



PRIDE SPIRIT HEROES

**REFUGIO
BAND HANDBOOK**

2019-2020

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Refugio Independent School District

I am excited to have been chosen as the new band director of the Refugio Mighty Bobcat band program. Together, we will continue to develop a tradition of excellence through the hard work and effort of its members. It is the job of the director and each student member to see that this tradition is continued and improved upon each year. The success of the Mighty Bobcat Band will only be determined by the dedication, determination, discipline, and pride displayed by its members and the collective staff, parents, and community. It is important to remember that each member represents what is best about young people, our community, and involvement in a musical organization. The goal of the band staff is to provide students with the best music education possible while directing students to develop their character to the fullest extent through hard work, goal setting, cooperation, and responsibility.

The band program consists of several ensembles including the Marching Band, Drum Line, Jazz Band, High School Wind Ensemble, and Junior High Concert Band. For all students, active membership in the Marching Band is required in order to participate in any of the other bands. The membership of the marching band includes all members of the band program grades 7-12. Individually, members will have the opportunity to perform solo literature for their instruments and to perform in various chamber ensembles. These groups will perform at school and at UIL solo and ensemble contest. Band students also audition for various TMEA and/or ATSSB honor groups such as All-Region Band, All-Region Jazz Band, and All-State Band. Being selected as a member of these organizations is among the highest honors a high school musician can attain.

“Dedication, determination, discipline, and pride,” It is important to understand that these are not simply words. Their meanings do not change from day to day, nor do their definitions change to accommodate one’s own personal wants and desires. For our greatest goals to be met, we must be dedicated to our cause, determined to succeed, and have the discipline to work hard and make progress each day.

Welcome to the REFUGIO MIGHTY BOBCAT BAND!

This handbook will clarify all of the expectations that go with being in one of the top performing bands in the state. Please read the entire handbook with your parents, sign the forms on the last few pages and return them to the band directors when specified.

Sincerely,

Ted Buhrts
Band Director
Refugio ISD

Attendance:

Throughout the school year, each band will present several public performances. Each performance is very important and attendance by the members of the band is required. Band members are expected to make all rehearsals and performances; it is a performance class as described in the Texas Education Agency's list of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills requirements.

The band is dependent upon all of its members. Unlike most other classes where individuals are accountable only for their own success or failure, a band student's success is dependent on the full participation of all the members. During marching season, an alternate may replace members who are absent, excused or unexcused. During concert season, a student may be removed if they are habitually absent from rehearsal.

Students who make the commitment to participate in both band and fall sports/cheer are expected to do so fully. It will be the student's responsibility to communicate these conflicts to the band director in advance. On days that have conflicting practice/rehearsal times, students should go to the sports/cheer practice and participate fully. Once the sports/cheer practice is over, students will be expected to come and fully participate in band rehearsals.

Only two reasons for missing a performance/rehearsal will be accepted.

1. Severe illness, which must be attested to by a physician.
2. Death in the family.

Examples of UNEXCUSED absences and tardiness include, but are not limited to:

1. Work
2. Transportation not arranged
3. Anything deemed unexcused by the directors

The director must be notified, two weeks in advance in writing, of any absence or it will automatically be considered an unexcused absence. An unexcused absence will result in reduction of grade and possible disciplinary action. Repeated unexcused absence from rehearsals and/or performances may cause the student to be dismissed from the program.

Marching Band:

The most active of bands, it requires extra rehearsals, summer rehearsals, and some weekend time in the fall. This group is composed of every band member grades 7-12 and lasts through the duration of football season. Marching band activities include playing at all football games and pep-rallies, community parades, area marching festivals, and UIL marching contest. The Marching band rehearsal schedule is set by the director and can change or be modified at any time. Rehearsal is normally after school on Monday night from 6 to 8:30 pm. They also rehearse during the class day. All rehearsals are required. Any appointments, doctor visits, or outings need to be scheduled around rehearsals and performances. Members who are absent unexcused may be replaced by an alternate during marching season. No member of the band has a “guaranteed” position in the band show. Materials that are required for all marching rehearsals are as follows:

- *Proper footwear. No flip-flops or loose fitting shoes that will easily fall off
- *Flip Folder with music
- *Water Bottle (camel pack, thermos, etc.)
- *Instrument and YOU!!

