

# 2018–2019



**SHELBYVILLE ISD  
DRAGON BAND**

---

# **STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**DESHMOND JOHNSON, BAND DIRECTOR  
KASI TRENT, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

# Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1-2
Introduction	3
Philosophy	3
Goals of the Band	3-4
Outline for Success	4
Band Organizations	5
General Rules and Regulations	6
Participation Expectations	6
Rehearsal Expectations	6-7
Behavior	7
Attendance at Rehearsals and Performances	7-8
Tardy/Absence	8
Band Hall Rules	8-9
Dismissal from the Band	9
The Band Beatitudes	9
Responsibility of the Student	9
Communication	9
Football Games and Conduct	9
Out-of-Town Trips	10
Bus Conduct	11
Band Trips	12
Band Grading System and Eligibility	12-13
High School Band	13
Beginner and Intermediate Bands	13
Academic Eligibility	13-14
Chair Placements	14
Facilities	14
Band Hall	14
Practice Rooms	15
Instrument Storage Rooms/Shelves	15
Uniform Rooms	15
Office Areas	15
Materials	15
School Instruments	15
Individual Practice	16
Band Uniforms	16-17
Inspection	17
Expenses	17
Band Trips	17-18
Individual Student Accounts	18
Fundraising	18

Band Awards	18
Band Jackets	18-19
Student and Parent Organizations	19
Leadership	19
Band Council	19-20
Drum Majors, Majorettes, and Dance Line	20
Drum Major	20
Majorette	20-21
Drill Team	21
Dragon Band Booster	21
Band Booster Scholarship	21-22
“A Champion’s Creed”	22
“A Special Note to Parents”	22-23
“In Closing...”	23
Appendix	
Addendum A – 2016–2017 Band Calendar	23
Addendum B – Music Pass-Off Explanation	24
Addendum C – Social Media Clause	24

# SHELBYVILLE ISD BAND HANDBOOK

## INTRODUCTION

The band program at Shelbyville ISD forms a vital and important part of the total school life. This group represents a large, colorful, visible and highly disciplined segment of the school. School life, with its many programs and traditions, would seem dull without the band and its contributions. The band's appearances at sporting events, concerts, parades and contests as well as community and civic events, add a great deal of color and life to the Dragon community.

The main emphasis of the band program is on musicianship and pride of accomplishment, followed closely by citizenship, tradition, moral, self discipline, spirit and loyalty. It is pride of a job well done and the accomplishments achieved that make the sacrifices worthwhile. It is possible by setting your schedule in a reasonable manner to have a highly successful band career and still maintain a high scholastic standing. It is also possible to be a member of the band and participate in other extracurricular school activities. The success of the organization will lead to success of the individual and vice versa.

## PHILOSOPHY

The central goal of a school band is to make music. By-products of this music-making include the development of the feelings of belonging to a group, self-esteem, self-discipline, self-confidence, reward for a job well done, ability to get along with others, importance of responsibility, loyalty, respect for others, goal setting, skills and tools needed to perform to the best of one's ability. Most important is the appreciation of the aesthetic values that only music can achieve. These, of course, are life skills as well as music skills.

## GOALS OF THE BAND

**Mental and Physical Discipline.** The student shall be provided opportunities to: develop powers of concentration; memorize music; prepare and practice individual parts; develop self-discipline and group discipline; and memorize marching drills.

**Citizenship Through Group Endeavor.** The student shall be provided opportunities to: develop leadership abilities; develop responsibility; develop the ability to cooperate with others and to work as a team member; and develop diligence.

**Physical Conditioning.** The student shall be provided opportunities to: develop strength, stamina, and endurance; and develop coordination.

**Cultural Growth.** The student shall be provided opportunities to attain knowledge of music history and band literature through performance.

**Ability to Make Musical Value Judgments Through Critical Listening.** The student shall be provided opportunities to recognize quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation.

**Music Theory.** The student shall be provided opportunities to: know and use note values and rests; know and use keys, key signatures, and scales; know and use musical terms, signs, and symbols; recognize and tune intervals and harmony; and train the ear.

**Proper Instrumental Technique.** The student shall be provided opportunities to: care for the instrument; assume correct posture and playing position; develop the embouchure; develop good tone; breathe properly; develop technical proficiency (fingering, articulation, etc.); and develop rhythmic skills.

**Creative self-expression.** The student shall be provided opportunities to: express oneself in every performance experience; and explore careers.

Each one of the above elements will be stressed throughout the year. It is very important for daily home practice and for students to be present at all rehearsals and performances. With this in mind, we will be able to continue our winning tradition.

## **Outline for Success**

S – Success  
U – Understanding  
C – Compassion  
C – Creativity  
E – Excellence  
S – Self-Discipline  
S – Self-Acceptance

## BAND ORGANIZATIONS

There are 3 bands organizations that make up the Shelbyville Dragon Band program. Two of them are junior high ensembles and the 3<sup>rd</sup> is the high school band. The junior high programs are used as the vehicle to teach students how to play instruments and the logistics it takes to be a successful member of the high school band. The high school band year is a full year course consisting of two distinct semesters or “seasons.” The fall semester is primarily considered the marching season while the spring semester is considered the concert season. The following is a brief description of the various groups that are associated with the Shelbyville ISD band program:

### **Shelbyville Dragon Marching Band (SDM2B)**

The marching band consists of students from grades 8 – 12. The object of this band is to serve as entertainment for football season including: pep rallies, parades, football games, and halftime. This band is also a U.I.L. competing ensemble that competes at U.I.L. Marching Contest, Area Marching Contest, State Marching Contest, and Invitation Contest throughout the fall semester. To be a member of the marching band students must successfully complete beginning band, and participate in Summer Band Camp.

