

NIMITZ HIGH SCHOOL BAND



2019-2020 HANDBOOK

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Table of Contents

Forward.....	
.....	3
Goals and Objectives.....	
3-4	
Communication.....	
.....	4
Conduct/Expectations.....	
.....	5
Bullying.....	
.....	6
Drug and Alcohol Use.....	
.....	6
Digital Citizenship.....	
.....	7
Due Process.....	
.....	7
Financial Obligations.....	
...8	
Fundraising.....	
.....	8
Attendance.....	
.....	8-10
District Owned Instruments.....	
.....	10-11
Grading Guidelines.....	
1-12	
Eligibility.....	
.....	12-13
Travel Guidelines.....	
13-14	
Care of the Band Facilities.....	
.....	14

Concert	
Ensembles.....	14
Auditions.....	15
Performance/Rehearsal Requirements for Concert	
Ensembles.....	15-16
Sectionals/Full Band	
Rehearsals.....	16
Private Lessons	
Program.....	16
Marching	
Band.....	17-
19	
Marching Band	
Positions.....	20
Marching Band	
Rehearsals.....	20-21
Marching Band	
Performances.....	21-22
Football Game	
Procedures.....	22-23
Instrument	
Loading/Unloading.....	24
Health & Safety of Band	
Students.....	24
Nutrition.....	25
Uniform	
Guidelines.....	25
-26	
Student	
Leadership.....	26-27
Marching Band Student Leadership	
Positions.....	27-28
Band	
Letter.....	28
Band	
Jacket.....	29

Region Band/Orchestra	
Guidelines.....	30
Aldine ISD Solo & Ensemble	
Contest.....	30
Band Commitment/Signature	
Page.....	30

Foreword

The success of any organization is dependent upon the spirit, pride, leadership, teamwork, dedication, and cooperation of its members. Certain rules, policies, and procedures are necessary so that the overall goals of the group are met and the welfare of each individual member is best served. By accepting membership in the Nimitz High School Band, you are agreeing to perform to the best of your abilities and work together with the band staff in making this year's band the finest musical organization that our combined efforts can produce. In order for this to occur, students will need to be responsible, attentive, respectful, have a positive attitude, and follow the Aldine ISD Student Code of Conduct. The directors will do their best to insure that every student will be provided the opportunity to be successful, regardless of their ability as an incoming student or of their career ambitions following graduation. The Nimitz High School Band Staff has developed this handbook to familiarize each band member with the general operation and procedures of the NHS Band and standards by which all band members are expected to conduct themselves. The handbook is not intended to be all-inclusive, as every possible situation and question cannot be predicted in advance; however, a thorough knowledge of these materials is essential to the smooth operation and success of the band this year.

Goals and Objectives

Mental and physical discipline

- Develop powers of concentration
- Memorize music
- Learn techniques of preparation as they relate to group and individual performances
- Develop self and group discipline

Citizenship through group endeavor

- Develop leadership abilities
- Develop responsibility

- Develop ability to cooperate with others and to work as a member of a team
- Develop diligence
- Develop mutual respect

Physical conditioning

- Develop strength, stamina, endurance and coordination

Cultural Growth

- Provide opportunities to attain knowledge of music history through performance of various types of instrumental literature

Value Judgments

- Ability to make musical value (as they pertain to a musical setting) judgments through critical listening
- Recognition of quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation

Music Theory

- Know and utilize note values and rests
- Know and utilize keys, key signatures, and scales
- Know and utilize musical terms, signs, and symbols
- Recognize and tune intervals and harmony
- Ear training & listening skills

Proper instrumental technique

- Care of the instrument
- Assume correct posture and playing position
- Develop the embouchure/stick grip/hand position
- Develop characteristic instrumental tone
- Develop proper breathing techniques
- Develop technical instrumental proficiency (fingering, articulation, rudiments, scales, etc.)

Creative self-expression

- Express oneself in every performance experience
- Explore careers

In addition to the State of Texas guidelines, Nimitz High School Band will strive to:

- Provide any interested student with opportunities for musical knowledge, musical fellowship, and fun through participation in band
- Provide for the mental, physical, social, and emotional development of students
- Instill pride and discipline in each student
- Provide each student with solo and group endeavors to achieve personal goals and satisfaction

- Provide basic psychological needs such as recognition, belonging, self-respect, and a feeling of achievement

Communication

The directors encourage positive communication and are willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress in band with his/her parents. Specific directors' email addresses can be found on the band website.

Conduct/Expectations

Students in band serve as representatives of both Nimitz High School and Aldine ISD at many public extracurricular functions. Membership in this organization is a privilege and it is within the right of any director to deny membership to a student if they believe that they would not positively represent the organization. Band members will observe all policies set forth by Aldine ISD and Nimitz High School, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

- Any behavior, which is not representative of good citizenship, *as perceived by the band staff*, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the band program. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both *public and private events*.
- All students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner. Display of profanity, temper, flagrant violation of rules, etc., will not be tolerated. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection of the group.
- Students will follow directors' instructions.
- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area ready to work at the set rehearsal time with all equipment, including music, pencil, instrument, and all supplies to rehearsals daily (see detailed supply list for each instrument).
- Students will keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.
- Students will not use or play on equipment they do not own without permission from a director.
- Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
- Students should request permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that time will be utilized wisely and as efficiently as possible.
- When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.

