

# FRIENDSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL MIGHTY MUSTANG BAND 2011 – 2012 HANDBOOK

## WELCOME

We are happy to have you as a part of Friendswood High School Band. The tradition at Friendswood High School is one of very high standards both as musicians and as citizens. Each student will be held to very high standards both in and out of uniform. Being a part of the band is a commitment to our school, our team and each other.

The Friendswood Band Program has become recognized as one of the outstanding music programs in the nation. The tradition associated with this success has grown and flourished with the school and community because of the dedicated work of many individuals.

While the musical understanding and achievement of each student is our primary goal, it is the commitment of all of our band members to **each other** that has allowed our program to achieve its unique position.

Please take some time to familiarize yourself with your 2011-2012 Band Handbook. In it, you will find all the policies and procedures pertaining to the Friendswood HS Band. If you have any questions or need clarification on any aspect of this handbook, please feel free to ask a director. Once you have reviewed your handbook with your parents/guardians, please **sign and return** the contract located at the end of this booklet. We are looking forward to a great year with you as a part of the Mustang Band Family!

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## **PROFESSIONAL STAFF**

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### Marching Band

The Friendswood High School Marching Band is the most visible organization at Friendswood High School. All band students in grades 9-12 participate in the Marching Band at the discretion of the band director. Students who participate in certain school sponsored varsity level events such as drill team, or a fall sport may be excused from participation at discretion of the band director. UIL states that a marching band may practice 8 hours a week and have an hour run through the day of a performance. The following schedule follows the UIL guidelines.

#### Varsity Marching Band Rehearsal Schedule

Monday	5:00 – 8:00pm - Brass & Woodwinds, Color Guard
Monday	4:15 – 7:15pm – Full percussion sectional (playing)
Tuesday	5:00 – 8:00pm – Color Guard, Full percussion
Wednesday	6:15 – 7:45am – Brass & Woodwinds
Thursday	6:15 – 7:45am – Brass/Woodwinds/Percussion/Color Guard
Friday	6:30 - 7:30am – Varsity/JV & Wranglerettes

#### Junior Varsity Marching Band Rehearsal Schedule

Monday/Tuesday	6:30 – 7:45am
Friday	6:30 – 7:30am

### Marching Band Eligibility

**Activities associated with the Marching Band are extra-curricular including football games and all contests. In order to be eligible by TEA, UIL, and FISD requirements, students must pass ALL classes each nine weeks.** Students who fail any single class at the end of a nine-weeks will become INELIGIBLE seven days after the last day of the nine-week period in which they failed.

At the beginning of the school year, by state law, the first grade check for eligibility is at the 1st six weeks of school. Remember, this is not the report card. If at the end of the 1st six weeks your student is failing any class, then he or she must sit out from extra-curricular activities for 3 weeks beginning the Friday after the grade check. The student can regain eligibility after the 3-week suspension by passing everything on the next grade check. If your student becomes ineligible at the six-week grade check, **YOUR STUDENT WILL LOSE THEIR POSITION IN THE SHOW.**

Now keep in mind that if your student is passing everything at the end of the first six weeks, your student can still lose eligibility if they fail one class on the 1st nine weeks report card. If that happens, **YOUR STUDENT WOULD MISS THE REMAINING OF FOOTBALL SEASON.**

**PARENTS, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU MAKE SURE YOUR STUDENT IS PASSING ALL THE TIME!**

It is also necessary to point out that FISD has a rule that says a student cannot miss a class they are currently failing in order to participate in an extra curricular activity. In other words, if a competition we are to participate in would cause your student to miss the class they are currently failing, your student would have to go to the class and not participate in the competition. The student would have to stay home. This rule is not in effect the first three weeks of a grading period. With the each progress report of each grading period it becomes in effect. This affects us for the State UIL Marching Band Contest.

**PARENTS MUST BECOME FAMILIAR WITH EVERY ASPECT OF THE ELIGIBILITY ISSUES AND STAY ON TOP OF YOUR STUDENT! THE ENTIRE BAND IS AFFECTED WHEN A STUDENT BECOMES INELIGIBLE THEREFORE IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT STUDENTS PASS THEIR CLASSES!**

## Marching Band Positions

The Friendswood Marching Band is the largest, positive image-projecting organization on campus. The group appears in halftime performances during varsity football games and represents FHS in public community events as well as in the competitive marching band arena. Each year from January through July, much thought and effort is put into the numerous factors that determine the number of 'positions' that should be charted in the competition show, or Field Production, for that season. These decisions must be made well in advance as a result of the time involved in the construction and design of the program each year.

These estimations define how the music is arranged and determine the number of drill positions that are plotted. It is the responsibility of the directors to ensure that the students in the marching band are set up for success, including the job of fielding a complete ensemble without 'holes' in the drill or music. The directors carefully consider several factors when determining these numbers.

