



MILITARY MARCHING ~ CONCERT ~ JAZZ ~ PERCUSSION

Atascocita

Est. 2006

High School Band

MOTIVATION, DEDICATION, SELF-DISCIPLINE

The logo for the Atascocita High School Band is centered on the page. It features a central shield with a white eagle with its wings spread, perched on a banner that says "2006 Pride". Above the shield is a crown. The shield is flanked by decorative flourishes. Above the shield is a banner with the word "Atascocita" in red, serif font. Below the shield is another banner with the words "High School Band" in red, serif font. The entire logo is set against a background of a red and blue gradient with faint, repeating logos of the band.

HANDBOOK

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FOREWORD

CONGRATULATIONS on your decision to be a part of the **Atascocita High School Military Marching Band!** This Handbook is designed to be a guide for parents and students through the many aspects of the Band Program. For more specific information, please contact Brian Best, AHS Director of Bands, at 281-641-7742. Additionally, please frequently check our website, www.atascocitaband.com, and visit the Band Calendar online

MISSION STATEMENT

Together, as the unified band family of the Atascocita High School Military Marching Band, we dedicate ourselves to build upon our firm foundation of excellence in music and motion through integrity, discipline, and teamwork. As the musical ambassadors of school spirit in our community, we consistently give our personal and collective best and will continually raise the standards of each performer, thereby maximizing the total potential of the group and achieving a sense of success regardless of competitive result.

OUR CREDO:

Pride is 100% motivation, dedication, and self-discipline in everything that we do.



What is Band really about?

As we begin this year together, it is important to discuss and understand the effect that band can have on your life and the scope in which band can have an impact. Of course, as a body of musicians, we desire to produce beautiful music together, but as you already know, band is so much more than just a music class. As you identify and evaluate members of our community, you would be pleased to find that leaders in every field received their start, and oftentimes credit their success, to the time they spent in their high school band programs. Band is a unique experience that allows us to learn not only music, but also the traits sought after by employers, universities, and your future spouses! Band teaches discipline, work ethic, responsibility, punctuality, communication skills, and leadership. If you were to poll recruiters at any major university, you would find that most, if not all, would tell you that being in a band sets you apart from the rest. Recruiters seek out high achieving students who have given their time and energy to band because they know that these students will succeed amongst the rigors of university life.

So, “WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO ME,” you ask?

It means that if you can make it here, you can make it anywhere! Your hard work and dedication to our program makes you extremely desirable to potential employers and major universities. Above all else, the band is designed to teach you the life leadership skills that will allow you to be successful in your future endeavors while having fun and building lifelong relationships!

THE ATASCOCITA HIGH SCHOOL BAND STAFF EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

The Atascocita High School Military Marching Band Staff’s educational philosophy can be summarized in three short, but very powerful words: **WE TEACH KIDS.**

The medium through which we teach the kids is, of course, Band. We work to help all students in our Band Program become well-rounded productive members of society. Personal responsibility, teamwork, leadership, work ethic, and appreciation of all art forms are the skills at the core of our educational goals for your child. We also believe that our students will not grow as people if they are not having fun and building positive relationships with those around them. Our “Band-related” goals include helping each student become a better individual musician and performer, exhibiting the highest quality at every performance, fostering a familial atmosphere in all Band activities, and helping our students to become life-long supporters and advocates of music.



The band directors strive for their students to think like **CHAMPIONS** on a daily basis by encouraging their students to:

- **SHOW UP** for the moment.
- **ALL IN** by giving the maximum effort.
- **NO REGRETS** at the end of the journey.

#championshipmindset #showup #allin #noregrets

DO I (AND MY PARENTS) *REALLY* NEED TO READ THIS HANDBOOK?

Yes, you really do. There is a wealth of information about the AHS band program to be found in here, but knowing all of the information in this document guides our great program and protects you and The AHS Military Marching Band. It is in your best interest to be familiar with the policies and procedures on the next several pages, as they will detail the operation and decision-making processes of the Band Program. By signing the Handbook Receipt Page, both you and your parents agree to adhere to all aspects included in the handbook. Like any binding document, it is important to read and understand it before you sign.

THREE BASIC RULES OF THE AMB

- 1. ALWAYS BE RESPECTFUL TO PEOPLE, PROPERTY, AND TIME.**
- 2. ALWAYS DO THE RIGHT THINGS THE RIGHT WAY.**
- 3. ALWAYS BE PROFESSIONAL IN EVERYTHING THAT YOU DO.**



THE BAND STAFF

Brian Best

Director of Bands

rxbest@humbleisd.net

Anthony Hicks

Assistant Director of Bands

ahicks@humbleisd.net

Alexei Wade

Assistant Director of Bands

awade@humbleisd.net

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

We know from time to time parents and students may have questions or concerns in regard to the Band Program. To assist you in resolving these issues, please follow the organizational chart below.

Start here	Lead teacher of your child's class or band director
2nd	Brian Best, your child's lead band director
3rd	Your child's assistant principal
4th	Will Falker, AHS Principal
5th	Dustin Winson, Assistant Fine Arts Director
6th	Destry Balch, Fine Arts Director

BAND PHYSICAL AND RANKONE

All Atascocita High School Band Students must receive an athletic physical AND submit the online RankOne forms. UIL and Humble ISD require all band students enrolled in the marching band to obtain a physical before participating in any marching band activities.



A band student will not be permitted to participate outside without a physical and RankOne forms submitted.

[Click here to learn more about how to get your physical and RankOne set up.](#)

THE ATASCOCITA BAND PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

Band is a full year course consisting of two distinct semesters or seasons. The fall semester is primarily considered the Marching Season, while the spring semester is considered the Concert Season. The following is a description of the various groups associated with the Atascocita High School Band Program:

MILITARY MARCHING BAND

The AHS Military Marching Band performs at all AHS varsity football games, all AHS pep rallies, marching contests, and various other school and community events. All Marching Band rehearsals and performances are strictly required, including all Summer Band dates.

Membership in the Marching Band is required of all Band students. In extremely rare and severe cases, a student's involvement in the Marching Band may be individually structured. These cases must be approved by Brian Best, AHS Director of Bands, no later than the end of the previous school year.

The AHS Band Program is split into four ability based Concert Bands. All students must evaluate for their class placement near the end of each semester. In addition to the performed evaluation; previous events, work ethic, attitude, and scheduling conflicts may be factored into the evaluation and taken into account in class placement.

WIND ENSEMBLE

VARSITY CONCERT BAND

The Atascocita High School Wind Ensemble features the finest musicians in the Atascocita band program. The Wind Ensemble is made up of students from all grade levels. The Wind Ensemble performs the finest wind literature and continues the development of refined, professional skills. The Wind Ensemble will perform many concerts throughout the school year and during the month of April is a participant in the UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest. This select group will also participate in outside musical opportunities when they present themselves. Members of this ensemble are highly encouraged to study privately with our adjunct faculty. Additionally, these students are required to participate in UIL solo and ensemble, TMEA region band events, and will enter the TMEA Honor Band competition on 6A entry years.**



**Private lessons are not a requirement, but Wind Ensemble students are expected to take private lessons on their instrument to keep up with the extreme demands of the hardest music literature available on the music list.

WIND SYMPHONY NON-VARSITY CONCERT BAND

The Atascocita High School Wind Symphony is one of our concert bands in the Atascocita High School band program. The Wind Symphony is made up of students from all grade levels. The Symphonic Winds focuses on refining instrument playing skills and performing quality music literature of a higher difficulty level. The Symphonic Winds will perform many concerts throughout the school year and during the month of April is a participant in the TMEA UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest. Members of this ensemble are highly encouraged to study privately with our adjunct faculty. Additionally, these students are required to provide professional concert critiques, and participate in UIL solo and ensemble and TMEA region band events.

