

TIGER BAND HANDBOOK



SMITHVILLE TIGER BAND "BUILT ON PRIDE"

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WELCOME LETTER TO THE BAND

Welcome to the ranks of the Smithville Tiger Band!

Welcome to a part of high school that not all students have the opportunity to experience. Membership in this distinguished organization is an enjoyable and rewarding experience. The Smithville Tiger Band consistently maintains a performance standard of excellence while affording each individual with an opportunity for growth.

The band program requires students that are dedicated, determined, and optimistic. Dedicated to the performance of good music to the maximum of their abilities. Dedicated to their fellow band members, to Smithville High School and to the community represented. Determined to work hard and long to become a part of this disciplined group. Determined to persevere when things get rough. Determined to make their family proud of all they have accomplished as part of this special group. Optimistic that by hard work and practice they someday can be the leaders. Optimistic that someday when heads turn as the Smithville Tiger Band marches by, they have gained the respect of the spectators. Optimistic that they will be part of one of the best bands in the country.

The marching style is corps-oriented combined with a precision influence featuring a dynamic woodwind and brass line, progressive multi-percussion section, and accomplished color guard. The music, drills, and routines for every halftime show are designed for the entertainment value and to challenge each band member. In addition to football games, the Tiger Band also performs at pep rallies, parades, concerts, contests, and special engagements. The band is committed to serve Smithville High School, the surrounding community, and the state of Texas. Members are expected to represent the Tiger Band and Smithville High School in a dignified manner at all times.

The Tiger Band Handbook outlines in detail virtually all organizational and performance aspects of the Tiger Band. *The Tiger Band Handbook* is also intended to provide information regarding established policies and traditions for the purpose of promoting pride, spirit, and unity within the Smithville Tiger Band.

Wayne King
Band Director



TIGER BAND STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Each music program must be judged in terms of the manner and degree to which it serves the students of its particular school and community. The staff of the music department strives to provide a program that compliments the academic program while further developing the cultural, aesthetic, and practical values of its students.

The music program, to be appropriate for the majority of Smithville High School students, must:

1. Provide quality instruction.
2. Have a high level of cultural involvement in music.
3. Be complimentary to the academic program, avoiding demands on students' time that would detract from student achievement.

The staff believes that music should be available to every Smithville High School student who chooses to participate, regardless of ability and finances.



EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

The educational objectives of the music department are:

1. To provide students with a pleasant, positive experience that increases their appreciation and enjoyment of music.
2. To increase the music students' and possibly the non-music students' enthusiasm for the school experience, thus improving attendance and motivating students toward increased academic achievement.
3. To develop in students an enhanced aesthetic sensitivity for music as an art form by disciplined study and application of its various elements, both separately and as they are combined into a coherent musical whole.
4. To prepare students for careers in music.
5. To provide students with a healthy lifelong hobby or avocation.
6. To increase student involvement in decision-making and therefore create a strong sense of ownership within the band program.

BAND OFFICERS

The **Drum Majors** assist and work closely with the directors in halftime shows, administrative work, and during rehearsals. The Drum Majors promote good band spirit and morale whenever and wherever possible. They are also responsible for the performance of the Tiger Band during football games.

Drum Major auditions are held each spring. Those who audition demonstrate their ability to conduct the band. The final choices are based upon audition scores and the directors' discretion based on leadership abilities.

Color Guard Captain auditions are held each spring. Those who audition demonstrate their leadership capabilities and their ability to perform color guard routines. The Color Guard Captain posts announcements, takes attendance, organizes the color guard's storage area, cleans up after all activities, coordinates color guard social functions, and checks uniforms and equipment.

Color Guard Co-Captain auditions are held in the spring. Those who audition must demonstrate their leadership and knowledge of color guard techniques. The Co-Captain takes attendance, organizes the color guard's storage area, cleans up after all activities, and checks uniforms and equipment.

The directors select the **Band Librarians**. They are responsible for maintaining and organizing the music library, copying and distributing music, making folders for marching and concert band, and updating the Music Library Database.

The directors choose the **Drill Instructors/ Squad Leaders** based on leadership skills and knowledge of marching techniques. Drill Instructors are expected to assist Drum Majors and Directors in teaching marching fundamentals and concepts. Drill Instructors teach marching drill to their peers and will also assist in monitoring and enforcing the rules of the Tiger Band during practices and performances. **Squad Leaders** are responsible for everything that a Drill Instructor is responsible for with the addition of their section's music.

Students who continually achieve first chair in their section are recognized as **Section Leader** and should set an example for their sections. The Section Leaders are responsible for the performance of each player in the section and if necessary, may call a sectional before or after school. The Section Leaders also assist the Band Librarian(s) in handling their section's music.



The directors select the **Uniform Managers & Loading Crew Captain** through an application and interview process. Uniform managers are in charge of uniform fittings and alterations. They

are also responsible for checking uniforms in and out for performances and preparing them to be sent to the cleaners and for inventory.

BAND COUNCIL

The **Band Council** is comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Class Representatives. During Summer Band Camp, interested individuals campaign for positions. Council officers are chosen through election at the end of Summer Band Camp. *Nominees must be part of the current year's band officers (see **Band Officers**) with the exception of Class Representatives and Colorguard Representative.*

Each position has specific duties, but all members of the council (except the Freshman Representative) are responsible for voting on the Freshman Marcher of the Week. The Band Council also plans and schedules the end of year event for upcoming freshman band members. At football games, Council Members visit the opposing school's band. Four or five members may visit the other band each game. The Band Council, excluding Class Representatives, is responsible for public relations with the community.

The **Band President** may Band Booster and/or School Board meetings to provide student input if needed. The President creates band newsletters, produces the visitation schedule for football games, and oversees Band Council meetings. The President motivates band members before and after contests, practices, and any other band event.

The **Band Vice-President** assists with the President's duties. In addition, the Vice-President is responsible for making student announcements, planning and scheduling band social activities, and creating the bulletin board. The Vice-President oversees Band Council meetings when the President is not present.

