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Terminology

A glossary of terms and acronyms is supplied near the end of this handbook.

Some terms and acronyms are used frequently and interchangeably throughout this handbook. These include:

- SMHSMB: San Marcos High School Music Boosters
- SMUSD: San Marcos Unified School District
- Band, Band Program, San Marcos Bands Program, ensemble, marching band
- Band member, member, student

Preface

This handbook describes the San Marcos High School Band Program (Band Program) and its policies, rules, and regulations.

Members of the band must adhere to the policies, rules and regulations of the San Marcos Unified School District and the Band Program. School rules and policies are applicable whenever a member is participating in any activity sponsored by or associated with San Marcos High School. In the event of any conflict, school policies take precedence over band policies.

The band directors shall have the authority to suspend or amend any band policy at any time deemed necessary in the best interest of the overall band program.

To Band Members

What is the High School Band Experience?

Unlike most other classes, band offers a wide variety of opportunities for the student. Band is one of the few classes where excellence is not only expected, but also essential to success. In band, everyone MUST perform at the highest level of excellence or a performance will not sound good. Even one person achieving a 60% grade on a piece of music means 40% of the notes were played incorrectly, resulting in an unpleasant listening experience!

Aside from learning performance skills, being in band helps the student develop as an engaged, thoughtful individual. For each note played, there are numerous considerations and instantaneous decisions: How loud or soft? How fast or slow? How does the note start? How does it end? Who else plays it? Am I in-tune? Nowhere else on campus is the demand for active thought any stronger.

Band also teaches life skills. Communication is the main component of music. The rehearsal and performance schedule of the band demands planning and time management...skills that will be valuable throughout life. Goal setting, problem-solving, and peer interaction develop quickly as a part of the band experience.

The San Marcos Band Program has established itself as one of the finest in the Nation. Students here have had experiences of which others can only dream. Few other programs offer the travel opportunities, leadership opportunities, creative outlet, the chance to meet and interact with professionals in the field, and the satisfaction of knowing that your time, talent, and effort have paid off through the highest levels of achievement. This handbook should help orient you to the many different aspects of the band program.

To Parents

Welcome to one of the most exciting organizations available to your student! The band program at the San Marcos High School offers many varied performance opportunities and gives members the chance to learn with each other and grow closer to one another. We strive to provide our students with the best available instruction and the most comprehensive array of events.

We firmly believe that there is a place for everyone in the band. We have hundreds of success stories. Many members who initially thought that they were not interested have become some of the most dedicated once they were a part of the experience. If you choose to participate, you can enjoy a variety of rewards. Additionally, you become a member of a very active and diverse family.

The band program at San Marcos High School has established itself as one of the finest anywhere, with superb performing ensembles in marching, symphonic, jazz, chamber music, color guard and percussion activities.

We hope you share our excitement in creating these phenomenal student opportunities. We encourage parents to be active supporters of our efforts through booster club participation (the San Marcos High School Music Boosters), assistance in fundraising, and through volunteer work such as chaperones, equipment crew, or parent leader. We also hope that you will be visible supporters of the students by attending as many performances as possible.

This handbook should help orient you and your student to the many different aspects of the band program. Attendance at band parent meetings is still encouraged.

Moreover, the band program offers a calendar accessible on our website www.sanmarcosbands.org, and it's valuable to have it easily accessible for reference. Feel free to email any Director or Music Booster for help and remember to come to the monthly booster meetings to get the latest information about each event.

Seeing such a large group of students assembled within one organization with a strong focus on achieving excellence is a rarity. Take the opportunities to meet the dedicated band directors and coaches, build connections with other parents, and engage with the members who collectively drive our achievements.

Objectives of the Band Program

The San Marcos Band Program forms an integral part of school life and is recognized as a class and a school activity. Band is one of the largest and most active student organizations and its members form an active group.

The primary objectives of the band program are:

- **Cultural** - Cultivating an ongoing appreciation and understanding of music by studying and performing exceptional musical literature.
- **Educational** - Developing discerning listeners, offering a comprehensive musical education, and preparing members for musical pursuits beyond high school. Additionally, fostering adaptability, effective communication, and critical thinking skills to ensure success in future endeavors.
- **Service** - Enhancing the ambiance of specific school and community events while upholding and boosting the reputation of San Marcos High School at all events.
- **Citizenship** - Cultivating responsible group membership, enhancing positive interaction skills, and promoting responsible community involvement.
- **Leadership** - Fostering understanding, skills, and confidence to become service-minded, empathetic members of the community who inspire positive collective action by trusting and compassionate relationships.
- **Recreational** - Providing all members with opportunity for meaningful leisure activities, a creative and emotional outlet, and enjoyable social experiences.

