelope with the following information on the envelope - Student's name, fundraiser identification, and the amount enclosed. If the student is making a cash deposit write "cash deposit" and the name of the project.
- Receipts will be given directly in a timely manner.
- Any overages in payments will be credited towards any balance due or placed as a cash deposit.

Eligibility

All music organizations adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA, and the District. To be eligible at the high school level at the beginning of the school year, students must have earned the accumulated number of credits in state approved courses indicated below:

Beginning of the 10th grade year – at least 5 credits toward graduation
Beginning of the 11th grade year – at least 10 credits toward graduation
Beginning of the 12th grade year – at least 15 credits toward graduation

To be eligible to participate for a six weeks period following the initial six weeks period of a school year, a student must **not** have recorded a grade average lower than **70** on a scale of **0** to **100** in any course for that preceding six weeks period.

Any student whose recorded six weeks grade average in any course is lower than **70** at the end of a six weeks period shall be suspended from participation during the succeeding six week period. However, a student may regain eligibility seven calendar days after the succeeding three-week evaluation period if the student is passing all courses on the last class day of the three-school-week period. If the student has at least a minimum grade of **70** on a scale of **0-100** for work done since the end of the previous grading period, the student regains eligibility **7** calendar days later at the time the regular school day ends.

Saginaw Band Specifics

The Saginaw Band staff will enforce all eligibility rules and regulations. Students who are ineligible will continue to rehearse during their band class and before and after school and participate in curricular performances to earn their band grade. Ineligible students may not travel with the band or participate in extracurricular performances.

Band Travel

Full instruction will be given before leaving for the destination. All band members will travel to performances, destinations, etc., on school approved transportation. Students may ride back from a performance with a parent or guardian if signed out on location. No student is allowed to leave with anyone but their own parent or guardian unless arrangements are made prior to the trip, with approval from the principal and the band director. Only personal audio devices with headphones will be allowed on buses.

Bus Conduct

1. Band students are expected to follow all rules and regulations established and approved by the school district in the "Student Handbook" and "Code of Conduct".
2. Everyone is to remain seated.
3. No food or drinks on bus without permission.
4. Do not put heads and arms out windows while traveling.
5. Uniforms must be worn or carried on hangars
6. No hitting or banging on bus seats.
7. No shoe polish writing on buses (ours or anyone else's.)
8. No exit through rear door except in an emergency.
9. Do not get off the bus until the director has given instructions to exit.
10. No switching buses.
11. No group singing or chants.
12. No squealing or unnecessary shouting.
13. Chaperones will check roll each time the bus departs.
14. Chaperones have the authority to assign seats
15. At the end of each trip, the student is responsible for unloading his/her equipment. Nothing should be left on the bus.
16. Do not play instruments on the bus.
17. When the bus comes to a halt, all talking, noises, and other distractions shall cease until the bus is in motion or permission is given.
18. Appropriate behavior should be conducted at all times on the bus between males and females.

Band Hall Rules

We are fortunate to have one of the finest band rehearsal facilities in the State of Texas. Band members are to keep the band hall clean and neat. Keep chairs and music stands in place and use the wastebasket for items to be thrown away. Use all equipment such as chairs and stands as they are intended to be used. Leave all food and beverages outside of the band hall and do not bring chewing gum into any band room, practice room, or office area.

1. Abide by all school rules and policies.
2. Restrooms and drinking fountain are not to be used without permission.
3. Stay out of office, practice rooms, and instrument storage rooms without permission.
4. Music stands are provided for music; **Do Not** use as a table; **Do Not** lean on or play with stands.
5. No food or drink in the band hall without permission.
6. **Do Not** run or play in the band hall and at all times have respect for equipment and property
7. **Do Not** play any instrument other than your own unless it has been approved by a director.
8. Be in your proper seat with instrument and music and any other items needed for the rehearsal when the tardy bell sounds.
9. Pay close attention in class and **Do Not** talk without permission.
10. Put your instrument in the proper slot in the storage room. **Do Not** put instruments on the floor.
11. Keep up with your own music and supplies. It is your responsibility to come to class with your own music and supplies.
12. **Do Not** write or draw on the chalkboard without permission.
13. **Do Not** get up out of your seat without permission unless it is an emergency.
14. Abide by all school rules and policies in the band hall during and after school hours.

Band Rehearsal Guidelines

Be seated with instrument, music, pencil, and supplies when the tardy bell rings

Show good rehearsal etiquette by being a good team player—study your part quietly while the director works with another section.

Remain on task at all times; do not talk or interrupt the focus of a rehearsal.

Maintain proper posture at all times, which is important for all players.

Raise your hand and ask questions if you need more individual help.

Leave your instrument cases in your locker during rehearsal and your backpacks at the side of the room.

Lock your locker during rehearsals.

Do not leave purses or other valuables unlocked in the band hall. No food, gum, or drink is allowed in the band hall. We all take pride in keeping our band hall clean and organized.

