



# BAND HANDBOOK

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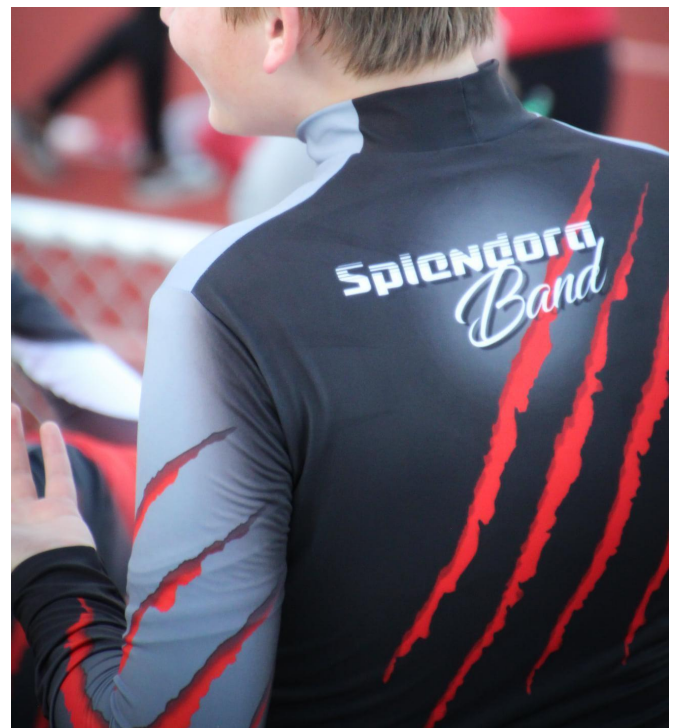
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*Last Updated: 8/3/2022*



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## **ARTICLE I**

### **PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

The purpose of the Splendor ISD Band Program is to encourage quality performance, high academic standards, loyal school spirit, and high personal values among its members. Through the development of instrumental technique, musical knowledge and understanding, leadership, cooperation, self-discipline and sportsmanship in each individual member, the Splendor ISD high school bands will fulfill their purpose for the benefit of Splendor Independent School District and the communities of Splendor. Students wishing to be members of the Splendor ISD high school bands must meet all standards set forth in this handbook.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the Splendor ISD Bands shall be as follows:

1. To represent Splendor ISD at major athletic functions, school functions, and community functions (on campus and/or off campus).
2. To increase and develop character and responsibility and to maintain high moral standards.
3. To develop leadership, loyalty, and good sportsmanship.
4. To encourage good conduct and support interest in all fine arts, sports, and other school activities.
5. To develop and maintain a very high standard of musicianship to be performed at contests, school functions and other special events as determined by the director.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. **DISCIPLINE:** All students are to conduct themselves properly at all times. Display of temper, profanity, flagrant violation of rules, etc., will not be tolerated. Any behavior, which is not conducive to good citizenship, could result in the student's dismissal from the band program (see article XV)
2. **ATTENDANCE:** is required at all rehearsals, performances, concerts, and competitions.
3. **TRAVEL:** It should be understood, by both parent and student, that the competition bands will be involved in and may require both in and out-of-district traveling. This may include a limited number of overnight trips for some competitive events (students who participate in these organizations are expected to participate in the travel).
4. All band members represent the school and community and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with the following regulations when traveling in or out of the district
  - a. Be on time for all trips.
  - b. Dress as directed.
  - c. Be mannerly.
  - d. Avoid excessive noise on the buses.
  - e. Stay on the same bus, both going and coming, that the student was assigned to.
  - f. Return equipment to its proper storage place upon returning to the school.
5. All band students are expected to stay with the band for the entirety of the event (i.e. football game, competition, etc.). Band students travel there together, they arrive together, and they depart together.
  - a. If a student must leave from an event with a parent/legal guardian for any reason, a signed **Parent Transportation Waiver and Release** is required before the student goes on the trip.



Any reasons could include and are not limited to conflicts with other organizations a student is involved in for another competition.

