

# **Mineral Wells High School Band Student Handbook**



**2018-19**

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## **Our Philosophy**

We believe music exposes the individual to concepts of lasting cultural values; such as beauty, self-expression, discipline, responsibility and a positive contribution to a larger good.

Music, and band, is an experience like no other offered in the total school spectrum. It teaches not only along analytical, scientific, or even purely communicative lines, but at a deeper realm where expression is achieved. Band accomplishes this, not in the framework and support of language, but at a level beyond that which the written, spoken, or even drawn word can achieve. Band accomplishes this through the unique self-expression of music.

The Mineral Wells High School Band should strive to become the best musical unit possible, during both marching and concert seasons. Each band member should maintain a goal of individual improvement throughout the year. The individual should not only strive to better him/herself as a musician, but help convey a positive, responsible image for the entire band.

Most people recognize the amount of work necessary to prepare the band for performances, but we want them to also know that we place much emphasis on preparing our students for life after band. We most want to teach the importance of being good, productive citizens when students enter adult life on their own. We feel that band is a unique organization that offers opportunities for individual development within an atmosphere of team work and responsibility to the other members of the organization.

## **Membership Requirements**

Membership in the band program is subject to the approval by the band staff. The high school band is a competitive ensemble; therefore, students entering high school band should have at least 3 years of prior band experience. Students not meeting these requirements will be considered for membership on an individual basis.

All band members in grades 9-12 are members of the Marching Band during the fall semester. The Marching Band performs at all football games, pep rallies, and several other marching events during the fall, including UIL Marching Contest. You will be given a calendar of events in August. Attendance is required at **ALL** events. Should the Football team advance in the playoffs, the band will continue to perform at all halftimes and will use an abbreviated rehearsal schedule.

### **Marching Percussion**

Percussion will be assigned instrumentation during "Percussion Camp". The director will take into consideration skill levels on each instrument and the level of marching skills when assigning instrumentation. Although all eligible percussionists will play during the performances, not all percussion instruments can be marched. Those students assigned to instruments that do not march (Front Ensemble) are just as important as any other performer on the field and are necessary for a well-balanced performance. To acquire a musically balanced band, certain instruments (marching and front ensemble) will be limited in their numbers.

### **Color Guard**

The Color Guard is a performing marching group selected by audition in the Spring. Color Guard members must meet the same requirements as all other band students. Placement for performing positions in the show will be done in the same manner as for all other band students, as stated above in the Marching Band category.

## Band Binder

All band students are required to have a 1", black, 3-ring binder dedicated strictly for band. All materials (calendar, warm up, scales, technique, music, supplemental material, band handbook, etc.) are to be kept in this binder along with a pencil. Inspections will be made periodically, and a daily grade given for this.

## Grading Procedure

Grades in Mineral Wells ISD are broken down into two parts – Daily Work (50%) and Tests (50%). Grades in Band will reflect this. Examples of test grades are musical playoffs: scales, marching/concert music, etudes, solo/ensemble music, all-region music, and performances such as concerts/football games, etc. Examples of daily work are class participation, rehearsal/sectional attendance, the band binder, theory work, etc.

## Classroom Expectations/Rehearsal Guidelines

ALL band members are expected to:

1. Follow all classroom procedures
2. Be in the rehearsal space BEFORE the assigned time and in spots with all materials. ***"To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be LATE"***.
3. Give director (or whoever is on the podium) your undivided attention. Respect all adults and each other.
4. Talking on the practice field, or indoor rehearsal, is highly discouraged. **Stay off your phone!!!!**
5. Be intent on improving your performance skills/Display a positive attitude.
6. **Cell phones are NOT ALLOWED during rehearsal. They may be in your car, locker, backpack or purse. Keep them out of sight.**
7. Leave backpacks/large cases out of the set-up.
8. **NO** food, drink, or gum in the band hall, or the marching field, unless authorized by a band director. Water bottles are okay at your seat, or at marching practice.
9. Return all material (instrument and music) to assigned area after each rehearsal. Instruments should be in cases with latches closed.
10. Take care of all band facilities, including assigned lockers and equipment. Keep your area organized and clean.

## Code of Conduct

The Mineral Wells High School Band will follow the code of conduct set by the school district. The use of drugs, tobacco, or alcohol will not be tolerated. Students in this organization are to be role models and represent the high school in a positive way. If you are found to be in possession or under the influence of any of the above at any time, you will be referred to the office, and possible dismissal from the band program.

