

# SCHULENBURG SHORTHORN BAND HANDBOOK

**2019 – 2020**

Updated 7/26/19

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The purpose of this handbook is to provide a basic guideline to answer the various questions that may arise from time to time during the busy school year. Please understand that your views, suggestions, and concerns are very important to me. Please consult with me if an issue or question that is not covered in this handbook should arise.

The Shorthorn Band is an organization that is known for their constant hard work, endless dedication, and great performances. These qualities are established through countless hours of meaningful practices and self-discipline at the highest level. From my perspective, the band is the eyes and ears of the school. That means that each member of our band family must work to always set the example and make good decisions because someone will always be watching. As a young and emerging musician, I would like for you to strive towards always improving as well as working to gain the skills needed to consistently play the best that you can because someone will also always be listening. Hence the eyes and ears of the Shorthorn country! Remember that the choices you make have a direct reflection not only on yourself but also on our organization, the school, and the community. Let's work together to put ourselves in a position to where we constantly grow as individuals and continue to try to always give the best performance possible.

**Save your handbook for future reference and return the form labeled Parent/Student Agreement Form and Varsity Band Activity Permission Slip with both signature to the band hall by August 28, 2019.**

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I. A Note to the Members of the Band

As a member of the Shorthorn Band, you are part of one of the largest and most successful organizations at Schulenburg High School. The band is one of the few groups that is active the entire year.

As with other school groups, the success of our band depends on the loyalty and cooperation of ALL of its members.

How does a band member show loyalty and cooperation to the band? First, by choosing to accept the responsibility about being proud and worthy member. Second, by giving the organization all that they have in attention, interest, and effort. Finally, by holding yourself to the behavior expectations that are required for every student.

The rules outlined on the following pages are simple, sound, and easy to follow. In following them you are meeting an obligation that you owe to your school, your peers, your family and yourself.

ONLY when EVERY member cooperates can the Shorthorn Band achieve its goals of being a successful and outstanding organization.

## II. Band Groups

### Marching Band

The marching band performs at football games, marching contests, parades, pep rallies, and other events. In order to be a member of the UIL marching show, a student must attend summer band\* to put the student in a position to earn a marching spot for our UIL marching show. This will not necessarily assure each student of an active position in the band but will help determine who is most qualified to march.

During the marching season, the Shorthorn marching band should expect to march outside every day for their class period. **Students are required to bring a refillable water bottle full of water to every outdoor rehearsal.** The start of the school year also marks when afterschool rehearsals begin. Please be aware of when your rehearsal times are. Sectional rehearsals will be different for the different sections of the band and will be held at different times throughout the week. Please check the year-long schedule, the white board as you enter the band hall, or with your section leader, drum major, or the director if you have any questions.

\*New members/first year marchers would have had to attend New Member Band Camp before that year's summer band begins.

### Wind Ensemble (Varsity Band)

The Symphonic Band is the top performing group in the band. This ensemble performs at school functions, concerts, band festivals and UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest. Members of this group must attend all after school rehearsals, performances, and competitions. You must audition or be a member of Symphonic Band for one year in order to perform with ensemble. It includes grades 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>.

### Symphonic Band (Junior Varsity Band)

The Symphonic Band is a performance group and can be a competing group depending on eligibility and proper instrumentation. This band performs at certain school functions, concerts, and local band festivals. It includes grades 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>.

### Concert Band (Secondary Beginning Band)

The Concert Band is made primarily of 6<sup>th</sup> graders and any secondary students that are looking to learn to play an instrument. This young band works to gain the skills needed to become a performing ensemble. This band will perform at concerts and local band festivals.

## III. COMPETITIONS

### All - Region, Area, and All State Ensembles

Beginning in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, students can audition for a spot in one of these ensembles. The top students in each section will then be selected to represent Schulenburg ISD. All band members are encouraged to try out for these competitive bands. Chair placement in the school's Wind Ensemble will be heavily weighted by the attendance and success of the student at the All -

Region competition. If a student is interested they must put in the time to learn the music. The director is available for help and will make the final decision on who is eligible or not eligible to audition.

