

Olton High School



Mustang Band

**Handbook
2013-2014**

OLTON MUSTANG BAND HANDBOOK
2013-2014

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COURSE RATIONALE

Reading music is very similar to reading English, French, or any other language that reads from left to right on the page. Music, often referred to as “the universal language,” requires students to read more than just the pitch of the note written. Students must engage in cognitive, psychomotor, and affective activities in order to correctly perform what is written on the page. This procedure is a vital key to producing musically literate students. A student must be capable of taking a piece of music and performing that music at first sight, just as a student of science must be capable of reading the science book.

Band directors teach music not only for the upcoming performance or festival, but also as an activity that students may use for life. Music does not end at graduation. Ex-band members often find themselves performing in church orchestras or choirs, in community bands, or teaching their children the joys of band. The key to all of these activities is learning to read not just the notes, but “around” the notes as well. Music is more than just the notes printed on the page. There are stylistic concerns, volume levels, articulation markings, and many other topics to be considered within each piece of music.

Students who learn the fundamentals of reading and “the procedure” will learn a life long skill that will bring enjoyment for life. Reading music is essential to learning the meaning of “Music is the Universal Language.” Musicians may lack the ability to verbally communicate with each other; however, give them a piece of music to read and they will communicate through the world’s most common language – MUSIC

- Exline, Jr., J.L. (2001), *Sight-Reading Skills for Small School Bands*, Lubbock Christian University

PHILOSOPHICAL VIEW OF EDUCATION:

Our philosophical view of education is based on the following quote: “We see education as a profoundly moral enterprise. Its purpose is to develop educated citizens who can function as free people in a free and self-governing society. Intellectual and personal liberty, equality, due process, and democracy are concepts that are central to our vision of ourselves as a free people. Thus they should be central to our view of education in a free society.” (Strike, K.A., Haller, E.J., Soltis, J.F. (1998) *The Ethics of School Administration*, Second Edition, page 105, New York: Teachers College Press, Columbia University)

PHILOSOPHICAL VIEW OF MUSIC:

I AM MUSIC, most ancient of the arts. I am more than ancient; I am eternal. Even before life commenced upon this earth, I was here – in the winds and the waves. When the first trees and flowers and grasses appeared, I was among them. And when man came, I was at once the most delicate, most subtle, and most powerful medium for the expression of Man’s emotions. When men were little better than beasts, I influenced them for their good. In all ages, I have inspired men with hope, kindled their love, and given a voice to their despair. I have played a great part in the drama of Life, whose end and purpose is the complete perfection of Man’s nature. Through my influence human nature has been uplifted, sweetened and refined. With the aid of men, I have become a Fine Art. From Tubalcain to Thomas Edison a long line of the brightest minds have devoted themselves to the perfection of instruments through which men may utilize my powers and enjoy my charms. I have myriads of voices and instruments. I am in the hearts of all men and on their tongues, in all lands and among all peoples; the ignorant and unlettered know me, not less than the rich and learned. For I speak to all men in a language that all understand. Even the deaf hear me, if they but listen to the voices of their own souls. I am the food of love. I have taught men gentleness and peace; and I have led them onward to heroic deeds. I comfort the lonely, and I harmonize the discord of crowds. I am a necessary luxury to all men. I AM MUSIC!

-Allen C. Inman

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SECTION 1: OBJECTIVES

It is the objective of the Olton Band Program to:

- A. Introduce selected students to the experiences associated with instrumental music.
- B. Help students develop the skills necessary to become productive, self-disciplined citizens in their band, school, and community.
- C. Foster a desire to study, listen to, and enjoy many styles of music.
- D. Promote “Mustang Pride” through the band’s rehearsals, performances and competitions.
- E. Provide the students with the fundamentals necessary to advance into the college band of their choice.

SECTION 2: ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- A. The University Interscholastic League’s “NO PASS, NO PLAY” rule.

It is the policy of Olton I.S.D., and the Olton Band Program, to follow the criteria set forth by the U.I.L. eligibility committee for eligibility requirements for “no pass, no play.” Students who fail a class for the six weeks are ineligible from competitions and trips for a minimum of four weeks (six if the student receives a negative progress report during the third week following the failure).

- B. Olton Band Academics Requirements.

Due to the “no pass, no play” rule, the band directors have the right to remove a student who consistently fails his/her academic classes from the band program.

SECTION 3: STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN OTHER EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Olton band students, in both junior high and high school, are highly encouraged to be involved in extra-curricular activities. Olton band students are involved in athletics, cheerleading, ag, theater-arts, and many other programs offered on both secondary campuses. If you have a question about extra-curricular activities, please contact a band director.

