

Wortham Bulldog Band Handbook

(Approved 1-23-2012)

BULLDOG BAND HANDBOOK

PREFACE

Welcome to the Wortham Bulldog Band! Band gives young students countless social, performance, and competitive opportunities that can help create lifelong memories and friendships. The “Bulldog Band Experience” helps build character, academic excellence, discipline, and self confidence at a crucial age which provides a springboard to even greater achievements in adulthood. The experiences that come with membership in the Bulldog Band help instill a sense of pride and the important values of dedication, commitment, and high achievement through teamwork that is then carried back into the community.

Being involved in music affords student opportunities to develop leadership, interpersonal, and citizenship skills. Just as there can be no music without learning, no education is complete without music. Music reinforces self-esteem, creativity, and self-expression. The success of the music program centers on pride, commitment to task, and the willingness to work hard to achieve a common goal. While we do not expect every student in the band to become a virtuoso musician, we do expect every student to establish both short and long-range goals for improvement on his or her instrument. We do expect mature, responsible attitudes and actions – and lots of hard work from everyone.

Every year is a new challenge – new combinations of personalities and talent, new audiences, new music, new drills, new members, new student leaders and new staff members. By accepting membership in the Bulldog Band, you agree to perform to the best of your abilities and work together with the band staff to make this year’s band the finest musical organization that our combined efforts can produce.

This handbook is designed to help you understand the concepts and policies of our organization. We hope the handbook can be used to answer questions of both parents and students and will prove to be a helpful guide for defining the boundaries that are important in keeping the Bulldog Band a quality ensemble. This handbook is not intended to be all-inclusive, as every possible situation and question cannot be predicted in advance; however, a thorough knowledge of these materials is essential to the smooth operation and success of the band this year.

If utilized properly, the concepts of responsibility, teamwork, and good citizenship will develop as each student experiences the world of music. If you need information that does not appear here, please call the Band Hall at 254.765.3523. We will try to assist in whatever way possible.

Sincerely,

Timothy Grange
Director of Bands
Wortham High School

The Marching Band and Concert Band Performing Groups

All of the members of the band program must audition at the end of each semester to determine their chair order for the next semester. New students will be auditioned upon arrival. Students must be enrolled in band for the entire year. Directors can make exceptions on a per student basis in cases of **unsolvable academic** schedule conflicts. Students must be a member of the parent organization (enrolled in a band class) in order to compete in UIL, TMEA, and ATSSB sponsored contests and events.

Marching Band Program

1. The Wortham High School Marching Band performs at all varsity football games and various marching contests during and outside the school day.
2. All band students grades 7-12 are members of the marching band.

Concert Band Program

1. Concert Band activities increase as marching season winds down until football season comes to a close. At the conclusion of marching season, concert band becomes the primary focus of the band program until the end of the school year.
2. The Concert Band performs at a minimum of two concerts per year and competes in UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest. Additional performances may include one or more pre-UIL contests; as well as, a competitive band festival contest on the spring trip.
3. Members of the Wind Ensemble are strongly encouraged to participate in All-Region tryouts and Solo and Ensemble Contests. All members are required to participate in the Centex Region Band tryouts. All members are strongly encouraged to participate in private study.

In regards to Marching Band and Concert Band attendance

The Bulldog Band is dependent on ALL members. Unlike other classes where individuals are held accountable only for their own success or failure, the Bulldog Band's level of success is based on the full participation of all of the members. We do realize that extenuating circumstances can occur and will be evaluated by the band director on an individual basis. In the event of such circumstances, students and parents will be expected to notify the band director as soon as possible. In order to be considered EXCUSED from a practice or performance, the student must supply a note to the band director at least one week in advance of the absence. For last minute illness or unforeseen situations, please call 254.765.3523 and leave a message on the band director office answering machine. A student who misses a performance with an unexcused absence will result in receiving a zero weighted as a major test grade. Examples of unexcused absences are: homework, tutorials that can be done at another time, transportation problem, working at job, family birthday, birthdays of friends, oversleeping, forgetting equipment, Boy Scouts, dance class or private instrument lessons. The following attendance policy will encourage each student to fulfill the requirements of membership:

Student Conduct during band activities

- A. Band members are encouraged to cultivate an attitude of good discipline during rehearsals. Talking, disturbances and inattention show a lack of interest and respect to the band and will not be tolerated.
- B. Band members serve as goodwill ambassadors for the school. Polite and courteous behavior is a credit to the band, to the school and to the community.
- C. Since a portion of the marching band activity is somewhat militaristic, it is expected that students be aggressive in rehearsing and performing the marching fundamentals. When at “attention,” there should be no variation from the expected mental and physical attitude.
- D. Loud and boisterous activity by band members when in public is not in the best interest of the band’s image. Included is unrehearsed playing (hacking) on instruments to and from rehearsals and performances.
- E. Food, gum, or drink is never permitted during rehearsal or performance and should not be brought into the band hall or rehearsal area.
- F. PDA (Public Displays of Affection) will not be permitted in the Band Hall, on the bus or at official band functions.
- G. Cell phones shall not be used during the following times: During rehearsals, football games, concerts, and performances. (Use of cell phones on the bus and the 3rd quarter of football games is permitted.)
- H. Any infraction of conduct, attitude, or responsibility will be dealt with in one or more of the following manners:
 - 1. Conference with student
 - 2. Conference with parents
 - 3. Conference with principal and/or discipline referral
 - 4. Possible removal from the band program

Discipline Management Plan “DO’S”

- A. Be punctual to all planned rehearsals, concerts or meeting times.
- B. Be positive in your daily attitude toward others while presenting a good example for all to follow.
- C. Be respectful of directors, student leaders and all student peers.
- D. Be responsible for your own discipline and prescribed duties.
- E. Be consistent, fair and cooperative at all times.
- F. Be one of the first to complete your assignment.
- G. Always show PRIDE in the Bulldog Band, your instrument, instrument storage space, band hall, etc. by keeping it clean and in order.
- H. Follow the director’s instructions at all times.
- I. Look at the teacher when speaking and being spoken to.
- J. Treat every other student as you wish to be treated yourself.

Discipline Management Plan “DON’T’S”

Do not be late or absent – All excused tardies are to be addressed to a director. Absences from rehearsal will be excused only by written note from a doctor, the student’s parent, or a message left on the band director office answering machine.

- A. Do not argue or be disrespectful to those in positions of authority or responsibility.
- B. Do not come to rehearsal without your instrument, music, reeds/mouthpiece, charts, pencils, etc. Come fully prepared to learn.
- C. Do not show a lazy or negative attitude at any time.
- D. Do not put personal desires first and group goals and group success second.

Parent & Student Concerns

A parent who has concerns about a program should raise them in a courteous and civil manner, at the right time and in the right setting, by following these steps to resolution:

- a. Step 1 – have your child address the issue with the director one-on-one, before or after band class or before or after school
- b. Step 2 – if you feel the issue has not been resolved, contact the director yourself
- c. Step 3 – if you still feel the problem exists, set up a meeting with the director and principal

<Turn to next page for band handbook agreement>

Parent/Student Band Handbook Agreement

Please read and sign below as indicated and return to the band director.

I have read the Wortham Band Handbook and agree to abide by all of the policies stated. I realize that it takes full cooperation, a willingness to make sacrifices and dedication from 100% of the students to make our band as good as it can be. I further realize that failure to follow the stated policies or directions from the band director will result in disciplinary action which could lead to dismissal from the band program.



Parent (Print Name)

Student (Print Name)

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Date signed

Date signed