

# **Lufkin Panther Band Student Handbook**



**2023-2024**

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Welcome to the Lufkin band family. It is our desire that your tenure in the Lufkin ISD band program is one of the most rewarding and enjoyable experiences in your public-school career. This handbook has been prepared in order that you will be better equipped to be an outstanding band member. We look forward to working with you and your family!

– The Lufkin Band Staff

## COMMUNICATION

### **Band Staff Contact**

George Little (Director of Bands) - 936-630-4134 - [grlittle@lufkinisd.org](mailto:grlittle@lufkinisd.org)

Brandon Beavers (Assistant Band Director) - 936-630-4440 - [bwbeavers@lufkinisd.org](mailto:bwbeavers@lufkinisd.org)

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Band Hall Fax – 936-630-4122

### **Remind**

The Lufkin HS Band utilizes the Remind messaging system as the primary means for digital communications between band staff, student leaders, section members, and parents. Students are required to join Remind classroom groups that apply to them, and parents are encouraged to sign up for any Remind classroom group of which their child is a member.

Band directors have the ability to send group messages to all Lufkin HS Band Remind classroom groups and they can also message specific students or parents as needed. Section Leaders have the same ability, but only for their specific section's Remind classroom group.

SPECIAL REQUEST - Please set your Remind profile user name as your actual name (First and Last) rather than using a random username like you might create for social media. Random usernames make it difficult to find specific individuals when needing to send a one on one message.

Here is a list of Lufkin HS Band Remind classroom groups and classroom group codes. To join a classroom group either text the code to the number 81010 or find the classroom group using the code within the Remind app.

- **Lufkin High School Band - @lufkinband**
  - Used for all full band announcements - all students and parents should sign up for the Lufkin High School Band Remind classroom group.
- **Marching Season Remind Groups (in alphabetical order)**
  - **Lufkin Baritones - @lufkinb**
  - **Lufkin Clarinets - @lufclar**
  - **Lufkin Drumline - @lufkdrums**
  - **Lufkin Flutes - @lufflutes**
  - **Lufkin French Horns - @lufhorns**
  - **Lufkin Majorettes - @lufkinma**
  - **Lufkin Quartermasters - @quartermst**
  - **Lufkin Saxophones - @lufsax**
  - **Lufkin Trombones - @luftbn**
  - **Lufkin Trumpets - @lufkintr**
  - **Lufkin Tubas - @lufkintuba**
  - **Panther Band SLT 23-24 - @slt23-24**
    - Specific students that this classroom group applies to are Drum Majors, Band Council, Section Leaders, Head Majorette, Head Quartermasters, Uniform Crew Captains, and Squad Leaders.
- **Concert Season Remind Groups**
  - **Wind Ensemble - @lufwindens**
  - **Symphonic Band - @lufkinsym**
  - **Concert Band - @lufconcert**

### Website

The Lufkin HS Band website is located at:

<http://sites.lufkinisd.org/lhs/resources/clubs-and-organizations/panther-band/>

## **Charms**

The Lufkin Band uses Charms (a secure database stored in the cloud) to maintain student contact information, to send mass emails, and to give you access to your band financial records.

Here is how to get started:

1. Visit [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com).
2. Enter lufkinhsband in the Parent/Student Login window and click “Enter Charms”.  
lufkinhsband must be entered exactly as listed here with no capitalizations and no spaces.
3. Enter your child’s Lufkin student identification number in the “Student Password” blank and click “Enter”.
4. You are in!  
*The first time that you login you will be prompted to change your password from your child’s Lufkin student identification number to whatever you want it to be. No one will know your password but you. If you ever forget your new password let a band director know and they can reset it to the student identification number.*
5. Click on the different links and explore the website.

Please make sure that you keep all of your personal information up to date on the Charms website. It is important to note that all band financial records can only be viewed by a parent or student with “Parent/Student Login” password and the Lufkin HS band staff.

