

# Robert E. Lee High School Band

School Year 2018-2019



2018 UIL competition show

*“Dreams you Dare”*

2018-2019 band motto

*“Ganders Fly Strong”*

**ROBERT E. LEE  
BAND**

BAYTOWN, TX



# Student and Parent Handbook

An information source for the band

Procedures

Rules and regulations

Band member expectations

Robert E. Lee High School  
Band Handbook  
2018-2019

Welcome to the “famous” Robert E. Lee High School Band! The Gander Band has a very exciting year ahead of it! It is our sincere hope that the Gander Band offers each band member a chance to create long lasting friendships, to learn to respect those around them, and to feel a tremendous sense of pride as you achieve what is considered by many as the most challenging activity a young person can take on. The band directors are very excited about the new school year and all the things you will achieve as Robert E. Lee High School Band.

By accepting membership in the Gander Band, you are agreeing to perform to the best of your ability and to work together with the band staff in making this year’s band the finest musical organization that our combined efforts can produce.

The Robert E. Lee marching band has a proud tradition of excellence at contest throughout the region. We owe this success to hard working students and very supportive parents! This is a very exciting time for us as a band and we hope it is for you as well.

Although we do not anticipate any problems with attitude and behavior, you must know that the policies included in this handbook will be followed and enforced. Policies are the backbone of a first class and well-run organization. Please take time to sit down as a family and read through this handbook together.

We fully expect to have a wonderful year of music and history making at Lee High School. We will do all we can to bring the vast world of music to you and share with you our love of music.

Sincerely,

***Robert Poulin***

Band Director

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***Cassie Smith***

Band Director

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## **Mission Statement**

*“Pursuing excellence one band member at a time”*

The band directors and staff of the Robert E. Lee High School Band are committed to strive for excellence in everything we do. Students will be challenged to improve their musical skills, interpersonal skills, and discipline skills continuously. Variety is the color of our band. We embrace this as an opportunity to learn that people are all the same once committed to a common goal.

All students will be appropriately challenged based on their current level of ability and skill, and we will continue to raise the bar every time goals are reached and improvements have been made. Through dedicated practice and commitment to the band program, students will learn that hard work and self-discipline release their true reward only when one refuses to quit.

### **What you will learn in the REL Band**

*The lessons no one else will teach you!*

#### Music lessons

- How to play your instrument at a high level
- How to handle performance anxiety
- How to read music
- Music history
- Music theory
- To gain an appreciation of all styles of music from all parts of the world
- To become a music patron for life

#### Life lessons

- Leadership skills
- How to handle different personalities
- How to handle large/difficult tasks
- How small details lead to big successes
- How to be a team player
- The value of commitment
- The value of perseverance
- Conflict resolution
- How to manage your time effectively
- How to balance various activities

## **Band Motto**

### *“Ganders Fly Strong”*

Every day is a chance to make a difference for each other in the band. Each new day means new opportunities to affect the world around us in a very meaningful and positive way. No matter what happened yesterday, we control the choices we make today. As long as we keep our goals in mind and focus on one another, there is nothing we cannot accomplish.

### **Mr. P’s Teaching Philosophy**

To be a winner you must do your best in the small details. Leadership comes from within; not from outside prompts. A person that takes pride in doing the small things to the best of his or her ability will earn credit in his peers’ eyes as a serious individual who can be trusted with important tasks and responsibilities. I believe this to be true in all aspects of life including school and band. Anything can be accomplished with the right attitude and work ethic. To be a winner in my eyes is not to finish first at a contest or tournament, but is to always strive to be the best in everything you do. The person who can do this will constantly improve their skills and abilities and therefore, will always be a winner.

One of my former teachers and mentors said it best, “Winning means nothing, but trying to win means everything”. Original credit for this phrase goes to Hall of Fame football coach Vince Lombardi. If you can truly understand this phrase, you will understand the true nature of competition and realize that everything we do in the world is competitive. We should not shield students from this truth but help them realize it, and teach them how to use competition to their advantage. The true meaning of competition is to measure yourself against another (person or group) in the simultaneous pursuit of excellence.

# Grades

Grades in band are designed to be simple to understand and easy to achieve. They are designed to help students understand the concept of “small steps to big dreams”. Each step is easy to achieve. By combining several small steps together, you can achieve great things. Under the mantra of “you cannot learn if you are not there”, most of the grading policies have a lot to do with attendance. The rest are small assignments over long periods of time. All grades are calculated weekly.

## **Marching Season (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 6-weeks)**

Marching band grades will be determined by combining rehearsals, after school rehearsals, and pass-off percentage on show music.

**Conduct Grades:** 10% of six weeks grade

- 2 Preparation for Rehearsals: Students have all materials for in class rehearsals (pencil, music, blue book, tuner and clip, etc.) as well as materials for marching rehearsals (flip folder, water jug, rehearsal attire, etc). Daily rehearsals are only as effective as the student’s level of preparation.
- 2 Behavior in Rehearsals: Students are expected to follow the rules of the classroom and marching field. Students who cause interferences to the learning process (i.e. talking during rehearsal, refusing to follow instructions, etc.) will lose points toward their conduct grade.

*Physical component for rehearsals during marching season only:*

Any grade less than 100 in this area will be accompanied by level appropriate physical activity in the form of running, push-ups, or planks.

**Non Major Grades:** 35% of six weeks grade

1. Attendance: Required of all students for all rehearsals and performances.
2. Music Pass-offs: Required of all students for performance in the marching band. Pass-offs can be redone until high proficiency is achieved. Pass-offs will be done using Charms. Use the pass-off sheet you received from your section leader. This includes band level pass-offs.

**Major Grades:** 55% of six weeks grade

All performances are considered “exams” for the band program where the only way to make a 100 is to be there and the only way to make a 0 is to be absent. For marching season, this includes all football games and contests.

Students involved in REL activities such as athletics, cheerleading, celebrities, etc need to make sure to communicate in advance with all directors and coaches in order to avoid getting in trouble. Points will not be deducted from a student for a well-document tardy or absence due to another school activity

## **Concert Season (3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> 6-weeks)**

Concert band grades will be determined by combining rehearsals, attendance at sectionals, and pass-off percentage on UIL music (or other materials assigned).

