



Handbook

Brianna Tegeler, Director of Bands
Jacob Canut, Associate Director of Bands
Tyler Rowlett, High School Principal
Dr. Eric Brown, Junior High Principal

MISSION STATEMENT

The Sweeny ISD Band program is an organization that provides a safe place for students to study the art of making music while also learning lifelong skills such as leadership, teamwork, perseverance, and hard work. Students are able to use their love of music to create memories with people that make up the Sweeny Band Family.

Welcome!

Welcome to the Sweeny ISD Band Program! It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that we introduce our band program to you in a more detailed manner. Sweeny band program has established a wonderful tradition of excellence and we are glad you have chosen to be a part of it.

Your child's participation in our band program is beneficial in many ways. Band students are engaged daily in a highly creative performing art that stimulates growth in areas of the human brain that no other discipline can. This growth effortlessly transfers into your student's academic life. In addition, our band students will develop traits such as teamwork, responsibility, dedication, self-discipline, social skills, confidence, leadership and dependability. Membership in our band program will give all a sense of accomplishment, pride, and respect as the students develop musical and personal skills that will enrich their lives.

The purpose of this handbook is to outline the guidelines and expectations for making this year a success for all involved, and to serve as a guide and resource for students and parents. Both students and their parents should take the time to thoroughly read this handbook. Upon completion, the contract that was distributed to your student during class (or downloaded from our web site) should be signed and returned to school, indicating your understanding of these guidelines and expectations.

Enrolling in band is a full year course, and students who enroll are expected to commit for the full academic school year.

Incoming students, grades 9 - 12

- If a student chooses not to enroll in the Sweeny Band for the following school year, the student must communicate with a member of the band staff in person.
- Counseling staff will only process schedule changes out of band with written permission from the band director.

Contact Information

The directors encourage positive communication and are willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress in band with his/her parents

Jessica Loggins
Director of Bands
jloggins@sweenyisd.org
979-491-8152

Brianna Tegeler
Associate Director of Bands
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979-491-8224

WRITE A NOTE

You may send a note with your child. Please include a phone number and/or e-mail address that you can be reached and the best time to reach you.

CONFERENCE PERIODS

Mrs. Loggins conference period is during X period from 0:00 to 0:00

Mrs. Tegeler's conference period is during X period from 0:00 PM to 0:00 PM.

Please understand that our communication to you – the parents – is a very high priority for us. We want to take care of concerns and make every situation the best for each student. Please contact us for clarification on any concerns before they become major issues.

Due to sectionals, after school rehearsals, and student help sessions, it is difficult to reach us before or after school. If we are working with students, please understand that they are our highest priority and deserve our complete attention.

E-MAIL POLICY

We will be sending home many updates and communications via e-mail throughout the year. Due to the nature of e-mail, all major concerns will need to be addressed through conferences or phone communication. This is to avoid any misunderstandings or unclear intentions through e-mail communication. Parents are encouraged to use e-mail to get more information or clarification regarding events, or to schedule a parent conference.

STUDENT COMMUNICATION

Students are also encouraged to communicate with the directors before concerns become issues. They should do this in person at an appropriate time, one on one. Again, clarification and solid communication will keep everything running smoothly throughout the entire year.

Throughout the year, we will be sending quite a bit of information home in the form of handouts. Please make every effort to read this information carefully, check calendars often and keep us informed of any conflicts. The sooner we know of a situation, the more options we have in solving problems.

Weekly newsletters will be sent out to all band students and parents via email to help make sure you are informed and aware of the on goings and expectations of program and upcoming events.

Goals and Objectives

The Sweeny Band seeks to educate its members not only in the discipline of learning an instrument and its performance, but allowing students to become better versions of themselves through the hard work and dedication needed to achieve their musical goals. The knowledge we as band directors hope to impart on our students includes but is not limited to:

- Proper instrumental technique
- Performance experience
- Music theory
- Music appreciation
- Aural skills
- Practice techniques
- Creative self-expression
- Organizational skills
- Time management
- Mental and physical discipline
- Citizenship through group endeavors
- Cultural growth
- Judgment-making abilities
- Life lessons
- Teamwork/social skills

Conduct Expectations

Band members will observe all procedures set forth by Sweeny ISD, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

- Any behavior which 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. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both public and private events.
- Students will follow directors' instructions.
- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area with all necessary equipment at the beginning of rehearsal time.
- Students will keep their hands and feet to themselves.
- Students will not use or play on equipment they do not own without permission from a director.
- Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
- Students should request permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that time will be utilized as wisely and efficiently as possible.
- When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.
- Students will respect the property of others and return their equipment to its proper storage

place when not in use. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area and keep said storage area clean and neat in appearance. Students who have difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band hall.