- Students will respect the property of others, and return their equipment to its proper storage place when not in use. Students should keep their equipment in their designated locker and keep their locker area clean and neat in appearance. *Students who demonstrate great difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a locker in the band hall.*
- Students will utilize their assigned storage slot/locker for instrument cases during rehearsals. Cases should not be brought into rehearsals unless requested by a director (exceptions: flute, clarinet, oboe, and bassoon).
- Students will not deface or mark on music stands, chairs, walls, etc.

Bullying

Bullying is when a student or group of students engages in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that occurs on or off school property, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, or in a vehicle operated by the district.

These behaviors are, but are not limited to:

Physical: hitting, kicking, grabbing, spitting

Verbal: name calling, racist remarks, put-downs, extortion

Indirect: spreading rumors, wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice, exclusion from peer group, taking and hiding or destroying another's papers or other possessions

Written: threatening email, notes, graffiti, or social media of any kind

Coercion: forcing other students into acts against their wishes

In the Nimitz High School Band we treat each other with respect and care for our fellow teammates. All acts of bullying will result in consequences outlined in the 2019-2020 Aldine ISD Student Code of Conduct.

Drug and Alcohol Use

Consumption of alcoholic beverages, the use of illegal drugs, or "conduct unbecoming of a Nimitz Band Member" while with the band at any performance, rehearsal, or Nimitz High School sponsored/related activity will not be allowed. Individuals in violation of the drug and/or alcohol code of the AISD disciplinary plan (Student Code of Conduct) may be sent home immediately from events or trips at the individual's (or parents') own expense and may be permanently removed from the ensemble or band program.

If a student is caught outside of band involved in illegal activities or an act considered to be “conduct unbecoming of a NHS Band Member,” the student at the directors’ discretion may be removed from the program.

Digital Citizenship

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that band member social media accounts are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication such as Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, Facebook, photo sharing, emailing, or texting, etc., appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Members are responsible for their personal accounts and postings, as well as posting from or on other students' accounts. The areas of appropriateness will include but are not limited to profane, foul, or disrespectful language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, references to alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, and postings (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening towards other AISD teaching staff or band members, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other bands. Any such incident will result in review by the principal (or designee) and may lead to probation or dismissal from the band program.

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

- Upon confirmation of a first violation, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the social media platform(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal (or designee), directors, and band members affected. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior.
- Upon confirmation of a second offense, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the social media platform(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal (or designee), directors, and band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior. In addition, the student will be suspended from all band activities for a period of 3 days to 3 weeks. This will also, of course, result in a grade deduction.
- Upon confirmation of a third offense, the member will be removed from the band program.

Due Process

Our goal as a staff is to ensure that all students are treated fairly. Please contact one of the directors if you have any concerns. We will work with you to resolve problems.

Financial Obligations

Financial obligations for the current school year are outlined on the Band Fee Commitment page. It is the philosophy of The Nimitz High School Band that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact the director.

Fundraising

The Nimitz High School Band and Band Booster Club engage in fundraising activities throughout each year. The monies raised from fundraising activities will be credited to an account held by the Booster Club and is subject to all state laws. This money will be used only for the direct benefit of the band program.

Attendance

In order to have and maintain a high-quality band program, attendance from all members is essential. While the NHS Band follows all school and district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the NHS Band. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held outside of the school day. Failure to participate in either rehearsals or performances may result in student removal from the organization at the discretion of the band directors.

For outside of school rehearsals, students are expected to arrive at the rehearsal location *no later than 15 minutes* prior to the rehearsal start time.

Tardiness

Students not in their designated area at the appropriate time will be marked tardy. A tardy will be converted to a mark of absence 15 minutes after the rehearsal begins.

Excused Tardiness

Tardiness may be excused at the discretion of the directors. Tutorials, appointments, etc. will not be an excuse for tardiness unless prior arrangements, with written documentation, are made and approved by a director.

Unexcused Tardiness

Students who have more than one unexcused tardy shall make up missed time at a time to be arranged by the director and may be subject to one of the following consequences at the discretion of the band directors:

- Loss of spot as a primary marcher
- Loss of marching privilege (for one game) at a football game
- Loss of pep rally participation
- Sit with chaperone during game, will not perform in stands
- Requirement to stay after rehearsal or report early to next rehearsal to make up lost time
- Requirement to make up 15 minutes of fundamental marching with his/her section leader

Absences

Students not present at the appropriate time may be marked absent.

Excused Absence

Absences will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Appointments, tutorials, etc. will not be an excuse for absence. Absence due to personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances (approved by director) may be considered for excused status. Students who are continually ill may be required to provide a doctor's note releasing them from participation in order to ensure the well-being of the child and to reduce concerns of the band directors. *Two absences (even excused) within one week, may result in loss of performance status for that week, to ensure the safety of everyone and maintain the ultimate performance quality of the group. If in doubt, an absence should be checked with a director.*

Missing a "Dress Rehearsal" (the rehearsal before a performance) for any reason, may be subject to temporary loss of performance status.