### **Concert Band**

Once marching season is over, the marching band will become a sit down performing band known as the concert band. The ensemble consists of students grades 8 – 12. The band performs at U.I.L. Concert and Sight Reading Contest, and Pre U.I.L. Invitational Contest.

### **Beginning Band**

This band consists of students in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. In order to become a member of the high school band students must **COMPLETELY** fulfill all obligations as a beginner student. Those obligations include: being thorough on the basics of his/her instrument, being able to identify musical terms and notes, and playoff required music throughout the year. If a student does not fulfill all obligations expected, then they will not move up in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade band and will have to redo another semester/year of beginning band.

### **Intermediate Band**

This band is made primarily of students in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade after **COMPLETELY** fulfilling all obligations of their beginning year of band. This is continuation of the skills learned from the previous year in beginning band. This is a performing ensemble that will compete in contests during the concert season of the year. Students will also have performing obligations during marching season such as: junior high pep rallies, junior high football games, performances with the high school band at home football games. This group will also have the opportunity to raise money for their own band trip.

# GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

## Participation Expectations

A yearly band calendar is enclosed for your use in planning your family schedule for the 2017 – 2018 school year. Each band student is important to the success of our many activities. We must be able to count on 100% attendance at these rehearsals and performances. If a family emergency occurs unexpectedly, PARENTS, please call the band office at 936-591-9991 (this is a direct line with an answering machine).

Occasionally, there may be family commitments (weddings, graduations, etc.); in which case we will try to be flexible and work with parents on an individual basis. This must be discussed in detail well in advance (a month or more!). Student's job commitments and "select sports" are NOT reasons for an excused absence from band performances or rehearsals! Many band students work and participate in "select sports" and participate successfully in band. We suggest that these students take a copy of the "Yearly Band Calendar" to his/her employer and/ or coach and clear all band performances and rehearsals. Most employers are very understanding and are flexible if they know of band commitments well in advance, and they understand that band performances are a required and vital part of the course work. Work with employers to clear the Monday night rehearsals from 6:00 - 8:00 pm (We are glad to talk to employers to validate student commitment.)

*If a band student has an unexcused absence from a performance/rehearsal, they are subject to disciplinary action. If this is an issue on more than one occasion, then it could lead to immediate removal from the band program.*

## Rehearsal Expectations

In band rehearsals, we not only deal with a creative process, but with more students at one time than other classroom teachers. Because of this, it is imperative that band students be organized and prepared for every rehearsal. When an individual is not able to play his/her musical instrument during a rehearsal it hurts the GROUP as well as the individual.

It is important that the student's musical instrument is in good working condition, that (s)he has a pencil to mark their music, and that (s)he has important accessories such as: music, reeds, and valve oil for EVERY rehearsal. It is also obvious that the creative process in which we are involved cannot take place unless there is a quiet, attentive atmosphere in the classroom and on the field. Students who do not live up to the high rehearsal expectations of the Dragon Band will be counseled, and, if necessary, placed on probation to earn their spot/ chair back.

Students will wear proper attire to each marching rehearsal. Failure to do so the student will be deemed late, and will face disciplinary action (see Behavior).

- T-Shirt
- Tennis Shoes or marching shoes (no flip flops, no Toms, no boots, NO EXCEPTIONS)
- Some sort of hat (optional)
- Sunscreen (especially during summer rehearsals)

Students will arrive to each rehearsal on time (This mean that students will arrive at least 15-30 minutes before the start of each rehearsal)

## Behavior

Band students will demonstrate an attitude of good discipline and attention during rehearsals. Each rehearsal should be a musical learning experience for each student. Each performance will be only as

good as its best rehearsal. Disturbances by band students in rehearsal show a lack of interest and respect to the band; therefore, they should find another activity to hold their attention.

Students should understand that if one of the policies is broken then there will be some sort of disciplinary action such as: forfeit of halftime break, visit to the principal, pushups/squat thrusts (the Dragon Marching Band gives high school students a credit for physical education), lowered grade, removal from band. Here are the main policies of the Dragon Band.

- Students must attend all after school rehearsals, contests, and football games. The only exceptions are family emergencies. Failure to successfully adhere to this will be removal from the band program
- Unexcused tardiness will lead to disciplinary action
- Damage to school property will lead to disciplinary action
- Arguing with a director, or speaking back to a director when asked to do something will lead to disciplinary action
- Causing distractions during rehearsals will lead to disciplinary action (talking, singing, laughing, walking back to previous spots)
- Students must pass all classes every six weeks, and if a student is ineligible for more than one six weeks during the year they will be placed on probation. If a student is continuously ineligible they will be removed from the band program
- Students will play off ALL music that is performed at U.I.L. performances such as: Marching Contest, and Concert Sight Reading Contest

### **Attendance at Rehearsals and Performances**

In order to have and maintain a high quality band program, attendance for all members is essential. Absences will be classified as excused for the following reasons ONLY:

- Student's personal illness – must be documented
  - Death in the family
  - School-related conflicts cleared by the director PRIOR to the absence
  - Extreme circumstances (Band Director approval)
- All band members are expected to attend ALL rehearsals and performances unless excused by the band director. In case of an emergency, it is the responsibility of the student to contact one of the directors before the rehearsal or performance, (unless impossible) or the absence is unexcused. **Please do not use the band program as means to punish your child by not allowing him/her to be at rehearsal. We are a team, and therefore depend on all members!**
  - Students absent during a marching band rehearsal, unless excused by their director in advance, may forfeit their place in the marching line-up, and may serve as an alternate.
  - Punctuality is of vital importance in the band. The nature of the band's operation at football games, concerts, and travel away from home make strict adherence to a schedule very important. Students who are habitually tardy or absent will forfeit any position of responsibility or honor with the band.
  - Students will be given an approximate time for a rehearsal or performance to be completed.
  - Transportation should be present for the students when the event is over; we will not wait over 30 minutes for rides. In case of an emergency or an unavoidable situation, call as soon as possible to make arrangements for transportation. If you have a problem with transportation, contact one of the band directors and let them make your name available for car pooling, etc.

