



OPERATIONS
HANDBOOK
2020-2021



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Staff Directory

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2020-21 Grand Oaks Band Booster Association

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WELCOME

The Grand Oaks High School, Big Blue Band is excited to have you join our program. GOHS Band philosophy will revolve around principles of personal responsibility, excellence and balance. We believe that excellence should be at the core of our beings. We believe that anything that is not excellent is an opportunity to learn. Every great leader agrees that if work is approached at a high level of excellence then efficiency and balance and success become logical results. ***Do your best every time and you won't have to waste time doing it again.***

By accepting membership in the Grand Oaks High School Band, you are agreeing to perform to the best of your abilities at all times. You are agreeing to work with your teammates (other members and directors) to make this year's band a model organization in our school and program that Conroe Independent School District will look to as a leader.

This handbook has been developed to provide each band member with a general outline of operations and standards. All band and color guard members are expected to conduct themselves according to the model outlined here. **The handbook is not intended to be all-inclusive, as every possible situation and question cannot be predicted in advance.* However, a thorough knowledge of these materials is essential for success in our program. These guidelines have been developed for your safety, happiness and success in our organization.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

All of these objectives will be pursued to the highest level of excellence.

Mental and physical discipline

- Develop powers of concentration
- Develop memory skills
- Learn techniques of preparation
- Develop discipline

Citizenship through group endeavor

- Develop leadership abilities
- Develop personal responsibility
- Develop ability to cooperate with others and to work as a team
- Develop diligence
- Develop mutual respect

Physical conditioning

- Develop strength, stamina, endurance and coordination (a.k.a. GRIT)

Cultural growth

- Attain knowledge of music history through performance of various genres and styles of music.

Value Judgments

- We teach critical listening skills. These develop students' recognition of quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation

Music theory

- Know and utilize rhythmic values.
- Know and utilize key signatures and the patterns they create
- Know and utilize musical terms, signs, and symbols
- Recognize and tune intervals and chords

Proper instrumental technique

- Care of the instrument
- Correct posture and playing position
- Develop the embouchure/stick grip/hand position
- Develop characteristic instrumental tone
- Develop proper breathing techniques
- Develop dexterity and spatial reasoning skills through precision technical (fingering, articulation, rudiments, scales, etc.)

Creative self-expression

- Express oneself in every performance experience (solo, ensemble, concert band, jazz band, marching band)

In addition to the State of Texas guidelines, the Grand Oaks High School Band will strive to:

- teach music through actual performance
- develop public performance skills.
- provide for the musical needs of the students, the school and the community

GOHS BAND LEADERSHIP

The GOHS Band thrives because of strong student leadership. Listed below are the positions within the student leadership team:

Year-Round: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Historian

Marching Season: Drum Major, Drum Captain, Front Ensemble Captain, Guard Captain, Section Leader

ALL STUDENT LEADERS WHO ARE ELECTED AND SELECTED MUST FULFILL THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS TO REMAIN IN THEIR OFFICES:

1. Play a solo and an ensemble at the Region UIL level.
2. Tryout for All-Region Band.
3. Attend ALL summer practices, meetings, and have no unexcused absences from band activities during the year.
4. Demonstrate leadership through example; promote the highest expectations for band members; and show a zero tolerance for negative behavior. Band Officers with any disciplinary referral in any class will be removed from office. Officers cannot have more than 2 "N's" in conduct during the school year. There should be no "U's". A "U" will result in being removed from office.
5. Remain academically eligible throughout the year. Ineligibility at any time will result in removal from office.
6. Leaders must turn in a copy of each nine weeks report card to the band directors.
7. Officers must meet other requirements as listed in the Grand Oaks High School student handbook.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Band is a performance-based class; therefore, **PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION ARE MANDATORY.**

Students missing a performance for unexcused reasons will lose their spot in the marching show. Students missing a performance the day they were absent from school due to illness, death in the family, or other excusable incident should report to the band office ASAP to be cleared by a band director. To complete a performance routine, the alternates will be trained to step in and take marching and/or playing positions that are vacated. The alternate's status as a varsity performer may be retained if it is felt to be in the best interests of the band by the Band Staff.

Conflict with A Band Event

Directors must be given a minimum of one week's notice of any scheduled conflicts with an after-school band event (rehearsal, performance, or other scheduled activity) for the absence to be excused (this does not guarantee that an absence will be excused). This notice must be given in the form of a written note from the parent and hand-delivered to the student's primary director by either parent or student. The note should include the parent's home and work phone numbers and detailed reasons for the anticipated absence. Doctors' appointments should not be scheduled to conflict with band events.

Any conflict that may arise with a band event must immediately be brought to the attention of the directors so plans may be adjusted, if necessary. Only in the case of an extreme emergency will an exception be made to the one-week rule. Even in the case of an extreme emergency (such as an illness or death in the family), the directors should be contacted as soon as possible so that appropriate plans may be made to cover for the missing student.

Conclusion

Without question, schoolwork and academics are still the number one priority for all students at Grand Oaks High School. With that said, "I had a lot of homework last night ..." or "I had family over last night ..." will not suffice as an acceptable excuse for missing a rehearsal. It is up to you to learn to balance your time responsibly. We will help with this ... but planning is key!

Participation in the Grand Oaks Band means a commitment to not only one's own time management, and personal improvement, but also to other members of the team. During auditions, all students received detailed information on the number of hours of rehearsal each week to plan for and in following through with the audition, students and parents agreed to develop a time management plan that would allow balance between school and this varsity sport.

MARCHING SEASON

The Grand Oaks High School Marching Band is the most visible organization at Grand Oaks High School. All band students in grades 9–12 participate in the Marching Band at the discretion of the band director. Students who participate in certain GOHS sponsored events such as drill team, or a fall sport may be excused from participation at discretion of the band director. UIL states that a marching band may practice 8 hours a week and have an hour run through the day of a performance.