- *If the band is involved in a prelims/finals event where there is a possibility of a second performance if the band advances, the student may not leave the performance for any reason and is expected to be with the band until the awards ceremony where the information is announced.*
- b. **STUDENTS MAY NOT LEAVE WITH ANYONE EXCEPT A PARENT OR GUARDIAN.** We highly prefer that students both go and return with the entire group. Generally, we try to avoid use of a parent or legal guardian's private motor vehicle for students to go home, and we highly recommend that all band students travel to the event and back with the team in a district vehicle (i.e. school bus).
- c. If the directors do not receive a Parent Transportation Waiver and Release form from the student before or on the day of the trip, the request to ask if a student can go home with a parent or legal guardian will be denied on the day of the event.
- d. If a very serious medical or family emergency occurs in the family and requires a band student to go home with a parent or legal guardian, a waiver and release will not be required that day.
- e. If a student purposely leaves an event for any reason without approval from the directors and the parent transportation waiver and release form was not turned in, the student will face district level disciplinary action of being out of location on a district level event and could result in the immediate removal from the band program.
- f. These rules are in place for the safety of all of our band students when we travel together.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **MEMBERSHIP AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Students who will be in grades 9 - 12 the following year are eligible to sign up for the High School Band, providing they meet the qualifications stipulated below:

1. Membership to the SISD High School Band Program shall be allowed on the basis of audition, scholarship, conduct, and character as well as their willingness to learn and participate in the functions of the band. A teacher recommendation form may be a factor in the conduct and character ratings.
2. A transfer student who is currently a member of a band may audition privately for the Director upon his/her transfer into the SISD campus to determine their band placement for the year. A letter or statement of recommendation is recommended (but not required) from his/her former band director to determine proper band placement.
3. A member who was dismissed in good standing and wishes to rejoin the band must schedule a conference with the director and, pending the decision, may try out at the next scheduled audition.

### **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The government of the SISD Band shall be in the control of the Leadership Team, consisting of the SISD bands leadership team Members and Directors. A quorum composed of two-thirds of the executive council (also known as, the Leadership Team) and the High School Directors must be present for any decisive action to be taken. The Directors and the High School Principal have the discretion to interpret and enforce this handbook.

It shall be the duty of the Leadership Team to:

1. Supervise all affairs pertaining to the interest of the SISD high school bands in conjunction with the director of bands.





2. Meet once a month and/or when necessary.
3. Perform their specific duties as assigned by the band directors (uniform captain, equipment manager, librarian, etc...)

### **LEADERSHIP TEAM REQUIREMENTS**

Failure to abide by these requirements may result in suspensions and/or demotion of a leadership position.

1. Be ambitious, determined, maintaining pride in oneself as well as in the organization
2. Excessive absences from practices (i.e. missing more than 2 practices without an excused absence)
3. Missing a major performance
4. Learn everything expected of the organization.
5. Cooperate with the Directors and with other officers.
6. Maintain an 80 overall average and pass all grading periods.
7. Must not be placed on Directors' probation or any type of school suspension.
8. Maintain a sense of responsibility for the organization and wear the Splendor ISD High School Band uniforms with pride.
9. Set high standards and always work to perfect your level of performance and ability.
10. Be a good representative of the organization and set good examples. *(Remember, if you lead, people will follow. Leadership team students must lead in the right direction.)*
11. Assume responsibility to see that each section performs at a high degree of proficiency.
12. Attend officer camp, practices, meetings, and performances as approved by the Directors.
13. Maintain a 100% positive attitude offline and online. Any student leader that makes any negative remark towards the band program, a band student, another SISD teacher, or anything deemed negative towards SISD High School and the Splendor community will immediately be demoted from their position on the first major or minor offense. In other words, any offense in which a leadership team member makes any negative remark toward the program may result in removal from the leadership team and will return as a general member of the Splendor HS band program.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **GRADING POLICY**

**DAILY PARTICIPATORY GRADE** (60%) [daily] - Will consist of having all necessary supplies and equipment and participating fully and positively. Each band member will begin each nine weeks with 100 points. His/her daily grade will be determined by the following actions outlined by Splendor HS Level 1 Discipline Documentation that could result in incremental drops in daily grades:

- Not having their instrument, appropriate supplies, required music, or a pencil
- Excessive talking or disruptive behavior during rehearsal
- PDA - minor offenses
- Defiance or Insubordination
- Safety Rule Violations
- Minor off-task behavior during rehearsal
- Being out of location
- Dishonesty
- Throwing objects
- Sleeping in class
- Having cell phones out without permission
- Any school device violation while in class
- Cheating (see Splendor ISD policy on cheating - results in zero, a phone call home to parents, and a Skyward referral - this is a strike one offense [see Article XIV])