The **Band Secretary** takes attendance, collects money for gifts or cards, and takes notes at Band Council meetings. During football season, the Secretary creates a gift basket each week to



present to the other school's band. The Secretary assists the Vice-President with the bulletin board and distributes notes or papers to band members during class time.

One Representative is elected from each class (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior) every year. These **Class Representatives** are responsible for bringing trash bags onto buses for trips and taking trash off buses. Each Class Representative represents his or her class in Band Council voting and helps plan class parties and socials. Each Representative is also responsible for motivating their class. The Colorguard will also select a **Colorguard Representative**. A quorum of six Band Council members must be present at meetings to vote and Band Officers can attend and vote.

SPECIAL GROUPS

COLOR GUARD

The Tiger Color Guard is comprised of students from band and selected students from the student body. Interested students audition for positions in the Tiger Color Guard in the spring. The final choices are based upon audition scores and the directors' discretion based on leadership abilities. During football season, the Tiger Color Guard performs and rehearses with the band. Because of the skill required, the color guard has additional practice sessions. The color guard is an integral part of the Tiger Marching Band and performs in half-time shows, competitions, and parades.

Color guard members who are also band members are expected to play their instruments in the stands and at pep rallies and attend extra band rehearsals. Additional requirements can be found in the Tiger Band Color Guard Constitution.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

The percussion ensemble is integral to the success of the band. The section needs extra organizational time and extra practice. They practice on technique and timing alone and then join the band for full practices. The percussion instruments are purchased by the band through various fundraisers and budgeted items. The percussionist is required to purchase specialized sticks and mallets. They are required to learn both drum and keyboard instruments.



STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

GRADING POLICY

A student's grade will be lowered for an unexcused absence from a performance; in addition, that individual may be assigned as an alternate for future performances.

Six weeks grades are determined by played and written tests, participation, attendance, and preparation for rehearsals and performances. If a student is absent on the day of a test, the student may make up the test on his or her own time, during lunch or before or after school.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS¹

In order to participate in all extracurricular band activities, the student must be eligible. To be eligible during the first six weeks of school, freshmen must have been promoted from the eighth grade. Sophomores must have earned five credits that count toward state graduation. Juniors must have earned ten credits that count toward state graduation. Seniors must have earned fifteen credits that count toward state graduation.

“Band is awesome! Your focus and hard work can create something that even non-musicians will appreciate.” – Wren Fair

A student who receives, at the end of any grading period, after the first six weeks of the school year, a grade below seventy in any academic class (other than an identified advanced class) or a student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks. An ineligible student may practice and rehearse. The student regains eligibility when the principal and teachers determine that he or she has earned a passing grade (seventy or above) in all academic classes, other than those that are advanced, and completed the three school weeks of ineligibility.

Exceptions:

1. When a migrant student enrolls for the first time during a school year, all criteria cited above applies. All other students who enroll too late to earn a passing grade for a grading period are ineligible.
2. High school students transferring from an out-of-state school may be eligible the first six weeks of school if they meet the criteria cited above or school officials are able to determine that they would have been eligible if they had remained in the out-of-state school from which they are transferring. Students who are not in compliance with these provisions may request a hardship appeal of their academic eligibility through the UIL state office.

¹ Adapted from the UIL Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities Handbook http://www.uil.utexas.edu/policy/pdf/05_06sidebyside.pdf and Chapter 76 of the TEA Texas Administrative Code <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter076/ch076aa.html>

All schools must check grades for all participants at the end of the first six weeks of the school year. From that point, grades are checked at the end of the grading period whether it is six, nine, or twelve weeks in length. Students who pass remain eligible until the end of the next grading period. All activity coaches and directors are responsible for obtaining official grade reports from the individual the principal designates as the keeper of official grades before the student represents the school. This provision applies to all grading periods. It also applies to all three-week evaluation periods for ineligible students.

All students are eligible during a school holiday of a full calendar week or more. When the bell rings to dismiss students for the December holidays, all students are eligible until classes resume in January. The same is true for summer recess and spring break provided that those breaks consist of at least a full calendar week. Eligibility is lost or regained at the end of the regular school day.

If a grading period or three-week evaluation period ends on the last class day prior to a school holiday of one calendar week or more, the seven calendar days grace period to lose eligibility and the seven calendar day waiting period to regain eligibility begin the first day that classes resume. Students lose eligibility for a three school week period. For purposes of the law, "three school weeks" is defined as 15 class days. Exception: one, but only one of the three school weeks may consist of only three or four class days, provided that the school has been dismissed for a scheduled holiday period. Two class days does not constitute a "school week" for purposes of this law except Thanksgiving week if schools are on holiday Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. In the event that two of the three school weeks are shortened, one of the shortened weeks may be counted as five days with ten other actual class days making up the fifteen class days. A seven-calendar day grace period to lose eligibility and a seven-calendar day waiting period to regain eligibility are still in effect. The school week is defined as beginning at 12:01 A.M. on the first instructional day of the calendar week and ending at the close of instruction on the last instructional day of the calendar week, excluding holidays.

Ineligible Students cannot travel with the band or perform at Pep Rallies, Football Games and Extra-curricular performances. Ineligible students are expected to attend extra practices and perform at curricular concerts. (Curricular concerts include the Christmas and Spring Concerts).

ATTENDANCE

The directors have devised the following attendance policies with input from student leaders of the band. Band members are expected to be at all rehearsals and performances and to be on time. Attendance at all performances and rehearsals is mandatory. Performance dates are set up almost a year in advance to allow ample time to resolve conflicts. Tiger Band rehearsals begin each year with Summer Band Camp, which begins August first. Once school begins, before and after school rehearsals are scheduled.



Students or parents should notify the directors prior to the scheduled time if there is a conflict. When the directors deem absences excessive, the student may be removed from the Tiger Band program.

Excused absences are possible. Examples are personal illness, death in immediate family or extreme family emergency. Examples of unexcused absences include: no transportation, dance class, piano lessons, studying for a test, and work. Students are responsible for informing their employers of the Tiger Band schedule.

