

SPEARMAN ISD

&

Band Department

HANDBOOK

2018-2019

SPEARMAN LYNX BAND DEPARTMENT

General Guidelines and Information

Responsibilities and Expectations

All students have the opportunity to participate in a number of activities within the band department. Students who participate in all of the contests have full schedules. Band students are the ones who learn how to budget their time, and plan effectively for their futures.

Participation in *all* activities of the band is required. It is expected that all students will attend *all* rehearsals and performances. It is the responsibility of the parent to request permission (**in writing**) for a student to be absent due to a student's illness or family emergency. For any other reason, requests should be made well in advance, and approval sought from the director and principal if applicable.

In case of conflict with another activity, the general guideline would be that a game or performance takes precedence over a practice and a district or regional contest over a performance or regular game.

Students are expected to behave respectfully to their fellow students, directors, and adult sponsors at all times. Discipline problems will be administered according to the Band Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct.

Academics

To be able to participate fully in the band program, students must remain academically eligible – passing all classes.

Eligibility – House Bill 72 makes the No Pass/No Play rule a state law in Texas. This is how the law affects us:

1. As in other elective classes, the student must pass all classes with a 70 or above to remain eligible. If the grade fails below 70 for the six weeks in any class (including PE, all athletics, or electives), the student will become ineligible for the following three weeks with a seven-day grace period.
2. The student must be eligible in order to compete in TMEA auditions, UIL sponsored events, and other contests, festivals, and trips.
3. **Concerts** in Spearman are not subject to this rule because they are considered an extension of the class and are part of the regular class curriculum requirements. **All students are required attend.**

Scholarships

Many high school students receive music scholarships for college study. Some medium to smaller universities and colleges use scholarships to support participation in their organizations by good musicians who may be majoring in another field. The Music Offices receives information from nearly every college in the state that has a band or music program, as well as many colleges and universities out-of-state.

Most music related scholarships will require an audition. All-Region tryout music or a Class I solo would be suitable. Other factors, which determine scholarship awards, are participation in the UIL solo-Ensemble contests, All Region-Area-State Band and Choir auditions, and activity as a band or choir member during the high school years.

Major colleges and universities regularly evaluate all of their scholarship applicants on their participation in music related activities, knowing that it develops higher-level thinking skills and the ability to work creatively within groups.

Band Code of Conduct

Students will be permitted to participate in musical extracurricular activities, subject to the restrictions of the Band Department Handbook, Spearman Student Code of Conduct, and the UIL regulations.

Please note: Student clubs and performing groups such as the band, choir, and drill and athletic teams may establish standards of behavior – including consequences for misbehavior – that are stricter than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequence specified by the Student Code of Conduct or by local policy will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization....”

The use of alcohol and illegal drugs is physically and morally damaging to the student. The use of alcohol and illegal drugs is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. The following procedures are the policy of the Spearman Music Department and are in effect throughout the school year.

The use of alcohol and illegal drugs does incur consequences. If a Band student is in possession of or under the influence of either substance they will be dealt with according to the District’s Random Student Drug testing Policy and Student Code of Conduct

General Requirements and Guidelines for Overnight Trips

Each year, students have the opportunity to take an overnight trip. The trip usually occurs in coordination with Area tryouts, State Solo and Ensemble contest, and could include Area and State Marching Contests.

1. *All students and parents/guardians must have signed the Waiver of Liability and the Permission Form found in the back of the Band Handbook.*
2. All students must be academically eligible to travel to any UIL/ATSSB event.
3. All students must adhere to the Student Code of Conduct and the Dress Code.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SCHOOL OWNED EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

During the student's participation in music, it will be necessary to issue school owned property and equipment for their use. (i.e.: instruments, accessories, uniform, books, etc)

Since the school district provides the equipment for the students at no expense, it is necessary that the Lynx Music Department require that all school property be properly treated and handled.

Band

1. Uniforms (except for socks) will be issued with hard plastic hangers (with locking trouser bar), hanger bags, hats, and hat boxes. The value of the complete uniform is in excess of \$500.00 Uniform cleaning is the responsibility of the students/parents. It is expected that a designated cleaner (usually for the best available price) will clean a uniform after every two performances to maintain their condition and appearance. A uniform cleaning fee of \$10.00 will be assessed at the time the uniform is turned in.
2. Instruments or any responsibility of Capital Equipment. Capital Equipment is defined as any equipment of significant value, such as flag equipment, metronomes, mutes, instruments, or instrumental accessories. All equipment will be issued through the band office, where a checkout card is filled out describing the instrument, and a school identification sticker will be attached to the instrument case. Equipment is issued solely to one student, and is not to be shared with other students – the student named on the checkout card is the one responsible for damage or abuse. We expect each student to keep the instrument clean, and properly maintained. Any problems incurred must be reported to the directors, immediately. Students and parents are responsible for any damage to school owned instruments/equipment from improper use, neglect, abuse, or carelessness. Damages can be acquitted by 1) personally having the instrument repaired by a director approved repair shop, 2) reimbursing the district for the repair of the damage, or 3) the student performing extra work within the band program as assigned by a director to earn credit toward the repair of the equipment/instrument. Failure to follow these guidelines and demonstrate responsibility and care for school owned equipment could result in a student not being allowed to use such equipment.