SYMPHONIC BAND SUB-NON-VARSITY A CONCERT BAND

The Atascocita High School Symphonic Band is one of our concert bands in the Atascocita High School band program. The Symphonic Band is made up of students from all grade levels. The Concert Band focuses on developing and refining instrument playing skills and performing quality music literature. The Concert Band will perform many concerts throughout the school year and during the month of April is a participant in the TMEA UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest.

CONCERT BAND SUB-NON-VARSITY B CONCERT BAND

The Atascocita High School Concert Band is one of our concert bands in the Atascocita High School band program. The Concert Band is made up of students from all grade levels. The Concert Band focuses on developing and refining instrument playing skills and performing quality music literature. The Concert Band will perform many concerts throughout the school year and during the month of April is a participant in the TMEA UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest.

THE JAZZ BAND

The Jazz Band meets outside of the school day during the late fall semester and throughout the spring semester. The Jazz Ensemble is open to any Band Members who play a traditional jazz instrument in the fall. Evaluations are held in May for the next year. At the directors' discretion, members of the rhythm section may come from outside the Band Program. The Jazz Band performs at one or more festivals in the spring as well as concerts throughout the



year. The Jazz Band Class is open to any AHS student instrumentalist who can read music and desires to learn about jazz music.

THE PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Throughout the spring semester, there are several Percussion Ensembles. Selection for these ensembles is based on class placement, ability level, and instrumentation needs. The Percussion Ensembles perform on the Annual AHS Night Of Percussion.

THE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Members of the Band Program combine with members of the AHS Orchestra Program to form the Symphony Orchestra with the orchestra director and the band director. Selection for this ensemble is based on competitive evaluation, ability level, and instrumentation needs. The Symphony Orchestra performs at the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Evaluation as well as other concerts throughout the year.

MUSIC EVALUATIONS / BAND PLACEMENT

For each school year, the high school directors meet with all band students – the 8th grade and high school students – and hold a band placement hearing to determine the appropriate class for the band student. The music and requirements will be given out in updates on this website and through your middle school band director. Membership and retention in the AHS Band is determined through a required annual evaluation as well as continued evaluation throughout each school year. The criteria include an evaluation of the following:

- 1) Enrollment in a middle or high school band program for the previous school year.
- 2) The student's technical proficiency on their primary instrument
- 3) The student's reliability and personal commitment to band requirements.

**The directors just want to hear you play, and it should be low-stress and fun!
We are more interested in what you CAN do, not what you can't do. Every band member has strengths and talents that can benefit our program!**

If you are transferring from a campus outside of Timberwood MS, Atascocita MS, or West Lake MS, please [contact us](#) to schedule a time to do a hearing. We would love to meet you, and we would also love to hear you play!

Every prospective AHS Band Student will be offered a fair opportunity for placement and retention in the band so long as these criteria are met. All prospective AHS band students are required to go through an evaluation process on the band instrument that they have received prior training on. The evaluation information can be obtained through their



director. Students who were enrolled in the band program must complete an evaluation that takes place during the spring semester in order to be considered for membership the following year.

Everyone makes the Atascocita HS Band!

This is not an audition. Every student that is enrolled in a band class will participate in marching band. The great news is that band class placement does not matter that much for the fall semester since EVERYONE in band plays the exact same music for the fall semester regardless of class placement. We will hold class hearings and evaluations in late November that will determine band class placement for the Spring semester.

GUIDELINES FOR PLACEMENT

The placement of student musicians in the classes will be determined by the band directors. This process will be based upon several factors:

- 1) **Pass Your Classes** – State Guidelines are very strict about "No Pass – No Play". Because of this rule, we must be very careful when selecting students for our ensembles to make sure we are filling the top ensembles with students who will be able to perform with us at contest. Students with problems passing all classes consistently may need to spend some time in a less competitive band class until their academic standing improves.
- 2) **Attendance** – Showing up for the team is so critically important to our success! We can't be successful when we don't have great attendance at EVERY rehearsal. Because of this philosophy, if you are someone that consistently has problems with rides, attendance, tardies, etc. we may need to consider having you placed in a lower ensemble that does not have the same attendance requirements outside of the school day. The Varsity and Non Varsity setting is for students that not only Pass their Classes and have great attendance, but can also demonstrate a high Musical Proficiency on their instrument.

Note: Attendance could be affected by other school activities. It is great for you to be in multiple activities. We ask that students who are involved in multiple activities be diligent in planning their schedules accordingly so that we can make sure that you as a shared student with other activities will not fall behind in band. We love when students are involved in multiple activities!

- 3) **Musical Proficiency** – Provided that you are someone that can Pass Your Classes and are able to attend required rehearsals, then we will place you in an ensemble that suits your ability! Most AHS Band Students do not have issues with criteria 1 and 2 listed above, so being great on your instrument is usually the best way to ensure that you will earn a spot in one of our top ensembles. However, if you are still struggling a bit on your instrument, we



have some great ensembles that will work for you as well! There is always the rare occasions where someone could be a truly great musician on their instrument but just struggles with grades or attendance, and in this case, we would need to look at a less competitive situation to ensure that every student is being successful in every class!

Instrumentation – The integrity of balanced instrumentation is paramount for maximizing the musical potential of an ensemble. It will be the sole responsibility of the director to maintain a balanced instrumentation based upon current resources.

You can refer to the band handbook in terms of further grading information on high school band for students.

PLACEMENT MATERIAL

Class Placement Evaluation material consists of designated major scales, a chromatic scale and one brief musical excerpt.

CHANGE OF INSTRUMENTS

Due to the instrumental requirements of the music that is being studied, students cannot change instruments without director consultation and approval.

NO SENIOR PRIVILEGE IN EVALUATIONS

The above criteria have no correlation with the number of years that a student has been enrolled in the band program. Each student will be placed in chair order based on the scores of the evaluation. It should be noted that placement due to seniority or previous placement is not taken into consideration when the evaluation occurs.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Transfer students must complete their evaluation by appointment with one of the directors. They will be placed based on their individual instrumental abilities and the overall instrumental needs of each band class.

ADVANCEMENT OF BANDS WITHIN THE YEAR

Once the student has been assigned to a band class, advancement of chair ranking can only take place within that particular band. Advancement to another band rarely takes place. The occasion when this does take place is when a student has moved out of the district or has been removed from the program and, thus, creates a vacancy. In these cases, filling the void that was created will be done at the director's discretion. If no student is able to meet the musical or leadership expectations of the class where the vacancy occurs, the directors reserve the right to leave the spot vacant until a student is found to be competent enough to meet those expectations.



REHEARSALS OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL DAY

AHS Band rehearsals outside of the school day include the following:

- Marching Band Rehearsals
- Winter Concert Rehearsals
- Spring Sectionals
- Full Band Rehearsals
- Spring Percussion Ensemble Rehearsals
- Winter Guard Rehearsals
- Solo and Ensemble Help Sessions
- Jazz Ensemble sectionals and rehearsals (for students involved in it through membership)
- Symphony Orchestra Rehearsals are not graded, but attendance does affect membership.

**ALL AHS BAND EVENTS ARE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE BAND CALENDAR.
WWW.ATASCOCITABAND.COM AND CLICK ON CALENDAR**

ALL rehearsals are **REQUIRED** for **ALL** students in the prescribed organization. Each student is important to the success of these many activities. We expect 100% attendance. Family commitments (weddings, graduations, etc.) must be cleared with a director at least **one month** ahead of time. Student job commitments and professional appointments (doctor, orthodontist, etc.) are **NOT** reasons for excused absences from Band rehearsals. If a family emergency occurs, please call your child's primary director ASAP to relay that information.

Parents, if your child is sick please notify the primary director of that affected ensemble prior to the start of the rehearsal. In order for an absence to be excused, it must be communicated to the primary director of that affected ensemble at least one month prior to the absence. The director will then make the decision as to whether the absence is excused or unexcused.

