

# Elgin High School 2019-2020 Band Handbook



*Superior Pride – Superior Performance*

# Forward

The success of any organization is dependent upon the spirit, pride, leadership, teamwork, dedication, and cooperation of its members. Certain rules, policies, and procedures are necessary so that the overall goals of the group are met and the welfare of each individual member is best served.

By accepting membership in the Elgin High School Wildcat Band, you are agreeing to perform to the best of your ability and work together with the band staff in making this year's band the finest musical organization that our combined efforts can produce. In order for this to occur, students will need to be responsible, attentive, respectful, have a positive attitude, and follow the Elgin High School Wildcat Band core values of discipline, excellence, character, unity, and service. The directors will ensure that every student will be provided the opportunity to be successful regardless of their ability as an incoming student or of their career ambitions following graduation.

The Elgin High School Wildcat Band staff has developed this handbook to familiarize each band member with general operations and procedures by which all band members are expected to conduct themselves. The handbook is not intended to be all inclusive, as every possible situation and question cannot be predicted in advance. However, a thorough knowledge of this handbook is essential to the success of this year's band.

## Performing groups in the Elgin High School Wildcat Band Program

*\*Students are assigned a position in a concert group based on a number of factors, which include technical skills, musical maturity, past performance achievement, level of participation in previous semesters, eligibility history, attitude and conduct, and potential for success. At the discretion of the directors, reassignments to a different ensemble (a move up or down) during the school year may occur based on these contributing factors.*

### Wind Ensemble

This is the top performing concert ensemble, considered the “varsity” concert band. Students in this band are the most advanced musicians in the program, and thus, must demonstrate the highest level of tonal production, technical proficiency, and musical maturity. A strong commitment to individual practice and musical growth is expected. The students in the Wind Ensemble are expected to audition for the All-Region band and perform a solo at the U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble contest. Failure to adequately prepare for either could be cause for reassignment on band placement. A weekly sectional is required of all students throughout the spring semester. In addition, to scheduled evening full band rehearsals during the spring semester. Private lessons are strongly encouraged to excel in this ensemble, in order to maintain the students required level of skill. Performance requirements will include the Winter Concert, Dinner Concert, Spring Concert, and U.I.L. Concert and Sight Reading Contest, and other special events and festival performance as scheduled. **Attendance at all scheduled performances are required.**

### Symphonic Band

This is our second highest performing concert ensemble. Students in this band are also expected to demonstrate the highest level of tonal production, technical proficiency, and musical maturity. A strong commitment to individual practice and musical growth is expected. The students in the Symphonic Band are highly encouraged to audition for the All-Region band and perform a solo at the U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble contest. A weekly sectional is required of all students throughout the spring semester and scheduled evening full band rehearsals during the spring semester. Private lessons are strongly encouraged to excel in this ensemble, in order to maintain the students required level of skill. Performance requirements will include the Winter Concert, Dinner Concert, Spring Concert, and U.I.L. Concert and Sight Reading Contest, and other special events and festival performance as scheduled. **Attendance at all scheduled performances are required.**

### Marching Band-“The Wildcat Marching Band”

All students in the varying concert ensembles combine to form the Elgin High School Wildcat Marching Band. Participation in the marching band is required of all members. **Summer band camp, rehearsals, parades, football games, and marching competitions are mandatory and required.**

### Color Guard/Winter Guard

This unique performing group is focused on combining the skilled use of implements such as flags, rifles, and sabers with progressive elements of dance and movement and marching drill. The color guard is open to any students through audition. A background in dance is helpful but not required. Enrollment and active participation in the color guard class is required. During the fall semester, the color guard is an important component of the marching band, and must meet all expectations, requirements, and scheduling of the marching band throughout the season. Upon the conclusion of the marching season and throughout the spring semester, the guard functions as an independent indoor competitive group, “winter guard”, and will compete at a number of contest events as a member of TCGC (Texas Color Guard Circuit). **Afterschool rehearsals with the winter guard are required to be a part of this group, in addition to the spring contest events.**

### Jazz Band

Jazz meets after the school day and is open by audition to any student in band who plays a jazz instrument (saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, bass, or drums) and is interested expanding their musical through this unique American musical idiom. Required performances include the Winter Concert, Dinner Concert, Spring Concert, community events, and scheduled jazz festival and contest performances in the spring. **Attendance at all scheduled performances are required.**

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## I. Communication

Effective communication is vital to any group, and more so when the group is as large as the EHS Band. There are many methods in which directors and students may communicate.

### Directors Contact Information

Armando Martinez, Head Band Director	(512) 281-3438 Ext. 1121	armando.martinez@elginisd.net
Alyson Keller, Assistant Band Director	(512) 281-3438 Ext. 1120	alyson.keller@elginisd.net
Christopher Montemayor, Percussion Director	(512)281-3438Ext.1121	christopher.montemayor@elginisd.net
Selicia Counts, Color Guard Director		seliciacounts@gmail.com

Website: [www.elginbands.org](http://www.elginbands.org)

Here you can find the most up-to-date information on our band events, calendar, program information, and volunteer information.

### Charms

All students should be entered in our Charms system. Many aspects of what we do is done through this system. To use Charms:

- Log on to [www.charmsmusic.com](http://www.charmsmusic.com)
- Locate the "PARENT/STUDENT LOGIN" section of the web page.
- Login to your child's program account using the following login:

### **Elginbands**

- This will bring up the main parent page. This will allow you to look at your child's information
- When you enter your child's ID NUMBER, **Student ID** another more detailed screen appears with even more options to view your student's uniform assignments, music assignments, financial records, forms and inventory. Enter your child's ID FIRST – then you may create your own, unique password by clicking on the "keys."
- **Complete the Student information form** –you must help make changes to your child's **student information page** (such as updating phone numbers and email addresses if they change) to help the teacher communicate with you more effectively.

### Facebook

The EHS Band maintains a Facebook presence. It is moderated judiciously by the directors. No inappropriate content is permitted, but participants are free to ask questions, etc. It is the best way to receive updates and news regarding the band. Membership in the group is open to all EHS Band members and parents. Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for "Elgin HS Wildcat Band". From that page you may request membership.

