

# Sachse Mustang Band

## HANDBOOK

### 2023-2024

Shae Creel, Principal  
Joseph Figarelli, Fine Arts Director

#### **WELCOME**

Welcome to the Sachse Mustang Band program. This handbook has been compiled to help orient you to the many different aspects of the band program as high school band can be overwhelming for parents new to the program. This information is not intended to replace your attendance at band parent meetings, but instead to give you an overview of the program. Calendars are posted on the band website [www.sachseband.org](http://www.sachseband.org); please refer to the band website as it contains the most up to date information. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the band hall for assistance. Come and join the fun, help out with the boosters and get involved. You will see changes in your child that you only dreamed would happen someday. Bring your family and friends to games, contests, and concerts. Your child will definitely appreciate your family's attendance.

Sincerely,

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## Mustang Band Overview

### ANNUAL EVENTS

Calendar – The Sachse High School Band website has an updated calendar. All rehearsals, sectionals, concerts, contests, etc. that will take place during the year are listed on this official calendar. Fall semester will be finalized by July 1. For most events on the calendar, the only excused absence will be personal illness or other extenuating circumstances that must be approved by the band director. Although we try to avoid it, it may become necessary to slightly alter the schedule. In such an event, the students will be informed as soon as possible and absences due to unavoidable conflicts need to be discussed with the band director. **ALL performances are mandatory.**

### MARCHING SEASON- Band Camp

**Band Camp** - August is the beginning of our busy marching season. Attendance at summer band camp is mandatory, therefore you need to plan vacations accordingly. Speak to the director with any concerns prior to the start of camp.

Comfortable light colored clothes and a cap are the best type of attire for summer band. In addition, low rise tennis shoes, a water jug, and sunscreen are mandatory. Have your band member check with their section leaders for other good advice.

Some of the things happening at this camp include: Marching tryouts, learning show music, learning drill, uniform distribution, football program pictures, learning stand tunes, and team building activities.

**Football Games** - The Sachse Mustang Band supports the football team at each game in the fall by playing in the stands. We are visible to our largest audience at football games. Every year there is a possibility that we will have additional games and performances for play-offs. All performances, including play-off games are mandatory.

**Pep Rallies** - The band performs at pep rallies by playing the fight song, school song, and pop tunes. All performances are mandatory

**Sectionals** – Sectionals will be scheduled on an as needed basis and will be scheduled at least one week in advance. This rehearsal schedule will be discussed with all members to avoid any already scheduled activities. (See Grading Policy)

**Invitational Marching Contest** – The Sachse Mustang Band will compete in select Invitational Marching Contests in preparation for the UIL Region, Area, and State Marching Contests.

**UIL Region Marching Contest** – The Sachse Mustang Band will compete in the UIL Region Marching Contest. The contest is a required part of the evaluation process every year and a I (superior) rating must be achieved to be considered for a UIL Sweepstakes Award. The UIL sweepstakes award is given to bands that earn Superior ratings in UIL Marching and Concert/ Sight-Reading Evaluations.

**Area Marching Contest** - During even numbered years, the Area Contest is held. Texas is currently divided into 28 regions and seven areas. A formula based on the number of bands competing is used to determine how many are selected to advance to state contest.

**State Marching Contest** - The bands that finish at the top of their Area competitions compete in the Texas State Marching Contest. The contest is held in San Antonio at the Alamo Dome on a prelims and finals format. The top ten bands in each class perform in finals. The contest is held in the first week in November.

## **CONCERT SEASON**

**Concerts** - The Sachse Band will present several concerts throughout the year. There is a Holiday Concert in December, two Pre-UIL Concerts in early and late March, UIL Contest in April and a Spring Concert at the end of the school year.

**Percussion Concert** - Each spring the Sachse High School Band percussionists present a concert. The Sachse High School Band percussionists will perform several different styles of percussion music from around the world.

**UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest** - The University Interscholastic League schedules this contest each year. One of our main goals of the Sachse Mustang Bands is to perform well at this contest. The outcome generally gives us a standard to evaluate the level of achievement. A first division superior rating is a goal aimed for and it is an honor to receive such a rating.

**Spring Trip** - A spring trip is taken every year. The location of the trip will vary and will be decided by the Director of Bands. Costs for the trips vary and can be paid in installments or one lump sum. As with all trips, student conduct rules are strictly enforced. Those not complying will be sent home at their parents' expense. You will receive complete details which include cost, payment schedule, locations, times, and phone numbers prior to their departure.

**Band Banquet** - A band banquet is held each spring near the end of the school year. All students and parents are invited to attend this formal event to honor the students and reflect on the past year's achievements. Tickets will be sold weeks prior to the banquet, price will vary from year to year.