**Conduct Grades:** 10% of six weeks grade

1. Preparation for Rehearsals: Students have all materials for in class rehearsals (pencil, music, blue book, tuner and clip, etc.). Daily rehearsals are only as effective as the student's level of preparation.
2. Behavior in Rehearsals: Students are expected to follow the rules of the classroom and marching field. Students who cause interferences to the learning process (i.e. talking during rehearsal, refusing to follow instructions, etc.) will lose points toward their conduct grade.

**Non Major Grades:** 35% of six weeks grade

1. Attendance: Sectionals occur once per week after school and are required of all students according to their own specific band schedules. Full band rehearsals occur after school as needed according to the band schedule. All scheduled rehearsals are mandatory.
2. Music Pass-offs: Required of all students for performance in the marching band. Pass-offs can be redone until high proficiency is achieved. Pass-offs will be done using Charms. This includes band level pass-offs.

**Major Grades:** 55% of six weeks grade

All performances are considered "exams" for the band program where the only way to make a 100 is to be there and the only way to make a 0 is to be absent.

### **Exams (Major Grades) = ALL PERFORMANCES!**

Concerts and marching band performances are used as major exams in the band program.

Concerts are part of the TEA curriculum and considered an integral part of the learning process. We also believe that participation in all the activities of the marching band serve a much broader goal than just grades and state graduation requirements.

We believe that they serve as a tool for students to learn the value of commitment, teamwork, long-term goal setting, short term goal setting, conflict resolution, dealing with various personalities, and the list goes on and on. All of these are part of an outstanding education that cannot be had anywhere else in school.

All the values taught in the band program at Lee HS are the proven values held by community and business leaders across the country. Bill Gates has stated many times that he always tries to hire band students in his company because they have learned all these lessons already and will be valuable members of his team.

#### Included but not limited are:

All event on the calendar at the start of the season

All event agreed upon by the group (ie jazz band, winterguard, drumline, etc)

All events required by the principal or other school authority

All events added to the calendar with at least 30 days notice by the band staff

# Absences

We expect everyone to do all they can to be in attendance at every event scheduled for the band. For my part, I promise to do all I can to avoid last minute changes, and keep to the posted schedule as much as possible. Understanding that things do change and conflicts do arise, we have devised the following attendance policy. It is designed to be as simple as possible so that you can understand what the expectations and consequences are for each level of absence.

Above all, clear communication is the key to resolving most conflicts! Please call me as soon as possible when you find a conflict with the schedule.

## **Excused absences from rehearsals**

- School sponsored activity: sports, UIL events
- Personal illness: full-day absence excused by the school, return to school with a doctor's note
- Family illness that requires your presence, return to school with a parent note
- 

*Good example:* (Monday morning) "Mr. P we have a baseball game at 7:00pm on Thursday, so I do not think I will be able to come to the special session we have that night. Is there anything I can work on ahead of time so I will not be behind?"

*Bad example:* (Friday morning) "What do you mean I got a zero for that rehearsal? I was at baseball, what do you want me to do about it? It's not my fault".

While having another performance/game is certainly an excused absence, one example demonstrates a level of proactiveness that shows you respect the other person enough to let them know ahead of time. The other demonstrates a carelessness that borders on offensive and leads the band directors to believe you have no respect for them or the other kids in the band program. That is not good on a team as large as a band. We need all our people on board and pulling in the same direction.

## **Unexcused absences from rehearsals**

- "I have to work"
- "I didn't have a ride"
- Routine doctors and dentists appointments (go to those on Wednesdays)
- All other activities that are not school sponsored such as club sports, social events, etc.

In these cases, I cannot excuse absences because if we do for one, we must do for all. The band will provide a schedule of events very early. If you have work conflicts, it is likely because you did not give your band schedule to your boss well in advance. The schedule is posted right now! If you have car trouble, call us and tell us what's going on! We all go to the same school because we live in the same neighborhoods so there is always someone who lives near you coming to school. There is no need for every parent to take every child to every event. Get to know each other and carpool.



### **Case-by-case absences from rehearsals**

- Church events: School organizations try very hard to not conflict with the traditional church times and days. However, church events are sometimes scheduled at an “unusual” time and day. Please discuss the event with the band directors well in advance so we can see if there is an available compromise.

I often get the impression that many students and families expect me to be OK with an absence because it is for church. There are many churches in this area and we have many of our students involved in a vast array of different churches. It is not possible for me to avoid the schedules and habits of all the various churches. I understand this very much as I am a church musician myself. You and your child have made a commitment to the music program in your school and all the kids depend on each other to get this incredible activity to work. I cannot excuse church activities if they do not fall in the “traditional” days and times.

- Sickness: Sickness happens, a lot! I am extremely aware of that myself as per my own experiences. All I ask is that if the student is sick, let us know and let us know when to expect him/her back at school.

If a family member is sick and this requires a trip out of town consider the following please. Is this a life-threatening situation? Can the student actually do anything to help improve the condition of the sick person? If not, please consider leaving them with a friend or family member so they can continue to be productive in school and for the band program.

- Appointments: Doctor, Dentist, etc...

We prefer that you schedule these during the student’s band class in the school day over marching band after school. I realize that some doctors and dentists have very limited times for appointments. We have set aside Wednesday afternoon as a free afternoon in the marching band schedule so that you can get these things done. If a student misses for a doctor/dentist appointment it will affect your child’s marching status and grade for that week. As always, if there is an unavoidable conflict, please call a few days ahead of time so that we can work together to resolve the conflict.

When a student’s absences are deemed excessive by the directors, the student’s standing as a member of the Robert E. Lee Band will be re-evaluated.

## **Absences from a Performance**

Marching band events and concert band events are to be treated as major exam grades in the eyes of all concerned.

It is our expectation that no one will be absent from a performance at Lee HS. Performances are unique events that cannot be made up. They are part of the experience of being in high school band and must be considered required for all participants. Sickness and family emergencies do occur and are part of life. I understand that fully. Call me and let me know what's going on with you and why you are not at the event for the band.

*Good example:* Mr. P this is Johnny's mom. We are in the car to Dallas because my father was in an accident and is injured badly. We should be back in town in 2 days; I will call you or come by to see you to let you know when to expect Johnny back at school.

