



THE PRIDE OF GRANBURY
PIRATE BAND

PROGRAM HANDBOOK
AND
MEMBERSHIP POLICIES

GRANBURY HIGH SCHOOL
2000 W. Pearl St, Granbury, TX 76048
817-408-4647

Rev. May 2025

The following handbook is provided to ensure the band program will be an enjoyable, educational, and a life changing experience for all of its members. Band members are required to follow the policies, rules, and regulations of Granbury ISD, Granbury High School, and the GHS High School Band.

This handbook contains information about the general rules of the program along with information concerning academics, the University Interscholastic League (UIL), equipment, program offerings, private lessons, band facilities, uniforms, attendance, communication, scheduling, and much more!

The band directors have the authority to suspend or amend policies at any time if deemed necessary in the best interest of the overall GHS Band program.

Welcome – Our Philosophy!

The Granbury High School band program is one of the premier programs in Texas through community, academics, and musical excellence. We look to create lifelong memories through a variety of musical, service, and leadership opportunities.

Our students will have experiences that many others can only dream of having in their high school careers. We strive to offer an inclusive environment while providing world class opportunities to our students, including leadership experiences and individual growth through musical excellence.

Our vision is to **bring out the BEST in ourselves and each other.**

To Parents:

Welcome to the most exciting and inclusive organizations available to your student(s). The band program at GHS offers a variety of performance opportunities and gives members a place to learn and grow in a community of like minded individuals. We strive to offer world class instruction and experiences to our students in the GHS Band.

We strongly believe there is a place for everyone in the band program. If you and your student choose to participate, you will reap many benefits and unique experiences. In addition, you become part of a very active and diverse band community.

We hope you are excited to join us in creating these experiences for the students. We encourage parents to be active supporters through our booster club, fundraising, and through volunteer opportunities including: chaperones, coordinators, equipment, etc. We also hope you will be a visible supporter by attending as many performances as possible!

Rarely do you have such a large group of students assembled in one organization with a focus on achieving excellence. Please get to know the directors, instructors, other parents, and students!

Sincerely,

Granbury High School Band Staff



GRANBURY BAND STAFF

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CONTACTING THE BAND STAFF

You are strongly encouraged to contact the Granbury Band Staff at school when needed. There are many reasons for doing this, such as being late to a rehearsal, a family emergency, questions about upcoming events, etc. Matters that can be taken care of during the school day should be taken care of during the school day. All of the directors have a brief conference period each day. Please use the phone numbers and e-mail addresses listed above. That being said, please also utilize the band website www.prideofgranbury.com, the band calendar, and our weekly newsletters for the most up-to-date information.



MEMBERSHIP

The Granbury Band Program is open to all interested students at Granbury High School who demonstrate a combination of the following: a desire to participate in the program, a basic ability to perform, and a positive and cooperative attitude in rehearsal and performance settings. Students may be removed from the program at the discretion of the director for disciplinary reasons, or for non-compliance with band or school policy.

Membership is based upon a full-year commitment. Band occurs every month of the year - even the summer. Enrollment is maintained by means of an audition that demonstrates musical and/or visual proficiency. These auditions are held twice annually in the Fall and Spring. Wind and percussion students are placed into an ability based performing ensemble according to audition results. Color guard candidates are placed in the fall guard and winter guard programs based on their auditions.

As with any co-curricular organization, membership in the band program is a privilege. Failure to meet the requirements of the campus and/or organizational requirements may result in removal from the program. Any member who does not maintain enrollment in band through the fall/spring semester sequence may be unable to participate in the Granbury Band for the next school year. In the case of the color guard, membership continues through the Spring semester in the form of winter guard. Alternative scheduling policies for members who participate in GISD sanctioned varsity sports will be handled on an individual basis. Such arrangements are at the discretion of the band director.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CREDIT

Per the GISD Program of Studies, “all students involved in the band program are also required to participate in the marching band.” In addition to the full-year of fine arts credit that students receive when enrolled in band for the school year, students will also receive a 0.5 P.E. substitution credit waiver for each season of their participation in the marching band. Students are awarded this P.E. credit provided they have met the attendance requirements of the marching band, just as credit is awarded in all other academic courses in GISD. Students who miss more than the required amount of marching practice may be able to recover P.E. credit only after serving the required amount of “seat time.”