**No Pass/No Play** - If a student has the minimum amount of credits necessary for his grade level, they are eligible during the first six weeks of school. If a student fails any six-week period, they are ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities during the next three-week period. Following the three-week period, students that were ineligible become eligible if they are passing ALL of their courses at the time of the next grade check. This applies to ALL extra-curricular activities, it is important to our program that band students stay academically eligible. This process is more complicated than listed above, if you have further questions regarding eligibility, see a director.

## **PERFORMING GROUPS**

There are many performing ensembles under the umbrella of the Sachse Mustang Band. The ensembles listed below are available for course credit.

### **MARCHING BAND**

The marching band is the largest of the performing ensembles at Sachse High School. All students enrolled in band courses at Sachse are required to be members of the marching band. Through performance with this ensemble, students will develop the technical ability, musicianship skills and physical conditioning necessary to perform demanding and competitive marching programs. Performances will include athletic events, community activities, parades, invitational marching competitions, and UIL Marching Contests. Participation in marching band qualifies students for a Physical Education waiver.

Auditions will take place each year at the end of May. Late auditions are discouraged and must be arranged with the directors. Schedules for summer training camp will be circulated with audition music the first week in April. Audition music will be available online at the GISD fine arts web page. Summer training camp will begin approximately three weeks prior to the first day of school. Once school begins, the Mustang Band rehearses 8 hours per week per UIL Guidelines and the schedule is available on our website [www.sachseband.org](http://www.sachseband.org). There are special considerations for extra rehearsals for Districts of Innovation that we will be taking advantage of this coming school year, see band calendar for rehearsal schedule. Fall calendar will be finalized by July 1.

### **COLOR GUARD**

The color guard is a part of the band program. It carries the largest responsibility for visually interpreting the music of the Sachse Marching Band. The color guard is open to all students enrolled at Sachse High School. Membership is by audition which will take place each spring. Wind and percussion members wishing to participate must also audition on their instrument, and enroll concurrently in the band course for their instrument and color guard. Wind and percussion members who choose to participate in color guard must maintain their band membership in order to participate. Non-band members will be allowed to audition with no prior band training, pending a review of academic records and teacher recommendations in addition to the audition process. Dance experience is preferred, but not required. The rehearsal and training camp schedule for color guard is similar to that of the Sachse Marching Band, and participation in color guard also qualifies students for Physical Education credit. The guard schedule is also available on our website [www.sachseband.org](http://www.sachseband.org). Color Guard is a year-long (2 semester) course, with two separate seasons; the audition that takes place in November is to determine placement in Varsity/ JV.

### **WINTER GUARD**

The color guard moves indoors at the conclusion of our marching band schedule to begin their “second season.” Guard members and non-members alike will be re-auditioned for placement into these elite groups. Fees are already included in color guard membership. Band members wishing to compete in one of the Winter guard groups will need to pay a separate fee that will be noted in the paperwork during the audition process. A trip fee may be applied for teams traveling on an overnight trip, this information will also be provided in the paperwork prior to the audition process. More information on our winter guard program will be circulated to students in November. Wind and percussion members who choose to participate in winter guard must maintain their band membership in order to participate. Color guard members will continue into winter guard to complete the second half of the year, unless they are in a different band class in the spring semester.

### **WIND ENSEMBLE**

Open to all wind and percussion students, the Wind Ensemble is the premier performing ensemble of the Sachse Mustang Band Program. This course is designed for the advanced musician who is dedicated to the challenge involved in performing the most difficult literature in the wind band repertoire. Members in this ensemble perform regularly in concerts and at UIL and invitational music festivals. Wind Ensemble members are also required to perform at graduation. Wind Ensemble members are also required to participate in TMEA All Region Band auditions and perform a solo at the Region UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest. Wind Ensemble members are expected to consistently demonstrate the finest in musicianship and demonstrate the self-discipline and responsibility necessary for such an organization to achieve success. Private lessons are critical to the success of the ensemble. Academic ineligibility will be grounds for re-assigning the student to a different ensemble. Failure to keep up with the musical demands and expectations of the Wind Ensemble may also result in the student being re-assigned to a different ensemble. Membership is by audition. This is a year-long (2 semester) course, however there is an audition that takes place in November to re-assess ensemble placement.

### **WIND SYMPHONY**

Open to all wind and percussion students, the Wind Symphony seeks to develop fundamental musical knowledge, technical skills and musicianship through the performance of medium to advanced band literature. Members in this ensemble perform regularly in concerts, and at UIL and invitational music festivals. Wind Symphony members are required to participate in TMEA All Region Band audition process and perform a solo at the Region UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest. Private lessons are critical to the success of the ensemble. Academic ineligibility will be grounds for re-assigning the student to a different ensemble. Failure to keep up with the musical demands and expectations of the Wind Symphony may also result in the student being reassigned to a different ensemble. This is a year-long (2 semester) course, however there is an audition that takes place in November to re-assess ensemble placement.

