



**Ridge Point High School
Band and Guard Handbook**

www.rpband.org

About This Handbook

This handbook is a resource of information on the policies and activities of the Ridge Point High School Band Program. It is issued to band members and parents by the band directors in order to provide basic information in regards to the program. All band members and parents are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the contents of this handbook, and must complete and return the enclosed Membership Acknowledgement Form in order to participate in the Ridge Point Band. This handbook is designed to function in harmony with the FBISD Student Code of Conduct and FBISD Board policies. This handbook is a living document. The band directors retain the authority to amend band policies if such action is deemed necessary in order to secure the interest of the overall band program.

The Ridge Point Band Philosophy of Music Education

Music is a subject that affects many aspects of the human personality. It shapes individuals on an intellectual, physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual, and social level. Instrumental music can foster a lifelong appreciation of music as an art form. Instrumental music also fosters a sense of cultural awareness as well as an aesthetic appreciation for the arts. The Ridge Point Band Program engages students in a group activity that can enrich their life, personally and socially. It develops proper work habits through the successful implementation of a daily practice routine. It develops confidence and promotes students' abilities of self-expression and intelligent listening skills that encourage heightened communication skills. It is a departmental goal to instill in every member of the Ridge Point Band a lifelong appreciation for music and to consistently embrace the ideals of self-discipline, commitment, and teamwork. Through the cooperation of band students, parents, campus administration, the community, and the Fort Bend Independent School District, the Ridge Point Band will strive to provide a music program that is consistently recognized as one of the finest of its kind.

Objectives

The Ridge Point Band Program, which encompasses wind, percussion, and guard students, forms an integral part of school life and is recognized as a co-curricular activity. The Ridge Point Band is one of the largest and most visible student organizations on campus, and its members consistently project a positive representation of their community.

The Primary Objective of the band program is to serve its members with the following opportunities for the duration of their membership:

Cultural Opportunities- to facilitate the continued development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of outstanding music literature.

Educational Opportunities- to develop interested and discriminating listeners, provide a well-rounded music education, and prepare students for musical and academic pursuits beyond high school.

Leadership Opportunities- to foster exceptional personal values through the emphasis of teamwork and integrity.

Service Opportunities- to lend color and atmosphere to certain school and community affairs while promoting and enhancing the distinction and reputation of Ridge Point High School at all appearances.

Recreational Opportunities- to provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of leisure time, an emotional outlet, and quality social experiences.

Sincerely,

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Individual Band Responsibilities

No student is required to take part in the instrumental music program or University Interscholastic League contests, therefore, participation should be considered a PRIVILEGE, not a right (NOTE: this refers to the general student population at Ridge Point; enrolled band students are REQUIRED to attend all band rehearsals and performances, and such events are graded). It is imperative that students and parents understand the following rules and procedures. **Note: Band students may not audition or be placed into the guard program, nor may a guard member leave the guard program in order to play an instrument in the band program. This includes both fall marching season and winter guard season.**

Performance Responsibilities

Students are placed into an appropriate ensemble based on a blind audition and director recommendation that will ensure their success and continued musical growth. Our curriculum is designed to improve individual and ensemble performing skills throughout the year. The responsibilities for students in each group are outlined below:

Wind Ensemble

- Performance of marching music by memory
- Participation in marching band
- Preparation of All-Region music during the fall, with Smart Music, recording, and live performance tests assigned periodically
- Participation in All-Region Band/Orchestra auditions if selected by directors.
- Performance of a solo and an ensemble at RPHS Solo/Ensemble and UIL Solo/Ensemble if desired.
- Performance of concert music as assigned by directors, in addition to Smart Music assignments.
- Participation in full orchestra rehearsals, performances, and contests if selected.
- Attendance at section rehearsals, master classes, and full band rehearsals before and after school.
- Students in the Wind Ensemble are expected to fully participate in all performance obligations, including approved travel.
- This group competes in UIL Varsity Concert and Sight Reading during the Spring semester.

Symphonic Band

- Performance of marching music by memory
- Participation in marching band
- Preparation of All-Region music during the fall, with Smart Music, recording, and live performance tests assigned periodically.
- Participation in All-Region Band/Orchestra auditions if selected by directors.
- Performance of a solo and ensemble at RPHS Solo/Ensemble contest and UIL contest if desired.
- Performance of concert music as assigned by directors, in addition to Smart Music assignments.
- Attendance at section rehearsals, master classes, and full band rehearsals before and after school.
- Students in Symphonic Band are expected to fully participate in all performance activities, including approved travel.

