



# Odessa High School Broncho Band Handbook

Welcome to the Odessa High School Band program. This handbook is intended to give an idea of what being a member of the OHS Band will entail. You will find out what to do, what to expect, what to look forward to, and what to look out for. The band program has many high standards, but rewards for meeting those standards are great!

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Can anyone be in the band?

Yes and No. A student playing a musical instrument will need some previous experience like middle school band or strong private musical background. Students wishing to be in the Color Guard must have passed an audition in the previous spring. All students in band must play approved instrument.

### 2. Do students have to try out for band?

While being in the program itself does not require an audition, students will try out for one of the concert bands during the school year.

### 3. Can a student be in band for just marching season or just concert band? No.

Students must sign up for both semesters to receive full credit and cover the state mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for band.

### 4. Do all students participate in marching band?

Yes. All of our band students combine to form the Broncho marching band. Each student will have one of many roles in the overall halftime production. These roles include primary marchers, front ensemble members, color guard members, alternates, equipment crew, and more.

### 5. Do I have to pass my classes to be in band?

In order to participate in ANY extra-curricular activity, including band, each student must maintain a grade average of 70 or above on every report card. Extra-curricular would refer to football games, contests, competitions, and halftime. Any rehearsals or concerts are considered "curricular" and are required regardless of academic eligibility.

### 6. How much time will band require?

During marching season, we have both morning rehearsals and one weekly evening rehearsal. Football games happen typically on Friday evenings. Throughout the year, there will be many competitions or auditions which are usually on Saturdays. All rehearsals and events are mandatory and can be found on the band calendar.

### 7. Can I be in Athletics and Band?

Yes! The band and athletic departments work together to make arrangements for students who wish to participate in multiple activities. It isn't always easy, and does require some advanced planning, but most conflicts are worked out with good communication between students, parents, coaches, and band directors.

## **Marching Band Rehearsals**

### Summer Band

Summer band begins at the end of July and will run until school starts. Summer band is vital to learning fundamental marching technique, drill positions, changes and alterations to the music, and more. Please do not plan your summer vacations to conflict with these rehearsal times as an absence may hurt your chance of keeping your primary marcher spot. Each rehearsal is mandatory and attendance will be taken as it is during "class" time. Please understand that summer band is NOT optional.

### School-Year Rehearsals

- Evening Rehearsal- Check the band calendar
- Early Morning Rehearsal 7:15AM-8:45AM
- On occasion, there may be additional sectionals or small-group practices throughout the season.
- It is imperative that every student and parent understand that these rehearsals are important to the success of the band program, and are NOT optional.

### Required Items

Each student needs to bring the following items to EACH and EVERY rehearsal

- Athletic shoes- NOT Boots, high-top shoes that restrict ankle movement, sandals, flipflops, skater shoes, etc. They need to be snug, lightweight, and comfortable.
- All show music
- Charged mobile device for accessing drill
- Instrument or equipment in good working condition
- Water cooler filled with water (not required for school day morning rehearsal)
- Clothes that do not restrict marching or playing movement
- Suggested: fanny pack or small bag to hold items like chap stick, sunscreen, tissues, pencil, chalk, etc.

### Physical Education and Health

Marching band is considered a physical activity and students may even receive their full credit through participation in the band. With that being said, our marching show will be very physically demanding. Students will have to move their bodies with agility and precision at all speeds, all while controlling their breathing in order to play an instrument.

Every day, students will go through a series of stretches, cardio exercises, and strength building exercises. It is imperative that students wear non-restrictive clothing and appropriate shoes in order to get the full benefit of these exercises. Students should come to rehearsal hydrated, with extra water, and be ready to sweat and possibly be a little sore too! Some of what we do may be difficult at first, but it will get easier and students will become more fit throughout the season.

Should a student be unable to participate due to an illness, injury, or physical limitation, please contact the directors so we can discuss alternate options for your student.

All students in the marching program are required to complete a physical and have documentation on file with the band program. Information about this physical is provided each spring for the following year. Students who do not complete this requirement will not be allowed to march.

## Rehearsal Expectations

- Show respect to those who are giving feedback, whether it be directors, drill instructors, clinicians, section leaders, or other peers. We are all working toward the same goal.
- Arrive early to rehearsal so you can be on time with all required equipment.
- Be prepared physically for the demands of rehearsal (hydrated, wearing appropriate clothes and shoes, dressed for rain, cold, or heat)
- During all rehearsals, students must be silent when receiving instruction. Do not talk and try to give feedback while a director is talking.
- At times during rehearsal, you may be asked to sing, play alone or in groups, clap, arm movements, or other techniques that may seem silly. These activities all have a purpose. Your full participation is expected in all exercises.

## **Absences and Tardies**

Attendance and punctuality is vital to the success of our program. Every time a student misses, they lose valuable instruction time and affect the students trying to march with the ~~hd~~ they created or listen to parts that aren't present.

