



SUNRAY HIGH SCHOOL
BIG BLUE BOBCAT BAND
HANDBOOK
2015-2016

Philosophy: Music is an elemental part of the human experience and through participation in the Sunray Band program we will strive:

- To teach the importance of self-discipline, cooperation, loyalty, and respect for all, as well as the importance of responsibility.
- To demonstrate and have students express a desire and appreciation for excellence in performance of music and any endeavor.
- To teach students the skills and tools needed to perform to their best ability.
- To teach students how to set individuals goals in life, how to work to accomplish those goals, and in the process, become better citizens in the community.

Goals

- Provide the band members with a rehearsal room and equipment as necessary to aid in developing the student's musical ability and to help him/ her form good, lasting productive habits.
- Provide the band with a full musical education through rehearsal, performance, testing and listening.
- To develop the proper respect for other students to encourage progress and self-discipline.
- To assist all members of the band program regarding conformity to school and department policies.
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Objectives

We strive to meet these goals by:

- Understanding theory and knowledge of the music.
- Providing the opportunity to develop skills, interest, and knowledge of music.
- Understanding the importance of academics.
- Instilling a desire to succeed and excel.
- Providing the opportunity to perform both as a group member and as an individual.
- Providing the opportunity to develop discipline and emotional maturity.
- Providing the opportunity to develop social competence.
- Providing the opportunity to develop respect.
- Providing the opportunity to develop a sense of fair competition and sportsmanship.
- Providing the opportunity to develop a sense of unity throughout Sunray ISD and Community.

THE BAND MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAND

- Attend all scheduled practices and be on time, as well as be held accountable for all absences and tardiness.
- Always give it your all and improve yourself daily.

- Become responsible for yourself and others expecting to assume the consequences/rewards for his/her actions.
- Be personally clean, neat, and dressed appropriately
- Be respectful for those in authority.
- Be responsible in maintaining school equipment in good condition and reporting any damage immediately to the director.

Maintain academic eligibility.

- Follow all classroom rules, school regulations, and travel instructions given for trips.
- Deal with others in a fair and honest way.
- Cooperate with fellow band members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are part of the band program.

Rules and Expectations

Rules:

- BE RESPONSIBLE
- BE RESPECTFUL
- DISPLAY A POSITIVE ATTITUDE
- BE EARLY
- NO FOOD, DRINKS, OR GUM IS ALLOWED IN THE BAND HALL

In addition to the rules listed above, students are held accountable for all policies and regulations as stated in all school and district policy handbooks. Ignorance of school or district policy is NOT an excuse for inappropriate behavior.

Expectations:

- Band members are to be punctual. Members must arrive 20 minutes prior to call time to allow time for uniform check and instrument assembly.
- Band members should display a positive attitude at all times.
- Band members work as a productive member of an ensemble.
- Band members must bring all necessary equipment to class. (Instrument, music, pencil, and etc.)
- Band Members must take care of personal business before class starts.
 - If there are pre-existing medical conditions that will the student to arrive late, please notify the director immediately.
- Band members are respectful of others and their property. Respectfulness extends to staff, students, class subs, clinicians, volunteering band parents, and class visitors.
- Band members must take care of their instruments and how they handle them.

BAND CLASS

Band members are required to participate in both semesters in order to qualify for the special band trip.

Marching Band (Fall Semester) The marching band performs at all pep rallies, football games, and the Sunray Fun Day Parade. The marching band also participates in the U.I.L. Marching Contest.

Concert Band (Spring Semester) The concert band participates in the U.I.L. activities. This includes the U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble Contest, and the U.I.L. Concert, and Sight-Reading Contest. Band members will receive an opportunity to participate in various individual competitions (TMEA, ATSSB). Additional concerts are scheduled for community performances, requiring the proper attire.

Membership

Membership in the Sunray High School Band is open to all students. However, a student who has not been in the band since middle school must audition for the director and adheres to the director's CHOICE regarding admittance into the program. **PLEASE NOTE:** Any new or returning band member who has not been in the band the previous two years is NOT eligible for the 2017 band trip.

Rehearsals and Performances

Division 1 quality performances begin with active involvement and participation in the musical organization. When a member is missing from a practice, rehearsal, or performance, it affects the entire ensemble. We expect high involvement and participation from each member to produce the highest quality performance. An absent member weakens the entire performance. Therefore, any absence from a performance results in an automatic zero. Absence from a performance could result in failure for the six weeks grading period.

Members are expected to attend rehearsals and performances with all of the necessary equipment, attire, and music. All band students must be available for sectionals throughout the year. The director schedules any sectionals needed. Communications regarding sectionals will be provided in advance. Rehearsals are also scheduled in advance providing members the necessary time, to make the necessary arrangements for prompt arrival. **Lack of transportation is not an excuse.**

If you encounter a situation that results in your absence from an event or rehearsal, PLEASE notify the director ASAP. Failure to do so results in disciplinary action and/or a zero for that event.

PLEASE NOTE: Absence from a contest performance will disqualify the student from any of the band's extracurricular trip. Any student that violates the district's code of conduct will automatically be removed from the Sunray High School Band.

Grading System

These include:

Performances	30%	Performance Attendance Friday Night Games All UIL events
Attendance	30%	Sectional Attendance Daily Attendance
Participation	40%	Playoff Tests Maintenance of all assigned equipment and uniform Music Memorization

Discipline

A Sunray Band member's conduct should be of the highest caliber. The conduct should bring honor to oneself, the school, community, and the participating activity. The student should remember that he/she is a role model and a first impression of Sunray schools. **The director holds the right to remove any individual from any performance or activity if the student's behavior and/or actions demonstrate non sportsman like conduct, the inability to work cooperatively as a team, or breaks the districts code of conduct.**

The rules and consequences contained in the student handbook remain effective from the beginning of summer rehearsal until they leave the band hall after the graduation ceremony.

Band Area Environment

Bandhall

Band members will keep the band hall clean and neat. Students are to keep chairs and stands in place, as well as use the wastebasket for disposable items. Band members will not abuse, misuse, or neglect equipment and instruments. No gum, food, or drinks are allowed in any area of the band hall except water bottles with approved lids. **Students are expected to be in their assigned seats, music display appropriately, pencil, instrument assembled, warmed up, and ready to play by the time the director steps onto the podium.**

Be considerate. If you move an item, put it back where it belongs. If you need to borrow an item, ask permission first and make sure to return it in a timely manner. Do not handle items that do not belong to you or are not checked out to you.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE ROOM/LOCKERS

Storage rooms and lockers are used uniform, equipment, and other necessary storage items only. Students must keep the storage rooms clean and neat. Instruments are to be placed in their cases closed and latched while in storage area.

- Students are responsible for keeping lockers secure. If you purchase a lock, please provide the director with the combination in case it is forgotten. No students will share lockers.
- Lockers will be kept clean. Since no food, drinks, gum, or candy is allowed in the band hall, no food or other trash is allowed in the lockers.

FIELD EXPECTATIONS

Field expectations include: arriving early, instrument assembled, and other items needed for superior performance practice. It is the student's responsibility to be on the field ready to begin practice by the time the director steps onto the field.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

Performances include pep rallies, stadium section, half-time, concerts, and parades. During these performances students are expected to be in assigned locations: early, wearing the proper attire, with instruments assembled, music attached, and any other necessary equipment in order to properly perform. Although the band supports the sports activities, the main purpose of the student's attendance is to remain focused on the performance at hand.

Instruments

Any instrument owned by Sunray ISD may be provided at no charge when the student has returned the completed "Instrument Use Agreement." **This is a loan.** The student is completely responsible for this instrument and its maintenance while on loan. The student will bear the cost for any loss or abnormal damage to the instrument while under the agreement.

Uniforms

The school provides the band uniforms. The student is responsible for the care of and any damage to the uniform while in their possession. A uniform will not be issued until the student has returned a completed "Uniform Use Agreement". The director is in charge of all alterations to the uniform. No unauthorized alterations are allowed. Each student will maintain two uniforms. The first uniform is the standard uniform consisting of a jacket, pants, gloves, hat, and shoes. The second uniform is their street attire. This includes a band shirt, jeans, and athletic shoes. **Uniforms are worn at all football games no exceptions. The jacket must be zipped, and suspenders must be worn under jacket. At the football game, the director decides for the band to keep jackets on or off during games.** The band shirt is worn underneath the performance uniform. Along with athletic shorts or pants that do not show beyond the bottom of the uniform pants. **The uniforms are professionally dry cleaned by SISD in the summer.**

The students will need to obtain a pair of black socks. Students are responsible for purchasing the official band shirt. The cost will be between \$10 and \$15. Students will be wearing gloves. The first pair of gloves will be free. If any student loses the first pair, he/she must purchase the next pair.