- Current and prospective enrollment in the band program
- Students' standing in band
- Academic eligibility history of student
- Attendance during previous school year and preseason training rehearsals
- Basic skills and physical conditioning that allow for the student to march and play without the threat of injury to himself or others
- Ability to play and memorize required music

Based on these factors, we decide how many positions to plot in the show for the following fall. When we begin summer band, we are already committed to a specific number of students, based on the above criteria. The show is professionally written and the numbers cannot be changed. During the August camp, students are preliminarily assigned by audition that include marching and playing into one of two categories:

1. Varsity Band
2. Junior Varsity Band/Props

### Varsity Band

To be considered the following must be met:

1. Successfully completes the music memory requirement by the deadline.
2. Can stay in step while marching.
3. March with correct style and perform music from memory simultaneously.
4. Is punctual in report times.
5. Is present at all rehearsals and performances.
6. Maintains academic eligibility.
7. Acts accordingly in all rehearsals and performances.
8. Is proficient in the required scales for band.
9. Ranks in the number of spots charted for their section in the drill.
10. Does not allow anything that "just comes up" to interfere with your marching position.

### Junior Varsity Band

Students who cannot move in time and/or do not march with correct style and/or cannot march and play simultaneously will be assigned to the Junior Varsity Band. The purpose of the Junior Varsity Band is to give students who experience difficulty playing and/or memorizing the contest music and/or marching and playing. If at some point during the season a spot opens in the Varsity Band and you meet the above requirements, you may audition for that spot. Junior Varsity members will also assist at the marching contests with field equipment and organizational

## **MARCHING BAND ATTENDANCE POLICIES**

In order to have a high quality marching band, attendance from all members is essential. Work schedules, family trips, and other activities must not interfere with the rehearsal and long-range performance schedule that you are given at the beginning of the school year. Students, who enroll in other school activities such as athletics, choir, drama, etc., need to plan ahead to avoid conflicts that cannot be resolved. Ask to receive a complete semester calendar from all of your activities so that you can have the maximum amount of time to work out potential schedule conflicts. Remember that other groups, organizations, or businesses that may change schedules or make demands of students on short notice will not be allowed to interfere with the long-range rehearsal and performance schedule of the marching band. Non-school sponsored activities, teams, organizations, or jobs must not conflict in any way with the practice/performance schedule of the band. The following guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the marching band.

### **Roll Check**

Roll check will be promptly at the start of rehearsal and in the attendance block.

### **Tardiness**

Students not in the attendance block in their assigned position at the appropriate time will be marked tardy.

### **Excused Tardiness**

Tardiness will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Tutorials, appointments, over sleeping, work, transportation not arranged, doing homework, etc., will not be an excuse for tardiness unless prior arrangements are made and approved. The student must upon arrival explain to the director the reason for tardiness.

### **Absence**

All tardies will be converted to a mark of absence 15 minutes after the rehearsal begins.

### **Unexcused Tardiness**

Students who have one or more unexcused tardies shall be subject to one of the following consequences:

- 1<sup>st</sup> tardy – run a lap
- 2<sup>nd</sup> tardy – run two laps
- 3<sup>rd</sup> tardy – run three laps
- 4<sup>th</sup> tardy – run a mile
- 5<sup>th</sup> tardy - loss of attendance privilege at a game(s).
- 6<sup>th</sup> tardy – loss of spot as a starting marcher.

### **Excused Absence**

Absences will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Everyone knows the band schedule so appointments, etc., will not be an excuse for absence. Personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family and serious problems will be considered as an excused absence. Students who are continually ill will need to provide a doctor's note releasing them from participation in order to insure the well being of the child and to reduce band director concerns. If in doubt, an absence should be checked with the director. Doing homework is not an excused absence. Driver's Ed is not an excused absence. Special note: Marching Band students have two afternoons free during the marching band season. These days should be used for appointments and routine professional visits as well as getting help from teachers and going to tutorials that are offered after school.

**NOTE FOR ABSENCE** - ON THE DAY A STUDENT RETURNS FROM MISSING A REHEARSAL, A NOTE EXPLAINING THE ABSENCE MUST BE TURNED IN. THE NOTE TO THE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICE IS NOT SUFFICIENT. IF A NOTE IS NOT RECEIVED, THE ABSENCE IS COUNTED AS UNEXCUSED!

### Unexcused Absence

1. Any unexcused absence from a marching rehearsal will result in loss of performance status indefinitely.
2. Any unexcused absence from detention block will result in going to next consequence.
3. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in removal from the performing bands and can result in removal from the program.

### General Performance Procedures

1. **Report Time:** this will be the designated time at which all members should be at the high school or set location. Students should have all attire and necessary items for the designated performance prior to the report time.
2. **Inspection Time:** Students will stand at attention without talking until everyone is inspected. Students without appropriate equipment will be sent home and an unexcused absence recorded.
3. **Load Time:** this will be the designated time at which all members should be on the appropriate bus with all equipment loaded.
4. **Return Time:** this will be the time of return to the band hall. **YOUR TRANSPORTATION HOME SHOULD BE AT THE SCHOOL BY THE SET TIME.** We will strive to meet this time as accurately as possible to delay parent waiting.
5. **30 minutes after returning from an event, all students must be picked up. After 30 minutes, the directors will be leaving the premises after calling the police to take students home.**

### Checking Students Out from a Football Game

Check out for students from a football game is after the school song has been played after the conclusion of the game. So there is no confusion, leaving early for homework, birthday, or to see people that came into town, etc., is not acceptable. A note must be turned in one day in advance of the game to check out. Sign out with the head chaperone by a parent only.