Band Program Offerings

- **Concert Bands:**
 - Students (who play wind instruments) enroll in band as a class, which meets during the normal school day. These classes are referred to as *Concert Band*, *Symphonic Band*, *Wind Ensemble*, and *Wind Symphony*.
 - Membership in Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and Wind Symphony requires completing the eligibility set for each ensemble and audition. Auditions occur twice yearly for Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble (end of fall semester and school year). Wind Symphony auditions only occur once a year (end of school year) and students with unexcused absences (in any ensemble) will be ineligible for this ensemble.
 - Students (who play percussion instruments) will audition and be placed into one of the 4 concert bands for performances. Percussion is a separate class period and additional rehearsals outside of the normal school day are to be expected and required for performance. Students with unauthorized absences (in any ensemble) will be ineligible for Wind Symphony.
 - Students in Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble must attend four performances outside regular school hours. The performances are the Winter Concert (December), the SMUSD Band Festival (February), and the two San Marcos Bands Spring Concerts (May). All other rehearsals and performances will occur during normal school hours.
 - Students in Wind Symphony must attend additional rehearsals and performances outside of normal school hours. Please see the San Marcos Bands Calendar for the full schedule.

- **Marching Band:**

- The Knight Regiment is a competitive marching band.
- Membership is open to all SMHS students who are enrolled in band, percussion, or guard as a class.
- Marching Band is a required class for all 9th graders enrolled in a band, percussion, or guard class.
- Members must attend rehearsals and performances outside the normal school year and school hours. Please see the San Marcos Bands Calendar for the full schedule.

- **Jazz Ensembles:**

- SMHS students have the option to enroll in a jazz ensemble as a scheduled class.
- Jazz ensemble students must also be enrolled in a concert band or percussion class unless they play guitar, piano, bass, or drum set exclusively.
- Audition in the Fall will determine membership in the premier jazz ensemble (Studio Jazz).
- Members of all jazz bands are required to attend performances that occur outside of normal school hours. Please see the San Marcos Bands Calendar for the full schedule.

- **Percussion Ensembles:**

- Percussion members may audition for membership in selected percussion ensembles.
- Members selected for the Percussion Studio must enroll in a 7th period class, attend rehearsals after school, and participate in performances outside normal school hours.

- **Guard:**

- Membership in Guard may be obtained through auditions.
- Concurrent enrollment in guard class and 7th period marching band is required for all guard members.
- Guard members will rehearse and perform with the Knight Regiment Marching Band in the fall.
- In the winter/spring, guard members will audition to join selected guard ensembles.

- **World Music Ensembles (Salsa Band-Steel Drums-Woodwind Choir-Brass Choir-Brass Band-Jazz Combo):**

- Concert band / Percussion members may openly participate in any world music ensemble.
- World Music Ensembles meet before/after school.
- Students participating in World Music Ensembles can obtain class credit (fine arts) through regular participation in at least 2 different ensembles weekly

- **Conservatory for Leadership & the Arts:**

- San Marcos Bands Program members may apply for membership in the Conservatory for Leadership & the Arts.
- Conservatory is a three-year program (starting in 10th grade) with specific mandatory yearly requirements
- Members of the Conservatory are required to attend weekly leadership seminars 2nd semester.

- **Axiom Performance Ensemble:**

- San Marcos Bands Program members may audition for membership in the Axiom Performance Ensemble.
- Members selected for the Axiom Performance Ensemble will be required to enroll in a 7th period class and attend class/rehearsals after school and performances outside normal school hours.

Concert Bands

CONCERT SEASON

Because the marching band performs so often in public, concert season often seems “forgotten”. This is far from being true. Concert season is the time when the majority of musical training takes place.

Each band member will be placed in an ensemble / band class based on completion of eligibility sets, semester recital (or excerpts for incoming 9th graders), the applicant’s playing ability, and past class performance (class work completion and attendance). Auditions are held at the end of the fall semester and late spring (except Wind Symphony).

Three concerts are presented at San Marcos High School and are open to the public. The first is the Winter Concert in December, and the other two are the Spring Concerts held in May. These are wonderful, well-attended concerts and you will hear challenging music. This is a great time to invite family and friends and let them hear what the San Marcos Bands can do.

BAND FESTIVALS

SMUSD BAND FESTIVAL

The San Marcos Unified School District Band Festival is held each February and features ensembles from our district high schools and middle schools. This is always the first performance in the festival season and bands perform for a panel of hired judges who provide critique and suggestions for improvement for the ensemble. The festival alternates yearly between San Marcos High School and Mission Hills High School. All performances are open and free to the public.

SCSBOA FESTIVALS

Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association (SCSBOA) Band Festivals are held in March and April. The concert bands travel to local high schools where they perform and are critiqued by judges. Each band performs their concert music followed by the sight-reading portion of the festival. The band is given music they (or the directors) have never seen or heard and has approximately eight to ten minutes to talk their way through the piece. They then receive a “one-time-shot” at their performance. SCSBOA festivals are open to the public. Even though performance times are sometimes inconvenient, parents are encouraged to come to hear and applaud the bands.