***Dress for marching rehearsals must be tennis shoes, shorts, light colored T-shirt not cut out, a ball cap, sunglasses, and sunscreen. No tank tops. The purpose for this is so we look uniform during rehearsals. Compression shorts DO NOT count as pants.

MARCHING BAND ELIGIBILITY

Activities associated with the Marching Band are extra-curricular and include football games and all contests. To be eligible by TEA, UIL, and CISD requirements, students must pass ALL classes each grading period. In high school, any student who fails a single class at the end of the first six-weeks grade check and each nine-weeks report card thereafter will become INELIGIBLE seven days after the last day of the grading period in which they failed.

**At the beginning of the school year, by state law, the first-grade check for eligibility is at the 1st six weeks of school. Remember, this is not the report card. If at the end of the 1st six weeks your student is failing any class, then he or she must sit out from extra-curricular activities for three weeks beginning one week after the grade check. The student can regain eligibility after the three-week suspension by passing everything on the next grade check. If your student becomes ineligible at the six-week grade check, YOUR STUDENT WILL LOSE THEIR POSITION IN THE MARCHING BAND SHOW.

**Keep in mind that if your student is passing everything at the end of the first six weeks, your student can still lose eligibility if they fail one class on the 1st nine-weeks report card. If that happens, YOUR STUDENT WOULD MISS THE REMAINING OF FOOTBALL SEASON AND WILL LOSE THEIR POSITION IN THE SHOW.

PARENTS MUST BECOME FAMILIAR WITH EVERY ASPECT OF THE ELIGIBILITY ISSUES AND STAY ON TOP OF YOUR STUDENT! THE ENTIRE BAND IS AFFECTED WHEN A STUDENT BECOMES INELIGIBLE THEREFORE IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT STUDENTS PASS THEIR CLASSES!

MARCHING BAND POSITIONS

The Grand Oaks Marching Band is the largest, positive image-projecting organization on campus. The group appears in halftime performances during football games and represents GOHS in public community events as well as in the competitive marching band arena. Each year from January through July, much thought and effort is put into the numerous factors that determine the number of 'positions' that should be charted in the competition show, or Field Production, for that season. These decisions must be made well in advance because of the time involved in the construction and design of the program each year.

These estimations define how the music is arranged and determine the number of drill positions that are plotted. It is the responsibility of the directors to ensure that the students in the marching band are set up for success, including the job of fielding a complete ensemble without 'holes' in the drill or music. The directors carefully consider several factors when determining these numbers.

- Current and prospective enrollment in the band program
- A student's standing in band
- Academic eligibility history of student
- Attendance during previous school year and preseason training rehearsals
- Basic skills and physical conditioning that allow for the student to march and play without the threat of injury to himself or others
- Ability to play and memorize required music and march at the same time

Based on these factors, we decide how many positions to plot in the show for the following fall. When we begin summer band, we are already committed to a specific number of students, based on the above criteria. The show is professionally written, and the numbers cannot be changed. At the August camp, the Students' are preliminarily assigned by audition that includes marching and playing. Students must be at the entire August camp to be considered for a position. The audition will place students into one of two categories:

1. Varsity Band

2. Alternates

1. Varsity Band

To be considered the following must be met:

- Successfully completes the music memory requirement by the deadline.
- Can stay in step while marching.
- March with correct style and perform music from memory simultaneously.
- Is punctual in report times.
- Is present at all rehearsals and performances.
- Maintains academic eligibility.

- Acts accordingly in all rehearsals and performances.
- Is proficient in the required scales for band.
- Ranks in the number of spots charted for their section in the drill.
- Does not allow anything that “just comes up” to interfere with your marching position.

2. Alternates

Students who cannot move in time and/or do not march with correct style and/or cannot march and play simultaneously will be alternates.

Alternates will have an opportunity to work on their marching skills. If at some point during the season a spot opens in the Varsity Band and an alternate meets the above requirements, they may audition for that spot. Alternates will assist at the marching contests with props, field equipment and organizational requirements.

MARCHING BAND ATTENDANCE

In order to have a competitive marching band, attendance from all members is essential. Work schedules, family trips, and other activities must not interfere with the rehearsal and long-range performance schedule that you are given at the beginning of the school year. Students, who enroll in other school activities such as athletics, choir, drama, etc., need to plan ahead to avoid conflicts that cannot be resolved. Ask to receive a complete semester calendar from all your activities so that you can have the maximum amount of time to work out potential schedule conflicts. Remember that other groups, organizations, or businesses that may change schedules or make demands of students on short notice will not be allowed to interfere with the long-range rehearsal and performance schedule of the marching band. Non-school sponsored activities, teams, organizations, or jobs must not conflict in any way with the practice/performance schedule of the band.

The following guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the marching band.

1. Roll check will be promptly at the start of rehearsal and in the attendance block.
2. Students not in the attendance block in their assigned position at the appropriate time will be marked tardy.
3. Tardiness will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Tutorials, appointments, over sleeping, work, transportation not arranged, doing homework, etc., will not be an excuse for tardiness unless prior arrangements are made and approved. The student must upon arrival sign in and explain to the director the reason for tardiness.
4. Tardiness will be converted to a mark of absence 15 minutes after the rehearsal begins.
5. Students who have an unexcused tardy shall be subject to the following consequences: loss of performance privilege at a game, loss of going to a game, loss of spot as a starting marcher.
6. Absences will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Everyone knows the band schedule so appointments, etc., will not be an excuse for absence. Personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family and serious problems will be considered as an excused absence. Students who are

continually ill will need to provide a doctor's note releasing them from participation in order to insure the wellbeing of the child and to reduce band director concerns. If in doubt, an absence should be checked with the director. Doing homework is not an excused absence. Driver's Ed is not an excused absence. Special note: Marching Band students have two mornings and two afternoons free during the marching band season. These days should be used for appointments and routine professional visits as well as getting help from teachers and going to tutorials that are offered after school.

