

**BIG RED BAND**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**2009-2010**

**Students will need to fulfill the following expectations:**

1. Students will have all materials necessary for band class. This includes the following items: instrument, music, and pencil. During marching season this also includes flip folder and proper footwear. The proper footwear for marching is tennis shoes: **no sandals, boots, or bare feet are allowed**
2. Students will receive weekly grades based on their participation as well as their ability to be prepared for each rehearsal.
3. There will be mandatory rehearsals on Monday evenings from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. These will continue until we no longer have a Marching Contest to go to. *Grades will be given for these rehearsals.*
4. Periodic tests, 2-3 per six-weeks, will be given based on the student's progress on his/her instrument.
5. Students are expected to take care of school owned instruments and take special care in maintaining the cleanliness of the band hall and instrument storage area.
6. Students are responsible for following the additional rules and regulations listed in the attached Band Information and Policies Handbook.

**BAND INFORMATION AND POLICIES**

**ABSENCES AND TARDINESS**

Daily absence and tardiness policies are addressed in the IHS Student Handbook. Absences and tardiness for any reason should be kept to an absolute minimum. Each performance and rehearsal is assigned a participation grade. Absence from performance and rehearsals will result in "make-up" work as assigned by the director.

Make-up work from other classes will not be done during band class. The only exception would be if a band trip or function caused a student to miss time in that class.

All students are expected to be in their proper places for roll check when rehearsal begins. This means that all instruments, chairs, stands, music, reeds, etc. should be in place and the student ready to play. Any student not in the proper place when rehearsal begins will receive a discipline referral for not following class rules. During marching season, this means being on the practice field when the drum major begins rehearsal.

Students will not be allowed to leave class unless a permit is obtained from the main office, another teacher, or from the band director(s) before class begins. Approval to leave class will be left to the discretion of the band director(s).

If a student is absent from two practices or one performance, without prior ok from the band director(s), he/she may be removed from his/her position in the performing unit, i.e. marching band. This includes all practices and performances. Excessive tardiness will also be cause for removal from the performing unit. Removal from the performing unit will be at the discretion of the band director(s).

### **BUS REGULATIONS**

Bus sign-up lists will be put up for all out-of town trips. Students are to sign up for seats, as this will also be the roll call for each bus. The band director(s) reserve the right to assign any student to a specific seat as needed.

There will be a Boys bus and a Girls bus. If at times we have to put Girls on the Boys bus, they will be separated by sponsor's seats.

There is to be no standing up, changing seats etc. on the bus when it is moving. Students should always be considerate of others on the bus. Talking, singing, etc. must be kept at a low level.

Tape/CD/I-pods may be taken on the bus but must be used with headphones. Cell Phones are not to be used at any school function. If a cell phone use is needed, a sponsor will have access to one. The school is not responsible for any items taken or left on the bus.

Bottled water is the only food/drink item allowed on the bus.

All personal items carried on the bus must be able to fit under the seat, or in the over-head bins. No items are to be stored in the aisle of the bus.

All trash must be removed from the bus after each trip. If the students do not clean the buses after each trip, the right to carry anything on the bus will be forfeited.

### **CAMPS – SUMMER**

All band members will be encouraged to attend a summer band camp hosted at state universities. Brochures from band camps will be posted in the band hall.

### **CONDUCT OF BAND MEMBERS**

Students should always conduct themselves as young ladies and gentlemen, especially when representing the band and school at out-of-town functions. The Student Code of Conduct and Student Handbook will be followed by all students. All band members will be expected to cooperate and work with band director(s) and to have the self-discipline to work without the

band director(s) being present. Failure to cooperate with the band director(s) will be justifiable reason for disciplinary referrals or possible removal from the band program.

### **CONTESTS, CONCERTS, TRIPS**

The Big Red Band will participate in various contests and other performances during the school year. During marching season, an invitational contest and UIL Marching Contest will be scheduled. In addition, the band may advance to the Area and/or State Marching Contest on odd numbered years. The marching band will also participate in the Homecoming Parade (on even numbered years). Concert performances will include, but not be limited to, UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest, Christmas Concert, End-of-Year Concert, High School Graduation.

The three performances that are not limited by scholastic eligibility are the Christmas Concert and the End-of-Year Concert and High School Graduation. All students are required to attend as a part of their semester grade. All other performances are limited by the “no-pass-no-play” rule.

Students with conflicts with other school-related activities need to notify the director as soon as the conflict is known.

### **DRESS CODE**

Students will be expected to dress properly for every band function. The manner of dress must meet school guidelines and regulations. If a specific style of dress is required for any activity, it will be explained by the band director(s) before the activity. Band members must keep hair neat and well-groomed. Jewelry, personal, caps, hair bows, bandanas, etc. are not allowed to be worn when the band is in uniform.

Band shirts are required to be worn for all pep-rallies and band trips. Students should always wear their band shirts and shorts underneath the uniform when performing in case of emergency in which the uniform must be removed.

Hats or caps will not be worn when inside the band hall/school building.

