

Frankston ISD Mighty Indian Band



Student & Parent Handbook

Directors:

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Band Philosophy

Being a member goes well beyond learning how to play an instrument. The band program aims to instill life skills such as: resilience, organization, dedication, integrity, leadership, and pride developing students into productive members of society.

Grading Policy

Grades are calculated by averaging daily grades (40%) and test grades (60%) across a nine-week grading system. Some examples of grades include:

- **Daily Grades (40%):** Having all rehearsal materials (instrument, binder, pencil, etc.), turning in signed letters, student progress/participation, and rehearsal/sectional attendance.
- **Test Grades (60%):** Playing objectives, chair tests, and performance attendance.

Note: Failing to attend a rehearsal, sectional, or performance results in a zero unless a director is notified prior to the absence.

Attendance Policy & Required Calendar Events

Every spot in the band is critical; when you are missing, the entire ensemble suffers. Attendance at all scheduled rehearsals and performances is mandatory and factored heavily into grades.

- **The Band Calendar:** A complete schedule of games, competitions, and concerts is provided at the start of the year. Parents and students must sync family and work calendars with these dates.
- **Mandatory Events:** All football games, UIL marching/concert contests, and seasonal concerts are strict performance requirements. Clear communication with employers, coaches, and families must happen in advance.
- **Excused Absences:** To be excused, a parent must provide a written note/email/text before the absence (except for sudden emergencies). Other excused absences are, a personal medical illness (with doctor/nurse note), sudden family emergencies, and pre-approved school conflicts where performances take precedence over practices.
- **Unexcused Absences:** Includes work shifts, transportation issues (oversleeping/missing rides), routine appointments (doctor, dentist, hair), un-planned homework, and outside non-school activities.
- **Consequences:** A missed rehearsal results in a zero for the day and potential performance benching. A missed performance results in an automatic zero for a major grade, a parent conference, and potential removal from the ensemble.
- **Calendar Modifications:** While directors strive to keep dates locked, they are always subject to change. The director will communicate any changes in a timely manner.

Note: If a sudden emergency happens, a parent must communicate with the Band Director in a timely manner. "I didn't check the calendar" is never an excuse.

Band Expectations: The Mighty Indian Way

We don't just build musicians; we build leaders. To maintain the pride and integrity of our program, all members are expected to live by the Three R's:

- **Respect:** Listen immediately when a director, drum major, or section leader speaks. Lift your peers up. Bullying or gossip results in immediate disciplinary action. Treat school instruments, uniforms, and facilities with absolute care. Leave every place you visit better than you found it.
 - **Responsibility:** Be early (5 minutes before downbeat). Bring your instrument, binder, and pencil to every rehearsal. Own your part by practicing at home so rehearsal can be used for blending and making music.
 - **Representation:** Act with dignity and represent our program with pride and integrity. Cheer for our team in the stands, never against opponents or referees. Keep your online footprint clean and positive regarding the program. We do not talk negatively of our band program or any others.
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Trip & Travel Expectations

Whenever the Mighty Indian Band leaves campus, we are the public face of our school and community. We travel with class, discipline, and pride.

- **Bus Etiquette & Safety:** All students must ride the bus to and from away events (parents must sign out students in person to change this). You are responsible for loading your own instrument. Keep noise reasonable and clean all trash.
 - **Public Behavior & Performance Sites:** Leave every stadium, bus, and restaurant cleaner than you found it, and leave every audience impressed by your behavior. Treat host schools, stadium staff, and contest judges with the utmost respect.
 - **Luggage & Electronics:** All bags and cases are subject to inspection at any time. Headphones must be used for all electronic devices; no external speakers are allowed.
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Band Hall Rules & Facility Expectations

The band hall is a place of business, artistry, and community. To maintain a safe and productive environment, all students must adhere to the facility rules.

- **Food & Drink:** No food, gum, or drinks (except bottled water) are permitted in the band or auditorium facilities.
- **Off-Limit Areas:** The directors' office, music library, uniform storage, and practice rooms are strictly off-limits to students without explicit permission.
- **Before/After school Practice:** Students are allowed to come to the band hall before and after school, however they must have a ride that will **promptly** pick them up once the band hall closes. The band hall is a safe place to practice and work, not to socialize.

Note: Utilizing the band hall is a privilege. Failure to clean up after yourself or violating facility policies will result in a loss of morning or after school access.

Uniform & Dress Code

How we look is just as important as how we sound. We wear our uniform with pride and always represent ourselves in a professional manner.

- **Marching Season Uniform:** School-issued jacket, bibber trousers, black marching shoes, black calf length socks, gauntlets, and hats worn over the official band t-shirt and athletic shorts. Layer properly for cold weather.
- **Concert Season Uniform ("Concert Black"):** Solid black, long-sleeved dress shirt/blouse with solid black full-length trousers/slacks and solid black dress shoes.
- **Hair & Jewelry:** Hair must be tucked completely up into the shako (If applicable) so it does not touch the collar. No visible jewelry, watches, or facial piercings are allowed while in uniform.

Note: If any part of your uniform is missing, or incorrect on game day or concert night, you may be benched from the performance, which will directly impact your grade.

Instrument & Equipment Maintenance

Each band member bears the responsibility of maintaining their instrument in pristine, performance-ready condition.

- **Daily Maintenance:** Brass musicians are expected to care for their valves and slides. Woodwind performers must swab their instrument after each use so that the pads do not become damaged.
- **School-Owned Property:** Anyone using a district-provided instrument must complete an instrument check out form. Students assume complete financial liability for repairs needed due to carelessness.
- **Storage:** Equipment must remain securely in its case while being stored in the band hall. Under no circumstances should items be left on floors, in hallways, or left in vehicles overnight.

Audition Requirements & Readmission Policy

The Mighty Indian Band requires a full-year commitment. Active membership depends on meeting performance standards.

- **New Student Auditions:** Every incoming musician will participate in an audition to evaluate their skill level and ensure proper ensemble placement.
- **Returning Student Readmission:** Rejoining the program after a prior departure is never guaranteed. Reinstatement remains entirely at the discretion of the Head Band Director.
- **Audition Requirement:** If allowed to return, the student must pass an audition before being placed in a performance ensemble.

Note: Commitment, accountability, and respect for the ensemble are mandatory. Students who left due to disciplinary issues or unexcused absences face a significantly higher standard for readmission.

Membership Guidelines & Eligibility Requirements

To preserve active membership and earn the right to compete, all students must maintain academic eligibility and maintain high conduct standards.

- **Pre-Participation Physicals:** Pursuant to UIL regulations, every marching ensemble student must submit a valid, fully completed health screening form. This documentation must be on file prior to setting foot on the practice grid or participating in any outside drill sessions.
- **Academic Standing (No Pass, No Play):** Due to UIL guidelines, students are required to maintain passing marks in every class at the conclusion of each grading cycle to participate in extracurricular travel and performances.
- **Equipment & Rehearsal Readiness:** Musicians must keep all personal or district-owned gear in pristine condition, maintain perfect attendance at required rehearsals, and clear all routine playing or chair evaluations to secure their position in the marching block.
- **Campus Conduct Standards:** Ensemble members must demonstrate exemplary behavior throughout the entire school campus. Frequent disciplinary referrals, ISS or DAEP assignments, or persistent behavioral issues can lead to dismissal from the program.

Note: Students who become academically ineligible are still obligated to attend regular band classes, scheduled sectionals, and mandatory rehearsals. A failing grade never releases a student from their basic course expectations.

Student Leadership Positions & Roles

Student leaders are the backbone of the ensemble. They are held to a higher behavioral and academic standard and must model the "Mighty Indian Way" at all times.

- **Role Expectations:** Lead by example. Student leaders are expected to be the first to arrive and the last to leave, attend **all** rehearsals, assist directors with logistics, field execution, teaching music, and maintain section morale by lending a helping hand with positive attitudes.
- **Authority Limits:** Student leaders assist rehearsals and help peers, but they **do not** issue disciplinary actions, grades, or changes to the music/drill without director approval.
- **Selection Process:** Positions are appointed annually by the directors based on a formal application, academic eligibility, peer evaluations, and an interview or audition.

Note: Leadership is a responsibility, not a title. Any student leader who fails to maintain academic eligibility or violates campus conduct guidelines is subject to being removed from leadership.

Trip & Travel Eligibility & Discipline Policy

Attending out-of-town trips, overnight events, competitions, and performance travel with the Mighty Indian Band is a privilege, not a guarantee. Because student safety and trust are paramount while representing our school away from campus, students must maintain exemplary character and behavior throughout the school year.