Wind Ensemble/Concert Band:

During concert band season, in order to prepare for concerts and contests, there may be a need for extra sectional or full band rehearsals. These will be scheduled on an as needed basis and will be mandatory following the attendance policy.

Rehearsal Guidelines:

The following rehearsal guidelines have been established for both Marching band and Wind Ensemble/Concert Band so that each band member can fully understand what is expected of him/her. Unexcused absences and missed performances **will** affect the students’ grade.

1. Be present for all rehearsals and performances.
2. Be on time – in your designated place.
3. Have all required materials and equipment at each rehearsal or performance.
4. Do not talk or distract during rehearsals.
5. Follow directions of instructors as well as all school policies.

Game Expectations:

Since the band has such a high profile status during football games, the following guidelines are my expectations of all band members: The band will sit in rows in the stands when we are not playing. The only part of the band allowed on the track is the podium, the keyboard instruments, the football player/cheerleader instruments, and the directors. We will play when we are on defense. When we score, we will immediately stop what we are doing and play the fight song.

If students are following expectations and demonstrating good behavior, the band will have 3rd quarter off. The band will play the fight song as the team returns to the field after halftime and then will be released. All students, regardless of circumstances, will be expected to be in their seat ready to play at the when the clock strikes zero at the end of the 3rd quarter. If this expectation is not followed, having 3rd quarter off will be cancelled.

At the end of the game, we will stay in the stands until it is time to play the school song. After the school song is played, we will dismiss to the buses after the area is checked for trash.

All students are expected to participate in the loading and unloading of equipment, even if the equipment is not yours, we will help each other.

Leaving Away Games:

In some instances, a member of the band may wish not to return from an away game with the band. This will be allowed if written permission is turned in to the director prior to the game trip departure. This permission must be signed by a parent/guardian and must include a telephone number where the parent/guardian may be reached for confirmation. Students may leave only with their parent/guardian. They may not leave with boyfriends, girlfriends, aunt, uncle, grandma, cousin, etc. Students who do not ride home with the band will be released to the parent or guardian at the buses following the game. Students must check out with a member of the band staff. The student is also in charge of making arrangements to get their instrument off the trailer. The band uniform must be brought back to school on the next school day.

Eligibility: (No pass- No play)

The band program takes pride in the fact that band students are among the highest achieving students academically in the school and are also among the most active in other organizations.

Extra-Curricular Activities – Most of the activities that are associated with marching band are extra-curricular including football games and contests. Events that are considered extra-curricular include:

- Any event with paid admission
- Any event that is inter-school competitive
- Any event that is not on campus.

Curricular Activities – Most of the work that our students do outside of marching is considered curricular and NOT SUBJECT TO ELIGIBILITY. Free concerts, section rehearsals, concert rehearsals, and private lessons are all considered curricular.

Band students who are ineligible (who have at least one class with a grade below a 70) for extra-curricular functions will still be eligible for curricular events. Students who are having problems academically are encouraged to take part in tutorials that are held after school. Students who are in danger of failing are required to attend tutorials.

Since there is a no-pass/no-play rule in Texas, members of the band who fail one or more classes will not be able to perform with the band at half time shows and other marching contests. If you fail a class, you are ineligible for any extra-curricular activities. This includes football games, pep rallies, parades, district/region band auditions, Solo/Ensemble Contest, and any type of group/team competition. Attendance is still required at all rehearsals for ineligible students. Ineligible students will be assigned as alternates during contest preparation time.

Supplies:

The following items are required for every band student and are the responsibility of the student to provide for themselves:

- Brass: valve oil and slide grease, pencil, water bottle.
- Woodwinds: 3 working reeds, swab, pencil, water bottle.
- Percussion: water and drill books.
- a pair of Black Marching Shoes
- a clear poncho
- two pair of long wristed black cotton gloves
- band t-shirt
- two pair of long black socks

*all music (1 copy) will be provided along with a flip folder and lyre. Some school owned instrument, sticks, and mallets may be provided to the students but the students are responsible for the care and repair/replacement if the instrument is damaged.