It is the student's responsibility to communicate with all affected directors, coaches, and sponsors when conflicts arise with other AHS activities. These conflicts should be resolved prior to the beginning of the season.

All rehearsals and major performances/competitions are part of our curriculum and, as such, are graded. Continued absences may result in the student losing their spot on the field, moving to a lower band class, loss of performing privileges, and/or removal from the AHS Band Program.

OUTSIDE MARCHING REHEARSAL

Required Outdoor Items:



- Tennis Shoes
- Shorts
- Water Jug
- Music in flip folders

All students will be required to bring all of the required items to practice. If a student does not have any of the required items listed above, they will be sent back inside to go get them and will be counted tardy for rehearsal.

Recommended Attire:

- Light Colored Clothes
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Hat/Visor

Students will have an opportunity to change from their school clothes to their marching clothes at the conclusion of school before marching rehearsal begins.

General Fall Rehearsal Schedule:

- Monday 3:30 to 6:00
- Tuesday 3:30 to 6:00
- Thursday 3:30 to 6:00
 - *Times can change depending on the weather
 - In seasons of extreme heat, we may do night practices, which are usually 5:30 to 8:00pm

If a game is on Thursday, then we have a game that day and a 3:30 to 6:00 practice on Friday.

If possible, all medical appointments should be set Wednesday after school during marching season.

On occasion there are extra rehearsals for some sections during marching season. These sectionals are called either by the section-leader or one of the directors. Attendance by all members of the section is mandatory. Many times these extra rehearsals are short, usually about 15 to 20 minutes in length.



MARCHING SPOTS VS. ALTERNATES

Starter spots are chosen on the basis of attendance, instrumentation, attitude, marching ability, playing proficiency and the student's academic grade history. Additionally, choices must be based on instrumentation of the entire band and whether the student has played off their music within the allotted time frame. Regardless of the original "block" that is chosen, alternates will gain spots when someone loses their spot. Once an opening occurs, an alternate will be placed in that spot based on the above qualifications. Each student "earns" his/her starter or alternate spot every day through their actions or inactions.

This policy is not to punish those who cannot be at marching rehearsal, but it's to reward those who are at marching rehearsal. There are two types of absences during marching season: "Approved" and "Unapproved". They will dictate whether the student maintains his or her marching spot. There are only three "Approved" reasons for missing a rehearsal that will reserve the student's spot.

1. If the student has a scholastic reason for missing rehearsal (i.e. making up a test or quiz, tutoring, etc.) and has discussed this with the director at least 24 hours before the rehearsal in question. (NOTE: Tuesdays are the days for scholastic issues to be resolved, so this exception will only be allowed in EXTREME circumstances as decided by the director.)
2. If the student is involved in another HISD sanctioned activity (so that our students can be involved in other activities as well as band) AND that student has made arrangements with the director in advance. This includes band private lessons run through the band.
3. If there is a death in the immediate family.

Any other absences are considered "Unapproved" and the student will lose his/her spot. Some examples of unapproved absences include, but are not limited to, being late after the Drum Majors call the band to attention, doctor's appointments, dentist/orthodontist appointments, therapist appointments, vacations, work, illness (whether absent from school or not), family trips, non-school related activities, etc.

Because the marching band is a visual event, and due to the possibility of ineligible students, there must be a reserve pool of students, called "alternates", who are ready to jump into a spot and learn that spot quickly. This ensures that the band will not have any "holes" in the drill for any of its competitions or performances.

All alternates will march in football games - until competition time comes and the drill allows for us to do so.



Alternates are no less a part of the band than any other person. They will rehearse with the band during inside rehearsals, participate in all pep rallies and parades, and travel with the band to all trips and competitions. For football games, everyone, including alternates, will meet with the band before the game, ride to the games with the band, be dressed in the same uniform as the rest of the band, march in with the band, sit with the band, play in the stands with the band, and leave with the band at the end of the game. This is similar to a competitive sports team—everyone is in this together.

Every member of the Atascocita Military Marching Band is an integral part of our band program. For that program to continue and to surpass its previous levels of achievement, everyone must work together.

Close to competition time, alternates will be excused from after-school practices so that the competition block can be addressed. All alternates need to be ready to be called up to practice at any time if a starting spot becomes lost and must be replaced.

FRONT ENSEMBLE

The front ensemble is an incredibly integral part of ANY marching band, whether it's corps, military, or show band. The front ensemble spots are assigned to gifted percussion students who perform at high levels on keyboard percussion and auxiliary percussion equipment.

The Atascocita Military Marching Band front ensemble percussion spots will perform at all football games and will perform at all band contests as well. Front ensemble spots are designed for students who will not necessarily march the show, but they will play percussion instruments that are not designed to be able to be marched with (i.e. concert bass, gong, marimba, etc.)

To continue in the front ensemble as a performing member, those students must attend all rehearsals after school and all football game and contest performances.

INSIDE BAND REHEARSAL

Students are expected to be ready and eager to improve daily through quickly getting their instruments out, bringing all materials to class (pencil, instrument, music, supplies, etc.), and adhering to all of the rules of the band program outlined in the band handbook.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

We understand conflicts, sickness, and life happens. The BEST way you can approach missing a rehearsal or any event is to communicate correctly with the band directors and



staff by **filling out the [Absence Request Form](#)**. If you know that you will be absent from any rehearsal or any required event of any kind, this is the place to put in your request.

- We require all requests (such as tutoring, other outside commitments, etc.) to be placed at least 24 hours in advance to keep good standing with the marching band and concert band spots.
- If it's a last minute emergency and something has come up (sickness, family, etc.), we still need this entered.
- If you know that you will be absent from any band thing at all, the [Absence Request Form](#) must be submitted.

Please be as accurate as possible with all of the questions on the form so that the directors can understand the situation and can make the best judgment possible for your request for absence. Please remember that this is ONLY A REQUEST, and submitting your request does not mean it is automatically excused.

As stated above, all rehearsals are part of our curriculum and, as such, are graded. Continued absences may result in the student losing their spot on the field, moving to a lower band class, loss of performing privileges, and/or removal from the AHS Band Program.

Please note that in the event of a death in the family, an absence request form will not be required to be filled out and those absences will be excused. [Please email the band directors](#) and let us know.

LATE TO PRACTICE

Any student who is late to practice must make up the time that they missed.

- *Example:* if a student is 5 minutes late to practice without any communication as to why, they must stay 5 minutes after.
- *Example:* if a student is 35 minutes late to practice without any communication as to why, they will stay after practice in the band hall for 35 minutes and assist directors with band hall closing at the end of the day.

MORE ON ABSENCES

As stated earlier, we genuinely understand conflicts, sickness, and any absences that occur. We will work with everyone regarding times in which you will be unable to attend rehearsals, sectionals, or anything else for any reason. However, it's important for our band members to know that any absence from any band member at any time hurts what we are trying to achieve together as a competitive team. When someone is absent, we often have to go back and re-teach those who missed, and it slows the whole process down with whatever we are trying to achieve together.



Concerning attendance procedures and policies and to determine what constitutes an excused absence versus an unexcused absence, please read below.

The three things that approves an excused absence:

1. If the student has a scholastic reason for missing rehearsal (i.e. making up a test or quiz, tutoring, etc.) and has discussed this with the director at least 24 hours before the rehearsal in question. (NOTE: Tuesdays are the days for scholastic issues to be resolved, so this exception will only be allowed in EXTREME circumstances as decided by the director.)
2. If the student is involved in another HISD sanctioned activity (so that our students can be involved in other activities as well as band) AND that student has made arrangements with the director in advance. This includes band private lessons run through the band.
3. If there is a death in the immediate family.

The best times to schedule appointments: In the fall, dentist appointments, doctor appointments, and other appointments would be better scheduled on MONDAYS. In the spring, those appointments would be better scheduled on any day when your child is not scheduled for their once-a-week after school sectional.