### Band Calendar

The Band Calendar may be accessed in two ways. Either a paper copy or via the website at [www.elginbands.org](http://www.elginbands.org)

## II. Individual Achievement Opportunities

**Region, Area, and All-State Band Tryouts** – We encourage all band members to audition for the All-Region Band.

*\*If students are not enrolled in a non-traditional band class, they are required to participate in All-Region Band auditions.*

**UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest** - Early in the spring, all band members are strongly encouraged to perform individual solos and small group ensembles at UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest. Solos and ensembles are graded by difficulty. Class three is the easiest (and for freshman only), and class one is the most challenging music. Students who play a class one solo by memory and earn a first division at the Region level advance to State Solo contest in Austin. *Individual students or ensemble*

*members who do not fulfill their rehearsal and performance commitments for Solo and Ensemble must reimburse the district for the entry fee, as well as the accompanist fee (solos), paid by the district.*

### **III. Additional Band Requirements and Educational Opportunities**

**Summer Band Camp (Required)** - EHS "Summer Band Camp" is vital to the learning of the Elgin Wildcat Band's competitive marching contest show. A finalized schedule will be announced and available in late April or early May. Band students are required to be at all scheduled marching band camp rehearsals in their entirety with a hard working attitude to be in complete good standing for the marching band. Family summer vacations, church camps, reunions, shopping trips, doctor appointments, and other important appointments must be scheduled prior to summer band camp so that the short time that the band has together is efficient. Although not a numeric grade, attendance at all of summer band is required to earn competition position.

**Scheduled Rehearsals (Required)** - To achieve and maintain superior performance standards, additional instructional periods will be necessary outside the school day. Check the 2018-2019 Wildcat Band Calendar for scheduled Band rehearsals outside of school hours. *Required rehearsals are graded throughout the school year.*

**Private Lessons-** All students are encouraged to seek extra help through private lessons. In addition to the band staff, private lessons are a great asset for the growing musician. Information is available from the band directors.

**Summer Camps and Enrichment Opportunities-** All students are encouraged to seek additional training and instruction during the summer weeks at band camps and workshops, in state and nationwide. Like private lessons, Summer Camps and Enrichment Opportunities will greatly boost growing musicians and assist in teaching higher levels of skill to promote excellence on individual levels. Information can be sought through the bulletin boards and band office if you are interested.

### **IV. Talking Policy**

As mentioned above, there is no place for unnecessary talking within a rehearsal. Our time is very valuable and cannot be wasted trying to get everyone to be quiet.

There will be no tolerance for "talking" during a rehearsal.

"Talking" is any verbal noise that does not positively and productively contribute to the overall rehearsal. (A student may want to comment on a mistake that has been made, but the is not contributing to the overall rehearsal and will not be accepted.) EHS Band encourages NON-VERBAL corrections be student leaders.

I. The best way to have productive rehearsals with no talking is to first understand who should be talking to when.

1. We will always follow the chain of command of: Whoever is on the tower running rehearsal, director, and other instructor, drum majors, student leaders, and then the band.
2. Whoever is on the tower running rehearsal will give instruction first. Then directors will give instructions next. The other instructors will give their comments next. If time allows, the drum majors, and student leaders will be allowed to give instruction. At no time should non-leadership students make corrections during rehearsal.
3. This will obviously take a significant amount time of time, so each leader will not always have time to instruct and correct problems.
4. At no time should there be talking from anyone when an instructor is giving corrections and instructions.
5. It is okay to talk then answering a question of a leader or an instructor. It is okay to talk when giving appropriate motivation such as; counting , "Hustle!", "Lets go band!" All other talking will not be acceptable.
6. Two leaders should never talk at the same time.

II. All leaders must lead by example and not talk at the inappropriate times.

1. Talking during a rehearsal will definitely affect a studnets marching status. If a student talks, they may be made an alternate and or assigned detention. The student will receive one warning.
2. If instructors and the leaders continually have problems with a certain student talking, that student may be made an alternate.
3. Talking during rehearsals carries a penalty either physical activity or left up the discretion of the directors.
  - Please remember that we receive a PE credit for being in marching band so there will be some necessary physical activity.
  - Only directors and instructors may assign penalties for talking.
  - Other penalties are subject to director and instructor approval.

## V. Band Grading Policy

Grading is based on individual participation, as well as performance/skill efforts and development. The following are areas that are considered in evaluating students for their class grade. It has been said that, "What you reap is what you sow." This is extremely true in band as a whole and to each band student's class grade.

### **DAILY GRADES (daily participation/preparedness/minor assessments – 60% of final grade)**

- Attendance at required rehearsals.
- Appropriate attire worn for all rehearsals – concert wear/inspection for marching band each game/competition.
- Required supplies/music and instrument must be in working order.
- Supply checks.
- Theory assessments/skill development

### **PERFORMANCE/SKILL (Tests & Exams, both playing and written – 40% of final grade)**

How the student progresses on his/her instrument and musicianship through pass-offs or written evaluations.

Each 6-week grading period, students will be given an objective card to be completed. Attempts to "pass-off" material listed on the objective card may be attempted as many times as necessary up to the completion date in order to obtain a higher grade. Objective cards will be sent home for a parent signature each 6-week period so that parents are kept up to date on requirements. Objective cards will have both participation and performance/skill objectives listed. A student that loses their card during the 6-week period will be given a new card, but will need to redo the skills listed to update their grade. Cards may be asked to be turned in during various points in the grading period so that directors may check the student's progress. Any objective not completed or attempted by the end of the grading period becomes a zero in the gradebook.

### **Academic Eligibility**

The Elgin High School Band adheres to all eligibility requirements as stated by Elgin I.S.D. rules. Any student receiving a grade lower than 70 on a six-week recording period is suspended from all extra-curricular activities. The student may regain eligibility if at the following 3-week grading period, if they are passing all of their classes. If a student is failing a class at the following 3-week grading period, they will be suspended from all extra-curricular events until the next 6-week grading period. Concerts are considered curricular and eligibility does not affect concerts. All marching band activities, all-region, state, solo and ensemble, and spring trip is affected by academic eligibility.

Because high school band is so dependent on all of its members contributing to the group, academic eligibility for band students is especially critical. All members will be asked to turn in periodic grade reports from their academic teachers, and assigned a peer tutor if the student is in need of assistants with their studies. Consistent ineligibility may result in a student being removed from the band program.

### **Means of Evaluation**

1. Individual playing auditions and tests – prepared etudes, studies, scales, and band music.
2. *Rehearsals* – (Daily, Sectional, and Extra). As band is a laboratory course with much of the work being done during rehearsal time, the rehearsals are an important part of the class requirements. Preparation, both musically and with proper supplies will be monitored.
3. *Written Tests*. Student may occasionally be given written tests covering musical terms and music theory covered in class.
4. *Special Projects* – These can involve a variety of things including solo and ensemble contest, an individual intonation charting assignment, self-evaluation, or occasional outside reading and/or listening assignments. There may or may not be a special project for each grading period.
5. *Performance* – When planned, organized and evaluated as a culminating activity in a learning experience, performance before an audience is a legitimate and important part of the music curriculum. The performance for the band is akin to the final exam in a class such as English. Such performance should become for the students a goal to be attained through self-directed prepared activities, cooperative planning and organization, self-disciplined practice, creative thought and action, and self-evaluation.