Inspections

The director holds the right to inspect school owned equipment at any time. All instruments should be maintained in working condition with all parts intact. Any instrument or uniform not properly maintained will produce monetary charges and grade deduction. These charges must be resolved before the end of the school year.

Travel

- A “Medical Release/Permission to Participate” form must be completed before the student can travel with the Sunray Band.
- All Band members will travel to performances on school approved transportation. Students are allowed to return from a performance with their parents; if the parent has provided the director with communication in writing **prior** to the event. Students are NOT allowed to leave with anyone other than his/her parents/ guardian unless arrangements have been made prior to the trip and approved by the principal.
- Students will wait to exit the bus until directed by the director or band parent riding with the band.
- Students must be in the designated uniform configuration (full, partial, etc.) before exiting the bus and report to the assigned location.
- Students will help load and unload the equipment truck and/or will be responsible for their own instrument to make sure it is loaded or unloaded.
- Upon return to SHS, ALL students must assist in properly storing instruments, equipment and uniforms.
- Students are NOT dismissed from a trip until all items are stored and dismissed by the Director.
- All regulations contained in the student handbook are in force during all portions of the band trips.
- The trip agreement must be signed and turned before traveling with the band.

Equipment and Music

Students are responsible for equipment, music, and uniforms issued to them. Care must be taken to see that they are kept in good order and treated properly.

- Students must properly store all music, instruments, and other equipment after rehearsal
- Students are responsible for having music and charts at all rehearsals and performances. Lost music results in a charge for replacement.

Extra-Curricular Trips

Every other year the Band takes an extracurricular trip. In a trip year, students **must be eligible to participate** in the **UIL Marching Contest** and the **UIL Concert/ Sight reading, and must participate in two consecutive years of High School Band prior to trip year.** In order to qualify for the trip, students must earn 240 pts from the point system. Plus, get 30 hrs of practice time. Points are earned in a combination of the following activities: Summer band rehearsals, Sunray Fun Day, Monday night rehearsals, UIL Marching Contests, UIL Concert and Sight Reading, Working Concession Stand, and Dessert for Booster BBQ. Students must meet their duties as assigned by the director in order to qualify for the trip. All regulations contained in the student handbook are in force during all portions of band trips.

BAND AWARDS

UIL AWARDS

Band members may, at any time during grades 9-12 qualify for one-letter jacket in their high school career or any number of letters. The school furnishes the first jacket and letter. The student must purchase any patches earned after the initial jacket has been awarded.

Band awards are earned in the following ways:

Maintain membership for four consecutive years or

Earn placement in the All-Region Band or

Earn a 1st Division on a grade 1 solo or Ensemble or

Earn a 1st Division on a grade 2 Solo or Ensemble prior to senior year.

NATIONAL AWARDS

The director may award two national music awards if he/she feels that there are students that have gone beyond the customary expectations of excellence in the Sunray Band Program. The awards issued are:

John Phillip Sousa Award

This award is the highest honor in the Sunray Band and is awarded for dedication to the senior that has proven not only superior musicianship but also service toward the needs of the band on all occasions.

Arion Award

The Arion Award is issued for superior musicianship.

OTHER AWARDS

The director may make other awards to the students if he/she feels there are students deserving of such awards.

BAND STUDENT COUNCIL

The members of the Bobcat Band elect a band council. The council consists of the following members:

- Drum Major
- President – Must be a Senior or Junior Band Member
- Vice-President- May be any sophomore or junior band member
- Senior Representative
- Junior Representative
- Sophomore Representative
- Freshman Representative
- A secretary is chosen from among students elected to the council.

PARENT/ STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

We have read the Sunray ISD Band Handbook and will accept the guideline as stated.
We further understand that violation of these expectations will result disciplinary action.

Student Name (print) Signature Date Grade

Parent Name (print) Signature Date

This form must be returned by the Thursday of the first week of school.

MEDICAL RELEASE/PERMISSION TO PARTICPATE FORM

- I hereby give permission for my son/daughter to travel with the Sunray Band. While traveling with the band, my child has permission to travel on all Sunray ISD/ public/ commercial vehicles and participate in all band activities.
- I hereby release Sunray ISD and /or sponsors from liability for any injury incurred while participating in band activities.
- I understand that my child is responsible for his /her actions and I will assume full responsibility for his/her actions.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

In the event that my child requires medical treatment.

