

OLTON ISD



**HIGH SCHOOL BAND
CONTRACT, RULES, AND GUIDELINES**

2026-2027

ARTICLE I
NAME AND PURPOSE

This organization is called the Olton Mustang Band. Through its music education initiatives, the Band provides students with the opportunity for success through the cultivation of life, social, and leadership skills in a safe environment. The Olton Band also exists to provide students the opportunity to discover their creative potential through the exploration, performance, and enjoyment of the universal art of music.

ARTICLE II
BAND MEMBERSHIP

In order to participate in the Band, a student must be classified as a freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior for the current school year. The number of Junior High students recruited for participation in the Band will be based on the needs of the ensemble as determined by the director.

ARTICLE III
MAINTAINING MEMBERSHIP

Members of the Band must be able to attend summer activities assigned by the sponsor.

A Band member must be in good physical condition and must be able to participate in strenuous activities. The student must turn in a medical release form signed by his or her parent/guardian in order to travel with the Band, and must be current with their UIL Physical evaluation. He or she must advise the sponsor of any pre-existing conditions that would limit or prohibit complete participation in all activities.

Band is a Fall and Spring semester commitment. Failure to complete either semester will require a conference with the director in order to enroll in a subsequent semester. A conference with parent, student, and Director(s), will be held prior to resignation.

As members of the Olton High School Band, Band members must maintain passing grades according to UIL standards, and district policies.

During marching season, some students may be assigned an "alternate" spot. Parents will be informed if their child will be an alternate, and what will be expected of them. Criteria used for determining alternate placement includes the following: attendance, ability, attitude, and work ethic.

Band members MUST abide by all OISD rules and regulations as spelled out in the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct. Members must promote, maintain, and uphold good working relationships with ALL Band and Band members and the sponsor/Directors.

A student's participation in Band may be restricted by a Director or Administrator if he or she:

- has three or more discipline reports/referrals on file for the current school year.
- was placed in In-School Suspension more than once during the current school year.
- was in a Discipline Alternative Education Program during the current school year.
- was placed on Out-of-School Suspension or Expelled during the current school year.
- failed one or more classes during two six-week periods for the current school year
- has outstanding fees or fines for the current or previous school year.
- has ever been selected for the Band and then quit for any unexcused reason.

Directors and School Administrators retain the right to dismiss a member by joint decision.

ARTICLE IV BAND MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Respect and cooperation among the Band members is required. A Band member is a role model and leader not only for his or her campus but for the entire school district as well. Therefore, he or she should set the example in attitude, speech, behavior, and academics. Gossip and immature behavior will not be tolerated. If a Band member feels there is a problem within the Band, he or she must first talk with the Director to attempt to resolve the issue.

The Directors will appoint Officers as needed. This role will be filled based on the member's leadership, academic achievement, attitude, and experience. The officers will be expected to assist the Directors at practices or sectionals and may be appointed to additional duties as necessary. All other Band members are expected to respect the appointed positions.

Band members must wear and maintain uniforms as directed. Uniforms, or any part of the uniform, are not to be worn at any times other than those designated by the sponsor/Directors. Uniforms are not to be worn by anyone other than the Band member to whom it has been issued. No jewelry will be worn while performing. Hair must be pulled back.

ARTICLE V BAND EXPENSES

Travel – expenses for Away football games and marching contests, including meals and transportation, are paid for through the band budget. Any personal monies needed for outings will be announced by the director.

Uniforms – each member will be required to purchase accessories for the Band uniform including, but not limited to: all-black crew length socks, white gloves, and a band shirt. Shoes, gloves, and shirts will be ordered through the Band office. Annual band fees will be used to purchase these items. Loss of or damage to any part of the uniform or its parts should be reported to the sponsor/Director immediately. The replacement/repair cost may be the responsibility of the Band member if deemed necessary.

Uniforms, warmups, and attire worn during competition and/or performance must be composed of blue and white colors. Accents and variations must be approved by administration. The mascot must be the rearing Mustang.