6. *Preparedness/Professional Ethics* – having all instrument/uniform parts ready, being on time to rehearsals, both marching and concert, having all music and materials ready for rehearsal.

## **Elgin High School Wildcat Marching Band Alternate Policy**

The following guidelines have been created to give the members of the Elgin High School Band information on set marching positions and alternate positions. Due to the difficulty of learning to perform our marching band show, we try to set each marching position as soon as possible. Students who meet all of the requirements stated here and other requirements of the band and school for this activity can almost be assured of a marching spot.

Marching band is an activity that requires you are to learn your part at school. We cannot balance and visually stage the marching band show without you here. Due to these factors, we have created the following guidelines for students that cannot be at all rehearsals. We hope that all students will be included, but sometimes, due to unforeseen circumstances, problems arise. The following information will help you understand your position in the marching band and your responsibilities.

It would be great to march everyone all of the time, but this is not always possible, at the present time, it takes over 200 hours to chart the contest drill. To teach even a minor change of adding in or taking out one person, would take up to 35-45 hours of teaching time for the entire group to relearn the show. This would be about 4-5 weeks of steady instruction on just re-teaching the new material. As you can see, once we start instruction, there is little time for changes. If you have any questions, please see one of the directors.

All alternate status decisions are subject to director approval.

### **Possible reasons for not having a permanent marching band position:**

1. Any band student not attending Summer Band Camp or missing part of Summer Band Camp.
2. A student missing a regular rehearsal during the school year (see attendance guidelines). There is a difference made between an excused absence and an unexcused absence, but both are still counted as an absence. If you are gone from a rehearsal, an alternate may be placed in your position. Whether or not you retain your spot upon return is subject to the director's discretion.
3. One of the directors will have final say about whether a student can march or not due to missing rehearsals.
4. Sometimes it is also necessary to remove students that do not have the maturity to discipline themselves in order to maintain the schedule and guidelines of the EHS Band. When this is a problem, the directors will make the decision whether to include or exclude the student.

### **Guidelines Affecting Status**

#### **I. Music**

- A. Each student will need to pass off all necessary music for that week.
  1. Students will be given multiple opportunities to pass off music each week while marking time with step-offs if part of the contest show, or by standing still for a pep tune or other pieces. Students can arrange additional pass-off times with directors each week.
  2. If a student has not passed off the show music being performed for that particular week, they will receive the grade earned for their attempts thus far.

#### **II. Marching**

- A. Each student will be expected to fully execute their assigned drill position.
- B. Students may be asked to recall their coordinates in their show by writing down their "dots" for their section leaders, drum majors, or directors.
- C. Students are expected to maintain a high level of marching proficiency at all times.
- D. Students are constantly assessed on their overall marching and playing performance. If directors feel that a student is not meeting the expectations of the ensemble, their position may be reevaluated.

**\*\*\*We want all students to feel successful in memorizing their music and marching routines. Students should always feel comfortable asking the student leadership or directors for help with these skills\*\*\***



### III. Attendance

#### A. Absence from rehearsals

1. If you know that you will be absent for a certain date, you need to fill out an absence request form and turn in 3 days prior to absence. These forms go directly to the director – not to section leaders or drum majors. If you are absent due to illness or family emergency, you need fill out a unexcused form the day you return. If the form is not turned in to a director at the appropriate times, the absences will count as unexcused.

#### B. Excused Absences

1. Two excused absences in one week will result in the student not marching in that week's game. These excused absences will include all rehearsals.
2. The directors will decide what is excused and what is not.
3. For the absence to be excused, the student must have an acceptable reason that is approved through the directors *beforehand*. Non-school related activities such as work, drivers' education, etc.... are not acceptable reasons for missing rehearsal.
4. An absence of any kind may result in a student losing their spot in the show.

#### C. Unexcused Absence

1. One unexcused absence from rehearsal in one week will result in the student not marching that week. This will include all rehearsals.
2. An unexcused absence may result in an alternate immediately filling their spot.
3. An unexcused absence is one that is not communicated/approved by the director *before* the rehearsal begins.
4. Directors have the final say whether a student may have their spot for an unexcused absence.

### IV. Tardies to Rehearsals (parent/teacher notes for tardies follow the same rules as for absences).

If you are not in your assigned seat by rehearsal time or call time, you are tardy. (See below for consequences) Your professional ethics grade will be lowered since you are not present to rehearse.

### V. Coordinate Sheets

- A. Without coordinate sheets, we are unable to rehearse effectively. A student without his/her coordinate sheet at rehearsal may be replaced with someone that has brought theirs to rehearsal. A student's professional ethics grade may be lowered because of preparedness for rehearsal.

Near the end of September, final decisions will be made regarding placement of students in the show. Some will be marching a contest spot, and others may be helping with the visual aspects of the show.

- B. Each marcher should have one of the following, Ultimate Drill App or Ultimate Drill Book. Items need purchased on Band Business Day.

### Uniform/Inspection Guidelines

The taxpayers of Elgin have contributed a great deal of money so that we may have nice uniforms. It is our responsibility to protect this investment. Section leaders will inspect their section at the beginning of every performance. Inspection will be at a set time designated by the directors for each performance. Inspection will be taken as a test grade weekly. The following guidelines will be met:

#### Shoes/socks

- Polished and clean
- Solid black, tall black socks (no logos, no different color, etc.)

#### Pants

- Clean and unwrinkled
- Hemmed to appropriate length (slight break in the front)

#### Coat

- Wrists hemmed to appropriate length (at wrists while in playing position)
- Clean and unwrinkled
- Band shirt worn underneath

#### Gloves

- Clean
- WW fingers cut at appropriate place (top knuckle)

## Hat

- In hat box
- No other items of any kind are allowed in the hat box....especially food!!

## Miscellaneous

- No jewelry of any kind
- Long hair should be worn up, out of the face, and in a bun (ladies only).
- No colored nail polish
- Thin shorts (no spandex short-shorts) should be worn under uniform. Non-bulky long johns may be worn under pants during the colder evenings.
- Part of inspection is having all music, flip folder, etc....
- Gentlemen will be clean-shaven for all marching performances.

## **Cost of replacement parts of the Wildcat Band Uniform**

Coat - \$360.00

Bibbers - \$170.00

Shako - \$85.00

Plume - \$27.00

## **Consequences of failing inspection**

If a student fails inspection, either by being tardy to call time or forgetting a part of their uniform, their performance grade will be lowered to a 75 and directors will determine if they will perform or help with sideline duties.

# **VI. Absence and Tardy Policy**

## **A. Absence from Rehearsal**

### **I. Absence Guidelines**

1. You are absent if you arrive at rehearsal after 5:00 p.m. or miss an entire rehearsal.
2. If you know that you will be absent for a certain date, you will need to turn in an absence request form. These forms go directly to the directors, not to a student leader or drum major. If you are absent due to illness or family emergency, you need to bring in a note the day you return. If the notes are not turned in to the directors at the appropriate times, the absences will count as unexcused.