## **BAND MEMBERSHIP**

1. Band at Lufkin is an elective. Membership in the Lufkin High School Band is contingent upon successful completion of membership in the Lufkin Middle School band and the recommendation of the Lufkin Middle School band directors.
2. Students moving into Lufkin ISD will need to audition with a band director for appropriate chair placement.
3. Band is a full year course. No student may register for only the fall or spring semester.
4. Students will only be allowed to change their schedule into or out of band with written approval of the band director.
5. Band membership is cumulative. Students may not be readmitted into the band after they are removed from the program due to disciplinary reasons or after they decide to quit participating.
6. *\*\*Special Exemption for Jazz Band – If there are no current band students that are able to play bass, piano, or guitar in the jazz band then students who are not full-time members of the band program may be used to fill these needs.*

## ENSEMBLES

There are several different performing ensembles in which students participate.

- Marching Band – The Lufkin High School Marching Band is a fall semester class. Marching Band rehearses beginning in late July and ending when football season is over or until the Lufkin Christmas Parade.
- Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band – These concert ensembles rehearse beginning at the end of football season and during the spring semester. Membership in each ensemble is decided based off of a chair test given each November. The Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band rehearse at LHS and the Concert Band rehearses at LMS during the spring semester. Performances include the Christmas Concert, Pre-UIL Concert, UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest, and Spring Concert.
- Jazz Band – The Lufkin High School Jazz Band rehearses in the fall and spring semesters and performs several times throughout the school year. Membership in the Jazz Band is by audition (usually top ranking students from the regular band chair tests). Membership in the jazz band during the fall semester does not guarantee membership during the spring semester.
- Chamber Ensembles – Various chamber (or small group) ensembles rehearse throughout the school year and perform at the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest as well as at community events.

## GRADING SYSTEM

Every Lufkin band student will earn their progress report and report card grades. Grades are most often given according to the following categories, but can also be given based off of assignments not listed here.

### 1. Daily Grades

- Students receive daily grades for coming to rehearsals with needed supplies and also for periodic written work.

### 2. Music Pass Offs

- Definitions:
  - A “pass” is when a student performs assigned music for a band director with the correct notes and rhythms with a good sound, the correct tempo, appropriate dynamics, and appropriate musical style/interpretation.
  - An “attempt” is when a student attempts to perform assigned music with the “pass” criteria in mind but does not completely satisfy the criteria according to the expectation of the band directors.
  - “On Time” means performed for the first time before the designated deadline.
  - “Late” means performed for the first time after the designated deadline.

#### Grades:

When passing off for a band director

- 100 - Pass (on time)
- 80 - Pass (late)
- 80 - Attempt (on time)
- 50 - Attempt (late)

When passing off for student leaders

- 100 - Playing the assignment by the posted deadline  
*(regardless of being given a pass or attempt)*
  - 80 - Maximum grade after failing to play the assignment by the posted deadline
  - 0 - Grade received if the assignment is not played at all
- *Students are given until the next to last day of the grading period to bring their grade of "attempt" up to "pass". Repeated attempts to pass selected music off may result in a student's grade being raised. The amount that a grade is raised will depend on the number of times attempted and the amount of improvement shown. Any music attempted late (after the set deadline) will have a maximum grade of an 80 upon bringing it up to a "pass".*

### 3. Performances

- Performing is one of the cornerstones of music education. Therefore, each performance will be given a test grade. Uniform inspection is part of a student's test grade for a football game or marching contest performance.
- Performance environments are impossible to recreate. Therefore, an unexcused absence from a performance will result in the grade of zero that cannot be made up.
- Excused absences from a performance may require makeup work as assigned by a band director. See the "Attendance Policy/Absences" section of the band handbook for clarification on what will be considered an excused absence. Incomplete makeup work will result in the test grade remaining a zero.

### 4. Chair Tests

- Students will receive a test grade for their music performance on chair tests.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY/ABSENCES**

The success of any good organization is due largely to the commitment of its members to attend all functions that are scheduled. Therefore, attendance at rehearsals and performances is mandatory.

A calendar of events is issued to each student long before any events take place in order to circumvent potential conflicts with other organizations and/or family functions. Out of respect for your time, every effort will be made to keep you informed of any schedule changes well in advance. We ask that you try not to schedule appointments during band rehearsals if possible.

For football playoff games during the week of Thanksgiving Break, students will not be penalized for missing a game due to family holiday plans. However, absence from a Thanksgiving Break football playoff game must still be communicated with Mr. Little by the parent in advance of the absence taking place.