## Tardy/Absence

Absences and tardiness are detrimental to the success of any organization, our band included. Please use good judgment and the calendar to avoid schedule conflicts. With enough thoughtfulness and planning, 99% of conflicts can be avoided! A tardy or absence will reflect in the participation portion of a student's grade.

**It is very important for ALL band students to be on time for all practices (full rehearsals or section rehearsals), meetings, and performances.**

## Band Hall Rules

- Abide by all school rules, codes, and policies as established by Shelbyville Independent School District, Board of Trustees, and school officials.
- All students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times. Display of profanity, temper, flagrant violation of band rules/school rules will not be tolerated. **Individual behavior is a reflection of the entire band.**
- Restrooms and drinking fountain are not to be used without permission during class.
- Stay out of office, practice rooms, and instrument storage rooms without permission.
- Music stands are provided for music; **DO NOT** use as a table; **DO NOT** lean on or play with stands.
- No food or drink in the band hall without permission
- Do not run or play in the band hall, and at all times have respect for equipment and property. Students will not deface or mark on music stands, walls, etc.
- **DO NOT** play any instrument other than your own unless it has been approved by the director. Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
- Be on time and present for all rehearsals and performances.
- Be in your proper seat with instrument and music and any other items needed for the rehearsal when the tardy bell sounds.
- Pay close attention in class and **DO NOT** talk without permission. Students should ask for permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that our time will be utilized wisely.
- Put your instrument in the proper slot in the instrument storage room. **DO NOT** put instruments on the floor.
- Keep up with your own music. It is your responsibility to come to class with your own music and supplies.
- **ALWAYS DO YOUR VERY BEST JOB.** A 1st division band has 1st division band students.
- Do NOT write or draw on the chalk board without permission.
- Do NOT get out of your seat without permission unless it is an emergency.
- Students will follow band director's instructions.
- Any behavior, which is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band director or staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the band program. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both public and private events.

## Dismissal from the Band

**ANY STUDENT MAY BE DISMISSED FROM THE BAND BECAUSE OF LACK OF COOPERATION, REFUSAL TO CONFORM TO RULES AND REGULATIONS OR HAVING A GENERALLY POOR ATTITUDE.**

### The Band Beatitudes

Blessed are they who play with spirit, for theirs will be a band with style.

Blessed are they that listen, for they shall have good intonation.

Blessed are they who follow the conductor, for they shall obtain precision.

Blessed are they of pure tone, for they shall be a credit to their band.

Blessed are the sincere players, for they shall be called artists.

Blessed are they which practice righteously, for they shall achieve perfection.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst for good music, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are ye who play with good posture and deep breath, for your instruments shall be filled.

Blessed are the fine bands, for they inherit a glorious tradition!

### RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT

- Be regular in attendance and to account for all absences and tardies. Remember, "**Early is on time and on time is late.**"
- Be honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music, and school life in general.
- Cooperate with fellow band members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are part of the band program.
- Contribute positively to his/her music education and that of others by the best use of his/her talents.
- TREAT OTHERS AS YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED. TREAT THE DIRECTORS AS THEY EXPECT TO BE TREATED.
- Be on time to all practices and performances with all the proper equipment necessary to perform at the best of your ability.
- Always make sure that you carry your part of the load by properly putting up all your equipment, instruments, music, etc.
- Students should keep their designated storage area clean and neat in appearance. Students who demonstrate difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the Band Hall.

**Responsibility is a vital aspect of the band program.** Students who do not fulfill the above responsibilities will be required to accept the consequences of his/her actions. This can include paying fines, losing 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter privileges, special assignments, forfeiting positions, etc.

### Communication

Many problems can be easily avoided with communication. Students are expected to communicate to the band directors, IN ADVANCE, if a conflict arises. Any absence without official communication will be considered unexcused. Other factors to consider are:

- Never communicate through another student regarding attendance – only you or your parents should contact the band director.
- Please do not ask the band directors to contradict band policies by asking to be excused for a reason that has been clearly defined as unexcused. Be committed!

**Work, homework, babysitting, driver's education classes or transportation problems are never accepted as excuses for missing a rehearsal or a performance.**

## Football Game Rules and Conduct

**Every student must attend each football game.** The only excuses accepted for absence are death in the immediate family, contagious illness, or a doctor's note.

Football games are fun, and we are there to support the team. However, we must maintain professionalism at all times. Band members can stand up and YELL and SCREAM in support of the team throughout the game, but should always remain in his/her "spot." It is important to remain alert concerning all of the expensive equipment around the stands as well as the need to be ready to play at a moment's notice. Behavior in the stands includes:

- No food or drinks in the stand at any time. (Water is permitted)
- At home games students are fed by the bands boosters at halftime, and at away games they will also be fed. **Students will refrain from accepting food or drinks from parents, relatives, or friends during the game.**
- No visitors in the stands unless approved by a band director
- Students needing a restroom break must be accompanied by a chaperone.
- The band will only perform in the stands the tunes which have been rehearsed
- No playing on horn in stands unless instructed to do so by a band director
- Students will be expected to listen for and watch the directors and drum major during the game. Students will need to be prepared to perform at all times.
- Students will remain in the band setting at all times during the game.
- In order to keep uniforms and instruments intact, students should keep movement in the stands to a minimum. Stay in your spot.
- Long hair must be put up under band shako during performances
- Do not spray perfume, hairspray, deodorant, etc. in the stands.
- All band students should be back in the stands after the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter break with instrument, flip folder, etc., ready to play at the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. **If you miss the 1<sup>st</sup> note of the 1<sup>st</sup> song of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, you will miss the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter privileges in the following week.**
- YOU are responsible for putting up all of your equipment after each game!
- Exit stands by going to the end of the row and down the stairs
- The band directors will coordinate the times for student leaders to participate in the good sportsmanship procedures of officer meetings and introductions.
- Upon return to the band hall at the conclusion of a game, students will insure that all personal items, uniforms and instruments are placed in the proper storage areas.