Special Note: Students have one afternoon free per week during the marching band season (typically Wednesday afternoon). These days should be used for appointments, routine professional visits, and tutorials. During the concert season, students will generally be

responsible for only ONE weekly section rehearsal and ONE ensemble rehearsal. Thus students will have ample days available for tutorials and appointments.

Unexcused Absence

Students who have an unexcused absence may be subject to one or more of the following consequences at the discretion of the directors:

- Make up missed time.
- Loss of spot as a primary marcher.
- Loss of marching privilege for one game.
- Sit with a chaperone during game, will not perform in stands.
- Loss of attendance privilege at one game.
- Removal from the marching band and loss of physical education waiver.

Parents will be notified via email in the event that these events and consequences occur.

District-Owned Instruments

AISD will provide a limited number of instruments for student use. These instruments include highly expensive instruments such as bassoon, oboe, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, french horn, euphonium, tuba, and general percussion equipment. This equipment is generally purchased by the school district for student use because of its extremely high expense. Thus, all district owned equipment must be handled with optimum care. Students failing to take proper care of their district-issued instrument may lose the privilege to use such instruments.

The following is a list of general procedures for district-owned instruments:

- Order of distribution will be done based on chair order or seniority. If possible, students who play large instruments and are dependent upon AISD buses may be issued one instrument for home use and one for school use. This will be at the discretion of the directors and will be based on instrument availability and transportation needs.
- Students and parents must sign an instrument checkout form before the student can use the instrument.
- Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition. Each issued instrument will be checked and cleaned prior to issue. Students are expected to maintain their issued instruments accordingly.

- The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him or her.
- All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.
- AISD will assess a fee for routine (end of year) cleaning and maintenance of district-owned instruments. This fee will be collected at the beginning of each school year through The Nimitz High School Band Directors. (*This fee does not cover removal of dents or other student-responsible repairs*).

Special Note

District-owned instruments are not to be treated as “free” instruments. Basic supplies must still be purchased and repairs must still be made just like personally owned instruments. Please strive to treat these instruments as if they were your own. Most district-owned instruments exceed \$3,000 in value.

Grading Guidelines

AISD band programs have instructional objectives that relate to the mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for grade level subjects or courses. These objectives are aligned to address the academic skills needed for successful performance in the next grade or next course in a sequence of courses. Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, and other instructional activities are designed so that the student’s performance indicates the level of mastery of the instructional objectives. The student’s mastery level of these objectives is a major factor in determining the grade for a subject or course.

Students will be expected to meet the responsibilities for each band class as determined by the director. Since band is an academic music class with some extra-curricular activities attached, the band student’s grade will reflect achievement in both curricular and extracurricular areas.

A band member’s nine weeks grade will be determined from the following items: student’s daily preparation and participation, individual listenings, performances, and extended classroom activities such as sectionals and after school rehearsals. For more specific information pertaining to how a student’s grade is determined, please consult the director.

The following list is provided to give students and parents examples of items that can be subject to grading. Additional assignments may be given at the discretion of the director.

- The student will receive a grade for each after school sectional and rehearsal during a grading period.
- The student will be on task and focused during all rehearsals.
- The student will have instrument, music, pencil, and supplies.
- The student will be prepared to play his/her part successfully.
- The student will mark music and take notes as needed.
- The student will be expected to improve individual music skills.
- The student will be evaluated on improvement of ensemble skills during daily rehearsals.
- The student will be expected to improve his/her performance fundamentals.
- The student will be evaluated for improvement of his/her music fundamentals through daily observation during the “fundamentals” part of each rehearsal and during sectionals.
- The student will be expected to demonstrate correct posture, hand position, embouchure, air production, and articulation as monitored during rehearsals.
- The student will receive a grade for each performance during a grading period.

Eligibility

All AISD bands adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and AISD. Some band activities are designated as extra-curricular. Students participating in these activities are governed by eligibility requirements. A student shall be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the six week period following a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than seventy in any class. Loss of eligibility does not take effect until seven days after the end of the reporting period. Ineligible students are not suspended from practice or rehearsal of extra-curricular activities. The student is not suspended from participation during the period in which school is recessed for the summer or any other vacation time.

Students may regain eligibility under certain circumstances. If a student has been suspended as a result of failing, he/she may regain eligibility by passing ALL courses in the third week of the affected grading period. Reinstatement of eligibility would occur seven days after the three-week progress report period (see TEA/UIL Side by Side).

Activities that are considered curricular components of any course are not affected by the eligibility law. Examples of these activities are all rehearsals and performances that take place as a regular extension of classroom instruction. Any performance that is competitive in nature or for which admission is charged is deemed extra-curricular.

Travel Guidelines

The band will frequently travel on either school buses or commercial buses. Student conduct is expected to be at the highest level on any trip.

Students must travel to events and return from events on the bus, unless they are cleared to drive after submitting the required documentation. Any student wishing to leave with his/her parent must notify a director in writing with parent signature, prior to the event. Permission will be granted or denied based on the circumstances of the occasion.