### **HONORS BAND**

Open to all wind and percussion students, the Honors Band seeks to develop fundamental musical knowledge, technical skills and musicianship through the performance of medium band literature. Members in this ensemble perform regularly in concerts, and at UIL and invitational music festivals. Honors Band members are required to participate in TMEA All Region Band auditions unless assigned an alternate assignment. Honors band members are required to perform a solo at the Region UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest. Private lessons are critical to the success of the ensemble. Recurring academic ineligibility will be grounds for dismissal from the ensemble. Failure to keep up with the musical demands and expectations of the Honors Band may also result in dismissal from the ensemble. Membership is by audition. This is a year-long (2 semester) course.

### **SYMPHONIC BAND**

Open to all wind and percussion students, the Symphonic Band seeks to develop fundamental musical knowledge, technical skills and musicianship through the performance of medium band literature. Members in this ensemble perform regularly in concerts, and at UIL and invitational music festivals. Symphonic Band members are highly encouraged to participate in TMEA All Region Band auditions. Symphonic band members are required to perform a solo at the Region UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest. Private lessons are critical to the success of the ensemble. Recurring academic ineligibility will be grounds for dismissal from the ensemble. Failure to keep up with the musical demands and expectations of the Symphonic Band may also result in dismissal from the ensemble. Membership is by audition. This is a year-long (2 semester) course.

### **CONCERT BAND**

Open to all wind and percussion students, the Concert Band seeks to improve students' abilities in technical, rhythmical, and musical aspects of playing their instruments. Preparations are made in class for future auditions for more advanced bands as students are ready for those advancements. Members in this ensemble perform regularly in concert, and at Pre UIL and invitational music festivals. Participation in UIL Concert and Sight-Reading will be determined yearly based on personnel. Concert Band members are also encouraged to participate in UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest and in All Region Band auditions. Private lessons are strongly encouraged to assist these students with their advancement. This is a year-long (2 semester) course.

### **JAZZ BAND**

Jazz Band is a performance-oriented organization designed for the advanced musician who is interested in the study and performance of the many forms of jazz. Membership is by audition, with audition dates announced each spring. Students interested in auditioning must concurrently be a member of the Sachse Mustang Band, and either the Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Honors, or Symphonic Band. Exceptions are possible at directors' discretion. Students should expect to participate in rehearsals and performances outside of the school day.

Performances will include school functions, civic events, UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest, and other jazz and music festivals. This is a year-long (2 semester) course.

### **PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**

Our large percussion studio at Sachse High School has the unique opportunity of participating in extracurricular concert percussion ensembles. These groups will be assembled by the directors based on the ability of each student. The percussion ensembles are designed to teach advanced percussion concepts through the performance of a widely varied repertoire of world music. Participation in percussion ensembles is required of all percussion students as it is linked their musical development, their band grade, and the advancement of the percussion program. Most rehearsals will be arranged outside of school time. Percussion students are to be enrolled in a band class as well as the percussion ensemble class. Exceptions will only be made per director discretion in the event of schedule conflicts.

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **MARCHING BAND: ALTERNATES AND SHARED SPOTS**

It is our hope that the following information will help to prevent misunderstandings. To use an analogy from our athletic organizations, not every member of the team participates, or “gets to play” in every game. This is the case for two primary reasons, (1) not all members are ready to be in the starting lineup, (2) should a member of the starting lineup be injured, or ruled academically ineligible, someone must be waiting to step in. This concept holds true in marching band as well.

Not every band member will earn a “starting spot” in our competition show. Those students who earn spots have scored at an acceptable level in music and marching evaluations. In addition, as students move in, they will be placed with students who may be struggling to meet the demands of having a “starting spot.”

Freshmen are often at a disadvantage in selecting spots due to inexperience, the great volume of information that must be absorbed during training camp, and coordination difficulties stemming from rapid growth and changes in their bodies. It is rare for a band member to be a “2nd string player” for more than one year. It is important for young members who do not earn a spot to remember that marching season is only the first two grading periods of the school year and that there are several years left to earn a starting spot.

Those students who are near proficient in one or both areas, or proficient students who are in sections with great competition, may be placed in a shared spot. This means that two students are assigned one marching spot, and are given the weekly opportunity to earn the right to perform based on their test grades and work ethic. It is generally the case that one of the two students will rise to the occasion and earn the spot outright. This method ensures that a prepared member will occupy that spot, and that a healthy competition for performance time is fostered. Final decisions for declaring the “winner” of the spot will generally be made by the end of the non-district football schedule by the band directors.