## OUT-OF-TOWN TRIPS

Normal school policy dictates that band members ride to, and return from all off-campus performances as a group using transportation provided by the district. On rare occasions, an emergency or conflict with other school-sponsored events necessitates that parents provide

transportation to or from an off-campus performance.

In such a situation a note signed by the parent should be presented to a director, and one of the directors must physically see the parent take the student. This protects both the student and the school. Any other types of releases from a performance must be cleared in advance through the office of the Shelbyville high school principal.

## **Bus Conduct**

Band students are expected to follow all rules and regulations established and approved by the school district in the "Student Handbook" and "Code of Conduct." Behavior on the bus includes:

- On band trips, all band members will ride to and from the destination on designated buses.
- Everyone is to remain seated.
- No food or drinks on bus without permission.
- Do not put heads and arms out windows while traveling.
- Uniforms must be hung and transported properly.
- No hitting or banging on bus or seats.
- No initiations. (such as decorating faces with makeup, shoe polish, etc.)
- No shoe polish writing on buses. (ours or anyone else's)
- No exit through rear door except in an emergency.
- Do not get off the bus until the director has given instructions to do so.
- No switching buses – PERIOD.
- Group singing and chants, etc., are not permitted.
- No squealing or unnecessary shouting.
- Chaperones or student leaders will be in charge of checking the roll each time the bus departs.
- Chaperones have the authority to reassign seats.
- At the end of each trip, the student is responsible for unloading his/her own equipment.
- Do not play instruments on the bus.
- When the bus comes to a halt, all talking, noises, and other distractions shall cease until the bus is in motion or permission is given.
- All school rules and policies should be observed at all times.
- Electronic devices are permitted only if the student uses headsets.
- Do not spray perfume, hairspray, deodorant, etc. on the bus.
- Students should refrain from public displays of affection.
- Bus assignments will be posted so that students will know which bus to ride.
- Male and female students will be separated on the bus throughout the entirety of every trip, in accordance to school policy.
- When the band travels, it is considered an extension of the school day, thus all SISD Policies and Procedures apply.

**Adult chaperones are a great asset for the band program. Proper respect will be shown to all adults associated with the band program at all times.**

## **Band Trips**

Students who represent SISD on out-of-town trips are expected to maintain very high standards in every respect at all times. They are expected to attend and be on time for all sessions and activities scheduled for them.

In the event of overnight trips, they are expected to be in their rooms at the times designated by their chaperones. Each student will be responsible to one or more chaperone who will supervise the activities of the students for the trip. Negligence in attending sessions, in meeting curfew requirements, or in failing to maintain our standards of conduct may make it necessary for the sponsor to send the student home at his/her own expense.

Self-discipline is the key element for a pleasant experience for both the sponsor and the student when the student is on a school-related trip. Students who are involved in a serious disciplinary offense on a school-related trip, such as the use, possession of, or being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol, stealing, fighting, going in the room of a member of the opposite sex, or some other serious offense will face disciplinary action which may include one or more of the following:

- The student will be sent home from the trip at the parents' expense.
- The student will be held liable for damages to property
- The student may be removed from this school activity as well as other school co-curricular activities
- The student may be placed in In-School-Suspension (**ISS**), Off-Campus-Suspension, or Alternative Education Placement
- Students' attire during school activities outside the school day should be in good taste. If there is any question of taste, the director's decision is final.
- All adults on trips serve as sponsors. Students will be expected to treat them with respect at all times. In the event a parent sponsor gives needed supervision, band students must honor that with utmost respect.

GENERAL - Even though students will not always have a band shirt on, people will find out where they are from. Students have the opportunity to make a tremendous name for Shelbyville and for themselves. Be courteous and polite at all times. There is no way we can anticipate every possible scenario, so we ask for good judgment. Please use common sense.

RULE OF THUMB: If there is any question in one's mind as to whether one should do something or not ... **DON'T DO IT!** It is better to be safe than sorry.

**WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEMS. IF WE ANTICIPATED A PROBLEM, WE WOULD NOT TRAVEL.**

## **BAND GRADING SYSTEM AND ELIGIBILITY**

Grading in band is based upon participation and playing evaluations. Grades for band students are usually higher than the norm which is understandable, since we have the "cream-of-the-crop" of the student body in the band program. Students belong to our program because they "want to," not because they "have to!"

Band students receive a grade for each performance attended such as: football games, concerts, competitions, etc. Students will receive additional grades based on daily

participation, sectionals, & music playoffs. Students must have equipment in good working order and be present at all required rehearsals and performances for their participation grade.

If these expectations are not met, the participation grade will be affected.

A student's attitude can be best assessed in terms of willingness/ability to handle normal day-to-day responsibilities and expectations. Points will be deducted from a student's grade for the following infractions:

- Being tardy to rehearsals, band classes, sectionals or performances
- Not having all materials and equipment at each rehearsal or performance
- Bringing drinks, gum, food, or candy into the band hall or band lockers
- Talking or creating distractions during rehearsals/class
- Not properly storing all personal materials
- Not following teacher's instructions or school policies
- Leaving instruments out on the floor

**An unexcused absence from a marching or concert contest will result in a failing grade for the 6 weeks grading period of the missed contest performance.**

### **High School Band**

- Participation – 20%
- Music Pass-Offs – 40%
- Performances – 40%

### **Beginner and Intermediate Bands**

- Participation – 20%
- Music Pass-Offs – 40%
- Practice Records – 40%

### **Academic Eligibility**

Scholastic eligibility requirements are based upon UIL rule and regulations and TEA House Bill 142 Rules and Regulations.

