



# REDWATER HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK

*“Educating students for life-long success in music.”*

2018-2019

## Table of Contents

**Dragon Band Mission Statement**

**Directors Note**

**Philosophy**

**What The Band Program Will Offer To The Student**

**What Is Expected Of A Redwater Band Member**

**Classes Offered**

**Attendance Requirements / Discipline**

**Band Hall Usage And Expectations**

**Redwater Grading System / Eligibility**

**Band Travel**

**Instruments And Supplies**

**Uniforms**

**Band Awards**

**Scheduled Events**

**Other Band Activities**

**Leadership Team**

**Statement Of Compliance \*MUST BE ON FILE IN DIRECTOR'S OFFICE\***

## **Dragon Band Mission Statement**

We, the devoted members of the 2018-2019 Redwater Dragon Band will strive to adhere to the highest standard of responsibility and morality. We will set and achieve our goals marked with individual growth, excellence, and lasting relationships. While continually building upon our legacy, we WILL strengthen our character, focus, work ethic, and raise the bar for our future bands.

## **Redwater Band Department**

### **Directors Note**

The band directors for the Redwater Independent School District pledge to teach each and every band student to the best of our ability. It is our intention that all Redwater band members leave this establishment with a better understanding of the impact of music to all people. As a member of the Redwater Band Program, you have become one of the most important facets of this school system. It is important that YOU (Redwater Band Member) understand the leadership role that you play in this school district. We, the directors are proud to be a part of this program and look forward to the diligent work ahead. WELCOME TO THE REDWATER HIGH SCHOOL BAND!

### **PHILOSOPHY**

To teach the importance of self-discipline, cooperative learning, responsibility, and respect for others.

To teach students how to set and achieve goals set by themselves and by the help of others.

To understand and appreciate the enjoyment of music and other fine arts.

To encourage students to enjoy public appearances and perform to the best of their ability despite the obstacles that are presented.

### **WHAT THE BAND PROGRAM WILL OFFER TO THE STUDENT.**

The band members will receive the proper rehearsal area, lighting, seating, ventilation, horn storage, visual aid equipment, instruments, stands, and other equipment necessary to provide for the best learning atmosphere and appreciation for the art of music.

The band members will be encouraged and supported for the progress made from day to day as an ensemble as well as an individual.

The band members will receive a well-rounded appreciation and education for music through rehearsals, teaching, testing, performance, and participation.

The band members will be well supervised and discipline will be maintained at all times. Band members will be held accountable for all rules and regulations set by the band department, the local district, and by the state.

### **WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A REDWATER BAND MEMBER**

Be on time for all rehearsals.

Attend all rehearsals and be accountable for all absences.

Respect those in authority.

Follow all rules and regulations set by the band department, local district, and state. Be prepared to accept the consequences when these rules and regulations are broken.

Be cooperative, honest, and contribute to the program in a positive manner.

Practice and perform to the best of your ability at ALL times.

To maintain a standard of excellence in academic performance.

### **WHAT CLASSES ARE OFFERED BY THE REDWATER BANDS**

#### 1. Marching Band:

Marching Band will be offered to students who have completed a minimum of one year's experience in a school band program, or be able to show sufficient musical knowledge through an audition before acceptance into the program. The student must play a recognized band instrument. Any student who has been released or forfeits his/her position in the band program may apply for a remittance interview. The directors will evaluate each student's case. The directors reserve the right to accept or deny entry into the program for reasons that will be explained in full by the director of that ensemble.

Marching Band begins with Summer Band and continues until the end of football season. Summer Band starts two to four weeks BEFORE the first day of school, with exception of summer camps. Rehearsals during the curricular year are held before/during school and on Monday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with extra practices scheduled by section if needed. Some students in each section may be selected as alternates. In all cases the Directors determine placement. Any student missing any rehearsal or performance may lose placement status and become alternates. Students will play their show tunes from memory; this is called a pass-off. Failure to meet pass-off deadlines or failure to meet daily requirements may result in probation or suspension from band activities.