How this connects to the real-world workplace: Much like in the modern workplace, it is standard custom to communicate with bosses and employers regarding times that you will be out for whatever reason. Having the skill to plan ahead and have your calendar outlined is a good process to learn in the high school setting. But most importantly, having good communication together between the student and directors ensures that the AHS Band teaching staff of directors and consultants can plan accordingly, know who we will be missing, and work around the schedules.

The worst thing you can do is miss a band thing and not tell a director why.

In any real-world situation, not showing up to work without having any sort of prior notice or communication could result in serious reprimand and/or job loss. This form is not only required for our records so that we can plan with our staff and teachers on who will be out on which days, it also serves to help teach the fundamental lesson of proper communication on times you will be out due to schedule conflicts or life emergencies. Multiple unexcused absences can result in a loss of marching band spot - we want to work together to keep that from happening.



"But, I told ___ band student name here___ to tell you I was not going to be at practice today."

That never works out for anyone. That student will forget to tell the directors, and the absence will be unexcused. The only reliable way to make sure the directors properly know the situation is to submit the form above.

FALL BREAK IN OCTOBER

When the Humble ISD calendar releases, the AHS band will have a break scheduled for usually the first week of October. This fall break creates a conflict in which band students will need to be present for four major performances - two football games and two marching band contests. Because of this, the AHS band directors require all high school band students to be available to rehearse that week on a normal after school schedule. Students will still have those class days off from school - they will just need to arrive at our band rehearsals, football games, and marching contests. (we are not the only ones in this position - football, cheerleaders, dance, ROTC, etc.)

All students and parents must help the directors with this challenge by avoiding scheduling any out-of-town vacation time on the week of the fall break which would result in our performers being missing from practices and performances. It is highly critical that we have all high school band students in attendance so that we can be successful at the end of the competition season.

All AHS Band Students are required to sign the Fall Break Agreement Form acknowledging the following statements:

- All AHS band students must be in attendance at the fall break practices, football games, and marching band contests on the week listed above.
- AHS Band students' attendance guarantees their assigned spot on the field and a 100% completion on their major summative grades that all major performances are worth (according to the handbook)
- If a band student does NOT attend the practices, football game performances, or competition performances during the fall break, this will result in being automatically placed as an alternate at the beginning or in the middle of competition season.
- Missing any major performance due to an unexcused absence (according to the handbook) will result in a 0 for a summative grade and is unable to be made up since it is a one-shot performance opportunity that has come and gone.



SAT TEST AND ACT TEST

Students who take the ACT and the PreACT will have an opportunity to take their tests right here at Atascocita High School during the school day. If you are a student who wants to retake the ACT or PreACT for a higher score off campus, the date chosen *must not* interfere with a major performance. If this happens, the absence will be counted as unexcused and could result in the performance spot being revoked and given to another student.

Students who want to take the SAT or PreSAT, there are very many dates offered all year long. All Atascocita High School band students *must not* schedule to take the SAT or PreSAT during the day of a major performance. If this happens, the absence will be counted as unexcused and could result in the performance spot being revoked and given to another student.

STUDENTS IN MULTIPLE ACTIVITIES

There are many students in the band who elect to participate in other school activities and organizations. It is the practice of AHS that sponsors and coaches work together so that students can successfully perform in each organization they choose to participate in. Conflicts with band performances and other school activities rarely occur. When they do, it is the student's responsibility to inform the band director.

These conflicts are generally worked out between the band director and the sponsor of the other organization. These conflicts are worked out on an individual basis to the best benefit of the child, the organization, and the activity involved. Band performances take precedence over other activity's practice sessions. Conversely, the other school activities performances, competitions, games or matches should take precedence over band practice. If a band performance occurs at the same time as another activity's performance, the two sponsors will work to resolve the issue.

School club events do not take precedence over any band activities. Outside of school events and organizations do not take precedence over any band activities.

CAN YOU DO BOTH BAND AND ATHLETICS?

Resounding yes. Almost 1/4th of the Atascocita High School band are involved in athletics.

In fact, we highly encourage it. We get this question more than any question we ever receive as band directors.



When you are starting your first days at Atascocita High School, the school is a big place. It can be super overwhelming at first, but belonging to multiple organizations allows for you to fit in with multiple groups of amazing kids who work really hard.

Also, Atascocita High School has both state-recognized athletics programs AND fine arts programs, so it's always great to be involved in more than one thing. The AHS band has really excellent football players, cross country runners, soccer players, lacrosse players, dancers, volleyball players, and so many more. The directors work closely with the student's athletic coaches to ensure that they can have a super competitive season as an athlete at Atascocita High School all while being able to play a musical instrument with our band.

We ALWAYS make it work for our student athletes who also want to be in the band!

[YOU CAN DO BOTH BAND AND ATHLETICS!](#)

[Go to the Atascocita Band Website under Current Students to learn more.](#)

CONDUCT

All AHS Band members are expected to exhibit conduct above reproach at all times, both in and out of Band settings. By the time a student reaches high school, he/she should know how to behave appropriately. The high standards set by The Military Marching Band will be strictly enforced. Poor behavior is a sign of a lack of pride and a lack of concern for the Band Program. Members who continually display inappropriate conduct and/or violate school policies may receive consequences in the Band Program as well as through the AHS Administration. These consequences may include loss of performing privileges and/or removal from the Band Program.

CONSEQUENCES

Acquiring membership in the Atascocita High School band is a privilege of the highest honor.

There are varied consequences that may result from a student making an inappropriate decision concerning any of the previously mentioned topics or any other issue that may occur throughout the course of the year. The severity of the consequence might include a verbal warning, an office referral, a conference involving any combination of the student, director(s), parents and an administrator, or complete removal from the band program. Consequences may also include, but are not limited to, change of chair placement, marching drill assignment, leadership position or physical location. The directors and administrators are not limited to these possibilities.

Please see the Atascocita High School Student Handbook for other consequences in more



severe situations (i.e. attendance policy, etc). It is the goal of the Atascocita High School Band to provide a wholesome, healthy, safe, and productive atmosphere that allows all students the opportunity to learn and appreciate music without distractions.

DIRECTOR PROBATION

A student who has been removed from the band program has an option to apply for director probation if they wish to continue in the program. Band director probation is not a right given to all students. The band director reserves the right to determine whether or not a student can apply for director probation on a case-by-case basis. This typically depends on the severity of what caused the student to be removed in the first place.

The band director will determine the time of probation from start to finish. Between this time, the student will be allowed to participate fully in the band program and enjoy the full benefits of membership. This period is an evaluation period between the student and the band directors to observe adequate behavior and continued improvement. It should be known to all parties involved that any disciplinary infraction within the dates listed above will result in immediate dismissal from the program with a possible loss of credit.

Once the end of the probationary period is reached and no infraction is observed, the directors may deem the student to have grown sufficiently during the probation and will congratulate the student on their great behavior. From that point, the contract will become null and void.

If the directors observe any infraction at all that is deemed in violation of the Humble ISD code of conduct and/or the Atascocita HS Band Handbook, a referral will be made to the student's profile and the student will fully lose their membership in the band program and will be removed. Director probation should be considered a second chance and *the* final chance to make it right.

PERFORMANCES

All performances are required of all students in the prescribed ensemble(s). In order for an absence from a performance to be excused, it must be communicated to the primary director of that affected ensemble at least two months prior to the absence. The director will then make the decision as to whether the absence is excused or unexcused. Any unexcused absence from a performance will result in a 0 as a major grade for the summative assignment and may result in the student failing Band for the current grading period and/or removal from the Band Program.



PEP RALLIES

All pep rallies are considered major performances and are required of all AHS band students. They will attend in their pep rally uniform which is determined by the band director. Typically, it is a matching AMB official shirt of some kind with blue jeans tucked in with a belt. Any type of tennis shoes is fine. On occasion, face painting is allowed for special functions. The matching uniform is required to attend the pep rally as a band student.