Absences will be excused and grades can be made up if you are disabled due to a debilitating illness, if there is a death in the family, or if there are other circumstances deemed excusable by the Director of Bands. Having to work is not an excused absence! You are expected to fully participate when you are at school unless you have a note from your doctor stating that you are to be excused from a specific aspect of participation. **All absences, excused or unexcused, must be reported to the band director prior to the absence if at all possible. Any excused absence must have a written note or email from a parent or admit slip from the attendance office or it will be considered unexcused.**

**Any unexcused absence from a performance can result in a failing grade and may be grounds for dismissal from band.**

## **TARDY POLICY**

A student who has an unexcused tardy to a band rehearsal that begins before 8:10 a.m., or after 3:45 p.m., will be required to practice 20 minutes in the band hall before or after school on a date agreed upon by a band director and the student. If a practice session resulting from a tardy is incomplete by the agreed upon date, additional actions may be incurred as deemed necessary by the Director of Bands.

An excused tardy will not result in the assignment of a 20 minute practice session.

## **CONDUCT**

The Lufkin Band and its members serve as representatives of our school district. You are expected to follow the LISD Student Handbook/Code of Conduct and you are subject at all times to Student Handbook/Code of Conduct consequences. Keep in mind that you also represent your community, family, and school. Your behavior reflects upon us all.

No band member shall knowingly possess, use, transmit, or be under the influence of any controlled substance, alcohol, vape products, or tobacco in any form while with the band. Any band member found to be in violation of this may forfeit his/her right to participate in any band in Lufkin I.S.D. and will also be subject to the appropriate and/or specified consequences listed in the LISD Student Handbook/Code of Conduct.



## DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Maintaining a high standard of conduct includes ensuring that band member websites and online social media interactions are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Students and parents must be aware that all digital communication (Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, photo sharing, emailing, texting, etc.) is public domain even if it is marked as private. Members are responsible for their personal sites and postings, as well as postings from or on other students' sites. The following are examples of inappropriate digital communication: profane, foul, or disrespectful language; pictures with suggestive poses or inappropriate clothing; references to alcohol, weapons, drugs, vaping products, or tobacco; postings (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening towards LISD teaching staff or band members; demonstrating poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other bands. Any such incident may result in review by the band director and principal and may lead to probation or dismissal from the band.

In order to help ensure appropriate digital interactions, all student to student communication concerning band will be done exclusively through the Remind messaging service. Using Remind provides a transparent record of all communications that is reviewable by band directors at all times. Band students are asked not to use Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook to communicate with one another about band. Remind groups are created by the Lufkin band staff, but section leaders are also granted messaging permissions for their section Remind groups. We encourage parents to sign up for all Remind groups of which their child is also a member.

Band members that violate internet and digital communication guidelines shall be subject to the following:

- Step 1 – Upon confirmation of a first violation, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the site(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal, directors, and necessary band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior.
- Step 2 – Upon confirmation of a second offense, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the site(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal, directors, and necessary band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior. In addition, the student may be suspended from all band activities for a period ranging from 3 days to 3 weeks, depending on the offense.
- Step 3 – Upon confirmation of a third offense, the member is subject to removal from the band program.
- Any violation deemed extreme enough may result in immediate dismissal from band without following Step 1 or 2 as outlined in this section.

## **BAND REHEARSAL RULES**

*Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in a verbal reprimand, student/teacher conference, reduction in chair placement, assignment to another class, or other behavior modification techniques.*

1. No gum, candy, food, or drink is allowed in the band hall at any time unless otherwise stated by a band director. Water is allowed in the band hall at all times.
2. No horseplay at any time.
3. Get a drink of water and use the restroom **prior** to the beginning of rehearsal.
4. Be in your place with your instrument, music, pencil, good reed, etc. **PRIOR** to the start of the scheduled rehearsal time.
5. If your instrument will not work during a rehearsal, let the director know about the problem as soon as you become aware of it. Sit and do fingerings and listen to instructions. It is important that you stay engaged in the rehearsal. Your director will attend to your instrument as soon as possible. However, necessary repairs may have to wait until after the rehearsal has ended.
6. When the director stops the band, please refrain from talking. These necessary stops are to provide feedback concerning the ensemble's performance and to give further instruction.