### Absence From A Performance

Band is a performance-based class, therefore:

***PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION ARE MANDATORY.***

Students missing a performance for unexcused reasons will lose their spot in the show. Students missing a performance the day they were absent from school due to illness, death in the family, or other excusable incident should report to the band office ASAP to be cleared by a band director. To complete a performance routine, alternates will be trained to step in and take marching and/or playing positions that are vacated. The alternate's status as a varsity performer may be retained if it is felt to be in the best interests of the band by the Band Staff.

### Conflict With A Band Event

Directors must be given a minimum of **one week's notice of any scheduled conflicts** with an after school band event (rehearsal, performance, or other scheduled activity) for the absence to be excused (**this does not guarantee that an absence will be excused**). This notice must be given in the form of a written note from the parent and hand-delivered to the student's primary director by either parent or student. The note should include the parent's home and work phone numbers and detailed reasons for the anticipated absence. Doctors' appointments should not be scheduled to conflict with band events.

Any conflict that may arise with a band event must immediately be brought to the attention of the directors so plans may be adjusted, if necessary. Only in the case of an *extreme emergency* will an exception be made to the one-week rule. Even in the case of an extreme emergency (such as an illness or death in the family), the directors should be contacted as soon as possible so that appropriate plans may be made to cover for the missing student.

### **Dismissal of Student from the Band/Color Guard Program**

Band Directors will make every effort to resolve negative situations before a student is dismissed, but occasionally, dismissal is necessary for extreme or repetitious cases of poor behavior, excessive tardiness or absences, abuse of privileges, severe disrespect, foul language, stealing, intentional damage to an instrument, insubordination, or any other severe case that the Band Staff feels is necessary.

### **Away Game Meals**

Students that eat the away game meal in the cafeteria must keep the area neat and clean up after themselves. Proper eating manners must be demonstrated. Food must not be thrown or played with. No loud talking will be tolerated. Do not take more food than you can eat. Band officers are to oversee the meal. Parents should be thanked and show appreciation for providing this meal by demonstrating you have pride in your band. Everything we do including this meal must reflect excellence!

### **Inspection**

Prior to departure for a marching band performance, students must have on the complete uniform with official black shorts and black band t-shirt under it, 100% black socks and clean drill masters on. Black socks must at least be mid-calf in height. Your gloves, gauntlets, hat in open hat box, poncho, flip folder, "official water jug" should be placed on the floor in front of where you are standing. Ball caps may not be worn with the uniform at any time. Students who do not pass the inspection will not be allowed to attend the event and sent home with an unexcused absence recorded.

### **Football Game Procedures**

The football game is viewed as a performance of the band program. Such a performance includes all aspects of the game from arrival to departure.

1. Students will arrive at the set report time.
2. Students will load and be prepared to travel at the set load time.
3. Students will load the buses with all equipment needed for the performance.
4. Inspection of all students prior to boarding the buses.
5. Upon arrival at the performance area, students will prepare equipment for unloading. Students will unload buses when instructed to do so by a chaperone or director. Students must be in full uniform excluding hat, gloves, and gauntlets.
6. Students will report to the entrance formation for final inspection. Students will march in to a drum tap or cadence upon instruction from a drum major or director.
7. Students will report to seating area. Students will remain standing at attention until all band members are ready to be seated. Students will sit when instructed by a drum major or director. Students must sit in assigned seats and remain in that seat at all times.
8. Students will remain in the band seating section at all times during the game. Water will be provided by the band parent organization. Students will refrain from accepting food or drinks from parents, relatives, or friends.
9. Students needing a restroom break must be accompanied by a chaperone. Restroom breaks will not be granted in the second quarter of a football game except in emergencies.
10. Students use their water bottles during the game to stay hydrated.
11. Students will be expected to listen for and watch the directors and drum majors during the game. Students will need to be prepared to perform at all times.
12. Students will refrain from playing their instruments on an individual basis. The band will perform as a group.
13. At the appropriate time, the band will be dismissed from the stands for the half-time performance. At this time, the band must move quietly and efficiently to the appropriate area and put on jackets and plumes. Students will need to be focused on the directors and drum majors instructions.
14. At the conclusion of the half-time performance, students will return to the stands and continue performing throughout the remainder of the game.
15. During the game, only the council, not section leaders will go across to meet the band.
16. Upon return to the band hall, students will insure that all personal items, uniforms, and instruments are placed in the proper storage areas.

### Chain of Command

In any large organization, it is important to have a leadership structure that is easy to understand. This structure allows the director to quickly and accurately convey information to a large number of people. On game day, the chain of command should be used for all questions and information concerning all aspects of the performance. The directors have far too many responsibilities on game days to be answering questions that could be answered by a student leader.

Order of chain - 1. Section leader 2. Band Officer 3. Drum Major 4. Assistant Band Director

### Marching Band Uniform Guidelines

#### General

1. Band uniforms will be issued during registration or during summer band camp. Band uniforms will be stored in the uniform room only, not in your cubby.
2. Students will be held financially responsible for the uniform and it's components.
3. Students who show disregard for uniform rules will be assigned community service.