If a student wishes to be absent from rehearsal, contest, or other event, he or she must submit a written request from parents or guardians. Absences can only be excused by the directors, and are considered on an individual basis.

If a rehearsal or performance is missed due to illness or emergency, the student should report to the band directors immediately. The student must provide a note from a parent, guardian, or doctor describing the reason for the absence. The directors will determine whether or not the absence for an illness or emergency is legitimate and excused, based on the information provided on the written note.

Morning Tutorials Policy – Students who provide the directors in advance with a written note from the teacher showing that they have a 75 or below in their class will be allowed to miss practice before school for morning tutorial without consequence Monday thru Thursday. On Fridays, anyone wishing to attend a morning tutorial will be allowed to go to tutorial provided they come to rehearsal with a note from the tutorial teacher showing that they were in tutorial. The exception will be when a director requires a student to attend a teacher’s tutorial due to low grades in their class. Students with grades higher than a 75 should schedule tutorials after school with their teachers or plan to attend on Friday mornings. Missing rehearsals unexcused will result in lowered band grades and possibly the loss of their marching position.

Band in Texas is both curricular and extra-curricular. Six weeks grades reflect both the curricular and extra-curricular aspects of band. Attendance grades pertain to the extra-curricular.

Some band events are considered curricular and are extensions of the classroom that occur outside of regular class time. Curricular events, therefore, require attendance by all band students, regardless of their current eligibility status.

Some band events are considered extra-curricular; these events are competition oriented, require loss of class time other than band class, or require an admission fee, i.e. football games, Solo and Ensemble competition, and UIL events. Ineligible students cannot attend extra-curricular activities.

FEES AND FUNDING

Each band member will be required to pay a yearly band fee to cover costs of supplies.

The freshman band fee this year is \$65.00, which includes the Tiger Band T-shirt, a pair of band shoes, and drinks at football games. The band fee for upper classmen is \$35.00 and includes the Tiger Band T-shirt, and drinks at football games. Those who need to purchase band shoes should pay the band fee of \$65.00.



Some additional supplies will need to be purchased: black socks and a flip folder lyre. Black socks will cost approximately \$4.00-\$6.00. The flip folder lyre will cost approximately \$10.00.

Students who play school-owned instruments are required to pay \$50.00 per year to rent the instrument. This rental fee covers regular maintenance of the instrument. Repair of damages as a result of student abuse or neglect will be the responsibility of the student. *The instrument rental fee is due before the school instrument will be issued.*

Color guard uniforms and flags change each year to complement the theme of the band marching show. Performance flags and other props are provided, but color guard members are responsible for the uniform and other accessories. Color guard dues cover the cost of the performance uniform.



Color guard members will pay a band fee in addition to color guard dues. Color guard members who are instrumentalists and perform with the Concert Band will pay the same amount as any regular band member. Color guard members who do not play instruments will pay \$35.00 to cover the cost of Tiger Band T-shirts and drinks at football games.

The Tiger Band will have fundraisers to help cover

expenses of trips. Specific fundraisers will be designated as student credit projects. After a required minimum is fundraised, a percentage of the project profits raised by that student will be put into an account. This money may be used for bus fees, trip fees, and other select fees. Money fundraised by a student will not carry over from year to year unless the band is fundraising for a trip that is excessive in cost. *If a student quits the band program, refund of money (such as dues, band fees etc . . .) will not exceed \$50.* Fundraised money will not be refunded.

Fundraised money will not be transferred from one student's account to another. Money will not be transferred from the high school band activity account to the junior high band activity account and vice versa. All money fundraised will be used for the purpose for which the money was fundraised.

If finances are difficult, a private consultation with Mr. King should be arranged. Students and parents should not think that the Tiger Band program is for those with money. In public education, funds can be made available to keep all students involved.



BEHAVIOR

Tiger Band members represent their families, school, and community. Students must always act appropriately and must follow all school rules as outlined in the *Smithville High School Student Handbook*. In addition to these rules, students must follow additional rules.

No Cell Phone Use during rehearsals or performances. Cell phones must be turned off and out of sight during band events from the point of roll call to dismissal (football game performances, concerts, contests etc . . .). Students found using their electronic devices and/or telecommunication devices will be subject to having their device taken away.

No homework/reading notes, cell phones, cameras, lasers or other distractions will be allowed during rehearsals or performances. These items will be taken away.

Due to the large number of students in the Tiger Band, talking must be kept to a minimum. When the band is halted, students should immediately stop playing and/or marching and listen to instructions. This is the only way to efficiently use rehearsal time.

Students must wear appropriate clothing at rehearsals and on trips. Marching rehearsals require tennis shoes. Flip flops, boots, high heels, sandals, and dress shoes are not appropriate to march in. Hats should not be worn in the band hall or in any part of the building.

Disruptive, vulgar, or obscene behavior or language in any form is inappropriate and will not be tolerated.

Students not complying with these rules will face disciplinary action. Disciplinary consequences for breaking a rule include push-ups, running, five-minute attention, detention, or grade reduction.

DROPPING OUT

Students who choose to drop out of the Tiger Band Program forfeit all money paid to the band or earned through fundraisers. *In addition, refund of money (such as dues, band fees etc . . .) will not exceed \$50.* Students must return all music, any school-owned instrument, and any other Tiger Band property.

Students who drop out of the Smithville High School Band are not allowed re-entry into the band program (including color guard) unless the drop out was because of a schedule conflict with academic class required for graduation or because of medical reasons.

Students assigned to the Alternative Learning Center (DAEP) will be considered a drop out by the band program.

REMOVAL FROM THE BAND PROGRAM

No student is obligated to be a member of the band, nor is participation required for graduation. Participation in the Tiger Band is a privilege, not a right. Rules must be maintained and followed for the success of the Tiger Band program. The Tiger Band Directors and the Smithville Independent School District Administration direct these rules. Students who break the rules of the band program are subject to disciplinary action in addition to the consequences mandated by school administration.



