



# HANDBOOK

## 2023 – 2024

**\*\*\*The 2023-2024 Band Handbook is on-line. Please read and review BEFORE signing and returning the Texas City ISD Handbook Signature Page found at the end of the packet.**

Texas City High School Band  
1431 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N.  
Texas City, TX 77590  
[www.tchsstingband.weebly.com](http://www.tchsstingband.weebly.com)

## INTRODUCTION

**DISCLAIMER:** This handbook is a “living” document. The band directors and/or campus administration retain the authority to amend band policies if such action is deemed necessary to secure the interest of the overall band program.

The Texas City community recognizes the purpose of a well-rounded education is more than just reading, writing and arithmetic. An increasing emphasis is being placed on the arts and music. Band serves a most unique purpose in our lives and community.

The purpose of the Texas City High School Band is not only to serve the school and community through marching at football games and playing in concerts, thus providing entertainment and enhancing school and community spirit, but also to furnish the student with an invaluable experience. The disciplines of a good band develop coordination, cooperation, teamwork, and self-discipline to a degree not possible in academic subjects. The band is no haven for a lazy person. It demands and develops concentration so essential to success in any field of endeavor. In addition to the rewards from discipline and hard work, one also belongs to the Sting Band Family because it is fun! There is a genuine exhilaration in making music – both alone and combined with others. There is nothing like being part of a marching band, looking up and seeing thousands of expectant faces waiting for you to perform. There is nothing like working together to make a piece of music as the composer intended and performing for family and friends. There is nothing like working so diligently on a solo or your all-state music, and to be named one of the best musicians in the state of Texas! There are too many intangible rewards to list. Just know that you are in for a truly memorable experience.

Our hope is that you will take your love of music past high school and into your adult life – that you will always support the arts through your participation or attendance at live concerts. Maybe some of you will enjoy it so much you would like to share your love of music by teaching others. How fortunate that we have this time together to work hard for such a wonderful experience.

**Welcome to the Texas City High School Band Family!!!**

## FORWARD

**CONGRATULATIONS** on your decision to be part of the fine tradition of the **TEXAS CITY HIGH SCHOOL STING BAND!** This booklet is designed as a guide for both parents and students to give specific details concerning all aspects of the band program. For any further information, please feel free to call the Texas City High School Sting Band office at 409-916-0914. Please check the website for updates throughout the year at [www.tchsstingband.weebly.com](http://www.tchsstingband.weebly.com).

## BAND ORGANIZATIONS

Band is a full year course consisting of two distinct semesters or “seasons”. The fall semester is primarily considered the marching season while the spring semester is considered the concert season. The following is a brief description of the various groups that are associated with the Texas City High School band program:

### MARCHING BAND

Directors: Juan Ramos, Benjamin Guillotte, Michael Johnson, Jacob Baldwin,  
and Jared Angel

The Texas City High School Marching Band is made up of students from **all** concert bands. The Sting Band has a long history of great traditions, pride, and excellence. The Sting Band has had several notable performances including the Valero Alamo Bowl, the Main Street Parade in Disneyworld’s Magic Kingdom, as well as several trips to the UIL Area Marching Contest. The marching band performs at all TCHS pep rallies, TCHS varsity football games, and at marching contests and exhibitions. **Membership in the Marching Band is required of all band students.** The Marching Band rehearses from 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, and 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Thursday, on one of our practice fields. Marching Band students who fully participate in the Fall season are eligible to receive credit for physical education. (Maximum of 1.5 credits over 3 fall semesters)

### PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

There are several concert bands and numerous performing ensembles at Texas City High School. Students are placed in a concert band according to their playing ability, attitude, participation, classification, and instrumentation needs. Students may move from band to band as deemed necessary or appropriate. The concert bands provide for a wide range of playing abilities and time commitment. Team teaching provides students with the opportunity to experience full, band, sectionals, and individual attentions.