#### Issue and Return

1. Students will pick up their uniforms from the rack at least 15 minutes prior to report time for any event.
2. Students should follow the posted pick-up / return guidelines. Students who do not follow these guidelines will be assigned community service.
3. Students will be issued a uniform 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 rack. Memorize your hat number too.
4. The uniform must be hung up correctly on its return or you will be assigned community service. Any student not returning their uniform after a performance will be assessed community service. Frequent violations of this guideline may result in loss of uniform privilege.

#### Donning the Uniform

1. Always wear and treat your uniform with pride. The uniform should be worn as a complete unit at all times when in public except the hat. The only exception to this will be when a director instructs you that you may remove your hat or coat.
2. Only the "official" band T-shirt and shorts are to be worn under the marching uniform. The T-shirt and shorts will be part of pre-performance inspections. Section shirts although black are not acceptable.
3. You must wear Vipers and black socks that have no markings of any kind on them and go up at least half way up the calve. Students purchase both. Make sure your shoes are clean.
4. Jewelry, hair ribbons and nail polish (other than clear) is unacceptable while in uniform. These items hinder the uniform appearance of the band. This also includes corsages, flowers, and wristbands, anything that makes a student appear different from another. Students with long hair will need to put it up under their hat during performances. GIRLS: NO HAIR RIBBON!

#### Band Uniform Cost & Replacement (student responsible for uniform)

1.	Complete uniform	\$333.00
2.	Marching Coat	\$150.00
3.	Bibbers (Pants)	\$75.00
4.	Hat	\$30.00
5.	Hat Box	\$15.00
6.	Plume	\$18.00
7.	Garment Bag	\$10.00
8.	Special Hanger	\$1.20
9.	Gauntlets	\$34.00

### Marching Band Uniform ALTERATIONS and CARE

1. Never cut any material from the band uniform. Snap the hem of your pants so that the crease does not "break" when standing straight up with your band shoes on. The pant leg should come to the top of the band shoe. Then tack/hem the pants in between the snaps so they won't come undone.
2. Keep the collar hooked while hanging up the marching coat to retain its shape. Always hang the pants by the crease.
3. Keep your uniform in the appropriate bag. Always be careful to keep up with your hat and the correct box for your hat.
4. Do not eat or drink anything other than water while in uniform.

### Color Guard

1. Make-up will be worn as instructed by the director.
2. Hair will be styled as instructed by the director.
3. Only accessories that are a part of the uniform may be worn.
4. Uniforms will be dry hand washed by approved parents only.
5. Uniforms paid for by the students are the property of the student.

### Concert Band Tuxes and Girls Dresses

1. FHS will provide a tuxedo for the boys and concert dress for the girls.
2. Boys must provide a tux shirt and bow tie. Cummerbunds are recommended.
3. Girls must provide a closed toe with a closed heel dress shoe to be worn with the black concert dress. These should almost be flats.
4. The concert uniform will be checked out and sent home. It must be dry cleaned upon return after the spring concert.
5. Boys are to get their own tux pants hemmed. No material is to be removed.
6. Girls are to get their own dresses hemmed. No material is to be removed.
7. The school will not be paying for alterations.

### Concert Uniform Cost and Replacement

- |    |               |          |
|----|---------------|----------|
| 1. | Tuxedo        | \$150.00 |
| 2. | Concert Dress | \$80.00  |

## Concert Ensembles

### Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble is recognized as one of the outstanding concert ensembles in the U.S. at any level and the music performed is the highest degree of difficulty. Performances will include UIL, one or more invitational festivals, two or more spring concerts, and special events. Each student is required to have a 15 minute individual listening and a section rehearsal once a week along with an extra full band rehearsal that will take place on Fridays from 6:45am – 8:15am from the end of football season to the end of May. In addition, extra rehearsals and clinics are scheduled during the spring competition time. You will be given a complete calendar in December for all spring events. Wind Ensemble members in 10-11 must do everything possible not to miss any rehearsal during the year. There will be a special Wind Ensemble commitment letter to sign in addition to this Handbook before becoming a member.

### Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is the second ranked band. The band attends all UIL music competitions. Each member will audition for participation in TMEA honor groups. The band rehearses during the regular school day and each member is required to attend a section rehearsal and fifteen-minute individual listening each week outside of the school day. Other rehearsals and clinics will be scheduled as needed. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory.

### Concert Band I

Concert Band I is the third ranked band. The band attends all UIL music competitions. Each member will prepare for participation in TMEA honor groups. The band rehearses during the regular school day and each member is required to attend a section rehearsal and fifteen-minute individual listening each week outside of the school day. Other rehearsals and clinics will be scheduled as needed. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory.

### Concert Band II

Concert Band II is the fourth ranked band. The band attends UIL music competitions. Each member will prepare for participation in TMEA honor groups. The band rehearses during the regular school day. Other rehearsals and clinics will be scheduled as needed. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory.

### Concert Band III

The Concert Band III is the fifth ranked band. The band will participate in school concerts depending on enrollment and instrumentation. The group rehearses during the regular band period. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory.