Students must have all necessary forms (Medical/Travel Release) completed and on file with the band office to travel on any trip with the band.

While on the bus students will:

- Remain seated at all times.
- Sit properly in a forward position.
- Keep the bus clear of food, drinks, and debris (at times it may be necessary to eat a pre-game or post-game dinner on the bus. Every effort should be made to keep your area clean).
- Keep all body parts inside the bus.
- Use only approved type/headset radios (no Bluetooth Speakers).
- Remain silent when addressed by the person in charge on the bus.
- Refrain from loud, boisterous talking, singing, screaming, whistling, inappropriate jokes, etc.
- No public displays of affection.

Special Note:

Students are reminded that all performances start and conclude at the band hall. As a member of the band, you are a representative of your school. Always be on your best behavior. If you are in doubt about an action, do not do it! Your conduct at all times should be considered a good reflection on the school, the band, your home, yourself, and the community.

Chaperones

Adult chaperones are a great asset for the band program. Students will treat them as an extension of the band staff. Proper respect will be shown to all adults at all times.

Care of the Band Facilities

- Refreshments - No gum, food or drinks are allowed in the building except when authorized by the directors.
- Litter - All trash (paper, broken reeds/drum sticks, etc.) is to be deposited in the trash cans provided.
- Vandalism - Acts of vandalism or the willful misuse of school property will be dealt with severely and appropriately. Every band member is responsible to help the director's monitor the facility and control vandalism, which includes writing or carving on walls, destroying music, or breaking school property.
- Practice & Ensemble Rooms - Are designed for practicing, not social gatherings.

Concert Ensembles

Wind Ensemble - selection into this group is by audition, director recommendation, and demonstration of musical and academic proficiency. Members in this ensemble will participate in the TMEA Region Band Process, UIL Marching Contest, and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. Members of this group will have a section rehearsal and a full ensemble rehearsal each week outside of the school day. The Wind Ensemble will give numerous performances both on and off campus. In UIL activities, this group will be designated the "Varsity" Band.

Symphonic Winds and Concert Band - selection into either of these groups is by audition. These groups, at varying levels, will participate in UIL Marching Contest and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. Members of the Symphonic Winds will have a section rehearsal and a full ensemble rehearsal each week outside of the school day. These groups will give a variety of performances. In UIL activities, these groups will be designated as the "Non-Varsity" and "Sub Non-Varsity" Bands.

Students in the band program will be placed in a concert ensemble by audition, as well as observation throughout the year. The second semester placement will include the progress of students in the assessment process that takes place over the course of the fall semester.

Auditions

All students are required to audition for select performance ensembles.

Students will audition at the end of each school year for band placement for the upcoming fall semester. The band directors will determine audition requirements, and directors will notify students of audition dates, requirements, and results. Directors will serve as an evaluator during auditions. Audition material will reflect the director's anticipated performance level for the students and will be based on prior learning, and auditions may be live or taped at the director's discretion. Students will be re-evaluated periodically for participation in select performance ensembles.

Students will be evaluated over the course of the fall semester on a series of playing assessments. These assessments will be made up of select cuts from the All-Region band music, as well as a selection of scales. Students will be evaluated on tone, pitch accuracy, musicianship, articulation accuracy, pulse and rhythm. The results of these assessments will serve as the student's audition for their spring semester band placement.

Performance/Rehearsal Requirements for Concert Ensembles

Each of the concert ensembles will perform at various times throughout the school year. Students are expected to participate in the performances of their assigned ensemble. Failure to participate in either rehearsals or performances may result in student removal from the organization at the discretion of the band directors (see general attendance policies) and a grade deduction.

Performances of the concert ensembles will include but are not limited to the following:

- Pre-UIL Concert
- UIL Concert & Sight-Reading
- Spring Concert
- Others as needed

Concerts/Performances

Concerts and performances are an integral component of the band curriculum. Students should consult their schedules for dates and times. Periodically, the schedule may change and updates will be communicated. Concerts are considered to have three parts: warm-up, performance, and listening.

The concert begins for the student at the warm-up. Punctuality is essential. A concert concludes when the last group performs and directors have given permission for students to be dismissed. A general report time will be given for all students.

- All concerts are a group effort, thus, attendance is required.
- All concerts are an extension of the classroom and will be graded accordingly.
- Students should be punctual and prepared for each performance/concert.
- In the event a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up all missed work.
- The appropriate dress for all concerts will be a dress uniform (see Uniforms).
- Students are expected to stay for the entire duration of the concert as communicated by their director unless otherwise told.
- Students are expected to help move equipment and “stack-n-rack” chairs and stands when needed.

Sectionals/Full Band Rehearsals

Section rehearsals will begin in January and will be held through UIL Contest. After football season, all students will have one weekly sectional with their concert band’s section. The sectional and full band rehearsal will be directed by the band director of the concert ensemble and will be primarily focused on music that the student’s concert ensemble is preparing for future concerts and contests. Students are expected to be punctual and prepared on a weekly basis. Absence from section rehearsals/full band rehearsals must be in accordance with the attendance policy. Students must make every effort to attend. These rehearsals are an extension of the classroom and are graded accordingly.

