

Guidelines for the Use of Social Media

Texas City High School Sting Band supports and encourages the rights of individuals to free speech. However, students should be concerned with any behavior that might embarrass themselves, their families, their teams, their community and /or Texas City High School. This includes any activities conducted online through social networking sites (i.e. Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram. podcasting, blog sites, You Tube, Twitter, or chat rooms among others).

Participation in band at Texas City High School is a privilege, not a right. As a band student at Texas City High School, you are a representative of the school and the community, and as such, you are always in the public eye. This fact places certain additional demands upon how you must live your life. Keep the following guidelines in mind as you participate in any public media:

1. Before participating in any online community, understand that anything posted online is available to anyone in the world. Any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online, even if you limit access to your site.
2. You are not to post information, photos, or other items that could embarrass you, your family, your team, the Sting Band or TCISD. This includes items that may be posted on your page by others.
3. You should not post your address, phone numbers, birth date, or other personal information. You could be opening yourself up to predators or stalkers.
4. Exercise caution as to what information you post on your website about your whereabouts or plans. This will help prevent stalkers or other criminally minded individuals from gaining access to you.
5. Be aware of who you add as a friend to your site. Many people are looking to take advantage of students or seek connection with students to give them a sense of membership on a team.
6. TCISD can and will monitor these websites. Disparaging remarks about classmates, teachers, or school officials can serve as grounds for suspension from competition or dismissal from teams, as well as possible legal ramifications.
7. Students will face disciplinary measures for violation of school policies, band department policies, district guidelines and /or state and federal laws. Any admissions of conduct in violation of any of these policies or laws found on a student's website will subject him or her to disciplinary measures. Any depictions of conduct in violation of any of these policies or laws found on a student's website will be subject to a full investigation.

Also keep in mind that local police or sheriff's offices or other law enforcement agencies may check these websites regularly.

Be aware that many employers and colleges also monitor these sites. Any information posted on these websites may prevent you from obtaining a job or prevent you from attending the college of your choice.

Name of Student _____
(Print First and Last)

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____