

2018-2019 MIGHTY REBEL BAND HANDBOOK

The band program at Lee Freshman and Lee Senior High Schools offers a unique educational experience in which you may gain not only musical skills and a lifelong appreciation of music, but discipline, self-confidence and a sense of accomplishment by working with others toward the common goal of excellence. As a member of the Mighty Rebel Band you are expected to be a credit to your band, your school, and your community. Because we are committed to excellence we must have a common high standard. The purpose of this handbook is to define that standard.

The Mighty Rebel Marching Band, Honor Band, Symphonic Band, and Freshman Symphonic Bands are competitive ensembles requiring travel and participation in UIL/TMEA competitions.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

1. Be on time to all rehearsals and public performances prepared to give your best.
2. It is the responsibility of the student and the parent to be aware of all scheduled rehearsals and performances. All students will be provided with a calendar of performances and all parents will have the opportunity to receive a calendar at one of our required orientation meetings. All performances will also be listed on band social media.
3. You must have an instrument to participate in band. Our instruments fall into two categories:
 1. School Provided Instruments – These instruments include Oboe, Bassoon, Tenor Sax, Bari Sax, Bass Clarinet, Auxiliary Woodwinds, Horn/Mellophone, Euphonium/Baritone, Tuba/Sousaphone, & Percussion Instruments. *****Please note that students are expected to pay the fee and provide the mouthpiece, reeds, & sticks for school provided instruments.*****
 2. Student Provided Instruments – These instruments include Flute, Clarinet, Alto Sax, Trumpet/Cornet, & Percussion (sticks). *****The school does not provide these instruments.*****
4. Be a responsible member - bring your instrument, music, all required supplies (including pencil, coordinate sheets, flip folder, lyre, required attire, water jugs, etc...), keep your music in order, and know your music.
5. Maintain respect for the band hall, the instruments, and the equipment. This includes your music and folder. Keep the room clean and orderly. The instruments, percussion equipment, and sound system are not toys. Do not use any of the equipment unless you have received permission from the directors.
6. Take pride in your personal appearance.
7. Remember, your actions and attitude reflect on you, your band, your school and your community.
8. Pay all of your applicable band fees/assessments.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

The success of our band depends on how it rehearses. How it rehearses depends on the conduct and cooperation of the student. Rehearsals are the place to correct mistakes. The fewer the mistakes and the less individual distractions, the greater your contribution is to the band. Be patient, attentive, careful, and cooperative in observing these rehearsal expectations. When the directors have to discipline and control rather than direct, the rehearsal and eventually the bands are headed for failure. Good behavior, attitude and self-discipline are essential to producing a great band. If you are successful, the band is successful.

1. Be on time to all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances. Cellphone silenced/put away, instruments in hand, pencils sharpened, music in hand, in your place by the time the bell rings or the time the rehearsal is to begin. ******LHS and LFHS tardy policy is enforced.******
2. Always have your music, instrument, and required materials.
3. All students must be in MISD Dress Code attire for every rehearsal (unless approved by director).
4. Please take care of restroom breaks before the rehearsal begins (notify teacher of health concerns related to frequent bathroom breaks).
5. No gum, food, or drinks other than water!
6. Be conscious of good posture at all times.
7. Keep your eyes on the conductor during rehearsal.
8. Listen to the conductor at all times. Talking while the conductor is rehearsing or giving instructions is never appropriate.
9. The use of cell phones is not allowed at rehearsals or concerts.
10. Take a mature attitude toward correction. Don't be a "know it all".
11. Rehearsals are not over until the director dismisses the band. Don't begin to put your music away until instructed to do so.
12. Stay involved in the rehearsal from start to finish. Rehearsals are not for personal grooming, catching up on the latest gossip, or doing homework.
13. Keep the room orderly and clean. Do not bring food, candy or drinks in the band hall unless given permission by the director. The band hall is not to be used as your personal locker
14. Approach rehearsals as well as performances with optimism, enthusiasm, determination, and your whole-hearted attention.
15. The success of the band is your individual responsibility.
16. Before asking a question-- ALWAYS refer to your handbook.