## **STADIUM GUIDELINES**

1. Please keep in mind that your performance begins the minute you leave the band hall. Therefore, everything about your behavior, uniform, etc. is on display for evaluation.
2. There will be no unsportsmanlike or derogatory comments made by any Lufkin band member toward ANYONE including each other, other students, players on the field, adults, and the officiating crew.
3. You will have assigned seats in the stadium. You will remain in your assigned area during the game.
4. When the band plays, everyone is expected to play. Always be ready to do your job.
5. Always take your flip folder music to the stands with you. A lyre can be used to help you manage your music while you play.

6. When our team scores, be ready to play the fight song.
7. For obvious safety reasons and dignity issues, dancing while with the band may be restricted.
8. Stay in complete uniform as specified by the band director at all times. Keep your shirt tucked in, suspenders on, and trousers zipped up when jackets are taken off in the stands. Head wear other than official Lufkin Band uniform wear is not permitted.
9. Students should use the restroom before the band enters the stadium. Students asking to use the restroom once in the stands will be handled on a case by case basis.
10. Students are to utilize their official Lufkin Band water jug in the stands for water. Water refill stations will be provided by the band. No food or drink (other than water) is allowed in the band section of the stands.

## **BUS & TRIP REGULATIONS**

1. Follow the instructions of the bus driver, band director, or adult chaperones at all times.
2. Stay seated while the bus is moving with conversation voices only - no loud outbursts.
3. Keep hands, arms, and heads inside the windows. This includes voices - no yelling out of windows.
4. DO NOT throw things out of the windows at any time. Do not open the back door except in the case of an emergency.
5. Small music players (such as cell phones or MP3 players) are permissible WHEN USED WITH HEADPHONES! You are responsible for any personal property that you bring on the bus. The Lufkin band, band directors, and chaperones will not be held responsible for any lost or stolen property and you will not be reimbursed for lost or stolen property.
6. Eating and/or drinking on the bus are not allowed on LISD buses, except for bottled water. Eating and/or drinking privileges on charter buses can be taken away if abused.
7. Glass bottles or containers are not allowed on any bus.
8. When leaving a school bus, be sure all windows are closed. After returning to school, double check to make sure that you unloaded all of your personal belongings and equipment. Your instrument and music must be placed in their proper storage area or taken home with you.
9. Students may be signed out to ride home with parents from out of town games or contests without prior written notification. Parents wishing to give their permission for their student to be signed out by someone else need to send an email (preferred) or a signed note stating to whom they will be released. People to whom students may be released are: other band parents or ADULT family

members. To sign a student out, parents or their designee must present a driver's license to their chaperone at the bus after the event is over. Students are not allowed to be signed out by friends, siblings that are still in high school, boyfriend/girlfriend, etc.

*\* For safety and logistical reasons please make every effort to give hand written notes to the LHS band administrative assistant by the end of the school day at least one day before the bus trip for which that note is intended. Parents may qualify another adult to pick up their student more than once by specifying all of the affected dates in one note or email.*

## **DISCIPLINE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### **Expectations**

Lufkin band students are always expected to follow all policies outlined in each section of this handbook as well as the LISD Student Handbook/Code of Conduct. Taking a proactive approach to making good decisions about one's own actions is always the best choice. Students should respect other students' right to learn and the teacher's right to teach. Disrupting the learning process or compromising the safe environment of other students will not be tolerated.

### **Rewards**

Lufkin band students who meet expectations can expect verbal or written praise from directors. Students can also expect to be a part of a successful and respected band program. Students will be assisted in forming a positive self-image and will be proud of the high level of self-discipline and hard work required to meet all expectations.

### **Corrective Actions**

In the event that a student fails to comply with Lufkin Band guidelines, disciplinary actions including, but not limited to, the following may be taken:

- Assignment to band hall detention. Details of a detention assignment will be decided according to each incident.
- Loss of spot in the marching drill.
- Office referral.
- Anything else deemed necessary at director and principal discretion.

### **Dismissal from Band**

Any student may be dismissed from the band due to conduct requiring principal or law enforcement intervention (whether or not you are with the band at the time of the conduct infraction), lack of cooperation, refusal to conform to rules and regulations, a general poor attitude, or unexcused absence from rehearsals or a performance.

Parents/Guardians will be notified of a problem which could lead to a student being dismissed from band in advance of a dismissal actually taking place. This will almost always be a warning notification. However, in extreme cases a student can be dismissed without "having a second

chance”. Extreme cases can include violence, destroying band property, displays of extreme disrespect, an unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance, sexual harassment, inappropriate digital media and anything else deemed appropriate for immediate dismissal by the band director and principal. Students will not be readmitted to the band after being dismissed from band for disciplinary reasons.