*if you need help finding or getting these items, I will gladly help you with getting these items

Instruments:

School owned instruments are the responsibility of the student to whom they are checked out. All school instruments are repaired before being checked out to a student. Repairs that are necessary to an instrument because of a student's misuse or carelessness are the responsibility of the student. The student must notify the band staff if a repair needs to be made. Any student who is issued a school instrument must return an Instrument Check-out Form to the director. These forms will be issued the first day of school and must be returned by the last day of the first week of school. The form must be signed by the parent/guardian and the student.

Band Travel:

All school, band, and board policies are in effect during trips and/or travel. Students who violate regulations while traveling will be subject to disciplinary actions upon return and/or may be sent home from the trip. Any student caught violating school/band policy is subject to being sent home (at guardian's expense) and immediate removal from the program. Students MUST be UIL Academically eligible to participate in any band trip.

Chaperones:

Adults are requested to travel with the band on some travel functions and trips. They travel as guests of the band and receive the same benefits from the trip, as do the students and the directors. A chaperone's primary function is to assist the directors and as such, students are to give them the same respect as the directors. Chaperones are required to complete the district required background check forms and turn them into the central office before being added to the official school approved chaperone list. Forms to be a chaperone can be picked up at the central office.

Uniforms:

The uniform is property of Refugio ISD. It should be considered an honor to wear the uniform and it will be treated as such. By accepting membership in this ensemble, you agree to serve as a representative of the Refugio Music Department. All students are to remove ALL jewelry while in the band uniform. In addition, there is no eating in full uniform and members are only allowed to drink water while in uniform. Any damage due to mistreatment or poor care of the uniforms will be the responsibility of the student, and parents. The individual cost of a uniform is in excess of \$500. Uniforms will be cleaned on a systematic basis decided by the director. Uniforms are fitted, as closely as possible, to each student. Where alterations are needed, the uniform must NOT BE CUT!!! Band students must purchase a pair of black marching shoes. In addition, students must also purchase long black socks.

Grading Policy:

Students will have 2 major grades and at least 6 minor grades per grading period. Major grades count for 60 percent of a student's total grade and minor grades count for 40 percent of a student's total grade.

Major grades include performances, playing tests, written tests, and written researched papers. Minor grades include daily participation grades, quizzes, and homework. Student earn their daily participation grade by being in their seat when they are expected to be, participate in playing/marching as they are expected to be, have the proper equipment and supplies ready, and having their music. Students earn 20 points per day. If a student is successful all 5 days of the week, they will earn a 100 for the week.

Cell Phones:

If a student is distracted by a cell phone during class, I will ask the student to turn their cell phone in to me for the remainder of the class. If the student does so without displaying negativity, the phone will be returned at the end of class. If a cell phone distraction becomes a common problem for a particular student, or if the student displays negativity when asked to turn in their phone, the phone will be turned in to the main office and a discipline referral will be issued.

Discipline:

There are three steps in the discipline process. They are:

1. Verbal redirection of behavior
2. Referral issued, reduction in grade, and parent notification
3. Reduction in grade, parent notification, and principal notification

Depending on the severity of the discipline problem, as determined by the director and/or principal, other consequences and/or removal from band may occur.

Rule Changes:

The director has the right to change any rule as they feel necessary. Any rule change will be clearly spelled out in writing.

BAND HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

I have read, understood, and agree to comply with all the rules and regulations explained in this Handbook.

Student Signature Date

Parent Signature Date

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

INSTRUMENT CHECK OUT/IN FORM

I am checking: IN OUT

Instrument: _____

Serial #: _____

I acknowledge that I have checked to be sure that all parts were here when I checked the instrument out and that all the parts are here when I turned the instrument in.

Students Name (printed) _____

Students Signature _____

Date _____

Parents Name (printed) _____

Parents Signature _____