- Students will not deface or mark on music stands, chairs, walls, etc.
- Students will not write on the dry-erase boards without permission from a director.
- Students will utilize their assigned storage slot/locker for instrument cases during rehearsals. Cases should not be brought into rehearsals unless requested by a director (exceptions: flute, clarinet, and oboe).

Digital Citizenship

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that band member websites are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Members are responsible for their personal websites and postings, as well as posting from or on other students' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include but are not limited to profane, foul, or disrespectful language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, references to alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, and postings (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening towards other SISD teaching staff or band/colorguard members, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other bands. Any such incident will result in review by the principal (or designee) and may lead to probation or dismissal from the band.

In addition to considerations listed above under Probation and Dismissal, band members that violate the above guidelines shall be subject to the following:

- Upon confirmation of a violation, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the website(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal, directors, and band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior.
- If a violation occurs that is deemed to be of a more serious nature, including but not limited to a threat, bullying, inappropriate and/or foul language, or a series of violations, the student may be subject to a higher level of discipline as determined by the director and school administration, such as suspension, probation, or dismissal from the band.

Due Process

All Sweeny ISD students are entitled to due process in accordance with SISD guidelines. Our goal as a staff is to ensure that all students are treated fairly. Please contact one of the directors if you have any concerns. We will work with you to resolve problems. We are here to provide a quality fine arts education for all our students.

Financial Obligations

It is the philosophy of the Sweeny ISD Band that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact the director.

Fundraising

We will have multiple fundraisers planned for the school year. Participation in fundraisers is encouraged, but not required. The fundraisers will be used to purchase materials and equipment for the Sweeny Band Program such as extra music for concerts, funds to bring in guest clinicians, supplies, technology, sound equipment for the band department, commissioned music, instrument accessories, fees and/or deposits for honor band entries and other competitions. Due to budget limitations, this has become a necessity.

Below are estimated costs for band members:

- Beginner Band Book (6th graders) - \$10
- Band T-Shirt (6th graders and new members) - \$10
- Junior High Band Spring Trip (all eligible 6th, 7th & 8th grade members) - approximately \$30
- Long-Sleeved Formal Shirt (7th graders and new 8th graders) - \$25
- Marching show shirt (all high school members and selected JH Band aids) - \$15
- Marching shoes (all incoming 9th graders or high school students as needed) - \$40
- Personalized water jug with band logo (all incoming 9th graders) - \$30
- Uniform cleaning fee (all high school members except guard) - \$15
- Color Guard Camp (all selected guard members) - \$185
- High School Spring trip (all eligible high school band members) - \$175
- School-Owned Instrument Cost (select students) - \$50

Fundraising will belong to SISD, and cannot be refunded to a student. As per SISD policy, the funds are good only for the academic year, and are not transferable for students from year to year.

If a student leaves the Sweeny Band program, all money remains in the general Sweeny account. Funds are not reimbursed or distributed to students or their families

Donations are accepted to help the program. Any funds donated to the Sweeny Band program are for expenses other than student fees and trip expenses. These include, but are not limited to instrument repair, equipment replacement, helping families in need, and unforeseen expenses that might occur.

The Sweeny Bands

Beginner Band — This group is for any student who has limited or no experience playing a band instrument, regardless of grade in school. Students are assigned to instruments based on individual interviews and availability of instruments. All members are expected to take their instruments home and practice daily. Members of this group are required to attend a winter and spring concert.

Concert Band— selection into this group is by audition. This group will participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest and potentially UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. Members of the Concert Band are encouraged to participate in the ATSSB Region Band process. Members of

Concert Band are encouraged to attend one section rehearsal each week outside of the school day. These groups will give a variety of performances. In UIL activities, these groups will be designated as the “Non-Varsity” band.

Symphonic Band — selection into this group is by audition, director recommendation, and demonstration of academic proficiency. Members in this ensemble will participate in the ATSSB Region Band process, Solo and Ensemble Contest, preparations for special possible honor concerts, and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. Members of this group will have one section rehearsal outside of the school day each week. Additional rehearsals will be scheduled as needed. The Symphonic Band will give numerous performances both on and off campus. In UIL activities, this group will be designated the “Varsity” band.

High School Marching Band — All students enrolled in band at the high school are members of the marching band. Students will be selected to have a designated spot in the competitive half-time show by audition, director recommendation, and demonstration of academic proficiency.