Students may be dismissed and/or placed on probation from the Tiger Band Program at the discretion of the Tiger Band Directors for participating in illegal activities. Band students that hold a leadership position in the band program will automatically lose their leadership position for participating in inappropriate activities. These activities include, but are not limited to:

1. Possession, distribution or use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal substances
2. Misuse of prescription and over-the-counter medicine and herbal supplements
3. Any activities punishable as a felony
4. Stealing
5. Fighting or threatening harm to others or self

PERSONAL ITEMS

The Tiger Band is not responsible for students' belongings. Students should not ask any staff member of the Tiger Band to hold, watch or guard any personal items. Mr. King will instruct the staff not to take such items. Leave all personal items of value at HOME. The staff is not responsible for personal items lost or stolen at school or on school-sponsored trips.

According to Texas state law, public school districts are not liable for personal property that is stolen at school. The band department strongly encourages instrument(s) be included on the homeowner's insurance policy. Call the band hall for information on insurance companies that specialize in musical instrument insurance.

RAIN POLICY

When it is raining, students should not assume that the rehearsal or performance is cancelled; the band will still rehearse or perform. During marching season, if dangerous weather threatens, the band will rehearse in an alternate location. The band will meet in the band hall, and the color guard and percussion will meet at their designated areas.

EQUIPMENT

INSTRUMENTS

Students are expected to keep their instruments clean and in working order. If instrument repairs are needed, students can take their instruments to a music store in the area. The directors will inspect instruments periodically. If the instrument is not in working order, lower participation grades may be given. Clarinet, saxophone, and double reed players must have three working reeds at all times. Students should not play other students' instruments.



Students are required to take their instruments home and practice every day. Directors may check band lockers for a grade. The best time to improve by taking private lessons is during the summer. The directors can recommend private teachers for those who are interested.

Students who would like to obtain a higher chair may challenge the student one chair ahead of them. A challenge may be made only one time per week. No challenges are possible during the three weeks before a contest or performance.

UNIFORMS

Each band student is assigned a Tiger Band uniform and hat. During Summer Band Camp, the Uniform Managers fit students with uniforms and hats. Uniform Managers will make sure that necessary alterations are made. The Tiger Band uniforms are the property of Smithville High School. Each uniform costs \$700.00. Uniforms must be treated with respect and kept in the best possible condition. Therefore, uniforms are kept in the uniform room and are checked out the day of the performance and checked back in after the performance. Students are responsible for knowing their hat and uniform numbers and for keeping the uniform clean. Students are

responsible for lost or damaged uniforms. Band T-shirts will be worn or carried to the school. Shoes should be cleaned before each performance.



The **summer uniform** includes the band T-shirt, black band shoes, long black socks, and blue jeans. The Tiger Band T-shirt must be tucked in, and the jeans must be blue, ankle length, worn at the waist, and have no holes or patches. Students may want to wear a belt.

The **marching uniform** consists of long black socks, black band shoes, jacket, pants, hat and on special occasions, a plume. Students may want to wear shorts underneath the band pants for comfort and ease in changing. Long hair must be tucked

into the hat. No hair may touch the collar of the uniform. No hair should be seen between the brim and eyebrows.

The **concert competition uniform** will be the same as the marching uniform except that the hat is not worn.

Concert dress is worn during concerts. The school dress code is in effect and enforced at these concerts, therefore students should dress accordingly. Concert dress for males is slacks, button-down shirt, and tie. Concert dress for females is slacks and blouse, a pantsuit, a dress, or skirt and blouse. Clothing must be appropriate to the Smithville ISD dress code.

A uniform inspection is held before each performance. Failure to pass an inspection may result in a lower grade and/or forfeiture of public performance.

MUSIC

The Band Librarian supplies each student with one copy of each piece of assigned music. If music is lost, the band librarian will furnish a new copy for a charge of \$.25 per page up to \$5.00. All music must be returned at the end of the season. Students who fail to do so will be charged the price of the music. Requests for copies of music must be made outside of band rehearsal (i.e. before or after school). The band library is for staff only. You may also check the band website to download copies of music.

SUMMER BAND CAMP

Summer Band Camp attendance is mandatory for all members. The only exception is a family emergency. Basic marching techniques, discipline, and attitudes are established during camp. Summer Band Camp is also the time for learning the show that is performed at all football games and at several competitions. A different theme is chosen every year. In past years, the Tiger Band has marched to the music of the James Bond movies, *Star Wars*, Motown, and *West Side Story*.

Summer Band Camp is held on the practice field at the Smithville High School campus. Equipment may be left at the band hall. Lunches may be brought and students will have use of water fountains and bathroom facilities at the school. Band members should wear hats, sun block, sunglasses, bug repellent, light-colored clothing, comfortable shoes and socks.

Consultants are hired by the band to teach special techniques and to help finalize the show. Most consultants are college students and other band directors who have many years of Summer Band Camp experience.

REHEARSALS

This year, band is first period, which allows the band to begin morning rehearsals before school starts. During marching season, the band usually meets for rehearsal on the practice field. Students should be in fundamentals block and ready to be called to attention at 7:30 A.M. During concert season, rehearsals will be held inside. Students must be in their seats with their instruments out and ready to rehearse.

The band rehearses every Monday night. This extra rehearsal is necessary for the success of the band. The band is called to attention promptly at 6:30 P.M. These Marching rehearsals end at 9 p.m. During marching season, some rehearsals are held inside and some are held outside on the field. During concert season, rehearsals will be held inside and students must be in their seats prepared to rehearse when the rehearsal begins. During concert season, Monday night rehearsals begin at 7 p.m. and end at 9 p.m. Dismissal will take place after the final announcements. All members must remain at rehearsal until dismissed by the Drum Majors or the directors.

Students must have all necessary materials at rehearsals. During marching season, students must wear tennis shoes during rehearsals. Blisters are not an excuse for lack of participation. Drum Majors and Drill Instructors must have set charts. Color guard members must have flags and other accessories.