Concert Band

- Performance of marching music by memory
- Participation in marching band
- Audition for All-Region Band/Orchestra is optional and determined by directors.
- Performance of a solo and ensemble as assigned by directors.

- Performance of concert music and Smart Music assignments as directed.
- Attendance at section rehearsals, master classes, and sectionals, before and after school.

Attendance

All band courses require some rehearsals and performances outside of the school day. Band members are required to attend All activities and rehearsals. Those who must miss a rehearsal, activity, or performance must consult with one of the directors WELL IN ADVANCE of the function. Failure to attend a rehearsal, activity, or performance without prior permission or good cause may result in suspension from future activities or performances or grade deduction.

- Section rehearsals shall be no more than 90 minutes in length and no more than one per school week, per ensemble. For example, students enrolled in multiple groups may have more than one sectional per week.
- Rehearsals shall be during the school day with the exception of section rehearsals, after school rehearsals for marching band, and (see below)
- One full band rehearsal per week outside of the regular school day for concert organizations. Rehearsals outside of the regular school day for concert organizations shall not exceed three hours per week. Special exceptions may be made for paid clinicians and special occasions, such as dress rehearsals.
- Regularly scheduled sectionals, rehearsals, and concerts are curricular and have no academic eligibility requirements. Student members are expected to participate fully in all rehearsals regardless of eligibility.
- Students **MUST** participate fully in all performance activities of the group in which they are a member, including approved travel. After school begins, please do not schedule a family event or trip that conflicts with a band function. Work, doctor's appointments unless in the case of emergency, and vacations **do not** constitute an acceptable excuse from a band function.
- An excused absence is one that the director has prior knowledge of and/or is based on an acceptable reason, to be determined by director discretion.
- An unexcused absence is one that the director has no prior knowledge of and/or is based on a reason that is unacceptable to the instructor, or is not handled in a timely manner.

Marching Band

The Marching Band consists of every high school band student grades 9 through 12. The Marching Band will perform at every football game and will attend all scheduled band contests. A complete schedule for marching band rehearsals and performances is available on the band website. Any alteration in the schedule will be communicated to the students as soon as possible.

Primary and Alternate Marching Positions

Students are placed in a primary or alternate marching band position according to criteria set by the band directors, including attendance, preparation, playing ability, attitude, and academics. A student may be moved from a primary marching position to an alternate position and vice versa for failure to comply with the band standards of the above-mentioned factors. This may be done at any time in order to facilitate the best experience possible for all band members. Students in a Primary marching position will perform at ALL marching band performances. Students in an alternate marching band position will perform at all marching band performances, with the exception of competitive marching show performances. All students are required to attend ALL rehearsals.

Concert Season

The directors will develop a sectional and rehearsal schedule for each band at the beginning of the semester that will be available on the band website. These sectionals and rehearsals will usually begin once marching season is

over and continue throughout the concert season. When possible, the directors will attempt to schedule sectionals at times that do not conflict with individual students' school-related activities.

Rehearsal/Performance Schedules

The band calendar is always available on the band website. Please check the calendar and report any conflicts to the directors. Attendance at all performances and rehearsals is a requirement of the class. If an excused absence is anticipated, written notification should be submitted as soon as the students/parents are aware of the conflict and no later than **two** days in advance of a rehearsal or **one** month in advance of a performance.

Auditions

Tryout Procedures

Each spring and winter, ALL students will audition for placement into one of the band classes. This placement will be determined by a blind audition on music materials selected by the director and on the student's past performance and/or recommendation from the previous director(s). No spot is guaranteed in ANY ensemble to any student, regardless of a student's seniority, playing ability, or other merit. The directors reserve the right to move a student to a different ensemble if they deem it necessary. **No** student will be permanently enrolled in any band until this audition is completed.

Leadership Positions

Auditions for band leadership positions are scheduled and held late in the spring semester and are open to rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Auditions are comprised of a rigorous tryout process involving leadership training, paperwork, an evaluation of marching skills, an evaluation of teaching skills, an evaluation of conducting skills (drum majors only) and student interview with directors. Audition dates are posted on the band calendar well in advance. Directors and guest adjudicators will evaluate these auditions.