## **PERFORMANCE POLICY**

All band students will be given the opportunity to perform with the band. However, there are circumstances under which a student may not be allowed to perform:

1. Failure to perform music or marching fundamentals at acceptable levels.
2. Unexcused absences and/or tardiness.
3. Consistently sitting out at marching rehearsals.
4. Director discretion (usually involving student misconduct).
5. Failing a course (No Pass No Play—state law).

## **NO PASS NO PLAY**

No Pass No Play refers to a state law which requires students in Texas to be academically eligible in order to participate in school related public performances and competitions. Events that academically ineligible students are not allowed to participate in include football games, pep rallies, parades, UIL contests, all-region auditions, all-region clinics/concerts, and Honor America. Academically ineligible students are allowed to participate in the Lufkin Band Christmas Concert and Spring Concert due to the fact that these concerts do not cost money to attend and are required to teach all of the state required TEKS for music. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, TEA amended the requirements for students to participate in the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading evaluation to allow a student who has not passed all his or her classes, but who is enrolled in a state-approved music course that participates in University Interscholastic League (UIL) Concert and Sight-reading Evaluation, to perform with the ensemble during the UIL evaluation performance.

## **MARCHING ALTERNATES**

Every student will have the opportunity to march with the Panther Band. However, after several football games certain students will be chosen as marching alternates due to drill design necessities, performance expectations, and No Pass No Play constraints. Alternates are students that don’t march in the halftime performances or at competitions. Academically eligible alternates do participate in rehearsals, pep rallies, parades, and travel with the band.

Criteria for choosing alternates:

1. No Pass No Play
2. Difficulty marching
3. Consistently sitting out at marching rehearsals
4. Difficulty playing and/or lack of attention to music pass offs
5. Absences and/or tardiness
6. Attitude

Alternates may be able to earn a spot in the marching drill *if and when* positions become available by demonstrating playing/marching improvement, maintaining academic eligibility, maintaining good attendance habits, and maintaining a good attitude.

## **MARCHING SAFETY - STUDENT WELLNESS**

Student safety and well being during marching season is a constant concern. Heat related illness and physical injury are part of what we may encounter. It is important that students take the following steps on a daily basis during marching season.

- Hydration - Students should stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water throughout the day and evening. Always have your water jug filled with water at marching rehearsals, football games, and marching contests.
- Communicate - Students must communicate with their directors and their parents concerning any physical ailments that they are experiencing during marching season. Students, we don't know unless you tell us!
- Apparel - Students must wear appropriate shoes and clothing for all marching rehearsals. Lace up athletic shoes are appropriate for marching rehearsals. Crocs, slip-on shoes, flip flops, sandals, hey dudes, sperry and other similar shoes are not acceptable for use during marching rehearsals. Clothing should be breathable, comfortable, and appropriate for wearing at school.
- Participation - Students are expected to march during all of each marching rehearsal and at each performance unless otherwise stated by a doctor or athletic trainer. If a student removes themselves from a marching rehearsal or performance based on a physical ailment, the band staff will notify their parents to make sure that all parties are informed, and students may become a marching alternate to prevent further injury.

## **EXTRA REHEARSALS**

Extra rehearsals are necessary for obtaining the level of excellence that the Lufkin band program is used to. These rehearsals can be individual, section, or full band rehearsals. Extra rehearsals will take place as necessary for preparation concerning a concert, contest, or individual band event. Students will be notified well in advance of any extra rehearsal. Attending extra rehearsals is mandatory, and unexcused absences may result in consequences as outlined in the Discipline Management Plan in this handbook.

## CHAIR PLACEMENT

Chair placement will be determined through a playing test once in the fall semester and once in the spring semester. Students will receive a test grade in Skyward for each chair test.

## LETTER JACKETS

The Lufkin Panther Band and Majorette letter jacket is an award to be worn with extreme pride. All qualifications are subject to a student being a member in good standing of the Lufkin HS Band for the entire school year. Jackets are ordered during the Spring semester and are issued to students in August.

Students who earn a letter jacket from a source other than band or majorette can earn a band or majorette insert. An insert is a small patch that says “band” or “majorette” and can be added to the letter. Inserts are ordered and issued at the same time as the band letter jackets.

