

Hondo High School Band Policies

Hondo Band Mission Statement:

Hondo High School, Hondo Independent School District, and the community endorse involvement in activities that contribute to the healthy, supportive and interactive school culture at the High School level. Membership in The Owl Band offers a unique opportunity for personal growth, leadership and involvement in diverse activities. The attitude, dedication and enthusiasm of the band members are just as important as the skills required. Members must be committed to the highest level of athleticism, performance, self-discipline, respect for the school and others, personal exemplary conduct and the performance of all responsibilities related to the pursuit of school spirit and pride. Furthermore, all members of the team must demonstrate a proven ability to balance academic requirements with extracurricular and personal activities.

To all Hondo Owl Band Members:

In order for this ensemble to operate efficiently, students must understand that certain guidelines need to be followed. The intent of this document is to ensure that all students understand the expectations required of all Hondo Owl Band members.

Attendance:

The band competes and performs as a unit. If individuals are not present at rehearsals or performances, the entire group is affected. Students will be given a marching band schedule prior to graduation; therefore, students are expected to make arrangements to attend ALL performances and rehearsals.

A permanent schedule will be given to the students during the first week of school. In the event a change is made in a scheduled performance or rehearsal, students are expected to make every effort to adapt to that change. If ample notice of the change is not possible, the policy on absence will be adjusted accordingly.

An excused absence can only be granted with prior notification in writing. Emergency situations require a phone call or an email as soon as possible. The number to the band hall is 830-426-2154, and the email address is cmarchese@hondoisd.net. Parents or students are asked to leave a voicemail if no answer, or an email is acceptable. In the event of an emergency absence, the student must bring written documentation upon his/her return to school in order for the absence to be excused.

Students that are absent from school, or will be, must call the band hall BEFORE the scheduled practice or performance in order to be excused. Do not rely on another student to notify a band director before reporting time. Acceptable excused absences are as follows: severe personal illness, death in the family, or required school related activities. The Band Director will make the decision whether or not to excuse the absence in a case-by-case manner. Dentist appointments (non-serious nature), orthodontist appointments, outside-of-school organizational activities, club meetings (school or otherwise), and non-serious family member illnesses will not be excused and will result in the appropriate grade reduction. Dental emergencies (i.e. severe tooth ache, tooth knocked out, abscess, etc.) will be covered by the "severe personal illness" excuse. If a student is found to have a habitual attendance problem, regardless of the nature, corrective measures may be taken at the discretion of the director.

WORK - is not acceptable as an excuse under any circumstance. Work is a choice. Students that must work should inform their employer of their obligation to the band and in most cases they will be happy to work around the band schedule. Upon request we can provide students with a letter for their employer validating the band's scheduled commitments.

Students are required to be at all football play-off games at the end of the regular season.

Rehearsals:

Rehearsals are the lifeblood of the band program. It is during the rehearsals that all instructional materials will be discussed, passed out and/or used. Rehearsals are your time to learn all you can about your active and successful membership in the band program. It is of the utmost importance that you attend all rehearsals in order to be current and updated on all of the latest happenings. One rehearsal can make the difference of your success or failure on a given mastery or assignment. In order to organize our rehearsals so that we get the maximum benefit from the precious time, there must be some guidelines to follow:

- Be on time, in your place, with all materials ready to rehearse!
- Chewing gum at ANY time during band is not allowed.
- When a Director, Drum Major, Drill Instructor, or Guest steps onto the podium, all talking must cease and you must give your undivided attention to that person. This also applies when the first whistle sounds for marching field practice.
 - **The quicker you respond to beginning rehearsals, the faster the objectives can be obtained and the further the band program can go with the allotted time.**
- Personal electronic devices will remain off during rehearsal, except when being used as an aid for instruction, with director approval.

Performances:

- All performances are required.
- All students must be on time for the roll call of each performance.
- All performances will be in uniform. The uniform for each performance will be decided by the director, this includes pep rallies.
- Drill instructors and section leaders will make sure their sections have the proper equipment and uniform for each performance.
- Flip folders and lyres are required for football game performances.
- A mandatory band meeting may follow each performance.
- Absence from any required performance will result in ineligibility for Spring Reward Trips.
- Personal electronic devices will remain off during performances, unless otherwise instructed by a director.

Solo and Ensemble:

- All students will prepare a solo and/or an ensemble, and will be required to compete at either UIL Solo and Ensemble Competition or Hondo Invitational Solo & Ensemble.
- Solo and Ensemble music must be selected no later than the 1st of October.
- All students will play their selection for a grade, for a director, by the Mid-Term week.
 - Upon performing at either contest, an additional grade will be assigned based upon the rating awarded by the judge.
 - All students will be evaluated by a director, prior to being entered.