Those students who struggle significantly in either their playing or marching evaluation may be placed as an alternate. The best athletic analogy would be a second or third string player. These players are of equal worth to the program as those in starting spots. These members participate in every facet of the band program. Alternates will be placed as a “shadow” in rehearsal so that they may learn from a more experienced member, and may be used in an auxiliary role as an actor or “extra” depending on the current show concept.

Final decisions concerning the assignment of spots will be made by the band directors. The directors reserve the right to remove a member from their spot by downgrading their status to shared spot or alternate based on rehearsal etiquette, performance, test grades, behavior, attendance, or eligibility. Such decisions are made with consideration given to the best interest of the band program and its members as a whole. The band directors are not required to notify students or parents of an impending change in marching status. Members are not entitled to specific due process and final decisions are not open for debate. Please remember that participation in the band program is a privilege, not a right.

### **BAND FEES AND COSTS**

The directors make every attempt to limit the financial impact of band participation on families and their students. Fees are determined prior to the Spring Registration. These fees will be paid each year during band registration. All items purchased during registration are the property of the students, and do not need to be replaced each year except in cases of wear or damage. Additional costs will be incurred for items which are not a part of registration (ex. Returning member who needs a new shirt or shorts, etc.). These items are required, but are not automatically ordered for returning members unless specifically ordered during registration. A list of these items and approximate costs are available from the Sachse Booster Treasurer and will be updated each Spring. Again, most of these items will only need to be purchased once, and do not need to be replaced except in cases of extreme wear or damage. Upon registration, fees are due and non-refundable as we must budget the year prior for proper planning.

### **CLASSROOM POLICIES**

Rules - There are four basic rules that must be adhered to by all students during regular band class. They are:

1. Bring your instrument, instrument supplies, music, and a pencil to every rehearsal and be on time.
2. Be prepared for rehearsals – Practice your assigned parts.
3. Do not be disruptive during rehearsals: if you have any questions, you should raise your hand and be called upon; students are expected to be professional in rehearsal settings to maximize the potential of the entire group
4. No Cell Phones out during rehearsal, unless instructed to do so.

Discipline: All members of the Sachse Mustang Band Program will be held to high standards of discipline. The actions of each member of the band program affect the overall image of the Sachse Band in the school and community. When dealing with such a large group as the marching band and thousands of dollars worth of equipment, it becomes necessary for each member to always behave in a mature and professional manner.

When dealing with disciplinary problems, the directors will follow a discipline plan that includes counseling with the student, contacting the parents, and following Garland ISD disciplinary guidelines. Great band programs have great students. Therefore, discipline problems should be nonexistent. If the actions of a student become a consistent problem or there are significant disruptions to the educational setting, a conference may be arranged with the parents and the student resulting in a discipline management program or removal from the band program.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Due to the participatory nature of the band, attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals and performances. All absences must be approved in advance: 24 hours for a rehearsal, 2 weeks for a performance. In the event of an emergency, please send an email to [HCTaylor@garlandisd.net](mailto:HCTaylor@garlandisd.net). The only absences that will be considered excused will be those which are unavoidable. ALL appointments should be made outside of our rehearsal schedule that is available on our website [www.sachseband.org](http://www.sachseband.org)

Absences will be excused by the same criteria established by the Sachse High School attendance policy. Absences outside school policy may be excused at the discretion of the director provided a written request by a parent or guardian has been submitted and approved in advance, however, an alternate assignment may still be required.

Performances are tests for the band. Unexcused absences from any performance will be reflected in the student's grade and may result in the student's removal from the band program.

The following guidelines should be used for any absence:

1. In the event of sickness or emergency, the student should send an email to the band director. All students should be accustomed to being proactive regarding communication.
2. A note signed by a parent should be brought to a director on the next day so a record of the absence is on file.
3. Upon return, the student should meet with a director and see if any make up work is in order.
4. Once the official calendar of events is given to each student, the student is expected to organize his own personal calendar and check for any conflicts. If a student has a schedule conflict, he/she should talk with a director as early as possible and ask for permission to be excused from the event. Permission may or may not be granted. Keep in mind that any absence negatively affects the entire group.
5. Medical and dental appointments need to be scheduled around band activities.
6. Work is not an acceptable reason to miss band rehearsals or performance. Extracurricular activities are not an acceptable reason for missing co-curricular activities (band).
7. Clubs, organizations, tutorials, and make up exams are to be done outside of band rehearsals. Our schedule has been designed to accommodate these activities as much as possible.

Please understand that the quality of our program is in direct proportion to your attendance. You will learn if you are present, you are getting behind if you are not.