Students receiving a letter jacket are expected to stay in band after they have earned it. Students who have qualified for a letter jacket and have not signed up for band the following school year will not be awarded their jacket.

Students must meet one of the following descriptors to earn a band jacket or insert:

1. Student must be entering their senior year in the Panther band, having not previously received a letter jacket. All juniors who have not received a letter jacket should order one for their senior year.
2. Student must earn a spot in the TMEA Region 21 HS All-Region Band. Earning a spot in the freshman all-region band or being named alternate to the high school all-region band does not qualify.
3. Student must earn a first division rating on an instrumental class one solo at the Region 21 UIL Solo and Ensemble competition.

Students must meet one of the following descriptors to earn a majorette jacket or insert:

1. Student must be a member in good standing of the majorette line for the entire school year AND must earn a first division rating on a class one twirling solo at the Region 21 UIL Twirling Solo and Ensemble competition.
2. Students that earn a spot on the majorette line for their senior year will receive a majorette insert upon completion of football season, even if they don't receive a first division rating on a class one solo at the Region 21 UIL Twirling Solo and Ensemble competition.

*The Lufkin Band is only allowed to pay for the jacket and/or insert. Any other awards, patches, service bars, batons, etc. added to the jacket must be paid for by the student.*

## **FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**

While the LISD band program tries to provide for as many expenses as possible, some of the cost to participate is passed along to the students and parents. You will be notified of any fees that need to be paid in advance of payment due dates. Any financial difficulties involved with paying band fees should be communicated to a band director prior to the fee's due date. Prior notification is essential in order to provide ample time to find a solution to the problem.

Students are responsible for returning all school issued equipment and uniforms. Replacement values will be assigned for abused or missing items. Students are required to pay for repair costs with a school owned instrument if the band director deems it appropriate (usually caused by student neglect or carelessness).

## **FUNDRAISERS**

The Lufkin band participates in several fundraisers each year. Participation in a fundraiser indicates acceptance of the financial responsibility associated with that particular fundraiser. Money due as a part of a fundraising activity is to be turned in by the fundraiser ending date.

Money that is in a student's account when they graduate, or when they stop membership in the Lufkin band, will be donated to the Lufkin Band or can be transferred to a sibling.

Information concerning fundraiser dates, procedures, and profit distribution will be supplied through Remind messages, emails, and handouts. Fundraisers are a very necessary part of every highly functional band program. Thanks in advance for helping the Lufkin Panther Band raise money!

## **UNIFORMS**

The Lufkin High School Band wears their marching band uniform for performances at Friday night football games, marching contests, UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest, and at various other events.

### List of Uniform Parts

- Trousers (purple and white) and Jacket – school provided
- Buckle and breastplate – school provided
- Shako (uniform hat) – school provided – long hair is to be pulled up into the hat
- Black hanger – school provided
- White band shoes – students purchase
- Long solid white socks (ankle socks are not allowed) – students purchase



- Purple Band T-shirt and Black Band Shorts – provided at no cost to freshman and move-in students by the band boosters.
  - Additional band t-shirts (\$10) and band shorts (\$15) are available for purchase in the band office .

#### Uniform Care

- Uniforms will be checked in through the Uniform Crew following each performance.
- The band staff will coordinate and pay for several uniform cleanings per school year (at least one before marching contest, one after marching season, and one at the end of the school year).
- Students wishing to have their uniforms cleaned more often may do so by signing their uniform out with a Uniform Crew Captain.
- DO NOT attempt to machine wash your band uniform!

#### Uniform Expectations

- Jackets are to be worn fastened all the way unless otherwise instructed by a band director.
- Trousers shall not be worn with the shoulder straps off of the shoulder or with any buttons or the zipper undone at any time while in public.
- Shakos (hats) are to be worn facing front only.
- Ladies should avoid wearing makeup that will rub off onto your uniform jacket collar.
- Students are not allowed to have hair dyed any color other than a natural hair color (no blue, pink, purple, green, etc.) while in uniform. Additionally, we request that students who do color their hair (to a natural color) are certain that the coloring will not bleed onto uniform hats and jackets as we have had issues with this in the past.