SECTION 4: BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Since the Olton Band program is one of the largest organizations on the campus, we not only have high academic requirements, we also have very high expectations for student behavior. Students who demonstrate rude, disruptive, or destructive behavior can, and will be, removed from the program.

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The following rules are for band classroom conduct:

- A. Be on time – be prepared
- B. Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself.
- C. No gum, food, candy, paper, straws etc. in your mouth during band period.
- D. Take proper care of school property.
- E. Bandhall Golden Rules:
 - a. **IF YOU OPEN IT, CLOSE IT.**
 - b. **IF YOU TURN IT ON, TURN IT OFF.**
 - c. **IF YOU UNLOCK IT, LOCK IT.**
 - d. **IF YOU BREAK IT, REPAIR IT.**
 - e. **IF YOU CAN'T FIX IT, CALL ON SOMEONE WHO CAN.**
 - f. **IF YOU BORROW IT, RETURN IT.**
 - g. **IF YOU USE IT, TAKE CARE OF IT.**
 - h. **IF YOU MAKE A MESS, CLEAN IT UP.**
 - i. **IF YOU MOVE IT, PUT IT BACK.**
 - j. **IF IT BELONGS TO SOMEONE ELSE AND YOU WANT TO USE IT, ASK.**
 - k. **IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO OPERATE IT, LEAVE IT ALONE.**
 - l. **IF IT DOESN'T CONCERN YOU, STAY OUT OF IT.**
 - m. **IF IT WILL MAKE SOMEONE'S DAY, SAY IT.**
- F. Basically, all of our rules and procedures can be summarized into the following four RIGHTS:
 - a. **BE AT THE RIGHT PLACE.**
 - b. **AT THE RIGHT TIME.**
 - c. **WITH THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT.**
 - d. **AND THE RIGHT ATTITUDE.**

SECTION 5: PERFORMING ORGANIZATIONS

- A. Olton High School Mustang Band
 - 1. The prospective student must have completed junior high band, or have been assigned to the band by a band director.
 - 2. The band is composed of high school students and any other approved Olton student.
 - 3. All students are encouraged to perform in the band, an ensemble, and a solo at contests.
 - 4. Membership Requirements:
 - i. The student must be in good academic standing, meeting both the U.I.L. and O.H.S. band eligibility requirements.
 - ii. Students are encouraged to practice at home each day.

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SECTION 6: INSTRUMENTAL ASSIGNMENTS & EQUIPMENT USAGE

- A. All students will be assigned to an instrument by the director. Students **will not** be allowed to change instruments without director approval
- B. Student ability. School instruments
 - 1. Olton ISD will provide instruments for all students that do not own their own personal instrument.
- C. Personal instruments
 - 1. Students may use their own personal instrument, under the following guidelines
 - i. All instruments must be approved by the directors.
 - ii. Instrument must be in proper working order;
 - iii. Instrument must be repairable, if damaged;
- D. Equipment usage fee
 - 1. All members using OISD equipment will be required to pay a fee of \$20, per year, to offset the cost of regular repair and maintenance. This fee will be paid in the spring semester.

SECTION 7: SUPPLIES/MATERIALS NEEDED FOR BAND

- A. Books
 - a. All band members will receive at least one method book per year, as provided by Olton I.S.D. Members are responsible for these books and will have to replace them if they are lost or damaged.
- B. Instrumental supplies
 - a. All members will be required to pay a fee of \$20, per year, to offset the cost of supplies used for band. This fee will be paid in the fall semester of the school year.
- C. All students will need a pencil every day!
- D. See **SECTION 10: STUDENT DRESS** for information about gloves, socks, and band shirt requirements.

SECTION 8: GRADING POLICY

Grades are made up of a combination of the following assignments.

- A. Weekly Equipment Grade
 - a. Equipment Check will be performed everyday or at random for the following:
 - i. Instrument
 - ii. Music
 - iii. Pencil
- B. Weekly Classroom Participation
 - a. Outstanding (95 pts) – Actively participates at all times; on time; not chewing gum; displaying proper posture; keeps area clean; returns instrument to its case.
 - b. Satisfactory (85 pts) – Occasionally not playing instrument; chewing gum; poor posture; talking; unprepared to begin rehearsal on time

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- c. Unsatisfactory (70 pts) – Frequently not playing instrument; excessive talking or classroom disturbance; failing to return instrument to its case at the end of the rehearsal; asked to leave class for a misbehavior

Students will lose points for any of the following:

1. *Not meeting behavioral expectations outlined in class.*
2. *Not respecting fellow class members or teachers.*

C. Performances

- a. Performances are mandatory for all band students, and include, but are not limited to, one Christmas concert in December and one end-of-year concert in May, as well as a Contest performance in the spring. Contests count for two performance grades.