Any lost equipment will result in the student be charged the re-purchase price for the equipment.

3. Monies earned through the Band Booster Organization cannot be transferred or used for payment of repairs. Any money due as reimbursement for school district equipment should be made payable by check to the Spearman Band Activity Fund.

Band Boosters

Band students extend a lot of effort in preparation for their presentations during the year. It is very important that you show your support for your student in the form of attendance at performances.

Another way to do so is to participate in our Booster Organizations. The Boosters are an integral part of the success of the music programs. We meet on a monthly basis. There are special meetings called when needed.

Parent volunteers assist the band in preparation for football games, at halftime, prior to concerts and contests. Alternating years the band/choir students go on an overnight band trip. Parent help is needed to help raise money for the trip and help sponsor the trip. One of the fund raising activities will be working in the concession stand during basketball season. We also need help with uniforms, the library, being a sponsor on trips, and many other ways. Each of us has a talent and we hope you will choose to help the Booster organization with yours. We urge your support of the Booster organizations with your talents and your active assistance and involvement so that we can achieve greater success on the behalf of your music student. The high school years of a child's life are among the most crucial formative years. Your student will make many life-shaking decisions in these four years. Although it is during the time that many students push their parents' involvement away – it is the time they need you the most. (Don't expect them to ask you!) The most successful achievers are the students who have parents involved with their activities. Make a point to listen for progress. Make it a point to meet some of the other parents and students. Make it a point to be around and see how your student interacts with her/his peers. Come to rehearsals when you can, and see how your student participates. It may be an education for both of you!

Letters and Letter Jacket Rules

Letters: To earn a Letter the Student must complete the following requirements:

Band Requirements:

Try out for All-region Band, **and** compete at Solo/Ensemble Contest

1 Bar – Completion of 1 year in SHS Band and the above requirements

2 Bar – Completion of 2 years in SHS Band and the above requirements

3 Bar – Completion of 3 years in SHS Band and the above requirements

4 Bar – Enrolled the 4th year in SHS Band and the above requirements.

A Person in Flag Corp may earn a letter depending upon the number of years they participated. They must have attended rehearsals on a regular basis and participated in all marching events for that year.

Letter Jackets:

Letter Jackets may be earned by:

Freshman- Junior– Requirements: Earning a place in **All-Region** Band and perform a **Solo** or **Ensemble** at Region **OR** Qualify for **State** Solo and Ensemble Contest

Senior - Requirement: Complete 3 years of SHS Band and Enroll the 4th year. Will receive a Letter Jacket and Letter with Band on it.

Note – Bars may only be earned by completing requirements at top of page.

Students will receive only one letter jacket from Spearman ISD. Therefore, if a student already has a jacket from another academic or extracurricular class, then that student will receive only Band letters to add to the jacket – but not another jacket.

The letters and jackets do not arrive until the fall of the next semester. By then, it will be clear that the student intends to stay in band for their Senior year. Each student will be required to sign a commitment letter, stating if they drop out of band after receiving their letter jacket they will be required to return the jacket to the department.

Band Curriculum

Band students need to make progress in the following areas (prioritized).

1. Characteristic tone
2. Technical skill (major scales, rapid fingering passages)
3. Clarity of articulation (tonguing technique, as well as recognizing and demonstrating and understanding of various notated articulations.
4. Ability to match pitch with the strobo-tuner, and with another player.
5. Ability to function within the ensemble setting, maintaining sufficient focus to allow the ensemble to progress musically.
6. Ability to complete assignments in a timely fashion.

During marching season, the band rehearses every Monday night from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Any time missed must be made up outside of class and approved by the director.

Summer Band

Summer band schedules will be mailed in June. Summer band will always be on the first week of August (and possibly the last few days of July), the first two days of the week teacher in-service starts, and the last 2 days of teacher in-service prior to the first day of school. These preparatory rehearsals are extremely important and must be attended. We have our first football game the 1st or 2nd week of school, so we need to prepare before school starts. Final placement in the percussion line will be determined during this week with the expectation of consistent attendance for the remainder of Summer Band. Fundamentals and routines will be taught to the entire band. The band will be expected to attend all of summer band. Any time missed will be made up on the student's own time and must be approved by a director.

Band shirts will be ordered during these weeks. Band shirts will be priced at \$10. The cost for the band shirt is the responsibility of the student. At the end of summer band, the band marches in the Perryton Parade. Any band student who marches the parade will not have to purchase their own band shirt.

