

Rowlett High School Band

Information, Policies, and Procedures



The Mighty Eagle Band is dedicated to expanding each child's knowledge and understanding of music as a lifetime activity, increasing each child's sense of responsibility and commitment, and giving each child a place to call home in the large school environment.

Rene Lira – Director of Bands

Elizabeth Gott – Associate Band Director

Christopher McHenry – Associate Band Director/Percussion Studies

Sarah Ferguson – Color Guard Director

Dear MEB,
Congratulations on being a member of one of the most successful bands in the Garland Independent School District!

It is an exciting time to be involved in this organization as there are many wonderful things to come in the next few years. The entire Rowlett HS band staff shares a passion for music and music education. We hope to infuse the members with this passion as well as create a culture of excellence that even surpasses band! There is a large variety of life lessons that students will learn while involved with a high school band.

Some of these include, but are not limited to:

- Time management
- Team building
- Commitment
- Prioritization of tasks and events
- Leadership skills
- Adaptability
- Peer tutoring
- Delayed gratification
- Patience
- Social interactions

This coming year must continue the trend of success that was established in previous years. Every performance must build upon the one previous – we must always strive to be the best version of ourselves.

This handbook is full of important information – students and parents are expected to read through the entire document as there are some new expectations that will be set forth. There will continue to be changes throughout life – just because certain procedures have been in place does not mean they will be the same this year, or in years to come.

Again, this document contains clear expectations as well as highlighting the Rowlett Band Staff's vision moving forward.

Musically yours,
Rowlett High School Band Staff

Rene Lira, Director of bands
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PREFACE

There are four criteria for success in band. They are listed below in order of importance:

1. ATTENDANCE

There is no more important criterion for success than ATTENDANCE. Any absence, for whatever reason, results in the student missing the learning that takes place. Therefore, there is no “excused” or “unexcused” absence, as such. Absences are to be communicated in advance as a function of courtesy to fellow band member and teachers. Except in case of an emergency, all absences are to be communicated via email PRIOR to the absence. When considering opportunities for leadership, advancement, and any other privilege or honor in the band, the first consideration is ATTENDANCE.

2. ATTITUDE

Students who are positive and enthusiastic learn more and get more out of the experience. Remember, you’ll find whatever you’re looking for. If you look for heat, sweat, thirst, fatigue, frustration, and even pain, you’ll find them! Those things are found at the surface of any experience that combines the athleticism and artistry found in band. If you look for teamwork, commitment, passion, excellence, thrills, excitement, class, character, and community, you’ll find those, too. It’s all in what you look for. However, the best ATTITUDE is of no good to the group without good ATTENDANCE.

3. INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

This is not how “smart” someone is. Intellectual development comes from being an intentional learner. An intentional learner makes changes when corrected and looks for more than just what is offered. An intentional learner pays close attention to how his teachers get their students to achieve so he can apply those same strategies to his own individual practice. Simply put, intellectual development comes from thinking about what you do. Of course, intellectual development is only possible with good ATTENDANCE and a positive ATTITUDE.

4. PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Physical ability is simply how well someone marches or plays his instrument. We start by figuring out how good we are and then by imagining how good we want to be. Getting better is what makes it fun, but you can’t get better without effort. You have to invest the time and physical energy to achieve on a high level. PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT results from good ATTENDANCE, a positive ATTITUDE, and INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT. In short, if you show up with a great attitude and think about what you do, you’ll develop your skills. This is at the heart of a FUN and REWARDING experience.

These four criteria are not specific to band, however band is where we learn to use them. When applied to any endeavor, they create SUCCESS in math, science, English, sports, jobs, and anything else that involves the development of skills. When you practice BAND, you practice LIFE.

-Frank Troyka

ABOUT THE ROWLETT MIGHTY EAGLE BAND

The Rowlett Mighty Eagle Band is established in the North Texas area with a long tradition of excellence. The success of the Rowlett Band centers on pride, commitment to task and excellence, and the willingness to work hard to achieve a common goal. We do not expect every student to become a virtuoso musician. We do expect every student to establish both short and long-range goals for improvement on his/her instrument, to exhibit mature and responsible attitudes and actions at all times, and to be willing to invest in him/herself for the benefit of all.

The Rowlett Band exists to provide an exceptional music education for all students through performance, group instruction, and individual study. Performance opportunities include large ensembles, chamber groups, and solos. These skills that band students acquire are directly related to skills necessary for auditions, presentation, and interviews in other career fields.

Opportunities are also provided for those who wish to develop their leadership skills.

There is an extensive students leadership program, as mentioned in this Handbook, and student leaders are relied upon to help achieve organizational goals.

This handbook is designed to convey the guidelines and operating procedures of the MEB. Its purpose is to help answer student and parent questions and be a helpful guide for defining the procedures of the organization.