In order for a Redwater High School Band Student to be considered for placement in the yearly marching production, the student must first demonstrate an ability to maintain “eligibility-status” according to the *UIL Constitution and Contest Rules*, which means that a student must maintain an average of at least 70% in each of their classes. If a student becomes ineligible during any of the six week grading periods during an academic year, the director has the right to deny placement in the next season’s marching production; however, they are encouraged to remain enrolled in band during the fall semester in order to participate in concert season. The ineligible student will be held to the same standard of excellence while in marching band, and will be expected to participate in every facet of the marching band. Instead of being an active member of the marching production, they will be considered an “alternate”. The term “alternate” means that at some point during the marching season, the student may be expected to join the production when/if needed. In order to be prepared for this possible occurrence, the alternate marching band member will be required to attend all rehearsals (summer rehearsals, daily school rehearsals (including rehearsals before school), Monday night rehearsal, sectionals), attend all performances (football games, pep rallies, contests), and pass-off all music.

If the band student keeps their academic status at the “eligible” level for the entire academic year that they are considered an “alternate”, then they will earn an opportunity to be placed in the next year’s marching production. Alternate-status ends at the end of the marching season, and the student will be considered a regular member of the Redwater High School Band during concert season. Alternate status may also be assigned for any reason as deemed necessary by the Director of Bands.

## 2. Concert Band:

Preparation for concert band is ongoing. Concert season begins at the conclusion of marching season and continues until the end of the second semester. Students are placed on the basis of audition. Auditions are held at the end of the first semester or the beginning of the spring semester. New students are auditioned upon arrival. Sectional rehearsal attendance is necessary as scheduled.

The Concert Band is the varsity competing ensemble and the music performed is the highest degree of difficulty. Performances will include Concerts, UIL events, district, invitational festivals, and special events. In addition, extra rehearsals and clinics are occasionally scheduled during competition time; however, you will be given an update in January for all Spring rehearsals and clinics.

## 3. Applied Music:

Applied Music is offered to any band student in grades 9-12 who is interested in private lesson study. Lessons will focus on scales, arpeggios, etudes, and solo repertoire. Each student will be expected to practice during this class time on the material that is presented during the private lesson. Applied music is not part of marching or concert band, but merely an extension of the music program that enables students to become more proficient on his/her instrument.

4. Jazz Band:

High School Jazz Band shall be offered dependant on time available and student interest. This group meets during the regular curricular day. The directors reserve the right to accept or deny entry into the program for reasons that will be explained by the director of that ensemble.

### ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

All members are required to attend ALL rehearsals. Redwater band members are required to attend summer rehearsals, before/after school rehearsals, and ALL performances. If at any time a band member is forced to be absent he/she will notify the director of that ensemble BEFORE the rehearsal or performance. It is preferred that the parent or student talk with the director(s) in person if at all possible. Failure to contact the director may result in disciplinary actions. An unexcused absence may result in the dismissal from the program. The directors reserve the right to evaluate each instance for processing. There will be a full explanation of any actions taken.

*Note: Other attendance requirements that have been set by the district will be followed without question.*

### DISCIPLINE

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual. Because of this fact, each student is responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the Redwater Band. Any student that shows an inability to work effectively in class may be re-assigned to another class at the discretion of the band director and administration.

As a school group, the band is governed by local school board and state policies anytime we are together for any band function. The Statement of Compliance form you sign at the end of this handbook will be in effect through the year. **This form must be on file in the director's office.**

Any student that violates school rules while with the RHS Band will be subject to all usual school disciplinary procedures. In addition, those students will be subject to possible dismissal and will not continue to perform or travel with the band.

### BAND HALL USAGE AND EXPECTATIONS

#### **NO GUM, EATING OR DRINKING IN THE BAND HALL!!**

Band members should keep the rehearsal areas free from clutter and trash. All chairs, stands, music, and other supplies should be kept in the appropriate areas at all times. Band members will be the only students allowed to enter the band hall. The directors reserve the right to remove any person from the band hall who has not been given permission or who has lost the right to enter the facility. All activities in the band hall must be approved with the Director of Bands before use.

Each room in the music facility shall be used only as specified.

The instrument storage areas are for instrument storage ONLY. All instruments should be placed in the appropriate storage area with cases closed and latched at all times. No instrument will be stored in the storage room outside of the case. No personal instruments are to be left in the storage areas over the weekend, school vacations, or summer. No school instruments that are checked out should be left in the storage areas over the weekends or school vacations.

All music should be stored in the appropriate storage compartments.