*Bad example:* Mr. P: "Where were you last night for the concert?" Jessica:"I had a hair appointment" (trust me...it has happened...that's why I use it as an example here)

In the case of the good example, there will be no consequences for the child in terms of grades or standing in the band program. As I said before life has a way of ruining our plans sometimes! But in the case of the bad example, that child will be removed from the performing ensemble (either the marching band or concert band) until an understanding and a discipline plan can be drawn up between the band director and the parents, and the child will get a zero for that particular event added to her grade which will significantly impact her overall grade.

If a student is absent from any performance for a reason other than illness or an emergency the student's standing as a member of the Lee Band will be re-evaluated. This also applies to "honor" band rehearsals and performances such as All-Region and UIL Solo & Ensemble contest.

With only a limited amount of time daily to practice, we need everyone in attendance at every rehearsal. A marching band ultimately succeeds or fails because of a single member. There are no benchwarmers, substitutes, or timeouts. A marching band performance requires 100% from all members at all times! With someone absent next to him or her in the drill, it is impossible for a student to practice correct spacing awareness, alignment, and pitch matching of the music, precision and continuity.

It's not about, "But I know my music"!

It is our belief that because the full-year calendar is published prior to the school year, you and your family have all the information you need to avoid all conflicts. We ask for a minimum of 1 week prior notice for any conflict.

# General Information

## **Robert E. Lee High School Band**

1809 Market St  
Baytown, TX 77520  
Front Office 281-420-4535  
Band Office 281-420-4535 x251  
www.thefamousroberteleeband.com

Email is the best way to contact a director. There is voicemail attached to our phones but time is limited to return calls

## **How to stay on top of things**

Charms website: charmsoffice.com (for help on this get a handout from the directors)  
Select "enter"  
Choose student / parent area  
Type in "leehsband" to access the general area and calendar

Robert Poulin 817-683-3711 (cell) 281-420-4535 x80490 (sch) Robert.poulin@gccisd.net  
Cassie Smith 918-346-8532 (cell) 281-420-4535 x80492 (sch) Cassandra.smith@gccisd.net  
Stefan Ice 405-535-9979 (cell) 281-420-4535 x80491 (sch) Stefan.ice@gccisd.net

## **Care of the Band Hall and Facilities**

We have an older facility here at Lee HS. It is everyone's responsibility to keep the band hall clean. As we grow in numbers, the room can feel smaller if it gets cluttered. Keep the chairs and music stands in their place. When you use a practice room or large ensemble room, rack and stack when finished as to accommodate the next group. Only use the stereo, SmartMusic computers, or other equipment with director permission.

Every student will be issued an instrument locker and is expected to keep a combination lock on it at all times. Your directors will not be very understanding of the complaint "someone took my stuff" if you do not keep it in your locker and locked up. All instrument cases need to be put into their lockers with the cases closed even while your instrument is in use.

Please no eating food, drinking sodas, or chewing gum in the band hall, ensemble rooms, or practice rooms. If you need to keep food for a break during camp, it may be kept in the locker provided it is in a sealed container. There are to be no fast food bags or drinks that cannot be securely re-closed. Any food or drink found outside a locker will be immediately thrown out.

The directors' office is private and students should always knock before entering. Although we will usually wave you in right away, from time to time we may have private conferences or conversations happening. In these cases, you will need to come back at a later time.

# **Band member Code of Conduct**

It is expected that band students show a high standard of self-discipline and self-control. Failure of any student to behave in such a manner causes a breakdown in the overall quality of work done by all students. Each student will be expected to demonstrate the following:

## **Participate fully and correctly**

This means be on time (in fact be a little early), make sure you have your instrument, music folder, lyre, pencil, and any other material needed. It also means dress appropriately for rehearsal.

## **Be in full uniform in public**

- When in public, we all look the same at all times
- Uniforms must always be hung up after each use
- Show everyone we are in this together, and for each other

## **Show respect and pride for yourself, your band mates, your band, and your school**

- Watch how you act around the public and how you react to people
- What you say and your body language says a lot about you

## **Ganders fly strong!**

- We are all in this together and we win or lose together
- Support and help your band mates
- Never say an unkind word about a fellow band mate
- Defend your band mates when needed
- Treat each other with care and esteem

All students are expected to follow all school rules and policies as outlined by the Lee HS Student Handbook in addition to the guidelines in the director's discipline and management plan at all times. Students who consistently demonstrate improper conduct will be asked to drop the class at the semester. Band is an activity that requires a great work ethic and good self-discipline from each of its members. We expect greatness in the smallest details, for it is in the care of the smallest details that we find the confidence to take on big projects.

## **Discipline Management Plan Behavior Expectations**

1. Be punctual to all planned rehearsals, concerts, or meeting times with all required materials.
2. Be positive in your daily attitude toward others while presenting a good example for all to follow.
3. Be respectful of directors, student leaders, and all student peers.
4. Be respectful of the room by keeping your voice level low and refraining from horseplay.
5. Be responsible for your own discipline and prescribed duties.
6. Be consistent, fair, and cooperative at all times.
7. Always show pride in the Gander Band, your instrument, instrument storage space, band hall, etc., by keeping it clean and orderly.
8. Follow the directors' instructions at all times.
9. Treat every other student in a kind and respectful manner.
10. Adhere to all rehearsal expectations.

## **Unwanted Behavior Consequences**

All unwanted behavior will be dealt with according to our Discipline Policy laid out in Addendum V.

## **Chain of Command**

With a large group, it is easy to find information quickly. When you ever have questions or issues, many times one of your peers can answer your question for you. If the upperclassman can't answer your question, see your section leader. Keep going up the chain of command until someone can answer it for you.

Upperclassman in your section  
Section Leader or Marching Assistant  
Drum Major  
Guard or Percussion Instructor  
Assistant Director  
Head Band Director

## **Student managers (crew chiefs)**

The Lee band operates with student leaders in charge of various areas of the program. This is intended to help those students who wish to gain experience in leadership and management, and also to lessen the load on the band directors who need to do the things only they can do such as prepare for rehearsals.

These areas of non-teaching leadership are uniforms, band hall (quartermaster), music library, and loading crew. Each of these areas has a chief elected by the band students for a one-year term. These chiefs then organize a crew and manage all areas of their responsibility to the program. I highly encourage all those who think they may want to explore management for a career to consider running for one of these jobs within the band program.