High School Concert Band — All students enrolled in band at the high school are members of the concert band. Members in this ensemble will participate in the ATSSB Region Band process, Solo and Ensemble Contest, preparations for special possible honor concerts, and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. Members of this group will have one section rehearsal outside of the school day each week. Additional rehearsals will be scheduled as needed. The Concert Band will give numerous performances both on and off campus. In UIL activities, this group will be designated the “Varsity” band.

Students in the band program will be placed in a concert ensemble by audition, as well as observation throughout the year.

Band Placement

Yearly placement in each band and occasional changes are based on the following criteria:

- Instrumentation needs and limitations
- Eligibility status
- Overall performance and consistent progress
- Attendance at all band functions
- Attitude and behavior
- Audition

Because band is a team, and missing parts and imbalance of instrumentation compromises the entire group, participation in the Sweeny Band program is at least a **one-year commitment**.

Special Note – A student must pass band and have a director’s recommendation to be enrolled for the next semester.

Care of Facilities

- No gum, food, or drinks are allowed in the band hall except when authorized by the directors.
- All trash is to be deposited in the wastebaskets provided.
- Acts of vandalism or the willful misuse of school property will be dealt with severely and appropriately. Every band member is responsible to help the directors monitor the facility and control vandalism, which includes but is not limited to writing or carving on walls, destroying music, or breaking school property.
- Practice and ensemble rooms are designed for practicing, not social gatherings.
- Please knock on office doors; and, if you are invited in, you may enter. Otherwise, offices are off-limits to students. Students may not use directors' phones without permission.
- The telephone in the band hall may not be used by non-band members. This phone is not to be used for personal calls, but may be used to call parents for rides, etc.
- Students must ask permission to use the phone and all calls will be limited to two minutes.

Attendance

In order to have and maintain a high-quality band program, each member's attendance is essential. While the Sweeny Band follows all school and district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the Sweeny band. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held outside of the school day.

Excused Absence

Absences during the school day will be excused according to district guidelines. Absences from school related activities held outside the school day will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Appointments, tutorials, work etc. are not excuses for absence. Absences due to personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances (approved by director) may be considered for excused status. For any doctor visit related absence, students must submit a doctor's note and parent communication upon return. Students who are continually ill may be required to provide a doctor's note releasing them from participation. All absences should be discussed with a director to confirm whether or not they will be excused.

Unexcused Absence

Students with an unexcused absence from any required band activity will receive a zero in the grade book. Rehearsals, concerts, contests, and competitions cannot be made up and always account for a portion of their grade. However, if you know of a conflict with any of the events, communication must take place as soon as you are aware of the conflict prior to the event to be eligible for an alternative assignment. Any other absence that occurs without any communication to the director from the student and parent, could result in a zero for the assignment or event or will prevent the student from fully participating in the upcoming performance. Absences due from work will not be unexcused. Students with an unexcused absence to any rehearsal may be required to schedule a make-up time with their band director within one week to regain the privilege of performing fully with the ensemble at their next scheduled event.

Concerts/Performances

Concerts and performances are an integral component of the band curriculum. Students should consult their band calendars for dates and times. Each of the concert ensembles will perform at

various times throughout the school year and are mandatory. Periodically, the schedule may change, and updates will be communicated. Concerts are considered to have three parts: warm-up, performance, and listening. For the student, the concert begins at the warm-up. Punctuality is essential. A concert concludes after the last group has performed and directors give permission for students to be dismissed. A general report time will be given for all students. If a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up all missed work.

Performances of the ensembles will include but are not limited to the following in 7th-12th Grade:

- Pep Rallies
- Region 13 All Region Band Tryouts - All-Region Band Auditions are a requirement for all Symphonic and High School Band students. For students in the Concert Band, this event is STRONGLY encouraged. This is a large portion of the preparation in the fall, as this helps to develop player's individual performance abilities.
- Holiday Fine Arts Showcase
- Holiday Parade (High School & Guard)
- Pre-UIL Contest
- UIL Contest
- Spring Trip Festival
- Spring Concert
- Solo and Ensemble Contest
- Sweeny Pride Day Parade (Symphonic, High School & Guard)
- Recording sessions
- Other events as scheduled

Performances of the ensembles will include but are not limited to the following in 6th Grade:

- Winter Concert
- Spring Concert
- Spring Trip Festival
- Solo and Ensemble Contest
- Other events as scheduled

Special Note – Students absent from school for any reason or students who are in alternative placement on the day of a concert, contest, or competition may not participate.