CSUF / CSULB FESTIVALS

The California State University, Fullerton and California State University, Long Beach Festivals are held in March. These festivals feature a band performance on stage, followed by a clinic (off stage) from one of the 3 judges evaluating the ensemble. The festival also features a concert where the SMHS students have the opportunity to listen/watch the ensembles from the college.

SAN DIEGO WINDS COMPOSER/CONDUCTOR FESTIVAL

The San Diego Winds Composer / Conductor festival occurs annually in March. Bands gather at a local high school to showcase their music to a renowned composer or conductor. After the performance, the composer/conductor conducts an on-stage clinic with the ensemble. When the festival highlights a specific composer, the bands perform the composer’s music, providing a unique opportunity to gain insights into the music. This festival is open to the public and parents are encouraged to attend the performances and the following clinics.

78 HONOR BAND, ALL-SOUTHERN HONOR BAND AND ALL-STATE CONCERT BANDS

Individual band members in Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony are strongly encouraged to tryout for these bands. Pre-selected tryout music is available to all students during the summer. The band tryouts occur through online submissions (recordings) and are due in the fall. A cost is associated with submitting auditions and performing for each band.

Band members who become All-State or All-Southern musicians are highly praised and honored. For the All-Southern Honor Band, students assemble in Orange County in January/February to perform at the SCSBOA Annual Conference. For the All-State Honor Band, students assemble in Sacramento in January/February to perform at the California All State Music Educators Conference. The bands and orchestras made up of these wonderful musicians represent the top high school band members in the state of California. Being selected to All-State is among the highest individual honors a high school musician can achieve.

PERFORMANCE (CONCERT) ATTIRE

Concert attire sets the tone for the professionalism of the performing ensemble. Students are expected to come to each event or performance properly dressed. Members provide their own concert attire, but the SMHS Music Program does have limited attire sets that can be borrowed for performances if requested in a timely manner.

OPTION 1

- Black Tuxedo / Suit
 - o Black Suit Jacket
 - o Black Dress Pants (Black belt)
 - o White long-sleeve, button-up dress shirt
 - o Black Bow Tie
 - o Black dress shoes (marching shoes are acceptable)

OPTION 2

- Black Dress
 - o Black **Floor** length dress
 - o 3/4 to full-length sleeves (no exposed shoulders)
 - o Black low-heeled shoes
- Professional Attire
 - o Solid black dress pants (no black jeans)
 - o Solid black blouse with 3/4 to full-length sleeves (no sleeveless or short sleeve tops)
 - o Black low heeled shoes

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons give the student a chance to progress at an accelerated rate toward mastering their instrument and are highly recommended. The private instructor can work with the students individually, gearing the lessons to fit the specific needs of the performer. The student is able to hear the improvement in playing almost immediately, unlike the full band setting where players can sometimes “hide” or cover their areas of inexperience by allowing stronger players to carry the weight of the section.

Our recommended instructors are professional players/educators in the area. Students who benefit from private lessons have a history of becoming top players in the program (and sometimes become private lesson instructors themselves while in college). The cost per lesson varies with the instructor, as does the location. Some teach at home, others at area music stores, and some at neighboring universities.

A list of private instructors will be provided through the Band Office as teacher schedules become available.

SPRING ELIGIBILITY CYCLE

The Spring semester is very busy for all band members. Eligibility submissions for concert bands, recitals, tryouts for drum majors, color guard and drum line are all held during this time. Application submission and selection of section leaders and band officers also take place. Your band members will be able to get information from the directors if they choose to tryout for any of these positions.

Marching Band - Knight Regiment

DESCRIPTION

The Knight Regiment Marching Band is a state-of-the-art competitive marching band. It explores the latest trends in competitive marching band and is one of the largest groups on campus. The Knight Regiment is a 7th-Period (PE) class for members.

GOALS

The Knight Regiment Marching Band provides an outlet for members interested in state-of-the-art design, performance, social, and competitive opportunities. It is comprised of students from all musical ensembles and guard.

MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

Students must be enrolled in 7th-period Marching Band and either a concert band, percussion, or guard class. The Color Guard and Battery (drum line) sections require a specialized audition and are considered a select ensemble of the marching band. Additionally, all 9th graders enrolled in Concert Band or Percussion must participate in marching band for one year. For concert band/percussion students in grades 10-12, marching band is optional but highly recommended. Historically, students in marching band tend to stay in band, continue to participate in music throughout high school, enjoy one-of-a-kind performance opportunities, travel, and form strong bonds with their peers.

SECTIONS

HORN LINE (WINDS)

The Knight Regiment Horn line includes all wind musicians (Brass / Woodwind instrumentalists) in the ensemble.

GUARD

The Color Guard is a part of the Knight Regiment Marching Band. The Color Guard is a non-instrumental section that provides additional visual aspects to the performance. The color guard interprets the music that the marching band is playing via the synchronized spinning of flags, sabers, mock rifles, or other pieces of equipment and through choreographed dance.