Private Lesson Program

This is a program that provides a high quality enhancement to classroom instruction. Teachers are all specialists on their instruments. Most of our teachers are professional musicians/teachers in the Houston Area and have advanced degrees in the performance of their instruments. Lessons are extremely valuable to the individual student and are highly encouraged.

- ALL students are ENCOURAGED to take individualized private instruction.
- Teachers are screened and interviewed by the district and band directors.
- Lessons will be given weekly, preferably during the band classes.
- If there is a need for before/after school lessons, every effort will be made to schedule private lessons at times that do not conflict with marching rehearsals, sectionals, or other activities.

Marching Band

REQUIRED Physical Examination

The Aldine Independent School District will collect required Physical Examination and Medical History Forms to maintain compliance with UIL. The requirement is for any student that the school district determines is a member of the marching band.

All students are expected to be medically cleared for the role they will perform with the marching band. Therefore, a student with any physical limitations or special accommodations may be permitted by the authorized medical professional to participate with the marching band in a modified or specific role. For example, if a student is unable to march, the medical professional would designate on the form "Not cleared for: Marching." Further information on any limitations could then be listed by the medical professional in the "Recommendation" section of the examination form.

The following rule concerning pre-participation for marching band physicals takes effect August 1, 2019:

C & CR Section 1105:

(F) Marching band pre-participation physical examination.

Upon entering the first and third years of high school and upon any 7th or 8th grade student participating in marching band, a physical examination signed by a physician, a physician assistant licensed by a state board of physician assistant examiners, a registered nurse recognized as an advanced practice nurse by the board of nurse examiners or a doctor of chiropractic is required. Standardized pre-participation physical examination forms, available from the uil office and authorized by the UIL Medical Advisory Committee, are REQUIRED.

(G) Marching Band Medical History Form. Each year prior to any practice or participation, a UIL Medical History Form SIGNED BY BOTH STUDENT AND A PARENT OR GUARDIAN IS REQUIRED. A medical history form shall accompany each physical examination and shall be SIGNED BY BOTH STUDENT AND A PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

Students will not participate with the Nimitz Band Program if they fail to turn in an approved physical examination form and medical history form.

Marching Band Participation

As an integral part of the band program, Aldine ISD's philosophy is that educationally, historically, and musically, marching band is an essential ingredient in a well-rounded music education. AISD believes that music students need to develop the ability to participate and perform in different ensemble experiences which, for band students, includes the marching band. As a result, marching band is required for all high school students who elect to take an academic band performance course at Nimitz High School. However, students who have medical complications or physical disabilities may be excused from participation at the discretion of the head band director. Philosophy regarding all aspects of high school band stems from TEA/UIL Guidelines which govern all Texas Schools.

Physical Education Requirement Waived

As an artistic endeavor, each rehearsal and performance by the marching band is mentally and physically demanding. For the full marching band performance, students are always on task and must bring to the experience their best performance skills. As a result, each student in the marching band is eligible to receive a physical education substitution credit (maximum 1 credit) in accordance with TEA Guidelines.

Marching Band an Integral Component of State Curriculum Requirements

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

High Academic Standards Maintained by Students

The opportunity for weekly performance is a motivating factor for academic achievement for marching band students, since only by maintaining their eligibility can they continue to

perform. As a result, the directors have documented the fact that the least number of ineligible band students during the year occurs during the marching season.

Grading

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

Practice Time Limits

Marching band practice times are regulated by TEA/UIL Guidelines. Adherence to these guidelines is the responsibility of the Head Band Director at each high school. During the school year, no more than 8 hours of rehearsal per week, outside of the school day, is allowed. Exceptions to the 8-hour rule include preparation immediately before games and competitions. AISD observes all of these guidelines.

Rehearsals and Performance Schedules

Rehearsal and performance schedules are published on the Charms Calendar for the duration of the marching season.

It is up to the parent and student to be aware of the practice/event schedule throughout the year. Reminders will be communicated regularly.

Instruments

Marching band students who play an instrument that AISD does not provide (flute, clarinet, alto sax, trumpet, and trombone) must personally provide, march and perform with the same instrument they use in band or a second instrument of the same type.

Students are responsible for all maintenance on their instrument, whether it is a district-owned or personally owned instrument.

Marching Band Positions

Primary Marchers

Students who earn a position in the marching band will carry the designation of primary marcher. A primary marcher is a student who:

- Successfully completes the audition requirements by the appropriate time.
- Demonstrates high quality marching skills
- Is punctual in report times
- Is present at rehearsals and performances
- Maintains academic eligibility
- Represents the school, school district, band program and themselves with the highest possible decorum and behavioral standards

Special Note: Students who fail to meet the music memorization requirement may be penalized by one of the following: a) loss of position as a primary marcher, b) loss of performance opportunity, or c) performance as a marcher only.

Challenges

As a band staff, we are committed to providing performance opportunities for all students. However, the level of performance participation may be limited by eligibility and individual performance ability. There are many ingredients that are vital to a successful marching program and no one part is more valuable than any other. Challenges will take place in early September and could be a 2-3 week process.