### Jazz Ensemble

Jazz Ensemble is open to any member of the Friendswood HS Band program, but is a fixed instrumentation class. If more than the allotted number of instruments enroll in the class, students in the sections in question will audition for positions in the Jazz Ensemble. The class meets daily 8<sup>th</sup> period, and all students must remain enrolled in a concert band to maintain membership in this class.

To be selected into a Concert or Jazz Band, students must:

1. Participate in the audition process each fall and spring.
2. Placement will be by the number of chairs available in the band.
3. Attitude, maturity, attendance, and ability all play into the band assignment.

### Recommended Instrument List

We recommend that students not continue using their "beginner" instrument past the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, unless an advanced model was purchased initially. Better quality instruments allow students to learn more quickly and with greater ease. Here is the FISD recommended instrument list. Consult with your band director and lesson teacher before making a purchase.

Flute - Yamaha models 581, 581 H, or Miyazawa 95SR or other approved models

Clarinet - Buffet R 13

Alto Saxophone - Selmer SA-80; Yamaha Custom EX

Trumpet - Bach Stradivarius 180-S37

Tenor Trombone - Bach Stradivarius 42-BO; Getzen 3047AR

### Performances / Rehearsal Requirements for the Concert Ensembles

Each of the concert ensembles will perform at various times throughout the year. Students are required to participate in all rehearsals and performances. Unexcused absences will result in a grade of zero and possible student removal from the organization. (See general attendance policies.)

Performances of the concert ensembles will include but are not limited to the following:

- \* Holiday Season Concert
- \* Pre UIL Concert
- \* UIL Concert & Sight Reading Contest
- \* Band Festival (Spring Trip)
- \* Spring Concert

### Concerts / Performances

Concerts and performances are frequent with all bands. Students should consult their band calendar for dates and times. Periodically, the schedule will change and updates will be sent home. Concerts are considered to have three parts: warm-up, performance, and listening. The concert begins for the student at the warm-up time. A concert concludes when the last group concludes and directors have given permission for students to be dismissed. A general report time will be given for all students to don the uniform.

1. All concerts are a group effort thus attendance is required.
2. All concerts are an extension of the classroom and will be graded accordingly.
3. Students should be punctual and prepared for each performance.
4. In the event a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up all missed work in a timely manner.
5. The appropriate dress for all concerts will be the dress uniform.
6. Students must stay the entire concert to receive full credit

### CONCERT ETIQUETTE

1. Avoid entering or leaving during a performance.
2. Do not move once a performance has begun.
3. Applause is welcome but whistling or cheering or calling out of names is considered inappropriate for a formal concert.
4. Talking should be avoided during a performance.
5. Attention should be directed to the performers at all times.
6. After performing, students must stay in the concert uniform. Boys may remove the bowtie but must wear the coat in an appropriate manner.

### Concert Season Attendance

In order to have and maintain high quality concert ensembles, attendance from members is essential. **The Band is dependent on ALL of its members.** Unlike most other classes where individuals are accountable only for their own success or failure, Band student's success is, in a large part, dependent on the full participation of all the members. The following attendance policies will affect the student's grades and chance to participate:

- 1) All absences from rehearsals must be made up regardless of the reason for absence. Makeups must be completed by the end of the grading period.
- 2) An unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance may result in the removal of a student to a lower band.

**SPECIAL NOTE: During the concert season, students have ample days available for tutorials and appointments so schedule around the regular rehearsals.**

### Extra Full Band Rehearsal - Section Rehearsals – Listeners

Students will have weekly section rehearsals for fundamentals of instrumental technique, region music preparation, solo and ensemble preparation, and UIL Contest. Section rehearsals will begin after marching season and will be held the rest of school year.

All students in the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band and Concert I will have a weekly out of school band rehearsal in the spring. This is due to the length of the music of the contest programs. These rehearsals are mandatory and essential.

Listeners are 15-minute slots for students to come in and pass off music including solos and UIL contest music. The syllabus will detail when these will take place and how often.

### **Region Band Guidelines**

1. All Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band students will audition for All-Region Band unless excused by the band director. If selected, you will perform a concert. (Check your calendar for dates.)
2. Concert Band students may audition with director approval.
3. Students in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band I will be graded weekly on preparation for this event.
4. Any person who is fortunate to be selected for the region band will attend all rehearsals and the performance.
5. All freshmen in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band and Concert Band I must plan to audition for Freshmen Region Band. Freshman in Concert II may audition with director approval.

### **Spring Trip Expectations**

The band program will go on a spring trip to perform in a band festival each year. The purpose of the trip is educational in nature as stated by the school board. It is expected that each member of the bands do their best to participate because the band can't perform without its members. On in state trips, there will be a bus for those who cannot make the trip but will perform with the band and then immediately return to FHS. On an out of state trip, each student should do their very best to go. The Wind Ensemble is expected to go and perform.

### **Solo and Ensemble**

1. All band members in the band program will prepare and perform a solo for a grade.
2. All members of Wind Ensemble, Symphonic, Concert I and Concert II will go to solo and ensemble contest.
3. Grades will be issued for preparation and participation in the Solo and Ensemble process.
4. Students must use an approved accompanist and pay for it.