### **II. Excused Absence**

1. Two excused absences in one week will result in the student not marching that week. This will include all rehearsals.
2. The directors will decide what is excused and what is not.
3. For the absence to be excused the student must have an acceptable note at least one week prior to absence.

### **III. Unexcused Absence**

1. One unexcused absence from rehearsal in one week will result in the student not marching that week. This will include all rehearsals.
2. The directors will decide whether to march the student during a contest rather than a football game.

## **B. Absences from a Performance**

**I.** We want to teach our students the importance of fulfilling obligations. Like all other performances of the band, we cannot pick and choose the ones we want to attend. We feel that being a member of the EHS Band should instill in an individual the sense of responsibility even when it is not what we want to do.

**II.** Playoff games are considered to be a performance by the EHS Band. Students will be excused for reasons deemed necessary by the directors of the EHS Band. Normally, excused absences would include national college exams, a death in the family, and illness. Normally, unexcused absences would be family time, preparation for a national college testing and preparation for any other school or non-school activity.

### C. Tardy to Rehearsals (Parent/Teacher notes for tardies follow the same rules as for absences.)

#### I. If you are not in the marching block at 4:25 p.m., you are tardy.

1. Emergencies do arise and we will try to understand. If there is an alternate at rehearsal when a student is gone, then the alternate will march the spot for the remainder of the rehearsal unless a director states differently.

#### II. Excused Tardies

1. The directors will decide excused tardies.
2. If you have an excused tardies, it is your responsibility to meet with your student leader or drum major to cover any material missed.
3. With two or more excused tardies, it will be up to the director discretion whether or not the student marches.
4. Some students find it helpful and sometimes necessary to attend after school tutorials. The EHS Band encourages students to excel in all activities of their life especially schoolwork. The problem that we have had in the past is that some students go to tutorials not to receive instruction, but to avoid doing the work necessary to be a successful member of the EHS Marching Band. Some go to tutorials to do work that could be finished at home. If this is suspected, they will be confronted and questioned as will the tutorial teacher. If a student has tutoring after school, they will need to ask their teacher for a pass and the pass will include the start and end time of the tutoring session. This will be turned in to one of the directors, who will spot check these times.
5. For the tardy to be excused, the student must have a note.

#### III. Unexcused Tardies

1. Instead of being taken out from the show for one unexcused tardy, the person in question will need to meet with their student leader or drum major for material missed and physical training will be determined by the directors discretion.

#### IV. Leaving Early from Rehearsal

1. If there is any reason you should ever have to leave rehearsal early, the student must send an email or note signed by one of their parents and show it to the directors before rehearsal starts.
2. Leaving rehearsal early will count as an excused absence or tardy if you bring an acceptable note prior to the rehearsal.
3. If you do not bring a note, it will count as an unexcused absence.
4. Leaving after 6:30 p.m. (Monday), 5:45 p.m. (Tuesday and Thursday) will be a tardy, leaving before those times will be an absence.

#### V. Other

1. One excused tardy and one excused absence will result in the student not marching in the weeks show.
2. Alternate status will be announced on Thursdays of performance week.
3. All tardies or absences occurring on Fridays will carry over to the next weeks tardy roll.
4. Each week students will start with a "clean slate." No tardies/absences (except those occurring on Fridays) will be held against them at the start of the week.

### D. Tardies for a Performance

I. If there is a case where this occurs, the directors will decide on the correct solution.

II. If you miss a rehearsal or sectional of the EHS Band, you will need to do the following as soon as possible upon your return, if you believe your absence or tardy should be excused.

1. Bring a note signed by your parents, guardians, and/or doctor stating the emergency that caused you to be late or absent.
2. Bring this note to a director personally. Do not send it through a message service.
3. Remember that if you have a note, but do not show this note to the directors, then we will assume your absence or tardy was unexcused.

Since band is a performance class, **ALL PERFORMANCES ARE REQUIRED**. Students missing a performance for an **unexcused** reason are subject to reassignment in the band or instrument section, restriction from band trips, and possible removal from the band program. Absences for a performance can only be excused at the director's discretion.

## VII. Football Game and Marching Contest Procedures

Friday Afternoons: The band will have a pep rally every home game.

Here is a typical schedule for a Friday night home game:

- 6:00 p.m.-Uniforms will be distributed
- 6:30 p.m.-Inspection (have uniform/instruments ready)
- 6:45 p.m.-Meet behind band hall to march over to football stadium
- 7:00 p.m.-Sit down in the stands and be prepared to play SSB
- 7:30 p.m.-Game begins
- 8:30 p.m.-Half-time
- 10:00 p.m.-March back to the EHS Band Hall
- 10:30 p.m.-Dismissal/Clean Up

There is little time between school dismissal and inspection. You will need to come to school that morning with everything you need for the football game. The booster organization provides meal for away games after the feeding fee has been paid.

**REMEMBER: THERE IS TO BE NO EATING IN THE BAND HALL!**

### PREPARATION

Make sure you have everything you need for the game before you come to school on Friday.

BAND	GUARD
Black Marching Shoes Black Socks Purple Marching Band Shirt  *If section shirts wants to be worn at a football game, the shirt has to be approved by the head band director. The shirt MUST be worn by all section members.  Garment Bag Flip Folder & Music Instrument	Uniform Gloves All Equipment Tape Guard Shoes Performance Make-Up Completed

**UNIFORMS:** All uniforms will remain in the uniform room except when in use. Make sure you get to the band hall early enough on game and contest days to get your uniform and everything else you need for a performance. Keep track of YOUR hanger!!! Each hanger has your name that goes with your uniform. Put your hanger somewhere safe and out of the way so that someone else does not pick it up. After the game, make sure your bibbers are properly hung on the hanger. Once your uniform has been taken and put away in the uniform room, you are free to leave.

**INSPECTION:** Students will be inspected for the following:

- a. Proper wear, fit, and condition of the uniform and all necessary uniform parts (socks, shoes, gloves, gauntlets, etc.)
- b. Condition of equipment
  - Brass: horns polished
  - Woodwinds: horns polished, at least three good reeds
  - Percussion: sticks/mallets (taped properly)
  - Guard: all equipment properly weighted and taped; all silks checked for wear and tear
- c. Music folder in good condition, properly labeled with all of the necessary music
  1. No exposed jewelry (necklaces, bracelets, piercings, etc.)
  2. No distracting makeup (basic neutral facial makeup allowed)
  3. No fingernail polish or visible pen/marker markings on hands or elsewhere
  4. All hair should be neatly kept so that it does not reach the collar of the uniform

**LOADING:** If your instrument is to be loaded onto the equipment truck, arrive at the school at the designated time to have your instrument packed and ready for loading. Instruments are to be placed at the designated area by the back door of the band hall. The loading crews responsibility is to load the equipment that is placed in the loading area, not to come into the instrument rooms to retrieve missing instruments. Upon return to the school after a football game or marching contest, you are to pick up your instrument from the loading are outside. It is no one's job to bring your instrument into the band hall but

yours. The following instruments are not to be loaded onto the equipment truck: Flutes, clarinets, and trumpets. Take these on the bus with you.