Equipment – loss of or damage to equipment should be reported to the sponsor/Director immediately. The replacement/repair cost may be the responsibility of the Band member if deemed necessary.

Payment – Band members will be required to pay an annual band fee. If full payment is not submitted, the Band member may not be allowed to participate. If financial hardship will prevent a student from paying the fee, alternative financial arrangements may be made by the director and the individual(s) involved. **Payments are non-refundable and cannot be returned should a Band member quit or be dismissed.**

ARTICLE VI PRACTICES/PERFORMANCES

Practices

Practices shall only be called by the sponsor/Director. A schedule for practices will be set and given to the Band members at the beginning of the fall semester. If a Band member is involved in other extra-curricular activities he or she must notify the sponsor/Director in advance (at least one day's notice) of missing practice. Appointments, work, etc. should not be scheduled during practice time.

Arriving late to practice will not be tolerated and Band members must stay for the duration of practice.

Use of cell phones will be at the discretion of the Director(s).

Performances: Games/Contests

Band members will attend all Varsity Football Games.

Guidelines for eating during a game in progress:

- Water is allowed
- If we are not wearing uniforms at a game, you may have food during the 3rd quarter only.
- If we are wearing uniforms and the director allows you to remove your jacket during 3rd quarter, you may have food at that time.
- No food or drinks other than water will be allowed in the stands during the 1st, 2nd or 4th quarters.
- Chewing gum is not allowed.

Band members will remain with the Band at all times. They may not leave the designated area to visit with family or socialize with friends who may be sitting in the stands, etc.

All members will need to be back by the end of the 3rd quarter buzzer.

Leaving Early

Extenuating circumstances may require a Band member to leave a game or contest with a parent, guardian, or an alternative person. Should this need arise, a written and signed note must be hand-delivered to the sponsor/Director before the Band member will be allowed to leave, the sponsor/Director must be able to speak with the parent or guardian to verify the note, and the parent or guardian must present a photo ID when arriving to pick up the student. Unless it is an emergency, a band member will not be allowed to leave before halftime at a football game.

ARTICLE VII TRAVEL

The Band represents Olton ISD when it travels. It is very important to be a stellar example of how students at OHS should act and behave. The Band has a good reputation and is expected to maintain it. Band travel etiquette includes the following:

- All rules outlined in the OISD Code of Conduct will apply
- No loud or obnoxious behavior
- No external speakers (CD, MP3 players, cell phones, etc.)
 - If a Director can hear a student's music from headphones he or she will ask the student to turn it down. The Director reserves the right to confiscate the item.
- Electronic Games in use during travel must be rated "T" or below
- Electronic devices are brought at your own risk, it is not the director or anyone else's responsibility to keep up with your stuff.
- Any form of video must be rated PG-13 or less
- Band Members should BE ON TIME to avoid being left behind. IF YOU ARE EARLY, YOU ARE ON TIME!
- Bus must be left in a better condition than when we began the trip.
- Band members should always listen for directions; adjustments do have to be made on occasion – be flexible
- Band members are expected to treat all people with respect regardless of age, employment, position, or authority
- Band members are expected to leave stadiums, restaurants, etc. in a clean and orderly condition
- After dark, boys sit with boys and girls sit with girls. No one may sit with a member of the opposite sex.
- OISD protocols are required prior to allowing a band member to leave with another individual:
 - A written and signed note from the guardian must be hand-delivered to the sponsor and must note the identity of the individual transporting the student. The sponsor must speak with the guardian verifying the note that they received.
 - The same guardian or non-guardian designated on the note and conversation must present a photo ID, in person, at the time they receive and escort the band member.

ARTICLE VIII ABSENCES/TARDINESS

Excused absences are those due to personal illness, death in the family, emergency, authorized participation in an official school function, religious functions, or advanced notification given to the sponsor/Director from a parent due to extenuating circumstances. Unexcused absences may result in probation or dismissal from the Band.

ARTICLE IX GRADES

Grades will be given in alignment and reflective of District and Campus policies. Grades will be assigned based on student performance and participation.

The Christmas and Spring Concerts count for 100% of the Semester Exam grades. Students must be present to receive full credit. In the event of an emergency, students will be able to complete an alternative assignment at the discretion of the directors. Monday night practices count as a formative grade and football games and parades count as a summative grade. Any marching contest will count as 2 summative grades. If they are present it is an automatic 100.

If a student needs a ride to an event, there are plenty of people who are willing to help out for the success of the kids.

ARTICLE X CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Students will conduct themselves in a manner conducive to keeping an educational and professional atmosphere in the classroom. Expectations of daily classroom behavior are as follows:

- Students will enter the classroom quickly, quietly, and calmly, retrieve appropriate materials and sit in their designated seats
- Students will not handle or touch **anyone** else's instrument
- Students will not play with, touch, or handle percussion equipment without permission from the Director
- Students will handle equipment, instruments, and music stands with care
- Students will follow directions given by Directors or substitute teachers immediately and respectfully
- Students will not have gum, food, or drink (other than water) in the classroom
- Students will keep lockers free of clutter and non-band items
- Students will refrain from rough-housing, horse-play, and running in the band hall
- Students will not bring non-band members into the band hall without permission from the Directors

ARTICLE XI

INJURIES

If a Band member is injured, he or she must provide a Doctor's note for excusal from physical activity, but will still be expected to attend all practices and games/contests.

ARTICLE XII

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

A commitment is required from parents/guardians to provide transportation to and from practices as well as before and after home and away games and contests. Parents/guardians should also be generally supportive of the OHS Band and Band organization.

Parents/guardians should schedule a conference with the sponsor/Director during school hours if they have a concern about any issues that may arise. Please do not call the principal or any other administrator without first contacting the sponsor/Director about a problem.

ARTICLE XIII

ELIGIBILITY – NO PASS, NO PLAY

All band members must pass every class (subject) in order to be eligible for extra-curricular activities. This includes all football games, music contests, and honor group auditions. Band members must meet the eligibility guidelines as specified in the student handbook.

Activities not affected by eligibility rules include sectionals, rehearsals, and concerts at the school. Attendance is mandatory at these events!

ARTICLE XIV

DISCIPLINE

Disciplinary problems occurring in a band class or on a band function will be handled through the band office. Chain of command is the formality. Consequences will occur depending on the severity of the problem and/or the number of continual problems. All the following consequences may or may not include a teacher-parent conference. There also may be more than one consequence provided. Consequences are as follows:

1. Detention directed by the supervising teacher
2. In-School Suspension
3. Removal from the upcoming band trip/activities
4. Removal from any performance the director sees fit
5. Removal from the band program
6. Grades
7. After school practice
8. Notification to other extra-curricular sponsors or coaches

Formality regarding ISS: Adhere to School Code of Conduct and will be conducted through the Principal's Office.

ARTICLE XV
LETTER JACKETS

Students that display performance and dedication above and beyond the call of duty will be eligible to earn a letter jacket. The following will qualify a student for a letter jacket:

1. Selection and performance in an All-Region Band
2. Qualifying for Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest
3. Performing in the UIL State Marching Contest
4. Participating in Band for all 4 years of High School. Students that earn their letter jacket under this qualification will be fit for their jacket during their Junior year, and will receive it at the beginning of their Senior year.

Please remember that policies set forth in this handbook are secondary to, and will default to, policies set by the Administration of Olton Junior High, Olton High School, and Olton ISD. In addition, this handbook may change at any time to better serve the students of the Olton Mustang Band.

Olton Mustang Band
Student and Parent Contract
2026-2027

I have received and read a copy of the band handbook, and understand that by signing I commit myself to both the goals and the rules it contains.

Student Signature:_____

Date:_____

Parent/Guardian Signature:_____

Date:_____



Digital version of Band Handbook