Guard Membership

- Color Guard membership is limited to students who are enrolled in the guard class.
- A successful audition is required to obtain Color Guard membership during each year of participation
- Training sessions are provided before the performance-based auditions that are held in the spring

PERCUSSION

The percussion section of the Knight Regiment Marching Band consists among the following: Field Battery Instruments (Snare, Tenor Drum, and Bass Drums) and the Front Ensemble (Grounded Percussion Instruments, Mallet Percussion, Electronics, etc.). The field battery is selected based on performance at the May/June Percussion Camps. The specific instrumentation and instruments used in the percussion section will vary yearly based on the demands of the overall show design.

DRUM MAJOR

Members are eligible to audition for Drum Major after completing a full season in the Knight Regiment Marching Band. Drum Majors audition in areas demonstrating leadership, conducting, maturity, and musicianship skills. Conducting workshops are held in April/May to prepare the interested students, followed by an audition.

REHEARSALS

Since the Knight Regiment is a 7th period class, its rehearsal schedule falls almost entirely outside the typical school day. Knight Regiment rehearsals are as follows, but not limited to:

- June Camps (Percussion and Guard): Held at the beginning of summer for two weeks.
- Summer Wind Rehearsals (optional): 1.5 hours of rehearsal every other week during June and July.
- Summer Music Academy - Band Camp - MANDATORY: Begins approximately three weeks (MON through FRI) before the first day of school.
- School Day Rehearsals: 2 evenings per week ***see the Rehearsal calendar for specific dates and times.

- Extra Rehearsals: Typically every other Saturday rehearsal in the months of August and September.
- A Detailed calendar with all rehearsal dates and times will be provided to each student as well as posted online on the www.sanmarcosbands.org website

JUNE CAMPS (PERCUSSION AND GUARD)

The main purpose of June Camps is for incoming prospective and returning members to practice and develop fundamental performance and movement techniques. The older members are a tremendous help with the teaching process while building camaraderie with the new members. The camp is traditionally held in June following school dismissal to prevent any disruptions in transportation plans. If you anticipate any problems with attendance, please contact one of the directors.

SUMMER MUSIC ACADEMY (BAND CAMP)

The end of July and August marks the beginning of our busy marching season. Attendance at this camp is mandatory, so plan vacations accordingly. If you have any concerns, speak to the Directors.

The Summer Music Academy (SMA) will comprise the most concentrated rehearsal time for the entire season. During this time, we build fundamental skills and teach a large amount of the competitive marching show. As you can imagine, this puts an important emphasis on this camp. The dates and times vary, but prepare for 8-hour days in week 2 and 3. Comfortable tennis shoes, light-colored clothes, and a hat are the best attire. It also will be helpful to have a large water jug, sunscreen, and sunglasses. Have your band member check with their section leaders for other good advice.

Some of the things happening at this camp include:

- Fundamentals training (both musical and visual)
- Learning show music
- Learning drill
- Uniform fittings
- Learning the National Anthem and SMHS Fight Song
- Lots & lots of bonding between old and new band members.

“SCHOOL DAY” REHEARSALS

Once school starts, the practice schedule during marching season can be rather hectic. Marking your calendar accordingly will greatly aid your student. School Day rehearsals happen in the evening (6pm-9pm), twice a week.

EXTRA REHEARSALS

Typically every other Saturday in the months of August and September after school starts.

PERFORMANCES

The Knight Regiment marching band performs at two home varsity football games. It also performs at competitive field tournaments, approximately six per season. Most field tournaments have a single performance per event. A Bands of America Field Tournament follows a prelim/finals format - two daily performances. The Knight Regiment also performs various community support appearances based on need and accessibility.

FIELD TOURNAMENTS

SCSBOA / WBA / CSBC

The Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association (SCSBOA), Western Bands Association (WBA), and California State Band Championships (CSBC) organizations run a large number of competitive field tournaments each year. While similar, each organization has its own distinct set of rules and judging criteria. Field Tournaments in these circuits usually follow a single performance per event format.

BANDS OF AMERICA

Bands of America--BOA--is a premier national organization for high school music students. Based in Indiana, BOA hosts many excellent contests and symposiums. BOA is probably best known for marching contests held each fall. There are many regional contests held around the US. Southern California and St. George, Utah are familiar destinations for the Knight Regiment for these BOA Regionals. Each year the directors choose locations to fit our busy fall schedule. You will know in

advance so that you can plan accordingly. Some parents choose to follow the buses to these contests, while some parents make reservations and stay at a nearby hotel.

Each year the schedule varies due to performance times. There is a preliminary performance and, hopefully, inclusion in the finals. There's plenty of time to purchase T-shirts, patches, videos, etc. We usually get home very late for the Southern California Regional, but seeing other high-caliber bands is well worth it. For the St. George, Utah Regional, it is a multi-day trip with a hotel stay. These contests require lots of parental involvement.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Occasionally, special events may arise in addition to school ball games, contests, parades, concerts, and other such appearances. Participation in special events not previously scheduled will be at the discretion of the band director and school officials after conferring with the band regarding the feasibility of the event. The band is not able to accept all invitations for obvious reasons and is not able to do instant performances. The band's policy is to cooperate as much as possible with special performance requests.