All music organizations adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and SISD. Any student whose recorded six weeks' grade average in any course is lower than 70 at the end of a six-week period shall be suspended from participation during the next six-week period. However, a student may regain eligibility seven calendar days after the three-week evaluation period if the student is passing all courses on the last day of the three-week period. A one-week grace period follows each grading and progress period. Students who are ineligible will continue to rehearse during his/her band class, and participate in curricular performances to earn his/her band grade.

Ineligible students may not travel with the band or participate in extracurricular performances. An example of a **curricular performance** would be a spring concert and an **extracurricular performance** would be a football halftime or any type of contest. Students should always check on an event if there is a question of their participation. Be advised that excessive absences from school may also result in a student being declared ineligible.

The directors work hard to assist and encourage band students to perform up to their potential in ALL classes. Since both Marching Band and Concert Band are group activities, each individual band student plays an important part in the success of the group. The band directors consult with both teachers and students for strategies on improving individual student performance. Obviously, we cannot be successful as a band unless our students are successfully passing ALL classes.

Students who are ineligible for two consecutive six week grading periods will be put on probation. If they do not become eligible the following six week grading period, they will be removed from the band program. This will allow the student to focus on passing academic classes during the next semester. Students wishing to be considered for reinstatement in band following this probation must bring documentation (report card) to a band director proving academic success during each grading period of the succeeding semester for all classes.

Academic success is defined as passing all subjects during every grading period. Students must also maintain a clean discipline record with the school. This process is set up to help the academic success of the individual student.

### **Chair Placements**

Chair placement in all concert bands is determined by auditions held on each instrument. Chair placements for the high school band will happen at the end of the school year. This is done so that chair order is already set before summer band camp. Beginning band chair placements will happen on a weekly basis up until the last month before the spring concert. Students are placed in chair order only on the basis of "how they perform" the audition music. The classification of a student is no factor, unless the students play equally. In that case, the student in the higher grade will be placed ahead of the younger student. All chair placements will be recorded and kept on file.

## **FACILITIES**

Students are welcome to use the band hall practice rooms for practice either before or after school. However, the number of available places is limited, since both sectionals and private lessons take place before and after school. Due to the expense of the musical instruments that are in the band hall, ONLY band students are allowed into the band hall during the school day and before or after school. Students must ask their friends who are not in the band to wait for them either in the school hallway or outside.

### **Band Hall**

We are fortunate to have one of the finest band rehearsal facilities in the State of Texas. Band members are to keep the band hall clean and neat. Keep chairs and music stands in place and use the wastebasket for items to be thrown away. Use all equipment such as chairs and stands as they are intended to be used. Leave all food and beverages outside of the band hall and do not bring chewing gum into any band room, practice room, or office area.

The Band Room is a "safe haven." We stress to all band students to be responsible and keep their equipment in their lockers at all times. The lockers are meant for band equipment and needs only, and are not to be used as personal storage space. Many times "clean-up" duty is assigned to those "untidy" housekeepers to help develop orderly skills.

## Practice Rooms

**To be used for practice or study only.** Keep practice rooms clean and neat. No food or drink in the practice rooms.

## Instrument Storage Rooms/Shelves

**To be used for instrument storage only.** All other items are to be kept in the student's locker. Keep the storage area clean and neat. Instruments are to be put in their cases and closed while in the storage room or on the shelf.

## Uniform Room

This room will be off limits to everyone except the quartermasters and directors.

## Office Areas

Please respect the office as a work area. We all enjoy visiting, but when it is time to work, please recognize this time as work time. Please refrain from entering the office when a band director is unavailable.

# MATERIALS

## School Instruments

SISD provides instruments for all students that are a part of the band program. Because of this, students are held accountable for the care and maintenance of the horn. If a horn is severely damaged or lost in a student's care, then they are responsible for fixing/replacing that instrument. We expect the instrument to be returned in the same condition as when issued. This equipment is purchased by the school district for student use because of its extremely high value and cost. Thus, all school owned equipment must be handled with care.

Students failing to care for, or take care of their school issued instrument will lose the privilege to use such instruments. The following is a list of general procedures for school owned instruments:

- Students/parents will be held responsible for school owned instruments issued to them. This responsibility will include any damages including fire, theft, accidental damage, abuse and general maintenance.
- Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition. Students are expected to maintain their instruments accordingly.
- All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.

**If these instruments are damaged or destroyed by misuse or neglect, the student is responsible for the cost of repairs or replacement.** Any problems encountered with an instrument should be reported to the band director as soon as possible.

If a parent would like to go through a retailer to buy their child an instrument we ask that you please speak with a director about what horns to buy, and where to get them from. Sometimes the cheap horns are the worst horns, and don't give students the opportunity to succeed.

## Individual Practice

Practice is sometimes fun, sometimes drudgery, but always necessary. The best way to make practice times more enjoyable and more productive is to get in a regular habit of practicing every day. Look for improvements, don't just "put in your time". When you're playing improves, then all the time spent will seem worthwhile. **A good practice routine should be allotted in the following manner:**

Warm up scales flexibility	10 minutes
Technique drills	10 minutes
Tone study	10 minutes
Solo work	20 minutes
Warm down	3 minutes

**Concentrate on getting a good sound. It makes no difference how fast or loud you can play; you must have a good tone to be enjoyable to listen to. Focus and center all pitches!**

Never sacrifice accuracy for speed. Practice the parts you can't play. It makes no sense to spend all of your practice time on the spots you can already play well. Add to the band's sound, not detract from it. **Practice does not make perfect; perfect practice makes perfect.**

## Band Uniforms

It is a privilege to wear the Shelbyville High School Band uniform. We have two separate types of uniforms here at Shelbyville. We have the informal summer uniform, and the traditional performance uniform. Make sure you have all parts of the uniform at each performance. At the beginning of each marching season, students are required to have their uniform cleaned before the start of the school year. (This includes dance line, majorettes, cheerleaders, and football players). Proof that the uniform has been cleaned, copy or receipt, must be submitted to one of the directors. If your uniform does not meet the high standard required in the Shelbyville Dragon Band, you are subject to being removed from a performance or not traveling with the band. This uniform is a symbol of pride and will be worn accordingly.