COMPONENTS OF THE GHS BAND

MARCHING BAND

The Marching Band is the primary performing organization in the fall semester for the Granbury High School Band Program. The Marching Band includes all students registered for band - Winds, Percussion, and Color Guard. Membership in this organization is by audition, summer band attendance, music memory performance, and approval of the directors. Membership carries the following responsibilities:

1. Attendance at all rehearsals, sectionals, clinics, and performances
2. Demonstrated mastery of marching band music/routines from memory
3. Demonstrated mastery of marching fundamentals & drill coordinates from memory
4. Maintenance of academic eligibility
5. Abide by all GHS Band Handbook policies
6. Abide by all dress/hair code policies for Marching Band:
 - a. Students should wear athletic shoes to rehearsal
 - b. Students must keep their shirt on during rehearsal, however, tank tops and other athletic tops are allowed
 - c. Spandex bottoms are only allowed under the uniform. Please bring other shorts to rehearse in or wear over the spandex until the uniform is being put on.
 - d. Show Hair - All students will have neatly groomed and styled hair. Students with long hair will wear it in a high bun for games and competitions, etc.

MARCHING BAND ROLES

All Band students are assigned a role in the Granbury Marching Band. Roles are either considered "Varsity" or "Junior Varsity." The assignment of a students' role is based on a variety of factors including, but not limited to: marching skill, musical performance skill, overall coordination, number of varsity spots based on geometric instrumentation, academic history, attendance history, and the needs of the marching show. Varsity and Junior Varsity members participate in all rehearsals and performances including marching during halftime at all football games. Varsity members march at all competitions while Junior Varsity members are assigned support roles at these competitions. Should a Varsity spot become available during the season, Junior Varsity members can be considered to fill the vacancy based on the same factors listed above, including demonstrating growth in these areas.

VARSITY MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

Varsity members of the marching band are successful in all of the above responsibilities and maintain a competition spot in the show for all football games, contests and other marching band performances including school parades and pep rallies. Infractions on any of these responsibilities may result in reassignment of Varsity member role to Junior Varsity member role. Unexcused absences, including those during the communicated summer band practices, will factor into the status of a student's Varsity membership.

JUNIOR VARSITY MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

Junior Varsity members of the Granbury Marching Band are accountable for the same requirements of all Marching Band members, as listed above. Students maintain a JV spot in the marching show for all football games and non-contest performance. JV members attend all contests and support the Marching Band for the duration of the competition schedule.



CONCERT BAND

WIND ENSEMBLE (Varsity)

The Wind Ensemble is the premier performance ensemble in the Granbury High School program and performs college level wind band literature. Students will prepare/perform an advanced music curriculum and have a strong commitment to rehearsal and practice time. Membership in this ensemble is by audition and selection by the directors. Audition materials regularly include All-State/Region Etudes, scales, and sight reading. Membership carries the following responsibilities:

1. Attendance at all rehearsals, sectionals, clinics, and performances
2. Enrollment in private lessons with a GHS approved lesson teacher
3. Preparation of the All-State/Region Band etudes during the Fall semester
4. Required to audition for the All-State/Region Band
5. Preparation and performance of a solo and ensemble
6. Maintenance of academic eligibility
7. Abide by all GHS Band Handbook policies

SYMPHONIC BAND (Non-Varsity)

The Symphonic Band is the non-varsity performing ensemble in the Granbury High School band program and performs advanced high school level wind band literature. Membership carries the following responsibilities:

1. Attendance at all rehearsals, sectionals, clinics, and performances
2. Enrollment in private lessons with a GHS approved lesson teacher, highly recommended
3. Preparation of the All-State/Region Band etudes during the Fall semester
4. Strongly encouraged to audition for the All-State/Region Band
5. Preparation and performance of a solo and ensemble
6. Maintenance of academic eligibility
7. Abide by all GHS Band Handbook policies