Marching Band Rehearsals

- Respect everyone on the marching band field - we are all working toward the same goal.
- Prior to all rehearsals, eat healthy and drink a lot of water.
- Be punctual. Aim to arrive 15 minutes before practice begins.
- Water breaks are meant for your health and comfort. Drink Water!
- During all rehearsals, students will be silent when receiving instruction. At NHS, when on the field, we are silent to maximize learning.
- Standing is the only acceptable position on the marching band field unless instructed otherwise (ex: when a director tells you to kneel while giving instructions).

- At various times in a rehearsal, you may be asked to count vocally, sing, clap, or some other non-musical method of rehearsal. Your 100% participation is expected.
- Pay attention to general instructions at all times. Listen attentively and respond appropriately.
- FUNDAMENTALS will make us successful. Therefore, we expect everyone to participate fully.
- Band members should always have their dot books and a pencil with them.
- Move when instructed quickly and quietly (ex: moving from set to set or after a discussion with a leader). No one walks.
- “Set” is eyes forward, no talking, no moving. When setting forms, keep your feet together and mouth closed. Remain at set until you are told to relax. “Standby” means silently standing in the ready position.
- When adjusting the forms, use your dot books at all times unless instructed otherwise.
- *To keep your spot on the marching field, meet all music memorization deadlines.*

Marching Band Performances

The primary performances of the marching band will be at the football games. The marching band will also perform at various Marching Contests and UIL Marching Contests.

Aldine ISD Marching Band Performance Guideline

The band directors in Aldine ISD recognize that the health and safety of the students is a primary concern, as well as their scholastic performance in all of their subjects. The band directors also acknowledge that the season for marching band competitive performances is contained within a brief but intense period of time during the months of August through November. Additionally, AISD recognizes the intrinsic value gained by the students from the pursuit of excellence in these programs.

Performance Procedures

Report Time: This will be the designated time at which all members should be at the high school or set location. Students should have all attire and necessary items for the designated performance prior to the report time.

What to bring:

- Garment Bag
- Black Gloves
- Black Shoes
- Black Socks
- Gray Shorts
- Band Shirt
- Gray Water Jug
- Instrument with accessories
- Rain Coat
- Uniform Apparel in Uniform Bag (provided)
- Hat box
- Proper undergarments
- Hair Accessories (Hair spray, gel, bobby pins, headbands)

Note: All facial hair is to be removed from the facial area for all public performances.

Pre-performance Practice:

- Wear black shoes, black socks, gray shorts, and band shirt
- No fingernail polish
- No jewelry
- Bring all equipment (weather permitting): that means everything (drums, uniforms, instruments, etc.)

*A note about cell phones and other personal electronic devices: Students are welcome to have these at performance activities. *However, they should not be used in the stands at all.* Their use is helpful in emergency situations or when an arrival time may need to be changed. Phones will not be used in rehearsals. Security of electronic devices will be your responsibility.

Football Game Procedures

The football game is viewed as a performance of the band program. Such performances include all aspects of the game from arrival to departure.

- Students will remain on campus after school on game days for a brief rehearsal and then for food provided by the Band Boosters. This is in consideration of time, organization, and safety. Please do not ask for exceptions to this.
- Students will arrive at the designated call time.

- Students will load the buses with all equipment needed for the performance.
- Upon arrival at the performance area, students will put on all uniform components and prepare equipment for unloading. Students will unload buses when instructed to do so by a chaperone or director. Exit the bus in proper uniform as instructed by the directors, carrying all necessary equipment as instructed.
- Instruments that arrived via equipment truck will be picked up at the designated area when instructed. All cases must be put back in original location with latches closed.
- Upon arrival to the seating area, students will remain standing until all band members have arrived and are prepared to be seated. Students will sit when instructed by a Drum Major or Director. Students will sit in assigned seat and section. Students will remain in that seat and section at all times. Any movement in the bleachers adds risk to the safety of students and their instruments.
- Students may bring their band water jug into the stands with them. *No other food or drink will be allowed in the stands during the game.* Students will refrain from accepting food or drinks from parents, relatives, or friends. Parents: please do not offer refreshments to your children.
- Restroom breaks may be granted by a director. Every effort will be made to accommodate needs without jeopardizing the integrity of the section. Restroom breaks will not be granted in the second quarter of a football game.
- Students will be expected to listen for and watch the directors and drum majors during the game. Students will need to be prepared to perform at all times and at a moment's notice.
- *Students will refrain from playing their instruments on an individual basis.* The band will perform as a group or with approved small ensembles. While playing, always pay attention to the director/drum major.
- At the appropriate time, the band will be dismissed from the stands for the halftime performance. At this time, the band must move quickly, quietly, and efficiently to the appropriate warm-up area. Students will need to be focused on the directors' and Drum Majors' instructions.
- At the conclusion of the halftime performance, students will return to the stands and continue in the stand performance throughout the remainder of the game.
- At the conclusion of the game, students will load buses quickly and efficiently.
- Upon return to the band hall, students will ensure that all personal items, uniforms and instruments are placed in the proper storage areas.