**MAJOR PERFORMANCE GRADE (40%) [test]-** Including all performances and some rehearsals. A major event could be considered a concert, contest, community performance, marching festival, UIL, or any director-deemed scheduled performance. Major grades can include scale tests or music pass offs.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The student must provide the director with advanced notice for any missed practices or performance. If the student misses any scheduled performance for any reason without proper notification to the director of bands, the resulting grade will be a 0 for the major performance grade. Attendance is a major part of the band program success, and every student is expected to attend every performance. A major performance is a one-shot opportunity to receive pass/fail credit. In other words, participating in the event will yield a 100 for full credit, and not participating in the event will yield a 0. Special exceptions will be made in critical circumstances as deemed by the director of bands and can include:

- a. Automobile accident
- b. A death in the family does not require an absent request form and is immediately excused.
- c. Serious illness.
  - In the event of missing a major performance due to serious illness, a doctor's note must be provided to the director to excuse the performance for a major grade. Once a doctor's note is provided to the directors, the student will receive full credit for the performance.
  - If a doctor's note is not provided by the time the marking period is up, the grade will go in as incomplete until the note is received. If a note is not received by the time of the distribution of report cards, the grade will permanently go in as a 0 for a major test grade.

*(If a band student simply missed the performance without an excuse, we will allow that student to come personally to the band directors and request an opportunity to make up the major grade for only partial credit (no more than a 70). See SISD grading policy for more details.)*

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY RULES**

A student who is enrolled in a school district in this state or participates in a U.I.L. competition shall be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity sponsored or sanctioned by the school district of the U.I.L. after a grade evaluation period (six weeks grade reporting period) in which the student received a grade lower than the equivalent of 70 on a scale of 100 in any academic class other than an identified honors or advanced class (as listed in Splendor Independent School District Handbook).

The suspension continues for three weeks, at which time the student's teacher shall review the grades of the suspended student. At the time of the review, the suspension is removed if the student's grades in all classes, other than an identified advanced or honors class, is equal to or greater than a 70 on a scale of 100.

Throughout the school year, the band directors conduct regular grade checks. This system requires students to individually keep track of their class averages and assignments on an ongoing basis. The system greatly helps band student eligibility.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **RULES RELATING TO U.I.L. COMPETITION and PERFORMANCES**

1. No student may take part in any University Interscholastic League competition, who at the time of the contest, has not been a regular attendant of the school for fifteen calendar days, or since the sixth day of the current school year.



2. No student shall take part in any U.I.L. contest after the end of the fifth consecutive year following his/her enrollment in the eighth grade, fourth consecutive year following enrollment in the ninth grade, and/or third consecutive year following enrollment in the tenth grade.
3. No school may issue and no student may receive an award for participation in inter school competition in excess of \$50.00 (or the equivalent in value) during his/her high school enrollment in the same high school. Additional symbolic awards not to exceed \$8.00 each may be presented for each additional interschool activity each year.
4. Students must abide by all other rules as set forth by the University Interscholastic League in Austin, TX.
  - **Non-UIL Competitions:** Important note: all band competitions that are not UIL events still fall under TEA and UIL side by side guidelines (such as TMEA All-Regions Auditions, Bands of America contests, USBands contests, Texas Color Guard Circuit competitions). In other words, to participate in any outside event that is a major contest or performance, you must be eligible to compete as per UIL's no pass no play policies.
  - **UIL Concert and Sightreading Evaluation:** it is exactly that - an evaluation. As per recent TEA and UIL addendum, the Concert and Sightreading evaluation is exempt from all UIL eligibility requirements as it is a UIL program evaluation and not a contest.
  - **Splendor concerts:** On-site winter concerts and spring concerts are curriculum performances that are test grades evaluating and showcasing the student's performance in class. Eligibility does not count towards these events as all band members regardless of their grades are required to attend for a major grade.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **ATTENDANCE**

**Attendance policies are to be set by the directors of each program.**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

1. All band students must abide by the attendance policies.
2. Attendance is required at all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances.
3. Absences and tardies will be excused only on an individual basis as determined by the directors of the program.
4. Examples of UNEXCUSED absences and tardies include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Work at a job without prior schedule conflict resolution
  - b. Oversleeping
  - c. Transportation not arranged
  - d. Anything deemed unexcused by the assistant principal
  - e. Family trip
  - f. Orthodontist or doctor appointment (unless illness requires immediate appointment)
  - g. Tutorials (The directors are 100% supportive of these, but students need to utilize days off and available times in the afternoons.)
5. All absences and tardies are to be reported by the parents in writing to the directors at least three days in advance. In case of illness or family emergency, an explanatory phone call is appropriate – prior to the rehearsal or performance if possible.
6. **If a band student must miss a band practice for any reason at all, a band student must fill out an absence request form online. Go to [www.splendoraband.com](http://www.splendoraband.com) and search for the absence request form.**
7. The directors understand that life happens and unexpected circumstances can occur out of our control. If a last-minute emergency comes up, it is your responsibility to communicate with the directors





immediately by any means possible. (I.e. an email, a Remind message, a written note delivered by way of carrier pigeon, anything).