INDIVIDUAL BAND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students are placed, by audition or recommendation, into one of these groups: Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, and Color Guard.

WIND ENSEMBLE (Varsity)

- Participation in marching band
- Performance of marching contest music by memory
- Preparation of All-State music during the fall, with recorded and/or live tests assigned periodically throughout the first three months of school
- Performance of extended range scales by memory
- Audition for All-Region Band
- Performance in a solo and/or small ensemble and UIL Solo & Ensemble in February is required.
- Performance of concert music as assigned by the director
- Attendance at section rehearsals and/or full band rehearsals before or after school
- Full participation in all performance activities, including approved travel. Students who are unwilling or unable to participate in travel-related competitions are not candidates for membership as the instrumentation required for successful performance demands the commitment of the full ensemble.
- Students who do not participate in UIL Concert and Sight-Reading competition for any reason are not eligible for spring travel.

- Participation in Private Lessons is expected (never required).

Honors Band (Non-Varsity)

- Participation in marching band
- Performance of marching contest music by memory
- Preparation of All-State music during the fall, with recorded and/or live tests assigned periodically throughout the first three months of school
 - Freshmen may prepare the Region 3 Freshman cuts
- Performance of extended range scales by memory
- Audition for All-Region Band strongly recommended
- Performance in a solo and/or small ensemble and UIL Solo & Ensemble contest in February is required
- Performance of concert music as assigned by the director
- Attendance at section rehearsals and/or full band rehearsals before or after school
- Full participation in all performance activities
- Students who do not participate in UIL Concert and Sight-Reading competition for any reason are not eligible for spring travel
- Participation in Private Lessons is strongly encouraged (never required)

SYMPHONIC BAND (Sub Non-Varsity A)

- Participation in marching band
- Performance of marching contest music by memory
- Preparation of the freshman cuts of the All-State music during the fall, with recorded and/or live tests assigned periodically throughout the first three months of school
- Performance of standard range scales by memory
- Audition for All-Region Band strongly recommended
- Performance in a solo and/or small ensemble and UIL Solo & Ensemble contest in February is required
- Performance of concert music as assigned by the director
- Attendance at section rehearsals and/or full band rehearsals before or after school
- Full participation in all performance activities
- Students who do not participate in UIL Concert and Sight-Reading competition for any reason are not eligible for spring travel
- Participation in Private Lessons is encouraged

JAZZ ENSEMBLE (Varsity)

- Wind (saxophone, trumpet, trombone) membership is open to all band members upon audition and instrumentation needs
- Rhythm section membership is open to all RHS student body provided that positions are not filled by NGHS band members
- Attendance at section rehearsals and/or full band rehearsals before or after school
- Attendance at all performances

COLOR GUARD/WINTER GUARD

- Development of individual basics including flag, rifle, and saber skills
- Development of basic movement skills
- Development of ensemble skills including timing of equipment and body movement
- Performance of marching band activities in the fall semester and winter guard activities in the spring
- This class is open to new members who do not perform on a band instrument
- Attendance at summer color guard camp
- Attendance at section rehearsals and/or full band rehearsals before or after school

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is the number one criterion for success in any activity. We cannot teach your student if he or she is not there! Plus, his or her absence may have a negative impact on someone else's learning. Attendance will be taken seriously and will have weight in grades, performance ability, and competition block privileges. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held outside of the school day.

Please consult the MEB calendar for our rehearsal schedules. Noted on each are required and not required event. If a scheduled event is not required, the attendance policy still remains for those who volunteer. Here is our attendance policy:

1. TARDIES

- a. Students not in their designated area at the appropriate time are tardy, are graded as noted in Section 3, and may also receive the following consequences:
 - i. Temporary assignment to assist logistical leadership team (field, electronics, facilities, loading crews)
 - ii. Temporary assignment to assist Drum Majors
- b. Two weekly tardies equocate to one unexcused absence and will have

consequences as delineated below.

2. ABSENCES

a. An absence is an absence. Students not present at the appropriate time will be marked absent. Even if a student does not “feel well,” please make every effort to be at all rehearsals. Again – your absence may affect someone else’s learning.

b. Inexcusable absences

i. The following are NEVER excused:

1. Work
2. Tutorials (band rehearsals are band tutorials)
 - a. Marching band rehearsals begin late enough to accommodate tutorials after school. Most Wednesdays are also OFF to take care of business.
3. Driver’s ed
4. Family trips
5. Organization meetings
6. Lack of transportation
7. PSAT practice tests or study sessions
8. Non-school sponsored activities, teams, or organizations

ii. Any unexcused absence from rehearsal in one week will result in the student not marching that week (games and contests).

iii. Unexcused absences that remain unresolved may result in removal from the Competition Block and/or the RHS Band.

c. Excusable absences

i. Please do not use the phrase “family emergency” lightly. Family emergencies involve an immediate family member in a death or near-death experience.

ii. Prolonged, serious student personal illnesses are excused, but must have documentation.

iii. Two excusable absences in one week may result in the student not marching that week. (games and contests).

iv. Overall, the MEB Staff decides what is excused and what is not.

v. For the absence to be excused, members should communicate at least one week prior.

vi. All excusable absences require documentation.

vii. Students must plan ahead to accommodate any conflicts with other school sponsored events or activities. The MEB staff will work with other teachers, coaches, and directors to give each student every opportunity to be a part of other groups.