**BUS RIDES:** All transportation to games and competitions (with the exception of some contest) will be on school buses. Even though there will be adult chaperones on each bus, the bus driver is the one in charge and we are to follow his/her instructions with no exceptions. Remember that some drivers are less tolerant than others. Here are some general rules to follow regarding bus transportation:

- Only private phones with headphones are permitted; no external speakers.
- No eating or drinking on the school buses (unless specified by the band directors of certain long distance trips)
- Remain seated at all times.
- Talking is to be kept at a reasonable level. Screaming, yelling, etc. is not acceptable.
- Keep all parts of the body inside the bus at all times.
- Bus lists will be made prior to the first game and you must remain on your assigned bus.
- No kissing, cuddling, snuggling, or any other public displays of affection are allowed.

**ALTERNATE TRANSPORTATION:** If for some reason you need to ride with your parents either to or from a band-sponsored event, you are required to give written notice to Mr. Martinez **AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE THE SCHEDULED EVENT**. This should only be used in situations where no other transportation alternative is available. This policy may seem strict, but it is enforced to protect our students. Only an adult driver has permission to take you to or from an event. Student drivers holding a valid driver's license **MAY NOT** transport any student other than themselves. When leaving the event with parents, it is imperative that you let the band directors know you are leaving, so that we can be certain you have left with your parents. You must either take your instrument with you or see to it that someone will bring it in from the loading area for you. You are responsible for returning your uniform to its proper place in the band hall cages.

**ARRIVAL AT THE STADIUM:** The first people to get off the bus are the directors, followed by the loading crew. Everyone else is to remain on board until instructed. Once everything is unloaded, you are to quickly line up for stadium entry. You must be completely dressed in uniform by the time we line up. No unzipped jackets or other items in top of the uniform. In general, we line up in the order that we sit in the stadium from top to bottom, beginning with tubas and low brass, followed by horns and trumpets. The guard generally has the first two rows, depending on the stadium. As we march into the stadium, we will do so in a dignified manner and everyone will remain standing in their places in the stands until instructed to sit down. Water will be distributed after the game begins if available.

#### **IN THE STANDS:**

- a. Once in the stadium, you are to remain in your designated place **IN YOUR SECTION** until time to depart for half time or depart from the game. Non-band members are **NOT ALLOWED** in the band seating area at any time.
- b. All students must have their music in a flip folder. Always have your instrument ready and watch closely for cut offs in the music, as the band will sometimes stop playing in the middle of a song.
- c. No food, drink or gum is allowed while the band is in the stands.
- d. You must have permission from a director to use the restroom. Never go to the restroom alone and always go with a parent. Return quickly from the restroom so that others may go. Students are not allowed to visit the concession stands while out.
- e. Do not play your instrument unless the entire band is performing. Percussion is allowed to play drum cadences authorized by the Drum Captain or director(s).

**CONDUCT:** You must remember that from the moment we are off the busses, we are performing. You are expected to act in a dignified manner. During pre-game, we will stand while the other school's alma mater is being played. We will also stand respectfully while the National Anthem is being played. While we are on the sideline waiting for the half time performance, you are expected to stand quietly. After the half time performance, we will either proceed in an orderly manner back to the stands, or you will stand quietly in a ready position while the home band performs.

### **Marching Contests**

Marching shows have developed into an art form. Our shows are designed for creativity and sophistication. On Saturdays during the marching season, the Wildcat Band will perform their show at various contests that are held throughout the area. Specific contest information will be posted on the Wildcat Band website; [www.elginbands.org](http://www.elginbands.org). Attendance at those contests are mandatory for all band members.

## **VIII. Band Trip**

To participate in the trip, the students must be enrolled in band, in good financial standing with the band program, have a signed permission note from their parents, and must exhibit good behavior throughout the school year. There is an expectation for everyone to travel on trips so we can always have a great representation of our program and perform to our best ability with ALL of our members. If there is a financial hardship, we do understand, please let Mr. Martinez know and we can all work together to make something work out.

### **Extracurricular Overnight Trip Rules for Students**

Armando Martinez, Head Band Director, is the designated administrator in charge of the trip. Any violation of rules may result in penalties provided under the Elgin High School Code of Student Conduct, the Elgin Wildcat Band Handbook.

Other trip-specific rules will be outlined in a Trip Conduct Agreement that will be signed by both parents and guardians. All district and respective campus rules apply as well as the rules of the Elgin Wildcat Band Handbook. Use or possession of tobacco, alcohol or any illegal drugs will result in notification of proper authorities.

Curfew will be established nightly and adhere strictly by all students. Students must stay in assigned rooms. No sexual or other improper activity is tolerated from students on overnight trips. Student couples are not permitted to be alone in rooms together without a chaperone. Only participating EISD students are allowed in EISD rooms. Students must notify sponsor/chaperone of their whereabouts at all time if they are in a location other than their assigned room.

The sponsor will conduct a mandatory meeting with parents/chaperones prior to the trip. Failure of the parent to attend the meeting may result in the parent not participating in the activity. Malicious or willful damage/theft of property by a student shall result in the student to have consequences once we have return from the trip. Parent and student shall assume full responsibility for damages and other associated costs.

Luggage and personal items are subject to search shall result being returned to the district officials and /or chaperones have responsible suspicion that the luggage or personal items contain contraband.

## **IX. Elgin Wildcat Band Boosters**

The Wildcat Band Boosters are an integral part of the Wildcat Band program. The booster organization is dedicated to supporting our students, the directors, and the band program in creating, producing, and performing the best possible marching and concert programs. To achieve this goal, the boosters provide food and drink for special occasions, develop fundraising activities to support trips, serve as chaperones for all band trips; and support the percussion by moving equipment on and off the field during halftime and competition performances.

You might wonder, “why should I become a booster?” What do they do?” “Do I really need to be involved?” With all the competitions and events during the year, it takes a small army of volunteers to support this band! In a nutshell, we are supporting OUR KIDS! This is such a special time in their lives; a time when they need great role models to help cement the social, ethical, moral, disciplinary skills they have been taught. This is a wonderful opportunity for you, as a parent, to actively participate in their lives and be a part of your child’s success.