#### Uniform Inspection Checklist

*Uniform inspections will take place prior to each performance.*

1. Polished white marching shoes.
2. Long solid white socks (ankle socks are not allowed).
3. Lightweight shorts to be worn under the uniform, no jeans. Wind pants or sweatpants are appropriate for colder weather but aren't allowed to be seen below the bottom hem of the uniform pants.
4. Panther Band t-shirt.
5. Uniform trousers hemmed to the correct length.
6. Uniform jacket hemmed to the correct length.
7. Citation chords, breast plate, belt loops, and buckle.
8. Flip folder with music and student's name.
9. No jewelry of any kind is to be worn while in uniform. This includes watches, rings, bracelets, and earrings. Lufkin HS class rings and necklaces worn under the band t-shirt are permitted.
10. Colored fingernail polish is not permitted. Clear fingernail polish is permitted.
11. Instrument – clean and in working order.
12. Neck strap, reeds, etc.

## **SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS**

The Lufkin band provides certain instruments for students. These instruments are most commonly oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor and bari sax, french horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion equipment. Every instrument that is not listed here is the responsibility of the parent to provide.

School-owned instruments will be issued to students to use and care for as if it were their own personal instrument. Students are only allowed to use their personally owned or school issued instrument. Do not “swap” instruments without director approval. Please notify a band director if your instrument needs maintenance. Only band directors are allowed to issue instruments!

It is the policy of the band to pay for any expenses pertaining to routine repair and maintenance of a school owned instrument. However, damages caused due to student negligence will be repaired at the expense of the student.

## **BAND TRIP & SENIOR TRIP**

The LHS Band traditionally takes a trip that is open to all band members every two years (even calendar years) during the spring semester to various locations. Band seniors traditionally have the opportunity to participate in a day trip every year. These trips are to provide an enrichment opportunity for students and to serve students as a reward for hard work and dedication to the LISD band program.

Trips are paid for by band booster funds, student fundraising, and student payments. Required student trip payment amounts and due dates will be communicated in advance. All payments must be paid in a timely fashion to secure an individual’s chance to travel with the band.

The rules outlined in the “Performance Policy” section of this handbook will govern whether or not a student will be able to participate in a trip.

*Please note that participation in band trips is not required to be a member of the Lufkin HS Panther Band.*

## EXPLANATION OF EVENTS

**Lufkin Band Camp:** The Lufkin High School Band attends a summer band camp each August. Band Camp is essential to getting a head start on the school year, building a sense of family, and establishing our work ethic. We accomplish in just a few days what would usually take weeks. Attendance is mandatory for all high school band members.

**Snap Contest:** The Snap Contest is held in Abe Martin Stadium after band camp is over each August and is an early chance to celebrate student accomplishment in the area of marching.

**Football Games:** The Lufkin High School Band attends and performs at all Lufkin High School varsity football games. Lufkin football is traditionally strong and students should plan ahead for attendance to all playoff games.

**Pep Rallies:** There are several football pep rallies held during the school day and several other football pep rallies held in the evening. Evening pep rallies are listed on the performance calendar.

**Marching Contest:** The Lufkin Panther Marching Band participates in several marching contests during the fall semester. These contests include the UIL and NAMMB contests. The band's contest marching show is evaluated by acclaimed adjudicators at each event. Participation in each marching contest is mandatory for all HS band students.

**Honor America:** Honor America takes place each fall on or near Veteran's Day. Honor America is a truly unique event that features all Lufkin ISD bands and seeks to honor and recognize our active and veteran armed forces personnel. Attendees will be treated to patriotic music, twirling performances, a performance of the Panther Band marching contest drill, and fireworks!

**Christmas Parade:** The Lufkin High School Band marches in the Lufkin Christmas Parade which is held after Thanksgiving each year. Students are welcome to wear a Santa hat and decorate their instruments with Christmas lights!

**All-Region Band:** (Individual Competition) Students prepare prescribed music to audition for a position in the TMEA Region 21 High School All-Region Jazz Band, All-Region Band, or Freshman All-Region Band. Students who are selected to be a member of an all-region band will participate in rehearsals and a concert. The clinic/concert is conducted by superior teachers and directors. Participation in the All-Region Band audition process is strongly encouraged but not mandatory.

**All-State Band:** Individuals placing high enough in the all-region band earn the title of area band members. These students will then try out for membership in the TMEA All-State Band.

Selection to the All-State Band is the highest individual honor a student can achieve in the state of Texas during their high school playing career.