*Make-up assignments – In the event there is an excused absence, a make-up assignment will be given and will carry the weight of the performance grade

D. Written Work and Playing Tests

E. Extra Credit

- a. Extra credit will be given to any student that brings a signed program from community and collegiate musical events (i.e. Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, Texas Tech Wind Ensemble, UIL Marching Contest, etc.) All events must meet the approval of a band director before credit can be given.
- b. Other extra credit assignments may be given by the directors.

SECTION 9: ATTENDANCE

All eligible students (see SECTION 3) are required to attend all performances, practices, and contests in which the student is involved. If the student must miss, please notify the director in **advance** of the event. Excused absences include student illness or death in the family. **Failure to attend without prior notification of an excused absence could result in a lowered grade, or removal from the band program.**

SECTION 10: STUDENT DRESS

- A. Performance Dress – Olton band students will be required to dress up for all performances. The guidelines for the dress code are:
 - a. Girls – Dresses, dress slacks and dress shirt, or other “Sunday Attire.”
 - b. Boys – Dress shirt, tie, slacks or docker type pants, or other “Sunday Attire.”
- B. Pep Rally Dress – Olton High School band members will be required to wear their band shirts on pep-rally days. We will also use our band shirts as travel shirts on away games and contests.
- C. High School marching band and U.I.L. contest dress – Mustang Band students will be required to purchase a travel shirt and will be issued a band uniform.
 - a. Band Shirts – these shirts are to be worn for pep rallies, any trip the band takes, and under the band uniform when it is worn.

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- b. Band Shorts - these shorts are to be worn whenever the uniform is worn. The shorts, combined with the band shirt, will be worn under the uniform when the student is required to be worn. Shorts will be issued when the student enters the HS band program, and will be responsible for purchasing a replacement pair should the need arise.
- c. Band Uniforms – uniforms are to be worn over shorts and the travel shirt. The school will provide 1 pair of shoes to each student. The student must provide black socks and gloves to be worn with the uniform. (NOTE: any time the uniform is worn, it must be worn properly – we will have inspections!).
 - i. Uniforms must be taken care of by the student. Students will be responsible for the care and maintenance of the uniform. **Excessive wear and improper care of the uniform may result in a fine to be paid by the student.**
- d. All uniforms will be stored in the band hall at all times!

SECTION 11: LETTER JACKETS

Olton High School band students may qualify for letter jackets. Following U.I.L. guidelines, a student may only receive one jacket during his/her high school career. In other words, a student may not receive a jacket in athletics and another jacket in band. Band students may qualify for letter jackets by completing one of the following requirements:

- a. Being member of the High school band during their 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade years. Jackets will be ordered at the end of the Junior year and distributed at the beginning of the Senior year (if the student is still enrolled).
- b. The student makes the All-State Band or at least qualifies to the Area round of the competition.
- c. The student makes the All-Region Band or All-Region Jazz Band during their high school career.
- d. The student earns a First Division on a class 1 solo and/or ensemble at U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble contest.
- e. Every student in the band will qualify for a letter jacket if the band qualifies for State Marching Contest, State Outstanding Performance Series, or State Honor Band.

Additional letters may be earned for:

- A. Making All-Region Band, or All-Region Jazz Band
- B. Making All-Area and All-State
- C. Earning First Divisions in Solo and Ensemble competition

SECTION 12: OLTON BAND BOOSTERS

The Olton Band Boosters is an organization dedicated to assisting all Olton Bands. Members of this organization serve as bus sponsors, uniform alteration workers, fund-raisers, trip sponsors, and in many other capacities throughout the school year. The Mustang Band program relies heavily upon the work of this organization. Any, and all, band parents are highly encouraged to participate in this vital organization. Meetings are held every Monday evening during football season, and as needed for the remainder of the year. The booster club and the band directors will keep you notified of meetings and agendas. For information on how to become a member, or on how to serve, please contact a band booster officer or a band director.

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SECTION 13: TRIPS

The Olton Bands will take several trips throughout the year. Students are always to view themselves as ambassadors of Olton, Texas. Only the most exemplary behavior will be accepted. Students will be required to follow school dress codes, codes of conduct, and abide by all other guidelines as set forth by the band directors.