CONCERT BAND AND FOUNDATIONS BAND (Sub Non-Varsity)

The Concert Band is the sub non-varsity performing ensemble in the Granbury High School band program and performs high school level wind band literature. Membership carries the following responsibilities:

1. Attendance at all rehearsals, sectionals, clinics, and performances
2. Private lessons are strongly encouraged
3. Preparation of the All Region Band etudes during the Fall semester
4. Audition for the All-Region Band with approval by a director
5. Preparation and performance solo and ensemble
6. Maintenance of academic eligibility
7. Abide by all GHS Band Handbook policies

PERCUSSION

Percussionists will be enrolled in Percussion Class in the Fall Semester and a band class based on audition in the Spring. These classes help students fulfill the requirements of the marching and concert bands, as well as facilitating the rehearsal of Percussion Ensemble Literature for spring festivals and a Percussion Cluster Concert. Percussionists are required to be enrolled in the band program for the entire year.



COLOR GUARD // WINTER GUARD

Membership into the Colorguard is by audition. Auditions are held in the Spring and Fall semesters—no prior experience is required of membership. Membership is a full-year commitment that performs as part of the Marching Band in the fall semester and as the Winter Guard in the spring semester.

ATTENDANCE

All band students must abide by the Granbury High School Band attendance policies. Attendance is required at all rehearsals, sectionals, clinics, and performances. Attendance counts toward your daily participation grade and your performance grade. Parents should attempt to schedule doctor's appointments so as not to conflict with scheduled practices or events. Scheduling conflicts may arise between school activities. Notify the directors and your school sponsor as soon as the conflict is known in order to allow the directors and school sponsors to work out the conflict in advance. Games, contests, and performances take priority over practices and rehearsals. In the event that two activities are determined to be of equal priority, the coaches and school sponsors will coordinate to develop an appropriate plan. It is the general policy of Granbury High School that school activities (including Band), take precedence over club or select activities outside of GISD.

EXCUSED

Absences are categorized as excused by virtue of four occurrences:

- Student illness rendering them incapable of observation or participation
- Religious Holiday
- Family emergency
- School event of higher priority

Circumstances may justify an excused absence for reasons other than listed above. In the case of illness, religious holiday or family emergency, parent communication prior to the rehearsal/performance is required.

UNEXCUSED

All other absences are considered elective and are indicated as unexcused unless deemed otherwise by the band directors. Examples of unexcused absences include but are not limited to:

- Work
- Birthday party or celebration
- Concert tickets scheduled on a required Band event
- Attending tutorials without notice for directors to arrange options with teacher
- Vacations
- Drivers Education Courses
- Scouts
- Non-school sponsored athletic events
- Tutorials (Students are expected to use non-rehearsal day or times)
- Testing i.e. SAT, PSAT, ACT, etc.

Notifying the directors of an absence is appreciated and the directors will consult school policy and use their discretion to determine if the provided reason is considered excused or unexcused. It should be clearly understood that communicating an absence does NOT automatically mean that it is excused.



MAKE-UP ATTENDANCE

Any absence, whether excused or unexcused, are to be made-up before a student is cleared to rejoin the next scheduled band performance. A make-up rehearsal or sectional will consist of supervised practice time by a student leader and/or director either before or after school. When a student misses practice they are missing valuable material that ensures the preparation of their performance and that of the students around them. Times may arise when there is not enough time for a student to make-up an absence before the next scheduled performance. In this case, the student will not perform at the next performance and a make-up opportunity will be developed to assist the student in preparing for the following scheduled performance.

Performances and clinic absences cannot be made-up although an alternative assignment may be offered at the director's discretion—only with advanced notice of the absence. An unexcused absence from a practice or a performance can result in the student sitting out the following performance, and may result in another student replacing their performance role. A second unexcused absence will result in a parent/student/teacher conference to review membership privilege in the Granbury Band.