**Solo/Ensemble Contest:** Students prepare prescribed solos and ensembles to be evaluated by UIL adjudicators. Students need to practice after school and at home and strive to do their best. Medals are given to students who achieve a first division rating. Participation in solo and ensemble is mandatory for the top concert band and is strongly encouraged for all other students, but is not mandatory. The Lufkin Band does not take students to the UIL Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest (TSSEC), but will enter a student in TSSEC and pay their entry fee upon a written request from a student's parent.

**Concert & Sight-Reading Contest:** Each concert band will represent Lufkin ISD at the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest. Three prescribed selections of music are prepared to be performed for three adjudicators who will evaluate the performance according to a state-wide standard. After performing on stage, the students will move to the sight-reading room where they will be evaluated on their sight-reading abilities by three additional adjudicators. Participation in concert and sight-reading contest is mandatory for all HS band members.

**Stephen F. Austin State University Band Camp:** This is an optional camp which is held in June on the campus of SFASU in Nacogdoches, TX. All students going into grades 7-12 are eligible to attend this camp. While the SFA Band Camp does cost money, the benefits are tremendous and scholarships are available. Look for details about the SFA Band Camp during the spring semester of the school year.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Lufkin HS Band students have the opportunity to serve in various roles on the Student Leadership Team (SLT). A list of SLT roles, responsibilities, and audition expectations is made available prior to application/audition deadlines. All student leadership positions are chosen in May.

### **Student Leadership Team Positions** (in alphabetical order)

- Band Council (*seniors only*)
  - *President*
  - *Vice President*
  - *Historian*
- Drum Major (*seniors only*)
- Head Majorette (*seniors or juniors*)
- Head Quartermaster (*sophomores, juniors, or seniors*)
- Section Leader (*sophomores, juniors, or seniors*)
- Squad Leader (*sophomores, juniors, or seniors*)
- Uniform Crew Captain (*sophomores, juniors, or seniors*)

**Other Positions** (in alphabetical order)

- Majorette (*freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors*)
- Quartermaster (*freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors*)
- Uniform Crew (*sophomores, juniors, or seniors*)

The positions of Majorette, Quartermaster, and Uniform Crew are also available to students through an application and audition process. While Majorettes, Quartermasters, and Uniform Crew members are considered student leaders, they do not attend SLT meetings. A list of Majorette, Quartermaster, and Uniform Crew roles, responsibilities, and audition expectations is made available prior to application/audition deadlines.

## **SAT & ACT TESTING**

Lufkin band students are among the top academic students at Lufkin High School, and many band students take the SAT and ACT exams at various times throughout the school year. Please be aware that there are specific SAT and ACT dates that conflict with band events. The Lufkin Band will provide testing date conflicts on the bottom of the annual performance calendar so that students can sign up to take the test on open dates.

In the event that an ACT or SAT test falls on the day after an out of town football game that will have students arriving home extremely late, students WILL NOT be excused from participation in the game. However, parents may secure advanced permission from the Director of Bands to sign their student out after half time of the game in question in order to facilitate more adequate rest for testing day. Permission for SAT/ACT early sign out will only be given when requested in advance of the game in question. Students will not be allowed to leave early from home football games due to an ACT or SAT test the following day.

## **STUDENT CONTACT INFORMATION CONFIDENTIALITY**

All student and parent contact information given to the Lufkin band will be kept confidential. Only LISD band staff and select band boosters will be allowed access to personal phone numbers and email addresses. Certain band boosters will need contact information in order to communicate volunteer needs for specific events.

## CELL PHONE POLICY

Lufkin band students are allowed to take cell phones with them to all band functions. Students may be asked to turn off and/or turn in cell phones to band directors and/or chaperones as necessary to facilitate proper etiquette as required for each function. A student may have their cell phone taken up by a band director when caught texting or calling during rehearsals and performances. Parents may have to come to the band office or campus office to retrieve the phone. At football games, once the band has left the band hall or gotten off of the bus, band students are only allowed to use their cell phones as necessary for reading music or checking announcements sent through Remind. Students may resume use of cell phones after we are back at the band hall or back on the bus.

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*This document is used as a guideline by directors and administration. They can, at any time, deviate from the stated guidelines, procedures, or consequences to deal with a situation that may occur.*