8. Unexcused absences (i.e. any absence in which the directors were not appropriately informed of the reasons why) and tardies may result in, but are not limited to:
  - a. Grade reduction
  - b. Director probation
  - c. Loss of performance status for football games or events
9. Excessive unexcused absences may result in removal from the program.
10. A band student is not allowed to miss a football game, a competition, or any other major performance for any reason at all with the exception being a major family emergency or severe illness. If a band student misses a major performance, it could result in the immediate removal from the band program (automatic strike-out).
11. Students will use school transportation both to and from band functions (unless directors assign other transportation - see Article III for more information on travel)

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **EQUIPMENT**

#### **SCHOOL-OWNED EQUIPMENT**

The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him/her for personal use. Equipment is to be used, not abused.

- ~~A \$75 SISD district maintenance fee will be charged to each student who has an instrument checked out to them. Students and parents will be responsible for paying this fee upon receiving the instrument to the band director on campus.~~ **Currently, Splendor ISD does not utilize a district maintenance fee for students with school owned instruments. (as of 10/6/2021)**
- No charge will be made to the student if the instrument becomes damaged due to normal wear and tear.
- Damages caused by fire, theft, accident, or abuse will be charged to the student.
- All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.
- School-owned instruments are furnished by the school for the purpose of avoiding large expenditures to the parent and to provide well-rounded instrumentation for the bands.
- Students who use a school-owned instrument will be expected to practice this instrument a reasonable amount of time each day.
- Failure to properly take care of the school owned instrument or excessive damage to the instrument as deemed by the band directors may result in the instrument being taken up and re-issued to a student who will take better care of it. It will then become the student's responsibility to furnish their own.

#### **INSURANCE**

**Splendor ISD School District does *not* provide insurance for individual or school-owned equipment.** Although not required, *insurance is highly recommended*. Information for a group musical insurance policy is available from the band directors. Another option is to cover your personal-owned instrument through your homeowner's policy.

#### **INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT**

Students will be required to purchase some materials for their uniform such as shoes, socks, etc., as well as all materials necessary to perform their instruments, such as reeds, drum sticks, valve oil, mouthpieces, etc.

## **ARTICLE X**



## **MARCHING BAND**

All band students who are registered for any band class at the Splendor ISD high school bands are expected to participate in Marching Band.

The only exceptions would be a student playing a school sport that conflicts with Marching Band. Any other conflicts with the Marching Band should be addressed immediately. When summer band starts, we are already committed to marching a specific number of students based on those students who have informed us of their intent to march. Our show is professionally written by high-end drill writers, and the numbers cannot be changed.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **BAND HALL POLICIES**

A clean, well-kept band hall demonstrates pride toward the bands. Please do your part to keep your band hall clean. The following policies are for your benefit and for the protection of your property.

1. No gum or tobacco products of any kind in the band hall.
2. No food or drinks in the band hall. The only exception is water.
3. Do not enter the directors' offices without their permission. Never enter the Band Office unless a director is present.
4. Do not touch, handle, borrow or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
5. Do not touch or operate any school-owned equipment – especially the stereo equipment, metronome, tuner, and portable speaker system without director permission.
6. Do not deface or mark on in any way music stands, walls, etc.

***THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HELPING US KEEP OUR GREAT BAND HALL LOOK SUPER AWESOME AND INSTRUMENTS LOOKING FANTASTIC!!!***



## ARTICLE XII

### UNIFORM PROCEDURES

#### WEARING THE UNIFORM

1. Always wear and treat your uniform with pride. The uniform should be worn as a complete unit at all times when in public. The only exceptions to this will be when a director instructs a band student that a band student may remove your hat or coat. a band student will be required to wear your band shirt under your uniform so that a band student may remove the coat.
2. Band students must wear official black band shoes and black socks (student purchases).
3. When in uniform, please remove jewelry and hair ribbons. Nail polish, if neutral in color, is acceptable. This contributes to the overall uniform appearance of the band, both on and off the field.
4. Band students with longer hair will need to put it up under their hats during performances.