- The informal summer uniform consists of the band polo t-shirt, blue jeans (not black), black socks, black belt, and marching shoes. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE!** The band polo must be tucked in at all times while in public. Inside the band hall, on a bus, or unloading are the **ONLY** exceptions to this rule.
- The traditional performance uniform is the most important and most expensive uniform that will be worn. Students will need to have their uniform inspected by upperclassmen, or a director prior to checking it out. While in this uniform students will need: their band t-shirt, black socks, and some sort of athletic shorts to be worn under the trousers. **NO BLUE JEANS!** Students that do not have their band t-shirt or black socks will forfeit their halftime break and sit in the stands during that break
  - After each performance or football game the band uniform needs to be checked in to the uniform manager. If a student fails to turn in their uniform as required, then they will receive \$10 fine.

Here are some dos and don'ts that will help you and your uniform look great at all times:

DO: remember your band T-Shirt, black socks, and marching shoes each time you will be wearing your uniform.

DO: transport your uniform in a garment bag, Every time!

DO: take extra time and care when hanging up your uniform. Pants hang- folded on the crease, not the seat.

DO NOT: remove any material from the uniform if alterations are necessary.

DO NOT: forget to turn your uniform in after every performance.

Students out of uniform in any fashion will not be permitted to make a public appearance. Any band student in public view is required to wear the entire uniform, unless given permission by the director to be otherwise dressed.

**ANY UNIFORM THAT IS LEFT IN THE BAND HALL, OR IN AN INSTRUMENT LOCKER WILL BE CONFISCATED AND THE STUDENT WILL FORFEIT THE NEXT HALFTIME BREAK AND RECEIVE A 10 DOLLAR FINE.**

## **Inspections**

Inspection of uniforms and instruments may be held at any time by the director. Uniforms and instruments should be kept in good condition at all times. Uniform trousers at proper length, shoes shined, correct socks, proper cross belt position, clean cross belts, all buttons on uniform, instrument clean, mouthpiece clean on inside and etc. are all things that will be looked for in an inspection.

**Instrument slots should be kept clean with no trash, books, dirty clothes, shoes etc. in the slots.**

## **Expenses**

Students and parents will be responsible for the following expenses:

- Summer Band Fee (Band T-Shirt, Band Polo, Marching Shoes) - \$60 or \$40 without shoes
- Valve Oil - \$5
- Metronome (optional)- \$5
- Reeds - \$3
- Box of Reeds - \$25
  - Beginner students are recommended to buy a box for themselves to save money
- Uniform Fees - TBD
- Damage or abuse to school equipment -TBD
- Private lessons (if applicable) -TBD

## **BAND TRIPS**

Major band trips are scheduled for the Shelbyville Band. These trips are scheduled by the band directors and are provided as awards for a job well done and as an educational experience. The number of trips and the destinations will be determined by the band directors, school officials, and Shelbyville Band Booster Club. These trips are funded by various fund raising activities, parents, and the Shelbyville Band Booster Club. Please be aware that every student must be eligible as dictated by the University Interscholastic League.

A band student must be a member in good standing of the Dragon Band in order to participate in

these trips. It is important that all students conduct themselves in an appropriate manner as representatives of our school and community. If a student violates any major school policy, such as drinking alcohol, smoking, drug use, damaging property, or stealing, he/she will be sent home at the parent's expense, and will be subject to removal from the organization and all penalties set forth in the Shelbyville ISD Code of Conduct. **Band students are required to follow ALL school rules and policies as set forth by the Shelbyville ISD Board of Trustees.** Trips are considered an extension of the school day.

### **Individual Student Accounts**

Every other year the Dragon Band will take an out of state band trip to compete in various concert festivals. These trips are very expensive and need a lot of effort in fundraising to afford these trips. Students are responsible for paying anywhere from \$100-500 for their seat on the trip. Students will have multiple opportunities to raise money for their seat throughout the school year.

When students fundraise on band trip years the money that they earn individually will be deposited into the activity account under their name. Any money raised during a band booster fundraiser will be used by the boosters to pay for transportation, which can range from \$15,000 - \$20,000. Any money raised during a band fundraiser will be set aside to assist in paying for that particular student's trip. If a student doesn't put forth the effort to raise money, then they will be required to pay the full amount of the trip.

\*Parents will be allowed to attend the trip, but only by following these guidelines: volunteer for AT LEAST two separate events (concession stands, public fundraising, etc.), pay the amount for the trip in full. Seats on the buses are limited; thus, parents may be required to find alternate means of transportation.

### **Fundraising**

Periodically fund raising activities are sponsored by the Shelbyville Band. All band students are expected to participate in fundraising activities throughout the school year. Money raised by students goes directly into the Activity Fund which is used for student related activities such as meals for away games, contests, and any other trips in which students need to be fed. Fundraising money raised will also be used to co-fund the band trip every other year with the band boosters.

## **BAND AWARDS**

### **Band Jackets**

The presentation of a band letter jacket is an honor at Shelbyville High School. To earn a letter jacket, a student must be a high school student and have achieved one of the following requirements:

- Qualify for area or all-state band
- Earn a 1<sup>st</sup> division on a class I solo/ensemble which results in qualifying for the state contest.
- Students must have participated in the band program from the time of their enrollment in high school band to their sophomore year, and must participate through graduation of their senior year.