## **Band Fees**

There are fees required to participate in the various aspects of our band program. All students are required to pay the General Band Fee, Band Booster Fee, and Gloves. Band rehearsal shirts and marching shoes are required for freshman only; however they may be purchased by upperclassmen if needed. The band jacket is completely optional. The Equipment and Usage Fee only applies to students who are in Colorguard, Percussion, and those who use a school owned instrument.

General Band Fee - \$50  
Band Booster Fee - \$30  
Band Rehearsal Shirts - 3 for \$25-35 (when needed)  
Gloves - 3 for \$7.50  
Marching Shoes - \$40 (when needed)  
Band Jacket - \$35 (optional)  
Equipment Rental and Usage Fee - \$30  
Winterguard - \$100  
Indoor Drumline - \$200

## **Payments Made to the Band**

Please pay by check or money order made out to "Robert E. Lee Band." Place the money in the provided envelope, seal it, and fill out all appropriate information. If you do not include your name and what the money should be applied towards, we will not be able to credit your account. This means you may not get credit for a payment. Receipts are available in charms (print it if needed). You may view your fees and payments online by accessing the Charms website at [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com).

**It is REQUIRED that you put your driver's license number on all checks!**

### **Private Lessons**

The single most important factor in the development of a superior band program is the development of each individual player. There are many opportunities in the area for student musicians to study privately with professional teachers on the various instruments. Lessons are thirty minutes, once a week. Private lesson teachers provide the extra help to students that band directors cannot always give to due to time constraints.

Private lessons should be thought of like an investment in your musical education. Everyone benefits from your enrollment in a lesson program. All students need to seriously consider this wonderful opportunity! In order to achieve our goals of excellence, we hope to have everyone in the private lesson program. See a band director for enrollment information.

### **Individual Contests and Competitions**

All band members will be required to prepare for the All-Region and UIL Solo & Ensemble contests. Actual participation will depend on the students' readiness to compete. Our educational philosophy is that our success as a band depends on the students' individual success; therefore individual contests will be greatly emphasized. We believe if the students work hard and play their instrument at a high level, the band will succeed.

All qualified students will be expected to participate in the All-Region auditions as official representatives of the Robert E. Lee HS band. They will be given extra credit for doing so and will suffer the same consequences as skipping any other band event if they do not participate.

### **Travel**

GCCISD sets travel policies that we are required to follow. All band students are to ride the bus to all band events (football games, contests, etc.) and back to the school. Students will be clearly informed of the exact schedule for each trip taken with the band. This information will also be available to all parents and guardians on our website.

For very special situations when the student absolutely must ride with a parent, please contact the band directors in advance to arrange for a proper transfer of responsibility. Please understand that we will not make exceptions without prior arrangements.

Only personal MP3 players with headphones will be permitted on buses. Please understand that you bring these items at your own risk and we cannot be held responsible for loss or theft. No food or drinks will be permitted on the buses at any time. Special permission can be given to students who need to have food or drink for medical or religious reasons. Please communicate this with a director before the event.

### **Insuring Your Instrument**

Please check with your home or auto insurance company regarding the coverage of your instrument. Many homeowner's policies cover musical instruments. If the instrument is rented from a music store, check with them regarding coverage at home and school. Do not leave instruments at school overnight, you need them to practice on SmartMusic anyways! Lee High School and the Goose Creek Independent School District are not responsible for personal instruments which are stolen or damaged while on school property.

### **School-Owned Instruments**

The GCCISD Rental Fee for school-owned instruments is \$30 for the entire school year (percussionists all need to pay this fee). Regular wear and tear on GCCISD instruments will be covered by the school. All other damage, including accidents such as dropping or stepping on the instrument, or theft of the instrument will be your responsibility as detailed in the rental agreement. Dents are not considered by the school as normal wear and tear. If you need to take a school owned instrument to the shop, tell a director first then after you pick up the instrument bring back the repair tag detailing the work done for our records.

### **Band Booster Association**

Parents, you are a band booster member! It takes a great deal of parent and volunteer support to maintain a band program of this size and quality. The Robert E, Lee Band Booster Association is a not-for-profit organization whose sole function is to support the REL Gander Band.

General meetings are held on the second Tuesday evening of each month at 6:00pm in the band hall. Check the CHARMS calendar for specific dates and times. Executive meetings typically take place ½ hour before the general meeting. Additional executive meetings can take place at any time for special circumstances.

Volunteers to serve as chaperones, booster club officers, committee members, and special events workers are always needed. We need everyone's help! We sincerely hope you get involved in your child's school activities.

# Marching Season – an overview

The primary role of marching season at Lee High School is to provide a well-rounded competitive experience in the marching music art form. It will also provide valuable halftime entertainment for football games. The philosophy of the band program at Lee HS is to provide the students with a complete musical education. Marching band is an important part of this education as it teaches teamwork, self-discipline, hard work, and selflessness as well as all the musical benefits for the students. The marching band is one of the main support groups at Lee High School that assists in raising the spirits and enthusiasm of the entire school. We are the largest spirit organization for our school and are proud of that role during marching season.

Marching band is a vital part of the student's educational experience in high school band. For this reason and many more, marching band is a required part of the band program at Lee High School. Students who participate in marching band are given a waiver so that they do not have to have PE credits.

## **Marching Band Rehearsal Expectations**

<u>Rehearsal Schedule:</u>	Is posted in charms online for ease of access.
<u>Dress code:</u>	Band rehearsal shirt, with shorts, socks and athletic shoes. Sunglasses and hats are highly recommended!
<u>Supplies required:</u>	Instrument, music, flip folder, drill card, 2-liter water jug

During actual rehearsals you are expected to behave professionally and work as hard as you can to achieve as much as you can. In order to accomplish as much as possible:

- Only directors, drum majors, and section leaders may talk during practice.
- Do not move around during instruction periods—stand at “check” position.
- Be prepared for every rehearsal; have your drill card, flip-folder, and water jug!
- Be in band dress code.
- Do not use your cell phone during rehearsal (leave it in your locker)
- If you disagree with something, see the band directors at a break or after rehearsal, do not talk back during practice.