We realize that students are involved in multiple activities on campus and we have done our best to ensure that those students still have an opportunity to fully participate in band at every grade level. Absences due to work or sporting events not directly associated with Sweeny ISD will not be excused. All absences are subject to be made up through physical conditioning, additional practice time in the band hall and will also result in points taken off from the student's rehearsal grade for the week as well.

Daily Supplies

Each student should plan to bring the following items to rehearsals and/or performances. Other items may be added at the discretion of the directors.

- All issued music
- Foundations for Superior Performance Book/Essential Elements Book
- Pencil

- Instrument (with case name tag)
- Black band binder (with labeled dividers)
- Chromebook
- Tuner/Metronome and clip
- All supplies relative to their instrument (For supplies specific to your instrument, refer to the weekly newsletter)
- Other equipment as needed

Grading Guidelines

SISD band programs have instructional objectives that relate to the mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for grade level subjects or courses. These objectives are aligned to address the academic skills needed for successful performance in the next grade or next course in a sequence of courses. Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, and other instructional activities are designed so that the student's performance indicates the level of mastery of the instructional objectives. The student's mastery level of these objectives is a major factor in determining the grade for a subject or course.

Students will be expected to meet the responsibilities for each band class as determined by the director. Since band is an academic music class with some extra-curricular activities attached, the band student's grade will reflect achievement in both curricular and extra-curricular areas.

General Grading Guidelines – All Level

Students will be graded on the following:

- Daily / Participation Grades
 - Includes: Instrument, Music Supplies, and Class Work
- Rehearsal attendance, both during class and after/before school.
- Weekly Practice Records
- Objective Sheet Completions
- Test Grades
- Playing Tests
 - Based on preparation of music, concert attendance and contests
- Written Tests
 - Based on punctuality, accuracy, and completion
- Major Performances
 - Including but not limited to concerts and other performances

General Gradebook Guidelines - All Level

- Accuracy of all assignments will need to be at an 85 or higher to be considered performance ready.
 - Marching Season: Students who do not submit their assignments in a timely manner to receive at least an 85 or higher, will still be allowed to march at half time but will be instructed not to play.
 - Concert Season: Students who do not submit their assignments in a timely manner may be asked to not perform at the concert(s).
- The expectation is that all students take home their instrument/equipment every single day and practice on their own for 20-30 minutes three to four days each week to adequately

prepare to submit quality work for all assignments.

- Assignments will close at MIDNIGHT on FRIDAY of the end of the three week grading period.
- Once the assignment is closed, it will not be reopened unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- Any assignment not submitted by the due date will be a zero in the grade book.
- Late submission will be accepted until the given date above to replace any zero in the grade book.
- Students will receive a 5% late penalty for each day it is not submitted.
- Assignments will be counted for completion or for accuracy and precision so late penalties will quickly add up if not completed in a timely manner.
 - Each assignment will state if it is for completion or for accuracy.
- If you have any questions about this assignment, reach out to a director ASAP so we can help!

The following list is provided to give students and parents examples of items that may be subject to grading. Additional assignments may be given at the discretion of the director.

- The student will receive a grade for each before or after school section or full rehearsal during a grading period.
- The student will be on task and focused during rehearsals.
- The student will have instrument, music, pencil, and supplies in rehearsals.
- The student will be prepared to play his/her part successfully.
- The student will mark music and take notes as needed.
- The student will be expected to improve individual music skills.
- The student's individual skill development will be evaluated through recorded music tests, individual playing tests, scale tests, and/or written tests.
- The student will be evaluated on improvement of ensemble skills during daily rehearsals.
- The student will be expected to improve his/her performance fundamentals.
- The student will be evaluated for improvement of his/her music fundamentals through daily observation during the "basics" part of each rehearsal and during sectionals.
- The student will be expected to demonstrate correct posture, hand position, embouchure, air production, and articulation as monitored during rehearsals.
- The student will be expected to develop a historical knowledge of the literature relative to their respective instrument.
- The student will receive a grade for each performance during a grading period.

Chair Tests

Chair tests are given periodically throughout the year in band classes. The amount of time between chair tests and the material for the chair test is up to the director's discretion. Each student shall perform the assigned material individually in front of the class in order to simulate an audition environment. This adheres to TEKS 117.208.c.3.A-F (creative expression through performance).

