



FRANKSTON

MIGHTY INDIAN BAND

MEMBER HANDBOOK

Instrumental Music Department

Frankston Independent School District

As a member of the band, you are a member of a very visible and important organization. As with any other organization, the success of the band depends on the loyalty of ALL ITS MEMBERS.

How can a band member show loyalty and cooperation to the band? First, by making up your mind to be a proud and worthy band member. Second, by giving the organization all that you possess in attention, interest, and effort. Third, by observing the general objectives and rules outlined in this handbook which are necessary parts of any successful organization. The rules outlined on the following pages are simple, sound, and easy to abide by. In following them, you are meeting an obligation that you owe to your school, your fellow band members, and yourself.

It must also be noted that attitude is one of the most important characteristics you as a student bring to the band program. Nothing great was ever achieved without proper attitude. Proper attitude will help us overcome anything. Only with a positive "I CAN AND WILL" attitude will we be successful. Also, remember, this is a team effort. Only when all members are fully participating, fully cooperating, and fully learning, will we be truly great.

BAND OBJECTIVES

Cultural: To continue the development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of music.

Educational: To develop interested and discriminating listeners and provide a well rounded musical background.

Service: To provide music and support for certain school and community events, while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of the band at music festivals, competitions, and concerts.

Recreational: To provide all students with an opportunity for leisure time, an emotional outlet, and positive social experiences.

Expectations of Rehearsals

The daily rehearsal is the basis for a good performance. 100% effort and a positive attitude will guarantee successful performances. Adequate preparation on your individual part should take place at home or with help of the band director in a scheduled lesson either before school, after school, or during advisory period. Band rehearsals are designed to learn about the music in a more detailed outline and solve ensemble issues and problems. To have a more productive rehearsal:

Be on time

Warm up softly and slowly (no blasting)

Have a pencil in your folder at all rehearsals

Maintain good posture to play with good sound (feet flat on the floor, sit up straight)

Do not talk or play (unless instructed to do so) while the director is on the podium

Tuners are available at all times and should be on stands during rehearsal

Attendance policy

Rehearsals – Summer marching practices; Tuesday night practices; Wednesday afternoon practices; sectionals called as needed

Rehearsal attendance is essential because the ensemble work accomplished cannot be attained on your own. There is no makeup work available. Just because you can play your individual part, does not mean it fits into the ensemble without proper group rehearsal.

Summer marching practices are mandatory. Please schedule vacations, trips with family, work and any other conflicts around summer practice. A calendar with dates will be made available in the spring prior to the upcoming school year for your convenience in scheduling around our practices and performances. If summer practice is missed, you will be automatically put as an alternate and given a chance to get caught up. If you do not catch up to the level of the band in a reasonable amount of time, you will be removed from band.

Tuesday night and Wednesday afternoon practices are mandatory. We will work around the other school activities and practices on a one on one basis. A lot of work is covered each Tuesday night practice. If you miss one, you will be behind in the marching drill and be placed as an alternate until such time as you can get caught up.

Performances – all football games; all community events as scheduled; all school, community, or band concerts

Performances missed affect all the members of the band. When we perform in the public view, we need to always look, sound, and perform at our best. When band members miss a performance, it creates holes in our sound and marching drill and we cannot achieve our best performance. It takes every band member being 100% committed for our band to be successful.

The attendance rules are not intended to punish the student who is truly ill, but are included in the hope that it will discourage unnecessary absences. For your convenience, a calendar of events will be presented well in advance of the start of each new school year. Each rehearsal or band performance is a commitment made by the band student and his/her family when they join the high school band. Please schedule all appointments, work, vacations, family trips and outings, around these commitments. Absences from a band rehearsal or performance will be categorized into one of the following categories.

Excused absences are those due to illness, or family emergency. The student or family member should contact the band director as soon as possible and explain the facts of the illness or emergency. Other absences should be discussed with the band director prior to the event to discuss excused or unexcused status. The student must bring a note or doctors statement (same as school absences) within 2 days upon returning to school. Failure to do so will result in being moved to alternate status and the absence will be considered unexcused. All absences must be made up. The student must coordinate with the band director when to come in and what work is to be done. Musical practice along with cleaning duties as needed will be assigned. During marching season conditioning will be assigned as well for missed rehearsals in order to make up for the exercise and conditioning missed during rehearsal. 1 hour of missed marching will equal 4 laps jogging around the track (for stamina and endurance) and 20 push-ups (for arm strength to carry instrument while marching). Extra conditioning may be assigned for misbehavior during rehearsal or to refocus if the student(s) is off task.

Unexcused absences are failures to attend a scheduled rehearsal or performance without the prior approval of the band director. Unexcused absences will result in alternate status of the student. Unexcused absences will result in grade reduction. The first infraction will result in 20 points taken off the grade. The second infraction will result in 30 points taken off the grade. The third infraction will result in the student being removed from band.

Uniform

Each member of the band will be issued a complete uniform, with the exception of black socks and black marching shoes. The uniforms are issued prior to the first performance of the fall season and are to be returned after each event that the uniform is worn. The student will need to wear the appropriate band t shirt under the uniform and tall black socks with their appropriate marching shoes every time we are in uniform. It is the responsibility of each member to ensure that his or her uniform is returned in an orderly fashion, hanging on the

hanger in the proper way. It is also the responsibility of the student to keep the uniform clean. Eating in uniform is allowed during 3rd quarter break of football games only. If cleaning is required for a soiled or dirty uniform, it will be the responsibility of the student to pay the cleaning charges. Important note: nail polish and jewelry are NOT part of a band uniform. All polish and jewelry needs to be removed before each performance that the band is in uniform.