## Consequences

1. Verbal warning/Redirect
2. Conference with student.
3. Contact parent.
4. Parent conference with director and student.
5. Conference with parents, student, director, and principal.

\*Severe behavior problems will result in immediate dismissal to principal's office. Directors reserve the right to remove students from the program from non-compliance.

## **Band Uniforms**

Uniforms (minus parts students are responsible for) are furnished by the school. It is the students' responsibility to take proper care of the uniform. Any lost or ruined uniform part will be paid for by the student. Uniforms are to be placed in the proper place always. Students may not add or remove any part of the uniform unless given permission by a director. No jewelry may be worn while students are in uniform. Replacement cost of the uniform is approximately \$450.

### **Informal Uniform (Pep Rallies, Early Season Football Games, Parades)**

Red Polo and Khaki shorts (supplied by the Boosters), black belt, black shoes, long black socks (above the ankle. Supplied by the Student). The "show shirt" and jeans are acceptable when the directors tell you it's okay.

### **Formal Uniform (Marching Band)**

Show shirt, black shoes, long black socks, the pants (bibbers), jacket, gauntlets, long black gloves, hat (shako).

### **Formal Uniform (Concert Band)**

Boys – Tux jacket, pants and shirt (provided), long black socks, black shoes, solid white undershirt (student provided).

Girls – Long black dress (provided), black flats, appropriate undergarments (student provided). Please – no "racer-back" bras that show outside the dress back.

**Inspections are made before performances and a grade given (portion of the test grade for that performance) based on the members ability to follow the uniform requirements.**

## **Performance Procedures**

The band is constantly in the public eye; therefore, students are expected to display the highest level of behavior and pride.

### **Football Games:**

#### **Pre-Game Warm-Up**

1. The call time for home games is 5pm. Call time for away games is 4pm.
2. Meals for away games are provided, beginning at 4pm. Students should eat quickly and get their uniform together for inspection. As soon as inspections are complete, we will load the buses by seniority.
3. For home games, the students will need to supply their own meal and begin dressing by 5pm.
  - a. Roll will be taken, and inspection done.
  - b. There will be a brief warm-up/rehearsal/instruction period and then the band will line up to march into the stadium.

#### **Inspection**

Inspection will take place before each football game and contest. Items inspected for the formal marching uniform will be: long black socks (must cover ankles) black band shoes (clean and polished) correct trouser and sleeve length (no buttons missing), gauntlets, music, flip folder and lyre, clean hat and gloves. The informal marching uniform is the red polo shirt, khaki shorts, black belt long black socks, black band shoes.

### During the Game

1. No playing of instrument unless under direction of drum major or director.
2. Students have assigned seat in the stands and are **EXPECTED** to remain there the entire game.
3. No food/drink allowed in stands without permission of directors. Water is provided.
4. Students are to always be ready to play at any moment and have all music/material needed.
5. You will either be completely in uniform, or completely out. Bibbers are to be worn correctly **AT ALL TIMES!!!!!! EVEN DURING 3RD QUARTER BREAK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**
6. No non-band members are allowed in the band section at any time.

### Halftime

1. When plumes are being passed out, it is time to focus on the halftime performance.
2. Look for the Drum Majors to know where the assembly location is.
3. We **ALWAYS** stand and respectfully watch the other bands' performance, no matter what we think of them. Remember that they work just as hard as you do.
4. When we return to the stands, wait in your assigned place to be dismissed for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter break.

### Third Quarter Break

Students will be given third quarter in which to go to the rest room, get a drink, or get something to eat during each football game. The expectation is that you take care of business, be aware of the clock, and make every effort possible to be back in your assigned place when the clock reaches 0:00 of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Understand that having third quarter off is a privilege and can be taken away for the following:

- unexcused absence or tardies from rehearsal/ performance
- not passing off required music/material
- violation of performance procedures
- proper wearing of the uniform
- being tardy from third quarter the previous week

*\*\*Students in third quarter detention must not leave the stands (restroom exception), may not have visitors, may have food brought to them (finish by end of quarter, and responsible for trash), and must stay in their assigned location.*

### Post-Game

1. Make sure that you have "policed" your area of all trash, even if it's not yours!!!!
2. Collect all belongings – don't forget music, lyre, hat, gloves, gauntlets.
3. Quickly line up to march back to band hall.
4. Put away instrument **PROPERLY**, and your uniform **PROPERLY**.
5. Get to your assigned seat. When all are seated we will dismiss.