KR PREVIEW NIGHT

This annual event is scheduled each fall at the end of Summer Music Academy. It is held in the stadium at San Marcos High School. The stands are usually packed, so arrive early to get a parking space. Individual sections of the Knight Regiment are featured and the marching band performs music and a brief portion of their fall production.

KR COMMUNITY SHOWCASE - 8th GRADE NIGHT - SENIOR CIRCLE

This annual event happens at the end of the fall marching band season. It is held in the stadium at San Marcos High School and features a standstill performance by the Knight Regiment joined by our future knights (incoming 8th grade students), the final run of the full fall production, and the senior circle, a celebration, tribute, and thank you to the graduating senior class.

PARADES

Parade performances are scheduled and required for Knight Regiment members (except front ensemble). This includes (but not limited to) the San Marcos Holiday Parade in December. The parade performance is no less important than any BOA finals performance and is one of the only times many in our community see the marching band perform. The Knight Regiment's local parade participation is considered an important opportunity for community service.

TRIPS

The band takes several bus trips throughout the year. Charter buses are used for "big" trips while standard school buses are used for local field tournaments. These bus trips are great fun for the band. Bus assignments are made yearly and there are adult chaperones on every bus.

Band members are usually permitted to bring small coolers, snacks, blankets, and pillows on the longer bus trips. Quite often band parents donate snacks and drinks for the trips in addition to items that students bring. You will be notified if spending money is needed for additional meals for longer trips. You will receive itineraries with times, locations, and phone numbers for longer bus trips.

UNIFORMS

San Marcos High School owned band uniforms and fall guard costumes will be issued to marching band members.

San Marcos High School Band has a large stock of uniforms. Uniforms are inventoried, repaired, distributed, and collected by the SMHS Music Boosters. Uniforms are also dry cleaned each season by the SMHS Music Boosters.

Each marching band member will need several personal accessory items. These may include gloves, shoes, unitards/tights (for guard), and black socks. Members will have the opportunity to purchase these personal items each year at band enrollment dates. If requested, the SMHS music program can provide personal accessory items. All members (excluding color guard) will wear the same 'member' T-shirt under their uniform at all times. Members are responsible for the cleaning and care of their member T-shirt. The San Marcos High School Music Boosters will provide this T-shirt to all members.

SPIRITWEAR

Spirit wear is available for students, parents and other family members. We have many different types of shirts, sweatshirts, caps, etc., are available throughout the fall season. You will have opportunities to view the products for sale at the band parent meetings, school night rehearsals, and some performances. It is a great way to show your support for the band!

Additional Ensembles

JAZZ ENSEMBLES

The San Marcos High School Jazz Bands meet before school as a 0 Period class. Everyone who plays a jazz appropriate instrument (Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Drums, Bass, Piano, Guitar, Percussion) is eligible to join. Membership into some jazz ensembles, like Studio Jazz, requires an audition for admission. Performance attire for all jazz bands is long sleeve, black, button up dress shirt, black dress pants, and black dress shoes. The jazz bands perform at various events in the area and may perform at jazz band festivals. Two concerts are held each year at San Marcos High School (Winter/Spring). Be sure to mark your calendar for these extraordinary performances!

WINTER GUARDS

Winter guard occurs second semester (after marching band) and students perform a routine in the gym to recorded music. Winter Guard is a 7th period class and students are required to attend rehearsals and performances outside of normal school hours.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLES

In addition to performances with the concert bands in the spring, percussion students also perform in select percussion ensembles. This makes up the bulk of musical learning in the spring and some ensembles require auditions and additional rehearsals outside the normal school day. Performance attire for percussion ensembles is long sleeve, black, button up dress shirt, black dress pants, and black dress shoes. A special percussion festival (San Diego Percussion Festival) is held each spring for all percussionists at SMHS. Please see the San Marcos Bands Calendar for a full schedule.

WORLD MUSIC ENSEMBLES

World music ensembles meet on select days either before or after school. Any student at San Marcos High School, including those not in the music program, are allowed to join any of the world music ensembles. With the exception of Salsa Band, which runs year round, the world music ensembles begin after winter recess in January and run through April, or until AP testing begins. Meeting days and which world ensembles are offered may vary from year to year. Please see the San Marcos Bands Calendar for the full schedule.

Procedures

1) Cast Members (Knight Regiment Marching Band ONLY):

- a) Some Knight Regiment marching band members perform as cast members. They become cast members after evaluation of their marching and playing skills during the Summer Music Academy as well as continued monitoring throughout the season. Cast members perform at every show but may do so in a non-traditional format (not marching/playing).
- b) Cast members may be assigned a permanent marching/playing position when one becomes available. Positions become available as the members assigned to them encounter attendance problems, performance inadequacies, or physical injuries.