NOTES FOR ABSENCE - ON THE DAY A STUDENT RETURNS FROM MISSING A REHEARSAL, A NOTE EXPLAINING THE ABSENCE MUST BE TURNED IN. THE NOTE TO THE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICE IS NOT SUFFICIENT. IF A NOTE IS NOT RECEIVED, THE ABSENCE IS COUNTED AS UNEXCUSED!

Unexcused Absence:

1. Loss of performance privilege at the next game
2. Loss of marching spot
3. Zero recorded in grade book

PERFORMANCE PROCEDURES

Report: This will be the designated time at which all members should be at the high school or set location. Students should have all attire and necessary items for the designated performance prior to the report time. Students who are tardy will receive consequences.

Inspection: Students will stand at attention without talking until everyone is inspected. Students without appropriate equipment will be sent home and an unexcused absence recorded.

Prior to departure for a marching band performance, students must have on the complete uniform with official black shorts and band T-shirt under it, 100% black socks that go halfway up the calf, and clean marching shoes on. Black socks must at least be mid-calf in height. Your gloves, gauntlets, head gear, poncho, flip folder and water jug should be placed on the floor in front of where you are standing. Ball caps may not be worn with the uniform at any time.

Load: This will be the designated time at which all members should be on the appropriate bus with all equipment loaded.

Return: This will be the time of return to the band hall. YOUR TRANSPORTATION HOME SHOULD BE AT THE SCHOOL BY THE SET TIME. We will strive to meet this time as accurately as possible to avoid parent waiting.

30 minutes after returning from an event, all students must be picked up. After 30 minutes, the directors will be leaving the premises after calling the police to take students home.

FOOTBALL GAME PROCEDURES

The football game is viewed as a performance of the band program. Such a performance includes all aspects of the game from arrival to departure.

1. Students will arrive at the set report time.
2. Students will load and be prepared to travel at the set load time.
3. Students will load the buses with all equipment needed for the performance.
4. Inspection of all students prior to boarding the buses.
5. Upon arrival at the performance area, students will prepare equipment for unloading. Students will unload buses when instructed to do so by a chaperone or director. Students must be in full uniform excluding hat, gloves, and gauntlets.
6. Students will report to the entrance formation for final inspection. Students will march in to a drum tap or cadence upon instruction from a drum major or director.
7. Students will report to seating area. Students will remain standing at attention until all band members are ready to be seated. Students will sit when instructed by a drum major or director. Students must sit in assigned seats and remain in that seat at all times.
8. At all times, students will remain in the band seating section during the game. Water will be provided by the band parent organization. Students will refrain from accepting food or drinks from parents, relatives, or friends.
9. Students needing a restroom break must be accompanied by a chaperone. Restroom breaks will not be granted in the second quarter of a football game except in emergencies.
10. Students use their water bottles during the game to stay hydrated.
11. Students will be expected to listen to and watch the directors and drum majors during the game. Students will need to be prepared to perform at a moment's notice.
12. Students will refrain from playing their instruments on an individual basis. The band will perform as a group.
13. At the proper time, the band will be dismissed from the stands for the half-time performance. The band must move quietly and efficiently to the right area and put on jackets and plumes. Students will need to be focused on the directors and drum-majors' instructions.
14. When the half-time performance concludes, students will return to the stands and continue performing throughout the rest of the game.
15. During the game, only the council, not section leaders will go across to meet the band.
16. Upon return to the band hall, students will insure that all personal items, uniforms, and instruments are placed in the proper storage areas.

PARENTS: Checking Students Out from a Football Game

Check out for students from a football game is after the school song has been played after the conclusion of the game. So that there is no confusion, leaving early for homework, birthday, or to see people that came into town, etc., is not acceptable. A note must be turned in one day in advance of the game to check out. Sign out with the head chaperone by a parent only.

CONCERT SEASON

CONCERT ENSEMBLE'S

Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble performs music of the highest degree of difficulty. Performances will include a holiday concert, UIL Contest, one or more invitational festivals, two or more spring concerts, and special events. Each student is required to have a 90-minute individual section rehearsal once a week along with an extra full woodwind/brass/percussion section rehearsal. Schedules for these rehearsals will be determined by the students democratically at the end of marching season. In addition, extra rehearsals and clinics are scheduled during the spring competition time. You will be given a complete calendar in December for all spring events. Wind Ensemble members must do everything possible not to miss any rehearsal during the year. There will be a special Wind Ensemble commitment letter to sign in addition to this Handbook before becoming a member.

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is the second ranked band. The band attends all UIL music competitions. The band rehearses during the regular school day and each member is required to attend a 60 minute individual section rehearsal and 15-minute individual listening each week outside of the school day. You will be given a complete calendar in December for all spring events. Other rehearsals and clinics will be scheduled as needed. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory.

Jazz Ensemble

Jazz Ensemble is open to any member of the Grand Oaks HS Band program but is a fixed instrumentation class. If more than the allotted number of instruments enroll in the class, students in the sections in question will audition for positions in the Jazz Ensemble. The class meets daily 7th period, and all students must remain enrolled in a concert band to maintain membership in this class.

To be selected into a Concert or Jazz Band, students must:

1. Participate in the audition process each fall and spring.
2. Placement will be by the number of chairs available in the band.
3. Attitude, maturity, attendance, and ability all play into the band assignment.

REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

Each of the concert ensembles will perform at various times throughout the year. Students are required to participate in all rehearsals and performances. Unexcused absences will result in a grade of zero and possible student removal from the organization. (See general attendance policies.) Performances of the concert ensembles will include but are not limited to the following:

- Winter Concert
- Pre UIL Concert
- UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest
- Band Festival (Spring Trip)
- Spring Concert

Extra Full Band Rehearsal – Section Rehearsals – Listening’s

Students will have weekly section rehearsals for fundamentals of instrumental technique, region music preparation, solo and ensemble preparation, and UIL Contest. Section rehearsals will begin after marching season and will be held the rest of school year. All students in the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band will have a weekly out of school band rehearsal in the spring. This is due to the length of the music of the contest programs. These rehearsals are mandatory and essential. Listening’s are 15-minute slots for students to come in and pass off music including solos and UIL contest music. The syllabus will detail when these will take place and how often.

CONCERTS AND PERFORMANCES

Concerts and performances are frequent with all bands. Students should consult their band calendar for dates and times. Periodically, the schedule will change, and updates will be sent home. Concerts are considered to have three parts: warm-up, performance, and listening. The concert begins for the student at the warm-up time. A concert concludes when the last group concludes, and directors have given permission for students to be dismissed. A general report time will be given for all students to don the uniform.

1. All concerts are a group effort thus attendance is required.
2. All concerts are an extension of the classroom and will be graded accordingly.
3. Students should be punctual and prepared for each performance.
4. In the event a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up all missed work in a timely manner.
5. The appropriate dress for all concerts will be the dress uniform.

Concert Etiquette

1. Avoid entering or leaving during a performance.
2. Do not move once a performance has begun.
3. Applause is welcome but whistling or cheering or calling out of names is considered inappropriate for a formal concert.
4. Talking should be avoided during a performance.
5. Attention should be directed to the performers.
6. After performing, students must stay in the concert uniform. Boys may remove the bowtie but must wear the coat in an appropriate manner.

REGION BAND GUIDELINES

1. All Wind Ensemble students will audition for All-Region Band unless excused by the band director. If selected, you will perform a concert. (Check your calendar for dates.)
2. Symphonic Band students may audition with director approval.
3. Students in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band will be graded weekly on preparation for this audition which occurs in December.
4. Any person who is fortunate to be selected for the region band will attend all rehearsals and the performance.
5. All freshmen in Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band must plan to audition for Freshmen Region Band.

CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION

1. All band members in the band program will prepare and perform a solo for a grade.
2. All members in the program will go to solo and ensemble contest.
3. Grades will be issued for preparation and participation in the Solo and Ensemble process.
4. Students must use an approved accompanist and pay for it.

CONCERT SEASON ATTENDANCE

Attendance from members is essential to have and maintain high quality concert ensembles. **The Band is dependent on ALL members.** Unlike most other classes where individuals are accountable only for their own success or failure, band student's success is, in a large part, dependent on the full participation of all the members. The following attendance policies will affect the student's grades and chance to participate:

1. All absences from rehearsals must be made up regardless of the reason for absence. Makeups must be completed by the end of the grading period.
2. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance may result in the removal of a student to a lower band.

Concert Season Eligibility

*Most of the work 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.** Events that are considered Extra-Curricular include:*

1. Any event with paid admission
2. Any event that is inter-school competitive

Should a band student become ineligible for extra-curricular functions, he/she will still be eligible for curricular functions. Ineligible students will be given alternate assignments during contest preparation time.

UNIFORM GUIDELINES

GENERAL

1. Band uniforms will be issued during registration or during summer band camp.
2. Band uniforms will be stored in the uniform room only, not in your cubby.
3. Students are financially responsible for the uniform and will pay for any damage.
4. Students who show disregard for uniform rules will be assigned community service. Issue and Return
5. Students will pick up their uniforms from the rack at least 30 minutes prior to report time for any event.
6. Students should follow the posted pick-up/return guidelines. Students who do not follow these guidelines will be assigned community service.
7. Students will be issued a uniform number. This number should be memorized or recorded in a readily accessible location. Students will use this number to pick up their uniform from the rack. Memorize your head gear number too.
8. The uniform must be hung up correctly on its return or you will be assigned community service. Any student not returning their uniform after a performance will be assessed community service. Frequent violations of this guideline may result in loss of uniform privilege.

Donning the Uniform

1. Always wear and treat your uniform with pride. The uniform should be worn as a complete unit when in public except the hat. The only exception to this will be when riding on a bus or a director instructs you that you may remove your hat or coat.
2. Only the "official" band T-shirt and shorts are to be worn under the marching uniform. The T-shirt and shorts will be part of pre-performance inspections. Section shirts are not acceptable.
3. You must wear the approved Grand Oaks Band Shoe and black socks that have no markings of any kind on them and go up at least halfway up the calf. Students purchase both. Make sure your shoes are clean.
4. No headbands, hair ribbon, corsage, flower, etc. may be worn. ONLY a neutral colored ponytail holder may be used with the uniform.
5. No earrings, other than small studs, may be worn with the uniform. One ring – senior, religious, or family – may be worn with the uniform. NO finger nail polish is allowed.
6. No bracelets may be worn, as they may appear at the sleeves, however, a necklace may be worn providing it cannot be seen.

Marching Band Uniform ALTERATIONS and CARE

1. Never cut any material from the band uniform. Snap the hem of your pants so, the crease does not "break" when standing straight up with your band shoes on. The pant leg should come to the top of the band shoe. Then tack/hem the pants in between the snaps so they won't come undone.

2. Keep the collar hooked while hanging up the marching coat to retain its shape. Always hang the pants by the crease.
3. Keep your uniform in the appropriate bag. Always be careful to keep up with your hat and the correct box for your hat.
4. Do not eat or drink anything other than water while in uniform.