The following is an example of a rubric that can be used to grade chair tests.

| | Superior | Excellent | Good | Needs Improvement |
|--|----------|-----------|------|-------------------|
|--|----------|-----------|------|-------------------|

| | | | | |
|----------------|---|--|---|--|
| Posture | Performer sits/stands with appropriate posture the entire performance. | Performer sits/stands with mostly appropriate posture the entire performance. | Performer sits/stands with mostly appropriate posture for most of the performance. | Performer does not sit/stand with appropriate posture for most of the performance. |
| Tempo | Performer stays with the metronome, uses a steady beat, and taps their toe while playing. | Performer mostly stays with the metronome, uses a steady beat, and taps their toe while playing. | Performer usually stays with the metronome, uses a steady beat, and taps their toe while playing. | Performer does not stay with the metronome, use a steady beat, or tap their toe while playing. |
| Rhythms | Performer articulates all rhythms correctly. | Performer articulates most rhythms correctly. | Performer articulates some rhythms correctly. | Performer does not articulate most rhythms correctly. |
| Notes | Performer plays all notes correctly with the correct fingerings/stickings. | Performer plays most notes correctly with the correct fingerings/stickings. | Performer plays some notes correctly with the correct fingerings/stickings. | Performer does not play most notes correctly with the correct fingerings/stickings. |

Directors may choose to focus on or add additional factors to grade based on the material assigned.

Each student shall receive a grade based on their performance on that day. Based on the material assigned, the director may choose to assign an additional excerpt as a tie breaker, however, this is left up to the director's discretion.

Students who forget their instrument the day of the chair test will still be allowed to test for a grade. However, the student will automatically be placed in last chair until a new chair test takes place. If a student is absent due to illness, doctor appointment or a school related activity, the student will be allowed to test and take the given chair placement once the student returns to school.

Students may also receive point deductions for not following proper audience etiquette. (117.208.c.5.A, 117.208.c.5.E)

Weekly Practice Sheets

Weekly Practice Sheets are implemented at the Junior High Level only. The rewards of playing a musical instrument increase in direct proportion to the number of hours invested in individual practice. The key is to set aside a designated time every day for practice. Set up a daily schedule to ensure that practice is an important part of your daily studies.

- Due every Monday or the first day back to school of that week (vacation or sick)
- 100 minutes of practice time per week for all Band students
- Can be turned in one day late through the Friday of that week for 10 points off per day
- Must be submitted to the appropriate district learning management system

Practice Records will remain open from Monday - Friday of each assigned week. Once the submission window closes, practice records will not be accepted.

Eligibility

All SISD Bands adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and SISD. Some band activities are designated as extra-curricular. Students participating in these activities are governed by eligibility requirements. A student shall be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the nine-week period following a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than seventy in any class. Loss of eligibility does not take effect until seven days after the end of the reporting period. Ineligible students are not suspended from practice or rehearsal for extra-curricular activities. The student is not suspended from participation during the period in which school is recessed for the summer or any other vacation time. Students may regain eligibility under certain circumstances. If a student has been suspended as a result of failing, he/she may regain eligibility by passing ALL courses by the third week of the following grading period. Reinstatement of eligibility would occur seven days after the three-week progress report period (see TEA/UIL Side by Side).

The eligibility law does not affect activities that are considered curricular components of any course. Examples of these activities are all rehearsals and performances that take place as a regular extension of classroom instruction. Any performance that is competitive in nature or for which admission is charged is deemed extra-curricular.

In addition to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and SISD above, students are required to pass the concurrent nine-weeks and must not receive more than three in-school suspensions during the coinciding semester in order to attend trips off campus for Junior High Band students. Any amount of in-school suspension or after school detention received at the high school campus will exempt the student from traveling with the band program the remainder of the school year.

District-Owned Instruments

SISD provides a limited number of instruments for student use. These instruments include the tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, horn, euphonium/baritone, tuba, and general percussion equipment. This equipment is generally purchased by the school district for student use because of its expense. Thus, *all district-owned equipment must be handled with care*. Students failing to take proper care of their district-owned instruments may lose the privilege of using such instruments.

The following is a list of general procedures for district-owned instruments:

- If possible, students who play large instruments and are dependent upon SISD buses may be issued one instrument for home use and one for school use. This will be at the discretion of the directors and will be based on instrument availability and transportation needs.
- Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition. Students are expected to maintain their issued instruments accordingly.
- The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him or her.
- All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.
- SISD will assess a fee for routine summer cleaning and maintenance of district-owned

instruments.

- District-Owned Instruments should not be taken outside of the United States.

Special Note – District-owned instruments are not to be treated as "free" instruments. Basic supplies must still be purchased, and repairs must still be made. Please treat these instruments as if they were your own. Most district-owned instruments exceed \$2,000 in value. Insurance on school owned instruments is strongly encouraged. Please see a director for insurance information if needed.