3. GRADING CRITERIA

- a. On time arrival and staying whole time = 100
- b. Arriving between 1 second and 15 minutes late = 80
- c. Arriving between 15 and 30 minutes late = 60
- d. Arriving after 30 minutes = 0 (and marked as absent, but should still attend anyway as it affects others' learning)
- e. Leaving before the published end time = 70

4. A few more notes:

- a. Because of the nature of marching band, if someone is absent (regardless of excused or unexcused), their spot will be filled (excused = temporary; unexcused = permanent). Keep in mind that other learners are impacted by absences. Repeated absences, excused or not, keep one from learning the required material and will lead to permanent replacement.
- b. Excessive absences prevent a student and those near him or her from learning the drill and therefore will lead to replacement.

AUDITIONS

All students are required to audition for select performance ensembles. The Director of Bands determines audition requirements, and the RHS Band Staff will notify students of audition dates, requirements, and results. The whole band staff will serve as evaluators during every student's audition. Audition material will reflect the director's anticipated performance level for the students and will be based on prior learning, and auditions may be live or recorded at the director's discretion. Students will be re-evaluated periodically for participation in select performance ensembles.

BOOSTER CLUB

Being a band parent automatically enters you into membership in the RHS Band Boosters. Participation is optional and no dues are required. Our booster club is a vital part in the life of the Mighty Eagle Band. They provide endless moral, physical, and fiscal support for the band. Opportunities for service are many and varied and will come up throughout the year. Meetings are scheduled in the Google calendar, and occur on-line via Zoom or Google Meet.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Rowlett Band Staff encourages positive communication and are willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress in band with his/her parents. Specific directors' office phone numbers and email addresses can be found in this document, as well as on the band web site at:

www.rowlettmeb.org

It is important to note that ultimately each student is responsible for all information given during class or rehearsals. We *will* have supplemental forms of communication to help students and parents keep up with the various activities. The MEB will have a SMORE released every Monday outlining upcoming events. Lastly, the Rowlett Band Staff will send out itineraries for necessary performances and events. It is worth noting that sometimes these itineraries might seem last minute (specifically, for marching contests) as schedules are typically not finalized until one or two weeks before the event. Please double check your Charms account to ensure that your email addresses (student AND parent) are up-to-date so that you are receiving the SMORE and any itineraries.

CONDUCT/EXPECTATIONS

Band members will observe all policies set forth by Garland ISD, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting: There is zero tolerance for profanity or discrimination at any time whatsoever. Infractions will be dealt with swiftly and severely. There is also zero tolerance for food, drink, and gum in the band hall. Infractions will be dealt an immediate after school detention with the Rowlett Band Staff. Students in band serve as representatives of the school and school district at many public extracurricular functions. Membership in these organizations is a privilege and it is within the right of any director to deny membership to a student if they believe that they would not positively represent the organization. Band members will observe all policies set forth by Garland ISD, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting: Any behavior which is not representative of good citizenship as perceived by the Rowlett Band Staff may result in the student's dismissal from the activity as well as the Rowlett Band. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both public and **private** events.

All students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the these Ethical Principles at all times.

- Display of profanity, temper, flagrant violation of rules, etc., will not be tolerated. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection of the group.
- Students will follow directors' instructions.
- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area ready to work at the set rehearsal time with all equipment, including music, pencil, instrument, and all supplies to rehearsals on a daily basis.
- Students will keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves
- Students will not use or play on equipment they do not own without permission from director.
- Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
- Students should request permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged.

- All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that time will be utilized wisely and as efficiently as possible.
- When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.
- Students will respect the property of others, and return their equipment to its proper storage place when not in use. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area, and keep said storage area clean and neat in appearance. Students who demonstrate great difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band hall.
- Students will not deface or mark on music stands, chairs, walls, etc.
- Students will not write on dry-erase board without permission from a director.
- Students will utilize their assigned storage slot/locker for instrument cases during rehearsals.