Disqualifying Behavior & Offenses:

A student may be deemed ineligible to participate in any band trip or off-campus travel for major disciplinary infractions, including but not limited to:

- **Substance & Vaping Violations:** Any possession, use, or distribution of vapes, e-cigarettes, tobacco, alcohol, or illicit substances.
- **Theft & Property Damage:** Stealing, unauthorized handling, or intentional destruction of school, student, or venue property.
- **Violence & Bullying:** Physical violence, threats, harassment, severe verbal abuse, or acts of physical intimidation against peers, staff, or others.
- **Major Discipline & Loss of Trust:** Any serious infraction resulting in Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) assignment, or campus suspension.

Director & Administration Discretion: Any behavior that signals a student cannot be trusted to follow safety rules, respect authority, or positively represent the band program will result in immediate forfeiture of trip privileges. Final decisions regarding trip eligibility rest solely with the Head Band Director and school administration.

Note: Trips and travel fees paid prior to a disqualifying disciplinary event may be non-refundable depending on third-party vendor policies.

Field Crew Policy

To ensure our marching show is always competitive and prepared, some members may be designated as field crew. Field crew status is a dynamic position, **not** a permanent placement.

- **Role & Responsibilities:** The field crew are members of the Mighty Indian Band. They must attend all rehearsals, learn the music and drill, and be ready to step into a performance spot at a moment's notice.
- **Earning a Spot:** Performance blocks are fluid. Field crew can earn a permanent spot on the field through perfect attendance, great work ethic, passing playing tests, and showing strong marching skills.
- **Replacing a Performer:** A primary marcher may lose their spot to an alternate due to unexcused absences, academic ineligibility, poor behavior, or failure to pass playing tests.
- **Game Day Duties:** The field crew travels to all games and contests in full uniform. When not on the field, they assist with essential field logistics, prop management, and sideline support.

Note: Every single field crew member is critical to the band's competitive success. We perform at our best only when our field crew works as hard as everyone else.

Letter Jacket Awards

Letter jackets are awarded to students who achieve elite musical milestones or demonstrate long-term dedication to the program. High school students (**9th grade and up**) will earn a letter jacket by meeting one of the following three accomplishments:

- **Three-Year Service Milestone:** Fulfilling three complete years of active participation within the marching ensemble.
- **All-Region Band Selection:** Successfully auditioning and earning a designated seat as a member of the ATSSB High School All-Region ensemble.
- **Solo & Ensemble Achievement:** Receive a Superior (Division 1) rating while performing a Class 1 solo during UIL Solo and Ensemble competition.

Note: Meeting the requirements guarantees the award, but students must remain in good behavioral and academic standing at the time of the award to receive their jacket. Final distribution is subject to director approval.

Parental Help & Booster Organization

Our program flourishes through the dedication and active participation of our band families. Parents have numerous opportunities to vitally support our students.

- **Band Booster Membership:** We strongly urge all parents and guardians to become members of our Booster club. This organization coordinates regular meetings to map out fundraising campaigns, coordinate special events, and provide essential resources for the ensemble.
- **Volunteer Roles:** The band frequently requires parental assistance for chaperoning travel, handling band trailers, managing field props, and staffing the stadium concession stands.
- **Support at Home:** The most straightforward contribution begins at home. Reinforce regular individual practice, assist your student in managing their scheduling obligations, and guarantee their punctual arrival ahead of designated call times.

Note: Operating a high level band program requires collective community effort. Your visible engagement and ongoing encouragement demonstrate to our student musicians that the community deeply appreciates their immense dedication.

Director Discretion & Amendment Policy

The policies in this handbook provide an operational framework, but cannot anticipate every scenario.

- **Final Authority:** The Head Band Director retains complete final authority over all decisions, policy interpretations, eligibility adjustments, and performance selections.
- **Policy Amendments:** Directors reserve the right to modify or add policies at any time to ensure ensemble safety and integrity, with timely notification provided to families.

Note: Everything concerning the operation, scheduling, and membership status of the band is ultimately up to the discretion of the Band Director(s).

Handbook Acknowledgement & Signature Page

Both the student and parent/guardian must sign and return this page to a band director. This form must be turned in by the designated deadline to count as a daily grade.

- **Student Compliance:** By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received, read, and fully understand the policies, rules, and expectations outlined in the Mighty Indian Band Handbook. I agree to abide by these rules at all times.
- **Parent Support:** By signing below, I acknowledge that I have reviewed this handbook with my student. I understand the grading criteria, required calendar dates, attendance rules, and the final authority of the director's discretion.

Student Name (Printed): _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Contact Number: _____ **Email:** _____

Alternate Contact Number: _____

★ **Reviewing and Turning in this page is mandatory and will count as the first *TEST GRADE* of the first Nine Weeks.**