2) Buses (All ensembles)

- a) Seating
 - i) Band members may be required to sit in designated seats for the marching band season.
 - (1) Band members are permitted to sign up to request specific buses at the beginning of the season. The directors will assign a bus to band members who fail to sign up.
 - (2) Switching buses is NOT permitted
- b) General Conduct
 - i) Quiet talking is permitted. Please keep voices low out of respect of others on the bus and for safety.
 - ii) Moving from seat to seat is prohibited during travel.
 - iii) All body parts must stay inside the bus.
 - iv) At night, please keep cell phone flash lights off. This can be a safety hazard for the bus driver.
- c) Chaperones
 - i) Chaperones ride on buses
 - ii) Band members are expected to respond appropriately to directions given by chaperones or drivers
- d) Valuables
 - i) School buses cannot be locked. The SMHS Music Boosters and director(s) assume no responsibility for any personal items. It is suggested that valuable items be left at home.
- e) Cleaning the bus
 - i) At the end of trips, buses must be cleaned and free from trash. All windows should be rolled up.

3) Rehearsals (All ensembles)

- a) Upon entering the band room/rehearsal space, take your assigned seat/position with the necessary instruments, music, and equipment
- b) Cease talking and making noise when a director(s) or staff steps in front of the ensemble.
- c) Warm-up should take place per the director's normal instructions.
- d) Return instruments, music, and equipment to storage upon dismissal by the director. Each member should store their own items.

4) Football games (Knight Regiment Marching Band ONLY)

- a) Band report times will vary with the football schedule, and will be announced before the game.
- b) Members will change into uniform at a facility on campus.
- c) All instruments and uniform parts should be CLEAN and in good condition. Instruments should be cleaned regularly to remove the excess dirt that accumulates when playing outdoors.
- d) No member is permitted to leave the organization before group dismissal at any time unless excused by a director PRIOR TO THE PERFORMANCE.

Policies, Rules, Regulations

We are fortunate to have students with the highest moral and character quality. The following policies, rules, and regulations are established to provide a framework to help maintain consistency and fairness across the entire San Marcos Bands Program and serve as a roadmap to ensure a harmonious and efficient environment where all students can thrive. At San Marcos High School, we believe in a school-wide proactive approach to positive behavior by displaying Knight PRIDE (**Positive, Respectful, Involved, Determined and Engaged**). The San Marcos High School Bands Program and the San Marcos Unified School District desires to build responsibility, respect for others, respect for the school, and respect for self in every student in the program.

1) Observance of Policies, Rules, Regulations (Policies)

- a) Band members are expected to behave properly at all times and follow all SMUSD Behavior guidelines.
- b) Misbehavior reflects poorly on the band, school, and community.
- c) Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge of the SMHS policies and the Band Program through proper behavior.
- d) Professed ignorance of Policies will not be accepted as an excuse for misbehavior.
- e) Every effort is made to provide Policies. However, directors and chaperones may find it necessary to add to or alter Policies. These may or may not be in writing as the situation allows.
 - i) Policies and directions delivered verbally should be considered the same as a written Policy
- f) Depending on the severity of the infraction, the Consequences of failing to follow the rules and policies may include the following.
 - i) Student / Director conference
 - ii) Suspension from performances
 - iii) Loss of Performing position
 - iv) School / Administrator assigned consequences
 - v) Removal from the band program
 - vi) A Director's decision for consequence is final

2) Attendance & Absences

- a) School Attendance: Students may be temporarily excused from rehearsal under the following conditions:
 - i) When personally ill and when attendance in school would endanger their health or the health of others. Documentation by a doctor's note is not needed to excuse under this policy.
 - ii) On special and recognized religious holidays observed by their faith that is previously discussed with the band directors.
 - iii) Family Emergency that is communicated with the band staff.
- b) Absences From Required Rehearsals Or Performances
 - i) Attendance is **MANDATORY** for all scheduled rehearsals and performances.
 - ii) The following rules will govern excused absences:
 - (1) Personal illness or Family Emergency
 - (a) The appropriate band director should be notified before the required rehearsal or performance.
 - (b) A written verification from the school attendance office is needed upon return to school.
 - (2) Conflicts with other school activities that have been pre-approved by director.
 - (a) Notify your director before the date of conflict.
 - (b) Written verification is needed to describe the problem and provide a resolution.
 - (c) Every effort will be made to coordinate with the conflicting school activity to accommodate participation with the other sponsors in both activities.
 - (3) Religious observance
 - (a) The appropriate band director should be notified prior to the required rehearsal or performance.
 - (4) An absence for any other reason will be considered unexcused.

iii) Consequences of unexcused absences

- (1) For Knight Regiment Marching Band, members may be “written out of the drill” for absences that occur during Summer Music Academy or Saturday Rehearsals for the portion of the show learned during the absence.
- (2) Process of Removal from a Starting Position (Knight Regiment) due to unexcused absences from rehearsals
 - (a) First absence: Student and Director conference.
 - (b) Second absence: Directors place the Student on probationary status.
 - (c) Third absence: Student will lose his/her position and become a cast member performer
 - (i) If the student is already a cast member and obtains more than the allowed number of absences, they may be removed from future performances for safety reasons.
- (3) Unauthorized absences may make students ineligible for admission into some ensembles (ex. Wind Symphony).