### **Concert Season Eligibility – Also see 6.0**

*Most of the work our students do outside of marching is considered curricular and NOT SUBJECT TO ELIGIBILITY. **Free concerts, section rehearsals, concert rehearsals, and private lessons are all considered curricular.** Events that are considered Extra-Curricular include:*

1. Any event with paid admission
2. Any event that is inter-school competitive.

Should a band student become ineligible for extra-curricular functions, he/she will still be eligible for curricular functions. Ineligible students will be given alternate assignments during contest preparation time.

### **General Grading Policy**

Students participating in the Friendswood HS Band program will receive a grade based on individual participation, evaluation of performance/skill on their primary instrument, development of skills on said instrument, sectional/rehearsal attendance, and an audition at the close of each semester. Areas to be considered are as follows:

#### **Participation:**

1. How the student enters and leaves the band hall, instrument storage facilities, or performance areas.
2. The attitude with which a student conducts themselves in all aspects of rehearsal and/or performance.
3. Maintenance of student's instrument, equipment, storage area, uniform, folder, and other learning materials.
4. Student's demeanor towards both instructors and peers.
5. Student's preparedness for rehearsal (instrument, music, writing utensil, other materials as assigned)

#### **Performance/Skill:**

1. How the student progresses on instrument and musicianship through playing or written evaluations.
2. How the student contributes to the ensemble in skill and attitude, as evidenced in performance and behavior.
3. Student's performance in an audition situation, both musically mastery and performance

demeanor.

4. Instrument must be taken home everyday.

Students who exhibit good work ethic, a willingness to learn, and the ability to do so without interfering with the learning of others will be successful in band. Students not demonstrating the above will not succeed in band, regardless of talent and/or aptitude.

### **Supplies**

Brass: Straight mute (Denis Wick aluminum cap), cleaning cloth, snake, mouthpiece brush, valve (rotor) oil, and slide grease.

Woodwinds: Cleaning cloth, swabs, 6 or more good reeds (Vandoren)

Percussion: Snare, timpani and keyboard mallets in a stick bag.

### **Applied Private Instruction**

This is a district wide program that provides a high quality enhancement to classroom instruction. Teachers are all specialists on their instrument. Most of our teachers are college and professional musicians in the Houston area and have a music degree. Private study is extremely valuable to the individual student and highly encouraged. Private study is offered as enrichment, NOT remedial instruction. It is encouraged for the complete development of each student's potential as a performing musician. With 200+ students in the band three band directors cannot accomplish what individual lessons on a weekly basis with a teacher can accomplish.

1. ALL students are ENCOURAGED to study privately.
2. The district provides teachers on a donation basis.
3. Lessons will be weekly.
4. Detailed information is available on the private lesson program

### **Travel Guidelines**

The band will frequently travel on both school and commercial buses. Student conduct is expected to be at the highest level on any trip.

1. Students must go and return on the bus. Any student wishing to arrive or leave with his or her parent, must notify the director in writing two days prior to the trip by filling out an Alternative Travel Form with the proper signatures.
2. Students must have all necessary permission to travel, insurance, and medical forms completed and returned prior any to travel with the band.
3. While on the bus, students will:
  - A. Remain seated at all times
  - B. Sit properly in a forward position
  - C. Keep the bus clear of food, drinks, and debris
  - D. Keep all body parts inside the bus
  - E. Use only approved type headset radios/CD players
  - F. Remain silent when an adult is addressing the bus
  - G. Refrain from loud, boisterous talking, screaming, whistling, etc.
  - H. Refrain from public displays of affection

#### **Special Note:**

Students are reminded that all performances / concerts start and conclude at the band hall. As a member of the band, you are a representative of your school. Always be on your best behavior. If you are in doubt about an action, **DO NOT DO IT!** Your conduct must be such that at no time could it be considered a bad reflection on the school, the band, your family, yourself, or the community.

#### **Chaperones**

Adult chaperones are a great asset to the band program. Proper respect will be shown to all adults associated with the band program at all times.

### **General Conduct / Expectations**

Band Members will observe all policies set forth by the Friendswood High School Band and the Friendswood Independent School District as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

1. All students are expected to conduct themselves properly 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 on the group. Any behavior that is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the band program.
2. Students will follow director's instructions.
3. Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area ready to work at the rehearsal time.
4. Students will bring all equipment including music, pencil, instrument, and all supplies to rehearsals daily.
5. Students will keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.
6. Students will maintain a high level of focus.
7. Students will not bring food, drinks, candy, or gum in the band hall area without permission from a band director.
8. Students will not play on equipment they do not own or have permission from a director to use. Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
9. Students should ask for permission to speak by raising a hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be quiet so that our time will be utilized wisely.
10. When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.
11. Students may not use the office telephone during the school day.
12. Students will respect the property of others.
13. Students will not enter the director's offices without permission and without knocking.
14. Students will not enter music library without permission.
15. The copy machine is for band use only.
16. Students will not use teacher computers.
14. Students will not lean on, deface, or mark on music stands.
15. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area and keep said storage areas clean and neat in appearance. Students will close and lock their cubby door every day. Students who demonstrate great difficulty with this will lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band hall.
16. Students will only keep their band instrument and music folder in their cubby. Nothing else!
17. Students will not enter kitchen, uniform room, or color guard room without permission.