The amount of the fess is something the boosters work VERY hard to minimize. However, it takes a lot of money to provide the needs of all band members. But if you ask anyone whose child has been in the Wildcat Band for more than a year, “Is it worth it?”, the answer will be a resounding, “YES!”. The training, the discipline, the camaraderie, the understanding of success and what it takes to achieve that level of success are all worth the price.

**MEETINGS**-First Tuesday of every month @ 6:30/7:00 p.m.

The Band Boosters conduct meetings on the first Tuesday of every month. The meetings will be held in the band hall at either 6:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. Attendance by the members is very important to keep the lines of communication open between the booster board, directors, and parents. Parents should plan to attend as many of these meetings as possible. The booster are an integral part of success of our program.

### **BACKGROUNDS CHECKS**

The Texas Legislative recently passed Senate Bill 9, which outlines the process for conducting background checks on both school employees and volunteers. EISD does require ALL volunteers to submit an application and consent to a background

check. Any person volunteering for Wildcat Band must have a check done annually prior to volunteering. Please go to <https://www.applitrack.com/ElginISD/onlineapp/default.aspx?Category=Volunteers> to complete your application.

Please visit <http://www.elginbands.org/blank> for more information.

## **X. Wildcat Band Leadership Positions Band Council Officers**

### **Band PRESIDENT:**

Elected by their fellow band members through annual election held in May of the calendar year.

#### Minimum Requirements:

- Must have been a member of the Elgin High School Wildcat Band for at least two years
- Must be in good standing with the band
- Must be in excellence academic standing for the entire school year
- Must demonstrate the core values and mission statement of the Elgin Wildcat Band program by actively pursuing our established goals.
- Be an effective role model for all band students

#### Job Description:

- Organizes all social activities for the band with approval from band staff.
- Social Activity Calendar—Meets with Director to select dates for upcoming year.
- Plans and leads all band Council meetings—sets agenda.
- Represents the band and promotes band unity through activities and through daily interaction with band members.
- Football Season—In charge of organizing visits to visiting band.
- Work with band staff to plan the Band Banquet held each May.
- Works with Booster Vice President to see if Boosters have any needs that the Band Council can help with (working concessions, etc...)
- Work with Booster Event Coordinator to see what events the Band Boosters and council can work together on (Chaperones, planning, etc...).
- Assist directors with recruiting events (8th grade night, etc).
- Facilitate any Lock-Ins throughout the school year.
- Delegates certain responsibilities to other band council members.
- Attend all leader meetings.
- Attend Booster Meetings to report band related successes to parents. Conduct:
- Be an effective role model for all band students.
- Be visible to band members.
- Makes sure all the council members are accessible and available to all Wind Ensemble, Symphonic, and Concert Bands members.
- All payments should be made BEFORE deadline.
- Attend all band functions 15-30 minutes prior to the call time and remain 15-30 minutes after our return from a performance.
- Participate in Region Band Auditions.
- Perform a Division I Solo at Solo & Ensemble Contest.
- Have Music Passed Off prior to the deadline date all year.
- Support and assist the Drum Majors in the performance of their duties.
- Numerous other responsibilities as assigned by the band staff.

### **Band VICE-PRESIDENT:**

Elected by their fellow band members through annual election held in May of calendar year.

#### Minimum Requirements:

- Must have been a member of the Elgin Wildcat Band for at least one year.
- Must be in good standing with the band. § Must be in excellent academic standing for the entire school year.

-Must demonstrate the core values and mission statement of the Elgin Wildcat Band program by actively pursuing our established goals.

Job Description:

- Works to ensure that all freshmen are actively integrated into band.
  - Freshmen welcome Week (work with Band Staff & Booster Event Coordinator).
  - Freshmen Activities held during Freshman Band Camp, Marching Camp, and During September.
  - Work with Section Leaders to promote integration of freshmen into Band.
  - Makes sure incoming freshmen are invited to summer activities
- Band Council fundraisers
  - Work with Band Council and Band Staff to determine purpose for fund-raising activities.
    - Planning
    - Approval
    - Implementation
    - Promotion
    - Collection of Monies
    - Fundraiser Analysis Report
- Attend all leader meetings.
- Participates in all Council activities.

Conduct:

- Be visible to band members.
- Makes sure all the council members are accessible and available to all Wind Ensemble, Symphonic, and Concert Bands members.
- The Vice-President should set an example for members in all things (e.g. All Payments should be in BEFORE Deadline).
- Attend all band functions 15-30 minutes prior to the call time and remain 15-30 minutes after our return from a performance.
- Participate in Region Band Auditions.
- Perform a Solo at Solo & Ensemble Contest.
- Takes delegation from band staff.
- Support and assist the Drum Majors in the performance of their duties.
- Numerous other responsibilities as assigned by the band staff.

Band **SECRETARY**:

Elected by their fellow band members through annual election held in May of calendar year.

Minimum Requirements:

- Must have been a member of the Elgin Wildcat Band for at least one year.
- Must be in good standing with the band.
- Must be in excellent academic standing for the entire school year.
- Must demonstrate the core values and mission statement of the Elgin Wildcat Band program by actively pursuing our established goals.
- Be an effective role model for all band students.

Job Description:

- Attend all leader meetings.
- Participates in all Council activities.
- Work with Band Staff to publish Student Roster.
- Marching Season: Take Attendance during practices, events, etc...
- During summer band camp, call students who are absent.
- Take minutes of all band council meetings and make sure decisions are followed up on.
- Responsible for keeping track or and managing all fiscal operations of the Band Council.
- Responsible for keeping an accurate and up –to-date record of all incoming and outgoing funds.
- Provides a transaction records at the council meetings.
- Report decisions to Band Staff.
- During band camp, operate Strait Store as needed.

Conduct:



- Be an effective role model for all band students.
- Be visible to band members.
- Makes sure all the council members are accessible and available to all Wind Ensemble, Symphonic, and Concert Bands members.
- All Payments should be made BEFORE Deadline.
- Attend all band functions 15-30 minutes prior to the call time and remain 15-30 minutes after our return from a performance.
- Participate in Region Band Auditions.
- Perform a Division I Solo at Solo & Ensemble Contest.
- Have Music Passed off prior to the deadline date all year.
- Support and assist the drum majors in the performance of their duties.
- Numerous other responsibilities as assigned by the band staff.
- Takes delegation from President and Vice President Band.

#### Band **HISTORIAN**:

Elected by their fellow band members through annual election held in May of calendar year.

#### Minimum Requirements:

- Must have been a member of the Elgin Wildcat Band for at least one year.
- Must be in good standing with the band.
- Must be in excellent academic standing for the entire school year.
- Must demonstrate the core values and mission statement of the Elgin Wildcat Band program by actively pursuing our established goals.
- Be an effective role model for all band students.