We advise all students NOT to allow another student to “pick-up” his/her instrument for them. The Redwater Independent School District and Directors are not responsible for personal items lost from the band hall, storage areas, or practice rooms.

Other areas of the band hall such as director’s office and storage areas are private. No person other than the directors may enter or give permission to enter these areas.

Any items that a student or others wish to use that are property of the Redwater Band Department must be checked out with one of the directors. Any property that is checked out will be returned in the same condition. All cost of repair or replacement will be the responsibility of the person checking the property out.

Cell phones have become a very necessary part of our lives; however, proper usage of the cell phone must be observed. Cell phones are not allowed during rehearsals for any reason (please refer to the grading system below for an explanation of consequences).

During football games, students are given a break during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter; however, the loss of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter can be assigned if the following are not adhered to:

- Incomplete uniform
- More than two tardies during the week
- Unexcused absence from sectional or Monday night rehearsal
- Music not passed-off
- Violation of cell-phone policy during the week
- Tardy to the meeting time before a game
- Not having music at a football game
- *I reserve the right to amend this policy (with administrative approval)*

## REDWATER GRADING SYSTEM

All grades will be assigned in accordance with the Redwater Independent Schools approved scale. Grades for the Redwater Band members will include easily defined and attained objectives set by the directors of that ensemble. Examples of these objectives are a student's individual development and understanding of his/her instrument; involvement in the band as an individual member, as well as a "BAND" member (*cooperative learning skills*); the ability to rehearse intensely and with noted improvement from one rehearsal to the next. Students are expected to practice on an individual basis. Band is also an academic class for which students receive credit. It is to the detriment of the student and the band program if a student does not practice. Individual practice will also help the individual and the band program to achieve the desired level of success.

### **\*Grades will be determined objectively by the following:**

#### **1. Rehearsals**

- Rehearsals during school hours are worth 100 points each week. High School Band begins at 7:00am. Each tardy results in 6 points being subtracted from a student's grade. If a student skips a morning rehearsal and then checks in after 1<sup>st</sup> period to avoid a tardy, they will receive a zero for that day and may be replaced by an alternate.
- After-school sectionals and rehearsals are worth 100 points each. If a student is tardy to an after school sectional or rehearsal, 6 points is taken away for every 10 minutes the student is tardy. (1-10 minutes = 6 points; 11 – 20 minutes = 12 points; etc.) If a student is absent (unexcused) from a sectional or rehearsal, the grade is a zero.
- Cell phones are prohibited during a rehearsal. If a cell phone rings, or if a cell phone is visible during a rehearsal, it will be immediately confiscated by a director and turned into the office. There will be no warnings. During summer rehearsals, the cell phone will be confiscated and returned to a parent/guardian. In addition to the cell phone being confiscated, 50 points will be deducted from the weekly rehearsal grade, Monday night rehearsal grade, or sectional grade.
- Talking is prohibited during rehearsals. The students will be allowed to talk at specified times. If talking becomes a consistent issue, then the parent/guardian will be notified. If the issue is not corrected after that, then the student will be sent to the office.
- Students are expected to have ALL supplies necessary for rehearsal: instrument/equipment, music, drill charts, pencil, etc. If a student comes to band without the necessary items, 10 points will be deducted from their grade.
- ANY items found left out will result in 10 points deducted from the rehearsal grade.

#### **2. Performances**

- Each performance (games, concerts, contests, pep-rallies) is worth 100 points. An unexcused absence will result in a 0 for the student's grade. These absences cannot be made up and will result in a parent/teacher

conference with the possibility of removal from the program or loss of privileges within the program.

- In order for a student to receive full performance credit, they must be present and help move equipment from the performance location back to the band room. The student will check-out through a director when all equipment is put back in its proper place. You will not be dismissed from the performance until the entire band is ready to leave.
- During football games, the student is expected to be in the stands playing their instrument until they are dismissed to begin moving equipment at the end of the game.
- If any part of the uniform is incomplete, such as not having black socks, black shoes, black gloves, etc. by the time the director calls the meeting time, then the student will lose 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter privileges.

### 3. Pass-offs

- A pass-off is a student playing their music for a director, either with or without music, for a playing grade. Each pass-off is worth 100 points, and is considered to be a pass or fail grade. If the student fails to pass-off their music by the deadline, then 10 points will be deducted for every day the music is not passed-off.