Color Guard Uniform

1. Make-up will be worn as instructed by the director.
2. Hair will be styled as instructed by the director. Students needed to get approval from the guard director for changes to their hair/appearance during the performance season, hair color must remain a natural color.
3. Only accessories that are a part of the uniform may be worn during performances, NO jewelry.
4. Nails are to remain natural for performances, ONLY CLEAR nail polish may be worn.

Concert Band Tuxes and Girls Dresses

1. GOHS will provide a tuxedo for the boys and concert dress for the girls.
2. Boys must provide a tux shirt and bow tie. Cummerbunds are recommended.
3. Girls must provide a closed toe with a closed heel dress shoe to be worn with the black concert dress. These should almost be flats.
4. Boys are to get their own tux pants hemmed. No material is to be removed.
5. Girls are to get their own dresses hemmed. No material is to be removed.
6. The school will not pay for alterations.
7. Students are financially responsible for any damage to the tux or dress.

TRAVEL GUIDELINES

The band will frequently travel on both school and commercial buses. Student conduct is expected to be at the highest level on any trip.

1. Students must go and return on the bus. Any student wishing to arrive or leave with his or her parent, must notify the director in writing two days prior to the trip by filling out an Alternative Travel Form with the proper signatures.
2. Students must have all necessary permission to travel, insurance, and medical forms completed and returned prior any to travel with the band.

While on the bus, students will:

1. Remain seated
2. Sit properly in a forward position
3. Keep the bus clear of food, drinks, and debris
4. Keep all body parts inside the bus
5. Use only approved type headset radios/CD players
6. Remain silent when an adult is addressing the bus
7. Refrain from loud, boisterous talking, screaming, whistling, etc.
8. Refrain from public displays of affection

Special Note:

*Students are reminded that all performances / concerts start and conclude at the band hall. As a member of the band, you are a representative of your school. Always be on your best behavior. If you are in doubt about an action, **DO NOT DO IT!** Your conduct must be such that at no time could it be considered a bad reflection on the school, the band, your family, yourself, or the community.*

CHAPERONES

Adult chaperones are a great asset to the band program. Proper respect will be shown to all adults associated with the band program.

GENERAL CONDUCT / EXPECTATIONS

Band Members will observe all policies set forth by the Grand Oaks High School Band and the Conroe Independent School District as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

1. All students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times. Display of profanity, temper, flagrant violation of rules, etc., will not tolerated. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection on the group. Any behavior that is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the

band staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the band program.

2. Students will follow director's instructions.
3. Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area ready to work at the rehearsal time.
4. Students will bring all equipment including music, pencil, instrument, and supplies to rehearsals daily.
5. Students will keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.
6. Students will maintain a high level of focus.
7. Students will not bring food, drinks, candy, or gum in the band hall area without permission from a band director.
8. Students will not play on equipment they do not own or have permission from a director to use. Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
9. Students should ask for permission to speak by raising a hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be quiet so that our time will be utilized wisely.
10. When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.
11. Students may not use the office telephone during the school day.
12. Students will respect the property of others.
13. Students will not enter the director's offices without permission and without knocking.
14. Students will not enter music library without permission.
15. The copy machine is for band and theater use only.
16. Students will not use teacher computers.
17. Students will not lean on, deface, or mark on music stands.
18. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area and keep said storage areas clean and neat in appearance. Students will close and lock their cubby door every day.
19. Students will only keep their band instrument and music folder in their cubby. Nothing else!
20. Students will not enter uniform room, or color guard room without permission.
21. Color guard may not be in band practice rooms.

OVERNIGHT TRIP GUIDELINES

1. A student must be currently enrolled in a band or guard class to go on an overnight trip. If they start paying in the fall then drop band/guard in the spring, all payments are forfeited as outlined in the trip payment contract.
2. Students may not physically alter their body in any way on a trip. Altering includes but not limited to: (hair: cut, coloring, chemical curl, or chemical straightening) piercings of any kind, or tattoos of any kind. This includes leaving the group with any adult for such purpose.

3. Any student, 18 years of age, MUST abide by all rules and policies pertaining to the trip. 18-year-olds may not act on their own.

INSTRUMENTS & SUPPLIES FOR BAND AND COLOR GUARD:

RECOMMENDED INSTRUMENT LIST

We recommend that students not continue using their "beginner" instrument past the 8th grade, unless an advanced model was purchased initially. Better quality instruments allow students to learn more quickly and with greater ease. Here is the CISD recommended instrument list. Consult with your band director and lesson teacher before making a purchase. We want all the students on the same make and model.

Flute – Haynes, Miyazawa or other approved models (consult with the director)

Clarinet – Buffet R13 or Selmer Presence

Alto Saxophone – Selmer SA-80; Yamaha Custom EX

Trumpet – Bach Stradivarius 180-S37

Tenor Trombone – Bach Stradivarius 42-BO

SUPPLIES

The following is a list of supplies to have at each rehearsal. This list is not all inclusive:

- All issued music
- Pencil
- Instrument
- All supplies relative to their instrument
- All marching related equipment (during marching season)

Flutes

- Tuning and cleaning rods
- Cleaning cloth
- Key oil
- Approved type instrument
- Screwdriver Set

Clarinets

- Three good playable reeds. Vandoren is the approved reed.
- Reed guard
- Ligature
- Proper mouthpiece with cap (Vandoren 5 RV Lyre or better)
- Key oil (Case Storage)
- Bore oil (Home Storage)
- Cleaning swab
- Approved type instrument
- Cork grease

Saxes / Low Reeds as applicable

- Three good playable reeds. Vandoren is the approved reed.
- Reed guard
- Ligature
- Proper mouthpiece (Selmer C star)
- Pad and neck saver
- Approved type instrument