High School Students

- A. The High School band will be present at all high school football games, including playoff games.
- B. Students will represent their community in several competitions throughout the school year. These include, but are not limited to: U.I.L. Marching contest, U.I.L. Concert and Sight-reading Contest, and any other performance and/or contest required by the directors.
- C. Students will have the opportunity to represent Olton in All-Region, All-Area, and All-State Bands throughout the school year.
- D. Students will be allowed to travel on an educational trip every other year while in high school. Students earn their way on these trips by:
 - i. Being members of the high school band
 - ii. Meeting eligibility requirements of the band
 - iii. Exhibiting the ability to be self-disciplined and exhibit good behavior
 - iv. Participating in fundraisers as needed
 - v. Other requirements as set forth by the directors
 - vi. **Note:** To be eligible to go on the Band Trip, you must be enrolled the year preceding the trip year.

RULES FOR BAND TRIPS

- A. A complete itinerary will be issued to each band member for specific trips.
- B. Please be on time for all departures.
- C. Adult chaperones will be on each bus.
- D. Buses are to be treated with care and all refuse is to be placed in the can, or bag placed on the bus for that purpose. Keep the buses clean!
- E. Special care should be taken to see that all personal and school property is cared for:
 - a. Pack and pad all instruments for travel in their proper cases.
 - b. Pack all uniforms for travel in their bags, hung properly.
 - c. Place identification labels on all school and personal items.
- F. Students will be given as much free time as is consistent with the educational intent of the trip.

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- G. **NO TOBACCO, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, OR DRUGS** will be tolerated at any band function, nor individuals under the influence. Violators will be referred to the administration **and may be sent home, with a sponsor, at the parents' expense.**
- H. Only exemplary conduct will be accepted from the members of the Olton Band Program. Members must be on their best behavior at all times, especially on buses, in hotels, and at all group appearances.

SECTION 14: FUNDRAISERS

Students will be asked to participate in fundraisers throughout their career in the Mustang bands. These fundraisers are used for trips, band camps, and materials and/or supplies for the band and/or band hall. Uses of fundraising proceeds will be disclosed to the students prior to the project's beginning. Fundraising is done in order to further the educational opportunities of students involved in the Mustang bands beyond what is available to the bands through school appropriated funds.

Students who participate in fundraisers are responsible for all goods and/or money collected. Students and their parents shall be held accountable for all items and monies involved. Students who fail to turn in collected money and/or return unsold items will be reported to a collection agency.

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BAND HANDBOOK RECEIPT

Please return these forms, completed, by:

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2013

My child and I have received a copy, or are aware of the accessibility of viewing, the **Olton Mustang Band Handbook**. I understand that the handbook contains information that my child and I may need during the school year and that all students will be held accountable for what is contained within.

Printed name of student: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

A copy of the handbook may be given upon request, or viewed on the district website.

HS Student Enrollment Form

45378

Form ID: 45378

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Form ID: 41298

**PARENT/STUDENT UIL MARCHING BAND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

No student may be required to attend practice for marching band for more than eight hours of rehearsal outside the academic school day per calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). This provision applies to students in all components of the marching band.

On performance days (football games, competitions and other public performances) bands may hold up to one additional hour of warm-up and practice beyond the scheduled warm-up time at the performance site. Multiple performances on the same day do not allow for additional practice and/or warm-up time.

Examples Of Activities Subject To The UIL Marching Band Eight Hour Rule.

- Marching Band Rehearsal (Both Full Band And Components)
- Any Marching Band Group Instructional Activity
- Breaks
- Announcements
- Debriefing And Viewing Marching Band Videos
- Playing Off Marching Band Music
- Marching Band Sectionals (Both Director And Student Led)
- Clinics For The Marching Band Or Any Of Its Components

The Following Activities Are Not Included In The Eight Hour Time Allotment:

- Travel Time To And From Rehearsals And/Or Performances
- Rehearsal Set-Up Time
- Pep Rallies, Parades And Other Public Performances
- Instruction And Practice For Music Activities Other Than Marching Band And Its Components

NOTE: An extensive Q&A for the Eight Hour Rule for Marching Band can be found on the Music Page of the UIL Web Site at: www.uil.utexas.edu

"We have read and understand the Eight-Hour Rule for Marching Band as stated above and agree to abide by these regulations."

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

This form is to be kept on file by the local school district.

UIL Marching Band ACKGT
* 45372 *
Form ID: 45372