Marching Rehearsals:

- Attendance at all scheduled marching rehearsals is required.
- Marching rehearsal begins at 7:45am on regular school days. Times for evening and summer rehearsals are designated by the director.
- Roll call at marching rehearsals will be taken by the drill instructors and given to the drum major.
- Proper footwear is required for all marching rehearsals. This means athletic style shoes or band shoes only.
- Personal water containers are required for evening and summer rehearsals.
- Drill sheets or coordinate sheets are required at all marching rehearsals.
- When forms are being set in marching rehearsal, do not move from your position once the band has stopped. This includes Drill Instructors, until instructed otherwise by a director.
- "Pit Percussion" members are only dismissed by a director, when all equipment is in its proper place.
- If drinks are provided during rehearsal, dispose of the cups properly. Failure to dispose of cups properly may result in the loss of drinks other than water being provided.

Concert Rehearsals:

- Attendance at all scheduled concert rehearsals is required. This includes scheduled sectionals.
- Always have a pencil at your stand.
- Do not talk during rehearsal.
- Always use the correct posture for your instrument.

Uniforms:

- The Hondo Band Uniform is a symbol of pride, and should be treated with respect.
 - The uniform is to be worn in its entirety, when in public, unless otherwise directed.
 - No running while in uniform.
 - No disrespect is to be shown to players, coaches, officials or fans during any event.
 - No eating in uniform, except for the snacks provided during the 3rd quarter by the Band Boosters.
 - Absolutely no public display of affection while in uniform.
- Uniforms will be checked out to you before every performance, and checked back in after every performance.
- Uniforms will be checked in as designated by the director.
- All uniforms must be checked in before the band meeting takes place.
- Hair that is longer than the shirt collar or hair styles found to be a distraction by the director must be tucked into the hat.
- Finger nail polish must be skin tone, clear, French tip style. No colors.
- You must have the gray bike shorts to wear with your uniform slacks.
- Jewelry may not be worn with the uniform.
- Calf length, or knee length **ALL** white socks and the designated band shoe must be worn with your uniform.
- Band shoes will be cleaned before every performance.
- Band shoes are to be purchased through the band department. Shoes are purchased in this manner to insure uniformity of style, color, etc.
- Any missing, lost, stolen or damaged pieces of the uniform will be your monetary responsibility for the replacement cost of the item(s).
- Everyone will turn in their own uniform, unless otherwise authorized by a director.
- All students are required to purchase the prescribed theme shirt. In some situations, your band shirt serves as your uniform.
 - The color guard may select an alternate theme shirt with the director's approval.
 - In addition to the theme shirt, other sections may select a supplemental section shirt, with the director's approval.
- Directors may make additional requirements of students in regard to dress, grooming, behavior and preparation for performances.

Band Hall:

- The band hall is for band students only.
- Keep the band hall as neat and clean as possible.
- No horseplay or roughhousing in the band hall.
- Inappropriate, abusive, or vulgar language of any kind will not be tolerated.
- Keep your music, instrument, and other personal items in the slot provided.
- The office phone is available to students for band business only.
- Students are not to use the copier without the director's permission.
- Gum, candy, food, or drinks (except water) are not permitted in the band hall, or any room associated with the band hall at anytime. (Socials and controlled activities may be excluded)
- **DO NOT** write on the chalkboards, music stands, walls or any other surface not designed for such activity.
- **DO NOT** touch, move, or use any equipment that does not belong to you or is not checked out to you!
- **DAMAGE** - No student shall damage or deface any property belonging to the District. The type of discipline which may be imposed for damage to school property by students depends upon the circumstances.
- **LIABILITY** - A parent or guardian who has the duty of control and reasonable discipline of a child is liable for any property damage caused by negligence, malice, or misconduct of their child.

Instruments:

- All instrument cases **will** be appropriately marked with your name.
- The serial number and make of all personally owned instruments must be on file in the band office.
- Music should only be stored in the case if the case is designed to hold music as well as the instrument.
- School owned instruments must be checked out through the band office.
- There is a fee of \$30 per year for the use of school owned instruments. This fee is to help defray the cost of maintenance and normal wear and tear throughout the school year. **This includes percussion!** Students who use more than one instrument per year, will pay only one fee.
- If you have a school owned instrument in need of repair, report it to one of the directors.
- If you need a personally owned instrument repaired, you may take your instrument to a repair facility of your choice, or you may send your instrument with our shop delivery driver. All repair bills must be paid to Hondo Band Boosters
- The issue of school owned equipment will be done on a contract basis, with the student assuming all responsibility for the use, storage, and any damage caused to the instrument. This includes monetary responsibility for all repairs outside of normal wear and tear. This will be determined by the band directors.
- If it is deemed that a student is failing to properly care for and maintain the instrument or if a student abuses the instrument, the student may lose the privilege of using any equipment furnished by the school, and will be responsible for any monetary cost in repairs or replacement.
- School owned equipment will be stored in the assigned storage area, and will be kept in its case (properly stored) with the case closed and latched.
- Privately owned instruments will also be kept in the assigned storage area. The band department or the school district assumes no responsibility for damaged, lost or stolen privately owned instruments.
- Brass instruments will be polished before every performance. Appropriate polishing materials will be provided.
- Any outstanding repair bills or band fees not paid prior to the Spring Trip may result in exclusion from Spring Trips.
- Never use an instrument that you do not own or that is not checked out to you.

Transportation:

All band students will ride the bus to and from all band activities and performances unless there are conflicts with other school groups, or other school activities. Only **STUDENTS** who are actively participating as a member of the organization may ride with the band. Band parents, legal guardians, or adult volunteers may accompany the band as long as they have had a background check through central office, and have been added to the official school volunteer list. In addition to the Band Bus Policies, students must follow, and are subject to the rules and regulations set forth in the Hondo ISD Bus Riders Safety Handbook.

- Seating on buses will be selected and assigned at the beginning of the year, and will be used for the duration of the school year.
- Students may not change seats or buses without prior approval from the director.
- Seating may be assigned at any time during the year at the discretion of a director.
- Personal Electronic Devices are allowed, however if they produce audible sounds, students are required to utilize headphones or ear buds.
 - Devices that produce audible sounds like Big Blue Tooth Speakers are not allowed.
- Bus radios or stereos will not be turned on during any trip.
- No Group Sing-Alongs as these are very distracting to the bus drivers.
- No yelling or excessively loud conversation.
- Stay seated at all times while the bus is in motion.
- Keep the aisles clear at all times.
- Keep all body parts inside the bus at all times.
- At no time should any object be thrown out of the bus.
- No food or drinks are allowed on the bus except for water.
- Emergency exits must be kept clear at all times.
 - Uniforms may not be hung on emergency exits.
- Students may ride home with parents after a performance by signing out with their bus monitor prior to leaving.
 - When leaving with a parent, the student is solely responsible for returning all equipment (including uniforms) to the band hall in a timely manner.

Letter Jackets:

You will become eligible purchase letter jacket once you have met any of the following criteria, and have not been awarded a jacket from another activity:

- You have marched in two UIL Region Marching Contests, and you have performed in two UIL Concert / Sight Reading Contests; or,
- You qualify for Area level in the ATSSB All State audition process
- You qualify for State UIL Solo and Ensemble
- Qualify for State Marching Band Contest

Grading:

Your six week grade will be decided by the observations of the directors. These observations will include all band activities. All performances are required, and are weighted double. Actions that will result in minor deductions from your six week grade include, but are not restricted to the following:

- Habitual tardiness to rehearsals or performances
- Chewing gum
- Being unprepared for a rehearsal
- Not having the correct equipment for a rehearsal or performance
- Displaying a negative attitude
- Failure to perform a weekly check-off
- Talking during rehearsal
- Breaking ranks in a marching rehearsal, or a performance.

Actions that will result in **significant** deductions from your six week grade include, but are not restricted to the following:

- Missing a Monday rehearsal. This may also keep you from marching in that week's performance.
- Insubordination towards a director
- Missing a performance
- Using someone's horn without permission
- Failure to check in your uniform
- Leaving early without permission.
- Skipping Class

If you understand what we are trying to accomplish as an ensemble, and for you individually, your band grade will be excellent.

Discipline:

In an organization such as the *Mighty Owl Band*, we hope that discipline issues will not be a concern. Very often we are in the public eye and serve as representatives of our school and community. For this reason our behavior needs to be above reproach. Minor discipline issues will be noted by the band directors.

Serious discipline problems that occur while traveling or performing with the band will be subject to a probationary process. Actions in this category include, but are not limited to the following:

- Public insubordination towards a director
- Refusal to follow instructions from a director or contest host
- Inappropriate displays of affection while in uniform
- Theft
- Fighting
- Missing multiple performances
- Reporting to a performance under the influence of drugs or alcohol

The probationary process includes the following steps:

- Step 1: With the first violation, discipline will include a contractual agreement between the band member, parents, and administration. Requirements of the contract could include but are not limited to: extra duties, an apology to the ensemble, and restrictions to travel.
- Step 2: A second violation by the same student, or a violation of the contract described in Step 1 will result in dismissal from the band program for the remainder of the semester in which the violation occurs.
- Step 3: A third violation by the same student will result in permanent dismissal from the band program.

For major discipline problems both in and out of band, you may refer to the **Student Code of Conduct** under **Categories of Offense**.

Voluntary Withdrawal from Band:

- A student who voluntarily withdraws from the Hondo Band while still a full time Hondo ISD student will not be able to return to the program. Exceptions to this policy may be made for extreme circumstances at the discretion of the band director and the high school administration.

Although there are many more requirements for building a quality band program than those mentioned here, you need to consider the points in this document before making a commitment to this organization. If we work together, communicate, and feel that Hondo Pride, *the Owl Band* will continue its excellent representation of our school and community. If you agree, you and your parents need to sign and date the bottom of the Band Policy Agreement and Medical Form. This form states that you agree to adhere to the guidelines listed in these pages.