____ I **authorize** the band director or his/her designee to act in my behalf. The band director or his/her designee shall secure medical attention for my son/daughter if an attending physician, dentist or emergency medical technician deems that medical attention is necessary.

____ I **do not authorize** the band director or anyone else to secure medical attention for my child. Should my child need medical attention, please call me collect at:

_____	_____	_____
Home	Work	Cell

_____	_____	_____
Student Name (print)	Signature	Date

_____	_____	_____
Parent Name (print)	Signature	Date

Medical Insurance Company_____

Policy Number_____ Group_____

Known Allergies:_____

Medical Conditions:_____

Current Medication:_____

Family Doctor_____	Business Phone_____
Other Number _____	

Parent Contact _____	Home Phone_____
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Work Phone _____	Alternate_____
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TRIP RULES AGREEMENT

- All conduct rules as stated in the Student Handbook are in effect for the duration of all trips.
- Refusal to follow the rules, observe curfew or follow the directives of sponsors will result in your immediate return home. Parents will assume the full liability of their child as soon as they are notified of the incident.
- “Destruction of Private or Public Property” is the responsibility of the parent and will result in the immediate return of the student. Parents will assume full liability of their child as soon as they are notified of the incident.
- All infractions of “Minor in Possession”, “Controlled Substance” and “Theft” will be referred to the nearest police department.
- All extra charges such as room service, telephone and movies are the responsibility of the person who incurred the cost.
- Students may not leave motel grounds, busses or event facilities without permission and/or being accompanied by a sponsor.
- At no time, for any reason, will there be co-ed activities in student’s room.
- All student are expected to
 - Keep Busses clean (use only screw lid drinks on the bus)
 - Show courtesy, respect and obedience to sponsors at all time
 - Be on time at all roll checks and curfews
 - Dress neatly and appropriately for all occasions
 - Refrain from loud and profane language
- All students are responsible for the reputation of Sunray
- Personal electronic devices and other personal property are the responsibility of the student. Mr. Venzor, the bus driver, chaperones, or Sunray ISD, will not be responsible for any lost or stolen items.

_____ Signature _____ Date _____
 Student Name (print)

_____ Signature _____ Date _____
 Parent Name (print)

Your signature indicates you acceptance and responsibility for the rules as stated. Please list contact phone numbers for parents at home and work.

Parent Phone Numbers

Home or Cell _____

Work _____

Point and Hour Practice System for 2017 Band Trip
The following are required events to earn points towards trip.
Required points: 220 per year

<u>Summer Band (Mandatory)</u>			
August 4 -21: 11 rehearsals	5 pts each		30
Sunray Fun Day Parade – Aug.16: 1parade	5 pts		5
<u>Monday Night Rehearsals (Mandatory)</u>			
Total of rehearsals	5pts each		55
<u>Sectionals (Mandatory)</u>			
Weekly (scheduled by director)	5 pts		50
<u>Working Concession Stand</u>			
Working – must work 2	10pts each		10
Bonus Points: Cook Chili	5pts		5
<u>Band Booster BBQ Desert</u>			
Sell Minimum of 5 BBQ Tickets	5 pts		5
(may sell more for 1pt per ticket)			
Working BBQ or Desert	10pts		10
<u>Earn points from ONE of events:</u>			
Participation in All-Region Auditions	20pts/ 30pts	total of 50pts	
Participation in 5 State Honor Band	20pts		
Participation in Solo/Ensemble Contest	20pts	State 75pts and will carry over next year	
<u>The follow Point cannot be made up:</u>			
UIL Marching Contest	15pts		15
UIL Concert/ Sight-Reading Contest	15pts		15
Christmas Concert	15pts		15
Spring Concert	15 pts		15
<u>Required hours of practice:</u>			
Each individual member of the Band must have a minimum of 30 hrs of practice time.	They have from the start of summer band till May 11 to have the required hours complete.		
	Total points		220

Total

 Parent Signature

The 2017 Trip will require two years of band participation. Points will start over at zero in the Fall of 2015.

The Band must earn acceptable ratings at UIL Contests for Marching and for Concert and Sight Reading. A trip will be taken regardless of points, but the ratings will determine the location of the trip for 2015.

Rating System:

Division I: The Band is eligible to go on a trip that could include out of state such as Denver or Branson.

Division II: The Band will go on a trip only in Texas.

Division III: The Band will go a one day trip (Lubbock or Amarillo)