**Punctuality:** Students should be prompt (at least ten minutes early) for all band functions.

**Tardiness** will be defined as being unprepared to begin the rehearsal at the designated time and place with all necessary equipment. All rehearsals will begin on time.

## **PERFORMANCE ETIQUETTE**

1. Students are expected to arrive for any performance or contest in full uniform as prescribed by the directors. Partial uniform is not acceptable, and does not reflect the professionalism of a formal musical event.
2. No hats are to be worn unless they are a part of the uniform.
3. Students should be well groomed, and boys should be clean-shaven.
4. Students' instruments are expected to be in perfect working order, and polished as necessary to present a professional image.
5. Student behavior must be courteous and professional at all times while in uniform.
6. No form of roughhousing or immaturity will be tolerated.
7. Students are expected to stay through the entire concert, contest or game.
8. Students should be courteous to all conductors, directors, and all parent chaperones.
9. Polite applause is appropriate; there should be no attempt to distract from the performance of another group.
10. Remember that concerts are not an athletic event. Please behave accordingly.
11. Students should be supportive of other performers and their efforts. Criticism should be reserved for another time.
12. When not performing, students will remain dressed and with their group.

## **GRADING POLICY**

Each student's grade will be 50% Test Grade and 50% Participation grades. All performances as well as playing tests will be counted as tests and all rehearsals will be counted as participation.



**Playing Examinations:**

A large part of the grades will come from playing tests, especially in the spring semester. They may be administered at any time.

**Participation Examinations:**

Part of each student's band grade is awarded for participation at rehearsals and sectionals. The grade is based on attendance, punctuality, and your preparation for each rehearsal. This preparation includes knowing the assigned music, having music memorized when applicable, and bringing the proper materials.

Each student is required to attend all assigned sectionals. Sectionals count as a rehearsal and are an extension of the school day (as defined by the Texas Education Agency). Sectional attendance and or clinic attendance is mandatory unless excused by the band director. Additionally, participation grades will be given for class involvement, preparedness, class materials, and taking your instrument home each day. Grades will be given for performances.

**SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**

**Step-up Instruments:** Parents should strongly consider upgrading beginning instruments to more advanced/higher quality models for their children during high school. The instrument sold to students for use as a beginning instrument is not usually suitable for advanced playing in high school. Often students will use their beginner instrument for the purposes of marching band, so consider this before reselling the beginner instrument. Before buying a new instrument, please check with your band director.

**Instruments:** Each student must have an acceptable instrument in proper working condition. The school provides some instruments for use. These are generally the more expensive and larger instruments. The student using a school instrument will be held responsible for any repair. The student will also be held responsible for vandalism, theft, and other damages incurred while assigned to that instrument. We strongly encourage all students to insure their instruments. Be sure that you have a written record at home of the make, model, and serial number. This information is necessary if the instrument is lost or stolen. All school owned instruments are inspected and cleaned each year, and should be in good playing condition. It is expected that band members and their families will assume the cost of repair for any damage done to school equipment. Notification of instrument repair charges will be made by the directors. Failure to settle these charges in a timely fashion may result in students being placed on the school fines list, or enrollment, registration or graduation being blocked. Always check with the directors before sending an instrument to be repaired. Any malfunctions which are not caused by neglect or misuse will be corrected at no cost to the member.

All students using a school owned instrument will pay an Instrument Usage fee as set by the district. This fee is \$75 for the first instrument and \$100 if using two school owned instruments. This fee includes percussion as they play multiple school owned instruments.

Do not let anyone hold, play, or borrow your instrument. All instruments must be clearly labeled with the student's name and slot number. All instruments should be taken home each evening.

**Repair:** Music and Arts Music Company comes to the school once each week. Instruments can be sent to the repair shop at this time. However, if an instrument is in need of repair and the music store representative has already made his weekly visit, it is the student's responsibility to take it to the appropriate music company for repair.

**Reeds:** All clarinet, bass clarinet, and saxophone players are required to have a minimum of five reeds in good playing condition. If reeds are used on a rotation basis they will last longer. It is advisable to buy a complete box of reeds. Oboe and bassoon players need to have at least three working reeds. Students are expected to buy the brand and strength of reeds recommended by their band director or private teacher.

**Mouthpieces:** It is important that all players have the proper brand and size mouthpiece. Please check with your director if you have questions about mouthpieces.

**Cleaning:** Students will be expected to own a cleaning rod, cleaning snake, valve oil, key oil, slide grease, etc. which is needed to keep the instrument in proper playing condition.

**Percussion:** All percussionists will be required to own the required drumsticks, keyboard mallets, timpani mallets, and a metronome. The percussion coordinator shall provide a list of required sticks and mallets.

