

SHARYLAND RATTLER BAND 2016-2017 STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

Course Description

The Sharyland Band Program is designed to promote and encourage students with a desire to learn and enjoy music. This is done through a quality instructional and extracurricular experience, which will contribute to a responsible, mature person both intellectually and socially. This handbook has been designed to provide a comprehensive view of the Sharyland Band policies in order to facilitate a better understanding of the program.

The policies contained within this handbook will pertain to all band members. They will be enforced during rehearsal, all performances, trips, or activities in which the students represent the Sharyland Band Organization.

GENERAL RULES

All school district policies found in the Sharyland High School Handbook shall be in effect and penalties shall be consistent with the handbook unless otherwise indicated.

1. Each student is to respect and care for school owned equipment and facilities as he/she would his/her own. Any carelessness, neglect, or abuse of school equipment or mischievous vandalism in the band hall will not be tolerated.
2. Only band students and choir students shall be allowed in the music building. This is for the protection of both school and personal property.
3. **PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION IS NOT ACCEPTABLE AT ANY TIME.**
4. Disrespectful language is not acceptable at any time.
5. Defacing, losing, or destroying school property including instruments, uniforms, and other items associated with the band program will result in payment for damages and appropriate school action. This also includes lost instruments.
6. Students will have their name on the outside of their instrument cases in a recognizable place and will keep their instruments in the appropriate designated areas.
7. Students will not bother anyone who is teaching, such as entering during a rehearsal or sectional.
8. Each student is expected to have all necessary equipment/materials for rehearsals/performances (i.e. music, instrument, valve oil, reeds, etc).
9. Students shall not remove school property from the band hall unless this property has been officially checked out from a band director.
10. Students will not do other assignments or other work during rehearsals.
11. Students will not enter the band director's offices without permission and only if a director is in the office unless specifically instructed.
12. Copy room is off limits to ALL students other than directors and librarians.
13. Cell phones are strictly off limits during school hours/rehearsals as per school district policy. We will take your phones away and turn them in to the front office.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Sharyland Band Program will be followed as listed in the high school course catalog. A person not in the program previously may join once he/she has met a minimum playing proficiency. Once a student leaves the program, they may not re-enter. The only exception will be due to an academic circumstance. The student may be permitted to re-enter only with directors' approval at the beginning of marching season.

Color-guard members are members of the band and all band rules apply. All guard members have to meet minimum guard requirements. Guard membership will be determined by a tryout held each spring.

CONCERT BAND EVALUATIONS

Students will be placed in band according to their ability level. Students will audition with scales and a chosen piece of music. After the auditions, students will be placed into appropriate ensembles.

Please be aware that these assignments are made with the student's practice habits, eligibility history, work ethics and attendance record in mind along with audition results.

DRUM MAJOR TRYOUTS AND DUTIES

The judges will observe the drum major candidates: 1. Conduct a musical selection of their choice, 2. demonstrate a salute, 3. do a prepared marching sequence, 4. teach the posture exercise, 5. answer questions in a closed session with the judges.

The decision of the judge's panel will be final and the scoring sheets will be on file in the office of Sharyland High School principal, Mrs. Mendiola.

It will be the decision of the judges, based on the candidate's abilities, how many drum majors will be selected. Please be aware—the judges do not have to recommend selection of any candidate or number of candidates, should they feel that leadership qualifications are not met.

The desire to act as a leader of the Rattler Band must be demonstrated. The desire, alone, is a beginning, not a qualification. The successful candidate will have demonstrated the ability to get along with other band students over a period of time and will have shown a positive attitude throughout the school year. The respect of the fellow band members is of great importance, as well as the ability to show success in the working out of assigned task to a high level of achievement.

The person(s) selected as drum major will be expected to attend a Drum Major Camp during the summer that has been approved by the director.

Drum Major tryouts will be closed to all students and parents.

The drum major(s) are expected to be in attendance at all Summer Band rehearsals, all marching rehearsals, and all performances of the Rattler Band. Even after marching season, a leadership role is expected to be maintained.

The candidates will be required to obtain 3 recommendations of Sharyland High School teachers. They will be required to obtain 8 band member signatures. Band director's signatures will not be accepted.

SECTION LEADERS

Section leaders will be appointed by the band directors. You may earn a section leader position by being competent on your instrument and being a leader in the program. Being an upperclassman does not mean you will be chosen as section leader. All criteria for guard section leaders will be the same as for the horn and percussion players.

GRADING POLICY

65% Weekly Participation/Sectionals

35% Performance

Or

In-Class Preparation (Spring Semester)

Full Band Rehearsals are required, and your attendance will be graded.