Trip Conduct

Prior to a trip, information will be given to tell students where to be, at what time, with what equipment, in what uniform or dress, and for what purpose. Please follow these instructions to avoid confusion and time constraints. Being early is on time. Being on time is late. Please follow these rules while on the bus.

1. Respect the bus driver and all chaperones.
2. Be quiet during roll call.
3. Use normal voices...(don't yell).
4. Don't spill food or drinks, drinks must have a lid or cap.
5. Pick up any trash.
6. Students riding home with parents must be checked out with the band director or chaperone.
7. Students riding home with someone else must obtain permission ahead of time, have a note from their parent, and then be checked out by the person who they are leaving with.
8. All school rules are in effect during trips.

Game Conduct

1. Please support our team.
2. Please remain in your assigned section.
3. Please do not leave the stands without permission.
4. No food, candy, gum, or drinks except during 3rd quarter break.
5. Pay attention and be ready to play.
6. In cold weather, wear warm clothes under your uniform. Letterman jackets, as well as any jacket or blanket in school colors can be used outside the uniform. School color toboggans may also be worn. We want to show our school colors at all times to support our team.

Grading

Students will be graded according to attendance, participation, attitude, and play off tests on music and scales. Participation, conduct and attitude will also affect your citizenship grade. Concerts and major performances may be graded as well.

Alternate status

A student may be made an alternate for the following reasons.

1. Unexcused absences.
2. Not playing off music by the set deadlines.
3. Becoming ineligible by failing grades.
4. Demonstrating a poor attitude, disloyalty to the band, any actions that impair or hinder the band's performance or public appearance.

If a student is made an alternate during marching season, the student will attend the pep rallies and games with the band, play their instrument in the stands, and play their instrument on the sidelines of the halftime show, or move equipment as deemed necessary by the band director. If a student is made an alternate during concert season, they will be given every opportunity to continue to improve on their music in the practice rooms during the school day band rehearsal. They may rejoin the band rehearsal at the discretion of the band director.

Auxiliary organizations

Majorettes, flag line, and drum line are considered auxiliary organizations or groups. These groups require MAJOR commitment. They perform separately from the band. They are in the public eye and the "spotlight" much of the time. Majorette, flag line, and drum line will have mandatory 1 hour or more per week sectional practices after school hours. These will be scheduled by the band director and instructor/sponsor. Every attempt will be made to work around the student's various activities and other school responsibilities. Unexcused absences to these rehearsals will not be allowed. The entire group is counting on every member to learn their part and be at every rehearsal. One unexcused absence will result in alternate status for a period of time determined by the band director and instructor/sponsor. The student will also receive a grade reduction of 20 points. Two unexcused absences will result in removal from the auxiliary group. Excused absences will be given at the discretion of the band director and instructor/sponsor for illness or family emergencies. Positive attitude is required at all times.

These groups represent not only your group but the Frankston Mighty Indian Band. Any negative attitude, disrespect, or actions unbecoming a member of your group can result in alternate status and/or removal from the group. The second offense of this nature will result in removal from the group with an opportunity to regain membership at a time designated by the band director and instructor/sponsor. The third offense will result in permanent removal from the group.

Individual competitions/honors

All band students have the opportunity to audition for the ATSSB All Region Band. This is accomplished through auditions on solo etudes and scales prepared during the fall semester. The music and scales must be played off satisfactorily to the band director before being allowed to attend the auditions. If selected, the student will perform with the all region band in an all day clinic and concert in January. Students who place high enough in the auditions may also advance to area and all state ATSSB competition. All band students also have the opportunity to perform a UIL solo or be a part of a UIL ensemble for solo and ensemble competition in the early spring semester. This is accomplished through work on the solo or ensemble during after school hours with the band director. The music must be satisfactorily played off to the band director before being allowed to attend the solo and ensemble competition and play the piece for a UIL judge. Receiving a 1st division superior rating on a class 1 solo or class 1 ensemble will advance the student or the ensemble group to the state TTSEC competition in May.

Awards

Letter jackets will be awarded for one of three accomplishments.

1. Participating in marching band 3 years.
2. Auditioning and being selected to the ATSSB High School All Region Band.
3. Earning a superior rating on a Class 1 solo at solo and ensemble competition.

The John Philip Sousa Band Award is a national award that is given at high schools throughout the country to an outstanding graduating senior band student. The student will be selected on the basis of leadership, dependability, loyalty, individual achievement on their instrument, and awards and honors won on their instrument. The award will be presented at the spring concert, along with a scholarship given by the band booster organization.

Frankston Mighty Indian Band Handbook Acknowledgement

I have read the Frankston Mighty Indian Band handbook and understand that my student must follow the guidelines set forth and the commitment required to make a positive contribution to our band organization.

Parent/Guardian
signature _____

Date _____

I have read the Frankston Mighty Indian Band handbook and understand that I must follow the guidelines set forth and the commitment required to make a positive contribution to our band organization.

Student
signature _____

Date _____