c) Tardy: marching band

- i) A student will be deemed tardy if they are not in their assigned position when roll is taken. Roll will be taken as soon as “set” is called by the instructor directing the daily stretch. During regular after school rehearsals, the stretch time is 6:00 p.m. The start time for extra rehearsals will be the time for call time.
- ii) Band members should try to avoid conflicts between band and other school activities. Directors will help resolve conflicts, and members must address conflicts before the conflict date.
- iii) Tardies will be counted until the member reaches three unexcused tardies at which time the three tardies will constitute one unexcused absence. The policy for Absences from Rehearsals and Performances will be followed.

3) Band room(s), practice facilities, rehearsals

- a) Access to band room, practice facilities, and rehearsals is limited to band members only unless authorized by a director.
- b) Food or drink (except water) is not permitted in band rooms or practice facilities unless authorized by a director.
- c) Instrument storage lockers/cabinets
 - i) Members are assigned a specific locker to store instruments/accessories. Use the locker/cabinet assigned to you.
 - ii) Lockers/cabinets must be kept clean and clear of personal items.
- d) Personal items
 - i) SMHS and the band are not responsible for personal items left in the band room.
 - ii) Store personally owned instruments in assigned instrument cabinets.
- e) Practice
 - i) Band members may practice in the band room and practice facilities before and after school, or during lunch.
 - ii) Practice rooms are for personal or ensemble practice or study only.

4) Appearance

- a) It is recognized that the Knight Regiment Marching Band and Concert Bands maintain a conservative personal appearance, with limitations on individual grooming and attire.
 - i) All members must be able to place all collar length (or longer) hair neatly up so as to fit inside their band shako (hat).
 - ii) Jewelry
 - (1) No visible jewelry shall be worn while in uniform
 - (2) Only a small stud ear/nose ring may be worn while in uniform
 - iii) Visible fingernail polish is not permitted in Uniform unless it is deemed part of the costuming needs for that show, season or performance.
 - iv) If a member does not wear a shako in performance for Knight Regiment, hair must be of a natural color

5) Rehearsals

- a) Band members are required to be prepared for rehearsals including having required equipment and supplies. The requirements for various bands, ensembles, and marching bands will vary. It is common practice and students are encouraged to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of rehearsal to be ready at downbeat.

6) School Provided Transportation / Completion of Rehearsal or Performance

- a) Directors are responsible for band members until events are completed.
- b) Students must remain with the band or ensemble until dismissed following all events.
- c) Band members and their parents should arrange for transportation before dismissal from events. Members may choose to notify parents that events are completed using personal phones.
- d) All members must ride school provided transportation to and from performance events. Any deviation from this must be approved by the director and adhere to the following guidelines:
 - i) Submission and approval of Alternate Transportation form
 - ii) Arrangements for the members equipment (instrument) must be made before departure
 - iii) The member WILL NOT be surrendered to anyone other than their parent/guardian unless the written request signed by the parent/guardian directs that the member be surrendered to a specifically named, responsible, adult
 - iv) Before a member may leave the Band, the parent/guardian or other individual to whom the member is to be surrendered, and the member must be together to report their departure to the Head Chaperone or director. A valid ID (driver's license) of the person picking up the member will be checked and the alternate transportation form should be submitted to the Head Chaperone or director on check-out.

7) Hazing, Initiation

- a) Hazing or initiating is prohibited.

8) Internet / Social Media Etiquette

- a) Background
 - i) There is an abundance of newsgroups, bulletin boards, and social media platforms visited by band members and parents. These platforms are a great way to hear about what bands are doing nationwide.
 - ii) Unfortunately, these platforms are littered with posts and commentary that poorly reflect on individuals and organizations. It's obvious that many people either don't realize or don't care that their personal thoughts, when subjective or inflammatory, reflect on their entire group.
 - iii) Unfortunately, we've had incidents where someone from the community posted something they thought innocent, but it upset others when taken a certain way and drew criticism. Even when not intended, this is embarrassing.
- b) Policy: Please do not post comments on social media and band related newsgroups and bulletin boards.
 - i) The safest way to avoid criticism or scrutiny is NOT to post.
 - ii) This policy applies to members and parents.

9) Medications on trips

- a) SMUSD has specific policies on student medication administration on trips.
- b) Consult with the band director at your school site for the current medication policy.