The pep rally performances are major grades and are entered just like any other performance summative grade in the band program. Any student not performing with the team will receive a 0 as a summative grade.

All the rules of the band program apply to pep rallies, including band student behavior. Any type of misbehavior in the group can result in one of the following: being sent back to class with a 0 as a major grade, a conference with parents, director probation, or dismissal from the band program.

GRADING

The AHS Band Program follows the grading guidelines set for by Humble ISD.

Daily Grades (*formative*) count as 40% of the student's average, while Major Grades (*summative*) are 60%. In accordance with AHS policy, all students will receive at least one Major Grade per week and at least three Major Grades per grading period. Make up assignments will be handled on a case-by-case basis at the director's discretion.

Formative Grades are given weekly. Any morning or after school rehearsals attendance and Ensemble Rehearsal Skills are all factored into Daily Grades. Many formative assessments are weekly participation based in daily rehearsal inside and outside. Ensemble Rehearsal Requirements down below will explain more on how participation grades can be earned.

Summative Grades would be music pass-offs, required performances, football games, competitions, and more. A lot of summative grades are participation based - either you are there or not. If you miss a major performance, it will result in a 0 on the gradebook and there will unfortunately not be another opportunity to "make up" the performance.

Extra Credit may be gained by attending a high school, college, or professional band or orchestra concert (i.e. Houston Symphony, U of H Wind Ensemble, Houston Ballet, Houston Grand Opera, Texas Music Festival Jazz Project, etc.). Students may also receive extra credit by attending any AHS Fine Arts event in which they are not directly involved. Turn in a program from the performance/event to your director the next school day.



ELIGIBILITY

All students who participate in band are responsible for maintaining minimum academic standards, which includes earning grades of 70 or above in each subject at the end of each grading period. A student is declared academically ineligible if they have received an average grade of 69 or less in one or more subjects at the end of a six week grade reporting period. Students who have failed a class are still required to attend on-campus performances (including the winter and spring concert) during the time that they are academically ineligible.

REINSTATEMENT

Students who failed a class and became ineligible can gain their eligibility back by passing ALL of their classes on their next upcoming 3 weeks. If a student fails just one course during ineligibility, they will remain ineligible until they are passing every course.

ELIGIBILITY FURTHER EXPLAINED

Students and parents often have many questions concerning UIL and TEA's State laws concerning no-pass-no-play. While the UIL has their guidelines on how eligibility works, oftentimes various school districts take these guidelines and expand on them further. Humble ISD has very specific guidelines on how eligibility works in our district. For the Atascocita High School Band, eligibility plays a very important factor in student participation - not only should you be a great musician, you also must be a great student in your core classes.

Student eligibility hugely impacts our team, so it's important that every student and parent fully understand the importance of passing your classes and maintaining your academic eligibility.

Here is everything that you need to know about eligibility:

TO KEEP YOUR ELIGIBILITY

You must pass all of your classes with at least a 70 or above for the eligibility check.

If you are passing all of your classes with a 70 or above on the eligibility check, you are good to go. A report card is an eligibility check, and the 6th week of the first semester is also an eligibility check.

This applies to football games, TMEA region auditions, and all other sports and extracurricular activities.

Ineligible students still perform at winter and spring concerts since these are TEKS-based performances for our classroom.



One exception to the UIL eligibility rule is UIL Concert and Sightreading Evaluation in April. This is not a ranked contest against other schools - this is a TEKS evaluation of critical performance for our students. Therefore, the UIL and TEA have set forth that Concert and Sightreading evaluation does not apply for eligibility.

This amendment was made effective May 1, 2019 in which TEA has amended 19 TAC Chapter 76, Extracurricular Activities, Subchapter AA, Commissioner's Rules, §76.1001, Extracurricular Activities Summary: This amendment allows 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.

Another exception to this rule is our Winter Concert and Spring Concert, as these are curriculum-based performances of the student's TEKS learned in class, are worth major grades, and are not ranked contests with other competitive band programs.

THE GRADING PERIOD

Humble ISD operates on a 9 week grading period. For the third and sixth 6-weeks grading periods, students will receive a progress report identifying how they are doing in their classes at that point in time. On the 9th week, students will receive an official report card which will indicate what their grade ended up with on that 9 week grading period. The report card factors into what GPA students earn.

- In general:
 - A report card is a gain and/or LOSE eligibility check. A student could potentially lose their eligibility at a report card.
 - A progress report is a gain-only eligibility check. Students who have lost eligibility can regain at a progress report. A student who has their eligibility already can't lose at a progress report if they are failing (there is a big exception to this that applies to the first six weeks of school - that will be outlined in the next bullet points)

EXCEPTION - FIRST 6 WEEKS OF SCHOOL

The first six weeks of school is an exception to the 9-week grading period. Normally, a progress report would not factor into eligibility. However, the UIL has made strict guidelines that have placed ALL SCHOOLS IN TEXAS regardless of their grading period schedule to count for eligibility on the 6th week.

- That means, OUR SECOND PROGRESS REPORT AND THE FIRST REPORT CARD BOTH FACTOR INTO ELIGIBILITY. Students can lose their eligibility at the 6th week and at the 9th week.
- If a student fails a class with a 69 and below on a report card or the second progress report of the school year, then that student has lost eligibility to participate in band



activities until they have passed their classes on the next grading period and regained their eligibility.

WAIVER ONE ADVANCED CLASS

If a student is taking advanced classes, they are able to waiver ONE failed course per semester. If a student fails more than one advanced course, then the rules above apply and they have lost their eligibility. Such classes that are applicable for an academic waiver to keep participating include:

- Advanced classes
- Pre-AP
- AP
- dual credit
- on ramps
- Honors
- GT
- IB

TO REGAIN ELIGIBILITY

If you are a student who lost eligibility, in order to regain your eligibility to return back to the band activity, you must pass ALL CLASSES on the next reporting period (or progress report) to regain eligibility.

IN-BAND TUTORING

Atascocita HS Band offers “In Band Tutoring” to anyone who is interested. This program is designed for band students to help other band students through free after school / lunch tutoring sessions. Students may also become tutors for NHS service hours / volunteer hours (pending on the other organization’s requirements for hours). Students may sign up for this service in both the fall and spring semester.

ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL REQUIREMENTS

You will be evaluated on your ensemble rehearsal skills at every rehearsal, including rehearsals outside of the school day as well as those during the regular school day. You will receive a grade each week. Ensemble rehearsal skills include:

- Attending all rehearsals, unless excused IN ADVANCE
- Being in place at the time the rehearsal is scheduled to begin.
- Having all of your own music, a pencil, your instrument in optimal condition, all supplies needed to maintain the condition of your instrument, all accessories required by the music (mutes, mallets, etc) with you in place at the start of rehearsal.
- Listening to all instructions and announcements.



- Maintaining your attention on the rehearsal (not allowing yourself to be distracted or distracting others from the rehearsal).
- Having your individual part prepared for each rehearsal. (Able to play notes rhythms, articulations, and dynamics accurately).
- Knowing where you are in the music at all times, ESPECIALLY when you are not playing, whether you are not playing because you have a rest or because others are working without you.
- Maintaining regular visual contact with the conductor.
- Understanding your part within the context of the music (melody, harmony, accompaniment)
- Listening to and adjusting how you sound within the context of the ensemble (blend, balance, tuning, quality of tone, etc.)
- Understanding the form of the music.
- Leadership in the ensemble by your own understanding and performing

The areas itemized above are not a checklist, but they are listed in an approximate hierarchy of skills. The student's Ensemble Rehearsal Skill level is determined through director observation and evaluation. The list of infractions and grade results below are then applied to the student's score if applicable. The final result is posted in the grade book as the weekly formative grade. All students start out with a 100 in participation, and infractions listed below will deduct from that grade:

INFRACTION	GRADE RESULT
Unexcused tardy to Rehearsal	5 point deduction
Unexcused Absence from Rehearsal	25 point deduction
Unexcused Leaving Rehearsal Early	5 point deduction
Not having instrument or equipment	10 point deduction

MAJOR GRADES (SUMMATIVES)

Major Grades are given as assigned and include all playing and performing tests. (Playing and performing tests may be retaken until the end of the grading period. The highest grade will be recorded.) All Spring Sectionals and Percussion Ensemble Rehearsals are major grades as well. Solo and Ensemble Help Sessions and Performances are Major Grades. Since the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest is extracurricular, an alternate performance will be provided for ineligible students. Preparation and audition byway of the TMEA All-State Band process is a Major Grade for members of the Wind Symphony. Since these auditions are extracurricular, an alternate performance will be provided for ineligible students. All



curricular performances (concerts and the Humble Holiday Parade) are Major Grades and will count at least twice in the grade book.