Trumpet

- Valve oil (Al Cass)
- Polishing cloth
- Mouthpiece (Bach 5c / 3c) or other director approved mouthpiece
- Approved type instrument
- BERP or Buzz Aid
- Denis Wick straight mute – Silver Cap

French Horn

- Rotary / Valve oil (Al Cass - Marching Horn) (Holton Rotary - Concert Horn)
- Polishing cloth
- Approved mouthpiece (Holton Farkas)
- Approved type instrument

- BERP or Buzz Aid

Trombone

- Slide cream
- Spray Water Bottle
- Polishing Cloth
- Mouthpiece (Bach 4G or 5G) or other director approved mouthpiece
- Approved type instrument
- BERP or Buzz Aid
- Denis Wick straight mute – Silver Cap

Baritone / Euphonium

- Valve oil (Al Cass)
- Mouthpiece (Bach 4G or 5G) or other director approved mouthpiece
- Polishing cloth
- Approved type instrument
- BERP or Buzz Aid

Tuba

- Rotator / Valve Oil (Al Cass -Valves / Holton - Rotors)
- Mouthpiece (Bach 24 AW / Miraphone Rose Model)
- Polishing cloth
- Approved type instrument
- BERP or Buzz Aid

Percussion

- Snare sticks
- Xylophone mallets
- Vibes mallets (2 pair)
- Marimba mallets (2 pair)
- Timpani mallets
- Stick bag

Color Guard

- Flag
- Rifle or Sabre (if applicable)
- Electrical Tape
- Gloves (if applicable)

GRADING POLICY

Students participating in the Grand Oaks HS Band program will receive a grade based on individual participation, evaluation of performance/skill on their primary instrument, development of skills on said instrument, sectional/rehearsal attendance, and an audition at the close of each semester. Areas to be considered are as follows:

Participation (40%):

1. How the student enters and leaves the band hall, instrument storage facilities, or performance areas.
2. The attitude with which a student conducts themselves in all aspects of rehearsal and/or performance.
3. Maintenance of student's instrument, equipment, storage area, uniform, folder, and other learning materials.
4. Student's demeanor towards both instructors and peers.
5. Student's preparedness for rehearsal (instrument, music, writing utensil, other materials as assigned).

Performance/Skill (60%):

1. How the student progresses on instrument and musicianship through playing or written evaluations.
2. How the student contributes to the ensemble in skill and attitude, as showed in performance and behavior.
3. Student's performance in an audition situation, both musically mastery and performance demeanor.
4. Instrument must be taken home every day.

**Students who exhibit good work ethic, a willingness to learn, and the ability to do so without interfering with the learning of others will be successful in band. Students not demonstrating the above will not succeed in band, regardless of talent and/or aptitude.

LETTER JACKET AWARD SYSTEM

To qualify for a jacket, at student must earn a minimum of 16 **points**. A student may earn additional letters in other areas of activity. Additional awards will consist of a patch to denote the year and activity of the award.

Qualifying points are not cumulative:

1. 4 points for gaining membership through audition into the TMEA Freshman Region Band.
2. 4 points for gaining membership through audition into the TMEA District Band.
3. 6 points for gaining membership through audition into the TMEA All-Region Band.
4. 8 points for advancing to the TMEA All-Area audition.
5. 10 points for earning the distinction of TMEA All-State.
6. 4 points for performing a Class I solo at contest earning a Superior rating.

7. 4 points for performing a Class I ensemble at contest earning a Superior rating.
8. 3 points for performing a Class I solo at contest and earning an Excellent rating
9. 3 points for performing a Class II solo at contest earning a Superior rating.
10. 3 points for performing a Class II ensemble at contest earning a Superior rating.
11. 1 point for performing a Class III solo at contest earning a Superior rating.
12. 1 point for performing a Class III ensemble at contest earning a Superior rating.

Band members will earn points for participation in band each year. These points do not add up from year to year. These points simply increase each year.

1. **4 points** at the end of the first year of satisfactory band participation.
2. **6 points** at the end of the second year of satisfactory band participation. To receive credit the member must have completed seven nine weeks of eligible participation.
3. **8 points** at the end of the third year of satisfactory band participation. To receive credit the member must have completed eleven nine-weeks of eligible participation.
4. **10 points** at the end of the fourth year of satisfactory band participation. To receive credit the member must have completed 15 nine-weeks of eligible participation.

Color Guard qualifying points for non-band members. These points are cumulative.

16 points are required to letter in color guard OR be a member of the Varsity Color Guard for 2 full years/ 4 semesters.

1. **4 points** for completing marching band season
2. **4 point** for satisfactory winter guard participation

➤ Grand Oaks Band and Guard students who volunteer to work a shift with **GO Flags**, will be awarded one (1) letter jacket qualification point. ***One point per shift will be awarded up to three (3) shifts per year.***

CELL PHONE POLICY

- **DON'T USE YOUR CELL PHONE** while in public when in uniform (concert or marching). You may use your cell phone once back on a bus, or in the band hall.
- **NO CELL PHONES ARE TO BE USED OR SEEN** in the stands at football games, during rehearsals, or in concert performances. Cell phones may be used on the buses or after a practice to phone home but will be taken by the Band Director if seen during a game, rehearsal, or performance.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

As a member of the Grand Oaks Band and Color Guard program I will:

- **Respect Myself:** I will show respect for myself through my actions. I will select online names that are proper. I will consider the information and images I post online. I will not post personal information

about my life or relationships that can be considered inappropriate. I will not post or repost content that may include profanity, drugs, alcohol, or that is derogatory and/or sexual in nature.

