

Luther Burbank High School

2019-2020

Bulldog Band Handbook



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Introduction

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the beginning of a new school year with the Bulldog Band!

It is our goal to provide every student with an extraordinary musical experience that will impact their appreciation of music for a lifetime. The Band Program at Luther Burbank High School offers a unique educational experience in which its participants gain not only musical skills and a lifelong appreciation of music, but also discipline, self-confidence, determination, and a sense of accomplishment by working with others towards musical excellence.

Many times, during the busy summer season, or during the frantic school year, things go unsaid or are said quickly and forgotten; therefore the purpose of this handbook is to provide you with a set of guidelines that the students must follow in order to maintain a successful band program; as well as to resolve any inquiries that you may have about the band, its procedures, and dates.

In addition to the rewards from discipline and hard work, one also belongs to a band because it is fun. There is a genuine exhilaration in making music, in playing a beautiful concert, in being part of a thrilling half-time show, in leading a parade down the street, and in being able to wear the uniform of the “Mighty Bulldog Band”.

Please read this handbook thoroughly, as it is important for you to know what the expectations and outcomes are for the band. Do not hesitate to contact any of the directors should you have any questions, concerns, or simply want to get to know the program better.

We are looking forward to working with you this year!

Regards,

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BURBANK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK

PERSONAL TO STUDENTS

As a member of the Bulldog Band, you are part of one of the largest organizations at Burbank High School. The band is one of the few groups that is active the entire year.

How does a band member show loyalty, dedication, and cooperation to the band? First by making his/her mind to be a proud and worthy member; second by giving the group all he/she possesses in attention, interest, and effort; and third by observing certain rules which are a necessary part of any group effort.

The rules outlined on the following pages are simple, sound, and easy to abide by. In abiding by them you are meeting an obligation that you owe to your school district, your school, your peers, your family, and yourself.

ONLY when EVERY member cooperates can the Bulldog Band achieve its goals of being a successful and outstanding organization.

FEES

In order for the band to function correctly you will need to purchase a few items.
(Estimate)

Show Shirts \$25.00 Polo \$25.00 Cap \$15.00
Marching Shoes - \$40.00
Uniform Cleaning Fee - \$20.00
Flip Folder and Lyre - \$15-20 (depends on instrument)

BAND COURSES

MARCHING BAND (Fall Semester Only)

For the 2018-2019 school year; the marching band will meet as three different classes during the school day. Full marching band rehearsals will take place **outside** the school Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 4:45-6:15 (if there is a

game on Thursday, rehearsal will take place on Friday instead). The marching band performs at football games, marching contests, parades, pep rallies, and other events. In order to be a member of the marching band, a student must be enrolled in a band during the **school day**, attend **summer band rehearsals**, and attend all rehearsals and performances during the marching season. ***This will not necessarily ensure a student of an active position in the UIL band, but will help determine who is most qualified to play and march in the competing group.*** Please note that marching band is an outdoor activity. Therefore, all rehearsals will take place in the summer heat. Most of our performances are in the evenings or weekends. The band directors will determine what constitutes a valid excuse for missing a rehearsal or performance. Student employment or any duties at home are not considered a valid excuse. Please take note of the following rehearsal schedule:

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday	4:45pm-6:45pm
Game Day	7:45am pep rallies
Friday (if there's a Thurs game)	4:45pm -6:45pm

Drill Spot Assignments: Spots on the drill will be assigned during summer band to those students who **consistently** show up to the camp and are actively participating in the learning of the music and drill. If there are spots left open on the show at the beginning of the school year, those students with a valid excuse for missing summer band, and are following attendance guidelines, will be considered to fulfill those spots. Being assigned a spot does not guarantee its permanency; attendance, punctuality, work ethic, and academic eligibility will be reviewed weekly and will be utilized to monitor if any spots need to be replace.

COLOR GUARD (Fall and Spring Semesters)

The guard class will be held during a different period for the entire school year. Students who are enrolled in the class and pass their audition can participate with this group. **The guard will be required to lease their uniform as it will vary each year due to the musical content of the show.** Rehearsal schedule is the same as the marching band (see marching band course).

If a student misses three unexcused rehearsals, one unexcused performance, or is frequently tardy, that student may be removed from the UIL show and/or benched for the following performance. All members must pass all their classes to be eligible to participate with the marching band/color guard.

Please review the Color Guard Handbook for more specifics.