EXTRA REHEARSALS & CONCERTS

1. Band is a performance-based class. Concerts and rehearsals are required. Every effort is made to schedule concerts and rehearsals around other school-related activities. Unfortunately, we cannot schedule around community activities, private lessons, doctor's appointments and other personal schedules. Students are expected to keep a calendar, check their email and related social media regularly, and inform the director in advance (a minimum of a week's notice) of any conflicts.
 2. Extra rehearsals are called for all competitive bands (honor, symphonic, & freshman symphonic) before major performances. It is the directors' wish to keep these rehearsals to a minimum. Refer to your calendar for these rehearsals & be alert to rehearsals announced in class, email, and related social media. Keeping a calendar and checking your email is a must!
 3. Each band member is required to attend his or her respective section rehearsal which may meet one to two times a week before/after school or another agreed upon time. This schedule varies depending on the particular contest or concert.
 4. Summer Band is a requirement for all band members and will begin on Monday, July 31st for the fall of 2017 and continues up through the start of school. Approximately 60% of the entire year's marching rehearsal will take place during summer band. Any student that misses all or a majority of summer band rehearsals will result in one or more of the following consequences: loss of marching spot, loss of participation in the Mighty Rebel Marching Band, and/or dismissal from the program. Summer band is just as much a part of being a member of the band as two-a-days is a part of being a member of the Rebel football team. Summer band is an absolute requirement of all band members and any students that have a conflict with part or all will need to discuss those with Mr. Brents.
 5. The Mighty Rebel Marching Band will meet Monday and Thursday at LHS from 5:30 pm-7:45 pm and every Tuesday at Grande from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. Adjustments to the weekly schedule will happen and communication about these adjustments will be made in advance and placed on the band calendar as well as related social media.
 6. Spring Semester competitive ensembles (including Honor Band, Symphonic Band, and Freshman Symphonic Band) will meet for a weekly rehearsal during contest season. (Contest season begins in January - see calendar and reserve these evenings).
 7. Spring Semester competitive ensembles will have a weekly sectional schedule that will be set at the beginning of contest season.
 8. All rehearsals and concerts are required unless excused in advance by the director.
 9. Definition of an "Excused Absence" -- Absence resulting from illness (if a student attends school during the day they will be expected to attend that day's after school rehearsal), serious illness in the family, or bereavement. An email from the parent must be submitted to the director well in advance for review and consultation with the student. In the case of any excused absence a parent email should accompany the student's return. ***It is the parent's/student's responsibility to clear the absence.***
 10. Consequences for an "Unexcused Absence"
 - a. 1st Absence- One or more of the following consequences can occur:
 - Loss of performance privileges
 - Loss of tour or trip privileges
 - Suspension of rehearsal privileges with alternative class work requirements
 - Loss of letter
 - Honor/Symphonic: Reassignment to another ensemble
 - b. 2nd Absence
 - Consequences of 1st Absence may be used
 - Conference with parent and student to decide continuation or dismissal from the program.
- *** ANY OF THE ABOVE CONSEQUENCES MAY ALSO BE USED IN A DISCIPLINARY CAPACITY. ***
11. Each student's contribution is crucial to rehearsals and concerts. One student's absence can upset the balance of a rehearsal or the success of a concert. Never lose sight of the importance of your individual contribution to the band.

If there is a conflict with a rehearsal or concert, let the Director know well in advance. School conflicts can almost always be worked out. The key phrase is in advance! i.e. Weeks or months in advance – Not days! Communication is the key!

DEFINITIONS OF "GOOD STANDING" & "ELIGIBILITY"

1. **"In Good Standing"** means that a student has no unexcused absences and has positively contributed to the band in attitude and work ethic.
2. **Academic eligibility** is defined by UIL and MISD. A student must be passing (or regain eligibility) in all classes to participate in Marching Contest/Festivals, Parades, TMEA auditions, 9th Grade Region, Solo Contest, Pre UIL Concerts, UIL Concert & Sight Reading, and trips that would take a student out of classes. Rehearsals, sectionals, The Summer Band Concert, The Mid-Winter Concert, and Spring Concert DO NOT fall under the eligibility guidelines. Eligibility is solely based on the MISD computer generated "failure lists" and "progress reports". (*A student cannot fail or regain eligibility between the dates that the lists are published.*)

GRADING POLICY

Band is a co-curricular, **performance-based class**. Students earn grades by performing in rehearsals as well as concerts. Concerts and rehearsals **cannot** be "made up". Students will earn grades in the following areas.

1. Playing Grades/Pass Offs
2. Attendance at Football Games, Contest/Festivals, Concerts, Rehearsals, & Sectionals.

****** Please note: Students are video-taped and audio-taped in class and in performance for teaching, evaluating, and publicity purposes. ******

EVENTS & PERFORMANCES

ORIENTATION- ALL MEMBERS & PARENTS

1. **To insure a student's successful participation in the Mighty Rebel Band Program, an orientation is required for all parents.** The Orientation provides students and parents the year's calendar, expectations of the band program, and an opportunity for questions and answers.
2. Student Travel Forms, General Expectations, Band Contract, and Band Fee Agreement Forms are submitted by parents and students at this time.
3. All parents are expected to attend one of the band parents meetings at Lee High School.
 - Saturday, July 29th – New Member Orientation
 - Tuesday, August 8th – Parent Orientation
 - Tuesday, August 29th – Final Parent OrientationAll forms and band fees are due **by August 29th, 2017** in order to participate in the band program.

****** Please note: Students that do not have all of their required forms, supplies, or who haven't paid their band fees will not be allowed to participate and/or may be removed from the program. ******

MARCHING BAND

1. All **"academically eligible"** band students (Freshmen & Senior High) participate in the Mighty Rebel Marching Band.
2. Students are required to attend all rehearsals including summer band, after school marching rehearsals, and any other scheduled rehearsals.
3. Any student that has an unexcused absence during the week will not be allowed to participate in the following football game. (*Please refer to Extra Rehearsals, paragraph number 9.*) Any student that has a second unexcused absence during the course of marching season, may not be allowed to participate for the rest of season.
4. All marching band members are required to provide their own white marching shoes, flip folder, lyre for their instrument, mouthpiece, and water jug. Students must have all of this equipment by **Tuesday, August 29th** in order to participate at football games and other performances.
5. All marching band members are required to attend all football game performances (*this includes any playoff games*). Any unexcused absences may result in removal from the marching band. All football game performances are listed on the band calendar and various social media.
6. The following dates are contest performances and are considered major grades.

Saturday, September 22nd	Bands of American Contest @ Grande, times TBD
Saturday, October 6th	Denver City Marching Contest, times TBD
Saturday, October 20th	UIL Region Marching Contest @ Ratliff, times TBD
Saturday, October 27th	UIL Area Marching Contest @ Ratliff, times TBD
Tuesday, November 6th	UIL State Marching Contest-Prelims @ Alamodome
Wednesday, November 7th	UIL State Marching Contest-Finals @ Alamodome

Any unexcused absences from any of these performance will be grounds for dismal from the band program.

ALL STATE AUDITIONS

1. Members of Honor Band are required to prepare and participate in the TMEA Texas All State Audition process. This process includes advancement through the following auditions: LHS Auditions (takes place the week of November 27-Dec 1 at LHS), Phase 1 Auditions (Monday, December 4th), Phase 2 Auditions (Saturday, December 9th), and Area Auditions (Saturday, January 6th).
2. At any time through this process the director reserves the right to remove a student from the audition process based on a lack of preparation or academic eligibility.
3. If a student advances to the next level, he/she is expected to attend next level of competition.
4. If a student makes the Region Band, he/she is required to attend the Clinic/Concert. Any unexcused absences from these rehearsals or performances will be grounds for dismissal from the band program
(See Lettering Policy)
5. Attire is concert black (see rules for attire).
6. Please note that the spring semester Honor Band auditions are based on the LHS Auditions.
7. Please note that being selected to All-Region band is an honor and comes with the responsibility of attending the corresponding clinic & concert. This will be considered a major performance. Any student that makes the Region Band and has an unexcused absences for the clinic/concert will be removed from a competitive ensemble and/or be dismissed from the program.

FRESHMAN ALL-REGION BAND (December/Date TBD)

1. All "academically eligible" freshmen are expected to prepare & audition for the 9th Grade Region Band.
2. Entrance fees and music are covered by MISD.
3. If a student makes the Region Band he/she is required to attend the Clinic/Concert. Any unexcused absences from these rehearsals or performances will be grounds for dismissal from the band program.
4. Attire is concert black (see rules for attire).
5. Please note that the spring semester Honor Band auditions are based on the LHS Auditions.
6. Please note that being selected to Freshman Region band is an honor and comes with the responsibility of attending the corresponding clinic & concert. This will be considered a major performance. Any student that makes the Freshman Region Band and has an unexcused absences for the clinic/concert will be removed from a competitive ensemble and/or be dismissed from the program.

MID-WINTER CONCERT (Thursday, February 8th)

1. ALL band students from the competitive ensembles will participate.
2. Eligibility rules do not apply.
3. Attire is concert black (see rules for attire).
4. Admission is free.
5. Please note that the directors may remove from the performance any students that have missed rehearsals or who have been behavior problems leading up to this performance.

PRE UIL CONCERT (Thursday, April 10th)

1. All "**academically eligible**" students are required to participate and perform in the annual Pre UIL Concert in preparation for the UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest.
2. Attire is concert black (see rules for attire).
3. Admission is free.
5. Please note that the directors may remove from the performance any students that have missed rehearsals or who have been behavior problems leading up to this performance. Any students that doesn't participate in the Pre-UIL concert may be removed for the UIL performance (please note that this may effect Lettering and Spring Trip participation).

UIL CONCERT & SIGHT READING CONTESTS (April 24th & 25th)

1. **All "academically eligible" students participate** from competitive ensembles are required to perform at UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest.
2. Attire is concert black (see rules for attire).
3. UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest is a major performance. Any unexcused absences from any of this performance will be grounds for dismissal from the band program.

SPRING TRIP

Members of the Mighty Rebel Band will have the opportunity to participate in a Spring Trip.

The Spring Trip is not required of any students, but has some stipulations:

1. Students must be a member in good standing. This includes participation in all of the rehearsals and performances listed above. Any unexcused absence from the previously mentioned rehearsals/performances could be grounds for removal of the spring trip without reimbursement.
2. Student's trip must be paid in full.
3. Any and all band fees/assessments must be paid in full.
4. Students must be academically eligible.

Any students that fail to meet these requirements will be unable to participate in the Spring Trip and may forfeit all or a portion of their Spring Trip payment as outlined in the Spring Trip Contract.

SPRING CONCERT (Monday, May 14th)

1. ALL band students from the competitive ensembles will participate.
2. Eligibility rules do not apply.
3. Attire is "Sunday best"
4. Admission is free.
5. Please note that the directors may remove from the performance any students that have missed rehearsals or who have been behavior problems leading up to this performance.

BAND BANQUET (Friday, May 11th)

All band students that are "in good standing" and have paid all fees in full can participate in the band banquet.

SCHOOL PROVIDED INSTRUMENTS

There is a \$75 dollar "School Provided Instrument Fee" that helps to cover the cost of repair/replacement for all school owned instruments. All students that use a school owned instrument (including percussion students) will be required to pay this fee for the use of all school provided instruments throughout the year. The care and maintenance of the assigned instrument is the responsibility of the student to who it is assigned. Normal wear will be allowed and fixed by the director. Repairs of any damage resulting in accidents, carelessness, or lack of proper up keep will be at the responsibility of the student and his/her parent(s).

CONCERT ATTIRE

The band has two options for concert attire:

1. Concert Black – This requires that everything being worn by the performer is solid black dress clothes. That includes black dress shoes, black socks, black dress shirt, black slacks/skirt, or a black dress.
2. "Sunday Best" – This requires your best dress clothes. Coat and tie for the gentlemen and dress/pants suit for the ladies.

LETTERING POLICY

In order to "letter" in Band a student (wind/percussion students) must:

-Must be a member in "good standing"

- Be selected to the All-Region Band
 - Perform in the Region Clinic & Concert (if selected for Region Band)
 - Receive a 1st Division on a class I solo at UIL Solo Contest
 - Compete in UIL Concert & SR Contest
 - Participate in all concerts and rehearsals
 - All Assessments/Fees must be paid in full
 - Seniors that are members in good standing will receive a letter jacket at the conclusion on their senior year.
- No unexcused absences***

In order to "letter" in Color Guard/Winter Guard a student must:

-Must be a member in "good standing"

- Perform at all required Color Guard/Winter Guard Events/Contest/Performances
 - Receive a 1st Division on a Solo at a sanctioned winter guard event (NTCA or CCGC) (depending on the number of students participating and location of the event, students may have to arrange for their own transportation for the solo contest event).
 - Participate in all rehearsals
 - All Assessments/Fees must be paid in full
 - Seniors that are members in good standing will receive a letter jacket at the conclusion on their senior year.
- No unexcused absences***

SCHEDULE CHANGE POLICY

Membership in the band is not only an honor but carries with it a responsibility to the entire Band.

As a member of the band the student makes a commitment to participate in all activities throughout the year. As the bands are auditioned and carefully balanced according to specific instrumentation, a student who does not complete the year affects the entire band.

Therefore, if a student chooses not to fulfill his or her obligation and commitment, the following procedure will be observed in this order before any changes in schedule:

1. Required Student/parent conference with Mr. Brents OR Mr. Miller (LFHS)
2. Required Student/director/counselor conference
3. Instrument & uniform turned in.
4. Band fee and fundraising obligations cleared
5. Drop slip signed by Mr. Brents or Mr. Miller (LFHS)
6. Schedule change initiated

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Participation in any extracurricular activity is a privilege, not a right. The students of the Mighty Rebel Band represent the band program, our school, and the community of Midland; and expectations for behavior will be held to a higher standard.

Students are expected to follow the standards of behaviors as defined by the MISD Student Code of conduct while at school or when travelling on school events/trips. Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time, on or off school property, both during and outside of school events.

A student may be removed from participation in extracurricular activities (including a spring trip without refund) for violation of extracurricular standards outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Please note that any disciplinary action taken by the band directors regarding behavior violations may be in addition to independent disciplinary actions by Lee High School/MISD.