

Lytle Pirate Band

2021 – 2022 Handbook

www.lytleisd.org/pirateband



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Purpose:

This handbook has been developed to ensure all members of the Lytle Pirate Band and their parents are well informed about the practices and policies of our organization. If anything contained in this handbook is unclear, feel free to ask any of the directors for further explanation.

Please carefully read all sections of this handbook that apply to you and become familiar with all the policies and regulations. It is our hope and intention that this will help us to have a smooth, successful, and enjoyable year as we strive to achieve musical excellence.

Responsibilities of the Music Staff to the Student:

- Provide the band members with appropriate rehearsal environment, music stands, instrument storage space, and other equipment as is necessary to aid in developing each student's musical ability and to help him/her form good, lasting citizenship habits.
- Plan each rehearsal's activities and encourage the daily progress of the entire band.
- Provide the band with a full music education experience through rehearsals, performances, evaluations, and competitions.
- Assure that no individual member, through inappropriate or irresponsible behavior, interferes with the learning or achievement of the group. It is the responsibility of the staff to see that all members conform to the school and organization policies.
- Supervise the students in class and on school – sponsored band trips. Each student will receive information about the plans for the trip, the type of dress and the complete schedule of activities in advance. It is the students' responsibility to share trip information with the parents.

The Band Member's Responsibilities to the Band:

- Be regular in attendance. In the case of foreseeable absences, check with the director prior to the absence to find out whether the absence will be excused.
- Make a real effort to learn and improve daily.
- Be responsible for and expect to assume the consequences for your actions.
- Have proper respect for those in authority (including directors, techs, boosters, bus drivers, student leaders, etc.).
- Follow all classroom guidelines, school regulations, and all travel instructions given for trips.
- Be honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music, and school life in general.
- Cooperate with fellow band members and share in the responsibilities and privileges that are a part of the band program.
- Contribute positively to your music education and that of others by making the best use of your talents.
- Above all else: **Have a positive attitude!**

Uniforms:

Unlike some high school bands, we do not charge a uniform fee. Each woodwind, brass and percussion member of the marching band will be issued a complete band uniform with the exception of black shoes and black socks. It is the responsibility of each band member to keep up with all the uniform parts, including the black shoes and socks provided by the student, as well as the gauntlets, mirror, shako, hanger, and uniform garment bag. At the conclusion of each performance in uniform, each band member is responsible for putting away their uniform in a manner that will maintain the appearance of the uniform. Color guard members will likewise be responsible for keeping up with all the components of their uniforms.

Concert uniforms will be issued to students participating in UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest. The same expectations apply to the concert uniforms as to the marching uniforms.

Instruments:

Some students will use instruments they provide for themselves. Those who use school-owned instruments are permitted to use the instruments at no cost; unlike some band programs, we do not charge an instrument rental fee. Students who are granted the free use of a school instrument are expected to use great care to maintain their instrument. Reckless actions that pose the risk of damage to the instrument will not be tolerated. Students will be expected to pay the cost for any repairs required due to the irresponsible handling, storage, or any mistreatment of the school instrument they use. Additionally, students are expected to perform basic care and maintenance on their school-owned instruments. Clarinet and Saxophone players will need to provide their own reeds and change them regularly. Brass players need to purchase the appropriate oils and slid lubricants to keep their instruments in good performance condition. Percussionists will need a stick bag, medium 3-ring binder with sheet protectors, snare sticks, timpani mallets, and keyboard mallets.

Music:

Each student is provided with a copy of each song they are expected to perform; no one is expected to share music with another student. This eliminates any conflict of who will have the music to take home for practice. Other than Christmas music, which is returned at the end of December, all other music needs to be kept by the student until the end of the year, since we typically perform everything from the entire year at our off-campus May concerts. Students who lose music and need to get a second copy will be charged \$.25 per sheet. Each student will also receive a method book to use, and will be responsible for it.

Trip Conduct:

Since the band is a part of the whole school system, we operate within the rules established by the school district with a few specific additions of our own. Students are expected to ride the bus to all band performances. Students may be released after the performance to ride home with their parents, but the student and the parent must both be present to sign out with a director. Any other arrangement for traveling home from a performance must be approved before the event by a school administrator.