WIND ENSEMBLE (7th Period Fall and Spring Semesters)

The prestigious wind ensemble is the top performing musical ensemble at Burbank High School. Membership for this group is obtained by auditions, director's choice, as well as participation with the band. Any student wanting to be in the Wind Ensemble is encouraged to attend region band auditions. Chair placement is based on audition results and participation. Students in the Wind Ensemble must be enrolled in the class. The band performs at school functions, concerts, band festivals, and UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest. All band members must pass all their classes to be eligible to participate with the Wind Ensemble.

CONCERT BAND (8th Period Fall and Spring Semesters)

The Symphonic Band is the second performing group in the Burbank Band. Membership for this group is obtained by auditions, director's choice, as well as participation with the band. Chair placement is based by auditions. The band performs at selected school functions, concerts, band festivals, and UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest. All band members must pass all their classes to be eligible to participate with the Symphonic Band.

FRESHMEN BAND (1st and 2nd Period Fall and Spring Semesters)

The Freshmen Band is where all members of the Bulldog Band start their High School band experience. Membership for this group is obtained through band directors' admission. There is no main chair placement for this band. The band performs at selected school functions, concerts, band festivals, and UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest. All band members must pass all their classes to be eligible to participate with the Band.

FIESTA BAND (Spring Semester)

The Fiesta Band meets during April only. This band performs at all Fiesta events to include The Battle of Flowers Parade, Fiesta Flambeau Parade, and The Band Festival. **Membership for this group is obtained through concert season attendance. Failure in fulfilling this requirement will result in removal of this performing group.** All performing members must pass all their classes to be eligible to participate with the Fiesta Band.

JAZZ BAND (4th Period Fall and Spring Semesters)

The Burbank Street Jazz Band offers students the opportunity to play in the different styles of swing, latin, funk, fusion, and rock. Students have a chance to express themselves through improvisation on their instruments. The Jazz Band performs at school functions, festivals, and other community events. **Membership must be approved by the director.** All band members must pass all their classes to be eligible to participate with the Jazz Band. After school rehearsals are required.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In order to remain in a competing band; students must have great attendance, as your dependability determines the collective success of the band. If a student has two tardies or an unexcused absence in a week; he/she will not be allowed to march the football game of that week, or participate in any scheduled event (resulting in a lower grade for that week). If a student has 4 or more tardies or 3 or more unexcused absences; he/she may be removed from a competing ensemble and be placed on an alternate spot.

COMPETITIONS

SOLO & ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE

All band members are encouraged to participate in the UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest, which is held during the month of February. This contest allows the individual to perform for a judge and possibly qualify for a medal. **All students may be required to pay for their entry fee for this contest.**

Solos help develop and improve individual performance, while ensembles help a student develop ensemble techniques. Both help in overall band performance. Due to the scheduling and the shortage of accompanists the band directors may limit and control who will be allowed to perform for this contest.

REGION, AREA, & ALL STATE TRYOUTS

Band members are encouraged to try out for these honor bands. Only those students deemed qualified by the band director will be allowed to try out for the region band or region jazz band competitions. **All students may be required to pay for their entry fee for this contest.**

AUDITIONS AND CHAIR PROMOTIONS

Students may be promoted or demoted accordingly. Promotions into the Wind Ensemble will take place through a local audition by the band Directors; placement will be at the Director's discretion.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Leadership positions will be selected in the spring through an audition process made up of a panel independent from the school staff to ensure a fair and transparent process.

Some leadership positions may be auditioned by Band Directors.

Below you will find the leadership positions and their pre-requisites to audition.

Drum Major (1-3 depending on the size of the band)

Audition Eligibility: Must be a Junior or Senior with at least one year of marching band experience. Must be recommended by all band directors in order to audition.

Must have auditioned and placed for SAISD Honor Band or Region Band, or make a 1st division on a class one solo or ensemble.

Woodwind/Brass/Percussion Captains

Audition Eligibility: Must be a Junior or Senior with at least one year of marching band experience. Must be recommended by all band directors in order to audition.

Must have auditioned and placed for SAISD Honor Band or Region Band, or make a 1st division on a class one solo or ensemble.

Section Leader (1-2 depending on section size)

Audition Eligibility: Must have at least one year of marching band experience.

Must have auditioned for SAISD Honor Band or Region Band, or make a 1st division on any class solo or ensemble.

REHEARSALS

The Success of the band depends on how well it rehearses. Band rehearsals depend on the conduct and cooperation of the students. Rehearsals are where learning takes place.