### Out -Of-Town Games

1. The above guidelines apply.
2. Departure time is whenever we have all buses present.
3. Before boarding the bus, be sure you have every part of your uniform.
4. You may ride home from an out of town game with your parents only. Mr. Ball/Mr. Baggett/Ms. DeLaVergne must see you with your parents before you may leave, and you parents must sign you out.
5. Please arrange your transportation home **IN ADVANCE**, not after we get back to the school!!!!!! We're all tired and have put in a long week. Please be considerate of the adults who must wait for you to get picked up. We're tired too!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

### **Concert Season:**

We have 2 formal concerts a year (Holiday Concert in December, and a Spring Concert in May), UIL contest, and typically a spring trip that require you to wear the "Formal Uniform". These typically begin at 7pm. Your call time 6pm. When you arrive, change into your formal concert attire, based on the previously stated concert attire for you.

## Private Lessons

The single most important factor in the development of a successful band program is the development of the individual player. The amount of individual attention your directors can give is greatly limited by the number of students they teach. Private Lessons may be taken before school, during band class or after school as scheduling and the availability of private instructors allows. Any student who desires to perform at a level higher than that which our band literature offers should take private lessons. Those who desire to be competitive when auditioning for high school-level All-Region Band will benefit from individual instruction. High School students who wish to perform at the highest level of success in UIL Regional Solo and Ensemble Contest and have a chance at State competition should have a private teacher.

*If interested a packet explaining the details can be obtained from the band director.*

## Letter Jackets

Under U.I.L. guidelines, we may award band letter jackets to students who qualify under our lettering policy. To earn a jacket, a student must accumulate 75 points under the following point system:

- 25 pts for each year **completed** in high school band
- 25 pts for holding drum major position
- 10 pts for holding section leader position
- 15 pts for making ATSSB All-region band
- 20 pts for making ATSSB All-area
- 25 pts for making ATSSB All-state
- 5 pts for each UIL Solo/Ensemble event
- 10 pts for participating at State Solo/Ensemble contest

## Academic Eligibility

The focus of going to school must be an academic education and because academic eligibility is required for full participation in public school bands, the Mineral Wells High School Band Program will follow all state guidelines set by T.E.A. Most of the activities associated with band are considered extra-curricular (including football games and UIL contests). You must also have passed enough classes and earned enough credits to be at grade level (not a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student still taking 9<sup>th</sup> grade level classes, junior taking sophomore level classes, etc.).

Students who fail a course will be ineligible for 3 weeks (beginning 7 calendar days after the last day of the grading period). Students who receive an Incomplete are considered ineligible until the Incomplete is changed to a passing grade. Students who fail a course will become eligible only if they are passing all courses at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the next six weeks period. (They are eligible the Friday of the 4<sup>th</sup> week at the end of the school day).

## Student Leadership

### President

- Acts as main communication liaison between students, officers, and band directors.
- Operates as general manager of the Mineral Wells High School Band
- Coordinates and leads band officer meetings.
- Addresses the Mineral Wells Band and speaks for the Mineral Wells Band
- Supervises Band Officer Staff. Insures Band Officers are completing tasks timely.
- Generates band member bus lists for marching season and spring trips. Distributes to Band Directors.
- Collects and records all forms from band members. Gathers missing forms.
- Coordinate Band Banquet, student fundraisers.

- Recruits feeder middle school band students with band directors.
- Oversees the condition of and enforces the daily cleanliness of the band hall and hallway outside the band hall.
- Ensures the maintenance, upkeep and proper cleaning of all Mineral Wells Band areas when we travel.