The grading system for Redwater High School is weighted in two different categories: tests and daily grades. Each category is weighted equally – 50% per category.

**Tests:** performances, pass-offs

**Daily:** rehearsals (before/during school and after school)

## ELIGIBILITY

Most of the work that our students do outside of competitions/contests is considered curricular and not subject to eligibility. Free concerts, section rehearsals, concert rehearsals, and private lessons are all considered Curricular. Events that are considered Extra Curricular include:

- A) any event with paid admission
- B) any event that is inter-school competitive
- C) any event that is off campus

Should a band student become ineligible for extra-curricular functions, he/she will still be eligible for curricular functions.

“Eligibility set forth by the State of Texas according to 97.113(f), suspension from participation in extracurricular activities becomes effective seven days after the last day of the six weeks grading period during which the grade lower than a 70 was earned. The seven-day interim period begins with the close of school on the last day of the six weeks grading period and ends seven days later. For example, if the six weeks ends at 3:30 p.m. Friday, April 12, the suspension would take effect at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.”

It is also district policy that any student with a grade lower than a 65 in any College Level class at the end of the grading period will become ineligible.

## **BAND TRAVEL**

Redwater Independent School District Policy requires that all band members travel to performances or other band activities on school provided transportation. Students may be allowed to travel back from performances or band activities with the parent or legal guardian. The parent/legal guardian must sign the student out before leaving. The student will NOT be allowed to sign out with anyone other than the parent or legal guardian unless arrangements have been made prior to the trip.

**There will be NO exceptions to this rule!**

**The student MUST have an official, Band Department issued, “Emergency Medical Release Form” on file before being allowed to travel with the band.**

**An official, Band Department issued “Travel Permission Form” will be sent home via the student prior to the marching season.** This form will serve as permission to travel to any and all band events during the school year. Please Sign, Date, and Return this form. NOTES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!

All band trips will include directors and possible chaperones. Students will show respect to these adults at all times. If at any time a director, chaperone, or school driver gives a student specific instructions the student is expected to respond quickly and respectfully. All school handbook rules and guidelines will apply on all band trips.

Band parents are encouraged to travel with the band as official chaperones. In order to become an Official Chaperone, parents must pass a Background Check conducted by RISD. Please See Mr. Sutton for details.

For the safety of our students, any person that is not a band parent, sibling, or RISD student currently enrolled in band will not be allowed to ride in any RISD vehicle without written consent from RISD Administration. Furthermore, any person that is not a band parent, sibling, or RISD student currently enrolled in band attending a Redwater Band function, including extensions of the Redwater Band (Winterguard, Percussion Theatre, etc.) will be required to follow all guidelines associated with being a spectator of the event. This may include sitting in another location to view performances or other guidelines as seen fit by the Redwater Band and/or Contest/Competition Directors.

## INSTRUMENTS AND SUPPLIES

Students who use instruments owned by the Redwater Independent School District are responsible for the maintenance of those instruments. Damage and repairs to school owned instrument is the responsibility of the student, this includes all cost. Any damage or malfunctions of the school owned instruments should be reported to the director immediately.

A \$20 rental fee per semester, per instrument must be on record for each instrument checked out to the student. This rental fee will cover incidental usage maintenance, but not repairs.

### INSTRUMENT INSPECTION:

Inspection of instruments will be held periodically as deemed appropriate by the Director.

#### A) Woodwind Instruments:

There should not be any lipstick on the reeds. Instruments are to be clean and free of dust/dirt under the keys. Lacquered and silver horns must be shiny and free of fingerprints and dirt. There should not be deposits inside the mouthpiece.

#### B) Brass Instruments:

Valves and slides should be clean and work freely. Instrument should be clean, shiny, and free of fingerprints and dirt. There should not be deposits inside the mouthpiece.

#### C) Percussion Instruments:

Drumheads should be clean with no holes or rips. Drum shells and chrome should be clean and polished. Harnesses should be clean and all connections secure. Cymbals should be polished and all pit equipment should be in good repair with all bolts and screws tight. All sticks and mallets should be in good repair and taped properly.

### WOODWIND:

All woodwind players should have the necessary supplies to maintain his/her instrument. (**3 playable reeds at all times**, swabs, flute tuning rods, etc.)