- Students will attend all performances and U.I.L. activities. Exceptions will be granted at the discretion of the band director (illness, deaths, etc.).
- Students not adhering to written disciplinary policies of the school and band will forfeit their eligibility for the award jacket.
- Any violation of these rules during the years following the sophomore year may result in the forfeiture of the jacket.
- The student must uphold the goals and standards of the band.
- It is understood that withdrawal or dismissal from the band prior to graduation of his/her senior year results in forfeiture of the jacket.
  - In the event that a jacket is forfeited by a student, all accessories paid for by the student will be returned.

**Students who have already earned a jacket in any other area may earn a band letter only.** UIL permits only one award, like a jacket, during the total high school years.

## **STUDENT AND PARENT ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Leadership**

We are extremely fortunate at Shelbyville High School to have outstanding student leaders. These students are invaluable to the success of the band program. The band staff selects Drum Majors and Section Leaders for the following school year. These appointments are subjective and based on a holistic evaluation of a student from every aspect of their band experience including, but not limited to, playing ability, attendance/promptness, citizenship, academic achievement, discipline, initiative, and leadership skills/potential as it relates to the band environment.

While all students have an opportunity to be considered for one of these appointed leadership positions, it should be understood that only a limited number of positions can be filled and will vary from year to year. As a member of the Dragon Band there is an expectation for ALL students to foster and develop positive leadership skills regardless of title.

Band Council elections are held each spring for the following school year. Students who will be in the band and in the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades the next school year are eligible to vote for band council officers. Interested students may receive more detailed information concerning these offices from the band staff. Band Council officers act in a service role coordinating and assisting in all band functions. The council also provides leadership in spirit activities and works to develop friendly relationships between the Shelbyville Dragon Band and bands from other schools.

### **Band Council**

Band council will consist of drum majors, section leaders, quartermasters, loading crew captain, and a student chaplain. **Responsibilities:** report to directors concerning problems, help coordinate all student duties, promote band activities, be a student representative of the band, perform other duties assigned by director, and assist director

**2018 Drum Majors**  
Head – Ja’Kaitlon Bolton

## **DRUM MAJOR, MAJORETTES, AND DANCE LINE**

**These positions are considered to be an honor and are to be treated as such.** They exist only because there is a band, and an attitude of band first should always be kept in mind.

All drum majors, majorettes, or dance line member should follow all rules as established by the Student Code of Conduct, the Extracurricular Code of Conduct, and the Shelbyville Band Handbook. Punishment for a violation of a policy or rule will be in accordance with the established codes.

Please be aware and refer to the demerit system, which goes into effect once a student is selected in an auxiliary position. If a band member is dismissed, quits, or removed from the leadership role because of disciplinary action, he/she will not be able to try out the following year.

**The auxiliary sponsors and the band director have the final decision where auxiliary units are concerned.** Disciplinary action against twirlers and dance line members is a sponsor and band director decision. The sponsor/band director reserves the right to decide who will be allowed to perform, whether due to inability of the student to perform the required routine, discipline problems, or absence from practice or performance.

**All auxiliary members are expected to learn appropriate conflict resolution skills while a member of the unit.** Problems will be dealt with outside of class time. (No classroom or public confrontations will be tolerated)

### **Drum Major**

The Drum Major is the elite member of the band, and serves as the model band student for the rest of the band. There are two Drum Majors positions in the Dragon Band and they are: Head Drum Major, and Assistant Drum Major. Both are appointed by the Head Director and ALL decisions are final. The Head Drum Major is a student in grades 11 or 12 and is determined by many factors throughout the student's band career. The Assistant Drum Major is a student usually around freshman year that will serve as the Head Drum Major after the original head has graduated. Both Drum Majors are expected to attend summer Drum Major Camp that is paid for by the band program.

### **Majorettes**

Majorettes are one of two auxiliary performing groups in the Dragon Band. Majorettes perform at pep rallies, halftime, and U.I.L. Twirling Solo and Ensemble contest. Majorettes are expected to be some of the elite students in the band, and should act as such at all times even outside of band. In order to become a majorette, students MUST attend a week long introductory twirling camp held in the spring semester that leads up to auditions. The audition process not only deals with being a proficient twirler, but it also has to do with being proficient on one's instrument, and a yearlong commitment to being an excellent student inside and outside of band. Guidelines for Majorette auditions are as follows:

- Must attend twirling camp
- Meet all TE.A. and SISD standards of eligibility
- Had at least one year of marching experience
- Audition for the all-region band, or compete at solo and ensemble contest
- Complete all music playoffs during the school year
- Have a hard work ethic

## Drill Team

The dance line is the other performing auxiliary group in the Dragon Band. The dance line performs at pep rallies, and halftime during football games. Dance line members are expected to be elite students of the band program at all times during and outside of band. Dance line differs from majorettes in that they are selected by the directors and sponsor. Once a dance line member is chosen, they have an obligation to attend all rehearsals, and summer dance line camp. Guidelines for applying to the Dance line are as follows:

- Meet all TE.A. and SISD standards of eligibility
- Had at least one year of marching experience
- Audition for the all-region band, or compete at solo and ensemble contest
- Complete all music playoffs during the school year
- Have a great attitude and work ethic all years leading up to applying for dance line.

## DRAGON BOOSTER CLUB

The Dragon Band has a very active, supportive parent organization known as the Dragon Band Boosters. The booster association includes parents of band students. Without the hard work and dedication of the parents, the band program at Shelbyville could not be as successful and productive as it is.

There are numerous areas in which interested parents can be involved in supporting the activities of the band. General meetings of the boosters are held throughout the school year usually on Monday evenings. However, numerous committees do most of the booster organization planning.