Heat and Stress

Summer Band occurs in the hottest part of the year and sometimes there are problems with the students' ability to handle the heat and humidity. From time to time, students "pass out" or faint. We do not take this lightly and are concerned for the student's health whenever this occurs. Most students are working very hard to rehearse effectively and perform well, and may be embarrassed to let someone know they are feeling ill. Please make certain the band staff knows of any health-related problems that your child may have when they start Summer Band. If Summer Band is the first outdoor activity of the summer – after a couple of months of inactivity and air-conditioning – it will take a little

time to get acclimated to the physical activity. I as the director will allow water breaks throughout the day for students.

Please also reinforce with your student that he/she must communicate with the directors, drum major, or squad leader if they begin to feel dizzy or faint. The wearing of hats will help in this matter.

Required Band Clothes to Purchase

All band students must purchase:

1. The band t-shirt to wear when we travel (\$10)
2. Black socks

The Band Year

Marching Season - The Lynx Band has several “seasons” during the course of the school year. The most visible activity is marching season when the band supports the Lynx Football program. The band will attend all varsity football games, marching at halftime, and supporting the team-cheerleaders-fans from the stands. During marching season, the band will attend the U.I.L Marching Contest, as well as a pre-contest marching festival. The length of marching season is determined by the length of football season. We are proud that the Lynx football team usually plays several post-season games, and the band will attend! Please review the calendar for all dates to reserve for your band student. All students will be required to attend all post-season activities and will receive an attendance grade for performance.

Rules while at Football games:

1. All students must remain with band at all times.
2. No non-band members will be allowed to sit with band.
3. Water is provided at all times at all games.
4. We **DO NOT** go to the concession stand during the game. We do all to help the instruments last for as long as possible.

Homecoming Rules

1. No public displays of affection
2. Band Members must be paying attention to band director and drum major
3. Band members will sit in their normal sections
4. If your date is in band and another section you must both stay in your section
5. Dates may not play band members instruments
6. No Mums or Garters will be worn at ANY time while the uniform is being worn

***NOTE-**Homecoming tradition can be discontinued at any time.

All-Region Auditions - The first or second weekend in December will be the All-Region Band tryout. Students who do well at the Region band tryout are those students who work carefully, methodically, and consistently on the three selections. All band students will have assignments on the Region band music, and we hope most of them will try out. The music requires a high level of skill – and raises the ability of the individual players, thus making the band better, too. The music will be covered in sectionals along with marching music.

The students earning the top chairs in the All-Region Band advance to the Area tryouts, and eventually to the All-State Band. Success in All-Region, Area, and State tryouts will enhance scholarship applications. Many scholarships are given to band students every year.

UIL Solo/Ensemble Contest - The U.I.L Solo-Ensemble Contest is held at the end of February or first of March. All Band members will be required to prepare an entry for that contest. Selections of music should be made at the end of November or first part of December. The band directors will be assisting in music selection at that time. A recital/concert will be scheduled prior to the contest to allow students the experience of performing before they play in front of the contest judge. Students who perform from the Class I solo (memorized) or ensemble list and earn a First Division rating will be qualified to attend the Texas State Solo-Ensemble Contest in Austin at the end of May. A First Division rating at the State Solo-Ensemble contest is another scholarship enhancement! They are asked to play these for scholarship auditions.

Note—Students who are enrolled in Applied Music are **REQUIRED** to audition for All-Region and take a solo to UIL.

Concert/Sight-Reading Contest - Music for the U.I.L Concert-Sight-reading Contest will be selected after the Christmas Concert, with the performance just before Spring

Break. If needed, a Monday evening rehearsal can be planned well in advance for the preparation of this contest; however, these rehearsals are rare.

At the End of the School Year

The months of April and May are very busy. The Spring Concert is the last week of April. Drum Major and Color Guard tryouts take place in May. Those who advance to State Solo and Ensemble Contest will compete during Memorial Day Weekend in Austin.

Uniforms – All uniforms should be checked in with all parts, including the hat. Professional cleaners will be cleaning the uniform.

Instruments- All School owned instruments should also be checked in. Quality of instrument will be assessed and pre-existing conditions will be checked. Any damage beyond natural wear and tear on the instrument will be the responsibility of the student.

Student Job Descriptions –

Drum Majors: The drum majors are the leaders of the band during marching season. The drum majors are second in command to the directors. Among their many duties, the drum majors help supervise the teaching of the section and squad leaders as well as conducting duties during rehearsals and performances.

Section Leaders: The section leaders are responsible for their section learning their music during the year. They should be willing to work one-on-one with younger members to help them learn their music. They will do the initial testing of memorized music during football season.

Equipment Manager: This person is in charge of the organization of equipment when we travel. It is this person's job to ensure all equipment is loaded and properly stored.