There are physical consequences for not following the above expectations. Specific consequences are listed in Addendum V.

**\*\*\* See Addendum III at the back of this handbook for a personal accountability rubric for all band members. Also included is a simple rubric for marching fundamental expectations for all members. \*\*\***

## **Pep rally Expectations (or other such “spirit” event)**

<u>Dress code:</u>	Band maroon shirt, with shorts or jeans, socks and athletic shoes.
<u>Sequence:</u>	Come to the band hall as quickly as possible and sit in the “block” Do not play or make noise. Wait for instructions



### **Practice like a Champion at all times!**

When you practice like a champion, this attitude becomes you and you start to do everything like a champion. Your whole attitude changes and you become more successful than you ever thought possible. Regardless of scores or rankings at festivals and contests, a champion's attitude is never deterred and defeated but always steadfast and strong. Go for it, Ganders! Some say that perfect practice makes perfect. I do not believe this to be true since perfection is but an unattainable goal. I submit to you that consistent practice makes consistent performances, which is exactly what we look for in a good band member: consistency!

### **Shadow Management**

For the purpose of the marching show it is necessary to have students who share spots called shadows. As shadows for the 2018 show, we will use all capable (skilled enough to handle the expectations) and eligible students. Both students who are sharing a spot (shadowing) will be responsible for learning the drill. Each spot will be evaluated before performances to determine which shadow will march in the upcoming performance (football game or competition). This evaluation will be based on marching and music ability as well as grades and behavior. The student who has the higher evaluation will march during the performance. In the event that one person loses their spot (for any reason), the other student sharing the spot will be expected to march full time.

### **Alternates**

Students who do not earn a spot in the show and are not chosen to become shadows will be known as alternates and will spend a lot of time with a staff member whose purpose is to help these students learn the necessary skills to become first a shadow, and eventually a regular marcher.

### **Losing Your Spot in the Show**

Assuming everyone understands the reason for this system (to gain attendance consistency from the regular members), here is how marchers will lose their spots for a period of time (or in some cases permanently):

1. Absences
  - a. If you miss 2 rehearsals (including being excessively tardy)
  - b. If you miss 1 performance (football game or competition)

Communicate! In some cases, the staff can excuse an absence for a very good reason if we know in advance and are able to work on the problem to try to work out a compromise.

2. Behavior or Eligibility
  - a. If you become ineligible due to failing grades
  - b. If behavior becomes a consistent issue

### **Regaining Your Spot**

This is for students who lose their spot due to poor behavior, absences, or eligibility. The challenge would consist of proving, either by grades or behavior (which ever was the cause for the student to lose the spot in the first place), that they have improved as well as demonstrate that they can march the spot better.

Students may challenge ONCE per season (i.e. if you lose your spot twice, sorry bud.)

# Uniforms

Our uniforms are NEW TOP QUALITY uniforms. They are designed to last a long time, but will not resist abuse. Please understand that you are responsible for any damage beyond regular wear and tear. We expect all students to treat their uniforms with the utmost care and respect. Jackets and pants will be “Febrezed” weekly, and will be dry-cleaned every few weeks. Do not ever machine wash your uniform; the machine will destroy it. Your white gloves can be washed at home following each performance (so that you do not have to keep buying new ones). Uniforms are to be stored on the racks in the band hall, and hung up at all times when not being worn. When transporting a uniform, it must be in a garment bag!

## Uniform Replacement Cost \$350.00

Jacket \$175

Bibber Pants \$100

Hat \$50

Garment Bag \$25

## **Uniformity**

The very nature of the word “uniform” means that all members look the same without any discrepancies or variants. Uniforms are to be worn only at band events and never on your own.

All members are expected to wear the entire uniform, buttoned, and correctly worn whenever in public unless otherwise directed to do so by a band director or drum major. No jewelry will be worn with the uniform. The entire uniform also includes black MTX marching shoes; black socks, and issued black gloves. The current show shirt and lightweight shorts should be worn underneath the uniform. If the band is allowed to change out of the uniform (i.e. after a prelims performances), hang up the uniform carefully and put on your band shirt.

Alterations will be made at the time of check-out by parent volunteers who are seamstresses and will take care of making sure the uniform fits perfectly. Please do not have alterations made on your own and please do not cut material off the uniforms for any reason.

## **Holding Your Hat When Not Worn**

When carrying your hat, place it facing forward in the palm of your left hand. When sitting, your hat will be placed on your left on the seat next to you facing forward.

## **Inspections**

You are expected to wear your entire uniform for review by your section leader prior to each performance. The section leader will also check for your flip folder and lyre. Your instrument should be in perfect playing condition (working slides, oiled valves, greased keys, clean and shiny, etc). You cannot contribute to the band if your instrument is not in good playing condition. You will be expected to fix any issues you have (missing music, etc) before considered passing for inspection and allowed to perform.

# **Football Games**

## **Dress Code**

- \* All students are to wear their entire uniform at all times (except hats)
- \* In certain situations, the staff may opt to remove part or all of the uniform
- \* If a student is not in dress code, they will not be allowed to perform
  - They will stand on the sideline near the “pit” as a consequence for being out of code

## **Care of equipment**

There is a great potential for damage to expensive personal and school instruments while in the stands. Do not leave your instrument unattended. Do not lay your instrument down or give it to someone else to hold. To help avoid any accidental damage you will be expected to stay in your own seat throughout the game. Damages due to a lack of care on your part will be charged to you (or more accurately, your parents).

## **Playing in the stands**

We will play as often as possible in the stands as we support the football team and generate school spirit. There should be no individual playing in the stands. We are a band; we all play together, not as individuals. We expect every member of the band to have his/her own flip-folder, lyre, and all the necessary music for performances in the stands. All students are expected to play to the best of their ability while in the stands. This means always playing with good fundamental sounds. Watch the drum major or conductor at all times and play the very best you can for the “ticket-holding” patrons of the game who support you and the football team.

## **Marching Band Contests**

The band will compete in several marching band contests/festivals this year. Please make sure to refer to the website calendar for a list of important marching events. UIL Marching Contest is the culmination point of our competitive season for marching band. You will be expected to act in a manner that will bring positive light onto yourself, the band, and the school at all times. All school rules apply when we are on the road at a contest or festival. Students should make smart choices at all times.