#### ALTERATIONS

NEVER alter any school-owned band uniform or concert outfit. If a band student have an issue with the fit of your uniform, please consult a director.

#### UNIFORM CARE

1. Band uniforms are issued directly prior to a performance and turned in immediately after the performance. We suggest your students learn to properly hang their uniforms when they turn them in to avoid having to step out of the return line. With 100+ students turning in their uniforms, the return process will run smoother.
2. Custom lycra tops should be turned back into the uniform room inside out for quicker cleaning.
3. Everyone is required to have a garment bag; please label your bag. Tape your name under your hat brim.
4. KNOW YOUR UNIFORM NUMBERS! Memorize them if possible to save time; HOWEVER, THE NUMBERS WILL ALSO BE POSTED USING AN ALPHABETIZED LIST.

## ARTICLE XIII

### MARCHING BAND COSTS

All band students are required to purchase the following items:



- Red band shirt
- Black band shorts
- Black joggers for the show
- Grey Cap
- MTX Marching Shoes



**The cost of the shirt, shorts, joggers, and cap is \$64.** If a band student have all of these items from last year, a band student do not need to purchase them again. If a band student are missing some of them, a band student can purchase them separately in the store. **The MTX Marching Shoes usually cost \$50.** These items can be purchased once and be reused the next year. The goal of the band directors is to keep costs associated with the band program as low as absolutely possible.



All marching band required items can be purchased by visiting [www.splendoraband.com](http://www.splendoraband.com) and going to the purchase gear page and making an online purchase.

- **Fair Share Activity Band Fee** – The purpose of the Fair Share Band Fee is to help with the various expenses that are necessary to run a quality band program that are **in addition to** the district budget of the program. To operate a “competitive” program, the band directors offer an activity fee that is budgeted to items where everyone in the band benefits. These expenses include educational clinicians and consultants by top professionals in the field for the entire band on all various instruments including the color guard. Other covered expenses may include additional marching competition items, additional contest entry fees and expenses; band leadership conferences; and many additional items, including marching props, competitive marching coordinators, designers, choreographers, drill writers, and so much more. The Fair Share Band Dues system divides the costs of services and supplies that benefit **all Band members** among the entire Band membership. When all band members pay their Fair Share Dues, the costs can be held to a reasonable amount.
  - *As of 10/6/2021, the SHS activity band fee is \$0. Currently, the staff are able to sustain all of the items listed above utilizing the support of the district budget.*
  - Fair Share Activity Band Fees for the school year are determined by the directors of each campus at Splendor ISD. All students that participate in the competitive marching band program in some way are required to pay all fees determined by the band director of the campus.
  - All students are required to purchase all required materials for the band program at your campus - performance gear such as shirts, shorts, shoes, bags, flip folder, lyres, etc.
  - All payments for band fees are due no later than the **first football game**. Parents are more than welcome to pay their band fees before the deadline and at band registration.

**We will never turn a band student away in the event of a financial hardship.** It is important to communicate with your band director and create a payment agreement that works for a band student and your family.

### **PRIVATE LESSONS**

Private Lessons are highly encouraged. Payments are to be made directly to the private lesson teacher on the day of their lesson and are determined by the private teacher. Lesson prices can range from \$20 to \$30 a half-hour depending on the teacher’s level of expertise. Commitment forms for private lessons are available upon request from your band director.

### **COLOR GUARD:**

All color guard fees are due at registration plus cost for shoes, shirts, and accessories. Other costs, such as a Spring Trip cost, are to be determined at a later date by the color guard instructor.

### **REFUND LIMITATIONS**

The Splendor ISD High School Bands are not responsible for and can not provide a refund of band costs due to a student who chooses to leave the band program during the school year. Furthermore, refunds cannot be made to students who are unable to participate in band trips due to ineligibility.



## **ARTICLE XIV**

### **LETTER JACKETS**

The member:

1. Must be enrolled in the band or color guard class.
2. Must have participated in all non-UIL concerts and major performances for three years.
3. May only receive one jacket. No student will receive a jacket from more than one organization
4. Extra patches or lettering on the jacket must be purchased by the student.

To receive a letter jacket in the band program, the student must either

1. Earn a cumulative total of **100 points** via the letter jacket point system or
2. Complete three successful years of SISD high school band and register for band to be active in the fourth competitive year as a senior. The system is designed for each student, regardless of participation, to automatically receive 100 total points by their senior year.