CARE OF BAND FACILITY

We are fortunate to have a new band hall. Students are to respect the rooms and keep them clean and uncluttered. Please obey the following rules:

- No Food, No Drink, No Gum – zero tolerance
- Only band students allowed in the band hall
- No unsupervised students in the uniform room or practice room
- Only student leaders are allowed in the band library
- Pick up after yourself
- Pick up after your neighbor
- Do not build nests (accumulate junk and paper in your instrument slot)
- Always knock before entering the directors' offices

INTERNET POLICY

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that band member websites are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication such as Facebook, Tumblr, Snapchat, Twitter, photo sharing, emailing, or texting, etc., appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Members are responsible for their personal websites and postings, as well as posting from or on other students' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include but are not limited to profane, foul, or disrespectful language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, references to alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, and postings (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening towards other GISD teaching staff or band members, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other bands. Any such incident will result in review by the principal (or designee) and may lead to probation or dismissal from the band. Band members that violate the above internet guidelines shall be subject to the following:

- **FIRST VIOLATION:** The student will be told to remove any offensive items from the website(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this

behavior to the principal, directors, and band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior.

- **SECOND VIOLATION:** Consequences of first violation in addition to: The student will be suspended from all Band activities for a period of 3 days to 3 weeks, subject to MEB Staff discretion.
- **THIRD VIOLATION:** The member will be removed from the Rowlett HS Band.

QUITTING POLICY

All students who choose not to continue in band thereby forfeit any privileges associated with being a member of the Rowlett Band, including, but not limited to: participation in MEB social events, travel with the Rowlett Band, access to Rowlett Band facilities and equipment, volunteering with the Rowlett Band, and others, as determined by the MEB Staff. If this student received a district provided letter jacket, they will be required to return or pay for the jacket.

Should any student choose to not continue in band between school years, no paid fees will be eligible for refund. Unpaid fees will cause the student to be placed on the campus Loss of Privilege (LOP) list and will remain as such until said fees are paid.

Should any student choose to not continue in band in the middle of the school year, they will not be eligible for spring activities, including, but not limited to: participation in the MEB Banquet, recognition at the Spring Concert recognition at Senior Awards and Graduation Cords.

DISTRICT-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

RHS will provide a limited number of instruments for student use. These instruments include highly expensive instruments such as the bassoon, oboe, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, french horn, euphonium, tuba, and general percussion equipment. This equipment is purchased by the school district for student use because of its extreme expense. Thus, all district owned equipment must be handled with optimum care. Students failing to take proper care of their school-issued instrument may lose the privilege to use such instruments.

The following is a list of general procedures for district-owned instruments:

- Order of distribution will be done based on chair order. If possible, students who play large instruments, and are dependent upon GISD buses, may be issued two instruments: one for home use and one for school use. This will be at the discretion of the directors and will be based on instrument availability and transportation needs.
- GISD does not provide insurance for individually owned or district-owned equipment.
- Students are held responsible for all district-owned instruments issued to them. This responsibility will include fire, theft, accidental damage, abuse and general maintenance not incurred through normal use.
- Students and parents must sign an instrument checkout form before the student can use the instrument.

- Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition. Each issued instrument will be checked and cleaned prior to issue. Students are expected to maintain their issued instruments accordingly.
- The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him or her.
- All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.
- GISD will assess a fee for routine (end of year) cleaning and maintenance of district-owned instruments. This fee is collected at the beginning of each school year by the MEB Staff (this fee does not cover removal of dents or other student-responsible repairs).

Special Note

District-owned instruments are not to be treated as "free" instruments. Basic supplies must still be purchased and repairs must still be made just like personally owned instruments. Please strive to treat these instruments as if they were your own. Most district-owned instruments exceed \$2,000 in value.

ELIGIBILITY

Students must pass all classes in order to be able to participate in the band's activities. Failing grades will keep a child out of marching band, region, area, or all state band, UIL contest, the spring trip, and other activities. A failure during a six weeks period will place a student on academic probation and will require daily attendance to tutorials. Repeated failures may remove that student from a competing ensemble and place them in a lower group. We encourage attendance to tutorials and ask that students keep informed of their grades through Skyward.

GRADING GUIDELINES

Grades are given according to the effort a child puts into improving as related to their abilities, as well as more concrete criteria that include, but are not limited to:

- Fundamental musicianship (tone production, posture, rhythm reading, knowledge of fingerings and their alternates)
- Pass-offs and/or written assignments, both in class and on the marching field
- Care and maintenance of your instrument (an ill-kept or chronically broken instrument impedes previous two)

Contrary to popular belief, band is not an "easy A". An "A" student will be on time and prepared, follow directions, care for their equipment and uniform, as well as turn in uniforms, assignments, and forms on time. During the fall, marching band accounts for

much of the grade. Grades consist of memorization of the marching music, rehearsal attendance, performances, and effort during those rehearsals and performances. Students are also evaluated with music and marching pass-offs in class. Points are deducted for tardiness, inexcusable absences, incomplete uniform at performances, missing music or equipment, or failure to act as a team member during rehearsal or performance. Spring grading is based on regular grades taken in class over concert music or sight-reading. Periodic after school rehearsals will also figure into student grades. Performances count as major grades and students may be failed from any band class for missing a performance. Consistent lack of attendance may result in removal from the Rowlett Band.