#### **Financial Considerations for All Students**

Assessed Fees — A separate fee sheet will be published each year July and available at band registration. Check the web site at www.friendswoodmustangband.org and your CHARMS account for all forms and information. ~~all forms and information.~~

FISD Extra Curricular Fee paid directly to FISD - \$150

FHS Band Fair Share Fee paid directly to MBBC - \$175

FHS Color Guard Fall/Winter Fee paid directly to MBBC - \$600 – (Includes cost for fall & spring costume)

Shoes: All marching band students must have a pair of Vipers. No other shoe will be acceptable. Approximate cost: \$35.00

Band Shirt and Shorts: Will be worn under marching band uniform: Approx. \$17.50 20.00 for both

Tux Shirt: Approximately \$15-\$25 – these must have 1/8<sup>th</sup> pleats and are purchased on your own.

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Black Bow tie: \$4-\$6 - This must be purchased on your own beginning this year.

All-District Band Entry Fee - \$15

Freshman Region Band Entry Fee - \$15

Solo and Ensemble Fee - \$8 per solo & \$7 for each member of an ensemble

Solo Accompaniment Fee - \$25 - \$45 depending on difficulty of solo

Misc. Supplies: These will be such supplies as music lyres, flip folders, poncho, water jugs, etc. The costs will vary from year to year. Check the fee sheet.

Spring Trip - \$350 to \$1000 for an out of state trip (Student responsibility)

Financial Responsibility:

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As the band is supported financially through the support of many, families are expected to make any and all payments due to the band in a timely manner and to keep their accounts current. CHARMS is the reporting system for your financial balances and is accessible to you at all times through [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com). Unless otherwise approved, students and/or adult chaperones with any past due outstanding financial balances in CHARMS will not be allowed to participate in a band or color guard trip that costs above the required fees paid by parents for band and color guard. In addition, if student or adult is excluded from the trip due to this reason, refunds of monies paid towards the trip are not available except as may be provided for under the cancellation provisions of the trip. Exceptions to this policy can only be made by the Director.

**Statement of Financial Policy**

It is the policy of the Friendswood High School Band that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. Arrangements can be made with the head band director for students who are in need of such considerations. This will be kept confidential.

**School Owned Instruments**

The Friendswood Independent School District will provide a limited number of instruments to balance the bands. These instruments include such highly expensive instruments as the bassoon, oboe, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, french horn, euphonium, tuba, and large percussion equipment. This equipment is purchased by the school district for student use because of its extremely high value. Thus all school owned equipment must be handled with optimum care. Students failing to take care of their school issued instrument will lose the privilege to use such instruments. The following is a list of general procedures for school owned instruments.

1. Friendswood Independent School District does not provide insurance for individually or school owned equipment. It is highly recommended of all students utilizing school owned instruments to provide insurance coverage for the said instrument. Insurance information is available from the band office.
2. Students will be held responsible for school owned instruments issued to them. This responsibility will include fire, theft, and accidental damage and abuse. Minor repairs and general maintenance are the responsibility of the student just like you own it your self. The rental fee is to prepare the instrument for the next year.
3. Students and parents must sign an instrument checkout form and pay the rental fee before the student can use the instrument.
4. Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition. Each issued instrument will be checked and cleaned by a music company prior to issue. Students are expected to

- maintain their issued instruments accordingly.
5. The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him or her.
  6. All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use. A student not properly storing their instrument may lose the privilege of using it.
  7. A rental fee of \$25 for the summer and \$50 per semester per instrument during the year will be assessed for each instrument. This fee will cover the end of the "season" cleaning of the instrument by a music company. Cost for minor repairs as needed during the year are the responsibility of the parent.
  8. Students must keep all latches closed when the instrument case is shut. Only the handle on the case is appropriate to carry the instrument. This includes drum cases and cymbal bags.

Special Note:

If, in the opinion of an FUSD director, a school owned instrument is not being properly maintained or cared for at any time of the school year, it is the director's prerogative to remove the instrument from the student's care.

### **Band Council**

The band is not a club but we do have officers to serve as an advisory/action body for numerous band functions. The council shall assist the band directors and band students in planning, preparing, and operating band functions. The band council will meet as determined by the guidelines.

### **ALL STUDENT LEADERS WHO ARE ELECTED AND SELECTED MUST FULFILL THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS TO REMAIN IN THEIR OFFICES:**

- 1) Play a solo and an ensemble at the Region UIL level.
- 2) Tryout for All-Region Band.
- 3) Attend ALL summer practices, meetings, and have no unexcused absences from band activities during the year.
- 4) Provide leadership through example; promote the highest expectations for band members; and show a zero tolerance for negative behavior. Band Officers with any disciplinary referral in any class will be removed from office. Officers cannot have more than 2 "N's" in conduct during the school year. There should be no "U's". A "U" will result in being removed from office.
- 5) Remain academically eligible throughout the year. Ineligibility at any time will result in removal from office.
- 6) Leaders must turn in a copy of each nine weeks report card to the band directors.
- 7) Officers must meet other requirements as listed in the Friendswood High School student handbook.