#### Solo and Ensemble

All wind ensemble band members are required to participate in at least the solo portion of UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest. This performance opportunity allows the individual to perform for a judge and potentially qualify for a medal. Those students receiving a first division rating on a Class I solo and/or small ensemble can qualify for the Texas State Solo and Ensemble in late May in Austin. All solos and ensembles to be performed at UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest must be approved by a band director.

Students who lose eligibility at the end of the fall semester will not have the opportunity to attend and perform at UIL Solo and Ensemble. This is done because of UIL fees that need to be paid by early January. Those students deemed ineligible will instead be asked to perform at an alternate venue that will be scheduled at the beginning of the spring semester.

\* Just a note, solos help in the development and improvement of the individual performer. Performing in an ensemble will help a student develop a heightened sense of awareness and an improvement in techniques that will help you play in a group with more success and confidence. Both opportunities will aid in strength during performance and overall growth as individuals and will greatly contribute to an improved band as well as an all-around more rewarding musical experience. Students are encouraged to participate in both a solo and ensemble. Due to scheduling and shortage of accompanists for the solo and ensemble contest, the band director may limit and control who will be allowed to perform a solo and/or an ensemble.

#### IV. Rehearsals

The success of a band depends on how it rehearses. How a band rehearses depends on the conduct and cooperation of the students. Rehearsals are where learning takes place. Your continued and consistent attendance to rehearsals is a direct reflection of your dedication and the self-less mindset needed to have not only a successful rehearsal but also a successful band. As an overall philosophy for rehearsal with the Shorthorn Band, rehearsals must be attended to earn performance opportunities. Be patient, attentive, and cooperative in observing these rehearsal rules.

1. Be on time for all rehearsals. Attendance will always be taken at the beginning of each rehearsal.
2. The white boards should be read when entering the band hall so music and instruments can be organized appropriately.
3. Take out your instrument and begin warming up. Warm-up should consist of playing long tones and scales without blasting of instruments or unnecessary loud playing in any section.
4. Stop the individual playing when the director or an officer steps in front of the band.
5. There is to be NO TALKING or unnecessary moving around at any time during rehearsal. When the director's arms are raised in the conducting position all instruments should be raised to playing position.

6. Do not leave your seat during the first 15 minutes of any rehearsal or sectional. Once the band's warm up is complete the water fountain and bathroom will be available for use. Also, the director, and NOT the school bell, will dismiss you from all rehearsals.
7. The band hall should be kept neat and orderly. Pick up after yourself. Make sure to put all your music away once rehearsal is over.
8. Gum chewing or eating of any kind is not permitted during rehearsals, performances, or anytime that you are in uniform. Food, drinks, gum, and candy will not be tolerated in the music building at any time.
9. Missing more than half of any rehearsal may require that the student attend make a make-up rehearsal.

V. Missed and Late rehearsal policy

**During summer band:**

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals during summer band. Missing more than three days of rehearsals will put the student in jeopardy to lose their assigned marching spot as well as performances during the school year. Missing rehearsals for other extra-curricular activities or doctor's appointments that are communicated to the director prior to missing any rehearsals will be considered an excused absence. Excused absences will not count as a missed rehearsal. Missing a rehearsal because of discretionary outside commitments will be considered by the director and may or may not be necessarily excused. Parents and students are asked to communicate beforehand anytime a student is expecting to miss a rehearsal.

**During the school year:**

During marching season, students are expected to be at the parking lot with their instrument in hand and a full bottle of water. All outdoor morning rehearsals will begin at 7:30 am. During concert season, students are expected to be in their chair with instrument, folder with music, tuner, and a pencil ready to warmup by the start of rehearsal at 7:30 am. Listed below are the consequences if a student is tardy to a rehearsal in any given week. Consequences start over every week.

1st offense: Running a lap(s) or lines to write (student's choice). Lunch detention is assigned if lines are not completed within 24 hours.