Instrument Storage and Identification

Instrument cubbies are to be used for instrumental storage ONLY!! Each student is assigned a specific cubby, which is to be kept clean and free from anything that is not the instrument or other band-specific supplies. Instruments are to be put in their cases, and the cases kept closed and latched while in the storage area. NO INSTRUMENTS ARE TO BE KEPT IN CUBBIES OVERNIGHT OR OVER THE WEEKENDS. Sixth grade students will begin to consistently bring their instruments home as soon as their band director instructs them.

Band students will take home their instruments and band binders every evening. Students are expected to practice regularly outside of band class and private lessons.

Students are not allowed to leave their instrument unattended at any time. There will be consequences for any student whose instrument is brought to us by another student, teacher, etc. -- whether it is found on or off school property.

Section Rehearsals

All Symphonic, Concert, and High School Band students will have at least one weekly section rehearsal with their band's section. Students are expected to be punctual and prepared. Absence from section rehearsals must be in accordance with the attendance policy. Students must make every effort to attend. Section rehearsals are an extension of the classroom and are graded accordingly.

It is imperative that each sectional begin on time with everyone in attendance. Students who miss a sectional will not receive credit for participation. Please be aware of your child's sectional day/time and make every effort to assure that he/she is on time and ready to learn! Please do not schedule dentist, doctor, or any other appointments during your child's sectional. It will cause him/her to fall behind the rest of the group.

An **excused absence** can be made up by individual practice for **one hour** or attending a similar instrument sectional (with director approval).

An **unexcused absence** can be made up by individual practice in the band hall for **two** hours.

Students who miss a sectional (excused or unexcused) have **one week** after they return to school to make up the missed sectional. After a week, the absence will be considered unexcused and a grade of zero will be recorded.

Unexcused absences will result in student and parent notification. Three unexcused absences (regardless of whether the time is made up) will result in removal from the competition group until all competitions are finished.

Special note - We realize that students are involved in multiple activities on campus and we have done our best to ensure that those students still have an opportunity to fully participate in band at every grade level. Absences due to work or sporting events not directly associated with Sweeny ISD will not be excused. All absences are subject to be made up through physical conditioning and/or additional practice time in the band hall and will also result in points taken off from the student's rehearsal grade for the week as well.

Uniform Guidelines

Formal uniform: **High School Marching Band Members**

- Black Marching Shoes - (Specially ordered)
- TALL Solid Black Socks
- No jewelry - included but not limited to earrings, bracelets, watches and necklaces.
- No fingernail polish
- Designated shirt under the uniform as communicated by the directors.

Formal uniform: **High School Concert Band Members**

- Long-Sleeved button down black shirt
- Black Pants – no leggings, black jeans, capris, shorts
- Black Closed-Toe Shoes – no tennis shoes, TOMS, converse or open-toed shoes
- Black Socks
- Black Belt, if necessary

Formal uniform: **Symphonic and Concert Band Members:**

- Long-Sleeved Formal Shirt
- Black Pants – no leggings, black jeans, capris, shorts
- Black Closed-Toe Shoes – no tennis shoes, TOMS, converse, open-toed shoes
- Black Socks
- Black Belt, if necessary

Formal uniform: **Beginner Band Members:**

- Gray Sweeny Band T-Shirt
- Black Pants – no leggings, black jeans, capris, shorts
- Black Closed-Toe Shoes – no tennis shoes, TOMS, converse, open-toed shoes
- Black Socks
- Black Belt, if necessary

Informal uniform for all members will be the Sweeny Band T-Shirt and blue jeans. The informal uniform will be used at the discretion of the band directors.

Concerts/Performances

Concerts and performances are frequent with all bands. Students should consult their calendars for dates and times. Periodically, the schedule will change and updates will be communicated as soon as possible.

- Concerts are considered to have three parts: warm-up, performance, and listening.
- The concert begins for the student at the warm-up. Punctuality is essential!! A concert concludes when the last group performs, and directors have given permission for students to be dismissed. A general report time will be given for all students.
- All concerts are a group effort; thus, ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED!!!
- All concerts are an extension of the classroom and will be graded accordingly.
- Students should be punctual and prepared for each performance/concert.
- In the event a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up all missed work!

Performance Locations

- The appropriate dress for all concerts will be a dress uniform (see Uniform Guidelines).

Sweeny High School Auditorium: Students will enter in the main door at the top of the steps and proceed to their assigned locations. Beginner instrument cases will remain in their parents' car. Parents should find their seats in the auditorium.

Sweeny Junior High Gym: Students will meet in the band hall before traveling together to the gym. Parents may sit in the bleachers.