Any band student can earn their letter jacket earlier than their senior year by achieving any of the following items:

3	Complete a year as a section leader
5	Hold a Leadership Team Position
5	Participate in UIL solo and ensemble contest 15 points for a division I on a class I solo or ensemble
5	Earn a Division I at UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest on a class III solo or ensemble
10	Earn a Division I at UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest on a class II solo or ensemble
10	Earn a Division III at TSSEC
10	10 points for attending private lessons for a full semester
10	Become assigned to prop crew, equipment crew, or electronic crew
10	Volunteering to help around the band hall (i.e. cleaning trash, organizing library, helping with uniforms, pushing out electronics outside
10	(for color guard students) Perfect attendance through the spring TCGC competition season
15	Make all-region band
15	Earn a Division II at TSSEC
15	Participate in various ensembles in the Spring semester, such as the Pep Band or the Jazz Band
15	(for color guard students) Successful completion of spring TCGC performance and perfect attendance
20	Make the all-area band
25	Earn a Division I at TSSEC
25	Successful registration and sign-up for each year of the Splendor High School Wildcat Marching Band (all forms registered,





100	Participate in UIL Marching Band State Championships (making it to state in marching is extremely difficult to do and is a high honor for marching bands. All band members will be awarded a letter jacket regardless of their class)
100	Make the All-State band (the All-State Band is very difficult to make and the highest honor a band student could have. An All-State student is immediately awarded a letter and a jacket for band.
100	Make the State level of the TMEA State level of the Honor Band contest (the honor band process is extremely competitive and a very difficult achievement to earn. If the concert band makes it to state in the TMEA honor band process, all students who have participated in that contest will have earned their letter jackets automatically.

The point system will be evaluated at the beginning of each semester. (for example, if a student has 95 points in January and earns 20 points at UIL in February, that student will be fitted for a letter jacket the *following* semester when the district approves letter jacket fitting)

**Important Note: A band or color guard student who goes inactive during the letter jacket awarding process forfeits the award of receiving their letter jacket.** If the band student drops the band class and/or discontinues participation in the organization for any reason, the student has at that point become inactive in the program, and the accumulated letter jacket points diminish back down to 0 which will result in the letter jacket being refunded or returned. *(in other words, you can't earn your letter jacket, quit the band, then expect to receive your letter jacket award after you have dropped out of the program).*

## **ARTICLE XV**

### **LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP**

Being a member in the SISD high school band program is one of the highest privileges a student can have. Remember that as a member of the Splendor HS band, a band student represents the best of the best of an organization of almost 350+ members from 6th grade to 12th grade.

In order to stay active in the band program, there are **three basic rules** to follow:

1. Always respect people, property, and time
2. Always be willing to follow simple instructions.
3. Always have a great attitude.

These rules, although they sound basic, are the rules of the road for being a respectful, effective, and positive person not just in the band hall but also in the workforce after high school. They are so critically important to the staff and directors that if at any time a student breaks the rules, strict disciplinary actions will follow.

### **DISCIPLINARY LEVELS**

The band directors operate on a "three strikes, you're out" tiered system. We believe in education as an opportunity for student growth, and all students deserve a chance to right their wrongs. If at any time the directors feel that a band student has broken the "rules of the road" or has a disciplinary infraction based on the Splendor ISD code of conduct, a first time offense will be issued to the student as an initial warning. Depending on the severity of the offense itself, the directors may deem it necessary to forego the warning and go straight to level 1.

**Strike one (level 1 offense):**



- The band student is verbally redirected in the office with the directors.
- A Level 1 discipline form is signed by the student.
- A Skyward referral is placed in the student's profile for administration.
- The AP over fine arts is notified of the infraction that occurred by a notice of email.

**Strike two (level 2 offense):**

- The band student is verbally redirected in the office with the directors and notified that the behavior has not corrected itself after multiple instances.
- Another Skyward referral is placed in the student's profile for administration.
- The AP over fine arts will be notified of the second infraction.
- The student is temporarily suspended from performance opportunities until a meeting has occurred between the parents, the band student, and the staff.
- A probationary period contract is signed by the student and the parents, stating that one more disciplinary infraction of any kind will result in loss of membership.