All instruments remain in cases with latches closed inside a locker when not in use.

Lockers shall remain clean. Items other than instruments, music, and books should not be kept in lockers.

Disorderly behavior and abusive language will not be tolerated.

Please be considerate of directors' requests for assistance and/or performance of little tasks around the band hall.

2008 - 2009 Spirit of Saginaw Band Calendar

August

1	Band Camp	8 - 5 PM	HS Band Hall
2	Uniform Fitting	9 - 5 PM	HS Band Hall
4-8	Band Camp	8 - 5 PM	HS Band Hall
11-15	Band Camp	8 - 5 PM	HS Band Hall
18-19	Band Camp	6 - 10 PM	HS Band Hall
21	Parent Night	7 - 8PM	HS Practice Field
25	First Day of School		
29	FB Eastern Hills	7:30 PM	Home

September

5	FB Frisco Wakeland	7:30 PM	Away
12	FB Denton Guyer	7:30 PM	Home (Homecoming)
19	Open		
20	All Region Jazz Tryouts	TBA	Denton Ryan HS
26	FB Mineral Wells	7:30 PM	Away
27	Grd & Perc. Contest	All Day	Crowley

October

3	FB Birdville	7:30 PM	Home
4	BOA Regionals	All Day	UTA
10	FB Brewer	7:30 PM	Away
11	Aledo Marching Contest	All Day	Aledo
17	FB Aledo	7:30 PM	Home
18	UIL Marching Contest	All Day	Birdville Stadium
24	FB Azle		Away
31	FB Boswell		Away

November

1	BOA Super Regionals	All Day	Alamodome/SA
7	FB Springtown	7:30 PM	Home
6,7,8	PASIC	TBA	Austin
15	Lone Star Perc. Comp.	TBA	Marcus HS
20-21	All Region Jazz Clinic/Concert	TBA	Saginaw HS

December

6	All Region Tryouts	All Day	Boswell HS
8	Pre-Area Tryouts	All Day	Fossil Ridge HS
18	Holiday Concert	7:00 PM	HS Auditorium

January

10	Area Tryouts	TBA	TBA
16-17	All Region Clinic/Concert	All Day	Brewer HS

February

11-14	TMEA All State	TBA	San Antonio
28	UIL Solo and Ens.	TBA	Northwest HS

March

25	Pre-UIL Contest	TBA	HS Auditorium
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April

7,8,9	UIL Concert Contest	TBA	Azle
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May

1	Band Banquet	TBA	TBA
14	Spring Concert	7:00 PM	HS Auditorium
15	Drum Major Tryouts	4:30 PM	HS Band Hall
23,24,25	State Solo and Ensemble	TBA	UT Austin

June

4	Last Day of School		
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Website and E-Mail

The following websites are available to communicate to students and parents in a timely and accurate way. Students and parents are encouraged to visit these websites often to gather information about upcoming events and possible schedule changes. Music will also be posted on these sites. The Spirit of Saginaw band site is maintained by the band booster organization. Music from this site is password protected. A username and password will be given to each student by the band director:

Band Website: www.spiritofsaginawband.org, or,
www.spiritofsaginawband.com

Mr. Canfield's website:

<http://www.emsisd.com/10452066152429250/site/default.asp>

Mr. Pearson's website:

<http://www.emsisd.com/1045206615269827/site/default.asp>

Mr. Doyle's website:

<http://www.emsisd.com/104520830155657513/site/default.asp>

E-Mail

Every student and parent may receive e-mail from the band director by simply signing up to be on our e-mail list. You can sign up by e-mailing Mr. Canfield at jcanfield@ems-isd.net - your address will be placed on our mail.

Leadership Groups

The SHS Band hierarchy is set up to encourage student input in decision making and implementation of policy. The leadership begins with the highest level being Drum Major, followed by Drill Instructors, Section Leader and Band Librarians, ending with squad leaders.

Drum Majors are responsible for all aspects of the program throughout the school year and must implement those duties deemed necessary by the Director of Bands and/or Assistant Directors. All students must answer to the Drum Majors.

Drill Instructors serve to assist the band in learning and cleaning drill. Each drill instructor will be responsible for a part of the band assigned by the Director of Bands.

Band Librarians serve to organize, maintain, and distribute all teaching materials, manuscript, scores, and tryout materials. Band Librarians, Drum Majors, and/or Directors are the only ones allowed to access the Band Library.

Section Leaders are those students who through playing skills and seniority will lead their "like instrument" sections on music mastery, memorization, and musicality. Those students are responsible for their section and the quality of what those sections produce musically.

Squad leaders are responsible for 4 to 5 man groups of students of like instruments. Squad leaders are responsible for the integrity of each student within the group in terms of attitude, performance and practice etiquette, personal responsibility, loyalty and dedication to the SHS Band, grades, and general guidance.

It is an honor and a privilege to be a part of the SHS Band Leadership. Any student who diminishes this responsibility becomes a liability to the program as a whole and subject to disciplinary action.