Please be patient, attentive, and cooperative in observing these rehearsal rules.

1. Be on time for all rehearsals. Attendance will always be taken. Tardies will count against a band member and disciplinary action will be taken. The director will determine which tardies are to be excused.
2. The bulletin board should be read when entering the rehearsal room.

3. Before rehearsal starts, students are to set up their chair and stand. Student is to take out their instrument and begin warming up. Warm-up should consist of playing long tones and scales softly. There should be no blasting of instruments or unnecessary loud playing in any section.
4. Stop the warm-up and tuning when the director or a leader steps on the podium. Raise your hand for recognition if you wish to ask a question.
5. Your grade will be determined by participation in class and/or playing exams. Participation will include arrival on time, appropriate class materials, and behavior.
6. DO NOT LEAVE YOUR SEAT AT RANDOM during the rehearsal unless you have the directors' permission or you have a personal emergency.
7. The rehearsal room will be kept orderly with music, and instruments in their designated places. Keep all cases in your locker.
8. Music folders, music, drill books are issued for your use. You are responsible for taking care of these things and replacing them if you lose them.
9. Gum chewing, drinking, or eating of any kind is not permitted during rehearsals, performances, or any time that you are in uniform unless instructed by the director. **Food, drinks, gum and candy will not be tolerated in the band hall at any time.**
10. Missing rehearsals without a legitimate excuse will result in disciplinary action. A band member will be subject to being lowered in chair/band ranking or removed from the performing ensemble. Examples of unexcused absence or tardy:
 - a) Work
 - b) Forgot rehearsal
 - c) Overslept
11. **Students may not have a cell phone or any other electronic device during rehearsals unless being used as a tuner. All items will be confiscated and turned over to administration.**
12. Students may not do homework during rehearsals unless granted permission by the director.
13. Any student found guilty of skipping ANY CLASS may result in the student being restricted from performing with the Bulldog Band.
14. Showing up to a rehearsal, performance, or school related activity under the influence of any kind will result in immediate suspension from the organization for the remainder of the year for first offenders, directors will decide if the student will be allowed to re-join the group at the end of the year, in addition to all other school and District, and State law consequences. Second offender will be expelled permanently from the ensemble.

ALWAYS REMEMBER, NO BAND IS BETTER THAT ITS REHEARSALS!!!!

BAND HALL/PRACTICE ROOM RULES

- a. Absolutely no food or drinks, gum or candy is allowed in the band hall or practice rooms unless authorized by a director.
- b. Practice rooms are for practicing music only, not for studying or talking.
- c. ***In most cases it is best to practice alone.***
- d. Please help keep your rehearsal areas clean!
- e. Students must purchase their own combination lock and secure instruments/valuables.
- f. The placement of stickers and/or writing on the lockers is not allowed. Administrators will determine the penalty for damage to school property.
- g. For the protection of all band equipment and other reasons, non-band members are ***NOT*** allowed passed the double doors by directors' offices.
- h. **STUDENTS MAY NOT PROP OPEN DOORS TO THE MUSIC BUILDING FOR ANY REASON.** The music building must be kept locked always to protect our students, equipment, and facilities.
- i. Keep only the assigned instrument and music in the lockers. Personal items are not allowed.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

A public appearance is the single greatest factor influencing the community and school's perception of our organization. In order to present the best possible image to our community and school, Bulldog Band members are required to observe the following rules.

- i. Members of the Bulldog Band are required to attend all public appearances. The only acceptable exceptions are those cleared by the director. Wedding and quinceañeras are acceptable excuses **ONLY** if a family member is the person being married or presented.
- ii. **EXCEPT** in cases of extreme emergencies or illness, band members **WILL NOT BE EXCUSED** from performances/rehearsals. If the student must attend tutoring a signed note from the teacher must be brought to the directors.
- iii. Any band member missing a performance without a legitimate written excuse will be subject to chair demotion and/or removed from the performing ensemble. During the marching season, a student's absence may result in the removal of performing events and placed in alternate status. He/she may also not be allowed to travel with the band to certain designated events.
- iv. For pre-arranged absences, a written excuse from the parent/guardian must be presented to the director at least **FOUR** days in advance before the absence is to occur.

UNIFORMS

The Bulldog Band marching uniforms are extremely expensive and are valued at over \$700.00 each. Any part of the uniform garments that are destroyed or damaged in any way must be replaced by the student to whom the uniform was issued. The concert uniform lists for \$300.00. All Bulldog Band uniforms are to be treated with proper care and attention. This is why there is no food or drinks allowed in uniform at any time unless special permission is given by the director. The uniform must always be hung properly on the provided hanger. The student may be charged a uniform cleaning fee if negligence is found.

EACH BAND MEMBER MUST FURNISH THE FOLLOWING PARTS OF THE UNIFORM:

Marching: Black marching shoes (\$40.00), band show shirt (\$15.00), and black long socks. Without these items, the student may not participate.

Concert: Young men will need their own white shirt, bow tie, black dress shoes and black socks.

Guard: Uniforms vary from year to year and members may be asked to furnish parts of this uniform.

THE FOLLOWING UNIFORM RULES WILL BE OBSERVED:

1. Upon qualification to the Bulldog Band, band members will be fitted and assigned a uniform.
2. Band members will wear the complete uniform for all performances unless indicated otherwise by the director.
3. You will be responsible for proper care of your uniform. You are liable for any damages that occur to your uniform while in your possession.
4. NEVER cut material from a band uniform. Minor adjustments may be made such as turning up the length of the pants. These adjustments are the responsibility of the student.
5. **Eating or drinking while in uniform is not allowed unless otherwise stated by a director.**
6. While a band member is in uniform they are not to behave in a manner as to disgrace themselves, the band, or the school by unsportsmanlike conduct or foul language of any kind.

7. Uniforms will not be allowed to be taken from the band hall unless a written note from your parent accompanies your request. **Students must return to the band hall after every performance to put their uniform away.**
8. Students may not leave during a performance or contest unless prior arrangements with the parent has been made and approve by the director.
9. As stated in the Burbank Student Handbook, public display of affection (PDA) will not be tolerated in or out of uniform, on or off campus while the students are representing their school or their band.
10. The use of cell phones during a performing event will not be tolerated unless given permission by the director. (i.e. football games)
11. **Upon arrival from any band event all students must be picked up within 30 minutes of arrival. Students still waiting for transportation home will be reported to administration and/or SAISD Police.**
12. **At no time may a student leave the presence of the band or event without proper permission from the band director. For example, going to the bathroom, visiting with friends or relatives, purchasing items from the snack bar/souvenir shop.**
13. **Students must be escorted at all times by either the band director or an assigned chaperone.**

DRESS CODE

Band members are to maintain a neat appearance at all performances. When wearing a marching uniform the following rules apply:

- a. Girls must pin up their hair if it is too long.
- b. Boys must maintain a hair length that does not go beyond the collar of the uniform or it must be pinned up. Any facial hair should be kept well groomed and neat in appearance.
- c. Jewelry and make-up are **NOT** allowed to be worn during any performance unless pre-approved by the band director.
- d. Hair must be that of approved color as per SAISD policy

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

1. Students using school owned instruments are responsible for keeping them cleaned, oiled and polished. Oil valves at least once a week and clean the inside of your instrument once a month during marching season, and every other month during concert season.

2. Repairs needed due to damages to an instrument from carelessness or lack of maintenance will be the financial responsibility of the student and the student may lose the privilege of using the instrument.
3. Cases must be taken care of and no stickers or writing are permitted on them. Again, any damages to the case will be your responsibility.
4. Always take good care of all school owned instruments or personal instruments.
5. Students who have checked out a school owned instrument must return the instrument in proper condition at the end of the school year.
6. Some band instruments may be checked out over the summer vacation at the discretion of the director.
7. All students assigned a school owned instrument are responsible for its care and maintenance. Parents/Guardians will be responsible for the replacement of the instrument if it gets damaged or lost due to negligence.

BAND ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility will be based on the grade book and the grade check report made by the director. Eligibility is based on a six weeks grading cycle. If at the end of the six weeks the student is not passing he/she loses eligibility. The student may gain eligibility again if after the next three week period he/she is passing. Reminders will be given to students throughout the school year.

TRAVEL/BUS RULES

1. Be on time! For every minute you are late, you are wasting everybody's time. **Be polite and helpful to our band parents/sponsors. They are donating their time to make sure the band travels safely.**
2. The directors may assign students to a specific bus. No changing will be allowed.
3. No PDA (public Display of Affection) on the bus.
4. Do not get on or off the bus unless you have been instructed to do so by a director or sponsor. Do not exit through the rear of the bus.
5. Chaperones will be seated in the back and middle seats before students board the buses. Leave the front seats open for the directors.
6. Do not talk with the driver while the bus is in motion.
7. Under no circumstances shall a band member extend any part of their body and/or any objects through the bus windows or doors.
8. Objects of any kind must never be thrown inside or out of the bus. Use trash bags always.
9. Tobacco in any form, alcoholic beverage, or drugs is prohibited on all band functions, including rehearsals. If a student is found to be in possession of

- any of these items, they will be dealt with according to SAISD policy and State Law.
10. Please report any damage such as loose or torn bus seats to the directors/sponsors and or the bus driver.
 11. Remain in your seat at all times while the bus is in motion.
 12. Do not sit on the back rests of the seats!
 13. No foul or abusive language will be permitted on the bus.
 14. The use of cell phone flashes, laptop computers, dvd players, and video cameras on the buses is strictly prohibited.
 15. Music that has foul, abusive or blatantly suggestive language will not be allowed at band events or on trips.
 16. All band members are expected to travel with the band for all events and performances. Once the band has completed the performance, a band member, upon approval of the band director, may be released to his or her parents or guardians. The student will also be responsible to turn in their band uniform to the band directors before they leave from that event.
 17. Under no circumstances should any band member play any part of their instrument while on a bus.
 18. When the bus stops for a meal or a break, or to change into uniforms, get back to your seat before the designated departure time.
 19. When on a band trip, do not do anything to disgrace your band or your school!
 20. All rules described in the SAISD Student Code of Conduct will be enforced.
 21. **Upon arrival from a trip all student should make arrangements to be picked up within 30 minutes of our arrival.** (failure to do so may result in a call to SAISD police department)

FOOTBALL GAMES/EVENTS

All students must remain with the band at all times unless prior arrangements have been made with the band director. Under no circumstances should a student leave on his or her own. The band directors have the responsibility to keep each band member safe to and from any event. As the band grows in members it becomes more difficult to keep track of each student. In addition, assigned chaperones are present to ensure the safety of the band student. Each chaperone is briefed on expectations of the band director and will follow such instructions. Parents wanting to remove their child from an event for a brief amount of time must have permission from the band director.

PROCEDURES FOR DISCIPLINE

Parents and band members are reminded that regulations and disciplinary measures in the handbook are for the protection of all students. Parents, as well as students, are urged to cooperate whenever disciplinary action is necessary.

The violations of any of the above rules will place the band member in a position where he/she may not be able to participate in any of the band's ensembles. In case of violation of rule number 9 under Travel/bus rules, the student will be dropped from band and dealt by the administration.

In addition, any band member, including those in leadership positions, who does not follow band rules and regulations, may be subject to removal of band activities. This includes disrespect towards the band staff or assigned chaperones.

All schools and district policies as stated in the SAISD Student Code of Conduct manual will be followed in the event or other violations.

FUNDRAISERS

Fundraisers are extremely important for the everyday function of the band. All students are required to participate to qualify to go on trips and attend the annual band banquet. This is a team effort and will help off-set the costs of many things. Although the band does receive a budget yearly, it is not enough to keep up with other groups. Things used to purchase with fundraiser monies include, but not limited to: show music, drill writer, flag instructor, show props, leadership camps, clinicians, private staff, food for students, etc.

LETTERMAN JACKETS

In order to qualify for a letterman Jacket, a student must be a Junior who's been a member of the band for three years and is committed to be in band their senior year. They must attend marching and concert contests the year they qualify for it and must have assisted with all fundraisers of that year.

CONCLUSION

The Burbank Bulldog Band has established a reputation of excellence both musically and in the attitudes of its members. Each year we excel and there is no limit to the things that can be accomplished by our band. Our goal is to create the highest quality of musicianship possible. This, in return, will lead toward the development of a superior band. In pursuing this goal, however, a student will be encouraged and accepted to maintain a good academic standing. Remember, an organization is no better than its leaders! Our leaders will be the students who have learned to follow the rules found in this handbook. Once a student has learned to function within these rules, then, and only then, can he or she become leadership material and give his/her best at the Burbank Bulldog Band!!!!!!!!!!

The Burbank Band Acknowledgement Handbook Form

I _____ have read and received a copy of the
(student name)
Burbank High School Band Handbook. I agree to abide by all rules and regulations stated in the handbook.

I _____ have read and received a copy of the
(Parent name)
Burbank High School Band Handbook. I agree with all rules and regulations stated in the handbook as it pertains to my son/daughter.

Student Signature: _____

Student (printed): _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Parent (printed): _____

Date: _____