GUIDELINES FOR EXTRACURRICULAR STUDENTS: ALCOHOL AND ILLEGAL DRUGS

Students will adhere to the GISD code of conduct. Students may be removed from activities based on severity and frequency of infractions, at the discretion of the Rowlett Band Staff in consultation with RHS Administration.

MARCHING BAND

The MEB is made up of students in the three concert bands and Color Guard at RHS. Since students receive a PE waiver for annual marching, participation is required. In addition to Summer Band, rehearsals are after school. We perform at varsity football games, the Labor Day Parade, marching contests during the fall, the MLK Day Parade, and various other functions as requested by the school and/or community. Students must participate in marching band for four years in order to qualify for a letter jacket.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Garland ISD has had a reputation for excellence in music performance, including marching band, for many years. The marching band, which provides performance opportunities for band students, while integrating the Rowlett Band into school and community activities, is the most visible aspect of the Rowlett Band. Contrary to popular belief, marching band does not exist because of football. Marching band is a direct descendant of military bands, and several of our rules and regulations stem from that tradition.

MARCHING BAND PARTICIPATION

Garland ISD's philosophy is that educationally, historically, and musically, marching band is an essential ingredient in a well-rounded music education in band. GISD believes that music students need to develop the ability to participate and perform in different ensemble experiences which, for band students, includes the marching band. As a result, marching band is required for all high school students who elect to take an academic band performance course. However, students who have medical complications or physical disabilities may be excused from participation at the discretion of the Director of Bands. Philosophy regarding all aspects of high school band stems from TEA/UIL guidelines, which govern all Texas schools.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

As an artistic endeavor, each rehearsal and performance by the marching band is mentally and physically demanding. For the full marching band performance, students are always on task and must bring to the experience their best performance skills. As a result, each student in the marching band is eligible to receive a physical education substitution credit (maximum 1.5 credits) in accordance with TEA guidelines.

CURRICULUM

The music and performance skills and techniques, along with the associated academic skills in the Rowlett Band, are derived from implementation of the expectations found in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). The curriculum specifically includes requirements such as demonstrating musical skills and artistry, performing in different musical mediums, and experiencing music through a wider range of music literature, which are addressed through the marching band. Each performance by the marching band provides students the opportunity to demonstrate musical artistry through the ensemble, individual music performance skills and techniques, marching performance skills and techniques, and critical thinking skills that include auditory, spatial, and visual awareness.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

The opportunity for weekly performance is a motivating factor for academic achievement for marching band students, since only by maintaining their eligibility can they continue to perform. As a result, the directors have documented the fact that the least number of ineligible band students during the year occurs during the marching season.

GRADING

Since marching band is a part of the academic band course, and therefore part of the graded curriculum, students in marching band are responsible for assimilating the academic aspects of the band elective as found in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Attendance at rehearsals and performances is mandatory and will be integrated into the student's grade for band.

REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Rehearsal and performance schedules are determined by the Rowlett Band Staff and are published on the band's Google calendar. The RHS Band Staff will strive to give as much prior knowledge as possible for all events. Understand that there are times when schedules are amended based on special circumstances. Any schedules that are changed will be reflected on the website, remind, CHARMS, etc. Again, any information given in class is the responsibility of each student.

INSTRUMENTS

Marching band students who play an instrument that GISD does not provide (flute, clarinet, alto sax, trumpet and trombone) must personally provide, march and perform with the same instrument they use in band or a second instrument of the same type that

is approved by the Rowlett Band Staff. Students are responsible for all maintenance on their instrument, whether it is a district-owned or personally owned instrument.

MARCHING BAND POSITIONS COMPETITION BLOCK

Students who earn a position in the competition block have the following responsibilities:

- Complete required audition material
- Demonstrate correct marching technique
- Is present at all rehearsals and performances
- Is punctual to all rehearsals and performance call times
- Maintain academic eligibility

ALTERNATES

Due to the competitive nature of marching band, there are a limited number of spots in the competition show. These spots are determined by audition. Those who do not win a position in the competition show are called alternates. The Rowlett Band Staff will keep the number of alternates to a minimum; however, they are a necessary and vital aspect of our program due to the UIL “No Pass/No Play” rules. The alternate line also helps accommodate possible substitutions due to injury, sustained illness, etc. Alternates meet the same attendance, rehearsal, memorization, academic, and performance requirements of primary marchers. Specific drill may be written and music may be edited for those students who are not yet able to achieve the physical and musical demands required of primary marchers. This will help improve their individual skill level and will prepare them for future performance opportunities. We are committed to providing performance opportunities for all students. However, the level of performance participation may be limited by eligibility and individual performance ability.