**WIND ENSEMBLE**  
Director: Juan Ramos

The Wind Ensemble is the varsity concert band at Texas City High School. This band performs college level literature and performs numerous concerts during the year. Wind Ensemble students are required to attend sectionals after school at least once each week. They are required to prepare and audition for Region Band and participate in the U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble Contest. Members of the Wind Ensemble are strongly encouraged to participate in the private lesson program. These students are very serious about improving their musical abilities; therefore, most of these students have invested in professional quality musical instruments. The Wind Ensemble performs at all major band department concerts and attends a major music festival each spring, competing against the best concert bands from across the state and the nation. This group will be comprised of students in grades 9 – 12.

**SYMPHONIC BAND**  
Directors: Michael Johnson

The Symphonic Band is the non-varsity concert band at Texas City High School. This band performs high school concert band literature. Symphonic Band students are required to attend sectionals outside of school each week. Students are highly encouraged to audition for the All-State Band and participate in U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble contests. Many Symphonic Band members have invested in a professional quality instrument and participate in the private lesson program. The Symphonic Band enters U.I.L. competitions each year and performs on all major band department concerts. The Symphonic Band serves many students as preparation for the Wind Ensemble. This group will be comprised of students in grades 9 – 12.

**JAZZ ENSEMBLE**  
Director: Juan Ramos

The Jazz Orchestra meets daily, during school. Currently, there are no auditions required to become a member of the Jazz Orchestra. However, that student **must also** be a member of the Marching Band/Concert Band for three years at Texas City HS to be a member of the Jazz Orchestra. The Jazz Orchestra will compete at several Jazz Festivals in the Spring as well as other community events. This group will be comprised of students in grades 9 – 12.

**MARIACHI RAYA**  
Directors: Benjamin Guillotte

Mariachi Raya meets daily, during school. Membership in Mariachi Raya is open to anyone with approval of the directors. Mariachi Raya competes yearly at the Region 17 UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest, the UIL State Mariachi Festival, and many community events. This group will be comprised of students in grades 9 – 12.

## **COLOR GUARD**

Director: Jacob Baldwin

The Color Guard meets daily, during school. Membership is based upon audition with approval of the directors. The Color Guard competes with the Marching Band during the Fall Season and in the Texas Color Guard Circuit in the Spring. They have made appearances at the World Color Guard International Championships in Dayton, Ohio.

## **INDOOR PERCUSSION**

Directors: Benjamin Guillotte and Jared Angel

Indoor Percussion meets after school two to three times a week in the Spring Semester. Membership is based upon the approval of the directors. Indoor Percussion competes in the Texas Color Guard Circuit in the Spring. They have made appearances at the Texas Color Guard State Championships in College Station, Texas. Indoor Percussion has received numerous awards.

## **SHOW CHOIR BAND**

Director: Juan Ramos and Michael Johnson

The Show Choir Band accompanies the Soundsations, (a premiere performing ensemble in the Choral Department). This band is mostly comprised of members of the Jazz Orchestra due to the rehearsal schedule. There are several rehearsals after school in the Spring. The Show Choir Band has received awards in conjunction with the Soundsations for "Best Band".

## **MUSICAL BAND**

Director: Juan Ramos and Michael Johnson

The Musical Band provides the music for the musicals at TCHS. This band is mostly comprised of members of the Jazz Orchestra due to the rehearsal schedule. The Musical Band meets in the Spring after school for several weeks until the musical is over.

## **PEP BAND**

Director: Juan Ramos

The Pep Band provides the music for several sporting events in the Spring at TCHS. Membership in this group is open to anyone from the Marching Band with the approval of the Directors. This group does not meet regularly. Rehearsals are scheduled at the discretion of the Director depending on when games are scheduled.

## PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

**Each** band student is important to the success of our many activities. We **must** be able to count on 100% attendance at these rehearsals and performances. If an emergency occurs unexpectedly (viral sickness, fever, or death in the family). Please call the band office at 409-916-0974 or email Mr. Ramos at juramos@tcisd.org. Occasionally, there may be family commitments (weddings, graduations, etc.); in which case, we will **try** to be flexible and work with you on an individual basis. This must be discussed in detail well in advance (a month or more!).