When the rehearsal is held on the field, students must have the following materials:

- Flip folder
- All music
- Lyre
- Drill Cards on Lanyard
- Instrument
- Sharpened pencil

When the rehearsal is held inside the band hall, students must have the following materials:

- Flip folder or music folder
- All music
- Instrument
- Sharpened pencil

MARCHING CONTESTS

There are several marching events in which the Tiger Band participates. In all cases professional judges may view the performance from above the crowd, within the crowd, or the field. For each contest, the directors are given a critique of what each judge thought about that program. The directors will use these critiques to assess the band's performance and to prepare for future contests.



CAPITAL CITY MARCHING CONTEST

Capital City Marching contest is held at Berger Center Stadium in Austin each October. In this competition, bands compete against other bands in the same class for the championship. The highest numerical score given by the judges determines the winner.

Classes can be determined several ways. Sometimes the number of students enrolled in the school grades 9-12 or 10-12 determines the class. Sometimes the number of woodwinds and percussionists in the band determines the class.

UIL MARCHING

At UIL Marching competition in October, each band competes for a division rating of I, Superior; II, Excellent; III, Good; IV, Poor; or V, Very Poor. Every other year, the band has an opportunity to advance to the Area, then the State level of marching band competition. During "state years," bands are given a division rating, but are also ranked by numerical score. Generally, the two highest scoring bands advance to Area Marching competition and the two highest scoring bands in Area Marching competition advance to State.

"Don't drop your instrument even if it is insured!" – Fatt Man Mafia

CONCERT CONTESTS

UIL Concert and Sightreading competitions are held on the same day in April. These competitions use the same ratings systems as UIL Marching competition.

UIL CONCERT

During UIL Concert competition in April, each band performs three pieces of music in front of three judges. The Tiger Band usually has a pre-UIL concert to help prepare the band for competition.



UIL SIGHTREADING

During UIL Sightreading competition, each band performs a piece of music composed expressly for the competition. Bands are given a piece of music they have never played before. Each band studies the piece of music for a number of minutes and then performs the piece in front of three judges.

INDIVIDUAL CONTESTS

ATSSB REGION, AREA, AND STATE

ATSSB Region auditions are held the first Saturday of December each year. Students may sign up to audition on their instrument(s). The entrance fee for this year is \$8.00. Students will learn two etudes and several scales. The etudes change from year to year, but the scale sheet remains the same. Percussion will do a unified audition including all three areas (Keyboard Percussion, Snare and Timpani).

There are two region bands, the Symphonic and the Concert Band. Students will be placed in chairs and bands based on their performance. Not all students who audition will make one of the All-Region Bands. Students who earn a chair in either the Symphonic or Concert Bands will attend a two-day clinic at Texas State University in January. Students will learn the music in their folder to prepare for the clinic. The clinic culminates in a concert.

Students who chair high enough will qualify to compete in Area competition held the first Saturday in January. At the Area level, students will compete by playing the same two etudes and scale sheet. Students who chair high enough at the Area level will proceed to the State level.

ATSSB JAZZ REGION AND STATE

ATSSB Jazz auditions are held in September every year. Students may sign up to audition on traditional jazz instruments: trumpet, trombone, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, bari saxophone, guitar, bass guitar, trap set, or piano. The fee to audition this year is \$10.00. Students must sign the competition rules in the presence of a notary public.

Students prepare three pieces of music to perform in front of the judges. Students who make the Region Jazz Band have the option of recording a fourth piece of prepared music. This fourth piece will be used in the judging for All-State Jazz Band.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

Solo and Ensemble contest usually occurs in February. Students may choose to perform a solo or be a part of an ensemble. Students pay an \$8.00 registration fee for each solo or ensemble entry. Students should be aware that ensembles occasionally break up, resulting in forfeiture of the registration fee. Soloists must have an accompanist. The band directors will find

accompanist for students needing this service. Accompanist fees are usually \$30 per event. Students competing on piano must pay an \$8.00 entry fee.

Students choose a piece of music to perform from a selection of Classes I, II, and III. A Class I solo or ensemble is the most difficult, and a Class III is the least. Only freshmen are allowed to play Class III solos.

The same ratings scale is used in Solo and Ensemble as is used in UIL competitions. Performances are rated I, II, III, IV, or V. Medals may be won for those achieving a I, or superior rating. In order to advance to State Solo and Ensemble competition, a student must earn a I on a Class I solo or ensemble. In order for a soloist to advance, the solo must be played from memory. State Solo and Ensemble competition is held at the end of May.

PERFORMANCES

FOOTBALL GAMES

For home games, students report to the Junior High Band Hall in the assigned area at the designated time (usually 6:30 or 6:45 P.M.) in full uniform and with all materials: instrument, all music, lyre, flip folder. Color guard members must have the uniform and all necessary flags and accessories.

For away games, students report to the band hall in the assigned area at the designated roll call time. At roll call, students must be wearing Tiger Band T-shirt, uniform pants, black socks, and band shoes. Jacket and overlay should be hung up inside a uniform bag. Hat should be in hatbox. Students must have all other materials: instrument, all music, lyre, and flip folder. Students will be notified of the time of departure in advance for each away football game. Color guard members must have the uniform and all necessary flags and accessories.

The band will not stop to eat on the way to away games. Therefore, dinner should be eaten before departure or a sack lunch/supper eaten on the bus while in transit. Students will be allowed to go to the bathroom during the games in groups of no more than two.

All band and color guard members must remain in the appropriate section in the stands at all times during football games.

The color guard will play their instruments with the band in the stands at all football games until it is time to warm up for the halftime show. The color guard will perform their instruments with the band in the stands the entire second half of every football game. The color guard will be required to sit with their instrumental sections during football games.



The mascot and cheerleaders will be required to perform with the band at halftime. Varsity football players are expected to perform with the band at halftime until all contests are completed.