## **FACILITIES**

**Gum, food, and drinks are not allowed in the band hall at any time. ONLY Water in a sealed container!**

**Band Hall:** The appearance of our band hall reflects the Sachse Mustang Band program. This includes the rehearsal hall, all ensemble rooms, storage areas, practice rooms, directors' office, and the hallways that connect these. Please help keep the area neat and clean. Please pick up any trash, pick up any music stands that have fallen over, and try not to change the arrangement of the chairs. Music stands are for music only; they are not to be used as desks. The band hall is off limits for students who are not band members because of the expensive equipment.

**Offices -** The directors' office is for their study, conference, organization of classes, and business that concerns the band program. Students should not enter any office without the permission of one of the directors. Always knock first before entering. The telephones in the band offices are business phones. Students should not expect to use the office phones except for emergencies or unusual situations, which would require communication with parents.

**Instrument Storage and Lockers -** The instrument storage area located in the band hall is where students leave their instruments during the school day. At the beginning of each year, each student will be assigned a locker. Lockers are to be kept trash free and in neat order. Do not use any locker that has not been assigned to you. Because we have a limited amount of floor space, we ask that when you take your instrument out for rehearsals, you return your empty case to the storage bin. Although a very strong effort is made to keep all instruments safe and secure, the school and its employees are not liable for any damage or loss due to theft of instruments kept in the storage area. We strongly suggest that all instruments be insured. No instrument is allowed to be left in the instrument storage area overnight without permission of the band director. Lockers must be cleaned out and locks removed by the last day of school.

**Ensemble Room -** The ensemble room is to be used for sectionals or small ensemble rehearsal only. Please get permission from one of the directors if you need to use this room for any other purpose.

**Practice Rooms -** Practice rooms are available for the use of all music students and private lesson teachers. The rooms are to be used for music practice only; they should not be used to change clothes, study for other subjects, or to meet socially. If you put any additional chairs or stands in the room, please return them once you finish your session. Please close the doors and turn off the lights when you are done.

## UNIFORM INFORMATION

Marching Uniforms – Marching uniforms (coats/pants/shako/plume) are provided to all band members for marching season. Students must provide their own solid black socks. The uniform is to be worn with pride. When the band is in uniform, no member of the group may remove their uniform without the permission of the band directors. While in uniform, there will be no food allowed. Our uniforms must be kept in good condition since they will have to last approximately 7-10 years. Food stains and the subsequent removal of those stains weaken the fibers of the uniform. The only drink that will be allowed while in uniform is water. There is no make-up or jewelry (of any kind) worn while in uniform. Students with hair that is long enough to be seen hanging out of the band hat (shako) will be asked to lift their hair into the hat to produce a uniform appearance.

It is the expectation of the directors that members and parents will make every effort to keep the uniform in good condition, and repairs for any damage, though accidental, will be made at the expense of the individual families. Notification of uniform repair and replacement charges will be made by the booster organization. Failure to settle these charges in a timely fashion may result in students being placed on the school fines list, or enrollment, registration or graduation being blocked.

### Care and Maintenance

Uniform procedures will be changing this year with the new uniforms. Uniforms are not to leave the school unless we are going to perform somewhere as a group and the entire band is in full uniform. This is a new policy/procedure. There will be rare occasions that uniforms are taken home in which students must maintain the best of care; uniforms are always to be hung up and never laying down.

### Dry Cleaning

Uniforms must be professionally dry-cleaned. DO NOT WASH. The SHS Band Boosters will send the uniforms off to the dry cleaners on a set schedule. The dry cleaning fee is included in the band activity fee. If you are required to have the uniform dry cleaned during the season, a receipt from the dry cleaner will be required when returning the uniform.

### Required Uniform Accessories (purchased during registration)

Marching Shoes – The black marching band shoes, made by Drill Masters, range in sizes from ladies' 4 to mens' 15. Larger or smaller sizes are available in a similar design at an increased price. Shoes showing signs of extreme or unsightly wear should be replaced.

Summer uniform t-shirt and shorts are our unique design. The set is included in your initial band fees if you are a new member, returning members should already have them. The directors ask that you replace the T Shirt or Shorts as needed. Sizes range from XS-XXXL. Be prepared to order what is needed at registration.

White Cotton Gloves All brass and woodwind players are required to purchase 5 pair of our standard white, long-wristed, cotton gloves. The gloves add a finishing touch to the uniform's appearance and protect instrument finish from wear. Percussion and color guard members do not have to purchase these gloves. Replacements are available if lost or damaged at the same price.

### Additional Uniform Items (purchased separately)

Spandex/Lycra Shorts For reasons of modesty (Members will frequently have to pull the uniform pants on or off in less than private settings), and uniformity, marching band members need to wear a pair of spandex or lycra athletic-type shorts. The shorts eliminate undergarment lines and allow for greater freedom of motion while in the uniform.