**Strike three (level 3 offense):**

- You're out. The band student will be asked to clean out your locker and turn in all and any items checked out that belong to the Splendor ISD band program.
- A final Skyward referral is placed in the system, and an AP is made aware of the infraction that occurred by a notice of email.
- The student's counselor will be made aware of the situation, and the schedule will be changed out of band with the possible loss of fine arts credit.

Membership in the SISD high school band may be forfeited **immediately and go straight to an automatic strike out** for the following reasons:

1. Failing to provide proper and current information.
2. Breaking the law.
3. Failure to follow rules as determined by the student code of conduct and drug policy in the student handbook.
4. Being placed on an academic probation more than two times in one school year for scholastic or disciplinary reasons. (A band member must not fail a grading period more than twice in a year - the band program upholds a very high academic standard)
5. Deliberate failure to cooperate with the director, and/or disloyalty to the organization as determined by the director.
6. Using highly inappropriate language anywhere while a member of the SISD High School Bands.
7. Missing any performances during the year without an excused absence from the directors.
8. Having excessive unexcused absences for rehearsals during the school year (each excused absence is a strike. Missing 3 more or results in removal from the program.)
9. Being assigned to DAEP after becoming a member.
10. Failing to maintain standard requirements for membership (i.e. not signing the band handbook policy, the UIL acknowledgement form, athletic and physical forms, etc.)
11. Consistent and problematic disciplinary issues that are not corrected in a timely manner after being warned.
12. Any major or a series of minor infractions made by any student as listed in Article XVI concerning social media

## **ARTICLE XVI**

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**



Any social media and online actions by any band student that are considered to be substantially or foreseeably disruptive to the SISD high school environment - lewd, vulgar or offensive, and/or advocating violence or illegal activity - will be subject to the consequences listed below:

1st offense: Results in director probation. Parent contact will be made and the student will receive assistance and counseling by the directors to learn better opportunities for appropriate digital citizenship.

2nd offense: Immediate removal of the band program.

If the offense constitutes a major offense as deemed by the director of bands, the student may be removed immediately in only one offense. It is very important to the band program that students portray acceptable online social media behavior. The SISD high school bands uphold the highest standard in digital citizenship by consistently practicing good integrity and values pertaining to online social media.

An offense could be one of the following:

- General inappropriate language of a profane or sexual nature
- Profane or inappropriate language or remarks directed toward bandmates, teachers, other SISD high school students, staff, coaches, as well as athletic administrators and representatives from other schools
- Demeaning statements about or threats to any third party
- Incriminating photos, statements, or language in reference to violence, drug or alcohol use, bullying, or any other inappropriate behaviors
- Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person
- Indicating knowledge of an unreported felony theft or property damage
- Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation
- Engaging in or indicating knowledge of cyber bullying and/or harassing another student or staff member
- "Liking" any of the above comments or photos on Facebook or any other social networking sites indicates your approval of such comments and thereby holds a band student to the same standard. Should a band student choose to "Like" such comments/photos made on social networks by your friends, the consequences outlined below will apply.
- "Retweeting" or marking a tweet as a "Favorite" on Twitter also indicates your approval of inappropriate comments and thereby holds a band student to the same standard. Choosing to retweet or favorite an inappropriate comment or picture will subject a band student the consequences outlined below.
- "Subtweeting" is not permitted under any circumstances. The notion that a band student are choosing not to identify the victim of your bullying or inappropriate comments DOES NOT preclude a band student from the below consequences.
- Other inappropriate behavior as deemed so by SISD High School administration.

In the past, inappropriate use of social media by SISD High School students participating in athletics and other co-curricular activities has resulted in the suspension from practices, games and other events. In an effort to foster good sportsmanship and to deter the need to enforce such discipline, the high school band programs recommend the following guidelines as best practices for the use of social media by band students. For the



purposes of these guidelines, social media means any form of electronic communication through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content, including, by way of illustration and not limitation, social networking sites such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and others.

SISD band students respect the right of its students to use social media. However, it is important for band students to understand the need to exercise care in setting appropriate boundaries between their personal and public online behavior and to understand that what may seem private in the digital world can often become public, even without knowledge or consent. Band students who use social media must remember that any information posted reflects on the entire SISD High School community and, as such, is subject to the same behavioral standards set forth in the University Interscholastic League (UIL) Rules and Regulations; District Board Policies; and state and federal law.