#### **Vice President**

- Notifies officers if tasks have not been completed per band officer meeting minutes.
- Assists Assistant Band Director by organizing and issuing inventory instruments and accessories.
- Advertises events for the Mineral Wells Band by means of posters, announcements, or email.
- Recruits feeder middle school band students with band directors.
- Assists Band President with duties. Presides over meetings when President is absent.
- Supervises the condition of and enforces the daily cleanliness of instrument storage and Band Hall. Tidies up both rooms weekly.
- Serves as Water Crew Chairman for the band. Ensures water jugs are clean and ready before every football game and band trips.
- Works on website making sure it is kept up to date.
- Coordinate all social activities

#### **Secretary**

- Takes attendance for every marching rehearsal.
- Meets with directors after every rehearsal to record excused or unexcused absences.
- Notifies directors if a student misses consecutive marching rehearsals.
- Informs students and drum majors at the end of rehearsal any students that must stay late because of tardiness or unexcused absences.
- Files all forms in appropriate notebooks.
- Assist with a tutoring list for the Band Program.
- Keeps an accurate log of season attendance.
- Keeps an accurate record of all band officer meetings.
- Takes, prepares and keeps up with minutes of band council meetings.
- Performs any needed correspondence for the Band.
- Prints agenda for upcoming meetings (coordinate with President).

#### **Historian**

- Collects information for the year, including but not limited to, pictures, newspaper articles, event programs, etc.
- Coordinates, with designated parent, slide show for band banquet.
- Create and maintain a historical record of the school year as it pertains to the band, through pictures and videos.
- Manages bulletin board in hallway outside band room as needed. Displays new information/materials on bulletin board.
- Write quote of the week on the board, as approved by directors.
- Along with their chosen “crew” sets up and tears down the PA System for each rehearsal, football game and contest.
- Supervises the handling of uniforms and actions of uniform crew.

#### **Representatives**

- Drives the Esprit de Corps of the Mineral Wells High School Band through perseverance, craze and energy.
- Inspires passion and mania through example.
- Promotes vitality and exhilaration to the band through pep talks.
- Helps President organize social events for the Mineral Wells Band.
- Supervises the condition of and enforces the daily cleanliness of instrument and music storage in both Band Halls. Tidy up both rooms weekly.



- Arranges social events and plans at least one social event for the band every six weeks.
- Plans all summer rehearsal games and activities.
- Helps with Swim Party in Fall and 8<sup>th</sup> grade social in Spring.
- Oversee and maintain marching field cleanliness daily.

### **Section Leaders**

- Understands and demonstrates great rehearsal procedures.
- Knows and understands great marching technique and great music technique on their instrument.
- Can teach and demonstrate all visual and musical aspects of marching show.
- Helps drum majors in any of their duties when asked.
- Ensures that their sections' equipment and uniforms are always in their proper place and secured properly.
- Promotes esprit de corps in their section and band.
- Helps fellow students learn and memorize marching show and music
- Monitors and police any area for trash and appropriate behavior by the band.

### **Drum Majors**

- Epitomize the standards and traditions of the Mineral Wells High School Band.
- Conduct the Mineral Wells High School Mighty Ram Band.
- Act as a marching technician during drill learning rehearsals.
- Lead marching band rehearsals by giving verbal repetition of instructions given by the band directors and dictating action through vocal and visual commands based on rehearsal protocol.
- Grasp the entire visual marching sequence and musical events by memory before rehearsals take place.
- Ensures the PA Crew have moved mics, metronome, cords, cd player, other electronics to the marching field before all marching rehearsals. Ensures that these have been set up and tested before rehearsal begins.
- Informs band members for tardiness, unexcused absences, and/or missing flip folders letting them know to star after rehearsal for ten minutes. Band Secretary will inform drum majors/band directors of students with tardiness or unexcused absences.
- Establishes Warm-Up block that coincides with the position of band members in the stands.
- Operate the metronome during marching band rehearsals.
- Position and assemble podiums before the start of each marching band rehearsal.
- Charges electronic, as needed.
- Recruit feeder middle school band students with band directors.

# **Mineral Wells High School Mighty Ram Band**

## **2018-2019 Commitment to Excellence**

For our band to be successful, we need you! We need you to work hard every day – before school, after school, Friday nights, Saturdays and more. Even though it sounds like a lot of work, it is a lot of FUN and a great family of friends. The teamwork and life lessons that you will learn in band are well worth the time and effort.

We are asking you and your family to commit to the Mighty Ram Band for school year 2018-2019. As directors and teachers, we promise to work hard, push harder and dream big to give you the opportunity to be a part of something great.

We, the parent(s) and student, have read the Mineral Wells Ram Student Handbook. We have also reviewed the calendar and understand that being a part of the Ram Band is a commitment that takes time, understanding and sacrifice. We understand the responsibilities that come with being a member of the Mineral Wells Band and will accept the decisions of the band directors.

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

**Parent**  
**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please return to Mr. Ball within the first 7 days of class\*\***