Rules that apply to all band trips include:

- Show respect for the bus driver and all chaperones.
- Be completely quiet during roll call.
- No food or drink on buses unless specifically authorized.
- If food or drink is permitted, all trash must be removed from the bus when we return to the band hall.
This is the responsibility of all students.
- Use a normal tone of voice, don't yell.
- Couples are only allowed to sit together if they sit in one of the first five rows of seats on the bus.
- Lytle High School dress code will apply to all trips and performances unless otherwise authorized.
- Any student committing a criminal act on a band trip (including, but not limited to, use or possession of alcohol or illegal drugs, theft, vandalism) will be referred to law enforcement personnel, and parents will be contacted.

Grading:

The majority of grades assigned in the high school band are participation grades. During most weeks, two participation grades will be assigned – one for participation during class time and a second grade for participation at rehearsals and/or performances that take place during that week outside of school hours. Being absent or tardy for a morning or evening practice (during marching season) or a morning sectional (during concert season) will result in a substantial penalty to the student's participation grade. Students who miss a rehearsal due to illness or other excusable situation will be allowed to make up the participation grade. The Band Director will decide which situations are excusable. In accordance with local district policy, students who miss all or part of a rehearsal due to another extracurricular practice will not be penalized. Students who have a practice with another activity that overlaps only part of a band rehearsal or sectional will be expected to split the overlapping time between the two activities. If the entire practice is missed when only part of the practice overlapped, the student's grade will be penalized.

There will also be at least one performance grade, usually late in the first semester, which will require students to either audition for the ATSSB / TMEA All-Region Band, or submit a recording of their performance of selection(s) assigned by the director for the purpose of chairing the sections.

Rehearsals:

First divisions are not earned on contest day. First divisions are earned in the months and weeks before contest during rehearsals. To make our rehearsals as productive as possible, remember to follow these guidelines.

- Be on time (ready to play at the designated start time).
- If you warm up on your own, remember: Slow – Soft – Low.
- Always have a pencil.
- Maintain good posture at all times – both feet on the floor.
- Do not talk or play while the director is on the podium except when instructed to do so.
- No food or drink at indoor rehearsals except bottled water.
- The use of cell phones during any performance or rehearsal is prohibited.
- Take your horn home often to practice.

Eligibility:

In compliance with UIL and TEA regulations, students must pass all their classes to maintain their eligibility. Students are encouraged to be proactive in communicating with their teachers, checking their grades through Parent Portal, and staying current on their assignments. Loss of eligibility will result in students being unable to perform at football games, pep rallies, and contests. Since concerts are co-curricular, they are not subject to UIL/TEA eligibility restrictions.

Marching Band Physical Exams:

Effective beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, all participants in marching band are required by UIL to submit a completed Physical Examination and Medical History Form before participating in any practices or performances. During the first year of implementation, all students are required to submit both forms. After this initial year, students will be required to submit both forms before participating in their freshman and junior Years, and submit only the Medical History Form at the beginning of their sophomore and Senior Years. The necessary forms are available directly from the Band Directors or from the District Athletic Trainer. More information is available at: www.uil texas.org/files/music/Marching_Band_Physical_Exam_FAQ.pdf

Student Leaders:

The success of the band program depends heavily upon students developing and using leadership skills. Students are selected for different student leadership positions in the following ways:

- Drum Majors and Color Guard officers are selected by an audition process held at the end of the previous year. These auditions are judged by visiting judges.
- Captains for the marching season are appointed by the directors of the Lytle Pirate Band.
- Band Officers, including President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, etc. are chosen by the band members during elections held at the close of the previous year.
- Other leadership positions (such as Uniform Managers and Librarians) will be appointed by the directors of the Lytle Pirate Band.

Junior High Members of the High School Band:

Upon approval of the directors, selected 7th and/or 8th Grade band members will be offered the opportunity to compete with the Varsity High School Marching Band. This is a great privilege for a Junior High Student to be allowed to compete as part of a varsity organization. Attendance at before / after school practices are absolutely critical for Junior High students who accept this challenge because:

- As a younger student, they have less experience than other members of the Marching Band.
- Since they are not enrolled in the High School Band class, they will be missing the practice High School students get during that time.

To offset these disadvantages, Junior High marchers must attend every practice as well as spend time outside of scheduled practices working to ensure their parts are well prepared.

Performances:

The high school band is a performance based class. Some of the TEKS that students are expected to learn in the band are accomplished only in our concerts and other public performances. As a fulfillment of TEKS, these performances will be graded, and any unexcused absence from performances will have a dramatic effect on the student's grade. We will have dozens of performances throughout the school year, and as a band, we count on each member to be present and ready to play their best.