PROPS

Again, due to the competitive nature of marching band, props are increasing in predominance and enhance the programming aspect of marching band shows. In order to create a space for every person in the Rowlett Band, we will need students to help with our props. Duties may include (but are not limited to) assembling and moving of props at rehearsals and performances, performing with props during the show, and assisting with the disassembling and storage of props after rehearsals and performances. Prop students are required to attend all rehearsals and performances.

MARCHING BAND REHEARSALS

The marching band rehearsal instructional “chain of command” is essential for efficiency.

1. Instruction sequence:

- a. Lead director (usually from tower or press-box)
- b. Assistant directors
- c. Field staff (marching techs)
- d. Drum Majors
- f. Section Leaders

2. This sequence takes a significant amount of time, so each leader will not always have time to instruct and correct problems. Sometimes the best thing to say is nothing.

3. At no time should there be talking from anyone when an instructor is giving corrections and instructions! Members should look directly at the person giving instruction, and should raise their hands when their section or name is called. This provides the best clarity of instruction for members.

4. All leaders must lead by example and not talk or play at inappropriate times.

Also, please obey the following guidelines:

- We always run back from set to set.
- If standing at set, there is no talking.
- Do not sit on the field.
- Do not spit on the field. The Color Guard does body work on the surface!
- Bring your RHS water jug to all rehearsals. It must be filled with water!
- Continue to hydrate yourself after rehearsal and into the evening.
- Vocalize as instructed (counting, commands, etc.)
- “Attention” or “Set” is a sacred position:
- No talking
- No moving (not even to swat a mosquito, wipe sweat, adjust hair!)

HEALTH AND SAFETY OF BAND STUDENTS

The health and safety of our students is our first priority. Every effort will be made to keep our students out of harm’s way at all times. We rehearse rain or shine. All students should be familiar with the weather forecast to prepare for the day.

HYDRATION

Our rehearsal schedule is very specific and allows for small water breaks every fifteen minutes. Students should always take these water breaks, even if they are not thirsty. It is very important that every student bring and use their water bottle at every rehearsal and performance.

NUTRITION

Eat healthy and well-balanced meals every day. During summer band camp, students need to eat a healthy breakfast every morning. Stay away from milk and greasy foods. Students need to bring a healthy sack lunch to summer camp. We do not recommend

fried foods, salty snacks, soft drinks, or sweets. The school is across the street from several fast food establishments. Please avoid these.

Drink plenty of water! Do NOT drink soft drinks at lunch. For every soft drink you ingest, you must drink three full glasses of water to replenish fluids that the sugar content will make your body lose!

As the new school year begins, students should continue their healthy diet throughout the day. Continue to eat a healthy breakfast every morning. Eat a healthy lunch. Stay away from greasy foods such as pizza, chips, and candy during the school day. Lunch from the vending machines is not appropriate.

Students should continue to drink plenty of water throughout the day to stay well-hydrated for afternoon rehearsals. Eating healthy meals and drinking plenty of water is essential so students can remain in good health.

Because marching band rehearses and performs in the late summer and early autumn months, we do encounter extreme weather due to the nature of Texas climate. The Rowlett Band Staff constantly monitors weather patterns and always takes student safety into account. Please do not contact the Rowlett Band Staff in regards to the weather.

HEAT

Garland ISD has adopted a heat policy that is reflective of the official WBGT (Wet-bulb Globe Temperature) that is published by Perry Weather (GISD Weather Provider). WBGT takes into account temperature, humidity, wind speed, and visible and infrared radiation (sunlight) on humans. Please note that WBGT is not the actual temperature OR the heat index. Thusly, the temperature scale will be lower than the actual temperature AND the heat index. We will follow the district guidelines for athletic and FA outdoor activities in hot weather:

WBGT 82-84 – Level Green

- No more than 2.5 hours of continuous heat exposure
- Outdoor instruction for no more than 20 minutes, followed by water/break for at least 5 minutes
- Must wear light colored clothing (preferably moisture wicking) appropriate for hot weather
- Open water policy mandatory

WBGT 85-86 – Level Yellow

- No more than 2 hours of continuous heat exposure
- Outdoor instruction for no more than 15 minutes, followed by water/break for at least 5 minutes
- Must wear light colored clothing (preferably moisture wicking) appropriate for hot weather
- Open water policy mandatory

WBGT 89-90 – Level Red

- No more than 1 hour of continuous heat exposure
- Water/break every 10 minutes (5 minute duration)
- Must wear light colored clothing (preferably moisture wicking) appropriate for hot weather
- Open water policy mandatory

WBGT 91 or greater – Level Black

- No outside practice
- Delay practice until a cooler WBGT level is reached

RAIN

The Rowlett Band rehearses rain or shine. Depending on the quantity of downfall, we might rehearse in the rain. All wind players will bring their cases to rehearsal in this instance. If the rain is excessive, we will move our rehearsal inside. Students should always remain calm and collected should a summer shower pop up.