#### Job Description:

- Attend all leader meetings.
- Participates in all Council activities.
- Photographer at events, rehearsals, etc....
- Creates slideshow for End of the Year Banquet.
- Creates scrapbook of the year in band.
- Bulletin Boards—makes sure that bulletin board is current.
- Gets pictures of All band students for bulletin board (Who's Who).

#### Conduct:

- Be an effective role model for all band students.
- Be visible to band members.
- Makes sure all the council members are accessible and available to all Wind Ensemble, Symphonic, and Concert Bands members.
- All Payments should be made BEFORE Deadline.
- Attend all band functions 15-30 minutes prior to the call time and remain 15-30 minutes after our return from a Performance.
- Participate in Region Band Auditions.
- Perform a Division I Solo at Solo & Ensemble Contest.
- Have Music Passed Off prior to the deadline date all year.
- Support and assist the Drum Majors in the performance of their duties.
- Numerous other responsibilities as assigned by the band staff.
- Takes delegation from President and Vice President.

## Band **LIBRARIAN:**

Appointed by the Band Directors.

### Minimum Requirements:

- Must have been a member of the Wildcat Band for at least one year.
- Must be in good standing with the band.
- Must be in excellent academic standing for the entire school year.
- Must demonstrate the core values and mission statement of the Wildcat Band Program by actively pursuing our established goals.
- Be an effective role model for all band students.

### Job Description

- Meets with the Head Librarian every Thursday Morning.
- Keeps the music library organized (through regular maintenance checks)  
Including, but not limited to:
  - The cart of music should be clean and clear unless used for music sorting.
  - All music is in the appropriate box.
  - Each score and set of parts is in score order and together.
  - All loose parts are put back in their box or thrown away if not needed.
  - Files and adds new music to the database immediately.
  - Copies music for their assigned band prior to the date of the rehearsal.
  - Checks Music Request Box for additional copies needed to be made.
  - Makes additional copies of the show music so that all slots have extra parts at all times.
  - Categorize and inventory all solos, ensembles, and band literature in the band library.
    - Manage a sign-out sheet for solos for a student rents music from the band.
    - Manage a sign-out sheet for music that is rented from other schools.
    - File all rental forms when another band director comes to rent music and notify Mr. Martinez when music is not returned with all parts Conduct: § Be visible to band members.
    - Attend all band functions 15-30 minutes prior to the call time and remain 15-30 minutes after our return from a performance.
    - Participate in Region Band Auditions.
    - Have Music Passed Off prior to the deadline date all year.
    - Support and assist the Drum Majors in the performance of their duties

## Field Positions

### 1. Drum Major

- a. Selected by a panel of judges based upon an audition
- b. Serves as the communicator between the directors and students
- c. Conducts the marching show
- d. Runs the metronome at practice
- e. Assists the directors in teaching marching fundamentals and drill
- f. Maintains discipline on the marching field
- g. Makes sure all sound and marching equipment is ready for rehearsal
- h. Is 30 minutes early for every band function
- i. Represents the band in a respectful manner
- j. Ensures that the leaders of the band work as a team
- k. Assists the band directors with organization
- l. Attends all Band Council meetings
- m. Participates in all council activities
- n. Takes delegation from the President and Vice President

## 2. Horn Sergeant

- a. Serves as a role model for the section
- b. Promotes unity within their section
- c. Assists section members in learning their music and drill
- d. Is 30 minutes early for every band function
- e. Takes responsibility for all section members and self
- f. Maintains discipline within the section
- g. Communicates with drum majors about any issues pertaining to their section
- h. Writes down and learns all section members marching dots
- i. Knows all section members parts (i.e. 1st part, 2nd part)
- j. Calls sectionals as needed
- k. Passes off music one week before the due date
- l. Makes themselves available to pass-off their section members
- m. Serves as a mentor to younger members of the section

## 3. Student Leader

- a. Serves as a role model for the section
- b. Promotes unity within their section
- c. Assists section members in learning their music and drill
- d. Is 30 minutes early for every band function
- e. Takes responsibility for all section members and self
- f. Maintains discipline within the section
- g. Communicates with drum majors about any issues pertaining to their section
- h. Writes down and learns all section members marching dots
- i. Knows all section members parts (i.e. 1st part, 2nd part)
- j. Calls sectionals as needed
- k. Passes off music one week before the due date
- l. Makes themselves available to pass-off their section members
- m. Serves as a mentor to younger members of the section

## XI. Letter Jacket Policy and Student Recognition

**Letter Jackets-** Band Students earning thirty-six (36) letter jacket points within a single school year will qualify for a letter jacket. Point records are kept in the band office, and point status is available to all students and parents upon request. Letter jacket points are **NOT** cumulative. Each student starts every year with zero. The point system is as follows:

6 points (per semester) awarded for actively participating in private lessons

6 points (per semester) awarded for serving as a librarian or uniform manager

6 points (per semester) awarded for membership in an auxiliary organization (jazz band, winter guard, etc.)

6 point awarded for participating in UIL Solo or Ensemble Contest (non first-division rating)

6 points awarded for earning a Superior rating on a class 2 UIL Solo or Ensemble event

6 points awarded for participating in All-Region Band auditions

**12 points awarded for perfect attendance to all before and after school band activities**

The following are “automatic qualifiers” for a band letter jacket

***Membership in the TMEA All-Region Band***

***Superior rating at the Region UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest on a Class 1 Event***

***Completion of six semesters as an EHS Band member***

In addition, students may earn 3 points for attending a band, orchestra, or choir concert outside the realm of EHS. Examples would include a college or university concert, Austin Symphony concert, or even one of our middle school band concerts. A concert program is required to receive credit for attendance. Please be prepared to write a concert critique and share your thoughts with the band. No more than 12 “attendance” points may be earned by a student in a given year.

**Band Awards and Recognitions -** Since achievement is an important element of the band program, band directors enjoy recognizing outstanding band members and their achievements in opportunities throughout the year. These awards are presented at the annual band banquet in the spring.

## XII. Behavioral Expectations

Since band membership is in the public eye, members must act as goodwill ambassadors for the school. It is expected and requested that each student act like a proper lady or gentleman at all times with proper etiquette, manners, and professionalism. Polite and courteous behavior is a credit to the organization and the school. Loud and boisterous conversations do not convey to the public an image that we would like to represent and will not be tolerated. Constant disturbances or distractions by any band member display a lack of interest, pride, and respect for the band, and therefore he/she should find another place or activity to hold his/her attention and respect.

Band students need to recognize that the Band Hall needs to remain an area focused on musicianship. Students are encouraged to cultivate an attitude of good discipline and attention during all rehearsals. Each rehearsal should be a musical learning experience for each student. Every performance can be only as good as its best rehearsal. Each band member must be totally engaged in the rehearsal and music being rehearsed, equipped with necessary music, folders, equipment and pencils. Homework, reading material, cell phones, and other non-band materials will not be tolerated during band rehearsal, just as playing your band instrument is not allowed in academic classrooms.