Work schedules, birthday events, family trips, doctor's appointments, and other activities must not interfere with the rehearsal and performance schedule that you are given at the beginning of the school year. If you are in a school activity that has a conflict with band, you must bring the conflict to the attention of the band directors in advance. The director and activity sponsor will work out any arrangements that need to be made.

If an absence becomes unavoidable, the following procedure needs to be followed. The parent of the student must email [john.mayo@ectorcountyisd.org](mailto:john.mayo@ectorcountyisd.org) explaining the absence. Send this message before the missed rehearsal.

Being "tardy" means you are not in your assigned spot with all needed supplies at the time rehearsal is scheduled to begin. For example, you must be on your "dot" on the marching field with your instrument, coordinate sheets, and drill charts at 8:30 AM or be considered tardy. In concert season, you must be seated with your music on the stand and your instrument put together and **ready to play** when the bell rings.

Excused Absences- Approved school function, sick with parent notification, family emergencies with parent notification, other situations at the discretion of the band directors. We may ask for more details to help us determine whether an absence falls into the excused or unexcused category.

Unexcused Absences- Scheduled to work, overslept, transportation issues, appointments, other situations at the discretion of the band directors

Students who have absences or tardies shall be subjected to one or more of the following consequences at the discretion of the band directors:

- Band-related detention that includes playing, marching, or band chores (cleaning the band hall, helping with tasks)
- Loss of spot as a primary marcher
- Loss of marching privilege for one football game
- Loss of chair placement in concert ensembles

## **Primary Marchers and Secondary Marchers**

In order to have a successful show design, we must send the numbers of students in each section to our drill writer as early as February before marching season begins. It's difficult to get an accurate number of students that far in advance, so we adjust and plan for fewer students than are on our roll to ensure we have enough players to fill each spot. This creates a situation where we have a group of students who will not be assigned a spot in the competition show. They will begin the season marching in an alternate block that will march and play at football games, but not at formal competitions. They will learn the music, drill, participate in rehearsals, and do everything that every other band student does. They can even earn a spot in the competition show should a primary marcher lose theirs. There will also be a chance to be part of the technical crew depending on our needs for the show. This could include electronics, props, or other needs for the show.

Primary Marchers will...

- Play all marching music at an exemplary level
- Demonstrate strong marching technique
- Pass any and all memorization or playing tests assigned throughout the season
- Attend each rehearsal on time with all required supplies (music, drill, etc.)
- Maintain an average of 70 or above in EVERY class you take in school
- Demonstrate appropriate rehearsal techniques (be on task, don't talk out of turn, have a good attitude, work hard, etc.)
- Demonstrate strong mental and physical ability to handle the strenuous demands of demands and performance

Primary Marchers can lose their spot for...

- One or more unexcused absences
- Excessive tardies
- Poor attitude, work ethic, or rehearsal participation
- Failure to maintain an average of 70 or above in every class
- Inability to march or perform due to medical or physical issues
- Other situations that may arise at the discretion of the band directors

## **Grading Policy**

- Rehearsal attendance and participation- This grade will be affected if students do not attend rehearsal on time with all required equipment.
- Performances- Each public performance is required and therefore receives a grade based upon attendance and participation
- Playing and Marching

Throughout the year, playing tests, memory tests, and marching tests may be given to students. These will be announced beforehand in class and students will be responsible for taking care of getting their music played off. Some of these tests may be in person, but many will be through programs such as Google Classroom. If a student does not successfully turn in a quality recording by the due date, their grade will be affected. Should you have any technical issues with online submissions, please see Mr. Mayo.

## Performances

According to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, band students must perform in order to fulfill their educational requirements. Every performance listed on the band calendar is required. Occasionally, events may occur that necessitate an addition or change to the band calendar. Every effort will be made to provide as much information as soon as possible.

## Uniforms

Marching Uniform- Worn for all competitions and most football games, pants, jacket, hats, and gauntlets provided by the band Black gloves- may be reused from year to year  
Marching shoes- purchased through NTune Music, may be reused  
Red OHS Band ballcap/visor- may be reused  
Snug-fitting athletic shorts for underneath the uniform Tall, solid black socks, may be reused  
Girls will fix their hair in a specific style of bun. Boys will maintain short hair that it does not stick out excessively from underneath the hat.  
No visible jewelry, piercings, tattoos, or nail polish may be worn.

Colorguard Uniform- To Be Determined. This could include a specific pair of shoes, particular undergarments for the uniform, hair and makeup accessories, and a rehearsal sweatsuit.

### Informal Marching Uniform-

2019 Show Shirt- will need to be purchased every year  
Marching Band Shoes (Black and White pair) N-TUNE Music, may be reused  
Red OHS ballcap/visor- may be reused from year to year. Blue jeans or shorts, to be determined by directors

### Formal Concert Uniform-

Ladies will wear a formal black dress provided by the band. They will need to wear black dress shoes of their own.