LIGHTNING

Garland ISD provides a lightning detection service that alerts the Rowlett Band Staff of lightning in the vicinity. If there is lightning within 8 miles of our activity, the Rowlett Band will take shelter inside the nearest safe location. Please note that at some facilities, the nearest safe location will be the bus.

INCLEMENT WEATHER AFFECTING PERFORMANCES

If the Rowlett Band is off-site and inclement weather affects the integrity of a performance, the host site will typically make a judgment call whether to continue the performance or not. Should inclement weather affect travel, the MEB Staff will communicate to parents any changes that may happen. Please be flexible and patient.

GARLAND ISD MARCHING BAND PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES

The band directors in Garland ISD recognize that the health and safety of their students is a primary concern, as well as their scholastic performance in all of their subjects. The band directors also acknowledge that the season for marching band competitive performances is contained within a brief but intense period of time during the months of September through November. Additionally, GISD recognizes the intrinsic value gained by the students from the pursuit of excellence in these programs. After lengthy study of current practices of state and national marching bands and to provide a balance of the above beliefs, GISD Marching Bands will participate in competitive/festival performances for no more than five consecutive weeks during a marching season. This guideline refers to competitive/festival performances involving the entire marching band and does not include performances at football games.

MARCHING BAND PERFORMANCES

The MEB performs at all Rowlett High School Varsity Football games, various competitive marching festivals, UIL contests, and local parades. Specific information will be communicated via the MEB and itineraries. The itineraries may have the following pieces of information:

Band Hall open:

This time is when the band facilities will be available to students to prepare for run through rehearsal.

Rehearsal/run through:

UIL and TEA have determined a set rehearsal limit for marching band. We are allowed one hour of preparation time per performance, in addition to the established 8 hour rule. The MEB Staff might readjust the weekly rehearsal schedule to add to this time.

Dismiss to pack/change/eat/load:

Each performance will have specific attire into which the students must change for travel. Students must manage their time wisely during this break.

Inspection:

Prior to departure, students must pass uniform/gear inspection. Students will not be allowed to travel if they do not have the required items.

Load buses:

Students must load their assigned bus in an orderly fashion.

Depart:

In order to meet our schedule with competitions, we must leave at this published time.

Approximate arrival:

This is the time we expect to arrive at any destination. For our return to Rowlett High School, students must be picked up no later than thirty minutes after our return. We ask this to respect the time of the MEB Staff. Students will receive a verbal warning after two infractions. Continued infractions may result in GISD security staff being notified, and/or the student being restricted from travel with the band.

Attire:

Please consult the itinerary for necessary attire for rehearsal/run and performance. We are allowed time in the stands at competitions, but we must wear the appropriate attire in order for the stadium staff to allow the band students in the stadium for free.

Why do we have to arrive so early if we have a later performance time?

We have to coordinate travel with GISD transportation, as well as allocate time for traffic, warm-up, loading, preparation, and rehearsal. Please do not offer refreshments to students while in uniform. The football game is viewed as a performance of the Eagle Band. Since the football game is a performance, please follow all guidelines for performances as listed above. Such performances include all aspects of the game from arrival to departure.

- Upon arrival, students will wait on the bus until directed
- Exit the bus in a professional and silent fashion
- Students have specific report areas upon debarking the bus
- Truck students must move quickly and focused but not panicked
- We always load into the stands as a group

- Upon entering the stands, students will remain standing until directed by the Eagle Band Staff or drum majors.
- Students will remain in their sections – movement in the stands adds risk to the safety of the students.
- Students will be allowed to use the restroom after checking out with an Eagle Band Staff member or chaperone. One student at a time per caption (woodwind/brass/percussion/color guard).
- Students will bring their water jugs into the stands
- Students need to pay attention to the game as well as the Rowlett Band Staff and drum majors.

PRIVATE LESSON PROGRAM (Music Enrichment)

We know that every student can benefit from our MEP opportunities at RHS. At a cost of \$20.00 per thirty minute lesson, students will receive weekly aid from a highly respected member of the Dallas music community. Our students who excel at region, area and state auditions usually do so with the help of this program. It also serves to bring a child "up to speed" if they need remedial help.

REQUIRED EXPENSES AND FEES

Although Garland ISD is a public school district, there are costs that are associated with any elective activity. The Eagle Band strives to minimize this cost as much as possible, but there are certain items that must be paid for by the student.