PRIVATE LESSONS

All AHS Band members are encouraged to take private lessons. We have an outstanding lesson staff of professional musicians on every instrument and color guard. Private lessons are the best way to improve as an individual musician. The one on one instruction in a lesson setting is invaluable in a student's musical progress. Most of our teachers have lesson times during Band classes, however not all students will fit into those time slots. Scheduling will be based on instructor availability and seniority within the instructor's studio. Mr. Brown is the AHS Band private lesson coordinator.

BAND HALL AND FINE ARTS FACILITIES

Our Fine Arts Facility is one of the nicest in the area. It is the responsibility of all Band members to keep it looking this way, especially the Band Hall area. Food and drinks are not allowed in the Band Hall areas without director's permission.

No one is allowed in the Percussion Room, Instrument Storage Room, Ensemble Room, Library, or Uniform Room without expressed permission from a director. Students may use Practice Rooms before and after school. Only Band members are allowed in the Band Hall. Orchestra students may walk through the Band Hall before school to get to the Orchestra Room. All others must wait outside the Band Hall.

No one may hang out in the hallways of the Fine Arts Facility before school.

A clean, well-kept band hall demonstrates pride toward the bands. Please do your part to keep your band hall clean. The following policies are for your benefit and for the protection of your property.

1. We do not allow gum or tobacco products of any kind in the band hall.
2. Food and drinks are usually allowed in the band hall, but all trash must be thrown away properly.
3. Do not enter the directors' offices without their permission. Never enter the Band Office unless a director is present.
4. Do not touch, handle, borrow or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
5. Do not touch or operate any school-owned equipment – especially the stereo equipment, metronome, tuner, and portable speaker system without director permission.
6. Do not deface or mark on in any way music stands, walls, etc.



THANK YOU FOR HELPING US KEEP OUR GREAT BAND HALL LOOK SUPER AWESOME AND INSTRUMENTS LOOKING FANTASTIC!!!

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

Humble ISD provides selected woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments for students to use at AHS. These instruments are very expensive and must be treated as such. We expect the instrument to be returned in the same condition in which it was issued. Repair of any damage, even minor, will be the financial responsibility of the student who was issued the instrument. Do not take a school owned instrument to the shop without contacting a director first. We only use certain repair shops and need to be sure the work is done correctly. Most of the time, the directors will send the instrument to the shop and give the student or parent the invoice for the repair cost. The invoice must be paid in full before the student may receive the instrument back.

FAIR SHARE ACTIVITY BAND FEE

The purpose of the Fair Share Band Fee is to help with the various expenses that are necessary to run a quality band program that are in addition to the district budget of the program. To operate a “competitive” program, the band directors offer an activity fee that is budgeted to items where everyone in the band benefits. These expenses include educational clinicians and consultants by top professionals in the field for the entire band on all various instruments including the color guard. Other covered expenses may include additional marching competition items, additional contest entry fees and expenses; band leadership conferences; and many additional items, including marching props, competitive marching coordinators, designers, choreographers, drill writers, and so much more. The Fair Share Band Dues system divides the costs of services and supplies that benefit all Band members among the entire Band membership. When all band members pay their Fair Share Dues, the costs can be held to a reasonable amount.

- Fair Share Activity Band Fees for the school year are determined by the directors at Atascocita High School. All students that participate in the competitive marching band program in some way are required to pay all fees determined by the band director of the campus.
- All students are required to purchase all required materials for the band program at your campus – performance gear such as shirts, shorts, shoes, bags, flip folder, lyres, etc.

All payments for band fees are due to the Boosters program no later than the first football game. Parents are more than welcome to pay their band fees before the deadline and at band registration.



We will never turn a band student away in the event of a financial hardship. It is important to communicate with your band director and create a payment agreement that works for you and your family.

REFUND LIMITATIONS

The Atascocita High School Bands are not responsible for and can not provide a refund of band costs due to a student who chooses to leave the band program during the school year. Furthermore, refunds cannot be made to students who are unable to participate in band trips due to ineligibility.

LETTER JACKETS

To receive an Atascocita High School Band letter jacket with Humble ISD, band students must complete at least one year of satisfactory band membership before they may order a letter jacket (or service stripe - do we do those?), be “a member in good standing” during his/her band tenure, and must have participated in all required performances; concerts, contests, parades, etc.

Band members must accumulate a total of 50 points to earn a letter jacket. Points are cumulative beginning in the 9th grade. No points will be advanced. Each band student may be awarded only one (1) letter jacket while a high school student in Humble ISD (not one per activity), but may letter in as many activities as he/she is able (per UIL rules). *If a member of the AMB has not accumulated 50 points at the end of their Junior year, they will be awarded a Letter Jacket for their years of service during the fall semester of their Senior year providing they have committed to and placed band on their schedule for the next full year, and have been a member in good standing.

POINT SYSTEM FOR LETTER JACKETS

TMEA Audition Achievements	5 points for auditioning at TMEA Freshman Band
	10 additional points for making the TMEA Freshman Band
	5 points for auditioning at TMEA Jazz Band
	10 additional points for making the TMEA Region Jazz Band
	15 additional points for making the TMEA Area Jazz Band
	5 points for auditioning at TMEA Orchestra



	10 additional points for making the TMEA Region Orchestra
	15 additional points for making the TMEA Area Orchestra
	5 points for auditioning at TMEA Region Band
	10 additional points for making the TMEA District Band
	15 additional points for making the TMEA Region Band
	20 additional points for making the TMEA Area Band
	50 additional points for TMEA All-State Band, Jazz, Orchestra
Solo & Ensemble Achievements	50 additional points earned for being named TSSEC Outstanding Soloist
	20 points earned for receiving a Division I at TSSEC Solo or Ensemble
	15 points earned if you qualify for Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest (TSSEC)
	10 points earned if you receive a Division I on a Class 1 Solo or Ensemble
	7 points earned if you receive a Division I on a Class 2 Solo or Ensemble
	5 points earned if you receive a Division I on a Class 3 Solo or Ensemble
Service to the Band Program	5 points completing one full year in the AHS Varsity Band
	3 points completing one full year in the AHS Non-Varsity Bands
	5 points completing one full year year in the Leadership Team
	10 points completing one full year as Drum Major
	5 points earned participating in one full year of Full Orchestra
	5 points earned participating in one full year of Jazz Band
	5 points earned completing one competitive season as a color guard member
	2 points earned per each Volunteer Duty - per each verified event
Additional Opportunities	10 points earned for each full year of Private Lessons
	5 points earned for each Additional Summer Camp (i.e. university) attended
	3 points earned for each Professional Concert attended (must be verified)



TRAVEL POLICY

AHS Band policy states that all students are to ride to and return from all off campus event as a group via Humble ISD transportation.

This policy protects the AHS Band Program, AHS, Humble ISD, the parent, and most importantly, the student.