2nd offense: Losing third quarter privileges. Students are allowed time off after our halftime show until the end of the third quarter. Losing that privileges would mean they would have to stay in the stands. Lines to write during concert season.

3rd offense: Lose pep-rally privileges. Lose eligibility for performances or trips.

Missing an evening rehearsal will lead to losing third quarter privileges. In the spring, the band member will be subjected to being lowered in chair and/or band ranking, as well as their grade being lowered. Performance opportunities may be taken away. It could also mean not being allowed to go to a festival, a UIL performance, or lose eligibility to go on our spring trip.

VI. Band Hall and Practice Room Rules

1. Absolutely no food, drink, gum, or candies are allowed in the band hall or practice rooms unless authorized by the director.
2. Practice rooms are for musical practices only, not for studying or talking.
3. In most cases, it is best to practice alone.
4. Please keep your rehearsal areas clean!
5. The placement of permanent stickers and/or writing on the stands or walls of the band hall is not allowed.
6. For the protection of all band equipment and other reasons, non-band members are not allowed in the band hall at any time.

#### VII. Public Appearances

The culmination of all the work that has gone into tryouts, auditions, and rehearsals comes to fruition when the Shorthorn Band performs in public. Public appearances are the single greatest factor that influence the community's and school's perception of our organization. Shorthorn Band members are required to observe the following rules in order to present the best possible performance to our community and school.

1. Band members are required to attend all public appearances of the Shorthorn Band. The ONLY acceptable exceptions are those cleared with the director at least two weeks in advance. Weddings and quincaneras are acceptable excuses ONLY if a family member is the person being married or presented.
2. Missing a festival or event may lead to that student to be excused from a performance, trip, or UIL Event. It may also subject the student to potential removal or suspension from the program.
3. For pre-arranged absences, a written excuse from a parent or guardian must be presented to the director at least 5 days before the absence is to occur. For unexpected absences, the student is to bring a written excuse from a parent or guardian.
4. Any band member missing a performance without a legitimate written excuse, will be subject to a chair demotion and either the grade will be lowered or he/she will not be allowed to participate or travel with the band on certain designated events.
5. Approach performances with enthusiasm and determination to make each appearance a success for our band, yourself, and your school. All performances are an extension of the classroom and therefore will be given the credit of one exam grade per performance.
6. All information concerning public appearances will be announced by your director as early as possible.

#### VIII. Uniforms

The Shorthorn Band marching uniforms are extremely expensive and are valued at over \$250.00 each. Any part of the uniform garments that are destroyed or damaged in any way must be replaced by the student to whom the uniform is issued. All SHS band uniforms are to be treated with proper care and attention. The uniforms must always be hung properly on the provided hanger and inside the garment bag. The uniform will never be taken home.

Each band member must furnish the following parts of the uniform:  
Band shirt and  $\frac{3}{4}$  quarter length black socks.

**The following uniform rules will be observed:**

1. Band members will wear the complete uniform for all performances unless indicated otherwise by the director.
2. You are responsible for the proper care of your uniform. You are liable for any damages that occur to your uniform while in your possession.
3. Never CUT MATERIAL from a band uniform. Minor adjustments may be made such as turning up the length of pants. These adjustments will be the student's responsibility.
4. Do not place anything other than your uniform in the bag as it will tear and you will have to pay for damages.
5. Eating or drinking while in uniform is not allowed unless otherwise indicated by a director.
6. While a band member is in uniform they are not to behave in a manner as to disgrace themselves, the band, or the school by unsportsmanlike conduct or foul language of any kind.
7. Uniforms will not be allowed to be taken from the band hall unless you have a written note from your parents/guardian.

IX. Dress Code

1. Band members are expected adhere to SHS dress code for all performances.
2. Female band students must pin up their hair.
3. Earrings and other jewelry is not allowed to be worn while in uniform.