- **Protect Myself:** I will ensure that the information I post online will not put me at risk. I will not publish my personal details, contact details or a schedule of my activities. I will report any inappropriate behavior directed at me. I will protect passwords, accounts and resources.
- **Respect Others:** I will show respect to others. I will not use electronic mediums to bully or harass other people. I will not respond to any negative or inappropriate messages. I will be respectful, credible, and truthful.
- **Protect the Band & Color Guard Program:** I understand that everything I post is a reflection of my program and I will keep in mind that my use of technology has an effect on others. Content I post will be positive and support the goals of the program. I will not use digital media to express my negative emotions. I will contact my Director to mediate conflict. I will not post anything that could hurt or jeopardize the reputation of the program.

Allowed/Not Allowed on Social Media

- Due to copyright laws, the marching show MAY NOT be put out on social media. You are subject to fines.
- Still photos of the band may be posted.
- Students will not use social media to say anything negative about the band or any student in the band program or other band programs.
- Be respectful of others' posts, even if you don't agree with them. In general, you should avoid posting the following:
 - Negative comments, posts or messages
 - Questionable or compromising photos of yourself OR others
 - Offensive jokes, photos or material
 - Overt bragging
 - Highly emotional content, like rants about personal situations or relationships
 - Remember, once you post something online, it's there forever.

VAPING POLICY

Our current school culture is going through an interesting test; particularly in regard to student's judgement as it relates to the use of illegal substances. We recognize that vaping is a serious problem not only in our student culture but also throughout our Country. At GOHS we believe vaping is a disturbing symptom; therefore, in an effort to preserve the integrity of our program and the students in this program, we feel it is our job to outline how offenses will be addressed.

Band & Color Guard Vaping Policy

Vaping is illegal for any person under the age of 18 and is not tolerated at Grand Oaks High School. Grand Oaks Band and Color Guard are subject to all GOHS rules and policies; therefore, if a student is found vaping or carrying vaping materials of any kind, the Grand Oaks Band Directors will enforce the following consequences in addition to those of GOHS and CISD. The Administration of Grand Oaks High School has reviewed and approve of the policy set forth.

1st Offense: Student will be placed on probation with the program for nine (9) weeks.

- Student will not be allowed to travel to any event with the Grand Oaks Band.
- Student will not perform with the band at any contest or event.
- Student will be expected to take part and keep up with all classwork and performance material.

2nd Offense: Student will be removed from the program through a schedule change and will not receive an opportunity for reinstatement.

All offenses will also be:

- Reported to the Grand Oaks administration and will be subject to CISD consequences.
- Reported to the CISD police if illegal substances such as marijuana are found.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS

Assessed Fees - A separate fair share fee will be published each year and available at band registration. Check the web site at grandoaksband.org and your **Charms** account for all forms and information.

In addition to the booster fair share fee there are a few more fees that parents and student must be aware of:

1. GOHS Winter Guard Fee (tbd) paid directly to the Boosters (Includes cost for fall & spring costume)
2. Shoes: All marching band students must have a pair of Vipers. Approximate cost: \$40.00
3. Band Shirt and Shorts: Will be worn under marching band uniform: Approx. \$7.00 shirt
4. Black Bow tie: \$4-\$6 - This must be purchased on your own beginning this year.
5. Black flats and camisole to wear under concert dress
6. Freshman Region Band Entry Fee - \$15
7. Solo Accompaniment Fee - \$30 – \$40 depending on difficulty of solo

Misc. Supplies: These will be such supplies as reeds, music lyres, flip folders, poncho, water jugs, etc. The costs will vary from year to year. *Required equipment and merchandise purchased thru MBBC that is not claimed by December 1st is returned to inventory.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

As the band is supported financially through the support of many ways, families are expected to make any and all payments due to the band in a timely manner and to keep their accounts current. CHARMS is the reporting system for your financial balances and is accessible to you at all time through charmsoffice.com.

Unless otherwise approved, students and/or adult chaperones with any past due outstanding financial balances in CHARMS will not be allowed to participate in a band or a color guard trip that costs above the required fees paid by parents for band and color guard. In addition, if student or adult is excluded from a trip, refunds of monies paid towards the trip are not available except as may be provided for under the cancellation provisions of the trip.

Refunds will also not be made for students who loose eligibility due to academic performance.

Exceptions to the policy can only be made by the Director.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

The Conroe Independent School District will provide a limited number of instruments to balance the bands. These instruments include such highly expensive instruments as the bassoon, oboe, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, french horn, euphonium, tuba, bass trombone and large percussion equipment. This equipment is purchased by the school district for student use because of its extremely high value. All school owned equipment must be handled with optimum care. Students failing to take care of their school issued instrument will lose the privilege to use such instruments. The following is a list of general procedures for school owned instruments.

1. Conroe Independent School District does not provide insurance for individually or school owned equipment. It is highly recommended of all students utilizing school owned instruments to provide insurance coverage for the said instrument. Insurance information is available from the band office.

2. Students will be held responsible for school owned instruments issued to them. This responsibility will include fire, theft, and accidental damage and abuse. Minor repairs and general maintenance are the responsibility of the student just like you own it your self. The rental fee is to prepare the instrument for the next year.
3. Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition. Each issued instrument will be checked and cleaned by a music company prior to issue. Students are expected to maintain their issued instruments accordingly.
4. The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him or her.
5. All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use. A student not properly storing their instrument may lose the privilege of using it.
6. A rental fee of \$80.00 for the year will be assessed for each instrument. This fee will cover the end of the "season" cleaning of the instrument by a music company. Cost for minor repairs as needed during the year are the responsibility of the parent.
7. Students must keep all latches closed when the instrument case is shut. Only the handle on the case is appropriate to carry the instrument. This includes drum cases and cymbal bags.
8. A photograph of the instrument will be taken upon checking out to a student. This is to verify the condition in which it is in. Upon return of said instrument, it will be compared to the photograph. Any additional dents are major scratches or damage will be paid for by the student.