Uniform Captain: The Uniform Captain will be in charge of the organization of the uniforms, especially during performances. The uniform captain may incorporate help however he or she needs.

H.S. BAND Grading Policy

The *grading policy* for band will be weighted as follows:

- A. Participation grading 40 % – Participation includes:**
- Having all equipment and materials and pencil at each rehearsal
 - Paying attention in class and participating in all activities
 - Attendance at all classes
 - Coming to class prepared to do marching fundamentals and marching assignments correctly
 - Attitude plays a large part in participation. Playing and participation reflects the ability of a student to play or work productively. Attitude directly inhibits or adds to the ability of a student to play or work productively. Attitude directly inhabits or adds to the rehearsal atmosphere for the rest of the group. Negative attitudes will not be allowed to interrupt rehearsals or take away from the time of the others involved.
 - At least two weekly participation grades will be given.
- B. EXAMS GRADES 60%**

The following are the different types of exam grades for band

Performance/Practice Attendance

- Attendance at all performances for a 6 week period
- Attendance at all Tuesday night rehearsals.
- UIL SPECIAL BAND PRACTICE

Written EXAM

- Test over music theory
- Music Vocabulary

Playing EXAM or Chair EXAM

- Scale Exam
- Technique Exam

**SPEARMAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
EMERGENCY INFORMATION APPROVAL FORM**

TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SISD:

We, the parents of _____ do by affixing our names below, hereby realize that there may be situations during a school activity that medical attention will need to be given. If our child needs medical attention for an emergency, you have our permission to take care of the necessary medical needs by transporting him/her to a hospital or doctor's office without any liability to the school district, school personnel, or attending medical personnel. We, the parents, will bear the expense of any emergency medical treatment.

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

Address

City, Zip

Home Phone

Place of Employment

Business Phone

Insurance Company

Policy Number

Both Parents or Legal Guardian please sign:

Special Medical Information (Fill out only if needed)

Our child has or has had:

Heart trouble: _____

Convulsions: _____

Diabetes: _____

Allergies or allergic to medication:

Other physical disability or limitation:

Parental Permission for Medication: our child may take: (initial) _____ Tylenol
_____ Aspirin
_____ Pepto Bismol

UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT CHECK OUT

NAME: _____

GRADE: _____

- Uniform must be kept clean at all times – Professional Dry-cleaned Only!
- Extra uniform cleaning, if needed, is the responsibility of the student. At the end of the year each student will owe a \$10.00 cleaning fee if they have not earned enough in their fundraising account.
- Uniform will be turned in at the Director's request
- Uniform will be dry-cleaned at the Director's request
- Uniform must be worn properly at all times. All closing devices will be properly closed when the student is seen in public.
- Uniform will be stored in the uniform room, hung properly in the bag, with the bag zipped halfway to ensure good ventilation
- No material is to be removed from the uniform.
- All alterations must be approved by the Director before alterations are made
- Any damage done to the uniform will be the student's responsibility. Replacing damaged uniform parts will take 3 months. Cost is \$500.00
- Student will furnish solid black socks during football season and solid black socks during concert season.

I understand that the equipment issued to me is school property. I am liable for any damage to any equipment while it is in my possession. If there is any damage to any equipment, I will immediately tell my Director. I agree to pay for any damage to any equipment while in my care at the discretion of the Band Director.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date Signed

This must be returned for the student to be issued any band equipment.

**PARENT/STUDENT UIL MARCHING BAND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

No student may be required to attend practice for marching band for more than eight hours of rehearsal outside the academic school day per calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). This provision applies to students in all components of the marching band.

On performance days (football games, competitions and other public performances)bands may hold up to one additional hour of warm-up and practice beyond the scheduled warm-up time at the performance site. Multiple performances on the same day do not allow for additional practice and/or warm-up time.

Examples of Activities Subject To the UIL Marching Band Eight Hour Rule.

- Marching Band Rehearsal (Both Full Band And Components)
- Any Marching Band Group Instructional Activity
- Breaks
- Announcements
- Debriefing And Viewing Marching Band Videos
- Playing Off Marching Band Music
- Marching Band Sectionals (Both Director And Student Led)
- Clinics For The Marching Band Or Any Of Its Components

The Following Activities Are Not Included In The Eight Hour Time Allotment:

- Travel Time To And From Rehearsals And/Or Performances
- Rehearsal Set-Up Time
- Pep Rallies, Parades And Other Public Performances
- Instruction And Practice For Music Activities Other Than Marching Band and Its Components

NOTE: An extensive Q&A for the Eight Hour Rule for Marching Band can be Found on the Music Page of the UIL Web Site at: www.uil.utexas.edu

"We have read and understand the Eight-Hour Rule for Marching Band as stated above and agree to abide by these regulations."

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

This form is to be kept on file by the local school district.