Acceptable colors are black, gray and navy blue.

**Black Socks** All brass, woodwind and percussion members are required to wear solid black socks with the uniform. Over-the-calf socks are required to eliminate the possibility of showing bare skin. Socks that have faded, and are no longer a true black may need to be replaced. No logos or non-black markings should be visible on the socks

**Parade Gear** During the warm and cold months, band members may not be required to wear the full band uniform. The alternate “parade uniform” will be used for parades, non-district football games, and other athletic/civic functions during the school year. This uniform consists of a moisture-wicking shirt and shorts, Mustang Band Jacket, white socks (either ankle socks or “no show” socks) and tennis shoes. Socks and tennis shoes are individual expenses and are not provided by the band program. We hope that these will last your student’s entire tenure in band. If not, the directors ask that you replace items as needed or requested.

**Tennis Shoes** There is no specified shoe form the parade uniform. The shoes must have a flexible sole (i.e. no skateboard shoes), a solid back (i.e. no mules, sandals), and good lateral support. No high tops.

#### Concert Uniform

The boys’ concert attire is a black tuxedo with accessories. The tuxedo, bow tie, and cummerbund, are provided by the school. Solid black socks and black dress shoes are items which the members must purchase separately. If finances are an issue, it is acceptable for the boys to wear the black marching shoe. Boys must also provide a traditional, white pleated tuxedo shirt with “wing” collar.

The girls’ concert attire is a black formal dress with beaded bodice. The dresses will be ordered through the Sachse High School Band Booster Club each year, and the actual cost will vary somewhat based on shipping and size. The current price is \$65.00. Upon graduating from the program, girls are welcome to sell their dress to incoming freshman members. It is customary to recoup \$20.00 - \$30.00 of the original cost. Black dress shoes are required accessories.

### FUNDRAISING INFORMATION

Fundraising opportunities are available throughout the year. All students are encouraged to participate in fund-raising activities to help keep activity fees as low as possible.

### BAND TRAVEL

**Field Trip Forms** - Students must have all GARLAND ISD field trip forms on file with the band director before they are allowed to travel with the band. This form gives us necessary information in case of a medical emergency. All required forms must be turned in to travel with the band and/or receive a grade on their report card.

**Home/ Away Games** – We take buses to all football games to ensure that we have a safe place for students in the event of storms. Each week an itinerary will be provided regarding our Game/ Performance Day Schedule.

**Bus Travel** – Due to our extensive amount of travel, proper behavior on a bus is mandatory. For short trips, different sections will be assigned to each bus. A band director or adult chaperone will be in charge of each bus. All GARLAND ISD policies apply to student travel. Students should never get off of the bus without the permission of the band director. We expect all students to travel as a group both to and from the performance site.

**Returning to School** – Once the band returns from a football game or contest, all students will unload their belongings and then proceed to the band hall for \*dismissal by a director. The loading crew will need extra time to

unload the percussion equipment, tubas, etc. The band hall must be cleaned before dismissal. On contest days, once everything has been unloaded, there will be a very brief meeting, if needed, to make quick announcements. After that, everyone will be dismissed together. It is impossible to say exactly what time the band will return from trips. You will always be informed during the week of an out-of-town game what the approximate return time is. Please tell your parents and make arrangements ahead of time to have someone there to meet you. We expect all students to be picked up shortly after we return. After football games there will not be regular meetings to dismiss you unless specified by the director. Every attempt will be made to make all announcements before leaving the stadium so that students can contact parents on their way back to SHS in order to be picked up in a timely manner.

Football Games – The appearance that the band makes at football games is very important. We are visible to the greatest number of people at football games. Remember that the band's performance begins when you are called to attention for inspection and is not completed until you are dismissed from the band hall after the game. Help us make the image of the band a positive one by following these guidelines:

1. Be properly uniformed at all times.
2. Be responsible for your own equipment.
3. Please move to and from the stands very quickly and orderly. No one should talk at all during entry to the stands. Once you are in position, you should stand at attention facing the front until a drum major signals you to be seated.
4. Sit in your assigned seat during the game; do not move around.
5. Please eat before the football game. Do not take any unauthorized refreshments during the game. We will supply water for you in the stands. No eating whatsoever is allowed in the stands or in uniform.
6. Do not play your instrument during the game at any time the band is not playing as an organized ensemble.
7. Only band personnel are allowed in the band section. All others allowed in the band section will be with the permission of the band directors.
8. Watch the director or drum major(s) at all times when he is standing in front of the band. Get music up rapidly when it is called. Watch closely for cut-offs in the music.