### **EQUIPMENT – RESPONSIBILITIES**

All equipment (including uniforms) is provided by the school, this equipment is the responsibility of the student it is issued to. The school will furnish a place to keep the equipment while at school, but the school and/or band director(s) are not responsible for the care or safety of the equipment. All damage, loss of equipment, theft, etc. is the responsibility of the student using the equipment.

All students are responsible for their own equipment on all trips as well as in the band hall. The loading crew will load all equipment, but band members are responsible for getting their equipment to the proper place to be loaded and for returning it to the proper storage place.

Failure to properly care for school owned equipment could result in the loss of the right to use the equipment. Any damages to the school owned equipment caused by neglect, abuse, accidents, etc. will be charged to the student using the equipment.

### **FOOD, GUM, CANDY, DRINKS, ETC.**

There will be no gum, candy, soft drinks, etc., while the band is rehearsing or performing. These should be limited to specific times when given permission by the band director(s). Students are responsible for cleaning up after themselves.

### **GRADING**

Grades given in band are symbols of the student's accomplishments. The grade will indicate the student's overall success in the class. The band grade will be determined by considering the following four areas:

1. Performance and progress playing the instrument as determined by observation and playing grades (some will be by memory).
2. Attitude and cooperation.
3. Attendance and promptness at all performances and rehearsals.
4. Written exams on basic theory and knowledge at the discretion of the band director(s).

### **INSTRUMENT REPAIR**

If an instrument needs repair, it should be brought to the attention of the band director(s) either before or after rehearsal, not during rehearsal. If it is a minor repair, the directors will try to fix the instrument. Major repairs will be sent to an approved instrument repair shop.

### **NON-PARTICIPATION BY BAND MEMBERS**

Band members should inform the band director(s) of any ability to participate in any activity (rehearsal or performance) as soon as it is known by the student. Non-participation should be kept to an absolute minimum. Those who continually do not participate will be taken from the performing unit or the class. It should be kept in mind that band is a class for a grade, that the success of the band is dependent upon teamwork by all members, and therefore all activities are considered a part of the requirements for the band class.

Reasons for non-participation should be limited to primarily medical reasons. For any non-participation lasting over one day, a student must have a permit from his/her doctor stating why he/she may not participate and how long he/she is to be inactive. Students should bring a note from their parents for any non-participation on a single day basis.

### **PARTICIPATION IN THE PERFORMING UNIT**

There will be times when the type of half-time show, eligibility of a student, lack of uniformity, unbalanced instrumentation, lack of participation on the student's part, etc. will require that

some members of the band not participate in the performing unit. During football season, if a student is not marching for any reason other than eligibility or disciplinary action, the student will be required to be a part of the band at the game, be in uniform, and play his/her instrument in the stands with the band. Student participation at all activities will be determined by the band director(s) on an individual basis.

### **REHEARSAL ROOM**

All music, stands, chairs, instruments, etc. should be put in their proper places after each rehearsal. Be considerate of the next class since that group also uses the band room. All equipment should be stored in the designated areas at all times. Do not leave books, clothing, coats, etc. in the band hall.

### **REHEARSALS – OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL DAY**

Attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals for all members of the band. All extra rehearsals should be considered as required attendance rehearsals. During football season, the band will rehearse each Monday from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

There will also be “summer band” rehearsals before the school year starts. These are the most important rehearsals of the year and it is important that each student make time to attend.

### **SITTING IN BAND SECTION AT FOOTBALL GAMES**

The band will sit in block band formation in the stands at football games, pep rallies, etc. **Only band students will be allowed in the band section.** Band members are not to leave the band section or change places in the seating formation without permission. Member should ask to leave the band section only in case of an emergency.

Food and Drink will not be allowed in the band section except during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. The Band Boosters will have snacks for sale at this time. Water will be provided throughout the game.

### **TALKING, DISRUPTING CLASS**

After rehearsal begins, there should be no talking or disruption of class. Students are encouraged to ask necessary questions by first raising their hand and receiving permission. This will make a positive rehearsal atmosphere that is conducive to learning and in which much can be accomplished.

### **TRAVEL REGULATIONS**

As a general rule, all band members will travel to all events with the band. All transportation must be approved by the band director(s).

No student may ride in private transportation unless they have the **proper school form.**

**This form may be picked up at the Principals office prior to the trip.** We will release your child in exchange for this form. We take your child's safety very seriously, so please help us with the child's safety by following this rule. Band members without the proper form will return with the band.

### **UNIFORMS**

The school will furnish performance uniforms for all band members. All uniforms will be worn in the manner prescribed by the band director(s). Jewelry, hair bows, personal caps, bandanas, etc. will not be acceptable attire while in uniform.

Students are responsible for keeping the uniform in good condition. Uniforms need to be hung properly on the hanger after each wearing. The school provides everything needed for the uniform except socks. Band members will need black socks when we wear the black pants, and white socks when we wear the white pants. At no time, should they wear shortie socks.

We hope this handbook is informational for you, please do not hesitate to ask one of us if you have questions.

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