REHEARSAL PERFORMANCE PARTICIPATION

At the end of each marching rehearsal, the band performs a run through of the entire performance. This is to ensure that each student is evaluated on their ability to perform their assigned role at the next upcoming performance. If a student misses the run-through, whether for an excused or unexcused reason, the student's status will be automatically deemed **NON PERFORMING** to be reviewed at the discretion of the directors. This is to ensure the safety of the other members, the proper preparation of the individual student and the integrity of the Band's performance.



BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Behavioral expectations are designed to create an inclusive environment that enhances student learning and performance. These expectations are based upon the premise that every student has a right to participate in the learning process without interference. Responsibility for behavior lies directly with the individual student.

General Behavioral Expectations:

1. Students are expected to adhere to the “Code of Conduct” as detailed in the GISD student handbook.
2. Students are expected to participate in band activities with a supportive and positive spirit.
3. Students are expected to treat other students, directors, instructors, and clinicians with courtesy and respect. They are expected to respond appropriately to instruction with positive word choice.
4. Negatively-charged verbal displays or nonverbal actions are considered inappropriate. This policy also applies to the internet. Students are expected to maintain a mature level of decorum at all times while representing the Granbury Band, and never speaking on behalf of the band online.
5. Each student is expected to be in class, in the rehearsal setting, or present for travel or performances on time and with the required equipment and materials.
6. Cell phones and other mobile electronic devices are not permitted during the rehearsals or performances.
7. Gum, candy, soft drinks, and other food items are prohibited in all band areas.
8. Students are expected to help maintain a clean environment in facilities and during travel scenarios.
9. Students are expected to take proper care of all equipment including: instruments, flags, music, uniforms, and facilities.
10. Rough-housing/horseplay of any form is prohibited.
11. Students should refrain from public displays of affection during all rehearsal and performance situations. Additionally, displays should never exceed that of static hand-holding in any setting.
12. Students are expected to refrain from the use of degrading verbiage, profanity, and/or obscene gestures. Harassment of any form will not be tolerated.
13. Any form of hazing is strictly prohibited.

Band students in GISD are required to sign an “HONOR CODE” which states they will not partake of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs while they are a member of the Granbury High School Band.



FOOTBALL GAME ETIQUETTE

Varsity football games are highly visible and public performance venues for the Granbury Marching Band. It is imperative that students remain attentive and focused within the ensemble to help ensure the intended functions of the band at these games:

1. To provide musical support to the Varsity football team
2. To provide a quality and noteworthy halftime performance

Behavioral infractions are considered particularly serious in such a public setting. Therefore, the handling of disciplinary issues will be treated as such. As the ensemble is under the public eye, students must maintain a professional and dignified appearance at all times. Game time spirit in the form of verbal or physical encouragement should include the use of good judgment and taste at all times.

STAND AND PEP RALLY EXPECTATIONS

- Each band member is to remain in their assigned seat during the entire game. Restroom visits are granted only by securing permission from a band director.
- Band members must be ready to play immediately following a tune request. Students must pay attention to drum majors/directors for visual cues so that professional musical entrances are always achieved.
- The marching band uniform must be worn in its entirety unless specific instructions from directors indicate otherwise.
- The marching band (including all sections within) should present only organized musical efforts. There are to be no spontaneous “hacking,” “noodling,” or jam sessions by individuals or sections either in the stands or en route to or from the performance.
- Students should play with their printed music at all times and without exception. Parts should be played exactly as written.
- Water is the only drink to be consumed in uniform.
- Cell phones are prohibited any time while the band is in session. Attempted use will result in the temporary confiscation of the device.

Students should be polite to everyone in manner and in spirit; however, they should avoid being too sociable in performance settings. Once preparation for a performance has begun, members should avoid contact with outsiders and should be focused on the task at hand. Visitors in the stands will only be allowed into the band with prior approval from a band director.

While watching other bands perform, members should remain silent, attentive, and should avoid visual or verbal criticism of any sort in public. When a band finishes a performance, enthusiastic applause and acknowledgement is always appropriate.