Other locations will be shared as events approach.

Concert Behavior Expectations

Band students will exhibit proper concert behavior during all performances, in either their own band or as an audience member. Students will be graded on their behavior. Concert etiquette is an integral part of music education. Appropriate conduct in formal and informal concert settings is included in the TEKS.

The following rules will be followed by parents and students at all times:

- Talking is not permitted on stage or in the audience. It is disrespectful to the performers on stage and audience members.
- Do not distract the performing band in any way.
- Do not leave your seat for any reason during a performance. You will be given ample time to use the restroom and drinking fountain before a concert begins. If you must leave, do so as quietly and inconspicuously as possible (make sure the doors do not slam shut). Leave between songs only.
- No food or drink is allowed on stage, backstage, or in the seating area. This includes water

bottles and gum.

- Cell phones must be turned off (not on vibrate or silent) and stowed away. Any student using a cell phone during a performance may have consequences.
- Move between the seating area and stage in quiet, single-file lines. Sit in your assigned seat/row. Do not talk as you enter or exit.
- Support your fellow band members with appropriate applause. Yelling, whistling, shouting names, etc. is not acceptable.
- Set a good example for the audience and other students. Other people may not know how to behave in a concert setting.
- We hope all parents and guests will stay for the concert when bringing a student to a concert. If a student needs to be picked up, please do so in a timely manner. Any student not picked up on time may not be allowed to participate in future SHS activities.
- Students are expected to stay for the entire concert.

UIL and Competitions

Participation in UIL Concert and Sight Reading Evaluation is mandatory for all High School, Symphonic and Concert Band students.

Students participating in UIL Solo and Ensemble, ATSSB All-Region Band Auditions, UIL Marching Contest, any music festival/contest, and the spring trip must follow all the eligibility requirements under the Texas Education Agency, University Interscholastic League and SISD eligibility rules. For the most updated eligibility requirements, please consult the UIL website (www.uil.utexas.edu).

Travel Guidelines

The band will frequently travel on either school buses or commercial buses. Students are expected to conduct themselves at the highest level on any trip.

Students who have been subject to school-level discipline during the school year may be deemed ineligible to participate in non-UIL field trips, at the discretion of the director and/or campus administration.

Students must travel to events and return from events on the bus. Any student wishing to arrive or leave with his/her parent must notify a director in writing with parent signature, prior to the event. Permission will be granted or denied based on the circumstances of the occasion.

Students must have all necessary forms (Medical/Travel Release) completed and on file with the band office to travel on any trip with the band.

While on the bus students will:

- Remain seated at all times.
- Sit next to students of the same gender.

- Sit properly in a forward position.
- Keep the bus clear of food, drinks, and debris.
- Keep all body parts inside the bus.
- Use only approved type/headset radios (no audible speakers).
- Remain silent when addressed by an adult on the bus.
- Refrain from loud, boisterous talking, singing, screaming, whistling, inappropriate jokes, etc.
- No public displays of affection.

Special Note

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 at all times should be considered a good reflection on the school, the band, your home, yourself, and the community.

Chaperones

Adult chaperones must be SISD Approved Volunteers and are a great asset to the band program. Students will treat them as an extension of the band staff. Proper respect will be shown to all adults at all times. If your parent is interested in serving as a chaperone, please contact Mrs. Loggins (jloggins@sweenyisd.org) for high school band events and Mrs. Tegeler (bmitchell@sweenyisd.org) for junior high school band events.

Trip Criteria

Day Trips

Every year the band takes a trip in spring. This trip rewards the students for all their hard work throughout the school year. **In order to participate in these trips, the students must do the following:**

- Students must pass the concurrent nine-weeks with a 70 or higher in every class.
- Turn in their medical release forms and permission slips.
- Must attend UIL Contest (Symphonic & Concert Band).
- Must attend scheduled sectionals/practices.
- Must attend corresponding solo/ensemble contest.
- Perform all competition music at designated metronome marking to a director at or above 90%. This includes correct notes, rhythms, intonation, and dynamics. Students may be required to perform music more than once. All music must be performed to a director by a scheduled date.
- Cannot have been sent to DAEP at any time during the school year.
- Cannot have received an office referral at any time from a band director during the semester in which the trip occurs.
- Cannot have received more than two office referrals from any teacher or administrator during the semester in which the trip occurs for junior high band members.
- Cannot have received three or more days of In School Suspension (ISS) or Afterschool Detention (ASD) the semester of travel. .