10) Misbehavior / General Conduct

Reasons for dismissal from the Knight Regiment and/or the band program and/or suspension from performances are set by the Band Directors and SMUSD as described in the Student and Faculty Handbook. Additional penalties are at the discretion of the band directors and could be imposed for the following violations:

- a) Consumption of alcohol, drugs, smoking, chewing, dipping
 - i) Drinking alcohol, taking drugs, smoking, chewing tobacco, or dipping is not permitted.
 - ii) Violation of this policy may result in immediate dismissal.
 - (1) Violating this policy at an event requiring overnight travel may result in being sent home before the event concludes.
 - (a) All costs associated with being sent home in advance will become the responsibility of the member and their family. This will include the cost of transportation for the member and a chaperone.
- b) Destruction, damage, or stealing of property
 - i) Clearly apparent attempts to damage, destroy, or steal property, whether successful or not, are not permitted or acceptable.
 - ii) This policy applies to any property, whether personal, school, or private.

- iii) Band members and/or their parent(s) will be financially responsible for costs associated with restoring or replacing damaged, destroyed, or stolen property.
- iv) If required, band members suspected of violating this policy may be reported to appropriate civil authorities.
- vi) Violation of this policy may result in immediate dismissal.
 - (1) Violation of this policy at an event, which requires overnight travel, may result in being sent home in advance of the conclusion of the event.
 - (a) All costs associated with being sent home in advance will become the responsibility of the member and their family. This will include the cost of transportation for the member and a chaperone.
- c) Using Profanity towards Directors, Parents or other students
- d) Conduct detrimental to the organization
- e) Willful Disobedience
- f) Excessive displays of affection (PDA)
 - i) Excessive displays of affection are inappropriate on school grounds or at school sponsored activities. Excessive refers to kissing and other physical demonstrations considered to be inappropriate when conducted in public.

11) Obedience

- a) Band members should show respect for directors, staff, and chaperones.

12) School owned property and facilities

- a) All property
 - i) Band members must properly care for school owned property and facilities.
 - ii) Band members may be financially responsible for repairing or replacing school-owned property not properly cared for.
- b) Instruments and related equipment
 - i) Students are responsible for the care of school-owned instruments.
 - ii) If school-owned property appears to require repair, notify a director before attempting to repair or hire such repair.
- c) Uniforms
 - i) Never wear the uniform to events other than those designated by the director. Always wear the entire uniform with all accessories. Never wear any jewelry (including watches) or make-up while in uniform.
 - ii) You are responsible for the EXACT NUMBERED UNIFORM ITEM that you are assigned
- d) Marching band members will be issued a uniform (owned by SMUSD).
- e) Guard members will be issued a costume (owned by SMHS Music Boosters)
- f) SMUSD / SMHSMB-owned uniforms will be stored at school and may not be taken home without permission.

13) Trips

- a) Ensembles take trips for field tournaments, competitions, and performances.
- b) Code Of Conduct
 - i) As members of the San Marcos Bands Program you will be highly visible, not only as a musical organization, but as representatives of our school, community, and state. That responsibility and opportunity carries with it an obligation to project and maintain the absolute highest moral and musical integrity. Many of those who come into contact with us as we perform and travel will form their opinions of San Marcos based on the impressions we create, both in close proximity and from a distance. Therefore, the rules of the San Marcos Unified School District and individual campus program rules and regulations always apply. As in any situation, good judgment must always prevail.
 - ii) All rules and expectations are set forth to help you enjoy your trips to the fullest and to avoid the embarrassment and inconvenience which momentary lapses in judgment may bring. The goal of the San Marcos Bands Program is that upon our return home to San Marcos, you will have acquired an even greater sense of pride as a San Marcos Bands member and as a San Marcos High School musical ambassador.
 - iii) Punctuality is essential in adhering to our busy trip schedule. Be early for everything and help each other stay organized. When enjoying free time and during sightseeing excursions, always stay in groups of three or more members. This is for your safety. There should not be any deviation.

- iv) School dress code is required on all trips. When in concert attire, remain in full concert attire. Having shirttails out, wearing athletic shoes in formal attire, chewing gum, etc. is unprofessional. The loading of equipment may necessitate adjustments to these expectations. Follow the instructions of the chaperone or adult sponsor in charge.
- v) Mixed company in hotel rooms is prohibited.
- vi) We will share facilities with other student groups and individuals from other schools and programs while staying in hotels. Some of these groups and individuals may be unsupervised and engage in behavior violating this very Code of Conduct. Do not be influenced nor persuaded to engage in any behavior that conflicts with the spirit of this Code of Conduct.
- vii) Members must always remain reasonable when in hotel facilities. Curfews will be strictly observed. Any personal needs that require leaving your room after curfew must be arranged in advance with a chaperone or director.
- viii) Band members are responsible for all their own equipment and personal items (triple check for uniform parts, extra reeds, valve oil, mutes, music, etc.) However, we all must share in the logistical responsibilities of the trip. We will all participate as equipment movers, sanitation engineers, stagehands, etc. Please perform the duties asked of you.
- ix) There will be times when changes to our plans become necessary. Look for solutions to problems and avoid complaining. Concerns should be expressed at an appropriate time and in an appropriate manner.
Suggestion: Never complain to anyone who cannot solve your problem. See a director instead.