Gentlemen will wear a white tux shirt and black tux provided by the band. They will need to wear their own black socks, and black dress (or marching) shoes.

No tennis shoes, converse, or other casual/athletic type shoes are allowed. Concert Black may be used should we have a shortage of concert uniforms. This uniform consists of solid black dress clothes and shoes.

## **Travel Policies**

We travel to many away football games and competitions. In order to have a successful, efficient trip, the following policies are in place.

- Students must read their itinerary (sent weekly via the Band App, and posted throughout the band hall) to see where they need to be, at what time, and with what equipment. This may vary for each student depending on what equipment they may need to move.
- Students are to sit in their assigned seat on the bus. Stay seated at all times and do not stand or sit in the aisle of the bus.
- Be responsible for all personal items and clean up any spills or messes you may make.
- If your drink or food can spill out of its container, don't bring it.
- Movies must be rated G or PG and be approved by the bus sponsor.
- No sprays of ANY KIND are allowed to be used on the bus. This means no hairspray, perfume, body spray, cologne, febreze, dry shampoo, spray deodorant, etc. may be used while on the bus. This could be harmful for those with asthma or allergies.
- If a student is leaving with a parent after an event, a trip change form needs to be picked up, filled out, signed by a parent, a director, a principal, and turned into Mr. Mayo 24 hours in advance.

## **Public Appearances, Performances, and Football Game Expectations**

- When we play, we play as a group, together, with good sounds, and with everyone playing.
- Before we leave for a football game an inspection will be done by section leaders. During this inspection, we will be looking for the student to have all the required equipment and uniform.
- Profanity and vulgar language will not be tolerated at any time
- Students will remain in their sections and in their seats. At any time a song may be called and you must be ready to play within a few seconds.
- No food or drinks are allowed in the stands with the exception of water in your cooler. Parents, please do not bring your child any food or drinks while in the stands.
- If a cell phone prevents you from playing your instrument and reading your music at anytime, it may be taken up by a director.
- The band will wear the same uniform throughout the game. This means if we remove our jackets, we all do so together. When we wear our red OHS caps/visors, everyone wears them.
- Restroom breaks are by director or sponsor permission only.
- Students not following the above expectations can be assigned report duty following a football game. Report duty consists of cleaning up the band hall before they are allowed to leave.

## **Band Hall and Facilities**

We have hundreds of students walk through our doors each day, and it is important that we have policies in place to protect our facilities, equipment, and students.

- Non-Band students will not be allowed into any area of the band hall without director approval.
- There will be no food or drink in the band hall.
- Lockers are considered property of the band department. They are to be kept cleaned and closed at all times. Students may be assigned ONE locker to keep their belongings in. Your locker is designed for your instrument and musical equipment. It is not your bedroom, closet, or pantry. Please keep snacks, clothes, and personal belongings at home.
- GUM- No gum. Ever. Forget it.
- Instruments must be put into their cases properly, cases closed, and stored safely inside a locker when not in use. Leaving horns out of cases invites little pests to munch on the breakfast you blew into your instrument. Leaving cases on the floor clutters the band hall and makes it difficult for students and equipment to move around.

## **Instruments**

Students who play flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, or trombone must provide their own instrument. Students who play an auxiliary of one of those instruments (bass clarinet, bari sax, piccolo, etc.) or oboe, bassoon, French horn, baritone, or tuba will be issued a school- owned instrument. Personal instruments must be kept in good, playing condition and are the responsibility of the student. Should a repair take longer than a few days, arrangements must be made with the band directors in order to secure a temporary “loaner” instrument so the student does not fall behind.

Should a school-owned instrument be damaged due to student negligence, the student will be responsible for the cost of the full repair.

For all instruments, accessories are the responsibility of the student. Items like reeds, swabs, oils, and sprays can be purchased at the local music stores and are your responsibility to purchase and maintain.

## **Social Media**

As technology becomes a part of our daily lives, social media plays a large role in how we connect with others. It is important to be cautious about what is posted or sent through messaging. You are representatives of the Odessa High School band and anything you share posts reflects not only you as an individual, but the band program as a whole.

- Students will not post anonymously or personally on any forums or any social networking services statements that are untrue, derogatory, or sarcastic about the Odessa High School band, guard, members, staff, etc.
- Bullying or harassment isn't tolerated at school, nor will it be tolerated in any digital form.



**Communication**

We strive to send you information as quickly as we know. Make sure you are signed up on the Band App to receive this important information. Please use the below QR Code to join:



Odessa High School  
Broncho Band Handbook

Acknowledgment Page

Please print out and sign...

I have read, discussed with my child, and understand the rules and expectations laid out in the 2021-2022 Odessa High School Band Handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date