REFUGIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BAND GUIDELINES 2020-2021

Reviewed by the RISD Board of Trustees on
August 13, 2020

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Dear Mighty Bobcat Band Members,

Welcome to another exciting year of band at Refugio High School. Your membership in the band is a compliment to your talent, intelligence, and character. You will be rewarded through your experiences as an active member of the band well beyond your actual four years of High School.

There are many things that make up a band, one of which is tradition. Traditions that have value are based on one of three cornerstones:

(1) Excellence in academic achievement,

(2) Excellence in musical performance,

(3) Excellence in social and leadership development.

Excellence is a product of PRIDE. Some traditions are timeless, and others wane as our society and values change. If you are proud of your traditions, they will last. As members of the Mighty Bobcat Band you have as much a right to forge new traditions of excellence as the students and directors who came before you. You also have a responsibility to maintain those positive qualities already present in your band program and to continue and firmly maintain the tradition of "Excellence" for your band. You have inherited a proud legacy; now accept the challenge to improve your organization. Practice and think excellence!

Sincerely,

Ted Buhrts
Band Director
Refugio ISD

ATTITUDE

You will hear this word a lot this year. Attitude can help you or hurt you. We want an attitude that will enhance our band and therefore help you. With the right attitude, we will achieve our goals and move forward to excellence.

> *"The longer I live, that more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company…a church…a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past…we cannot change that fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude…I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it." -Charles Swindoll*

ELIGIBILITY

Any student may participate in the full range of band activities provided they have passed each 6 weeks grading period with a minimum grade of 70 in each and every class.

A failing grade in any class shall cause that student to become ineligible exactly seven calendar days from the end of the grading period (i.e. one-week grace period). A student may not become ineligible or eligible during this grace period. Band students still must meet all performance responsibilities during regular school hours while ineligible. Students must still attend regular after school practices.

If a student becomes ineligible, they may regain eligibility exactly seven calendar days from the end of the progress report period provided they are passing all of their classes at the end of the progress report period. Students will be given a note to take home to have the parent sign and then return to the band director.

It should be understood that those who can't remain eligible run the risk of eliminating themselves from the opportunity to serve in any leadership position, and may not qualify for a varsity letterman jacket due to events missed.

PERFORMANCE POLICY

Performance is the greatest opportunity you have as a band to mold and shape public image and opinion about your band. It should be understood that any time the band performs it represents the students, directors, staff, administration, student body, school, and town. You should check your band calendar for all performances and activities. All public performances will be required for all band members unless otherwise notified by the director. Policy for required performances will be as follows.

An Unexcused absence from a public performance will result in a zero for that performance (test grade), and any future unexcused absence from a public performance will result in a zero and may be removed upon review by the directors. It is of the utmost importance that you communicate with the directors prior to missing ANY band function. Each case will be handled fairly and on an individual basis.

All students are expected to participate fully in any public performance. Students who has a doctor's note and cannot march will be expected to play their instruments from the sidelines. Students who do not follow this rule will not be allowed to travel to the next game. NO STUDENT WILL STAND ON THE SIDELINES AND WATCH DURING A HALFTIME PERFORMANCE.

REHEARSALS

Some general expectations for rehearsal are as follows:

BE ON TIME
BE PREPARED
BE ENTHUSIASTIC
BE RESPONSIBLE
BE DISCIPLINED
BE YOUR BEST

To outline some specifics: Time is our greatest asset/enemy, depending on how we use it. Every band has basically the same amount of time to prepare; it is how they use the time they have at school and home that makes the difference.

a. Be on time!
b. No gum, candy or anything that directors think is gum or candy or any other object in your mouth. No food or drinks are allowed in the band hall during rehearsals.
c. Always have a pencil at your stand.
d. Warm up properly (scales, lip slurs, Remington, etc…) No blasting, beating, etc..

e. When director steps on the podium, class has started and talking must stop.
f. Wear appropriate shoes during marching rehearsals (band shoes, NO sandals, heels of any kind will be allowed.)
g. Be ready for work

FOOTBALL GAMES

Bands have become an integral part of our Friday night football activities. Keep in mind why we are there.

1. To provide music and spirit in the stands to support the team and the fans. This means that every opportunity should be used to cheer, yell, play the fight song, etc. This part of the game is an opportunity for us to have a good time and support our team.