Instrument Loading/Unloading

Large instruments will be transported on the instrument truck. All others (flutes & clarinets) will transport their instruments on the bus. Students will be responsible for ensuring that their instrument or empty case is in the proper location. After the instrument truck has been unloaded, each student will be responsible for picking up their instrument and storing it correctly. *Students who display difficulty in following the loading and unloading procedures may lose the privilege of utilizing the instrument truck.*

Health & Safety of Band Students

The health and safety of our students is our first priority. Every effort will be made to keep our students out of harm's way at all times.

Extreme Weather Conditions - Lightning

A lightning detector is used at rehearsals, games, and contests to determine our activities. We, like the athletic teams, make it a practice to go inside when lightning occurs multiple times in a small amount of time within 10 miles of our location. Discretion is used to determine immediate threat, as we take lightning and the safety of our students very seriously.

Rain

Under rainy conditions, the band may still rehearse and/or perform at the discretion of the band staff.

Heat/Hydration

We stress to students the importance of hydration at all times, and especially in period of extreme heat. During extreme heat conditions, we decrease the amount of time between water breaks and/or increase the amount of time used for the break. The weather conditions as well as the physical and mental conditions of our students are monitored continually and adjustments are made to accommodate whenever necessary. It is very important that every student bring and use their own personal water bottle. Sharing water (and food) leads to the spreading of germs that cause viruses such as cold, flu, mononucleosis, and Hepatitis B as well as many other bacterial infections. Sharing water is not acceptable.

Nutrition

It is important for all students to eat healthy and well-balanced meals every day. During summer band camp, students need to eat a healthy breakfast every morning. Stay away from milk, sugary drinks and greasy/sugary foods. Drink plenty of water!

As the new school year begins, students should continue their healthy diet throughout the day. Continue to eat a healthy breakfast every morning. Eat a healthy lunch. Stay away from greasy foods such as pizza, chips, and candy during the school day. Lunch from the vending machines is not appropriate.

Students should continue to drink plenty of water throughout the day to stay well-hydrated for afternoon rehearsals. Eating healthy meals and drinking plenty of water is essential so students can remain in good health.

Uniform Guidelines

Students are expected to follow the listed uniform guidelines. No variations will be allowed.

GENERAL

- Marching Band Uniforms will be issued during summer band camp. Band uniforms will be stored at school in the uniform room. *Uniforms are NEVER to be taken home unless instructed by a director.*
- Tux jackets will be issued in the Spring for all boys. Boys are responsible for providing a tuxedo shirt, black pants, black socks & shoes, a black bow tie and black cummerbund.
- Dresses will be issued in the Spring for all girls. Girls are responsible for providing appropriate, black footwear.
- Students will be held financially responsible for the uniform(s) and all components.

ISSUE AND RETURN

- Students will pick up marching uniforms from the uniform room prior to uniform check.
- Students should follow all pick up/return guidelines. Students who do not follow these guidelines will be sent to the end of the pick-up/return line.
- Students will be issued a uniform storage number. This number should be memorized or recorded in a readily accessible location. Students will use this number to pick up their uniform from the uniform room.

WEARING THE UNIFORM

- Always wear and treat your uniform with pride. The uniform should be worn as a complete unit at all times when in public. The only exception to this will be when a director instructs you that you may remove your hat or coat. Loading crews may be exempt from wearing the uniform during loading/unloading procedures. Do not run while in uniform!
- A band shirt is to be worn under your uniform. The band shirt will be part of pre-performance uniform check.
- You must wear approved black band shoes and long black socks (student purchases).
- Jewelry, hair ribbons, and nail polish, etc. are unacceptable while in uniform. These items hinder the uniform appearance of the band.
- All students, male and female, will have a natural hair color, such as black, brunette, blonde, auburn, or “natural” red, for both marching and concert performances. This is to insure a uniform look and to not draw undue attention to any one individual. Any hair color that meets the school dress code is acceptable on a daily basis.
- Band students with long hair will need to put it up under their hat during performances. Hair must not touch the collar of the jacket and must be above the top of the ear or pulled behind it. No visible hair on forehead. All facial hair is to be removed from the facial area for all public performances.
- *No consumption of food and drinks (other than H2O) while in uniform without permission.*

CARE OF UNIFORM

- Keep the collar hooked and the jacket zipped while hanging to retain the shape of the coat.
- Always hang the pants by the crease, careful to avoid wrinkles, and lock the dowel into the metal catch to keep the pants secure.
- Label your uniform garment bag if not done already.

Student Leadership

The Nimitz High School Band Program provides many opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills with a variety of offerings. Students can audition and/or apply for both selected and elected officer positions. In this manner, students can not only serve their band program, but also refine skills that they will be able to use in other school

organizations, as well as in their future careers. Audition criteria is selected at the discretion of the directors and is communicated to the students. The directors evaluate all selected leadership candidates based on their performance both during the audition and during their performance during the current school year.

Student leaders are held to higher standards of performance and behavior than a general band student. They are expected to be positive role models for all band members at all times. Please see Conduct/Expectations pertaining to general conduct of students as well as student leadership positions.