In the band hall, horseplay, running, tossing, yelling, obnoxious instrument playing, and other out of control behavior will not be tolerated. Students who are not enrolled in the band program are not allowed in the band hall unless they are guests approved by the directors. No student is allowed in the band hall storage area without proper permission from the band director. **Students violating this policy are subject to school disciplinary action, band restrictions, reassignment, or removal from the band program.**

### Social Media Expectations

Online social networks are more prevalent and useful than ever before. However, the reputation of the Elgin Band program and its' members are more public. As members of this organization, students are held to a higher standard in online correspondence and postings. The following policies apply to all EHS Band students:

- 1) No negative or derogatory comments will be posted about fellow EHS Band members, the band program, parents, staff, Elgin administration, or Elgin I.S.D.
- 2) No derogatory comments will be posted about other band programs, directors, or its' members.
- 3) Elgin HS Band students will not reply to a negative or derogatory posting by students of another school.
- 4) Students should be careful about what photos are posted. Any EHS band student seen in a picture with an illegal substance or in a compromising position may be subject to the detrimental behavior policy.

Failure to abide by these policies may result in, but are not limited to: removal of leadership status, and/or removal from the band program.

## XIII. Equipment & Property Expectations

1. Keep up with all of your belongings and keep them in the appropriate places. You are responsible for all music and equipment issued to you. Have it with you when required. Make sure that you have completed the necessary form for instrument checkout. Store instruments in **closed** and **latched** cases in assigned storage area unless otherwise instructed by the directors.

2. If it is not yours...leave it alone. That goes for instruments, lockers, backpacks, etc.

## XIV. Uniform Expectations

Each student is expected to maintain proper care of his/her uniform throughout the school year. The uniform is worn one way, and one way only--no "variations", such as sleeves rolled up, or collars unbuttoned, etc., are allowed. Each band member must purchase a pair of black "band shoes" as part of their uniform. Band shoes can also be purchased through the band office.

## XV. Student Accounts

All EHS Band students will have an individual student account set up in the *Charms Music Office System*. Money may be deposited into this account by two means:

- 1) Direct Deposit (check, cash, money order (refundable upon the student's leaving band)

## 2) Fundraising profits (**non-refundable**)

Student accounts are under the supervision of the Band Boosters Student Accounts Officer. Please see the EBB By-laws for detailed rules and regulations regarding student accounts

## **XVI. Band Fees and Expenses**

As with most every extracurricular activity, there are fees and expenses that go with being a member of the EHS Band. The band directors keep these fees as low as possible. Most of them need to be taken care of at the annual "Band Business Day" (first Saturday of August each year).

### **Marching Band Expenses (all items required unless notated otherwise)**

- \* Band Shoes - approximately \$40
- \* Uniform Gloves - \$2 per pair (recommend 3 pair)
- \* Water Bottle –Free from Wildcat Band Boosters, unless misplaced
- \* Instrument Lyre - typically less than \$10
- \* Flip Folder - typically less than \$10

\* Items with this designation are one-time expenses that can be used throughout the student's band "career".

### **Band Fees**

Friday Feeding Fee (calculated at \$8 per away game). 2017 fee is \$40

Instrument Rental Fee (school-owned instruments only) - \$50 per school year/\$25 per a school semester

## **XVII. Musicianship**

**Private Lessons-** Weekly private lessons are recommended for all students in our program. Students interested in taking private lessons can pick up a Private Lesson Information Packet in the band office. Parents and students should fill out and return the "EISD Private Lessons" Form if interested.

**Quality Instruments/Equipment-** It is recommended that the best possible instrument be purchased. Not only will it produce a superior sound and prevent some technical problems, but it is also a wise investment and will increase the level of progress for the student. All instruments need maintenance periodically, depending upon the age and condition of the instrument. Occasionally check with the band directors for an instrument inspection or get information on when or where instrument service is available.

**Quality Mouthpieces-** Mouthpieces can make a big difference in proper tone production. Contact a band director for more information and specific recommendations.

**Quality Equipment-** All reed players should be very selective when choosing reeds and should always opt for high quality materials. Percussionists should always discard and replace warped or broken sticks. Brass players should have dents removed when they occur so the tone quality of the instrument is not adversely affected.

**Individual Practice-** Practice time at home should be a minimum of twenty minutes per day. PRACTICE is not to be confused with REHEARSAL. Rehearsal is the time that the entire group utilizes together as an ensemble to meld and polish individual talents and elements in the group. For your individual practice time at home, choose a time period that does not interfere with other activities. Make it easy to practice. A positive attitude toward reaching worthy and attainable goals is often overlooked. Practice for results and strive for accuracy,

## **XVIII. Practice**

1. Have a plan. Know what you are going to practice and how long you will spend on each item. Do not just plan one day at a time. Set goals for each week, month, and year. Write those goals down and put them where you will see them often.

2. Avoid distractions. Practice in a quiet place so you can focus. Try not to practice while watching T.V. or listening to the radio.

3. When and for how long? Practice time should be a minimum of thirty minutes per day. If you are able to do more than thirty minutes, push yourself.

4. Always use correct posture. Use a mirror so you can see your embouchure and correct any bad habits. Have your written plan nearby and check off things as you accomplish them. Use a metronome. When your facial muscles are hurting, do not be afraid to take a short rest before you continue your practice session - your muscles will hurt some because you are building them up, but the more often you practice, the more you will know when it is time to rest.

5. What to practice? After a good warm-up of long-tone scales, work challenging passages of your band music, breaking it down into small segments and putting them together into longer pieces as you can play it successfully. **DO NOT** practice music incorrectly or with an instrument that is not functioning properly. This is worse than not practicing at all! Practicing bad habits reinforces bad habits. Additional material for practice time is in fundamental repetition through the playing of scales, arpeggios, and other technical elements that train your eyes, mind, and fingers for muscle memory.

Check in the band office for information on approved and appropriate literature for each instrument. Finally, practice practicing! Get into a good habit of playing every day by playing every day! Professional musicians did not become professional overnight...it takes time to develop musicianship. Even professional musicians are constantly working to make their best better.

## XVIII. Contract Agreement Terms

*“In accepting this band handbook, I accept the privileges and responsibilities as a member in the Elgin High School Wildcat Band, and promise to uphold, by my actions and attitudes, those qualities which will honor the band and school.”*

*By signing below, I agree that:*

*\*I have read, in detail, the entire Elgin Wildcat Band Handbook.*

*\*I will follow the expectations and guidelines as listed.*

*\*I have studied the full calendar and checked for and report to the director any conflicts*

*\*I understand that there might be academic or organizational consequences associated with the inability to comply with the expectations of an award-winning organization.*

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_