#### **GUIDELINES - BEST PRACTICE FOR SOCIAL MEDIA USE:**

These guidelines are intended to provide a framework for Splendor ISD band students to conduct themselves safely and responsibly in an online environment. As a band Student-Athlete or co-curricular participant, a band student should:

1. Be Aware that Privacy Settings are NOT Foolproof. SISD high school students are highly encouraged to use privacy settings on social media sites. However, SISD High School students should be aware that privacy settings are not foolproof. Although social media sites provide their users with privacy improvement updates, the changes occur frequently and can get complicated. Even if a band student diligently monitor your privacy settings, it's best to assume that anything a band student post may potentially be seen by your school, your parents and strangers.

2. Avoid Posting Confidential Information. Be aware of the kind of information a band student are posting on social media sites. Posting information such as your date of birth, address, phone number, class schedule, social security number, bank account number, etc. is NOT recommended. Once such information is posted, it becomes the property of the social media site.

3. Avoid Unprofessional Public Profiles. Any information a band student put on social media sites is considered public information and may be viewed by members of the public. Be mindful of the image a band student create for yourself online. Potential, current and future employers as well as college admissions recruiters may access the information a band student put on social media sites.

4. Avoid Posting Illegal Activities. Photos posted via social media become the property of the social media site. a band student may delete the photo from your profile but the photo remains on the social media site's server. Internet search engines such as Google or Yahoo may still find that image long after a band student have deleted it from your profile. In addition, even if your profile is set to private, a friend can always download and save incriminating photos that third parties, such as the authorities, can use against a band student in the future. SISD high school band students should avoid the following:

- Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence; hazing; sexual harassment; vandalism; stalking; underage drinking; selling, possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behaviors.

5. Avoid Bullying\Threats of Violence. While SISD high school band students have a right to free speech, that right is NOT unlimited. Bullying is a serious issue and is not limited to student-to-student interactions. Vicious treatment and hateful words often lead to violence, suicide, depression, and discrimination. SISD band students should avoid the following:

- Derogatory language or remarks about teammates, coaches, students, staff members, athletic administrators, or representatives of other schools;



- Demeaning statements about and/or threats to any third party; and
- Creating serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.

SISD High School band students should be aware that if their conduct is deemed inappropriate, such conduct may be subject to discipline, not only by school authorities, but also by law enforcement agencies.

6. Avoid Lying, Cheating & Plagiarism. All information posted on social media sites is considered public information. It may be viewed by third parties and used against you. It is best to assume that anything a band student post may be seen by your school, your parents and your peers.

SISD High School band students also participating in athletics and other co-curricular activities should be aware that their online actions have consequences. While the SISD campuses don't actively monitor student social media accounts, they have the right to act on information provided by third parties (i.e. students, parents, & community members). SISD also has a right to investigate students; social media sites in the event of allegations of inappropriate online conduct. Pursuant to the Texas Education Agency Code and applicable federal and state case law, SISD has a right to discipline students for online conduct which is related to a school activity or attendance and is:

1. substantially or foreseeably disruptive to the SISD high school band environment;
2. lewd, vulgar or offensive; and/or
3. advocating violence or illegal activity. In addition, students should be aware that, in certain circumstances, their online conduct may be subject to criminal prosecution.





## Splendoria ISD

### HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

FOR STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE HIGH SCHOOL BAND GRADES 9-12

The following handbook is provided to help us maintain a band program that is enjoyable, smooth running, and educational for all of its members. Making our rules and expectations clear at the beginning of the school year can help us make that possible. This handbook includes information about general rules and regulations of the band program, academic eligibility rules, rules relating to U.I.L. competition, school-owned equipment, insurance, individual equipment, alternates, band hall policies, uniform procedures, calendar, attendance policies, and the fund-raising system.

We understand that the contents of this handbook may seem overwhelming, especially to those who are new to our band. However, please understand that as a result of clear expectations and consistent enforcement of regulations, our band has been able to be the successful organization it has grown to be, and that your child will want to be a part of. It is this positive experience that we strive to achieve for all band members, and it can only be achieved through not only cooperative teamwork on the part of the directors, parents and students.

\* \* \* \* \*

With my signatures below, I have read *in full* and *clearly understand* the articles set forth in the Splendoria ISD Band Handbook. I will abide by its rules and regulations, and I understand and agree to all terms and policies set forth within. I fully understand the social media policy, and I also understand that I will travel with the band to all scheduled rehearsals, performances, contests, and various district events.

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Student's Last Name, First (Printed)

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Student Signature and Date

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Parent's Name (Printed)

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Parent Signature and Date