TARDIES – 15 POINTS OFF WEEKLY PARTICIPATION FOR EACH TARDY

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES – 20 POINTS OFF WEEKLY PARTICIPATION FOR EACH UNEXCUSED ABSENCE

All excuses must be **emailed** to Miss Cook at dcook@sharylandisd.org. If the student has a doctor's/dentist's excuse, that excuse must be provided immediately upon the students' return so Miss Cook can make a copy of the original for her records.*

Music is considered to be memorized when all notes/rests, dynamics, and other musical concepts of the piece are correct at tempo.

Your grade at each of the grading periods will be determined by averaging these grading criteria.

Because of this, it is possible to have a poor grade at 3 weeks that affects your 6 and 9 week grades as well. The only way to ensure a good band grade is to take care of business and be on task from the first day.

ATTENDANCE

All performances are mandatory. Absences from performances in multiple times will result in removal from the band program. If there is a conflict due to another school activity, or a real emergency, these will be handled on an individual basis. You are expected to notify your band director if you are going to miss rehearsals or performances.

****NOTE:** JUST BECAUSE A STUDENT HAS A NOTE FROM THEIR PARENTS DOES NOT MEAN IT WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE EXCUSED.

AWARD JACKET POLICY

Award jackets will be presented to band members who have met the following criteria.

1. Anyone who qualifies for the All-Valley Band or Valley Jazz Ensemble.
2. Anyone who has participated in Band for three FULL years during marching and concert band, or Winter Guard is eligible for a jacket at the end of their junior year. THESE JACKETS WILL BE AWARDED IN THE FALL OF THEIR SENIOR YEAR.

TRIPS

All Band members are expected to ride their assigned buses on trips, as they will travel to and from all performances as a group. If there are extenuating circumstances in which a student is going to leave a performance early, an email must be sent to Miss Cook 48 hours prior to the event. If the parent fails to adhere to this policy, the student will lose credit for the event. Emergencies will be handled on a case by case basis.

Code of conduct rules will be enforced during all school trips. Students who cannot adhere to the code of conduct rules for Sharyland ISD will be dismissed from the band program.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

Permission for participation in Solo & Ensemble Contest or TMEA All-Region Contest can only be granted if the student is eligible for Marching Contest and Concert/Sight-Reading Contest.

No exceptions.

Participation in All-Region is strongly encouraged.

SHARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL BAND UNIFORM CODE OF CONDUCT

The Uniform Code of Conduct (UCC) is designed to create an accountability system for the band program as well as define, beyond a shadow of a doubt, what is acceptable behavior in uniform.

WHEN IN UNIFORM:

You are not allowed to run unless asked to by a director.

You are not allowed ANY public displays of affection.

You are not allowed to eat, drink, or chew gum. During a football game, it is customary for students to receive water after halftime. This is the **ONLY** time when drinking anything is permitted in uniform.

There will be **NO** cursing. When in uniform, you represent your school, your parents, your directors, your community, and most importantly yourself. You do not want to do anything that will compromise the integrity of the organization.

No horseplay of any kind.

When you are not wearing the uniform, there are only two acceptable ways to keep your jacket: folded correctly or hung up on its hanger.

Baseball hats will **NOT** be worn when still in uniform.

All hair past the chin will be required to be in a ponytail. *Black hair bands only.* No hair will be allowed to be down in uniform.

School cell phone policies apply.

You are **NOT** allowed to walk alone while in uniform. No exceptions.

SHAKO ETIQUETTE:

The shako is never to be worn backwards as some do with regular hats. When the shako is being carried, the only manner in which you carry it is in the right hand with the middle three fingers on the brim of the hat. The thumb and the pinky finger are curled underneath the shako.

GAUNTLETS:

When not used, the gauntlets are to be kept together and inside the provided mesh bag. Gauntlets will always be worn properly.

PLUMES:

Plumes are expensive. They will not be mishandled in any way, and will be distributed before and retrieved after every performance.

REQUIRED PURCHASES:

Students must purchase the following uniform items:

1 pair of black long sleeve gloves

1 pair of MTX Marching Shoes in Black

Band T-Shirts (purchasing 2 is suggested)

UNDERNEATH THE UNIFORM:

A designated band shirt or contest shirt is required underneath the uniform at all times. The band shirt must be a current band shirt. Section shirts, previous years band shirts, sleeveless shirts, muscle shirts, tank tops, V-necks, and A-shirts are NOT permitted. You will also be required to wear black shorts underneath the uniforms.

Black band shoes and black socks will be worn at ALL times in uniform. The socks must be mid calf. No exceptions. Band shoes must be clean and polished before every performance.

No jewelry of any kind is acceptable. This includes, but is not limited to: earrings, watches, wrist bands, rings, necklaces, ankle bracelets, chokers, dog tags, other piercings, etc. If you have any questions, you need to ask a band director.