2. To provide the school song and National Anthem. These two songs demand your absolute best effort every time they are played and should be memorized along with your Fight Song.

3. To promote the band program and entertain at halftime. Halftime is ours to show what we can do. Preparation and performance for this part of Friday night will be our main priority and the focus of your energies should be placed on your halftime performance.

GRADING POLICY

Your grade is a direct indicator of your performance in band. Your performance in band encompasses all of the following areas.

GENERAL ATTITUDE PRACTICE TIME REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE MUSICAL DEVELOPMENT

You will receive in most cases, two-three grades per week. Grades will be divided into two categories: Daily and Test. Your test average will be 60%, while your Daily average will be 40%. It is YOUR responsibility to meet the requirements for Band. Strong but fair, consistent discipline and high expectations will form the basic foundation of Band.

TEST GRADES (60%): Friday night performances, concerts, UIL competition, chair tests, assigned Material, taped assignments, etc……. (Concerts will count twice)

DAILY GRADES (40%): 1. Monday night rehearsals, sectionals assigned by the directors. 2. Practice – it is expected that if you desire to be in an excellent band you will naturally practice often. In class playing checks and short assignments will suffice to monitor your practice habits. 3. Every day rehearsals in class, being prepared for each and every rehearsal and performance.

Your grade is YOUR responsibility, if you have any questions or concerns, please come and talk with me before your report card comes out.

NOTE ABOUT BAND TRAVEL

You must ride to and from any school sponsored event in school-sponsored transportation. If you are leaving a school-sponsored event with a parent/guardian, I must see the parent or guardian pick you up, and they need to sign you out. If someone other than your parent/guardian is picking you up, a letter from home must be approved three days in advance and signed by the principal and myself. It is expected that High School students should and can ride a school bus in a proper and respectable manner. This means:

Stay Seated
Talk softly/quietly
Put trash in the trash can/bag

FRIDAY NIGHTS

Wear the uniform with Pride. When not wearing the coat, you will wear your bibbers correctly, with shoulder straps up and front zipped. Always double check uniform and equipment BEFORE you leave the band hall. Especially to out of town games. YOUR equipment is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AT ALL TIMES. Come early enough to check out uniform PRIOR to rehearsal/bus departure. Wait patiently to check your uniform in PROPERLY after each game. Everybody is tired, so do it right the first time. IF YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO DO IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME, WHEN WILL YOU HAVE TIME TO DO IT OVER! Always show respect and be courteous toward the opposing band. DO NOT play your horn when the band is NOT playing a song. NOBODY may sit with the band. ONLY band members, chaperones, and the director. Restroom breaks are for emergencies ONLY. Go BEFORE/AFTER (We are there to play!) When you have 3rd quarter off, the time to be back is when the clock of the 3rd quarter says 1:00, and you need to be in your seat, if you are late then the band will not have 3rd quarter off the following week. Pay attention to the directors, drum majors, and game. You Will sit with your own section during the game.

UNIFORMS

It is your privilege to wear the uniform. Wear it at all times with pride and treat it with respect. They are to be checked out before the event it is to be worn at and immediately following the event checked back in. They are not to be taken home. The directors will authorize any alterations that may need to be made only.

THE BAND UNIFORM CONSISTS OF:

ISSUED UNIFORM (bibber, coat, gauntlet)
UNIFORM BAG/HANGER
BLACK LONG SOCKS
BLACK SHOES
BLACK GLOVES
HAT/PLUME
BIKER SHORTS/BOXERS/WIND SHORTS (no jean shorts)
BAND T-SHIRT.

The uniform will be worn at football games (regular/playoff), UIL Marching Contests, Invitational Marching Contests, ATSSB Concerts, and any other public performance that is deemed appropriate.

REMIND

I will be using the REMIND app to communicate with parents about dates and times as well as return status from away games. Please sign up for that app. It is free and all you have to do is text: @tbuhr to this number: 81010

HANDBOOK VERIFICATION

Please sign below indicating that you have read the handbook, and that you understand the expectations outlined and agree to follow the guidelines and policies stated within this handbook. As always, should you have any questions or need further information, please contact the director for assistance.

_____ _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian Signature of Student

GENERAL INFORMATION

Student Name_____ Grade _____

Home Phone_____ Cell #_____

Email_____

Father's Name_____

Work #_____Cell #_____

Mother's Name_____

Work #_____Cell #_____

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.