**Parents are responsible for their student's transportation to and from Region Jazz Auditions, Freshman Region Band auditions, Region Orchestra auditions, any All-Region Clinic and Concert, and Solo and Ensemble.*

INDEPENDENT TRAVEL FORM

On rare occasions an emergency, family commitment, or other AHS event necessitates that a parent provide transportation to and/or from the AHS Band event. In these instances, a form must be completed.

Parents do have the option of an alternative travel if you wish to do so. If you would like to request an independent travel form, go to www.atascocitaband.com and click on resources and find the Independent Travel Form.

On the day of the independent travel, the student must be checked out by Mr. Best and seen leaving with the guardian or parent of the student - there will be no exceptions to this policy (i.e. a brother, sibling, friend, etc. - it MUST be a parent or guardian).

To receive independent travel form, follow these steps:

1. Go on the band website and fill out the Independent Travel Form
2. At the end of the event, check out with the band director.
3. To be allowed to leave, you *must be with YOUR* parent or legal guardian. If your parent or guardian is not with you, you will not be allowed to travel independently and you must travel back with the band.

[You can also click here for the Independent Travel Form.](#)

FOOTBALL GAMES

Football games are a lot of fun and we are there to support the team and perform our very best. Band members can stand up, cheer, and dance in support of the team throughout the game, but should always remain in his/her "spot". It is important to always be alert of the expensive equipment around you and the need to be ready to play at a moment's notice.



Only Current Band members are allowed in the Band area at football games. No exceptions! This is a safety policy.

No food, or drinks are allowed in the Band area other than your Military Marching Band water jug (filled with water only) and the Gatorade provided by the chaperones after half time. Specific medical conditions must be discussed with the director well in advance.

Restrooms: Students should use the restroom before and after the game and avoid going during the game. If an emergency arises during the game, it should be brought to the attention of the Woodwind Captain, Brass Captain, Percussion Captain

BAND UNIFORMS

It is a privilege to wear any uniform of the Atascocita High School Band Program. Whether it is a marching band uniform, concert attire, etc, the same standards apply. Be sure you have all parts of your uniform for all performances. All uniform parts must be worn correctly or not at all. If you have any issues with your uniform, please see a Uniform Officer or a uniform parent volunteer asap. Never attempt to alter or “fix” your uniform on your own. If your uniform does not meet the high standard required in the AHS Band Program, you may be removed from a performance and not allowed to travel with the Band.

All uniforms must be checked out for each performance and neatly checked in after each performance.

The AHS Band Shirt or Show Shirt must be worn under the **Marching Band Uniform** as announced by the director. Solid black calf-length tube socks and approved marching shoes must be worn at all times with the uniform. Only the AMB Branded Black Shorts should be worn under marching pants. Baggy or bulky shorts or jeans are never appropriate under the uniform. No jewelry of any kind may be visible while wearing the AHS Marching Band Uniform. This includes watches, rings (including class rings), earrings, necklaces, etc.

When wearing the **AHS Band Concert Attire**, all students should look like they belong on a professional concert stage. Boys must wear a plain white t-shirt under the tuxedo shirt, solid black calf-length tube socks, and black dress shoes (clean marching shoes are acceptable if you do not own black dress shoes). Girls should wear black dress shoes with their dress. High heels are not permitted. Appropriateness of shoes will be at the director’s discretion. Shorts or jeans are never permitted under the dresses. Jewelry must be kept to a minimum while wearing the concert attire. Girls may only wear small stud earrings and small tasteful necklaces. Tasteful watches, bracelets, and rings may be permitted at the discretion of the director.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

The AHS Band Student Leadership Team is composed of Band members who have sought out and earned a leadership role in the Band Program. These students put in several extra hours of work outside of the “regular” Band schedule. They act as liaisons between the Band Staff and students and help teach, inform, and organize the members of the Band. All Band members are to immediately and respectfully follow the instructions given by the Student Leadership Team members. The Student Leadership Team is evaluated, elected, and selected in the late spring for the following year.

AHS Band Student Leadership Team members are held to a **MUCH** higher standard than other students. Selection into the leadership team is a culmination of the following criteria and graded on a point rubric:

- Playing ability (scales)
- Marching ability (drill down)
- Good grades (grade check)
- Good character (behavior audit)
- Director loyalty (interview with the director)
- Loyalty to the band program (questionnaire)

If selected to serve on the team, it shall be the duty of the Leadership Team to:

1. Supervise all affairs pertaining to the interest of the Atascocita high school band in conjunction with the director of bands.
2. Meet once a week and/or when necessary.
3. Perform their specific duties as assigned by the band directors (uniform captain, operations crew, librarian, etc...)
4. Maintain the highest loyalty to the band directors, their band peers, and the band program as a whole.

LEADERSHIP TEAM REQUIREMENTS

If a student is selected to serve on the leadership team, these items listed below are very firm requirements of all leadership team members selected to serve on the team.

1. Be ambitious, determined, maintaining pride in oneself as well as in the organization
2. Learn everything expected of the organization.
3. Cooperate with the Directors and with other officers.
4. Maintain an 80 overall average and pass all grading periods.
5. Must not be placed on Directors’ probation or any type of school suspension.
6. Maintain a sense of responsibility for the organization and wear the Humble ISD Atascocita High School Band uniforms with pride.
7. Set high standards and always work to perfect your level of performance and ability.



8. Be a good representative of the organization and set good examples. Remember, if you lead, people will follow. Leadership team students must lead in the right direction.
9. Assume responsibility to see that each section performs at a high degree of proficiency.
10. Attend leadership camp, practices, meetings, and performances as approved by the Directors.
11. Maintain a 100% positive attitude offline and online. Any student leader that makes any negative remark towards the band program, a band student, another Humble ISD teacher, or anything deemed negative towards HISD and the Atascocita community will immediately be demoted from their position on the first major or minor offense.

Failure to abide by these requirements may result in suspensions and/or demotion of an appointed position. Furthermore, any violation of Band, School, or Humble ISD rules or policies may result in immediate removal from any leadership position. Any conduct unbecoming of a Student Leadership Team member, as determined by the Director, may also result in immediate removal from any leadership position.

AHS FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

All AHS Band members are expected to be leaders and model students throughout the AHS Fine Arts Department and the entire school. Students are to be supportive of other Fine Arts students and their work, as well as courteous and helpful to all AHS Fine Arts Staff Members.

Please do not use the choir room, theater room, orchestra room, or any other fine art room unless approved by a band director.

BAND REGISTRATION - PARENT MEETING

In May, the AHS Band will hold its annual Band Registration night in the form of a parent meeting. This is the time to order supplies, pay fees, and sign up for volunteer opportunities. The Band Staff fully understands that financial situations may arise and we will work with you. However, students will not receive ordered items until they have been paid for in full. Each Band family is asked to sign up for four volunteer shifts. With the current state of educational funding in the State Legislature, these fees and volunteer hours are of the utmost importance. Our Band Program does not function without them.

A specific list of fees, required items, prices, and volunteer opportunities will be provided to parents before Band Registration.



OVERNIGHT TRIPS

Any overnight trips are governed by Humble ISD policies concerning approval, administration supervision, eligibility, and absences. All students and parents will sign a Student Code of Conduct While on a AHS Band Trip form before leaving on the trip. This form outlines all conduct, punctuality, and discipline policies and expectations.

CUTTIME

Student data is maintained on a secure web-based utility called CutTime. This is the database from which all parent communication originates. Please make sure your contact information is always current. The status of fees, payments, forms, and instrument issue may be checked on CutTime as well.

BAND WEBSITE

www.atascocitaband.com

Our website is the home of The Military Marching Band on the web. Parents and students should check the web site frequently for updated information, upcoming events, and pictures of the band in action.

BAND BOOSTERS

Atascocita High School Band Boosters is a parent organization that works in conjunction with the band directors to support and enhance ALL of the band programs in Atascocita High School. Our membership fee is \$50.00 per family.

We have a very strong booster club that supports our middle and high school bands in many ways. Everyone is well aware that our school district has implemented budget cuts that have had an effect on band and other fine arts programs. Band Booster's has been very instrumental in providing funds that have been vital to the operation of the band program. Some examples of our support include:

- Providing over \$17,000 for clinicians to extend our students' learning experience (this includes middle & high school bands)
- Reimbursing fees of your student's summer band camp tuition for those who participate in a summer camp outside of AHS (even if you have more than one student in band, each will receive the reimbursement for attending an approved camp)
- Awarding more than \$8000 annually in college scholarships for senior band members
- Providing almost \$20,000 to accompanists for local and state UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest (this includes middle & high school bands)
- Planning and providing parties and rewards for the students



- Helping provide the gatorades, snacks, drinks, and so much more for the students!

As you can see, there are many benefits to YOU and YOUR CHILD by just becoming an Atascocita Band Booster Member! It should also be noted that Atascocita Band Boosters sponsors and maintains the AMB website: www.atascocitaband.com

If you have any questions, or if you need to contact any of our band boosters, their contact information is on the web-site.



BEST PRACTICES FOR SOCIAL MEDIA USE

Atascocita band directors respect the right of its students to use social media. However, it is important for band students to understand the need to exercise care in setting appropriate boundaries between their personal and public online behavior and to understand that what may seem private in the digital world can often become public, even without knowledge or consent. Band students who use social media must remember that any information posted reflects on the entire Atascocita High School community and, as such, is subject to the same behavioral standards set forth in the University Interscholastic League (UIL) Rules and Regulations; District Board Policies; and state and federal law.

Any social media and online actions by any band student that are considered to be substantially or foreseeably disruptive to the Atascocita high school environment - lewd, vulgar or offensive, and/or advocating violence or illegal activity - will be subject to the consequences listed below:

1st offense: Results in director probation. Parent contact will be made and the student will receive assistance and counseling by the directors to learn better opportunities for appropriate digital citizenship.

2nd offense: Immediate removal of the band program.

If the offense constitutes a major offense as deemed by the director of bands, the student may be removed immediately in only one offense. It is very important to the band program that students portray acceptable online social media behavior. The Atascocita high school bands uphold the highest standard in digital citizenship by consistently practicing good integrity and values pertaining to online social media.

An offense could be one of the following:

- General inappropriate language of a profane or sexual nature
- Profane or inappropriate language or remarks directed toward bandmates, teachers, other Atascocita high school students, staff, coaches, as well as athletic administrators and representatives from other schools
- Demeaning statements about or threats to any third party
- Incriminating photos, statements, or language in reference to violence, drug or alcohol use, bullying, or any other inappropriate behaviors
- Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person
- Indicating knowledge of an unreported felony theft or property damage
- Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation
- Engaging in or indicating knowledge of cyber bullying and/or harassing another student or staff member



- “Liking” any of the above comments or photos on Facebook or any other social networking sites indicates your approval of such comments and thereby holds you to the same standard. Should you choose to “Like” such comments/photos made on social networks by your friends, the consequences outlined below will apply.
- “Retweeting” or marking a tweet as a “Favorite” on Twitter also indicates your approval of inappropriate comments and thereby holds you to the same standard. Choosing to retweet or favorite an inappropriate comment or picture will subject you the consequences outlined below.
- “Subtweeting” is not permitted under any circumstances. The notion that you are choosing not to identify the victim of your bullying or inappropriate comments DOES NOT preclude you from the below consequences.
- Other inappropriate behavior as deemed so by Atascocita High School administration.

In the past, inappropriate use of social media by Atascocita High School students participating in athletics and other co-curricular activities has resulted in the suspension from practices, games and other events. In an effort to foster good sportsmanship and to deter the need to enforce such discipline, the high school band programs recommend the following guidelines as best practices for the use of social media by band students. For the purposes of these guidelines, social media means any form of electronic communication through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content, including, by way of illustration and not limitation, social networking sites such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and others.

GUIDELINES - BEST PRACTICE FOR SOCIAL MEDIA USE:

These guidelines are intended to provide a framework for AHS band students to conduct themselves safely and responsibly in an online environment. As a band Student-Athlete or co-curricular participant, you should:

1. Be Aware that Privacy Settings are NOT Foolproof.

Atascocita high school students are highly encouraged to use privacy settings on social media sites. However, Atascocita High School students should be aware that privacy settings are not foolproof. Although social media sites provide their users with privacy improvement updates, the changes occur frequently and can get complicated. Even if you diligently monitor your privacy settings, it’s best to assume that anything you post may potentially be seen by your school, your parents and strangers.

2. Avoid Posting Confidential Information.

Be aware of the kind of information you are posting on social media sites. Posting information such as your date of birth, address, phone number, class schedule, social security



number, bank account number, etc. is NOT recommended. Once such information is posted, it becomes the property of the social media site.

3. Avoid Unprofessional Public Profiles.

Any information you put on social media sites is considered public information and may be viewed by members of the public. Be mindful of the image you create for yourself online. Potential, current and future employers as well as college admissions recruiters may access the information you put on social media sites.

4. Avoid Posting Illegal Activities.

Photos posted via social media become the property of the social media site. You may delete the photo from your profile but the photo remains on the social media site's server. Internet search engines such as Google or Yahoo may still find that image long after you have deleted it from your profile. In addition, even if your profile is set to private, a friend can always download and save incriminating photos that third parties, such as the authorities, can use against you in the future. Atascocita high school band students should avoid the following:

- Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence; hazing; sexual harassment; vandalism; stalking; underage drinking; selling, possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behaviors.

5. Avoid Bullying\Threats of Violence.

While AHS band students have a right to free speech, that right is NOT unlimited. Bullying is a *very* serious issue and is not limited to student-to-student interactions. Vicious treatment and hateful words often lead to violence, suicide, depression, and discrimination. AHS band students should avoid the following:

- Derogatory language or remarks about teammates, coaches, students, staff members, athletic administrators, or representatives of other schools;
- Demeaning statements about and/or threats to any third party; and
- Creating serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.

Atascocita High School band students should be aware that if their conduct is deemed inappropriate, such conduct may be subject to discipline, not only by school authorities, but also by law enforcement agencies.

6. Avoid Lying, Cheating & Plagiarism.

All information posted on social media sites is considered public information. It may be viewed by third parties and used against you. It is best to assume that anything you post may be seen by your school, your parents and your peers.



Atascocita High School band students also participating in athletics and other co-curricular activities should be aware that their online actions have consequences. While the AHS campuses don't actively monitor student social media accounts, they have the right to act on information provided by third parties (i.e. students, parents, & community members). AHS also has a right to investigate students; social media sites in the event of allegations of inappropriate online conduct. Pursuant to the Texas Education Agency Code and applicable federal and state case law, AHS has a right to discipline students for online conduct which is related to a school activity or attendance and is:

1. substantially or foreseeably disruptive to the AHS band environment;
 2. lewd, vulgar or offensive; and/or
 3. advocating violence or illegal activity. In addition, students should be aware that, in certain circumstances, their online conduct may be subject to criminal prosecution.
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CONCLUSION

This handbook is meant to guide the decision-making process of students, parents, and directors of The Military Marching Band. It is not, however, designed to be an all-inclusive list of rules and regulations. It is impossible to discuss each and every scenario that could face our band. The directors will use their best judgment to evaluate and interpret each situation and make decisions that are in the best interest of The Military Marching Band and its membership.

By signing the Handbook Acknowledgement Form, you agree to uphold the rules and responsibilities of the AHS Military Marching Band member to the best of your ability. Please remember that the purpose of a handbook is to provide information and create a framework within which important decisions can be made. Diligent adherence to these ideals will allow our program to continue to prosper.

Thank you for your dedication to the program.

Championship Mindset - Show Up, All In, No Regrets!