President – Elected (Senior)

Vice-President – Elected (Senior)

Secretary – Elected (Junior or Senior)

Historians (2)– Elected (Junior or Senior)

Equipment Manager – Appointed (Senior)

Uniform Manager – Appointed (Junior or Senior)

Social Officers (2) – Elected (Junior or Senior)

Freshman Representative – Elected

Color Guard Captain & Lieutenant

Marching Band Section Leaders

Drum Majors – Must be academically eligible at time of tryout; must be a junior or senior; must have earned a place in Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble; must return completed Teacher Recommendation Forms from each teacher.

### **Friendswood High School Color Guard**

The Color Guard is a vital part of the Friendswood High School Band program. They provide the “movie” to match the music during the fall season, and perform as an ensemble in their own right during the winter. Enrollment in the Color Guard is open to any student in Friendswood High School, and placement in the guard is by audition only. This group meets daily during 1<sup>st</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> periods.

Students in the Color Guard who are wind instrumentalists during the fall season will be responsible for several playing assignments to ensure their instrumental musicianship is not compromised. To remain a part of the Color Guard during the second semester, all wind instrumentalists must be able to be enrolled in both a curricular band class and color guard class simultaneously. If a student cannot fit both classes into their schedule, they must pick one or the other for the second semester. Students not in a band class second semester will not participate in contests or trips for said band

The Color Guard meets as Varsity Guard or Junior Varsity Guard. Assignment to the guard is based on auditions for the Color Guard Director. All decisions are final.

All guard members are to adhere to all band program rules that are applicable. Any questions should be addressed to the Director of Bands.

### **Letter Jacket Award System**

To qualify for a jacket, at student must earn a minimum of 16 **points**. A student may earn additional letters in other areas of activity. Additional awards will consist of a patch to denote the year and activity of the award.

#### **Qualifying points are not cumulative:**

4 points for gaining membership through audition into the TMEA Freshman Region Band.

4 points for gaining membership through audition into the TMEA District Band.

6 points for gaining membership through audition into the TMEA All-Region Band.

8 points for advancing to the TMEA All-Area audition.

10 points for earning the distinction of TMEA All-State.

6 points for performing a memorized Class I solo at UIL earning a Superior rating.

4 points for performing a Class I solo at contest earning a Superior rating.

4 points for performing a Class I ensemble at contest earning a Superior rating.

3 points for performing a Class I solo at contest and earning an excellent rating

3 points for performing a Class II solo at UIL earning a Superior rating.

3 points for performing a Class II ensemble at contest earning a Superior rating

1 point for performing a Class III solo earning a Superior rating

1 point for performing a Class III ensemble earning a Superior rating

Band members will earn points for participation in band each year. These points do not add up from year to year. These points simply increase each year.

\* 4 points at the end of the first year of satisfactory band participation.

\* 6 points at the end of the second year of satisfactory band participation. To receive credit the member must have completed seven nine weeks of eligible participation.

\* 8 points at the end of the third year of satisfactory band participation. To receive credit the member must have completed eleven nine-weeks of eligible participation.

\* 10 points at the end of the fourth year of satisfactory band participation. To receive credit the member must have completed 15 nine-weeks of eligible participation.

#### **Color Guard qualifying points for non-band members. These points are cumulative.**

**20 points required to letter in color guard or be a member of the Varsity Color Guard and Win the TCGC State Championship. Freshman that make the Varsity get a jacket.**

5 points for completing marching band season

5 point for satisfactory winter guard participation

## FRIENDWOOD BAND BOOSTERS

The Mustang Band Booster Club annually provides up to 60% of the curricular budget of the Friendswood Band Program. The boosters raise funds through concessions at the football games ~~and the Fourth of July celebration~~ and various events throughout the year. Boosters chaperone events from football games to contests to events to trips. Every band parent and friend of the band is invited to join the Band Boosters at the beginning of the year. Dues are payable at any meeting or by sending a check to school with your band students (\$10 per family) All parents should help out at each year of their band career.

Booster funds are used to provide extra instruments, music, drill, equipment, clinicians and enrichment at All of the Fisd schools where band is taught. Band Booster funds are NOT used to pay for student trips even though the Boosters will sponsor special fundraisers to allow individual students to raise travel funds.

Please check your calendar for the first band booster meeting of the 11-12 school year and plan to attend.

**MUSTANG BAND HANDBOOK SIGNATURE PAGE**

**Due Date – Band Registration**

"We have read and understand the policies and guidelines in the Friendswood High School Band Handbook. We understand that Band is a full year commitment for the 11-12 school year." We also acknowledge that eligibility is a critical issue with all students and we will do our best to stay eligible all the time during the school term. Any student not turning in this form on time will not be able to attend activities beginning with the 1<sup>st</sup> football game.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

"I have read the FHS Band Handbook and agree to abide by the policies stated. I realize that failure to follow policies or directions will result in disciplinary action that could lead to dismissal from the organization"

Student Name Printed \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