Student job commitments and “select sports” are **NOT** reasons for an excused absence from band performances or rehearsals! Many band students work and participate in “select sports” and participate successfully in band. We suggest that these students take a copy of the “Yearly Band Calendar” to his/her employer and/or coach and clear all band performances and rehearsals. Ninety-nine percent of employers are very understanding and are flexible **if** they know of band commitments well in advance, and they understand that band performances are a **required** and vital part of the course work. Work with employers to clarify rehearsal schedules and performances. (We are glad to talk to employers to validate student commitment.) **If a band student has an unexcused absence from a performance/rehearsal, they are subject to lose their marching spot and become an alternate.**

## REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

In band rehearsals, we not only deal with a creative process, but with a great deal more students at one time than do other classroom teachers. Because of this, it is imperative that band students be **organized** and **prepared** for every rehearsal. When an individual is not able to play his musical instrument during a rehearsal, it hurts the GROUP as well as the individual. It is important that the student’s musical instrument is in good working condition, has a pencil to mark their music and has important accessories such as drill books, mutes, reeds, and valve oil for **EVERY** rehearsal. It is also obvious that the creative process in which we are involved cannot take place unless there is a quiet, attentive atmosphere in the classroom. Students who do not live up to the high expectations of the TCHS Sting Band rehearsals will be counseled, and, if necessary, moved to a lower-level band or removed from the band program completely.

## DIRECTOR’S DISCRETION

The Director of Bands has the final say about who will perform and what each member of the band will perform. If at any time the band staff feels that a member is not performing up to standard, the Director of Bands may decide to pull a member from that performance or replace that student with another student. This can be done at any time including before football games, etc. Students who find themselves in this situation will be firmly aware of their standing with the band staff before a decision is made. The best way to prevent this from happening is to come to rehearsal prepared. If a staff member addresses an issue, then it is expected that the student will do the necessary work to improve. If a student does not comply, then Directors Discretion can be used to protect the performance integrity of the overall program.

## STUDENT BEHAVIOR

1. Students are expected to adhere to the "Code of Conduct" as detailed in the TCHS student handbook.
2. Students are expected to participate in band activities with a supportive and positive spirit.
3. Students are expected to treat all directors, instructors, and clinicians with courtesy and respect. They are expected to respond appropriately to instruction with positive verbiage.
4. Negatively charged verbal displays or nonverbal actions are considered inappropriate. This policy also applies to the internet. Students are expected to always maintain a mature level of decorum while representing the Texas City High School Band. "When you have class it shows, when you don't, it SHOUTS!"
5. Each student is expected to be in class, in the rehearsal setting, or present for travel or performances on time and with the required equipment and materials.
6. Cell phones and other mobile electronic devices are not permitted during the school day, during rehearsals, or performances unless approved by a member of the band staff.
7. Gum, candy, soft drinks, and other food items are prohibited in all band areas.
8. Students are expected to help maintain a clean environment in facilities and during travel scenarios.
9. Students are expected to take proper care of all band equipment, including band instruments, music, uniforms, and facilities.
10. Rough housing/horseplay of any form is prohibited.
11. Students should refrain from public displays of affection during all rehearsal and performance situations. Additionally, displays should never exceed that of static handholding in any setting.
12. Students are expected to seek parental permission before riding in a friend's vehicle to or from any band-related activity. The allowance of vehicles on campus is a privilege. Irresponsible operation of a vehicle will result in the loss of driving privileges on campus.
13. Students are expected to refrain from the use of degrading verbiage, profanity, and/or obscene gestures. Harassment of any form will not be tolerated.
14. Any form of hazing is strictly prohibited.
15. Use of illegal drugs, tobacco products, alcohol, vape pens and unauthorized medications are prohibited.

## DETRIMENTAL BEHAVIOR POLICY

Being a member of the Texas City Band program is a privilege, not a right. There are various electives a student may participate in at TCHS. Because the band is an extremely visible representative of the school, and because we must trust students to behave properly in various situations, both in school and while traveling, the directors reserve the right to remove students from the band program whose behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- Vandalism
- Theft
- Substance abuse
- Insubordination
- Bringing humiliation, embarrassment or danger to themselves or others
- Excessive ineligibility must undergo academic intervention/tutorials (prior to removal)
- Deliberately disobeying rules while traveling or in class
- Unexcused absence from performance of any kind

Any student who quits the Texas City Band program voluntarily or who is removed for violating the detrimental behavior policy will not be permitted to audition or apply for reinstatement to the program for the remainder of their time at Texas City High School unless otherwise indicated by the director of bands.