The schedule for the day will be announced and published in advance. Plan accordingly and pay close attention to non-uniform dress (show shirt, shorts). Also, you will be able to plan carefully for meals or any extra money for souvenirs.

# Concert Season

Although the marching season seems long, it only makes up one-quarter of the year in the band program. The rest of the time is concert season. A lot of attention is placed on individual skill and achievement. The basic philosophy of the band directors is that good band students make good bands. A student that plays well individually will play well in the band. During this time students will prepare for All-Region contest, perform a holiday concert in December, prepare for Solo & Ensemble UIL contest, perform in the GCCISD pre-UIL judged concert, compete at Concert & Sight-reading UIL contest, travel and perform on our spring trip, and perform a spring concert in May.

## **Band Placement**

The band directors will constantly evaluate all students throughout the year. Every school year offers two opportunities for students to move up in band placement. A series of playing challenges in the fall set the springtime UIL bands. At the end of the year, students are moved up based on their current band and chair placement to fill-in spots left vacant by graduating seniors.

Wind Ensemble - 5A UIL Varsity group

Symphonic Band - 5A UIL non-varsity group

Concert Band – 5A Sub-non-Varsity group (“concert only” ensemble, does not compete)

## **Three-Strikes Rule**

All the bands are ability-based and membership is based on auditions, grades, and attitude. We understand that sometimes good students will struggle with a class and fail it. In accordance with the Texas “No pass-No Play” rule, we must carefully observe low grade patterns for participation in contest events. We have instituted the 3 strikes rule (meaning a student can fail twice without being moved down) to allow students a chance to redeem themselves. Just like in marching band, a concert ensemble relies heavily on the individual being successful.

## **Rehearsals**

Regular rehearsals take place in class during the school day but extra rehearsals are often necessary to accomplish all the goals set for the students. A schedule of extra practices and sectionals will be posted in the band hall and on the website well in advance to avoid conflicts. These extra rehearsals will be in the form of weekly sectionals, individual pass-offs, and clinics. Refer to the syllabus provided by the concert ensemble director for more specific information.

## **Daily Supplies**

Each student will need to have all the basic band supplies with them everyday. These supplies include their instrument, pencil, valve oil, extra reeds, mutes, other needed accessories, all music, and great rehearsal etiquette. If your instrument needs to go to the shop for repair, we will require a written notice from your parents to that effect. Refer to the syllabus provided by the concert ensemble director for more specific information. Failure to have all necessary supplies will result in poor grades.

# Addendum I

## UIL Marching Band Statement of Compliance with 8-hour Practice Rule

Required practice for marching band and all of its components, outside of the academic school day cannot exceed eight hours per calendar week (Sunday through Saturday).

Examples of activities subject to the UIL Marching Band Eight Hour Rule:

1. Rehearsals (full band and components)
2. Group instructional activity
3. Breaks
4. Announcements
5. Debriefing and viewing marching band videos
6. Playing off music
7. Sectionals (both director and student led)
8. Clinics

In addition, on performance days (football games and competitions), the amount of practice and warm-up cannot exceed one hour (excluding the scheduled warm-up at the contest site). Multiple performances on the same day do not allow for additional practice and/or warm-up time.

The following activities are not included in the eight hour time allotment:

1. Travel time to and from rehearsals and/or performances
2. Rehearsal set-up time
3. Pep rallies, parades, and other public performances
4. Voluntary practice for individual activities other than marching band such as All Region/Area/State try-outs and Solo and Ensemble preparation.

Directors are responsible for the observance of these regulations. Directors in violation will be subject to penalty in accordance with the UIL penalty structure applicable to all UIL activities.

NOTE: An extensive Q&A for the Eight Hour Rule for Marching Band can be found on the music page of the UIL website at: [www.uil.utexas.edu](http://www.uil.utexas.edu).

***On the next page of this handbook you will be asked to acknowledge reading this addendum and to return it to the band directors.***

# Addendum II

## Band Membership Agreement 2018-2019

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

After reading the band handbook, I understand the policies of the band directors and agree to adhere to them to the best of my ability.

I further understand that I will be held accountable for the information in this handbook in cases where conflicts arise with band activities; not reading the handbook will not be accepted as an excuse. I am also aware of the fees associated with participating in the band program and I agree to pay them in full.

I understand that a successful band is made up of committed students who are willing to work together with the band staff toward common goals. I also understand that the sole purpose of these rules is to ensure a great experience for all members of the Robert E. Lee HS Band and that adherence to these rules will allow greater learning to take place.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name

\*\*\*\*\*

(do not cut this form – return in its entirety)

“We have read and understand the Eight-Hour Rule for Marching Band as stated in Addendum I of this handbook. We agree to abide by these regulations and understand our responsibility to report any violations to the school authorities.”

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

Please turn in this form to a band director immediately

## Addendum III

### R.E.L. Band Member Personal Accountability Rubric

<u>Area of accountability</u>	<u>Exemplary</u>	<u>Acceptable</u>	<u>Unacceptable</u>
<b><i>Attendance</i></b>			
at rehearsals and at performances	Perfect attendance. Does whatever is necessary to be on time. Communicates schedule to family to ensure family activities can be planned around commitments to the band. Communicate legitimate need to miss rehearsal well in advance. In the event of an emergency or unexpected problem this member immediately contacts staff and section leaders. Utilizes charms online calendar without being reminded.	Near perfect attendance with one or two lapses. Communicates legitimate need to miss rehearsal, but not within the prescribed time frame. Family events may conflict due to lack of communication on the part of this member. Uses Charms online calendar after being reminded.	Inconsistent in attendance. Does not communicate regarding absences either before or after they occur unless staff contacts them. Family events may conflict due to lack of communication on the part of this member. Does not make use of the Charms online calendar.
<b><i>Musicianship</i></b>			
at rehearsals and at performances	Works hard to improve individual musicianship and to ensure the musical success of the ensemble. Makes the most of every rep, giving their best mental and physical effort each and every time they play their instrument whether during daily drills or working on music. Plays off music the first time, everytime. Inspires their peers to perform better by their example.	Usually works hard to improve individual musicianship and to ensure the musical success of the ensemble, though may sometimes bring off the field concerns to band. Makes the most of nearly every rep, giving their best mental and physical effort most of the time they play their instruments whether during daily drills or working on music. Plays off music the first time, most of the time and always before the due date.	Expends minimal effort when playing in rehearsal. May allow off the field issues to be an excuse for a lack of concentration and effort. Rarely is fully invested either in daily drills or music rehearsal. Frequently plays off music late or not at all. Usually refuses individual help if offered.
<b><i>Marching</i></b>			
at rehearsals and at performances	Works hard to improve all areas of marching fundamentals and performance. All areas of basic marching basics are handled in a strong and confident manner at all times (foot speed, foot technique, horn angle, upper body, weight control). All areas of marching drill are handled in a confident manner at all times (interval control, form control, form development). Works hard to be the visual example for all their peers.	Works hard to improve all areas of marching fundamentals and performance. All area of basic marching basics are handled in a strong and confident manner with only small weaknesses during moments of heightened demand (foot speed, foot technique, horn angle, upper body, weight control). All areas of marching drill are handled in a confident manner most of the time (interval control, form control, form development).	Expends minimal effort when marching in rehearsal. Basic marching skills are lacking control and accuracy in one or more areas. May allow off the field issues to be an excuse for a lack of concentration and effort. Rarely is fully invested either in marching fundamentals or drill rehearsal. Usually refuses individual help if offered.