X. School Owned Instruments

1. Students using school owned instruments are responsible for keeping them cleaned, oiled, and polished. Oil valves at least once a week and clean the inside of your brass instrument once a month during marching, and every other month during concert season.
2. Damages to an instrument due to carelessness or lack of maintenance will be paid for by the student's parents and the student may lose the privilege of using the instrument.
3. Cases must be taken care of and no stickers or writing are permitted on them. Again, any damages to the case will be your responsibility.
4. Always take good care of all school owned or personal instruments.
5. Students are responsible for the care and maintenance of all accessories issued with the instrument.
6. Students who have checked out a school owned instrument must return the instrument in proper condition at the end of the school year.
7. Band instruments that are in good working order may be checked out at the director's discretion over the summer.
8. The SHS Instrumental agreement form signed by the student is a binding contract between SISD and the band student. This agreement will be the final authority on all band instruments on loan to students, and the student who signs the card is responsible for each item listed therein.
9. Students are at no time allowed to switch an instrument with another student unless the approval of the director has been granted.

XI. Grades

Band members will be graded on the following areas of RESPONSIBILITY:

1. Daily participation in all rehearsal and attendance for after school rehearsals → 40%  
Attendance at all rehearsals will count as a portion of the grade that you receive in band. The participation in class, behavior and whether a student is being attentive and listening and also participation when questions are asked. Finishing Smart Music assignments and other musical requirements on a timely basis.
2. Exams → 60%  
Exams consist of set test's, music memorization, set book, excerpts in concert music and uniform maintenance and return after use. Includes performance attendance.

\*\*All band members are expected to adhere to the grading policies set by the district. Band members should also work to meet the guidelines and expectations of each extracurricular activity, club(s), and organizations that the student is associated with in order to maintain the eligible to perform. A student that does not meet the academic obligations of all their classes during the school year (i.e. missing more than three (3) assignments at anytime in any one course) may lose the opportunity to perform or may be excused from band duties so that they can get caught up. A band member that does not meet district grading policies may be dropped from the band program so that the student can devote more time to their studies. \*\*

## XII. Bus Rules

The Schulenburg Shorthorn Band travels to out-of-town football games, Region and Area tryouts, Marching Band festivals, and other trips upon invitation. Listed below are the expectations all band members will be expected to follow.

1. Be on time! For every minute you are late, you are wasting everybody's time. Be polite and helpful to our band parent sponsors. They are donating their time to make sure the Band can travel safely.
2. Members of the opposite sex will sit on their designated ends of the bus. No exceptions will be permitted.
3. Do not get on or off a bus unless you have been instructed to do so by a director or sponsor. Do not exit through the rear of the bus.
4. Leave the front passenger seat of the bus open for the director.
5. Do not talk with the driver while the bus is in motion.
6. Under NO circumstances shall a band member extend the head, hands, arms, or any part of the body through the bus windows or doors.
7. Objects of any kind must never be thrown inside or outside of the bus. Use trash bags at all times.
8. No tobacco of any form is allowed. Alcoholic beverages or drugs are also prohibited on all band functions. If found or suspected, SISD rules and guidelines will be followed.
9. Please report any damage such as loose or torn bus seats to the director/sponsor and or the bus driver.
10. Remain in your seat at all times while the bus is in motion.
11. Do not sit on the back rest of the seats.
12. Only school-appropriate language will be permitted on the buses.
13. Loud music must be school-appropriate in nature. Any music that becomes a distraction or a safety hazard to the driver or others on the bus will be asked to be silenced.



14. All band members are expected to travel with the band for all events and performances. A band member may be released at the digression of the director once the band has completed their travel.
15. Under no circumstances will a band member play an instrument while on a bus.
16. When the bus stops for a meal or break, or to change into uniforms, get back to your seat BEFORE the designated departure time.
17. When on a band trip all eyes will be on the band. Make good choices!
18. All rules described in the student code of conduct will be enforced.
19. Upon arrival from a trip all students should make arrangements to be picked up with 15 minutes of our arrival.