## GRADING

Grading in band is based upon participation and playing evaluations. Grades for band students are usually higher than the norm, which is understandable, since we have the “cream-of-the-crop” of the student body in the band program. Students belong to our program because they “want to,” not because they “have to!” Band students receive a grade for each performance attended.... i.e., football games, concerts, competitions, etc. Students will receive additional grades based on daily participation, sectionals, playing & written tests, etc. Students must have equipment in good working order and be present at all required rehearsals and performances for their participation grade. If these expectations are not met, the participation grade will be affected.

## ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

All music organizations adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and TCISD.

Any student who’s recorded nine weeks grade average **in any course** lower than 70 at the end of a nine-week period shall be suspended from participation during the next nine-week period. However, a student may regain eligibility seven calendar days after the three-week evaluation period if the student is passing **all courses** on the last day of the three-week school period. A one-week grace period follows each grading and progress period.

The Sting Band Staff will enforce all eligibility rules and regulations. Students who are ineligible will continue to rehearse during his/her band class, before and after school, and participate in curricular performances to earn his/her band grade. Ineligible students may not travel with the band or participate in extracurricular performances. An example of a curricular performance would be a spring concert and an extracurricular performance would be a football halftime or any type of contest. Students should always check on an event if there is a question of their participation. Be advised that excessive absences from school may also result in a student being declared ineligible.

Students who are ineligible for two consecutive nine-week grading periods will be put on academic probation. If they do not become eligible for the following nine-week grading period, they will be removed from the band program. This will allow the student to focus on passing academic classes during the next semester. Students wishing to be considered for reinstatement in band following this probation must bring documentation (report card) to a band director proving academic success during each grading period of the succeeding semester for all classes. Academic success is defined as passing all subjects during every grading period. Students must also maintain a clean discipline record with the school. This process is set up to help the academic success of the individual student.

## CHAIR PLACEMENT/CHALLENGES

Chair placement in all Concert Bands is based on playing auditions. Chair placement auditions may be held throughout the school year. Students are placed in chair order **only** based on “how they perform” the audition music.

**Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band** chair order will be determined by the results of audition. A panel of directors will rank each student – thus determining, through this process, the Sting Band’s chair order.

**Marching spots** are decided in a similar fashion. If someone wishes to challenge for a spot, (s)he must inform the person they are challenging 24 hours in advance. The directors will pick the cuts to be played from the contest show. Challenges will be held only at Monday night’s rehearsal. Other days may be used if necessary. The directors’ decision of any challenge will be final.

## PRIVATE LESSONS

All students are encouraged to take private lessons to improve their individual playing skills. While directors are skilled instructors on the various instruments in the band, there is simply no substitution for private instruction received from someone who is a professional performer on a particular instrument. We are extremely fortunate in Texas City to have numerous professional private lesson teachers available to help students reach that “next level” of performance. The Texas City directors will assist band students in scheduling lessons with the qualified teachers; however, we suggest you be aggressive in “locking in” with a teacher as soon as possible. Private lessons are a **must** for serious band students. Individual instruction from a qualified specialist on an individual musical instrument can make “all the difference” in a student’s progress on their musical instrument, thus making for a more enjoyable experience in Band. A complete listing of our private music instructors is listed on the Sting Band website.

## USE OF BAND HALL FACILITIES

Students are **welcome** to use the band hall practice rooms for practice either before or after school. Sometimes, however, the number of available places is limited, since both sectionals and private lessons take place before and after school. Due to the many **thousands** of dollars' worth of musical instruments that are in the band hall, we do ask that **ONLY** band students enter the band hall during the school day **and** before or after school. Students must ask their friends who are not in the band to wait for them either in the school hallway or outside. The Band Room is a "safe haven." We encourage all band students to be responsible and keep their equipment **always LOCKED UP in their lockers**. If lockers are left unlocked, instruments not left in cases, or left out in the band hall, they may be confiscated, and a storage fee may be assessed to "bail" out the instrument. Many times, afterschool detention is assigned to those "untidy" housekeepers to help develop orderly skills.

## SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

Texas City ISD provides school musical instruments in the double reed, low woodwind section, selected low brass, and percussion sections. These instruments are quite costly (example: concert Tuba - \$8,000) and are not normally owned by individuals. All these instruments are sent to the repair shop and reconditioned during the summer. **Any damage or normal adjustment during the year is the responsibility of the band student who has signed for the instrument.** We expect the instrument to be returned in the same condition as when issued. Dings, dents, and other damage will be repaired at the **student's** expense. Texas City ISD carries **casualty** insurance on school instruments. If the instrument is stolen while checked-out to a student, it is the **student's responsibility** to replace the instrument. Many parents carry an insurance rider to cover a checked-out school musical instrument. In addition, students may obtain inexpensive coverage for a school or privately-owned instrument.

## BAND UNIFORMS

It is a **privilege** to wear the Texas City High School Band uniform. Make sure you have all the parts of the uniform at every performance. **KEEP YOUR UNIFORM CLEAN!** If your uniform does not meet the high standard required in the Sting Band, you are subject to being removed from a performance or not traveling with the band. This uniform is a symbol of pride and will be worn accordingly. **You must wear all the uniform (minus the hat) or none of the uniform!** Students should wear lightweight “**black**” athletic shorts with their black dry fit shirt under their uniform, giving them the option to remove it at appropriate times. If a band member is seen wearing the uniform incorrectly **at any time**, 50 push-ups or the uniform will be asked of that student! Band uniforms are not to be worn at eating establishments, after games or performances, or at social functions. Eating and drinking soft drinks should be done before you put on or after you remove your uniform. Here are some do’s and don’ts that will help you and your uniform look great:

- **DO:** remember your black dry fit shirt, black athletic shorts, long solid black socks and marching shoes each time you wear your uniform.
- **DO NOT:** remove any material from the uniform if alterations are necessary.
- **DO:** transport your uniform in a garment bag and your hat in the hat box. Every time!
- **DO NOT:** store your uniform in the garment bag. This will cause it to mildew and get that “funny” smell. This odor will never leave the garment. EVER!
- **DO:** take extra time and care when hanging up your uniform. Pants hang folded on the crease, not the seat.
- **DO:** always store your hat in its hat box.
- **DO:** keep up with your assigned gauntlets and store them in your garment bags.
- **DO:** keep up with your gloves as you will only receive two pairs

## UNIFORM ACCESSORIES

The Texas City High School Sting Band uniform and all the major accessories are provided by TCISD. Band students will need to provide:

- A pair of **black Super Drillmaster Band Shoes**. (Tennis shoes or dress shoes are not acceptable.)
- A pair of **solid black socks** (Knee length)
- A **band shirt chosen by the director** to be worn under the marching jacket.
  - **(NO sleeveless or muscle shirts will be allowed)**

Shoe fitting and cost information will be provided during registration at the beginning of each year. Shoes will be ordered in bulk to ensure low cost and uniformity of style.

## **BAND SHIRTS**

All band students are required to purchase a Texas City High School Show Shirt and Band Polo from the webstore when opens at the beginning of each school year. These shirts are worn tucked in at pep rallies, trip activities, and at other performances where less formal attire is appropriate.

## **LETTER JACKETS**

Students earn points for each ensemble or event they participate in throughout the year. It is possible for a freshman to earn their letter jacket if they put in the work. To reward students for their continued participation in the Texas City High School Band, points are awarded just being a sophomore, junior, or senior. Please fill out the form towards the end of this packet and return it to the Director of Bands to see if you qualify for your letter jacket. Letter jacket fittings happen once in the Fall and once in the Spring.

## **HONOR CORDS**

Students must be in the band program all four years to earn an honor cord for graduation. Color guard members must have four years to earn an honor cord for their graduation. Special consideration will be given to transfer students.

## **FOOTBALL GAME POLICY**

Normal school policy dictates that band students ride to and return from all off-campus performances as a group using transportation provided by the district. On **rare** occasions, an emergency or conflict with other school-sponsored events necessitates that parents provide transportation to or from an off-campus performance. Any types of releases from a performance must be cleared 48 hours **in advance** through the Director of Bands as well as the Principal of Texas City High School.

Football games are fun, and we are there to support the team. However, we must maintain a proper behavior always. Band members can YELL and SCREAM in support of the team throughout the game but should always remain in his/her "spot." It is important to remain alert concerning all the expensive equipment around you as well as the need to be ready to play at a moment's notice. **Only band students are allowed in the band section.**

Students are not allowed to have food or drinks in the bleachers **EXCEPT** for water.

## FUNDRAISING

All out-of-town band festival trips (football trips and UIL events excluded) are funded completely by band members, either through private sources (student jobs, parents, etc.) or through student fund-raising. Individual student accounts for festival trips are set up and administered through the high school. Profits from fund-raising activities or other deposits to trip funds are maintained/supervised by the director and administrative assistant. Specific payment schedules are set up for spring trips. Students are subject to being dropped from the spring festival trip if published payment schedules are not adhered to. During the year if you need any specific information concerning individual account balances, etc., you can visit your student's account on CHARMS.

## INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNT GUIDELINES

1. Profits gained from individual fund-raising projects are placed in the student activity accounts in the student's name.
2. A student's individual account is non-transferable to another student (does not apply to siblings).
3. If a band student drops from the band program, moves, or is removed from the band program, all fundraising monies in his/her individual account revert to the general account, SINCE THE MONEY WAS RAISED IN THE NAME OF THE BAND.  
\*\*This includes donations (tax- deductible) that would be non-refundable.

## BAND FEES

Each year students will have band fees that consist of consumables such as (gloves, shoes, show shirts, etc.) that they will keep at the end of the season. The band fee will also consist of the Fair Share Fee which helps to supplement the band budget. This fee will benefit all students providing items like (marching drill, marching music, color guard silks, drumheads, etc.). There will also be an Athletic Participation Fee which covers any student who participates in more than one physical activity in the district. TCISD requires all school activity budgets to close at the end of April each year. Consumables are then purchased in advance to be here for the next marching season. It is imperative that Band Fees be paid in full by the date set by the Director of Bands. Students with unpaid fees will not receive their consumables, marching uniform, will be placed on the fine list, and may be removed their marching spot.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

We are extremely fortunate at Texas City High School to have **outstanding** student leaders. These students are invaluable to the success of the band program. The band staff selects Drum Majors and Section Leaders for the following school year. These appointments are subjective and based on a holistic evaluation of a student from every aspect of their band experience including, but not limited to playing ability, attendance/promptness, citizenship, academic achievement, discipline, initiative, and leadership skills/potential as it relates to the band environment. While all students have an opportunity to be considered for one of these appointed leadership positions, only a limited number of positions can be filled and will vary from year to year. As a member of the Sting Band there is an expectation for ALL students to foster and develop positive leadership skills regardless of title.

### LEADERSHIP TEAM

**Drum Major: Ashlyn Fountain**

**Drum Major: Max Pickett**

**Drum Major: Nicole Spriggs**

#### Section Leaders

**Flute: Victoria Mayes**

**Clarinet: Ezequiel Rodriguez**

**Saxophone: Carlos Cantu-Carreno**

**Trumpet: Emily Nolasco**

**Mellophone: Marlyn Reyes**

**Tuba: Hector Ochoa**

**Percussion: Joseph Blakeman**

**Color Guard:**

## PERCUSSION EXPECTATIONS

Students are placed into one class at Texas City High School. Determined during auditions, students will be placed in the front ensemble or the drumline for the Fall semester. Our curriculum is designed to improve individual and ensemble performing skills throughout the year, both in concert and marching applications. The responsibilities for students in each group are outlined below:

### WIND ENSEMBLE/DRUMLINE:

- Performance of marching music by memory
- Participation in marching band
- Preparation of All-Region music during the fall, with graded playing tests throughout the Fall semester
- Participation in All-Region Band auditions
- Performance of all twelve major scales by memory, two octaves
- Performance of a solo and/or ensemble in the TCHS Percussion Recital
- Performance of concert music as assigned by the directors.
- Attendance at section rehearsals, pass-offs and full band rehearsals before and after school unless excused by the Director of Bands
- The weeklong June and July Percussion camps are communicated at least a full year in advance to all percussion students and are required. Missing these camps will affect your placement for the Marching Band season.

### PERCUSSION - GENERAL:

- Performance of marching music by memory
- Participation in marching band
- Performance of all twelve major scales and rudimental techniques as required by the Director of Bands
- Audition for All-Region Band (drumline members are required) and optional for front ensemble but recommended.
- Performance of a solo and ensemble at the TCHS Percussion Recital
- Performance of concert music as assigned by the directors.
- Performance of percussion ensemble music as assigned by the directors.
- Attendance at section rehearsals, full band rehearsals, percussion ensemble rehearsals before and/or after school, practice pad camps, and solo help sessions unless excused by the Director of Bands
- Attendance at summer camp unless excused by the Director of Bands in advance.
- Students in all bands are expected to fully participate in all performance activities, including approved travel.



An **excused absence** is one that the Director of Bands has at least twenty-four hours prior knowledge of and is based on an acceptable reason. This may or may not result in receiving a zero for the absence.

An **unexcused absence** is one that the Director of Bands has no prior knowledge of and/or is based on a reason that is unacceptable to the director. This may result in a student receiving a zero for the absence.

## PERCUSSION AUDITIONS

ALL students will audition for placement whether it be drumline/front ensemble or concert band. This audition will consist of region music and be based and on the student's past performance, attendance, and/or recommendation from previous director(s). Participation in a concert band is required and is not optional.

## PERCUSSION SUPPLIES

All percussion students are responsible for the purchase of all required sticks and mallets to accurately perform their part assignments. Supply lists are given out each year starting in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. If taken care of, their sticks and mallets should last most of their school career. Please contact a director if you have questions about where to purchase any needed materials.

## PERCUSSION ROOM

The percussion room is a place for private lessons to take place and to store percussion equipment. All personal items (stick bags, backpacks, water bottles, music, etc.) need to be kept outside of the percussion room in the appropriate locations. Lockers are assigned for music and stick bags only. If abused, the right to use the percussion room to practice will be revoked. Students should not hang out in the percussion room with the door closed at any time other than a private lesson. Food or drinks of any kind are not allowed. The percussion room always needs to be kept clean and organized. If you use any equipment, make sure it gets put back in the appropriate place.

## PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT

TCISD provides all percussion equipment, at this time there are no fees charged to the students for maintaining the equipment. All percussionists should treat the equipment with care and respect. If instruments are mistreated and broken, the repairs and/or replacement will be done at the student/parents' expense. Percussion should not go home with any student unless approved in advance by the Director of Bands.

## BAND BOOSTERS

The Texas City High School Sting Band has a very active, supportive parent organization known as the Texas City High School Band Booster Association. The booster association includes parents from band, color guard, jazz, and mariachi. Without the hard work and dedication of the parents, the band program at Texas City High School could not be as successful and productive as it is. There are numerous areas in which interested parents can be involved in supporting the activities of the band. General meetings of the boosters are held throughout the school year; however, numerous committees do most of the booster organization planning.

Members of the Texas City High School Band Booster Association Executive Committee for 2023-2024 are:

President	Mary Evors
Vice President	Lisa Matranga
Secretary	Yvette Zapata
Treasurer	Amy Racy
Color Guard Liaison	Leslie Fernandez

## TEXAS CITY HIGH SCHOOL BAND STAFF

**Juan Ramos**

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**Jacob Baldwin**

Color Guard Instructor  
Texas City High School

**Jared Angel**

Percussion Tech  
Texas City High School

## OFF CAMPUS TRAVEL POLICIES - GENERAL

Students who represent Texas City ISD on out-of-town trips are expected to maintain very high standards in every respect always. They are expected to attend and be on time for all sessions and activities scheduled for them. In the event of overnight trips, they are expected to be in their rooms at the times designated by their sponsors.