Drum Majors are responsible for inspection at games, enforcing proper football game procedures, conducting, and monitoring discipline.

PEP RALLIES

All Tiger Band Members will need to have their instrument, flip folder, music and a lyre at every pep rally. Band members who are also cheerleaders are not required to perform with the band during pep rallies. If the mascot is also a band member, he or she must perform with the band for at least half of the pep rallies. Football players are required to perform with the band at pep rallies. They may sit with the football team and wear the football jersey, but will join the band to perform.

PARADES

The Tiger Band performs at two parades each year, the Festival of Lights parade on the first Saturday of December and the Jamboree parade on the Saturday after Easter. Students wear the summer uniform at these parades. Students may wear turtleneck or thermal shirts underneath their band T-shirts at the Festival of Lights parade. Students may also wear Christmas hats and are encouraged to wear Christmas lights.

CONCERTS

Several concerts are scheduled each year including a holiday concert and a pre-UIL concert. These concerts are held in the cafetorium and are open to the public.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

LETTERING

One of the most prestigious awards a band student can earn is a letter jacket. To earn a letter jacket, Tiger Band members must accomplish all of the following:

1. Accomplish one of the following:
 - a. Audition for a chair at ATSSB or TMEA Region Band and earn a First Division on a Class I or Class II Solo or Ensemble (or)
 - b. Earn a chair in ATSSB or TMEA Region Band and earn a First or Second Division rating on a Class I or Class II Solo or Ensemble
 - c. *Qualify for State in any individual event*
2. Attend all performances and rehearsals.
3. Punctually attend all performances and rehearsals.
4. Be eligible all year *for Band Events*
5. Attend all of Summer Band Camp

Color guard lettering procedures differ from Tiger Band member lettering procedures. To earn a letter jacket, Tiger Color Guard members must accomplish all of the following:

1. Punctually attend all performances and rehearsals
2. Be eligible all year
3. Attend all of Summer Band and Color Guard Camp
1. Cause no discipline problems
2. Follow all rules of the Color Guard Constitution
6. Complete fifteen hours of community service
(Half of the hours must be for the Tiger Band Program or Tiger Band Boosters)
7. Be a member of the color guard for at least two years

END OF YEAR AWARDS

Band students are recognized throughout the year for their participation and success in ATSSB and UIL competitions. Several individual awards are given at the end of the year during the Band Banquet.

Outstanding Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior: Given to the outstanding band student in each classification. Voted on by the membership of the band.

Outstanding Marcher: Given to the student that demonstrates the best marching technique during marching season. Voted on by the membership of the band.

Outstanding Colorguard Member: Given to the student that demonstrates the best skills in Colorguard during marching season. Voted on by the Colorguard.

Biggest Giver: Given to the student who gives the most of him or herself to help others and to help the band. Voted on by the membership of the band.

Hardest Worker: Given to the student that puts in extra time and effort in order to improve himself/herself and the band. Voted on by the membership of the band.

Most Improved: Given to the student that shows the most musical improvement during the school year. Selected by the band directors.



Patrick Gilmore Award: A national band award given to the senior who best displays the qualities of determination and desire necessary to become an outstanding band member. Selected by the band directors.

Leadership Award: Given to the student who sets the example for other band members to follow through actions. Selected by the band directors.

John Philip Sousa Award: A national band award given to the outstanding senior musician in the band. Selected by the band directors.

SHORT TRIPS

Students must obey all school rules while participating with the band on or off campus. All students must use school provided transportation to all band events. The school district provides transportation home from these events and students should travel with the band home. In the event that there must be a deviation from this rule (e.g. for testing, illness, family emergency) the student must present a written request from a legal guardian in advance. Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to travel home from an event without written notification. Students will not be allowed to travel with friends to or from an event.

Students will be informed of departure times. The band usually returns from contests and football games after 10:00 P.M. The directors will give students an estimated time of arrival. Students will be allowed into the band hall to call their parents. Students should be picked up within thirty minutes of returning to school. If the band is unexpectedly delayed, the Tiger Band Boosters will call parents to tell them the approximate time of arrival.

Meal times planned during day trips. Students pay for their own meal unless specified otherwise. Lines are usually very long and some concessions are high priced. A sack lunch should be considered.

Students are expected to wear their band T-shirt or designated uniform while on band trips. Blankets and jackets are sometimes necessary and should be brought. Students should be aware that other schools do not provide dressing rooms.

OVERNIGHT TRIPS



The directors provide the students a complete agenda for each overnight trip. The trip agenda gives detailed information about the event and includes telephone numbers and directions to the band's destination.

Parents can be called and a band student can be sent home via public transport at the parents' expense if a student does not follow both school and band rules.

Normal school attire is appropriate to wear while traveling on the bus. Students may need to bring their uniforms or other special clothing. Because of the number of students traveling together, there is usually a limit of one suitcase per student. Students must carry their own belongings.

Students are given a choice of with whom they want to ride on the bus and with whom they wish to room. Usually four students will be assigned to a room. Each night there will be a curfew. There will be a full complement of chaperones. Each chaperone is responsible for specific students during the trip. Chaperones are not responsible for students' money or possessions.

When the Tiger Band travels to other cities, students are not allowed to leave the band to visit friends or relatives in the area. Those friends or relatives may come to visit the student during the student's free time with prior approval from the directors.

All food and transportation expenses are the student's responsibility. These trips are planned in advance and students are informed of the approximate cost. If the costs are high, a system of installment payments is devised. Students also have the opportunity to fundraise to offset some of the costs.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The Tiger Band holds a party following the end of Summer Band Camp every year. Other parties are scheduled by the directors to celebrate Tiger Band accomplishments. Band members volunteer to host these parties. Each section of the band is assigned to bring a different kind of food. Activities may include games, board games, or swimming.

BAND BOOSTERS

The purpose of the booster organization is to promote the Tiger Band and its activities and keep parents informed about events and activities. As a result, the key functions of the group involve communications, chaperones, and financial support.

The Tiger Band Boosters meets once a month during the school year. The time and date of monthly meetings are set at the first meeting of the school year. All parents are welcome to attend and participate.

The Tiger Band Boosters recruit chaperones for band trips. Many parents enjoy this experience. Chaperones are responsible for giving minor first aid treatment; repairing uniforms quickly; helping to load and unload instruments and equipment; distributing food, blankets, and cushions; and applauding loudly.



The group provides financial support by helping to purchase equipment, special needs, and help with whatever the group feels is affordable and enhances the band. The Tiger Band booster group uses its funds to supplement the band activity account. The Boosters help raise money for the yearly band trip. The band goes to Disney World in Orlando, Florida once every four years. Other years, the band trip is in state. Goals for the Boosters' activity fund are set at the beginning of the school year and will change from year to year.

BAND LINKS

- Smithville ISD
<http://www.smithvilleisd.org>
- Tiger Band Page
<http://www.smithvilleband.com/HSBand/index.htm>
- UIL Music
<http://www.uil.utexas.edu/music/index.html>
- UIL Music Region 18
<http://www.uilmusicregion18.com/>
- ATSSB
<http://www.atssb.org/>
- TMEA
<http://www.tmea.org/>
- Texas Color Guard Circuit
<http://www.texascolorguardcircuit.org/>
- Strait Music Company
<http://www.straitmusic.com/>



CREDIT

Special thanks go to those who helped me to produce *The Tiger Band Handbook*. Mr. King provided information and guidance. KayLynn McBee took all of the photographs except for the photograph on page twenty-one. Various Tiger Band Members provided the quotations.

Elaina Erwin
SHS Band Member, Class of 2002

Marching Maneuvers

Smithville Tiger Band

- I. Stationary Commands
 - A. Attention
 - 1. Basic position in which a other commands are built upon.
 - 2. Feet together (weight is on the BALL of your foot)
 - 3. Stomach in
 - 4. Chest out
 - 5. Shoulders back
 - 6. Head up
 - 7. Eyes - **WITH PRIDE!!** (just above the horizon)
 - 8. Remember how the hands are clasped (left over right)
 - 9. Remember how you check for 90 degree angle of arms
 - 10. Vocal call - **Band Atten- Hut**
 - 11. Response - **Pride!**
 - B. Trail Arms
 - 1. Hands and arms go to side
 - 2. Arms should not be excessively bent, only slightly
 - 3. Hands are closed
 - 4. Thumbs are aligned with seams of pants
 - 5. Position is basically the same as attention
 - 6. Vocal call - **Band Trail Arms**
 - 7. Response - **Hut**
 - C. Horns Up & Horns Down
 - 1. These commands will be given from the position of attention
 - 2. With instruments, horns up will be different depending on instrument
 - 3. Vocal call - **Band Horns Up (or horns down)**
 - 4. Response - **Hut**
 - D. Dress Right Dress & Dress Left Dress
 - 1. Purpose is to align ranks from the position of attention
 - 2. Only movement is with the head (except person on end)
 - 3. You should adjust if you are out of line
 - 4. Vocal call - **Dress Right Dress (or left)**
 - 5. Response - **Hit**
 - 6. Vocal call - **Ready Front**
 - 7. Response - **Hit**
 - E. Dress Center Dress
 - 1. Dress to center point
 - 2. Person who is in the center will not move
 - 3. You should adjust if you are out of line
 - 4. Vocal call - **Dress Center Dress**
 - 5. Response - **Hit**
 - 6. Use **Ready Front** command to bring heads forward
 - F. At Ease
 - 1. Keep one foot planted
 - G. Detail to the Ready

- II. Moving Commands
- A. Mark Time
1. Toes on ground
 2. Heels one inch from ground
 3. Vocal call - **Mark Time Mark**
 4. Response - **Lift & 1 2 3 4 ect.....**
- B. Halt for Mark Time
1. Vocal call for a halt is given on the left foot
 2. Halt will be on the left foot
 3. Vocal call - **Band Halt**
 4. Response - **1 2**
- C. Spin Left Spin
1. Almost same as spinning in place while marking time
 2. 4 count move to the left
 3. Vocal call - **Spin Left Spin**
 4. Response - **Lift & 1 2 3 4 Band Halt**
- D. Spin Right Spin
1. This command requires a dead step with the left foot
 2. 4 count move to the right
 3. Vocal call - **Spin Right Spin**
 4. Response - **Lift & 1 2 3 4 Band Halt**
- E. Spin About Spin
1. This is always done to the left!!
 2. 8 count move to the left
 3. Vocal call - **Spin About Spin**
 4. Response - **Lift & 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 Band Halt**
- F. Forward March
1. Toes to the sky
 2. Lead with the knee
 3. Roll the feet to avoid bouncing (check for good posture)
 4. Practice the first step at first, look for left toe up & right heel up on 1
 5. Vocal call - **Forward March**
 6. Response - **& 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8, ect. . .**
 7. Same halt as for Mark Time
- G. Backward March
1. On your toes
 2. Weight is on the toes
 3. Slide feet across ground (check for good posture)
 4. Step size needs to be larger than you think
 5. Vocal call - **Backwards March**
 6. Response - **& 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8, ect. . .**
 7. Same halt as for Mark Time
- J. Slide Left Slide & Slide Right Slide
1. Horns should remain facing toward press box (shoulders should be square to press box)
 2. Command is given on the left foot and the pivot is executed on the right foot. (**freeze-e-&-a turn**)
 3. You can also give them a sequence (forward 8, slide left 8 and stop)
- III. Drill the Position of Attention
- A. With PRIDE!!
- B. This is YOUR BAND!!