### XIII. Travel Guidelines

Trips are a reward for meeting obligations of the program throughout the school year. There will be attendance and performance expectations (more than just paying for the trip full) that will need to be met in order to qualify for the trip. A breakdown of requirements will be given to the parents that will list, in detail, what students will need to do in order to qualify to go on the trip. This form will also need to be signed by both the parent/guardian and the student.

### XIV. Procedures for Discipline

Parents and band members are reminded that regulations and disciplinary measures in this handbook are for the protection of all students. Parents, as well as students, are urged to cooperate whenever disciplinary action is necessary. The violation of any of the above rules will place the band member in a position where they may receive a consequence. Continued violations may subject the student to not be able to attend band functions that involve performing or traveling of any kind.

All school and district policies as stated in the student code of conduct manual will be followed in the event of any other violations not covered in this handbook.

### XV. Band Fees

All **returning varsity band members** have a band fee of \$25.00 for the school year. That fee includes the current year's show shirt. It also covers all reeds, valve oil, and other materials needed for the proper care and maintenance of the student's instrument. Additional or replacement grey polo shirts can be ordered for \$10.00 ea.

All **first-year varsity band members** have a band fee of \$35.00 for the school year. That fee includes our grey polo shirt and the current year's show shirt. It also covers all reeds, valve oil, and other materials needed for the proper care and maintenance of the student's instrument.

If you are unable to pay the yearly band fee, financial assistance is available.

**\*\*All students are required to have a grey polo band shirt and the current year's show shirt by the beginning of the school year. \*\***

### XVI. Conclusion

The Schulenburg Shorthorn Band will continually work to establish a reputation of excellence in performance. The expectation for each band member is to commit and dedicate themselves towards constantly improving. Not only as musicians but also as young adults. You should also strive to come prepared to every rehearsal with not only an open mind but also ready to work. We will reach excellence when every single member buys in and dedicates themselves to always giving their best effort. When everyone gives their best effort and works as a team to perform for each other, there will be no limit to what the Shorthorn Band can do. Striving to create the highest level of musicianship possible will be what the Shorthorn Band will do and for what it will be known for. In turn, this will lead us to grow and development as a band that is consistently excellent. Let's have a great year! Go Shorthorns!!

# Schulenburg Shorthorn Band Handbook

## 2019-2020

### Acknowledgement Form

I have read and acknowledge the rules, regulations, and procedures of the Schulenburg Shorthorn Band. I understand that I am representing not only myself and my family, but also the Shorthorn Band, the community of Schulenburg, and the Schulenburg Independent School District.

Please sign and return this form by August 28<sup>th</sup> to the director.

Student Name: (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: (sign) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Schulenburg Varsity Band Activity Permission Slip – Fall 2019

Due: August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019

This permission slip is for the following events:

August 30	Football game @ Stockdale
September 20	Football game @ Flatonia
October 4	Football game @ Danbury
October 5	Blinn Marching Festival, Brenham
October 12	Lost Pines Marching Festival, Bastrop
October 18	Football game @ Van Vleck
October 19	UIL Region Marching Contest, Giddings HS
October 26	UIL Area Marching Contest, Belton HS
November 8	Football game @ Ganado

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

As the Parent/Guardian of the student named above, I give permission for participation and transportation provided to the activities listed. I understand that these events are part of the co-curricular band program at Schulenburg ISD, and the participation is required and graded. If you plan on providing a ride home for your student for any of the events listed above, please check the box below and provide the dates on which your student will not ride home on the bus. Students must make arrangements to have a buddy put their music, instrument, and uniform away if they not riding home with the band. Individual call times will be given no later than one week before each scheduled event.

The student will not be riding the bus home with the band on (Dates): \_\_\_\_\_

## Authorization to Secure Medical Treatment of a Minor

We understand that on band activity field trips, including competitive band festivals, parades, and concerts that should medical treatment need to be given to the student named below, that Schulenburg ISD and its personnel has your permission and authority to seek medical treatment, and that SISD and its personnel are not held liable for injuries, medical treatment administered by licensed health care professionals, and financial obligation.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Any known allergies? (please list) \_\_\_\_\_

Medications taken \_\_\_\_\_