<u>Area of accountability</u>	<u>Exemplary</u>	<u>Acceptable</u>	<u>Unacceptable</u>
<b><i>Enthusiasm</i></b>			
at rehearsals and at performances	Always enthusiastic even when having a bad day. Shows respect and concern for others by trying to lift their spirits. Encourages those having a bad day. Hustles between sets or between rehearsal segments to provide additional time for reps or music or drill. Make others glad to be an REL band member by their energetic demeanor.	Generally enthusiastic even when having a bad day with occasional exceptions. Shows respect and concern for others by trying to lift their spirits most of the time. May encourage those having a bad day. Frequently hustles between sets of rehearsal segments to provide additional time for reps of music or drill. At times makes others glad to be REL band members by their energetic demeanor.	Rarely if ever enthusiastic. May pull others down through their negative or lethargic persona. Is frequently the last to arrive at sets or to a given rehearsal block. Often makes others not want to be around them.
<b><i>Cooperation</i></b>			
at rehearsals and at performances	Keeps the mission of the collective group in the front of their mind at all times. Works positively and actively to resolve any disagreements whether personal or performance related. Seeks to understand all points of view before forming an opinion. Is able to agree to disagree without being disagreeable.	Usually keeps the mission of the collective group in the front of their mind with some exceptions. Works positively and actively to resolve any disagreements whether personal or performance related, the vast majority of the time. Usually seeks to understand all points of view before forming an opinion. Is able to agree to disagree without being disagreeable and will usually choose to do so.	Uncooperative. Expects to have their needs met by others. Values being right more than being cooperative or happy. Makes others wonder why they are participating in a group activity unless it is simply to make others miserable.
<b><i>Professionalism</i></b>			
at rehearsals	Has all equipment necessary to fully participate in rehearsal. Frequently has required materials thoroughly prepared for rehearsals. Is attentive and responsive to instruction / correction. Is positive in their interaction with everyone they encounter.	Has all equipment necessary to fully participate in rehearsal most of the time. Is almost always attentive and responsive to instruction / correction. Is positive in their interaction with everyone they encounter the vast majority of the time.	Frequently does not have all of the necessary equipment to be a positive difference maker in rehearsal. Rarely aware of instruction or correction much less responsive to it. Is often a distraction to those around them and causes others to lose focus (talking / horseplay). Displays a lack of commitment to the good of the organization.
at performances	Only wears complete uniform when in public. Uniform is clean and pressed. Instrument is clean and polished. Is alert and ready to respond. Plays with their best sound at all times. Responds immediately when it is time to play. Is fully aware at all times of conversation topics while in uniform.	Does not always wear full uniform in public. Uniform is clean. Instrument is clean but not always polished. Is usually alert and ready to respond. Does not always play with their best sound. Responds quickly (not first, but not last) when it is time to play. Is usually aware of conversation topics while in uniform.	Is often seen in public in partial uniform. Uniform may be dirty or wrinkled. Instrument is frequently dirty. Is unaware or unconcerned about how they sound. May or may not respond when it is time to play. Is not aware of conversation topics while in uniform and often contributes in an inappropriate manner.
"off the field"	Remembers that they are an ambassador / representative of REL. Avoids any action that could bring embarrassment to the band or to the school.	Remembers that they are an ambassador / representative of REL. Avoids any action that could bring embarrassment to the band or to the school.	Behavior suggests a lack of concern for (or ignorance of) the fact that they represent the band at REL even on their own time.