REHEARSAL ATTIRE:

Although we do not ask of the students to provide a daily uniform for rehearsals, students will be required to show up to Friday rehearsals in the white tee shirt and black shorts that have been purchased. Any white t-shirt, as long as it's in dress code, will do.

CONCERT ATTIRE:

Boys will wear tuxedos and women will wear the assigned black dress purchased from the school. No exceptions or replacements.

CONSEQUENCES:

Obviously, the level of infraction determines the consequences. Plain and simple, if a student does not comply with the rules of the UCC, he/she will NOT be allowed to perform. The rules are clearly defined. If there is a constant infraction of the rules, the student will be removed from the band program.

We are trying to promote pride and unity through uniformity. There will be **NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!** If you cannot follow these simple rules of uniform etiquette, then be prepared to forfeit the right to perform as a member of the Sharyland High School Rattler Band.

Uniforms will be returned in the same condition that they were issued. Neglect will result in fines up to \$65 for pants and \$200 for jackets. Each student will be issued uniform accessories of gauntlets, shako, and jacket panel. Failure to return the assigned uniform accessory will also result in a fine of \$20 for gauntlets, \$40 for shako, \$75 for jacket panel.



Sharyland High School Band

ALTERNATE TRANSPORTATION FROM EVENT PERMISSION FORM

Please allow this letter to serve as written notice that my child, _____
_____, will **not** be riding the bus (or provided transportation) back to Sharyland
High School from the Competition/Event at _____
on _____.

It is understood that only a parent or guardian can take students.

It is understood that both student and parent/guardian will make contact with
Mr. Neil Nelson, Ms. Donna Cook, Ms. Beth Van Epps, or Mr. Frank Salinas before leaving
the bus departure area.

I understand that neither Sharyland I.S.D. nor its employees will be held responsible/liable while my
(son/daughter) is under my care.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Contact Phone Numbers: _____

This form should be turned in **before** the departure from the school for the event.

2016-2017 Sharyland Rattler Band Transportation and Emergency Information

I GIVE MY PERMISSION FOR MY SON/DAUGHTER TO TRAVEL ON SHARYLAND ISD (OR CHARTERED) BUSES TO AND FROM FOOTBALL GAMES, BAND CONTESTS, AND OTHER BAND ACTIVITIES DURING 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR. I EXPECT THAT ALL DRIVERS WILL BE CERTIFIED PERSONNEL.

SHOULD AN EMERGENCY ARISE, I GIVE PERMISSION FOR MR. NEIL NELSON, MR. FRANK SALINAS, MS. DONNA COOK, MS. BETH VAN EPPS, MS. CAROLYN MENDIOLA, MR. JOSE SEGURA, MS. MARIFINA GONZALEZ TO AUTHORIZE EMERGENCY ROOM TREATMENT UNTIL I CAN BE CONTACTED BY EMERGENCY PERSONNEL.

STUDENT NAME: _____ ID # _____

GRADE: _____ AGE: _____ S.S# _____

PARENT/S NAME: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONES: _____

WORK PHONES: _____ EMAIL: _____

RELATIVE TO CONTACT IN EMERGENCY: _____

RELATIVE'S PHONE: _____

REGULAR PHYSICIAN: _____

PHYSICIAN'S PHONE: _____

INSURANCE COMPANY: _____

INSURANCE POLICY NUMBER: _____

Is your child allergic to any medications/Drugs or Insect bites, etc? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, which ones? _____

Does your child require an EPI-PEN for allergic reactions? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Does your child have a current medical illness/condition or has suffered from one in the past that could require emergency attention? (Conditions such as Asthma, Heart Problems, Concussions, Seizures, Diabetes, etc.)

Please list/explain them: _____

Is your child taking any medications? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, which ones? _____

If, in the judgement of any representative of the school, the above student should need immediate care and treatment as a result of an injury or sickness, I do hereby request, authorize, and consent to such care and treatment as may be given to said student by any physician, nurse, or school representative: and I do hereby agree to indemnify and save harmless the school and any school representative from any claim by any person whomsoever on account of such care and treatment of said student.

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

**Acknowledgement of Receipt of the
Sharyland High School Band Parent-Student Handbook
2016-2017**

We have received and read a copy of the Sharyland High School Band Parent-Student Handbook which sets forth the rules and regulations governing students who participate in the Sharyland Rattler Band.

Printed Name of Student _____

Signature of Band Student _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

****These 3 forms need to be returned to the Sharyland High School Band Department ****

Sharyland High School Band Student Information

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent's Name(s): _____

Parent's Cell Number: _____

Parent email: _____

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Sharyland High School Band Student Information

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent's Name(s): _____

Parent's Cell Number: _____

Parent email: _____