### BRASS:

All brass players should have the necessary supplies to maintain his/her instrument. (Oil, cleaning brushes, etc.)

### PERCUSSION:

All percussion players should have the necessary supplies to maintain his/her instrument. (drum sticks, drum key, etc.)

### MUSIC:

All students are responsible for their music. Students will be given original music during concert season, and replacement of individual music is costly.

## **UNIFORMS**

The District purchases the Band uniforms. Students are issued a uniform at the beginning of the school year. The student assumes responsibility for their uniform and should take great care in its upkeep. If the uniform is damaged while in the student's care, the student will assume the cost of repair or replacement necessary. The uniform will be cleaned periodically throughout the year. If a uniform needs additional dry-cleaning between these times, then it is the responsibility of the student to have it cleaned. If a director notices that the uniform is dirty, or it is extremely wrinkled, then the student will be instructed to have the uniform dry-cleaned immediately.

All band students are required to be in full uniform for every performance. Any student not in full uniform will not be allowed to participate with the band.

Inspections of uniforms and instruments will be made at any time the director deems necessary. It is the student's responsibility to make certain all items are in good condition at all times.

If a student shows up to uniform inspection without gloves and/or black socks, a new pair will be issued to them and the student's account will be charged.

## **BAND AWARDS**

All awards will be given based on achievement during the year. All U.I.L. rules and regulations will be followed.

### **LETTER JACKETS:**

U.I.L. rules allow a student to receive only one award of this type for the entire high school enrollment. In addition to the guidelines stated below, members must maintain their academic eligibility for participation to qualify for the letter jacket award. Each award below is given at the conclusion of the year stated.

### **FRESHMEN:**

Freshmen band members that make the A.T.S.S.B. Area Wind Ensemble will automatically qualify for this award. Freshmen who serve two years on the winterguard or winter percussion will also qualify for this award.

### **SOPHOMORES:**

Sophomore band members will qualify for this award by successfully completing the following during their freshman AND sophomore years:

- 1) Participate in ALL U.I.L. scheduled events: Marching Contest, Solo & Ensemble Contest, and Concert & Sight Reading Contest (both years).
- 2) Participate in the Region Band audition process (both years).

#### JUNIORS:

Junior band members that successfully complete the third year as a member of the Redwater Band will qualify for this award.

#### SENIORS:

Members that move in from another district as a senior and have not received a letter jacket from a previous district will receive this award.

### **SCHEDULED EVENTS**

A schedule of events will be sent home at the beginning of the school year. An updated schedule will be sent out via email as the year progresses. In the occurrence that a new event, not previously stated on the Schedule of Events, is scheduled, the Director of Bands will inform students of the change as soon as possible. Please remember that members are required to participate in ALL band events. Members and Parents are encouraged to check the Band Website, located at [www.redwaterisd.org](http://www.redwaterisd.org) for information.

### **OTHER BAND ACTIVITIES**

Other activities are often scheduled for the Redwater Bands. These activities are intended to be educational and rewarding for the student's hard work and diligence. The Redwater Band will not participate in a "brochure" fundraiser for raising money to fund the program. To replace the funds that were originally raised through this form of fundraising, ALL Redwater Band members shall pay a \$25 participation fee. This fee shall be paid at the beginning of the school year. The participation fee shall be used to help defer the cost of the many trips and functions during the year.

Brochure fundraisers will be used for the sole purpose of raising money for large trips, where-as the student is required to fundraise money that will be placed into their individual account through the Redwater Band.

The Band Booster organization will be the main source of fundraising for the band programs. Fund-raisers sponsored by the Redwater Band Boosters will be the responsibility of the Booster organization to manage and organize.

Remember: **Anyone can be a Band Booster!**

### **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Students will have the opportunity to become part of the Leadership Team in the Spring semester by completing the leadership application.

Positions available for the leadership team may include:

Drum Major(s), Color Guard Captain(s), Section Leaders, Band Captain, Librarian(s), and Loading Crew Captain.



**REDWATER ISD MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

Statement of Compliance with Handbook Guidelines

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the parent of \_\_\_\_\_,  
*(Please Print)* *(Please Print)*

have received the Redwater High School Handbook and agree to follow and abide  
by its contents.

STUDENT  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

**DO NOT WRITE BELOW – FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

**Date Received** \_\_\_\_\_

**Director Initials** \_\_\_\_\_