Awards

Awards will be presented to band/orchestra students based on a point system for participation and service.

- Freshman Region Band 3 points
- District Band 2 points
- Region Band/Orchestra 3 points
- Region Jazz Ensemble 3 points
- Area Band/Orchestra 4 points
- All State Band/Jazz/Orchestra 8 points
- UIL Solo (Division I) 3 points
- UIL Ensemble (Division I) 2 points
- State Solo (Division I) 6 points
- State Solo (Division II) 3 points
- State Ensemble (Division I) 4 points
- Full Orchestra (band members) 2 points
- Senior 10 points*
- Participation each year 2 points

*These points count only for students who have not received an award by their senior year. They may not be used to receive a second award letter.

Band members who are participating in the color guard during marching season may choose their award for band or color guard. However, a student may not combine points earned to receive an award.

A student may receive only one major award for combined activities during his/her four years in high school and no more than one award per year for participation in the same organization.

Director Responsibilities

The band staff will enforce FBISD awards rules and regulations, as well as determine when band students will be fitted for Letter Jackets during the school year. It is each student's responsibility to keep track of points earned and notify the directors when he/she thinks that enough points have been earned to merit an award. The directors are responsible to verify that a student has earned enough points to qualify for the award and to communicate to the appropriate assistant principal that an award is warranted. Directors do not order individual Letters or Award Jackets for students.

Band Boosters (RPBB)

The main objectives of the Ridge Point High School Band Boosters is to support and enhance the band and guard program and to provide program communication to students and parents. All parents are encouraged to become members of the Band Boosters. Participation is optional. Attendance at all performances and meetings is encouraged.

There are various expenses necessary to run a quality band program not covered by the school district. Such expenses include top clinicians, contest fees and expenses, meals for students, student leadership conferences, student scholarships, etc. The vast majority of the booster club budget is spent on educational activities. We encourage all parents and students to participate in Booster Club fundraising activities throughout the school year.

Band Member Dues

As part of a high-quality band and guard program, students are required to pay a yearly membership fee. There are various scholarships available to cover band fees for students with financial need. No student will be kept from participating because of fees; however, the financial responsibility of participating in the band program can be offset by various fundraisers and scholarships, such as the Dern Scholarship. Yearly fees are determined prior to each school year by the directors and band boosters and are approved by the school principal. All dues are paid to the RPBB other than the School Instrument Use fee, which is paid to FBISD. Fees are **non-negotiable** except by scholarship or sponsorship.

Conduct and Due Process

All students are to conduct themselves properly at all times. Display of temper, profanity, flagrant violation of rules, possession of or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, etc. will not be tolerated. **Any** behavior which is not conducive to good citizenship will subject the student to "Due Process" that may result in **dismissal** from the organization. "Due Process" shall be defined as a student's right to discuss with the instructor and principal any decision regarding action that would result in the student's loss of grade, suspension from activities, or expulsion from the organization.

Band Rehearsal Guidelines

- Be seated with instrument, music, pencil, and supplies **two** minutes after the tardy bell rings.

- Show good rehearsal etiquette by being a good team player- pay close attention to all instruction and mark your music when you receive instructions from the director(s).
- Remain on task at all times; do not talk or interrupt the focus of a rehearsal.
- Maintain proper posture and hand position at all times, which is important for all players.
- Raise your hand and ask questions if you need more individual help.
- Leave instrument cases in your locker **at all times** unless you are using the case.
- Do not leave purses, cell phones, or other valuables unlocked in the band hall; **all students** are required to have a lock on his/her locker.
- **No food, gum, or drink is allowed in the band hall.** We take pride in keeping our band hall clean and organized.
- All instruments remain in cases with latches closed inside a locker when not in use.
- Lockers shall remain clean. Items other than instruments, music, and accessories should not be kept in lockers. If such items are found in lockers, they will be removed.
- Backpacks may remain in lockers; however, clothes and other personal belongings must remain in a bag or backpack.
- No food should be left in lockers.
- Disorderly behavior and abusive language will not be tolerated.
- Please be considerate of directors' requests for assistance and/or performance of tasks around the band hall.