Student Leadership Requirements: In order to be considered for a leadership position for the following school year, the student must have completed the following requirements during the *current school year*:

- Maintained eligibility entire duration of school year
- Auditioned for Region Band (or completed all requirements to audition pending director approval)
- Completed all necessary paperwork/peer & teacher evaluations

or

- ****SENIOR ELIGIBILITY ONLY**** - Seniors are eligible for a leadership position regardless of above requirements if they have completed three full years in band

Marching Band Student Leadership Positions

Drum Major(s)

The Drum Major(s) will be the field commander(s) and conductor(s) for the marching ensemble. A Drum Major will serve the marching season for which he/she is selected. In the event that an underclassman is selected as Drum Major, he/she must re-enter the selection process the next school year. Drum Majors will be selected through an audition process. Specific elements of the drum major audition process may vary from year to year at the discretion of the directors.

Captains/Section Leaders

Section Leaders will be responsible for efficient operations of their sections. *They will maintain field discipline, provide instruction, serve as positive role models, and assist the drum majors and directors as needed.* Candidates will be selected through completion of an

audition packet of teacher and peer evaluations, short answer and essay responses and peer elections.

Band Office

All students who have fulfilled specific requirements communicated by the directors are eligible to apply/audition for Band Office Positions. The specific requirements for positions may vary according to the responsibilities of the office. The band office shall serve as an action body for numerous band procedures. The student leadership positions are service areas and may change annually. Examples of student leadership positions are Loading Crew Manager, Music Librarian(s), Uniform Manager(s), and Historian. These offices may change in name and duties from year to year. Candidates will be selected through completion of an audition packet of teacher and peer evaluations, short answer and essay responses, and peer elections.

Band Letter

The NHS Band Letter is a recognition of “Significant Service and Dedication” and “Outstanding Achievement” to the NHS Band Program, manifested by hours upon hours of practice, patience, and perseverance as well as sacrificial giving of time and energy for the good of fellow bandmates, the directors, and the band as a whole. Therefore, every student who has completed the requirements below will be provided a band letter, paid for by the district.

To letter in band, you must have:

- 1) MADE the High School Level All Region Band/Orchestra. (Freshman Region Band ONLY not included).
- 2) Auditioned for the HIGH SCHOOL region band AND participated in the Aldine ISD Solo and Ensemble Contest for TWO consecutive years.

Lastly, in the event that a senior band student has not yet earned a Letter, he/she will be awarded one during the Fall Semester of their senior year, in recognition of their four year membership in the NHS Band Program. This policy is intended to be as inclusive as possible, recognizing commitment and contribution to the band program, while also providing an incentive to those students who go beyond the “extra mile” in their individual pursuit of excellence.

Band Jacket

All high school band students are eligible for a major award in their senior year in accordance with the point system outlined below. The major award will be a letter jacket. Students are eligible for only one major award during their high school career. Jackets will be received in the senior year if the student is currently enrolled in band and earns 6 or more points in the three previous years. Points will be awarded as follows:

Earned placement in varsity-level concert group	1
Participate at UIL Region Marching Contest	1
Audition for Ninth Grade All-Region Band	1
Earn placement in All-District Band	2
Earn placement in All-Region Band	2
Qualify for and audition at Area Tryouts	2
Earn placement in All-State Band or Orchestra	4
Earn UIL Division I Rating on Class I Solo (Region)	1
Earn UIL Division I Rating on Class I Ensemble (Region)	1
Participate in UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest	1

Note: At least FOUR (4) points must be earned through participation in UIL Marching Band UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contests. ELIGIBILITY will be a factor and therefore should be a major concern of anyone hoping to receive a band award letter jacket.

Juniors can earn a jacket if they have been enrolled in band and earned 12 or more total points in the two previous years.

Region Band/Orchestra Guidelines

All Wind Ensemble Band Students are expected to audition for All-Region Band. All other band students are encouraged to audition and will be entered into the audition process at the discretion of a director.

Auditioning for the All-Region Band (an elite group) is a privilege and deserves one's best effort and preparation. Students will be assessed on their preparation and performance of all or part of the All-Region Music, regardless of their participation in the auditions.

Students who are selected are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances pertaining to this event. This is a TMEA Regional Event, and a distinct honor and privilege. Attendance (if selected) should take precedence over all other extracurricular activities.

It is quite an honor to be selected to the All Region Band. Hundreds of students throughout the region will audition. Even if you are not selected, the experience you receive by preparing will enhance your musical ability and education.

Aldine ISD Solo & Ensemble Contest

All students are required to prepare and perform a solo in the annual Aldine ISD Solo & Ensemble Contest each Spring. Information about the ASEC will be communicated to students and parents in the spring semester.

Band Commitment/Signature Page

As you sign the commitment form, understand that participation in the Nimitz High School Band Program is a FULL YEAR commitment. We look forward to a wonderful experience with you and your student.

In order to affirm your agreement with the content of this handbook, please fill out the commitment form with your information and signature.

PLEASE READ THIS HANDBOOK CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING