

ALVORD HIGH SCHOOL BAND

“The Pride of Alvord”



HANDBOOK

2025 - 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents.....	2
Welcome.....	3
Performing Groups.....	3
General Classroom Policies.....	4
Attendance.....	4
Punctuality.....	5
Drugs, Alcohol, etc.....	5
Grading Policy.....	5
Football Games.....	6
Uniforms.....	6
Drum Majors.....	7
Color Guard.....	7
Loading/Unloading Crew.....	8
Bus Procedures.....	8
Letter Jackets.....	9
Signature Page	10
Medical Form.....	11

Alvord High School Bulldog Band **HANDBOOK**

Welcome to the Bulldog Band! We are looking forward to a productive and exciting year! Every successful organization has a set of rules that it must follow. If it does not, it is likely success will not be forthcoming. The following rules and regulations apply to **EVERYONE** in band and are simply to ensure that the AHS Band remains one of the best bands in Texas.

Read the handbook carefully and refer to it frequently in order to understand how the band program operates. Please be sure to sign and return all forms no later than August 18, 2025. All forms must be turned in before students may participate in football games and other performances. We are looking forward to working with you this year. Please contact us if you have any questions. Thank you for your support.

AHS BAND

The Alvord High School Band is a competing organization, offered as part of the curriculum of Alvord High School. Band is a full-year course. There are currently no audition requirements to be a member of the band.

Please remember, that in signing up for band, you are making a commitment to contribute to the organization. You are expected to follow through on your commitment.

Performing Groups

There are several performing groups that fall under the heading of the Alvord High School Band Program. All of these groups strive for excellence in what they do. All instrumental members of the concert band must participate in the marching band.

Marching Band – This band performs at all football games, pep rallies, various marching festivals and/or contests, and community events. This is the most visible ensemble within the Alvord Band Program. There are different components that make up the marching band, including the drum major(s), wind section, drum line, and percussion front ensemble (or pit). Marching band is also a physical activity. In the fall semester, marching band counts as a “P.E. Credit” and thus a physical is required.

Concert Band – This is the performing ensemble that meets in the spring semester. This ensemble performs at least two concerts per year (Christmas and Spring) and competes at various festivals and/or contests in the spring semester.

Various Ensemble Groups – Aside from marching band and concert band, the AHS Bulldog Band also has many other opportunities for students to participate. UIL Solo and Ensemble provides each student to perform individually or with a small group. Examples include Brass and Percussion Ensembles. ATSSB All-Region is another opportunity in which students vie for a chance to perform which students from all over the region which opportunities for advancement.

General Classroom Policies

1. Behavior that interferes with what we are trying to accomplish will not be tolerated. Talking is not allowed when it interferes with your responsibility or interferes with another person's responsibility to the music or show. The director tries to give adequate time for socializing before and after rehearsals. Wait until then.
2. Gum is **NEVER** allowed. It is not possible to play your instrument as well as you should with gum in your mouth. The sugars and acids in gum will ruin your instrument. Place gum **IN THE TRASH CAN** before class begins.
3. Do not touch property or instruments of others. **This includes all percussion equipment.** If you are seen touching it, you become responsible for anything that might happen to it later.
4. **ALWAYS** have the equipment necessary to fulfill your responsibility. That includes instrument, music, pencil, etc.
5. You may do homework in band **ONLY** when told to bring something to study. Any other time is inappropriate.

Attendance

Because band relies so heavily on participation, attendance is key at all rehearsals and performances, not only during school, but also out of school as well. In most academic courses, an absence hurts only the individual; in band however, it affects the entire group. Absences and tardiness for any reason other than true emergencies or due to another prearranged school activity will not be acceptable. If a student is chosen as drum major and has one unexcused or unacceptable absence or tardy for a practice or performance, they may be removed from their position at the discretion of the band director. All band members are expected to participate and perform in all band activities. Students with conflicts in other school activities that are occurring at the same time as the band activity will need to notify the band director 4-5 days in advance.

Punctuality

Students should strive to be prompt to all rehearsals and performances. By arriving at least ten minutes early, that enables the student to not feel rushed and gather all materials needed to perform. If a student is not ready to begin with all the proper materials at the proper time, that student is then tardy, as in any other academic course.

Drugs, Alcohol, etc.

The use of illicit drugs or alcohol by members of the Alvord High School Band will not be tolerated. The following rules will be in effect:

1. Before boarding any school transportation for an overnight trip, the student should expect to have his/her luggage, cooler, uniform bag, instrument case, coats, and bags inspected before boarding.
2. Any student attempting to take drugs or alcohol onto school transportation will be left in Alvord and reported to the proper authorities.
3. Any instances of drug or alcohol use discovered during a trip may be handled by the school administration, **AND/OR** law enforcement.
4. Possession of any of these items while representing the band will result in **IMMEDIATE** removal from the program. If the group is in another city at the time, the student will be sent home by whatever means are available. Expenses will be the responsibility of the parent. Other penalties will likely follow, in accordance with school policy and state law.

Grading Policy

Grades of students in instrumental music classes are based on participation and skill development. The following are areas that students are subject to be graded on.

PARTICIPATION

How the student attends rehearsals and performances, and etiquette on dress, behavior and promptness.

How the student shows interest and desire to learn in class.

How the student shows respect for instructors, peers, and self.

How the student enters and leaves the band hall.

How the student maintains his / her instrument, learning materials, and storage area.

SKILL

How the student progresses on his / her instrument (tests).

How the student contributes to the ensemble in skill and attitude, as evidenced in performance and behavior.

Do not expect a high grade in band if there is a deficiency in any of the above areas. Any student with a reasonable work ethic and a willingness to respect rules and authority will succeed in band, regardless of talent and or aptitude. Any student lacking in respect or a good work ethic will not succeed in band, regardless of talent and or aptitude. Chair placement procedures are at the discretion of the Director of Bands.

Football Games

1. All band students are required to remain in their section at all designated times throughout the football game.
2. Students will be dismissed for one quarter (3rd quarter) to go to the concession stand, however they are expected back in their seats ready to play as soon as the quarter is over. Roll will be checked beginning at 1 minute prior to the end of the quarter.
3. Absolutely **NO FOOD OR DRINK** is allowed in the stands. You are allowed to go to the concession stand during 3rd quarter. In some instances, water may be provided during the first two quarters.
4. **ONLY** members of the AHS BULLDOG BAND and band director(s) are allowed in the band section during football games. You have time to socialize during 3rd quarter.
5. Remember that you are representing not only yourselves, but also your school and your community. In all things – playing, marching, supporting the football team, we will strive for excellence.

Uniforms

The school will furnish a performance uniform, except for summer uniforms, for each of the band members and the drum major(s). The students will furnish all other uniforms, shirts, etc. Band members must furnish their own band shoes and high-top **black** socks. The shoe style will be black shoes, which the students may order from the band director(s). Shoes must be the exact same style unless otherwise approved by the band director(s).

All uniforms, shirts, etc. that are identifiable as representing the band must be approved by the band director(s). All uniforms will be worn in the manner prescribed by the band director(s). The director(s) will decide upon all accessories including socks, jackets, plumes, etc. Bright colored nail polish or lipstick (make-up), hair bows, flashy jewelry, etc. will not be acceptable when in uniform.

All uniforms will be kept in the band hall storage area. Uniforms may be checked out for special activities such as pictures, etc. by making arrangements with the band director(s). Students should notify the director of any problems with their uniforms (dirty, buttons missing, torn, etc.) The uniforms will be cleaned periodically during the year. All measures should be taken to keep the uniform clean and pressed.

Any misuse of the uniforms may result in the forfeiture of the student's rights to wear the uniform and/or the forfeiture of the student's position in the performing unit.

All members will also be required to purchase the official AHS BULLDOG BAND Shirt for that year. Our summer uniform will be our band shirt, khaki shorts, and tennis shoes.

Drum Majors/Leaders

Drum Major(s) will be selected through an audition process. In order to be selected for drum major, a student must have completed their sophomore, junior, or senior years in band, show excellent marching ability, be proficient at his/her instrument, must be in good standing academically, and must have a clean discipline record. Should the selected drum major(s) fail to maintain their GPA standing, or discipline issues arise, this could be cause for **immediate removal from this position. Removal is subject to the student code of conduct and this handbook and is at the discretion of the director.**

This is a very important leadership position and students in this position will be held to a high standard. Drum majors are expected to be early to ALL rehearsals and performances. This type of leadership is a reflection of the entire band.

Other Student leadership positions will also be held to this high standard and will be selected through a selection process. Positions listed include section leaders, loading crew leader, uniform manager, and librarian. Other positions may be added as needed.

Color guard

Color Guard members will be selected through an audition process. In order to be selected for color guard, a student must show excellent marching ability, be proficient at his/her instrument, must be in good standing academically, and must have a clean discipline record. Should the selected color guard fail to maintain their GPA standing, or discipline issues arise, this could be cause for **immediate removal from this position. A Color Guard WILL ONLY be selected and fielded if the number of winds in the band exceed forty (40).**

Loading/Unloading Crew

Two student leaders will supervise the loading crew, made up of 4 to 5 other students. While there is a loading crew in place, remember that it is EACH STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY to make sure that their personal instrument and uniform is in the proper place in order to be loaded by the loading crew.

Unloading after a game/trip is the responsibility of EVERYONE. The faster equipment is unloaded and back in the band hall; the sooner students can be dismissed. The consequence for “ducking” this responsibility will be assignment to the loading crew for a period of weeks.

Bus Procedures

Many times, throughout the school year, the AHS BULLDOG BAND travels out of town to several different events. Moving a large ensemble, uniforms, and equipment is no easy task. To make things run smoothly, and prevent accidentally leaving a student, we will be following these simple guidelines.

1. Stay in your seat while the bus is moving. This is **STATE LAW**, and failure to follow it can result in serious injury.
 2. Obscene language/music is not permitted.
 3. There are no limits on personal stereos with headphones, so long as the student understands they must leave them on the bus at events and are not secure.
 4. **Everyone** is responsible for cleaning the trash out of the busses.
 5. For legal reasons, students who are non-band members may not ride the bus without parent or legal guardian written permission, as well as consent of the director **AND** principal.
 6. In keeping with school rules, **ALL BAND MEMBERS MUST RIDE ON THE BUS TO AND FROM AN EVENT**. Any exceptions must be approved by the director and principal.
 7. In the event that you must ride home apart from the group, you may ride back from an event with someone else, provided:
 - a. Your PARENT or LEGAL GUARDIAN signs you out. (Please note this does not say boyfriend/girlfriend, brother/sister) OR
 - b. The parent signing you out is that of another BAND PARENT and the director has received
 - ** WRITTEN permission from both parents
 - ** VERBAL permission from both parents, BEFORE we leave Alvord.
- We do not have time to hold the bus, while you try and chase down a parent on a cellular phone.

Other situations must be approved by the director **AND** principal.

LETTER JACKETS

Letter jackets will be awarded at the discretion of the band directors. In addition to being a consistent and reliable member of the band program, students must accumulate 200 points by achieving any of the following:

<u>Letter Jacket Point System</u>	
Each Semester of Band Participation	25 points
Make All Region	25 points
Make All State	50 points
Make a 1 on Class 1	50 points
Make a 1 on Class 2	25 points
Earn a 1 at Region Marching	25 points
Earn a Sweepstakes	25 points

If the band advances to the state marching band competition or the state honor band competition letterman jackets may also be awarded at the discretion of the band director.

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Detach This Page and Return to the Band Director

**ALVORD BULLDOG BAND HANDBOOK
STUDENT AND PARENT SIGNATURES**

2025 - 2026

This is to certify that I have received and read the attached policies regarding the Alvord Bulldog Band, including use of school owned uniforms, instruments and equipment, student conduct, expectations, leadership, letter jackets, and attendance.

Date: _____

Parent Name Print: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Student Name Print: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Alvord Band Emergency Medical Release Form 2025 – 2026

Please complete each section thoroughly, sign and date.

A new form must be completed each school year and is required for all trips

Student's Name: _____ Sex M F

Birthdate: _____ Age: _____ 2025 – 2026 Grade Level _____
MM/DD/YYYY

Mother's Name: _____ **Home Phone:** _____

Work number: _____ **Cell number:** _____

Father's Name: _____ **Home Phone:** _____

Work number: _____ **Cell number:** _____

Allergies: Does your child have any allergies to food, medications, insects, etc? Y N

If YES, please explain _____

Does your child require an Epinephrine Pen for this allergy? Y N

Health Conditions: Has your child, currently or in the past, been diagnosed with any of the following? (Circle all that apply)

Asthma Epilepsy Vision/Hearing Problems Heart Problems

Frequent Migraine Headaches Diabetes Attention Deficit – Hyperactivity

Chronic Ear Infection

If YES, please explain _____

List any other health condition(s) not listed _____

List any medication(s) currently taken by your child _____

Name of Child's Physician _____ Physician phone _____

Name of Medical Insurance Carrier _____ Policy No. _____

If, in the judgment of the band director(s) or their representatives of the Alvord I.S.D. the student named above needs immediate care and treatment as a result of any injury or sickness, I do hereby request, authorize and consent to such care and treatment as may be given to said student by any medical personnel or school representative. I do hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless The Alvord I.S.D. and any school representative from any claim by any person whomsoever on account of such care and treatment of said student.

Signature of
Parent/Guardian_____ **Date**_____