We ask that all parents consider being a part of the band booster organization. The success of the program depends not only on the hard work of the kids, but the hard and support of the parents.

## Band Booster Scholarship

Every year the Band Boosters offer a one-time scholarship to all students that have participated in band from 5th grade all the way through graduation. The scholarship amount is dependent upon how many students are in the graduating band class, and is rewarded after proof of enrollment at their college institution. Not only do the students have to finish their band career to be eligible, but parents must help their student become eligible as well.

By the time of graduation, a student's parent must have volunteered a total of 50 hours. ***\*The March 14, 2013 Band Booster minutes' state that graduating seniors of 2017 & thereafter (and/or their representatives) must have worked/volunteered 50 hours in order to receive a SHS Band Booster scholarship.*** \* There are numerous ways to earn hours every year. Ways such as: attending meetings, working home football games (JH and HS), volunteering at various events that are held every year.

## **A Champion's Creed (It's all in the state of mind)**

If you think you are beaten, you are;  
If you think you dare not, you don't;  
If you think you'd like to win, but you can't  
It's almost a cinch you won't.  
If you think you'll lose, you've lost;  
For out in the world you'll find  
Successes begin with a fellow's will;  
It's all in the state of mind.

For many a race is lost  
Before even the race is run,  
And many a coward fails  
Before even his work's begun.

Think big and your deeds will grow,  
Think small and you fall behind.  
Think that you can, and you will;  
It's all in the state of mind.

If you think you are outclassed, you are;  
You've got to think to rise;  
You've got to be sure of yourself  
Before you can ever win a prize.  
Life's battle doesn't always go to the  
Stronger or faster man;  
But sooner or later, the man who wins,  
Is the fellow who thinks he can!

## **A Special Note to Parents.....**

Parent involvement and interest in their child's musical growth can be the single most important factor in their total musical education. When parents are actively involved in their child's musical endeavors, the chances for success are exponentially greater than for the student whose parents show little or no interest.

It is important that through your actions, you show your child that you care about their musical development. You can show your support by attending concerts and contests and by attending civic and community or professional performances with your child. As much as possible, try to provide equipment and accessories that they may need and give them a productive place to practice. Praise your child when he/she practices regularly and offer encouragement when they don't. Ask your child how things are going in band class and have them play for you. Parents do not need prior musical experience to effectively support their child's development.

Band is not just about music. Like athletics, the band experience is about learning, performance, goal setting, competition, achievement, camaraderie, and most of all – learning life skills that will help every one of our members grow to be a successful adult. If we neglect important concepts such as accountability, responsibility, integrity, honesty, diligence, perseverance, and the ability to put others

before self, we would be ignoring the MOST important character traits that a person can have. These are not traits that just “happen” or that you are simply born with. We must all nurture and develop these traits within our organization.

Thirty years from now, your son or daughter may forget some of the techniques of playing a musical instrument, but what he/she learns in regard to character and integrity, will be with them for life.

### **In Closing.....**

The following quote depicts a view on attitude and persistence. It represents the type of direction that we want our students to take – not only as members of the Shelbyville Dragon Band, but also in life.

*“The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company. A church, or a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. WE cannot change our past and we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me, and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you. We are in charge of our attitudes.”*

---Charles Swindoll

### **Shelbyville Dragon Band Staff**

Head Band Director – Deshmond Johnson  
Assistant Band Director – Kasi Trent-Ashley  
Office: 936-591-9991  
Drill Team Sponsor – Emily Sowell  
Majorette Instructor/Sponsor – Jada Jones

## **APPENDIX**

### **ADDENDUM A 2018-2019 BAND CALENDAR**

The attached calendar for the 2018-2019 school year stretches from July 2018 through Summer Band 2019. This information is given to you to help you avoid scheduling conflicts. All of our rehearsals and performances are required, as attendance and participation is directly proportional to part of the band grading system.

We are aware circumstances arise that will create conflicts. Communication with the band directors is your responsibility. Hopefully you will understand that some of our dates may change, be added or deleted due to circumstances out of the band staff’s control.

If we work together, and communicate effectively, we can problem solve most scheduling conflicts. Your understanding and cooperation is appreciated.

(Posted, and updated, on [www.shelbyville.k12.tx.us](http://www.shelbyville.k12.tx.us) : Extracurricular Activities: Band)

## Addendum B Music Pass–Off Explanation

Students must pass off music as part of his/her grade. An assignment will be made with a due date. The student needs to pass off his/her music by that due date. A number grade will be given based on preparation, performance, and memory, if applicable. After the student plays and receives a grade, the director will instruct the student on what to work on and fix in order to make a higher grade. The student then has until the end of the Six Weeks Grading Period to make as many attempts to re-pass off the music for a higher grade as possible. As the music and performance improves, so will the grade.

If a zero has been inputted into the computer for an assignment, that zero may be made up for full credit until the end of the Six Weeks Grading Period, or until a different deadline has been set.

The goal of music pass off is to put responsibility on each individual to learn and memorize his/her part, so that the band will improve and experience success. This grading policy rewards effort and improvement.

Most Six Week Grading Periods will contain at least one piece of music that needs to be passed off. If you are not hearing your child play at home, then your child is most likely getting behind on his/her pass off grade.

## Addendum C Social Media Clause

Social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) must be treated with great respect to your position as a highly visible member of your auxiliary unit. You not only represent yourself, but also your family, school and community. As a member of a highly visible auxiliary unit, you shall not post images that expose your body in a distasteful or sexually enticing/explicit manner. You shall not post images of yourself displaying hand/gang signs, even if in jest. Furthermore, bullying is strictly prohibited in any way, including, but not exclusively through words or images. Please be aware that violations of this clause are subjective to the opinions of sponsors and administrators. You are expected to practice good judgement in the content that you post.

Violations of this clause will result in punishment in accordance with the SISD Student Handbook.