Due Process will be followed precisely as outlined in the FBISD Extracurricular Handbook. Students and/or parents may discuss any item of concern with their respective directors at an appropriate time in the appropriate place. If a satisfactory resolution has not been reached, the students/parents may contact the student's grade-level principal to discuss the matter further. If the concern has not been resolved by either the directors or the grade-level principal, the parents may contact the campus principal to address their concern.

Online Protocol

Students and parents must maintain a high standard of online conduct which will include ensuring that band member websites are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Vine, emailing, texting, or other band related forums, etc., appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Members are responsible for their personal websites and postings, as well as posting from or on other students' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include but are not limited to: profane, foul, or disrespectful language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, references to alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, and postings (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as negative or threatening towards other FBISD teaching staff or band members, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other bands. Ridge Point Band/Guard members **will not post in the comments section on Youtube videos as representatives of the RP Band.** Any such incident will result in review by the band director (or designee) and may lead to probation or dismissal from the band.

Band members that violate the above internet guidelines shall be subject to the following:

- Upon confirmation of a first violation, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the website(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior

to the principal, directors, and band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior. The student may also be suspended from performance for the next 20 days.

- Upon confirmation of a second offense, students will be suspended from performances for the next 40 days.
- Upon confirmation of a third offense, the member will be removed from the band program.

Eligibility

Academic Eligibility Rules

A student shall be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the three week period following a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than 70% in any class other than an identified honors or advanced class. This suspension continues for at least three weeks and is not removed during the school year until the student's grade in each class, other than an identified honors or advanced class, is 70% or greater. A student **will** continue to practice or rehearse with other students, but may not participate in performances until the suspension is lifted. A suspended student may regain eligibility seven days after the grading period ends or seven days after a three week evaluation period.

A student must meet the following requirements in order to participate in extracurricular activities during the first six weeks of the fall semester:

NINTH GRADE- PROMOTED from the eighth grade to the ninth grade.

TENTH GRADE- earned at least five (5) state approved credits towards graduation.

ELEVENTH GRADE- earned at least ten (10) state approved credits towards graduation, or during the preceding twelve months he/she must have earned five approved state credits.

TWELFTH GRADE- earned at least fifteen (15) state approved credits towards graduation, or during the preceding twelve months he/she must have earned five state approved credits.

Rules Relating to UIL Competition

No student may take part in any University Interscholastic League competition who, at the time of the contest, has not been a bona fide regular attendant of the school for fifteen (15) calendar days, or since the sixth day of the current school year.

No student shall take part in any UIL contest after the end of the fourth consecutive year following enrollment in the ninth grade, and/or third consecutive year following enrollment in the tenth grade.

No school may issue and no student may receive an award for participation in inter school competition in excess of \$50 (or the equivalent in value) during his/her enrollment in the same high school. Additional symbolic awards not to exceed \$8.00 each may be presented for each additional inter school activity each year. Students must abide by all other rules as set forth by UIL in Austin, Texas.

Grading Guidelines

Learning objectives are based on performance skills, responsibility, and participation. Therefore, students are expected to fulfill individual as well as group responsibilities.

Since band is a performance-based course and a team activity, all students are required to attend all performances and rehearsals. Therefore, students may have points deducted for the following:

- Unexcused absence from rehearsals that are extensions of classroom activities, such as sectional rehearsals and full band after school rehearsals.
- Unexcused absence from a performance of any kind.
- Behavior issues of any kind.
- Failure to complete any assignment.
- Unexcused absence from Region/Area/State Orchestra or Band, or Region Jazz Band, if selected.
- Failure to complete Region Recording assignments, Smart Music assignments, or etc.

Students must be committed to developing individual academic and musical skills and be disciplined with expectations and deadlines. A band member's grade will be an average of the following:

Participation

- The student will receive a grade for each before and after school sectional and rehearsal during a grading period.
- The student will be on task and focused during all rehearsals.
- The student will have instrument, music, pencil, and supplies.
- The student will be prepared to play his/her part successfully.
- The student will mark music and take notes as needed.

Fundamentals and Skills

- The student will be expected to improve performance fundamentals.
- The student will be evaluated for improvement of music fundamentals through daily observation during the skill-building part of each rehearsal and during sectionals.
- The student will be expected to demonstrate correct posture, hand position, embouchure, breathing, air support, articulation, technique, and attentiveness as monitored during rehearsals.
- The student will be expected to improve individual and ensemble music skills.
- The student's individual skill development will be evaluated through playing tests and written tests.
- The student will be expected to develop a historical knowledge of the literature relative to his/her respective instrument, as well as the band and orchestra literature considered to be canon.

Performance

- The student will receive a grade for each performance during a grading period.
- The number of performances will be determined by the performance calendar and at director discretion.
- If no public performance occurs during a grading period, the performance grade will be based upon criteria determined by the director.

Additional Criteria Affecting Grades

- Excused Absences:

In accordance with FBISD policy, all excused absences will be honored with no grade penalty.

These will include:

- Medical emergency
- Death in the family
- Family emergency
- Religious holiday

Circumstances **may** justify an excused absence for reasons other than those listed above in accordance with FBISD policy. However, justification is determined at the discretion of the directors and no absence is guaranteed to be excused.

- Unexcused Absences:

An unexcused absence to a before or after school sectional or rehearsal will result in a reduction of grade by the directions **in addition to removal from the primary marcher roster** during marching band season, or lowering of chair placement during concert band rehearsals.

Instruments

Individual Equipment

Students will be required to purchase some materials for their uniform, as well as all materials necessary to perform on their instrument, listed below. Additionally, **all** students must have a pencil, folder for music, and a tuner/metronome.

Fort Bend ISD does not provide insurance for individually owned equipment. Insurance may be purchased by the parent/guardian.

Brass:

- Mouthpiece
- Valve Oil/Rotary oil for horns and tubas.
- Slide Grease
- Slide-O-Mix and Spray Bottle for Trombones.

Woodwinds

- Mouthpiece
- Cork Grease for reed instruments.
- **Three** high quality reeds to be swapped daily.
- Cleaning swab to be used daily.

School-Owned Equipment

Each member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him/her for their personal use. Equipment is to be used, not abused. All students using a school-owned instrument are required to pay a fee of **\$80 per year** to FBISD. No charge will be made to the student if the instrument becomes damaged due to normal wear and tear. However, damages caused by fire, theft, accidental destruction, or abuse will be charged to the student.

All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.

School owned instruments are furnished by the school for purpose of avoiding large expenditures to the parent, and to provide a well-rounded instrumentation for the performing organizations. Students who use a school owned instrument will be expected to practice this instrument a reasonable amount of time each day. Failure to do so may result in their instrument being taken up and re-issued to a student who will make better use of it.

Personal Instruments

A quality band program requires quality musical instruments. A list of recommended instruments is available in the band office. If a purchase is needed, the staff will be most happy to consult with the student and parents in order to avoid an inappropriate purchase and to assist in obtaining the best possible price for the instrument. **Please** consult with the directors before making any purchase of a musical instrument or accessories, as there are countless “knock-off” alternatives to high-quality instruments that will require frequent maintenance and leave the students dissatisfied with progress.

With all personal instruments, it is strongly recommended that the instrument be insured through your homeowner’s policy or a private company. The school district **will not** assume liability for maintenance, repair, or damage of personal instruments.

School Owned Instruments

Fort Bend ISD furnishes some musical instruments for student use.

Students must provide their own personal accessories such as mouthpiece, various mutes, drum sticks, mallets, and reeds. The student is responsible for damage to the instrument while in his/her possession. The instrument will be inspected at the end of the year for damage and the student must pay for any repairs.

Marching Band

The marching band is a highly visible aspect of the band program which provides performance opportunities for band students and integrates band into school and community activities. As an integral part of the band program, the District’s philosophy is that educationally, historically, and musically, marching band is an essential ingredient in a well-rounded music education. FBISD believes that students need to develop the ability to participate and perform in different ensemble experience which includes marching band.

Summer Rehearsals

There will be a series of summer rehearsals prior to the beginning of the school year which all students participating in the marching band **MUST** attend. These rehearsals will begin prior to the beginning of school and will be held daily, except for weekends, until school begins.