Special Note:

If, in the opinion of an CISD director, a school owned instrument is not being properly maintained or cared for at any time of the school year, it is the director's prerogative to remove the instrument form the student's care.

APPLIED PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

This is a district wide program that provides a high-quality enhancement to classroom instruction. Teachers are all specialists on their instrument. Most of our teachers are college and professional musicians in the Houston area and have a music degree. Private study is extremely valuable to the individual student and highly encouraged. Private study is offered as enrichment, NOT remedial instruction. It is encouraged for the complete development of each student's potential as a performing musician. With 130+ students in the band three band directors cannot accomplish what individual lessons on a weekly basis with a teacher can accomplish.

1. ALL students are ENCOURAGED to study privately.
2. The district selects the highest quality teachers.
3. Lessons will be weekly.
4. [Detailed information is available on the private lesson program.](#)

GRAND OAKS BAND BOOSTER ASSOCIATION

The Grand Oaks Band Booster Association raises funds through assessed fees, corporate donations, and various events throughout the year. Boosters chaperone events from football games to contests to events to trips. Every band parent and friend of the band is invited to join the Band Boosters at the beginning of the year. Dues are payable at any meeting or by sending a check to school with your band students. Booster funds are used to provide extra instruments, music, drill, equipment, clinicians and enrichment. Band Booster funds are NOT used to pay for student trips. Please check your calendar for the first band booster meeting of the school year and plan to attend.

Communication/CHARMS

All band and color guard students have a CHARMS account. This account provides a record of student directory information, financial records, forms, and calendar of events. Email via the CHARMS database is the primary means of communication from the Directors and the Grand Oaks Band Booster Association to the students and their parents. It is the students and their parents' responsibility to keep their CHARMS directory information update and to always keep a current email address in the CHARMS database.

THE GRAND OAKS VERTICAL PRIVATE LESSON PROGRAM

Here at Grand Oaks High School we are kid centered. We believe that a strong band consists of strong individual players. Strong players come from an organized regiment of the following things:

1. Organized and consistent practice habits
2. Strong musical concepts as they relate to wind and percussion players
3. Regular one on one instruction from an instructor who is an expert at your child's particular instrument

Our band staff has a combined 36 years of experience teach band at high level in the most advanced and competitive state in the USA, Texas. Please trust us on this. Private instruction is the way for your kids to succeed on an individual level. Once that happens, the band as a whole will succeed almost on principle.

Through our years of teaching band in Texas public schools we have each assembled a list of experts that we believe are kid-centered, master teachers. We have brought them with us to Grand Oaks to start this journey. They are as excited as we are because they see the potential (and they love teaching with us.) Listed below are the teachers we recommend for your child. Please feel free to reach out to them to set up lessons. We prefer that you use email as a communication medium before a phone call. Let the teachers call you. If you have any questions or concerns about private lessons please send them to Mr. Flake, lflake@conroeisd.net

Sincerely,

The Grand Oaks High School Band Team

Mike Flake, Brian Moran, Rick Drewry, Christina Urbano

York Junior High Band Team

Amanda Pritchard, Colin Peters

Tom Cox Intermediate Band Team

Brian Eisemann, Dustin Lucas, Melissa Perry

Clark Intermediate Band Team

Jimmy Butler, Nicole Kasperek

PRIVATE LESSON STAFF DIRECTORY

Flute:

Vicky Williamson, Flutist.studio@hotmail.com, 832-515-3909

Oboe:

Pablo Moreno, pablomoreno2202@gmail.com, 440-574-309

Bassoon:

Frank Chambers, franckchambers@me.com, 832-372-7468

Clarinet:

Carrie Smith, curly477@hotmail.com, 281-236-3368

Saxophone:

Ray Gonzales, raygonzales152@gmail.com, 832-335-4439 Andrew Garcia,
andgarcia429@gmail.com, 713-817-5055 **Trumpet:**

Jason Adams, jjwadams@me.com, 281-415-5301

Dr. Holly Cook, holly.r.cook@gmail.com, 832-368-8799

Horn:

Jennifer Moore, j.mat@live.com, 281-755-6898

Trombone/Tuba/Euphonium:

(Tuba/Euphonium) Matt Lamm, lamm.tuba@gmail.com, 713-885-7192 (Trombone) Ben
Osborne, rbo002@shsu.edu, 806-239-0338 **Percussion:**

Rick Drewry, richard.drewry@gmail.com, 615-714-3864

Grand Oaks High School Band

HANDBOOK SIGNATURE PAGE

- We have read and understand the policies and guidelines in the Grand Oaks High School Band Handbook. We understand that Band is a full year commitment.
- We also acknowledge that eligibility is a critical issue with all students, and we will do our best to stay eligible all the time during the school term.
- We have read the uniform guidelines and will abide by them.
- We have read and understand the social media policy.
- We have read and understand the vaping policy.
- I have logged into my student's Band CHARMS account and I have updated/verified all contact information including:
 - email addresses
 - phone numbers
 - physical address
- I understand that if I do not keep my contact information in CHARMS up to date, I will miss out on important GOHS Band and Guard information.
- Any student not turning in this form on time will not be able to attend activities beginning with the **First** football game.

Signatures*

[Band Students - *Please click here to connect to the signature page*](#)

[Color Guard Students - *Please click here to connect to the signature page](#) for this handbook and the [Color Guard Handbook](#)

****These signatures will be obtained when completing the on-line Band Registration Form.***

Additional forms will be collected before Marching Season. These include a UIL Release Form, UIL Acknowledge (8-hour rule) Form, Medical Form and Travel Consent. All of these must be turned in before the student will be allowed to travel to any football game, contest, or other band function.