The following contests are mandatory and non-negotiable:

- 9/25/2021: Pre-UIL Marching Contest. Location and times TBA.
- 10/02/2021: Pre-UIL Marching Contest. Location and times TBA.
- 10/09/2021: Pre-UIL Marching Contest. Location and times TBA.
 - We will compete at 2 separate contests this day a "doubleheader"
- 10/16/2021: UIL Region Marching Contest at Hondo HS. Times TBA.
- 10/23/2021: UIL Area Marching Contest. Location and times TBA.
- 11/3/2021: UIL State Marching Contest at the Alamodome. Times TBA.
- 3/1/2022: UIL Concert and Sight Reading Evaluation. Location and times TBA.

There are very few acceptable reasons for missing any of these contests. Examples of reasons that will **NOT** be accepted are Quinceneras, out of town trips, and SAT/ACT exams. There are multiple dates to take your SAT/ACT exams. Plan ahead and register for a date that does not conflict with the contest calendar.

In addition to these contests, we will have performances for the Winter Concert, HEB Concert, Pre-UIL Pirateland, Spring Concert, and Nursing Home Concert on dates that are still to be determined. There is a high probability that additional performances will be scheduled during the year. Remember that all the contests and performances are mandatory and part of your participation grade.

Optional Contests:

All students are encouraged to participate in auditions for ATSSB All-Region Band and UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest. These events are not mandatory, but we would like all students to seriously consider them. The demands of these events will help develop musicianship at a very high level. The dates are:

- 12/4/2021: ATSSB Region Auditions – Lytle High School. Times TBA.
- 1/8/2022: ATSSB Area Auditions – Location and times TBA.
- 2/15/2022: UIL Solo and Ensemble – Southwest High School (times will be after school)

Lytle ISD Drug Testing Policy

In accordance with district policy, a student participating in extracurricular activities, including band, shall be tested for the presence of illegal drugs and alcohol at the beginning of each school year and prior to joining and extracurricular program at any time during the school year. A complete copy of the district drug testing policy is available on the school website: <https://www.lytleisd.org/Page/1167>

The consequences of positive tests are:

- 1st Offense: Suspension from all extracurricular activities for 30 school days. Student may continue to attend practices.
- 2nd Offense: Suspension from all extracurricular activities for 90 school days. Student may continue to attend practices.
- 3rd Offense: Suspension from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year. Student may no longer attend practices.

Refusal to test will be deemed as a positive test result, and the appropriate suspension will apply. There are many other details contained in the district policy. Parents are encouraged to become familiar with all elements of the policy.

ISS/DAEP Placement:

ISS

A band member receiving ISS cannot compete during the term of the assignment. The band member may be placed on probation if he/she is assigned to ISS, and any additional assignments to ISS may result in removal from the band program.

DAEP

If a band member is placed in the Lytle Alternative Education Program (DAEP), he/she will be removed from the band program for the remainder of the school year in which the placement occurred. Exceptions to this rule will only be made under the direction of the Director of Bands. If the DAEP placement runs into the next school year, the band member will be placed on a 30-day probationary contract at the completion of the original DAEP placement. Once the student has completed the 30-day probationary contract, and upon the approval of the Director of Bands, the student will be allowed to participate in any band performances/activities.

Appendix / Resources

Band Director Contact Information:

Mr. Chessher – joshua.chessher@lytleisd.org

Mrs. Robles – mj.robles@lytleisd.org

Mr. Keown – jason.keown@lytleisd.org

More information and resources are available on the band website: www.lytleisd.org/pirateband

Acknowledgment of Receipt of Band Handbook

My child and I have received a copy of the Lytle Pirate Band Handbook for 2021 – 2022. I understand the handbook contains information that my child and I may need during the school year, and that all band students are expected to comply with the policies and expectations outlined in this handbook, as well as the policies and conditions outline in the district Student Handbook and the District Drug Testing Policy.

STUDENT

Printed Name: _____ Grade: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENT

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Lytle Pirate Band Travel Permission Form

2021 – 2022 School Year

Over the course of the school year, the members of the band will travel to multiple performances and events.

If your child has your permission to attend these trips with the band, please sign and return this form.

My child, _____ has permission to travel to all band performances during the 2021-2022 school year. The LISD Band Directors have my permission to seek medical attention for my child in the event of a medical emergency.

(Parent Signature)

(Date)

Parent Phone Number: _____

Known Medical Concerns for the above named student: