

*The Houston County
High School
Band Handbook
2009-2010*

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Table of Contents

An Overview
Concert Band I and Concert Band II
Symphonic Band I and Symphonic Band II
Percussion Class
Jazz Band
Grading Policy
The Audition Process
Private Lessons
www.blackandsilverbrigade.com
The Black & Silver Brigade Marching Band
The Black & Silver Brigade Competitive Marching Band...
Audition Requirements for Competitive Marching Band
Rookie Camp
Marching and Competition Band Attendance Policy
Rehearsals
Uniforms
Uniform Distribution and Collection

Inclement Weather
Color Guard and Winter Guard
Miscellaneous Information
Equipment Loading Procedures
The Band On The Road
Marching Band Fees
Student Leadership Positions
Band Awards
Band Parent's Organization
Attitude

Houston County High School Band Program

An Overview

The Houston County High School Band program consists of a number of components designed to provide the band students with a well-rounded education in music. These components include Symphonic Band I, Symphonic Band II, Concert Band I, Concert Band II, Football Marching Band, Competition Marching Band, Jazz Band, Music Technology Class and several smaller chamber ensembles which vary from year to year. The Marching Band and chamber ensembles are extracurricular activities that meet after school. The Symphonic Band I, Symphonic Band II, Concert Band I, Concert Band II, and Jazz Band class all meet during the academic day. It should be noted that ALL band classes at Houston County High School are performance based. In other words, if a student enrolls in a band class he or she WILL be expected to perform with that class during the semester. Performance is the end result of our music education philosophy therefore we do not offer any non-performing classes.

Concert I and Concert II Band

Prerequisite: Audition and Director Approval

The Concert Band I and Concert Band II at Houston County High School are ensemble/performance oriented music classes. The Classes are chosen by score results from the preliminary audition for band classes at the end of the school year. Students in these classes are exposed to elements of music history, music theory, and music performance while participating in performing bands. Students learn various aspects of solo playing and ensemble playing in a number of musical styles. Musical compositions studied in the course are generally of a Grade 3-5 difficulty level (based on the GMEA scale of 1-6).

As a part of these courses, students are expected to participate in all semester performances. These performance dates will be published at the beginning of each semester. Attendance at these performances is mandatory and students should refer to the attendance policy established and posted in this handbook. If the student has an un-excused absence from a performance a make-up term paper will be assigned on a topic chosen by the band director.

Attire for these performances is the band uniform. These outfits are owned and maintained by the boosters and will be issued for these performances. Students should also refer to the uniform policy section of this handbook to answer any questions pertaining to issue, care and fees for all band uniforms.

While the school does own a limited number of instruments for student use, students are expected to purchase or rent their own instruments. Percussionists are expected to provide their own sticks and mallets. Likewise, students are expected to provide all needed accessories for their instruments (mouthpieces, reeds, valve oil, mutes, etc.). Music, folders and other instructional materials will be provided. All music should be returned after its use. Students will be charged for any music lost during the school year.

Students are expected to have all materials in class every day. Should an instrument need a repair, the students and parents should notify the director and have the repairs made as quickly as possible. Since the focus of the class is learning to play an instrument better, each day a student does not have an instrument hampers that student's chances at successfully completing the course. Students whose instruments are in the shop will not be penalized; however, students who fail to bring their instruments for no apparent reason will be penalized.

Symphonic Band I and Symphonic Band II

Prerequisite: Audition and Director Approval

The Symphonic Band I and Symphonic II Classes at Houston County High school are ensemble/performance classes which follow much the same guidelines as the Concert I and Concert Band II Classes. The major difference being in the difficulty of the materials studied. The Symphonic Band I and II Class repertoire consists of literature at the Grade 5-6 difficulty level (of a scale of 1-6). The numbers of positions in each group are established prior to the fall audition. These classes are designed for the more advanced students and are not limited by grade level. Freshmen students have just as much a chance of obtaining a principle chair as a Senior. Moreover, being an upper-classman does not guarantee a spot in these performing groups either. The Symphonic Band Classes are designed to be a logical continuation of music education for a student coming from the Concert Band Classes. All other elements of this class follow the same requirements given for the Concert Band Classes.

Percussion Class

Prerequisite: Director Approval

This class is designed to further the technique of the percussionist on all related instruments. Whereas the other instrumental class would require percussionist to sit and wait for long periods of time, this class allows students to play and perform for the entire class session. During first semester this class primarily deals with marching equipment and percussion ensemble settings. During the second semester and after auditions are completed, the class is divided into four groups for Concert Festival. One group will perform with Concert Band I and II, Symphonic Band I and Symphonic Band II. Also, the continuation of ensemble practice will be interspersed with Festival rehearsal. Any students that choose not to march will be placed in the percussion classes and will work on an independent study basis for periodic times throughout the semester.

Jazz Band

Prerequisite: Audition and Director Approval

Jazz Band is a regular class that meets during the school day. Students receive credit for performing in this ensemble. Auditions for this class are held in the summer for year long membership. Students in this class are exposed to elements of jazz history, jazz music theory as well as improvisation, and music performance. Students learn various aspects of solo playing and ensemble playing in a number of jazz musical styles. Musical compositions studied in the course are generally of a Grade 3-6 difficulty level. The numbers of positions in this group is established prior to the summer audition. This class is designed for the more advanced student that has an interest in jazz and is not limited by grade level. Freshmen students have just as much a chance of obtaining a chair as a senior. Moreover, being an upper-classman does not guarantee a spot in this performing group either.

Grading Policy

All band and percussion classes at HCHS are performance based. We do not offer a non-performing class. If a student wishes to play an instrument and not perform, we recommend private lessons. All grades are based on participation and attendance in class and at performances that are the result of our work in class. Performances outside the school day figure into a grade as part of the participation requirement. If a student has an excused absence from a performance they will be allowed to write a paper to make up the missed

time just as in an academic class. If a student has an unexcused absence from a performance a paper will also be required and possible removal from the band class at the end of the semester. If students come to class ready to work, bring all materials to class and make an effort to improve, a grade of "A" will be issued at each grading period.

The Audition Process

The audition process for the previous mentioned bands is held in the Spring Semester of the previous school year. Chair auditions will take place in the Fall Semester of the next school year approximately mid-semester. The spring audition is simply for placement in a band class that is appropriate for each student's playing level at the time of audition. The chair placement audition in the Fall Semester is designed to take into account work over the summer and general improvement in playing ability. The Houston County Band Program is conducting audition in this manner to accommodate the change in the school's academic scheduling. Once a student is placed in a band for the Fall Semester he or she will remain in that band for the duration of the school year. ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO AUDITION.

Symphonic Band I

All Twelve Major Scales are required. This scale pattern will begin on F Concert and rotate around the circle of 4ths. A copy of these scales can be found on the band web site www.blackandsilverbrigade.com as well as the GMEA website www.gmea.org.

Play the chromatic scale the full state recommended range of the instrument.

Required ranges:

Flute, Piccolo:	Low C to High C
Oboe:	Low Bb to High D
Bb Clarinet:	Low E to High G above High C
Bass and Contra Clarinet:	Low E to High C
Bassoon:	Low Bb to High Bb
All Saxophones:	Low C to High F
French Horn:	Low F to High A
Trumpet, Baritone T.C.:	Low F# to High C
Trombone, Baritone B.C.:	Low E to High Bb
Tuba:	Low E to High Bb

Tone Quality, Technique, and Tempo will be taken into consideration when determining an audition score.

Students **may** also be required to sight-read two exercises of contrasting styles.

Symphonic Band II

Symphonic Band II will consist of students that attempt the required audition material for Symphonic Band I but fall short of the instrumentation set for that band. The minimum requirement for this band is eight scales in the circle of fourths pattern (two octaves), with arpeggios and the chromatic scale. Students **may** also be required to sight-read two exercises of contrasting styles.

Concert Band I and Concert Band II

The audition requirements for this band are a minimum four (4) scales in the circle of fourths pattern (2 octaves) with arpeggios and the chromatic, scale with a designated range that is less demanding as that for the symphonic bands. Students **may** also be required to sight-read two exercises of contrasting styles.

Percussion Class

Auditions in percussion class are usually held in the spring of the previous year due to the many demands placed on the percussionist at Houston County High School. Parts and band assignments are made based on the student's ability in all areas of percussion. Auditions consist of assigned

rudiments on snare, scales on mallets and tuning tests on timpani. Students are also required to sight read on each instrument.

***Special Note**

The directors at Houston County High School feel that a student entering the 9th grade should possess at the least, minimal skills after participating in middle school band. Those skills are outlined in the audition requirements for Concert Band. After three years of middle school band, a student should possess the ability to perform at least four scales and arpeggios from the circle of fourths. If a student does not have the ability to perform at this level, he or she is placed in a Concert band at the end of the section. It has been our experience that when the students are placed into an ensemble they have the opportunity to excel at a pace appropriate for their playing level. Some of these students after one year have even been selected for Symphonic I.

Do I need to take private lessons?

In short, private lessons and regular practice will not only make you a better player, they also will add considerably to your enjoyment of music and band!

There simply is not enough time during band class for each student to get the individual attention they need in order to excel to their full potential. Think about it...in math class, the teacher is teaching the same topic to the entire class of twenty to thirty students. In band, your director is working with anywhere from fifty to two hundred and fifty students playing different music parts on fifteen or more different instruments!

A private lesson instructor is entirely devoted to helping you on your instrument playing your music while working on problems you are having. But that's just the beginning. When taking privately, your music experience extends beyond band class. Your technique and musical expression will grow as you perform etudes and exercises found in a rich selection of material designed to supplement and complement the band music you currently have. Finally, you'll enjoy the added benefit of having someone who can provide additional assistance to you in preparing for auditions and solo/ensemble performances.

Private Lesson Instructors

Flute

Laura Schofield	lwschofield@yahoo.com	
Wendy Cohen	guido101@earthlink.net	803-448-6570
Sarah Carter	afroflutist@yahoo.com	333-6417

Oboe

Cat Shaw	Cat.Shaw@hcbe.net	988-6321
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Bassoon

Clarinet

Audra Kirkpatrick	Audra.Kirkpatrick@gmail.com	316-573-3395
Anna Andrew	acolds@cox.net	
Jeremy Cohen	guido101@earthlink.net	803-448-6544

Saxophone

Leah Wilson	leah.wilson@hcbe.net	929-6235 Ext 8
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French Horn

Juan Jimenez	juancarlo21@hotmail.com	335-0695
Ryan Miles	rmile5544@cox.net	213-1987
Michael Pekarek	Michael.Pekarek@robins.af.mil	327-0555

Trumpet

Jonathan Swygert	Swyg@aol.com	
Mike Richter	mic862@cs.com	327-0555
Matt Kirkpatrick	kirkpatrick.matt@gmail.com	316-573-3395

Trombone

Warren Rogers	youthman@windstream.net	
John Cornacchione	John.Cornacchione@robins.af.mil	
Charlie Anderson	charles.anderson@robins.af.mil	
Stephen Hoy	hoy127@cox.net	

Euphonium

Betsy Johnson	sparky_turtle@hotmail.com	478-213-8188
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Tuba

Michael Andrew	michael.andrew@robins.af.mil	714-5453
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Percussion

Travis Roye		960-7162
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We suggest you contact these instructors by email first to see if they have an opening.

We Have A Website!!!!!!

www.blackandsilverbrigade.com

Any Questions regarding events, times, places, special information, and other miscellaneous items will be posted on the website. There are also contact points for each aspect of the Houston County Band Program listed with in the site.

THE BLACK & SILVER BRIGADE

Marching Band

Prerequisite: None

The Marching Band at Houston County High School, known as the **Black & Silver Brigade** is an extracurricular organization which meets after school in the fall. Membership is open to all Houston County High School band students. **All students who choose to participate in the Black & Silver Brigade must be enrolled in a band class at Houston County High School.** The only exception to this rule is for those students who participate in the flag line. The **Black & Silver Brigade** rehearses approximately 2 to 4 hours a week and performs at all Houston County High School Bear football games. In addition to half-time performances at football games, the marching band represents Houston County High School in parades in the Middle Georgia area. This group also serves as a training ground for our competitive band.

The Black & Silver Brigade Competitive Marching Band

Prerequisite: Audition

Yet again, this year, the marching band at Houston County High School will have a competitive marching unit that is an auditioned part of the total Marching Band. This band will perform at a minimum of three marching contests during the month of October and the first few weeks in November. We have instituted this new group for two reasons. First, there are students in the marching band program that lack the experience and proficiency in the area of marching. Usually after a year or two, most students acquire the needed skills to audition for this group. The second reason we have this group is we have students that have no interest in competitive band. These students are only interested in going to ballgames. We feel that with these issues resolved, this organization will achieve a level of musical and marching proficiency that is very high. Music and drill for this group will be custom arranged especially for this unit. Members of the competitive marching band also participate in the non-competitive group. The ability level and size of the group allows the students to elevate their performance to a higher level than would be seen on a normal Friday night.

Audition Requirements for Competitive Marching Band

Basic requirement for competitive marching band will be to perform and march proficiently the Basics Block exercise that is the standard warm-up for both competitive and non-competitive marching band. There is also a playing requirement consisting of the playing of major scales. This audition will *take place in the spring prior* to the next year's marching season.

Rookie Camp

New students are taught basic marching fundamentals in the spring. Groups of student leaders and the directors from HCHS will visit each of the middle schools that feed into our school. Each year there will be a few mini-camps that are held on Saturday mornings as well as a playing rehearsal. These events are listed on the **New Member Information Flyer**. Auditions for the competitive band will be held at the end of these mini marching sessions.

It should be noted that it is more challenging to be selected for competitive marching band. We want to insure that all students have a chance to participate in a group that showcases their abilities and desires.

Summer Rehearsals:

In order to prepare for performances during the first few weeks of school, several summer rehearsals are necessary. For Competition band only, there will be a few short summer playing rehearsals. A one week percussion camp is held in the middle of July along with a two week Band Camp at the end of July and beginning of August. It is during these rehearsals that a large portion of the repertoire for the season is learned. **The first week of full band camp is for competitive band only.** The difficulty of the competitive show warrants this group to meet earlier. There may also be some evening rehearsals earlier than camp if we receive the drill in time. Full marching band will meet the second week of camp. For this reason the following attendance guidelines must be observed:

Band Camp is mandatory for all students who intend to be in either Marching Band or Competition Band.

The show will be put on the field during this camp. It is difficult in a good environment to accomplish this task with so many students involved. Students who miss any part of band camp without a justifiable excuse will have their position on the field closed and they will be made an alternate and will not be guaranteed a spot in the show. Illness, death in the family, or family emergency is the only justifiable excuse.

Marching and Competition Band Attendance Policy

Please read the following information very carefully. We have a system which allows us to keep up with our students since we are accountable for them during scheduled activities on our calendar. We are aware students will have to miss rehearsals and performances from time to time. Sometimes these absences will be unexcused due to their nature. We are more concerned with students following procedure than the actual absence or tardy. Absences will not become an issue unless a student becomes habitual.

- 1) All rehearsals and performances are required. (including Band Camp!) ALL activities originate and conclude at the band room. We do not dismiss students from performance sites unless ADVANCE written notification is submitted. This is addressed later in the handbook under games and travel.**
- 2) When possible, the director should be notified *in advance* of a student's absence. The band room office is equipped with an answering machine. Call and leave a message at 988-6365 if you are unable to attend or, an email can be sent to wally.shaw@hcbe.net. If you leave school early, please have the attendance office notify the band office. This way we will not spend time at rehearsal trying to figure out where you are.**
- 3) If advance notification is not possible, the director should be notified immediately upon the student's return to class as to the reason for the absence. Written notice from the student's parents is required. Until notification is received, an absence or tardy is *unexcused. Be aware that the Band Director has final say if the absence is excused or unexcused.***
- 4) Illness, death in the family, and family emergency constitute excused absences. Job conflicts, driving school, club meetings and non-emergency doctor's appointments are**

not considered excused. PLEASE try to schedule orthodontist appointments around rehearsals. Especially if you march just football band. Check with club sponsors about after school meetings BEFORE making a commitment to those organizations.

- 5) Tutorials and test make-ups will take place on Monday afternoons. The band office has set up special tutorial sessions with selected teachers for marching band students on this day to address the tardy and absence problems experienced in the past. Students that need academic help should take advantage of these sessions. Missing Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday rehearsals will be counted as unexcused. If there is a conflict with another school activity, we can usually work something out with other teachers and coaches. We do not mind doing this! HOWEVER, if a student waits until the day of the activity to inform the directors, do not expect us to be very understanding or sympathetic with your situation. Be responsible.

6) Rehearsal Attendance and Tardy Policy (cumulative):

Unexcused Tardy Policy:

1. 1st Tardy: Clean up at the end of rehearsal or on the bus to make up the time
2. 2nd Tardy: Clean up and forfeit 3rd Quarter Break
3. 3rd Tardy: Clean up and Forfeit Game

Unexcused Absence Policy:

1. 1st Absence: Miss 3rd Quarter Break*
2. 2nd Absence: Forfeit Game
3. 3rd Absence: Removed from marching band, forfeit activity fee.

- 7) *Any band member who has an unexcused absence from a performance will no longer be allowed to participate in the marching band and will forfeit their activity fee. Please be proactive so we do not have to be reactive - contact us!*
- 8) Band members may not leave rehearsals or performances early without a valid WRITTEN excuse. Leaving early will count as being late. If more than half of the rehearsal or performance is missed, then leaving early will count as an unexcused absence. Marching Band can be a demanding activity for some students. If a student is chronically not well enough to complete a rehearsal, the director may recommend the student step down from the activity until there is a year that this is not a problem.
- 9) *Any Absence from a Thursday afternoon rehearsal whether excused or unexcused, will result in that student not performing at half-time. Drill and music are sometimes changed or modified at the Thursday afternoon “dress rehearsal” and for the benefit of those absent AND present, we will not allow a student that has missed to perform on the field.

Rehearsal Times and Procedures:

Regular rehearsals will be held after school on Mondays (for flags only-subject to change on years that we have a guard class), Tuesdays (for full band, both football and competition), Wednesday (for competition band only) and Thursdays (for full band, both football and competition). Starting for rehearsals is 3:10 pm. Football Band will rehearse from 3:10 until 4:00 pm and Competition Band from 4:00 until 5:30 pm. During the month of August, rehearsals *may* remain in the evenings depending on the weather. If this is the case, Competition Band will rehearse from 6:00 to 7:30 pm and Football Band will rehearse from 7:30 until 8:30 pm. Students will be notified well in advance if this schedule is implemented. For security purposes due the number of people still on campus immediately after school, personal belongings should be secured in instrument lockers. If you do not have a locker, either share with one of your friends or

secure your belongings in one of the director's offices. Marching band rehearsal will run for an hour. At the end of this hour rehearsal, non-competitive students will be dismissed and competitive band will resume after a short break and continue for an hour and a half. All school policies (including dress code) are in effect during rehearsals. However, students MAY change into shorts to practice outside. **No band member is to leave a rehearsal for any reason without first getting permission from the director. You are under our supervision and care and your parents expect you to be with us. You must produce a valid note signed by a parent to leave rehearsal early.**

Students should bring water to the practice field. There will be water available but it is more advantageous for each student to have their own supply. Camel Packs/Baks are essentially a back pack full of water that a student can carry with them. Therefore, a student does not have to wait to break to grab a swallow of water.

Students should arrive at rehearsals wearing the proper foot wear – tennis shoes. Most students may want to keep these in their locker at school. Flip flops **ARE NOT** acceptable. Proper marching technique cannot be executed in flip flops. Students will not be allowed to rehearse unless proper shoes are worn. Also, men must wear shirts and ladies are not allowed to wear bathing suit tops or sports bras during rehearsals. Shorts must be at least mid thigh. We are pushing the dress code to the edge already so we must adhere to this request.

Students should bring water to the practice field.

Students should use sun screen, hats, sun glasses, dot books to the field. Dot books are ESSENTIAL for learning drill with competitive band. Failure to have a dot book will result in a student being excused from the field.

Students should bring water to the field.

Games and Performances

While football games are a time for fun and enjoyment, certain rules and guidelines must be followed in order for the band to function and to do its job well. Listed below are some of those guidelines.

Golden Rule: Always act like Ladies and Gentlemen. You can earn a reputation in 2 seconds and have to live with it a lifetime.

- 1) All band performances will originate and conclude at the band room. We will meet and travel as a group on busses. Each student has certain responsibilities before and after a game or performance. This includes uniform and instrument care and return. If a student does not return to the school with the band, then another student has to shoulder this responsibility. This will not be tolerated. No student is allowed to drive to a game or performance. However, if circumstances arise, a parent may transport their student to a performance or game site with the understanding the student will return to the school with the band.
- 2) Band members are to remain in the band section and in the **assigned seating order** at all times while in the stands.
- 3) Non-Band members are not allowed to sit in the band sections at games. This includes former band students. Sorry guys, we can't do our job if we are distracted.

- 4) There is to be ***no food or drink in the band area at any time***. This includes gum or candy. Drinks provided by the host band, or our band boosters are the only exception to this rule.
- 5) Students are not allowed to leave the band area at anytime while in the stands. Should an emergency arise, students should receive permission from the director or a chaperone before leaving. For security reasons, a chaperone will then accompany the student.
- 6) Students are encouraged to cheer for the team; however, obscenities will not be tolerated, nor derogatory cheers against the other team.
- 7) Confetti is not to be thrown in the band area. It can damage instruments. No plastic footballs are to be thrown by cheerleaders into the band section. Students have a tendency to sacrifice a horn that costs thousands of dollars for a 75 cent piece of plastic.
- 8) Students are to keep an eye on the director and drum majors at all times and be ready to play at a moments notice. After all, that is why the band is at the game.
- 9) No individuals or sections are to play without first receiving permission from the director or one of the Drum Majors.
- 10) **Students must be punctual to all events and adhere to all posted times of events or run the risk of not performing in an event or possibly being left behind.**

Equipment Loading Procedures

Each member of the band must be responsible for the equipment that they use on a daily basis. The Black and Silver Brigade has the privilege of owning its' own tractor and trailer which is used solely for the Houston County High School Band. There are a group of parents who operate and maintain the vehicle and all of it's' components. Each piece of equipment has a particular storage place in the trailer. Some equipment is stored in cases, called a "con-ex box", and other equipment has a specific location within the trailer. Each con-ex box is labeled with a number and the student will be given a storage number for their equipment. The students **must** be responsible for their own equipment. **"If you don't load your own equipment we will not be responsible for it."** Students must be prepared for other classes and this is no different. The student may load their equipment when the boxes are open. There will be a designated "truck loaded by time" that will be enforced. If the student arrives after this time then he or she will have to carry his or her instrument on the bus. All of these times will be posted well in advance of each event on the dry erase board in the Fine Arts building lobby directly outside the Band Room doors. Likewise, when we return from a performance, students must store their instruments correctly. ***Failure to do so will result in a student assisting with the loading and unloading of the trailer on the next trip.***

The Band On The Road

A benefit of being a member of the **Black & Silver Brigade** is being able to take a number of away trips to ball games and festivals. Please remember that while on a trip, band members are representing Houston County High School at all times. Make every effort to present yourself in a positive image of the city of Warner Robins, Houston County High School, **The Black & Silver Brigade** and yourself. The following items are to be observed during trips.

- 1) Students will sign up for buses prior to the first ball game of the year. Once a student signs up for a particular bus, he or she must remain on that bus for the balance of the season or until we give students

another opportunity to revisit the process. This system allows our staff and chaperones to locate students quickly and with relative ease. Students may not change buses for any reason unless a director has approved the change.

- 2) Students should remain seated in a seat all times while the bus is in motion. This is a state law.
- 3) Students are to respect the requests of the chaperones and the bus drivers at all times. Any disrespectful behavior directed toward a chaperone or driver will result in immediate disciplinary action by the directors and the student being written up and sent to the office at the earliest time allowed. All adults are to be shown the same respect as teachers and school staff.
- 4) Noise should be kept at a **minimum** at all times. No screaming and horseplay is allowed.
- 5) No radios, tape players, or CD players are to be played without headphones.
- 6) All body parts must remain inside the windows at all times. This is a state law.
- 7) There is no talking, shouting or gesturing out of the bus windows.
- 8) Trash is to be disposed of in the proper manner. No trash is to be thrown out of the windows and no trash is to be left on the bus floor. We will assign individuals to clean the buses each trip.
- 9) There are to be no public displays of affection. After one warning, couples will either be separated or moved to separate buses. This behavior is not to be tolerated on a band trip.
- 10) Uniforms are to be worn properly while in public (i.e. restaurants, etc.)
- 11) All school policies will be in effect for the duration of the trip.
- 12) Upon arriving at a destination, everyone is to remain on the bus except the equipment crew or until further instructions are given.

Alcohol, Drugs, and Smoking

Consumption of alcohol, use of drugs, and use of tobacco products will not be tolerated in the Houston County High School Band Program or the Houston County Board of Education. Any person found in possession or under the influence of alcohol or any narcotic will be immediately dismissed from the marching band, turned over to the proper authorities, and subject to all disciplinary actions of the Houston County Board of Education. Choose wisely students. Poor choices can affect your entire school career. The band staff has no alternative than to enforce the policies of the Houston County Board of Education.

Marching Band Fees

Unfortunately, the Board of Education does not fund extra-curricular activities, in particular, Marching Band. Therefore, our program is solely supported by the band boosters and the projects that generate funds that are implemented by the students. **This fee is set in the Spring of the year after the budget is approved.** Transportation, equipment, music fees, meals, and band camp staff just scratch the surface of the expenses incurred during the year. In order to offset certain costs related to the marching band, members are required to pay the following fees to participate.

Approved fees for 2009-2010

Winds and Percussion:		Flag Corps Members:	
Activity Fee Football Band	\$ 250.00	Uniform Cost	\$ 130.00(approx.)
Activity Fee Comp Band	\$ add'l \$25.00	Activity Fee	\$ 175.00
Non -Marching	\$ 50.00(25 each semester)		

A \$50.00 deposit that will be applied toward your activity fee is due before the end of school in May. This deposit is considered a financial commitment to the marching band and is **non-refundable** if a student decides to quit during the summer after we have purchased music and written the marching drill. In June, a

\$75.00 uniform fitting fee is due. Booster policy states that **a student will not be measured and fitted for a band uniform until this deposit is paid.** We will accept the deposit after the deadline but uniforms are fitted and assigned on a first-come first-serve basis on designated fitting days. The longer a student waits to pay their fees, the greater the possibility that a uniform may not be available. The next installment of \$75.00 of the activity fee is due by the first day of band camp. The final balance of the fee will be due before the first ball game. Fundraisers will be sponsored by the boosters during the spring and summer to help students off set the cost of the activity fees. Fees do not have to be paid in installments, they can certainly be paid at one time. No student will be unable to participate due to an inability to pay fees by the stated deadlines. The boosters will work some type plan out to both party's agreement.

Non-marching band students will need to pay a \$25 per semester uniform, music, copier, instruction, clinician and transportation fee to offset the cost of judges for auditions, copy paper, uniform cleaning and transportation to and from festival sights. Remember, fees are set and voted on by the booster organization.

Uniforms

The purpose of the marching band uniform is to make sure that everyone on the field looks the same, hence the name "uniform". For this reason, there are certain guidelines all band members must follow.

- 1) The uniform is to be worn completely and properly at all times unless specified
- 2) **No jewelry is to be worn with the uniform.** Ladies may wear small stud ear rings, NO HOOPS. Gentlemen, school rules specify NO EAR RINGS.
- 3) The only hat to be worn with the uniform is the uniform shako or the designated Black and Silver Brigade Baseball Cap.
- 4) There is to be no face painting of any type.
- 5) Sunglasses or other accessories are not to be worn.
- 6) Black socks and black Bando shoes or their equal are the only footwear to be worn and this includes dress down uniform. Keep an extra **CLEAN** pair of socks in your hat box.
- 7) A band T-shirt or suitable plain white t-shirt is required to be worn in order to keep perspiration stains off the uniform. No other color T-Shirt is acceptable.

Uniform Distribution and Collection

All marching band members will be fitted for a uniform during designated fitting days or at band camp. Shoe and glove orders will also be taken at that time. The uniforms will be stored at Houston County High School throughout the marching season (the shoes and T-shirts are owned by the students and should be taken home). Gloves may be stored in hat boxes but it is recommended they be washed a couple of times during the marching season. Students will meet for each performance at the band room at a designated time each week and will get their uniform off the designated rack. Students should arrive wearing shorts and a T-shirt. Uniforms are numbered and each student's number will be posted in various places in the Fine arts building. Each student should proceed to the designated uniform area to get his or her uniform. After getting the correct uniform, students should proceed to the uniform room in order to pick up their hat box. Students should then proceed to the designated staging area (usually the theater) where they will put on their band pants over their shorts and T-shirt and wait to receive further instructions. The students will carry their uniform bag and hat box with them on the bus. Before departing the bus at a performance, students will dress in the remainder of their uniform. Upon returning from a game or performance, the above procedure should be followed in reverse. The uniform committee will check all uniforms at the conclusion of each performance to insure it is hung correctly on its hanger. Students will be held responsible for any uniform parts that are damaged. The Band Boosters will clean the uniforms.

Inclement Weather:

Umbrellas are not necessary. Should it begin to rain at any outdoor event we will issue raincoats. If the weather conditions continue to deteriorate, the band will return to the school to collect uniforms and the students will be dismissed and sent home. As the weather turns colder, wind and percussion players should dress for the weather by adding additional layers underneath the uniform. No coats or jackets will be needed in the stands if proper attention will be paid to layering under the uniform.

Due to the nature of the uniform, Flag Corps members will be allowed to wear coats or wind suits should the weather make it necessary.

Auxiliary Uniforms

The uniforms worn by the Flag Corps are each individually owned. Therefore, these uniforms do not need to stay at the school. Members of the Flag Corps should report to the school wearing their uniform. Flag Corps members are responsible for the cleaning of their own uniforms.

Color Guard

Prerequisite: Audition and Director Approval

The Color guard is an audition only group that performs with both the Football Band and Competition Band. Both units include the use of flags, rifles, and miscellaneous other equipment. There are clinics offered previous to the audition date. The Football Color Guard auditions are held in late March or early April. The Competition Color Guard will be selected from the Football Color Guard. After being selected for the Football group, the Color Guard members will be given an opportunity to learn a more difficult series of routines to audition for the Competition Color Guard. The Competition Color Guard is a smaller unit of individuals and the routines are at an increased difficulty level. The same band attendance policy is in effect for this group. There will be scheduled proficiency levels of performance that each member must meet in order to remain an active member of the Color Guard.

Miscellaneous Information

School Owned Instruments and Equipment:

Houston County High school provides instruments and equipment to those sections of the band which use unusual or unreasonably expensive items (e.g. Sousaphones, Marching Baritones, Mellophones, Flag Equipment). Students in these sections will be assigned an instrument or equipment at the beginning of the season. These students are responsible for the care and maintenance of this equipment while in their possession. All instruments and equipment should be returned at the end of the season in a condition equal to or better than when it was issued. The students will be held accountable for any repair or replacement costs due to their negligence. It should be noted that Houston County High School does not supply reeds, valve oil or cork grease.

Music

Band members will be provided with all music needed throughout the course of the marching season. The band members are expected to keep up with this music by storing it properly. It is helpful to purchase either a flip folder or ring binder where music will be protected from the elements. Memorization of the Football Stands music will make the event more enjoyable and is encouraged. If a student loses a piece of music, he or she will be charged a nominal fee for its replacement. At the end of the season each student will be asked to turn in all music.

Student Leadership Positions

The following student leadership positions exist to aid the director in the operation of the marching band.

Drum Majors:

The Drum Majors serve as the student conductors of the band. They are responsible for leading the band on the field and while in the stands. The Drum Majors also represent the band in awards ceremonies and in greeting visitors. The Drum Majors are expected to set the example for the entire band in terms of behavior and dedication. Drum Majors may also be required by the director to assist in other capacities throughout the season. Auditions are held towards the end of the Spring Semester for the Drum Major position(s). A student must be a Junior or Senior, a playing member scheduled in a band class and had at least one year's marching experience with the **Black & Silver Brigade** in order to audition.

Section Leaders:

Section leaders are responsible for making sure that all members of their sections are present and accounted for, with all necessary materials, and in the right place at the right time. They are to offer assistance to other members of their section who may be having difficulty in marching or in playing the music. At times it may also be necessary for the section representative to assist in drill instruction. The section representatives are expected to set the example in their sections with regards to behavior, responsibility, and dedication. The directors giveth and the directors taketh away the privilege.

Percussion Captain and Flag Captain:

These positions carry the exact same description as the Section representatives with only one exception. In addition to the responsibilities listed above, Captains of these sections may also be asked to actually rehearse their sections should it become necessary to break into groups during a rehearsal. Captains may also be called upon to assist in writing some choreography (Flag Line) and/or parts (Percussion), again where additional staff members are not available. The director chooses these positions with student input from each section.

Equipment Crew:

Equipment crew members are very important to a successful band program. These individuals help with unloading the loading the equipment truck before, during, and after the game. These students are responsible for making sure all equipment is organized and ready for performance.

Field Crew:

Field crew members are responsible for making sure that the field markers, auxiliary percussion equipment, water coolers, and sound equipment are on/off the field. See Mr. Shaw or Mr. Wilson if you are willing to help with this.

Librarians:

The director selects librarians. They are responsible for maintaining the music library, copying music, and making sure that the instrument folders are signed out at the end of class. Other duties include answering the band room phone and running errands for the director.

Band Awards

John Philip Sousa Award

This award is presented to a graduating senior and is based on that individual's accomplishments during their tenure in the band program. Criteria will include chair positions, band placement, offices held,

solo and ensemble participation, District Honor Band auditions and participation, All State Band and Orchestra auditions and participation. Also, community service and music activities outside the school will be considered.

Outstanding Classman Award

Voted on by peers in the band. Should be based on a student's accomplishments but a certain amount of popularity does factor in. One award will be presented for each class.

Outstanding Percussionist

Voted on by peers and is limited to those students that participate in the percussion section.

Outstanding Colorguard

Voted on by peers and is limited to Flag Corps members.

Most Improved Musician Award

Voted on by peers in each band class and approved by the director. This is a student who has shown an above average level of improvement.

Letters and Bars

All students who successfully participate in the **Black & Silver Brigade** for a minimum of 15 games will receive a black chenille letter "H" to be worn on a letter jacket of their choosing. Students must also have met all attendance requirements for rehearsals and performances with no excessive absences or tardiness. For each additional year of successful membership in the Black & Silver Brigade, students receive a bar to add to their jacket. While Houston County High School provides the letters and bars, the students are responsible for providing their own letter jackets. The Band Boosters will assist with students acquiring jackets through a reputable company but will not purchase jackets for individuals. Student must march a minimum of fifteen (15) ball games to letter in band. Students will receive a bar at the 25 game mark and the 35 game mark. All students must be in good standings with rehearsal attendance.

Band Parent's Organization

This group is designed for the parents of band students. The Band Parents are the backbone for the success of our band program. Without this organization's help and support, we would not exist. There are many areas that your parents help the band through this organization whether serving as an officer, working in the concession stand at a ballgame, driving the equipment semi or chaperoning a ball game.

This organization usually meets the first Tuesday in each month at 7 PM to discuss what areas need to be addressed for that month. Different committees meet to help with different areas such as sewing, raising money, helping with the scholarship pageant and many, many other areas. Sign up sheets will be made available at meetings for parents to be a part of these various committees. We encourage your parents to be very active in this organization because behind every great band is a great parent's organization.

Attitude

*The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of ATTITUDE on life. Attitude, to me, is more than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home
(a Band!).*

*The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is
play the one string we have
and that is our ATTITUDE.*

*I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me
And 90% how I react to it.
And, so it is with you-
We are in charge of our
ATTITUDES*