Overnight trips

In the event that high school band students travel for an overnight trip, all luggage, instrument cases and personal items will be subject to search. Students who are found in possession of any illegal substance, e-cigarette/ vape will not be eligible to travel on the trip. Any financial commitment will be

forfeited and will not be eligible for reimbursement. Further consequences will be determined by administration in accordance with the district student code of conduct.

Dismissal from the Sweeny Band

In the event that a student is sent to DAEP or has three or more referrals, the student, their parent(s), band staff and an administrator will meet to determine the extent of said student's participation in the Sweeny Band Program.

Student Leadership

The Sweeny ISD band programs provide many opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills. Students may audition and/or apply for selected officer positions. Students can serve their band program and refine skills which they will be able to use in other school organizations, as well as in their future careers. Audition criterion is selected at the discretion of the directors and is communicated to the students. The directors evaluate all selected officer candidates based on their performance both during the audition and throughout the school year.

Region Band Guidelines

- All High School and Symphonic Band students will audition for All-Region Band.
- All other band students are encouraged to audition if the preparation of their music is at a high performance level. Decisions to audition by these students will be on a case-by-case basis.
- Students will be graded on preparation for this event.
- Any person who is selected will attend all rehearsals and the performance of the All-Region Band. Check your calendar for dates.

It is quite an honor to be selected to the All-Region Band. Hundreds of students throughout the region will audition. Even if you are not selected, the experience you receive by preparing will enhance your musical ability and education!

Solo and Ensemble

All band members will prepare and perform a solo and are encouraged to prepare and perform an ensemble.

Grades will be issued for preparation and participation in the solo and ensemble process. Please remember that participation in the SISD Solo and Ensemble Contest does affect trip eligibility.

Safety

Due to the heavy student traffic going in and out of the band hall, as well as the possibility of theft of instruments, students not enrolled in the Sweeny Band are not allowed in the band hall at any time. Friends of the Sweeny Band members may wait outside the band hall to accompany their band friend to another location.

Band Hall Hours

The band hall normally opens for individual practice at 7:15 AM, and closes at 4:30 PM, except on Fridays or the day before a holiday – in which case the band hall will close at 4:00 PM.

In the event an after school sectional is scheduled, it will be held from 3:30 – 4:15 PM. Sectional times may be adjusted when and if needed, depending on upcoming contests.

Parent Drop-off and Pick-up

On days when no sectionals or pass offs are being held, the band hall will close at 4:00 PM.

Parents must make arrangements for transportation of their children to and from section rehearsals, and to and from the band hall during trips and special events. Lack of transportation will not be an accepted excuse for missing a band function. To ensure the safety of their children, parents are encouraged to have a plan for drop-off and pick-up of students in a timely manner for band events.

For the safety of all involved, students must go home after the band hall closes. Parents, please be aware that the main office will be closed before sectionals end. Family transportation and car pools are ways to help your child get home safely and in a timely manner.

Band Parent Volunteers

As a parent with a child in the band program, you are automatically a member of the Sweeny Band Parent Organization. Their meetings occur on the first Tuesday of every month and all members are encouraged to attend. Band parent volunteers assist the students and directors with various tasks. Some areas of need are fundraising tabulation and collection, chaperone recruiting, and news and public relations. **All band volunteers must fill out the SISD district volunteer form and be approved by the school district.** On the form, please indicate that you would like to help the band program.

Handbook Signature Page

Please read and sign below as indicated:

Students:

I have read the 2023-2024 Sweeny ISD Band Handbook and understand the requirements for being a band member. I realize it takes full cooperation and dedication (100% from me) to help our band meet its potential. I also realize that my failure to follow policies and directions could result in disciplinary action, which could lead to placement in another band or dismissal from the band program. I have received a copy of the Sweeny Band calendar for the current school year and am aware of the Google calendar available to me.

As a member of the Sweeny ISD Band, I acknowledge the following as responsibilities I must fulfill if I wish to remain a member. I will:

- Understand that band is a full year commitment
- Be punctual and prepared for weekly sectionals and hearing times
- Practice with a purpose and turn in weekly practice sheets
- Demonstrate my best on playing assignments and written theory tests
- Attend all concerts, clinics, rehearsals, and contests
- Treat my peers and teachers with respect, and maintain appropriate conduct
- Maintain my grades for eligibility and self-achievement
- Have a high standard for improvement in class and on my own

Student Name

Student Signature

Parents:

I have read the Sweeny ISD Band Handbook and am willing to support it and my child. I also understand all policies and procedures set forth by the Sweeny ISD Band program, as outlined in this handbook.

Parent Signature

Date

Phone #