Band Trips - The band will periodically go on trips out of town for competition/performance purposes. Traveling with the Sachse High School Band is a privilege. During all trips students are expected to abide by GARLAND ISD Code of Conduct throughout the duration of the trip. In order to be eligible to attend a band trip, each student must be current with all monies owed to the Sachse Band. The students must also be academically eligible to attend. Students that exhibit consistent behavior problems will not be allowed to travel with the band.

### **PERSONAL IMPROVEMENT**

Parental Help - Parents play an important role in the development of a student's musical ability. Parents can take an active part in their child's learning process by attending concerts, encouraging their child to take their instrument home daily, encouraging home practice (it is expected that each student practice at least thirty minutes at home each day), listening to a child play at home, providing lessons when possible, providing the proper equipment, and praising accomplishments.

Sachse Band Booster Club - All parents are eligible and encouraged to obtain a membership form and volunteer whenever possible. The main objectives of the Sachse High School Band Booster Club are to provide funds and support for the various projects in our band program and volunteer in any way necessary to help out with the Sachse High School Band. Some of the projects include supplemental lesson scholarships, social activities, guest clinicians, senior scholarships, etc. Some of the areas in which they volunteer are uniform committee, fundraising

committee, chaperones, communications, refreshments, sewing committee, pit dads, etc. It takes a great deal of work and cooperation from parents at all levels to accomplish these goals.

Private Lessons - The best way to develop your playing ability at the fastest pace is by studying privately. The best performers are always those who take private lessons. A list will be available of recommended private lesson teachers for the Sachse Band Program; many of these teachers will teach at the band hall during and after school. We strongly urge everyone to study privately. If you have any questions about private lessons, please see your director. It would be in your child's best interest to check with the band director before beginning lessons with a teacher who is not on the recommended list. The private lesson staff is updated yearly on our website and should be up to date by September 1 of any given school year. In the event that we are seeking any additional private teachers, they will be updated on the website as they are added to the staff.

Band Camp - Every summer, several Texas universities offer band camps. For a small entrance fee, band students can travel to one of these camps and stay in the college dormitories. During the camp, the students participate in band rehearsals and various elective music classes such as conducting, marching, music theory, and music history. The evenings are filled with recreation and social events. Most students not only have a lot of fun at these camps, but also come home playing their instrument better and having a more enthusiastic attitude about music. There is information posted in the band hall or you can see your band director about summer band camp information during the month of March. Entry deadlines for these camps are usually in May.

Solo and Ensemble Contests - UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest is traditionally held in February. The music to be performed at the contest must be selected by the private lesson teacher or the student with approval from the director. The music must be selected from the UIL Prescribed Music List (PML). Students that receive a first division superior rating are awarded a medal or patch. Students must provide their own original copy of the music; we do have a very limited solo library available to students if necessary. Solo entry fee and accompanist fee are already included in their band fee.

Region Band - The Region Band honors the most advanced students in our region of the state. Students receive the music that is to be played at the beginning of the school year and work to prepare it for an audition, which is held in November. An entry fee is charged and must be paid by the student. All Wind Ensemble and Honors Band members are required to audition for the Region Band. Symphonic Band members are strongly encouraged to audition. Student who prepares for Region will become a better player, and the band will improve as a result. Students who are selected for the Region Band will attend scheduled Region band rehearsals and Concert. It is very exciting to be a part of this group that can work up very difficult music in a short time.

Region Orchestra - The top students from almost every section of the TMEA Region Band are chosen to participate with the Region Orchestra for a clinic and concert.

Area/All-State - Students who place at the top of their sections in the Region Band will advance to the next level of competition, which is the Area tryout. At Area auditions, the top players from several Region Bands in north Texas will audition again. There is no concert performance at the Area level. When a student has earned a certain chair (based on their specific instrument) at the Area audition, they become a member of the Texas All-State Band or Orchestra. Chair placement auditions for the All-State Band occur in February at the beginning of the four days of rehearsal at the Texas Music Educators Association convention. On the evening of the last day of rehearsals, the All-State groups perform. Most students who are selected for All-State honors receive several scholarship offers from universities and colleges.

# *Sachse Mustang Band Handbook Commitment Form*

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

Printed Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

“I have read the Sachse Mustang Band Handbook and our student has my permission to participate in the band activities stated in this handbook within the guidelines described. I understand that band is a full-year commitment and understand the financial obligation associated with my student’s participation in band. I also understand that once fees are assessed, they will not be removed from the account until paid in full.”

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

“I have read the Sachse Mustang Band Handbook and agree uphold the high standards required to be a part of the organization as stated. I understand that if at any time my actions do not uphold these standards it may result in disciplinary action that could lead to dismissal from the Sachse Mustang School Band Program and ALL Band-related classes.”

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_