Each student will be responsible to one or more faculty sponsors who will supervise the activities of the student for the trip. Negligence in attending sessions, in meeting curfew requirements, or in failing to maintain our standards of conduct may make it necessary for the sponsor to send the student home at his/her own expense.

Student conduct on school-related trips: Self-discipline is the key element for a pleasant experience for both the sponsor and the student when the student is on a school-related trip. Students who are involved in a serious disciplinary offense on a school-related trip, such as the use, possession of, or being under the influence of illegal drugs, alcohol, vaping, smoking, stealing, fighting, going in the room of a member of the opposite sex, or some other serious offense will face disciplinary action which may include one or more of the following:

1. The student will be sent home from the trip at the parents' expense.
2. The student will be held liable for damage to property.
3. The student may be removed from this school activity as well as other school co-curricular activities.
4. The student may be placed in In-School-Suspension (ISS), Off-Campus-Suspension, or Alternative Education Placement.

Students' attire during school activities outside the school day should be in good taste. If there is any question of taste, the director's decision is final. All adults on trips serve as sponsors. Students will be expected to always treat them with respect. In the event a parent sponsor gives needed supervision, band students must honor that with utmost respect.

GENERAL – Even though you will not always have a band shirt on, people will find out where you are from. You can make a tremendous name for Texas City and for yourself. Always be courteous and polite. There is no way we can anticipate every possible scenario, so we ask for good judgement. Please use common sense. RULE OF THUMB: If there is any question in your mind as to whether you should do something or not...DON'T DO IT! It is better to be safe than sorry.

**WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEMS. IF WE ANTICIPATED A PROBLEM, WE WOULD NOT TRAVEL.**

## Letter Jacket Calculation Form

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Participation: 2023-2024 School Year	Points	Earned
<b>Freshman Year Only</b>	2	
<b>Sophomore Year Only</b>	4	
<b>Junior Year Only</b>	10	
<b>Senior Year Only</b>	12	
<b>All Region Band</b>	3	
<b>All Region Jazz Band</b>	3	
<b>All District Band</b>	2	
<b>Freshman All Region Band</b>	1	
<b>All Area Audition</b>	4	
<b>All State Band, Orchestra, or Jazz Band</b>	10	
<b>Region Marching Contest</b>	1	
<b>Area Marching Contest</b>	2	
<b>State Marching Contest</b>	4	
<b>UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest</b>	1	
<b>UIL Solo with First Division</b>		
Class 1, 2, or 3	3	
<b>UIL Ensemble with First Division</b>		
Class 1, 2, or 3	3	
<b>UIL Solo with Second Division</b>		
Class 1, 2, or 3	2	
<b>UIL Ensemble with Second Division</b>		
Class 1, 2, or 3	2	
<b>Jazz Band</b>	3	
<b>Jazz Band Contest</b>	1	
<b>Mariachi Band</b>	3	
<b>UIL Region Mariachi Contest</b>	1	
<b>UIL State Mariachi Festival</b>		
Superior Rating	3	
Excellent Rating	2	
<b>Musical Band</b>	2	
<b>Show Choir Band</b>	2	
<b>Indoor Percussion</b>	3	
<b>Indoor Percussion State Championships</b>		
Gold Medal	3	
Silver Medal	2	
Bronze Medal	1	

**Total Points Needed Per Year: 12**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Total**

## 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 them, 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 admission 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.

Printed First and Last Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Texas City Band Handbook Signature Agreement 2023-2024

All members of the Sting Band program are required to sign and agree to all the terms outlined in our handbook. Being a member of the Sting Band program is a choice you as a student have made. Remaining a part of the program is a privilege and an honor. Any severe infraction of any of our rules can be grounds for dismissal from the program. Your signature and your parent's signature below are an agreement to all terms of this handbook. Refusal to sign this form may affect your participation with the Texas City High School Band.

*Communication with the band staff will alleviate most conflicts. This handbook is meant to set structure so the band program can serve the needs of all students so that they may learn in a highly structured and quality environment. Students who choose to try and test the system will find themselves being held accountable according to the policies and structures set forth in this handbook. The band staff is not beyond removing students from band who refuse to comply with the handbook.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student First and Last Name (Print)

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

Date

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

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Bands

Date