SOCIAL MEDIA ETIQUETTE

There are an abundance of social media platforms, newsgroups, and bulletin boards frequented by band students, parents and members of the GHS and GISD community. These sites are a great way to hear about what our own GHS band is up to, as well as what bands are doing around the country. Some of the most popular include Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, GroupMe and the BOA forum. While most postings to these mediums are helpful or entertaining, many students may not realize that as a member of the GHS Band, their comments reflect on the entire group. We have had incidents where a member of the GHS Band posted something in these mediums that they thought was innocent, but it led to miscommunication, misunderstanding or upset others when taken a certain way. Even when not intended, these kinds of posts can be a negative experience for other band members and create a negative impression of the GHS Band. If something is posted that is critical of another individual or group, or reflects negatively on the GHS Band, it will be addressed by the directors and escalated to GHS administration immediately. The safest way to avoid any negative attention is to ensure that what you are saying is helpful to members of the band and community and that you would feel comfortable with your parents, directors and principal reading your posts. If you choose to post comments, remember that you are a member of the GHS Band and your posts reflect on the band program and on GHS. We want our students to communicate positively with each other and reflect positively on the GHS Band program, and to continue our world-class reputation in the community.

The primary purpose for band social media is to effectively communicate with ALL members of the band as a unit and quickly pass along information between groups and sections. Social media that serves under a heading of the Granbury Band may not exclude any individuals and must fall under the behavior and conduct policies of the school and band program.

A director will monitor all social media mediums that are used to communicate band-related information and have access to edit content and view all posts to ensure proper conduct and etiquette. Intentionally posting incorrect information or misrepresenting the band in any way will result in consequences according to the behavioral expectations in the handbook. Impersonating another member of the band or a staff member is considered unacceptable and will result in a parent/teacher/student conference to review the action and review their membership in the Granbury Band program.

GRADING POLICIES

Band Grades are based on a) attendance and participation during scheduled events and rehearsals, b) the student's ability to prepare playing and marching assignments punctually and correctly, and c) the presence of required materials at all rehearsals and performances. Student participation will be assessed for the regular possession of required equipment and supplies. All students will be held accountable for specific daily assignments, playing tests, section rehearsals, and participation/citizenship.

GRADING BY SEMESTER

FALL

60% Participation/Formative
40% Performances/Summative

SPRING

60% Participation/Formative
40% Performances/Summative



Marching Band Participation

- Attendance
- Material checks
- Citizenship

Marching Band Performance

- All aspects of football games and contest performances, uniform inspections
- Marching fundamentals, skills (music and drill), and pass-offs (playing tests)

Concert Band Participation

- All criteria in Marching Band Participation
- Sectional attendance
- Material checks
- Evidence of musical progress
- Region auditions, clinics, and concerts

Concert Band Performance

- Music playing tests and pass-offs
- All-Region auditions and tests
- Solo and Ensemble, UIL, and other contests

PRIVATE LESSONS

Learning to play an instrument does not end after the sixth grade, but continues as a lifelong study, which requires individualized practice and instruction. Private lessons are required for varsity band members, and are **STRONGLY** encouraged for non-varsity and sub non-varsity band members. The school district has established a private lesson program made up of the finest private teachers in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. All students will greatly benefit from the individual attention that private lessons offer, allowing them the opportunity to enhance their performance abilities and knowledge of their instrument and music. Please visit the band website and consult a director for private lesson information.

Private lessons are provided at a low weekly rate of \$25 and financial aid is available to students who qualify based on need. If a student believes they require financial aid, please consult a band director.

If enrolled in private lessons, it is very important to pay your private teacher in a timely manner. Please be considerate to your private teacher and remember that the money they collect is usually their sole source of income. Additionally, if you are ever absent from school on your lesson day, be sure to communicate with your private teacher **PRIOR** to your lesson.



ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

A grade average below 70 in any class will cause a student to become academically ineligible, and deny students' competitive performance privileges and football game attendance for a majority of a six-week period until eligibility is regained. Academic ineligibility can virtually destroy an unbelievable amount of individual and collective work. Parents, we ask that you carefully supervise your children's academic progress. Students must understand that their classroom performance/grades have a direct impact on many other students. Make sure that you take care of your academic responsibilities from the very first day of school. You are at Granbury High School first and foremost to earn an academic education—pass your classes. Some form of organized tutorials may be set up and attendance made mandatory to assist students who need extra help.

Here are some simple steps that will help you pass your classes:

1. Remember you are in class for one thing - to learn.
2. Review your class notes daily.
3. Complete and turn in all homework assignments.
4. Prepare for tests and projects well in advance.
5. Treat your teachers with the same courtesy that you expect from them.
6. Ask for help.

CARE OF INSTRUMENTS & EQUIPMENT

All GISD instruments and equipment are property of GISD and the GHS Band program. Band instruments and equipment are issued to students for their sole use and they are not permitted to be shared with any other members or students. This is to protect both the student and the instrument/equipment.

DO NOT USE ANYONE ELSE'S EQUIPMENT WITHOUT THEIR & DIRECTOR CONSENT

DO NOT GIVE ANYONE ELSE PERMISSION TO USE YOUR EQUIPMENT

Students that play school-owned instruments will be required to pay a per-semester instrument fee to GISD—this is a GISD policy. The instrument fee is used to pay for routine maintenance for the instrument. Any damage other than that caused by normal usage will be assessed to the student. The district rate is \$50/semester.

BANQUET

The Band Banquet is a celebration of the accomplishments of the band and its members throughout the course of the school year. While this is a booster event, all campus and band behavioral policies and guidelines are in effect for the entirety of the event.

Tickets to the event may be purchased by **current** members of the band who are in good standing. Good standing includes payment of all outstanding band fees before tickets are purchased and no violations of the GISD Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct during the school year. **A student who has violated the district's substance abuse policy is not permitted to attend the Band Banquet.** The Director's provide the GHS Band Booster organization a list of current students in good standing that are eligible to purchase tickets. Banquet guests are limited to current students and their families. Content presented during the banquet must be reflective of the standards of the Granbury Band and must be approved by the directors prior to the presentation.



LETTER JACKETS

A student must earn a grand total of 50 points in one school year or complete 3 years of membership to qualify for a letter jacket from the Granbury High School Band. The class of 2026 and 2027 will be able to order a letter jacket during their junior year, regardless of their accrued points. Additionally, all members must remain in good standing to earn a letter jacket.

Points may be earned in the following manner:

Granbury High School Band Letter Jacket Policy					
		9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Band Participation					
One full year of participation	15 pts				
Color Guard Participation					
One full year of participation	25 pts				
TMEA Honors					
TMEA Region Audition	10 pts				
TMEA Region Band	15 pts				
TMEA Region Orchestra	25 pts				
TMEA Area	25 pts				
All State Band	50 pts				
Solo and Ensemble					
Solo Performance	10 pts				
Ensemble Performance	10 pts				
Colorguard Spring Show Solo	10				
Colorguard Spring Show Ensemble	10				
1st Division Solo (NTCA for Colorguard)	15 pts				
1st Division Ensemble (NTCA for Colorguard)	15 pts				
Music Merit Finalist	20 pts				
Music Merit Winner	30 pts				
Other Activities					
Student Leadership Team	10 pts				
Yearly Totals					



GRANBURY BAND



THE PRIDE OF GRANBURY
PIRATE BAND

HANDBOOK SIGNATURE FORM

NOTE: Please refer to the Granbury Band Handbook on the website:

www.prideofgranbury.com

After doing so, please sign the following statement:

I have read, understand, and acknowledge the rules and policies governing my participation in the Granbury High School Bands. Realizing that my best performance and contribution to my school and our band will result from my adherence to those rules and guidelines, I accept the responsibilities associated with membership in the Granbury High School Band.

Student Name (Printed)

Student Signature

Date

I have read, understand, and acknowledge the rules and policies governing my child's participation in the Granbury High School Band.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