# R.E.L. Band Marching Skills Rubric

<u>Area of accountability</u>	<u>Level 3</u> Exceeds the requirements	<u>Level 2</u> Meets the requirements	<u>Level 1</u> Does not meet the requirements
<b><i>Basic fundamental skills</i></b>			
<p>Body position, horn angle, instrument up and down, tempo control, Intervallic control, step-size control, starts and stops</p>	<p>Is in control of all basic areas of marching fundamentals at all times. Can easily start and stop appropriately. Can control and adjust interval spacing on the move very rapidly. Can control fast and slow horns up and down demands. Is in control of foot-fall speed between 90 and 150 without any problems. Understands and controls basic body positioning with the proper weight distribution and foot placement.</p>	<p>Is in control of all basic areas of marching fundamentals at all times except extreme tempos or extremely challenging movement requirements. Can easily start and stop correctly. Can usually control and sometimes adjust interval spacing on the move but not consistently. Can control fast and slow horns up and down demands. Is in control of foot-fall speed between 90 and 150 without any problems. Understands and controls basic body positioning with the proper weight distribution and foot placement.</p>	<p>Demonstrates difficulties mastering at least one of the basic areas of marching skills. This creates a domino effect since marching demands "stack" on top of each other and without proper control of the body for basic fundamentals, marching success is not achievable.</p>
<b><i>Intermediate fundamental skills</i></b>			
<p>Body control, foot technique, prep-step techniques, tempo control, step-size control</p>	<p>Is in control of basic foot technique for all basic formation marching. Understands and demonstrates outstanding prep-step technique for all change of direction movement. Is in control of foot-fall speed between 75 and 170 without any problems. Is able to easily control upper body during backwards and slide step marching.</p>	<p>Is in control of basic foot technique for all basic formation marching. Understands and demonstrates proper prep-step technique for all change of direction movement. Is in control of foot-fall speed between 75 and 170 without any problems. Is able to easily control upper body during backwards and slide step marching except during extremely challenging moments in the drill.</p>	<p>Is not in control of basic foot technique for all basic formation. At least one area is lacking in control. Is not able to control foot-fall speed at this intermediate level. Is not able to control upper body and retain basic skill level during backward and slide step marching.</p>
<b><i>Advanced fundamental skills</i></b>			
<p>Basic body moves, spins, spacial awareness, tempo control</p>	<p>Demonstrates strong control over basic body movements as to not deter from overall performance while engaging in secondary visual movements (ie. dance moves, special horn effects, etc). Can control body weight distribution during complex spin moves and retain basic fundamental quality. Is aware at all times of all performers all around and maintains proper distance without any problems. Is in control of foot-fall speed between 60 and 200 without any problems.</p>	<p>Demonstrates adequate control over basic body movements as to not deter from overall performance while engaging in secondary visual movements (ie. dance moves, special horn effects, etc). Can control body weight distribution during complex spin moves and retain basic fundamental quality except during extremely challenging moments in the show. Is aware at all times of all performers all around and maintains proper distance without any problems except during moments of extreme demand. Is in control of foot-fall speed between 60 and 200 without any problems except during periods of extended demand.</p>	<p>Cannot demonstrate control over basic body movements. The addition of any secondary demands on this performer creates major lapses in lower level fundamental control. Is not able to control body weight distribution during any kind of spin movement. Cannot control foot-fall speed between the lower and/or high tempo levels.</p>

# Addendum IV

<b>REL Band Honor Points System</b>		
total points required for lettering = 200		
Students accumulate points from 8 areas of involvement in the band program. Points are added in charts by directors but use this form to track your progress		
Student Name	Total Points earned:	
<b>Area 1                      Marching Band</b>		
1.1	Attend all summer band rehearsals	10
1.2	Attend all after school rehearsals during marching season (1.2 or 1.3, not both)	15
1.3	Attend all after school rehearsals with 2 or less excused absences (1.2 or 1.3, not both)	7
1.4	Perform in the varsity marching band at all events scheduled	12
1.5	Finish the season without any discipline demerits (1.5 or 1.6, not both)	12
1.6	Finish the season with less than 5 discipline demerits (1.5 or 1.6, not both)	5
<b>Area 2                      UIL Concert Season</b>		
2.1	Attend all after school sectionals and pass-offs	6
2.2	Successfully pass-off all UIL contest music - Smart music	6
2.3	Finish the UIL season without any discipline demerits	6
<b>Area 3                      Individual Competition</b>		
3.1	Earn a chair and perform in the All-Region Band	100
3.2	Earn a position in the All-Area Band (State qualifying contest)	150
3.3	Earn a chair and perform in the Texas All-State Band or Orchestra or Jazz Band	200
<b>Area 4                      UIL Solo &amp; Ensemble</b>		
4.1	Perform a solo at UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest (yes, just be there and play)	3
4.2	Perform in an Ensemble at UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest	2
4.3	Receive a First Division rating on a class 1 solo	40
4.4	Receive a First Division rating on a class 2 solo	20
4.5	Receive a First Division rating on a class 3 solo	10
4.6	Receive a First Division rating on a class 1 ensemble	20
4.7	Receive a First Division rating on a class 2 ensemble	10
4.8	Qualify for and perform a solo at the Texas State S & E Contest (yes, just be there and play)	25
4.9	Receive a First Division rating at the Texas State S & E Contest	100
<b>Area 5                      Leadership</b>		
5.1	Successfully complete the leadership training class (attend all classes)	10
5.2	Serve in the position of Teaching Assistant / Drumline or Colorguard lieutenant	25
5.3	Serve in the position of Section Leader	50
5.4	Serve in the position of Drum Major	100
5.5	Serve in the position of Band President (or vice-president)	60
<b>Area 6                      Service to the Band Program</b>		
6.1	Serve as Band Librarian	50
6.2	Serve as a Library Crew member (help consistently through the year)	20
6.3	Serve as Band Uniform Chief	50
6.4	Serve as Uniform Crew member (help consistently through the year)	20
6.5	Serve as Loading Crew Chief	50
6.6	Serve as a Loading Crew member (help consistently through the year)	20
6.7	Serve as a Director's Teacher Aide (needs to be an aide class - seniors only)	25
<b>Area 7                      Musical Performance</b>		
7.1	Submit a recording for all Smartmusic homework assignments (points awarded each 6-weeks)	2
7.2	Achieve a passing grade for all Freshman level assignments	10
7.3	Achieve a passing grade for all Sophomore level assignments	12
7.4	Achieve a passing grade for all Junior level assignments	15
7.5	Achieve a passing grade for all Senior level assignments	20
7.6	Earn a chair in the Symphonic band (points earned per semester)	5
<b>Area 8                      Winterguard / Winter Drumline Participation</b>		
8.1	Attend all after school rehearsals during the competition season (8.1 or 8.2, not both)	10
8.2	Perform at all scheduled events in the competitive season	25
<b>Area 9                      Jazz Band Participation</b>		
9.1	Attend all rehearsals and performance for Jazz Band (points given per event)	4

## **Addendum V**

### **Marching Band Discipline Plan**

There are specific physical consequences for unwanted behavior in marching band:

1. Late to rehearsal - 1 lap to be run immediately upon arriving to the field before joining in with rehearsal
2. Not wearing the appropriate rehearsal clothes - 1 lap to be run before or after rehearsal on the day of it occurs.
3. Talking, moving around, refusing to follow instructions, using your cell phone during rehearsal, etc. - 5, 10, or 15 push-ups (The number of push-ups increases for each it happens during one rehearsal)

We will employ a “Three Strikes” rule: Three infractions will result in a conference with a director to develop a plan for improvement and additional consequences if necessary. Each infraction will also result in a ten point deduction from the students’ conduct grade for the week.