

Bandera I.S.D. Band Program Constitution

Structure of Program

The Bandera I.S.D. Band program begins in the sixth grade with the Beginner Band. The beginner band is divided into three classes, woodwind instruments, brass instruments, and French horn and percussion instruments, to accomplish the tasks of teaching fundamentals of music reading and instrumental performance. The beginner classes include all beginning instrumentalists from 6th through 8th grade. Beginning 7th and 8th grade students may have an opportunity to move to one of the auditioned 7th and 8th grade bands depending on their progress during the first semester of classes. This beginner group participates in at least two mandatory formal concerts and one optional music festival each year.

After this introductory year, students audition for placement in one of three bands—Honors, Symphonic, or Concert. While the students in these groups work to perfect the individual skills needed for music reading and instrumental performance, they also devote time as a group to developing large ensemble techniques. All three of these ensembles have mandatory, graded Fall Semester and Spring Semester concerts, and they may also choose to take part in an optional music festival in the spring. The Honors Band has the greater number of performances, including ensemble and individual activities ranging from pep rallies, region band auditions, solo and ensemble competition, and U.I.L. Concert and Sight Reading Contest. The Symphonic Band may have the opportunity to compete in UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest or another contest. Students in this band may also choose to compete as individuals in region band auditions or solo and ensemble competition.

At the high school level, band students participate in the marching band during the majority of the fall semester. As part of this organization, they may be part of the instrumental group or part of the color guard. Auditions for color guard are held at the end of the spring semester and do not require previous band membership. However, members of the band may audition for color guard. Band members are required to participate in and perform at pep rallies, when scheduled, and at varsity football games as scheduled, both regular season and post season. In addition, all eligible band members are required to participate in U.I.L. Marching Contest in October. Toward the end of the regular football season, fall auditions are held to determine placement in one of two competing ensembles—Symphonic Band or Concert Band. These two ensembles perform at mandatory and graded concerts in December and May. U.I.L. Concert and Sight Reading Contest in the spring semester is mandatory for all eligible band members. The band also participates in various community celebrations and participates in an optional spring festival competition. In addition, individuals may opt to participate in the ATSSB All-State Band audition process and/or U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble Contest. Students are also given opportunities for leadership through student-member elections to officer positions and selection through an audition process to the Band Leadership Team (BLT), Drum Major, or Color Guard Officer. Through these activities the students may earn points toward a letter jacket in Band.

Student Leadership

Both the middle school bands and the high school band elect officers for their organizations. Offices included are President, Vice-President, and Secretary. The high school band organization also includes a Freshman Representative, who is elected by the 8th grade band students who will be entering the high school band program. Other offices are added as needs arise. Elections for these offices take place at the end of the spring semester. Officers representing the bands hold office throughout the school year as long as they are in good standing in the organization and follow the Student Code of Conduct.

Activity Fund Structure

The activity fund for the Bandera I.S.D. band students is set up in an individual account format, i.e. each student earns money through fundraising for or donation to their account. Primarily, these funds are used for the spring festival trips and pay for the cost of each student's participation in the festival (and hotel and transportation for high school students). Registration fees for the festivals are not taken from these accounts. However, the amount may include money for other contingencies such as, a nurse, an accompanist, a special needs teacher, etc. Students are informed of the amount they will need to participate in the spring festival and that they may participate in the fundraising opportunities offered to them or donate cash to their account.

If any student raises an amount over what is needed for that year's festival participation, their money is held in their account for their use the following year. Students who become ineligible to participate in a festival, or otherwise decide not to participate in the festival after indicating that they would participate, may forfeit all or a portion of the funds raised toward festival participation. This is determined by festival payment deadlines that are set by the tour/festival company. In such cases, every effort will be made to recover as many funds as possible to the student's account. When a middle school student is promoted to high school, any remaining funds from their middle school account are transferred to their new high school account. In like fashion, any remaining money left in a student's high school account at the end of a given year will be rolled over for use the next year. In this way, students have an opportunity to do long-term fundraising for the high school festivals which range anywhere from approximately \$250.00 per person for an in-state festival to as much as \$500.00 per person for an out-of-state festival.

When a student exits the band program, any funds that have been raised through fundraising activities will remain in the band's activity account. If requested, funds that were donated to the student's account may be refunded to the student's parent(s) or guardian. Upon written request, students may have their remaining funds transferred to another student's account. For instance, a graduating senior may request that any money they have remaining in their account be transferred to a younger sibling's account.

Students also contribute money to their accounts for the purchase of band shirts, band shoes, color guard uniform accessories, and uniform cleaning. These must be paid for by the end of the

first six weeks of the school year. In the event that a student has not paid for necessary uniform accessories or fees by the end of the first six weeks, any funds raised by the student through the band's fundraising activities or through donation to the student's account, will first go to satisfy the unpaid fees and/or fines. Students with fees and/or fines exceeding their account balance will need to pay all, or the remainder, of what is owed to the band organization before the end of the school year. In the event that fees and fines are not cleared at the end of the year, they must be paid before or at the time of registration the following school year. In the case of withdrawal from school, all fees and fines must be paid to complete the withdrawal process.

Drum Majors and Color Guard officers also contribute money to the band activity account to offset fees for mandatory summer skill and leadership camp. Students selected to fill these positions cover half of the camp fees, with the remainder paid by the band program. These camp fees are due prior to attending the camp.

From time to time, money from other sources, e.g. monetary gifts from community organizations or fees paid by other schools to participate in our jazz festival, will be added to the band's activity account. Those funds are available for use by the directors for small equipment or supply purchases or as agreed upon between the donors and donee. Outside these normal account activities, dispersal of funds from the activity account must have the written permission of the organization officers. This written permission will accompany the requisition for the funds requested.