SMITHVILLE ISD ELIGIBILITY CALENDAR 2011 – 2012

Date	Event
September 30	Check grades
October 7	Students lose or regain eligibility **
October 21	Check grades of students who lost eligibility on October 8
October 28	Students who were passing all classes on October 21 become eligible **
November 4	Check grades
November 11	Students lose or regain eligibility **
November 28	Check grades of students who lost eligibility on November 11
December 2	Students who were passing all classes on November 28 become eligible **
December 16	Check grades
January 6	Students lose or regain eligibility **
January 20	Check grades of students who lost eligibility on January 6
January 27	Students who were passing all classes on January 20 become eligible **
February 17	Check grades
February 24	Students lose or regain eligibility **
March 9	Check grades of students who lost eligibility on February 24
March 23	Students who were passing all classes on March 9 become eligible **
April 12	Check grades
April 19	Students lose or regain eligibility ** (This is a Thursday)
May 3	Check grades of students who lost eligibility April 19
May 10	Students who were passing all classes on May 3 become eligible **

Christmas Holidays - All students are eligible

Spring Break - All students are eligible

Summer Break - All students are eligible

Ineligible Students **cannot** travel with the band or perform at Pep Rallies, Football Games & Extra-curricular performances.

Ineligible students **can** and are expected to attend extra practices and perform at curricular concerts. (Curricular concerts include the Christmas and Spring Concerts)

** **Eligibility** is lost or regained at the **end of the regular school day** - even if the day it changes falls on a school holiday.

PARENT AND STUDENT AGREEMENT FORM

(Copies of the Tiger Band Handbook can be obtained by requesting a printed copy from the H.S. Band Office or online at <http://www.smithvilleband.com/>)

SMITHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL TIGER BAND PROGRAM 2011-2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I understand that my child, _____, will participate in the Smithville High School band for the 2011-2012 school year. I hereby grant permission for my child to attend all events in which the band will participate, including but not limited to out-of-town football games and field trips. I understand that my child will be transported to these events by a school-approved vehicle, i.e. school buses, charter buses, private transportation.

I understand that each trip will be chaperoned by Tiger Band parents and/or other adults. The band carries a full first aid kit at all times, and chaperones may give minor first aid treatment. In the event of an accident, I grant the chaperones the authority to give a physician permission to administer medical aid to my child. Any special health needs and/or allergies the teacher should be aware of are listed below:



Student Agreement:

I, _____, agree to follow the rules and in the 2011-2012 *Tiger Band Handbook*.

Dated, this the _____ day of _____, 20____

Signature of Band Student

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment and Agreement:

I, _____, agree to the rules and policies in the 2011-2012 *Tiger Band Handbook* and I understand that I shall contact the Tiger Band Directors in writing should any of the above circumstances change.

Dated, this the _____ day of _____, 20____

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Smithville Band Emergency/Medical Care
2011-2012

Name of Student _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Home Address _____ Email Address _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Where parents may be reached in case of an emergency.

Father's Name _____ Mother's Name _____

Home Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Relative or Friend contact in case parents cannot be reached.

Name _____ Phone _____

Name of Family Physician _____ Phone _____

(If unable to name a physician or pay medical services, then medical, hospital, or welfare services may be authorized.)

A. **Emergency Care:** In case of an accident or sudden illness to the above named child, and in the event I cannot be reached by telephone, I hereby authorize a representative of the **Smithville Independent School District** personnel to secure appropriate Emergency Medical Services.

B. My child is receiving medication: YES _____ NO _____

I agree to furnish an adequate amount of the medication in pharmacy container with the current prescription label listing the child's name, the drug, the doctor's name, the directions concerning dosage and the pharmacy number. I understand that **Smithville Independent School District** personnel will protect my child and not administer medication if this medication form is not completed or I do not furnish the medication as required.

I authorize a representative of the Smithville Independent School District to administer the following medication to my child during this field trip:

Copy medication instructions from the medical container.

Name of Medication	Dosage	Time Taken
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____

Any known allergies? Yes _____ No _____

Please list below:

Date _____
Parent or Guardian Signature: _____

** Parents and students should be aware that this form must be turned in prior to leaving or they will not attend.

**PARENT/STUDENT UIL MARCHING BAND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

No student may be required to attend practice for marching band for more than eight hours of rehearsal outside the academic school day per calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). This provision applies to students in all components of the marching band.

On performance days (football games, competitions and other public performances) bands may hold up to one additional hour of warm-up and practice beyond the scheduled warm-up time at the performance site. Multiple performances on the same day do not allow for additional practice and/or warm-up time.

Examples Of Activities Subject To The UIL Marching Band Eight Hour Rule.

- Marching Band Rehearsal (Both Full Band And Components)
- Any Marching Band Group Instructional Activity
- Breaks
- Announcements
- Debriefing And Viewing Marching Band Videos
- Playing Off Marching Band Music
- Marching Band Sectionals (Both Director And Student Led)
- Clinics For The Marching Band Or Any Of Its Components

The Following Activities Are Not Included In The Eight Hour Time Allotment:

- Travel Time To And From Rehearsals And/Or Performances
- Rehearsal Set-Up Time
- Pep Rallies, Parades And Other Public Performances
- Instruction And Practice For Music Activities Other Than Marching Band And Its Components

NOTE: An extensive Q&A for the Eight Hour Rule for Marching Band can be found on the Music Page of the UIL Web Site at: www.uil.utexas.edu

“We have read and understand the Eight-Hour Rule for Marching Band as stated above and agree to abide by these regulations.”

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

This form is to be kept on file by the local school district.

Smithville High School Band

Photo Release Form

Due to the nature of the ensembles in the Smithville High School Band, we are often taking photos of our students and using them in a variety of ways. They are used regularly on our website and in fundraisers and they serve as wonderful positive publicity for our organization. To respect each individual student and their family, we ask that permission be granted for the use of your child in these photographs. Please circle each release below with either a yes or no.

I hereby give permission to:

1. Publish my child's photograph on the Smithville Tiger Band website.

Yes	No
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2. Use my child's photograph in fundraising projects (ex. Cookbook, Calendar, Scrapbooks, "End of Year" Slide Show, etc...)

Yes	No
-----	----

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Student Name _____

Grade _____

Instrument _____

** We are planning on doing a band calendar fundraiser this year and would like to feature each section and the full band.