State Curriculum Requirements

The music and performance skills and techniques, along with the associated academic skills in the band program, are derived from implementation of the expectations found in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). The curriculum specifically includes requirements such as demonstrating musical skills and artistry, performing in different musical mediums, and experiencing music through a wider range of music literature, which are addressed through the marching band. Each performance by the marching band provides students the opportunity to demonstrate musical artistry through the

ensemble, individual music performance skills and techniques, marching performance skills and techniques, and critical thinking skills that include auditory, spatial, and visual awareness.

Participation

Marching band is required for all high school students who elect to take the academic band performance or color guard courses. Exceptions are granted for those students who play a school-sponsored sport that conflicts with Marching Band, such as football and volleyball. Any other conflicts should be addressed with the directors before the beginning of summer band in August.

Academic Standards

The opportunity for weekly performance is a motivating factor for academic achievement for marching band students, since only by maintaining eligibility can they continue to perform in the contest drill.

Competitions

The marching band will attend UIL Marching Contests. The marching band may enter other additional marching contests as determined by directors.

Grading

Since marching band is a part of the academic band course and therefore, part of the graded curriculum, students in marching band are responsible for assimilating the academic aspects of the band elective as found in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Attendance at rehearsals and performances is mandatory (see page 5) and will be integrated into the students' grade for band in accordance with the TEA/UIL guidelines and FBISD policies/procedures.

Physical Education Waiver

As an artistic endeavor, each rehearsal and performance by the marching band is mentally and physically demanding. For the full marching band performance, students are always on task and must bring to the experience their best performance skills. As a result, each student in the marching band is eligible to receive a waiver for the physical education requirement in accordance with TEA guidelines and FBISD policies/procedures.

Instruments

Marching band students who play an instrument that the district does not provide must personally provide, march, and perform with the same instrument they use in concert band or a second instrument that is listed on the FBISD recommended instrument list. For example, bassoon students may be asked to perform on a saxophone, clarinet, etc.

The district assumes no responsibility for maintaining instruments they do not supply. Since these instruments will be played outside in various weather situations (sun, heat, wind, rain, etc.), students and parents need to be vigilant regarding instrument maintenance to keep the student's instrument in top playing condition.

Practice Time Limits

Marching Band practice times are closely regulated by TEA/UIL guidelines. Adherence to these guidelines is the responsibility of the Head Band Director and is monitored by the Director of Fine Arts. TEA and UIL rules state:

The members of marching band or any of its components may not begin the marching preparation for a UIL contest presentation prior to August 1st. In addition, no more than ten hours of director-supervised instructional time may be devoted to marching fundamentals between the end of the previous school term and August 1st.

Music preparation is not affected by this ten-hour rule between August 1st and the first day of school. Practice schedules are determined by the Head Band Director and Principal. During the school year, no more than 8 hours of rehearsal per week, outside of the school day, is allowed. Exceptions to this 8-hour rule include sectionals, as well as preparation immediately before games and competitions.

Summer Heat Guidelines

- Rehearsal dress includes shorts, a light colored t-shirt, hat or cap, tennis shoes (cross trainers preferred), and socks. For health and safety reasons, students will not be allowed to march in any other footwear (this includes boat shoes, slippers, etc.)
- Students must have their individual water jug labeled with them at all rehearsals. Water jugs will be kept on the sideline, lined up along with backpacks and cases (for woodwinds), and frequent water breaks will be taken.
- Students should eat breakfast and drink plenty of fluids before morning rehearsals. Good nutrition is a must to remain healthy during marching season.
- Length of water breaks will be determined by directors. There are generally two types of water breaks: 1.) "Sip-n-Go", where the students will run to the sideline, get a brief drink of water, then return to rehearsal, and 2.) Extended water breaks, which may last up to ten minutes. There will usually only be one extended water break per rehearsal block.
- Students are trained by the directors to watch for signs of dehydration. Students should monitor their bodies to make sure they perspire heavily during rehearsal. Lack of perspiration is a sign of dehydration.
- Students should sit down immediately if dizzy or weak. A staff member will provide assistance.
- During summer rehearsals, directors will constantly monitor the weather conditions and make adjustments as necessary for the safety of the students.
- Water will be provided by the Booster Club for students at games and competitions, as well as during portions of summer band rehearsal for refills.

Medical Release Form

All students enrolled in band must have a Medical Release Form on file in the directors' office no later than the end of the first week of the new school year. **No one** will travel or perform with the band without this form on file.

Orchestra

Wind and percussion students participating in full orchestra must have concurrent membership in the band program. Interested students will audition in November, and band members that are selected are required to be present at all orchestra rehearsals and sectionals.

Private Lessons

Ridge Point High School prides itself on having many of the finest private instructors in the Houston area. It is highly encouraged that students take full advantage of the private lesson program. Private

lessons are provided for interested students as an enrichment program in Band. Private study is encouraged, but not required, to participate in the band program. The advantages of a one-on-one experience are overwhelming. Private study fees are consistent throughout the district and are determined by the Director of Fine Arts. The current fees are between \$20 and \$23 per half hour lesson. Private instructors are hired, supervised, and evaluated by the band directors and must complete a Criminal History Check and pay a Building Use Fee.

Master Classes and Guest Clinicians

As an incentive to students that are placed into either the Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble, we will have twice-monthly master classes with professionals on individual instruments. This is offered **free of charge** to students in these classes. Additionally, we will often have guest band clinicians travel to work with our students in full band classes or sectionals. Students are expected to show the utmost respect towards these guest clinicians and master class teachers. **Any** student who acts inappropriately towards a guest clinician or master class teacher, whether through poor attitude, disrespectful comments, foul language, etc. will be subject to immediate **removal** from the band program.

Transportation

If a student is required to leave from an event or activity, the parent/legal guardian of the student must provide written notification to the instructor prior to the student leaving and the student may leave **ONLY** with that parent/guardian as stated in the written notification. Students **MAY NOT** leave with anyone except a parent or guardian. A telephone call confirming the written notification may also be requested.

Travel

It should be understood by both parent and student that the marching band and concert organizations may be involved in out-of-district travel and that students who participate in these organizations must also participate in the travel. This may include a limited number of overnight trips for some competitive events. If the parent does not want the student to travel, the student should register for an organization that does travel so extensively.

All members represent the school and community and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with the following regulations when traveling in or out of the district:

- Be on time for trips
- Dress as directed
- Be mannerly
- Avoid excessive noise on the bus
- Return on the same bus
- Return equipment to its proper storage place on returning to the school.

Also note that any student that disrespects or argues with a parent chaperone while on a trip (football game, contest, overnight travel, etc.) will be promptly **removed** from the trip and parents will be expected to either pick up their student or pay for transportation to send the student home.

Overnight Travel Requirements

- Extra-curricular trips (Disney, etc.) are not mandatory for any member and will not affect their status or grade in any way. However, students in the top performing music ensembles do have a travel expectation. Additionally, travel to events such as contests, UIL, etc. is mandatory as these are co-curricular events. Since participation in our music program is a team effort, any student not participating in a trip should advise the directors well in advance of the trip (a minimum of nine weeks). The directors can then initiate alternate arrangements to cover for missing students.
- When traveling, each student must meet all local and state eligibility requirements to participate in the competition. Students who are ineligible may not travel with the bands.
- Students must be able to satisfactorily perform the material assigned for the performance(s).
- Students must have attended scheduled rehearsals.
- Students must fulfill their financial obligation.

Uniforms

- The district provides uniforms for high school music groups, which are mandatory for participation in band performances. The individual student must provide uniform accessories as appropriate. Students are responsible for repair or replacement of any damaged or unreturned uniform parts.
- Marching Uniforms will be stored at school and issued before each performance. These uniforms will be returned after each performance prior to leaving the school.\
- Some uniforms may require minor alterations such as adjusting the hem of the pants. Make sure that the hem is simply raised or lowered, and that no material is removed from the garment. Students are responsible for providing personal accessories to their uniform. These accessories may include gloves, marching shoes, undershirt, t-shirt, etc. During concert season, students will provide black dress socks and undergarments; however, tuxedos and dresses are provided.

Membership Acknowledgment Form

I have read and understand all of the policies contained within this document. I am fully aware that any violation of the above policies and procedures is punishable to the full extent defined by the guidelines set forth above. I furthermore understand that my responsibility as a member of the Ridge Point Band and Guard is to treat others and myself with respect, dignity, and understanding. I will, to the best of my ability, display exemplary professionalism and class at all times, and I understand that by choosing to display characteristics other than these that I endanger the reputation of not only the Ridge Point Band Program but that of Ridge Point High School and the Fort Bend Independent School District.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