This band fee (\$150) helps cover costs inherent to marching band, and includes (but is not limited to) food, travel, clothing, and educational expenses.

Students are also asked to supply the following items on their own.

- A half gallon water jug similar in dimensions to the Igloo brand water jug (must fit inside the Booster provided Juguzzi)
- Running or Cross-training shoes for rehearsals and summer uniform
- Athletic sportswear for rehearsals
- Headwear
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Three-ring binder with sheet protectors
- Flipbook and lyre
- Light colored hand towel for instrument protection on the ground
- Light colored standard-sized towel for floor workouts (may use a yoga mat instead)
- instrument and necessary accessories

All woodwind members need plastic reeds for marching season. Please consult the Eagle Band Staff for specifics

FUNDRAISING

As with all organizations, fundraising is a necessary part of the band experience at Rowlett. Each student is asked to do their fair share through fundraising or donations. The RHS Band Boosters conduct a large number of fundraisers which allow students to help defray some of the cost necessary for participation.

SPRING TRIP

The band travels bi-annually, typically in odd year spring semesters. This optional trip is has an educational basis and is strongly encouraged for all members of the band. The destination varies from year to year.

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

We will travel by district bus to and from all performances. Your child may only leave a performance if the proper paperwork has been submitted. For obvious safety concerns, we cannot make exceptions for other relatives, friends or friend's parents.

UNIFORM GUIDELINES

GENERAL

Marching Band uniforms will be issued during summer band. Band uniforms will be stored at school in the uniform storage area. At no point should the uniforms ever go home. The Rowlett Band Boosters will arrange for and pay for uniform cleaning at specific points during the marching season.

Concert Uniforms will be issued in November and must be taken home once assigned.

- Boys are responsible for providing a white long sleeved shirt, LONG and BLACK socks, and BLACK dress shoes (may use marching shoes)
- Girls are responsible for providing their own CLOSED-TOE BLACK shoes (may use Dinkles marching shoes), DARK colored hose, MINIMAL MAKE-UP AND JEWELRY, and BLACK hair management implements (hair ties, bobby pins, etc.)
- Students will be held financially responsible for the uniform(s) and all components.

ISSUE AND RETURN

- Students will pick up uniforms from the uniform room when noted on the day's itinerary.
- Students should follow the posted and published pick up/return guidelines.
- Students will be issued a uniform storage number. This number should be memorized or recorded in a readily accessible location. Students will use this number to pick up their uniform from the storage room.
- Students not properly hanging the uniform will receive a community service assignment.

SUMMER UNIFORM

At some points during the season, we will wear this particular uniform:

- Current year band shirt, tucked in
- MEB shorts
- Ankle or no-show socks (preferably black)

- Running or Cross-training shoes
- Long hair in pony tail (black hair bands/bobby pins)
- Flip folder and lyre

MARCHING UNIFORM WEAR GUIDELINES

- We will always wear the uniform the same. Hence, the term “uniform.” There are two ways that we will wear the uniform:
- Dress Blacks
- Band compression shirt
- Black bib pants (never to be worn “banana-style” with the shoulder straps rolled down around the knees)
- Calf-length black socks
- Marching shoes
- Never run while in uniform (unless it is part of the show).
- The uniform is never to be worn in pieces unless in dress blacks. Sleeves must never be rolled up.
- You must wear approved black band shoes and calf length black socks (student purchases).
- Jewelry, hair ribbons, bright colored nail polish, excessive make-up, etc. are unacceptable while in uniform. These items hinder the uniform appearance of the band.

Hair

Long hair is not acceptable in uniform. Hair must not touch the collar of the jacket and must be above the top of the ear or pulled behind it. No visible hair on forehead.

- Ladies – must be in a neat at all times. Please no flyaways. Black hair ties, bobby pins, etc.
- Gentlemen – long hair must be pinned up. If hair is long enough, it also must be in a neat top knot at all times,
- No consumption of food or drinks (other than water) while in uniform without permission.

Conclusion

It is impossible to predict every situation or obstacle within a given school year. The band directors will use this handbook as a guide to cover other issues outside the handbook. Any and all situations are ultimately at the discretion of the band staff.

ROWLETT HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

I, _____

Have read and understand the information in the Eagle Band Handbook.
I am familiar with the expectations and obligations for participation. I am aware of the grading procedure, conduct expectations, and rehearsal and performance requirements. I am also advised that failure to adhere to the guidelines as set forth in the MEB Handbook will affect my grade and possibly my standing in the Rowlett High School Band. I have also read and understand the eligibility requirements as stated in the Rowlett Band Handbook. Furthermore, I agree to abide by the expectations and requirements to the best of my abilities.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

PARENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I have read the Rowlett Band Handbook and agree that my child will abide by the rules and guidelines stated therein.

Parent
Signature _____ Date _____