

## High School Marching Band Frequently Asked Questions:

- **What is Summer Band?** Summer band is the time we use prior to school starting to get a jump on the UIL Marching contest season as well as prepare for halftime performances. UIL does not allow us to begin show preparation until August 1, 2017.
- **Should my child be practicing something over the summer?** Yes, keeping their playing “chops” up throughout the summer helps them be ready for the long rehearsals of Summer Band. Music for the show will go home with them before the year is out.
- **How long is football season?** We will perform at all football games at home or away, even if the team moves into the playoffs. A safe bet during a winning season is not to plan trips until after Thanksgiving.
- **Does my child have to attend the rehearsals, games, contests, and concerts?** Yes, unless there is some type of emergency that is out of the student’s control or they are academically ineligible.
- **Can I take a day off of summer band to hang out with family?** No. Even if they are going to some place cool like Hawaiian Falls, or Schlitterbahn. This will not be an excused absence.
- **Why is attendance important at every event?** Unlike other activities, all of the students in our shows and performances “guide” and “cue” off of other students in the presentation. Having students missing can be detrimental to the group’s success. Please try not to schedule doctor/dentist/ortho/etc during rehearsals or other band activities.
- **What is an Alternate?** This is the term that is used for students who do not have spot in the competition show. Alternate students still participate in every band activity and are very much a part of the group. Sometimes the student’s abilities do not meet the demands of the marching show. These students do still get to perform on Friday nights.
- **What is the 8 hour rule?** UIL restricts all marching bands to no more than 8 hours of extra rehearsal time outside of the school day. This does not include performance days such as contest days.
- **What is a UIL rating?** The UIL rating system is as follows: 1-Superior (best you can get), 2-Excellent, 3-Average, 4-Below Average, and 5, Poor.
- **Does the band go to playoffs in their contests?** On the odd numbered years, Class 2A, 3A and 5A have the opportunity to advance to area and state marching contest. Even years we will stop at the region level regardless of our rating. This upcoming year ***IS*** a potential advancing year for the marching band. We will participate in prelims/finals invitational contests in which a band can advance from prelims to finals.
- **Will the band do contests other than UIL?** Yes and those have been announced on the yearly calendar.
- **Will my child be able to earn a letter jacket in band?** Yes! Points are awarded based on individual student achievement. Check the band handbook for those requirements

- **What fees will we be responsible for?** There will be fees for items such as concert uniforms, t-shirts, marching shoes etc. The directors will try to keep things as cost effective as possible. We never want finances to be the reason a student does not participate however, we do still have to pay the bills.
- **What is the CHARMS system?** This is our music office database system that we use to keep track of our students demographic information, class schedules, instruments/uniforms checked out, etc. It is also a very important communication tool as it allows us to email large groups of parents or students. This is also where we host the yearly calendar. The calendar is connected to the band website listed at the bottom of the page.
- **Does my child have to pass their classes to participate?** Yes! Not only is it a state law, but also a program expectation that each member contribute their part or “share” to the group. Failing classes will result in removal from the performing unit until the grades are brought up. If a student continues to struggle with grades, we will suggest they be moved out of band to catch up with their academics. Once the issue is resolved, they are welcome back!
- **What is the Band Leadership Team?** This is a group of our top band students who serve as council and a voice to the directors from the bands student body. They take a teaching role as well under the guidance and supervision of the directors. They also serve as mentors to the younger students. This team is to promote a family environment where we take care of each other.
- **When should I see a director if I have a question or a concern?** As soon as humanly possible. We would simply ask that parents understand they may need to make an appointment for a conference time so that we can address whatever the issue is. Please do not attempt to communicate issues or concerns when the band is in rehearsal or at a performance. That is not the time to discuss anything student oriented. Also, the directors will only discuss your student with you. We are not permitted to share confidential information.
- **What are the band boosters and what is their role?** The boosters are a group of dedicated band parents that help the band organization run smoothly and efficiently. They are parents whose goal is to support the students as they endeavor to achieve the goals the directors have helped them set. The more parent involvement we have, the stronger our band family will be!
- **Who makes decisions on the direction, music choices, and leadership of the band program?** The band directors are the individuals hired by the school district based on their expertise in music and track record of successful band program creation. They are the only individuals authorized to make those decisions. All decisions will be made in the best interest of the students without exception.
- **If you have additional questions after reading this, please email Mr. Fulwood at [fulwoodd@rcisd.org](mailto:fulwoodd@rcisd.org)**

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