

Seguin High School Band

Handbook



Dear Parents and Students,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that we introduce the Seguin High School Matador Band Handbook. Much thought and many hours have gone into the preparation of this handbook and we hope that you will always find it useful in explaining the policies and procedures for this school year. As always, if you need more information, please do not hesitate to call or email us.

After reading the material carefully, please be sure to sign and return the required documents found at the end of this book by the second Friday in September. The Band Calendar can be found on our web-site (www.seguinbands.com) and on charmsoffice.com, and each student will be responsible for knowing the dates and times of every rehearsal, activity and performance.

Respectfully,
Matador Band Staff

Preface

There are four criteria for success in the Matador Band. They are listed below in order of importance.

ATTENDANCE

There is no more important criterion for success than ATTENDANCE. Any absence, for whatever reason, results in the student missing the learning that takes place. Therefore, there is no “excused” or “unexcused” absence, as such. Absences are to be communicated in advance as a function of courtesy to fellow band members and teachers. Except in case of an emergency, all absences are to be communicated to a band director in person or email PRIOR to the absence. When considering opportunities for leadership, advancement, and any other privilege or honor in the Matador Band, the first consideration is ATTENDANCE.

ATTITUDE

Students who are positive and enthusiastic learn more and get more out of the experience. Remember, you’ll find whatever you’re looking for. Therefore, rather than looking for heat, sweat, or frustration, you are encouraged to look for teamwork, commitment, passion, excellence, thrills, excitement, class, character, and community. All of those elements will be found in the Matador Band if you seek it! It’s all in what you look for. However, the best ATTITUDE is only a benefit with good ATTENDANCE.

INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

This is not how “smart” someone is. Intellectual development comes from being an *intentional learner*. An intentional learner makes changes when corrected and looks for more than just what is offered. An intentional learner pays close attention to how their teachers get students to achieve so they can apply those same strategies to their own individual practice. Simply put, intellectual development comes from thinking about what you do. Of course, intellectual development is only possible with good ATTENDANCE and a positive ATTITUDE.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Physical ability is simply how well someone marches or plays their instrument. We start by figuring out how good we are and then by imagining how good we want to be. Getting better is what makes it fun, but you can’t get better without effort. You have to invest the time and physical energy to achieve on a high level. PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT results from good ATTENDANCE, a positive ATTITUDE, and INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT. In short, if you show up with a great attitude and think about what you do, you’ll develop your skills. This is at the heart of a FUN and REWARDING experience.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The following guidelines pertain to all marching band, concert band, winterguard, jazz band, and indoor drumline rehearsals, sectionals and performances.

In order to maintain a high quality program, attendance from ALL members is essential. While the Matador Band follows all school and district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the Matador Band program. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held outside the school day. Failure to participate in either rehearsals or performances may result in student removal from the organization at the discretion of the band directors.

Please note that students are encouraged to participate in as many organizations as they can manage. However, please keep in mind that students participating in a varsity position, such as having a spot in the show, drumline, or color guard, are expected to be at rehearsals and all performances. It is challenging for students to have a successful experience if they miss more than 15% of rehearsals. In addition, missing practice will have a significant visual and musical impact on the student and others around them.

Roll Check

Roll will be checked and documented promptly at the start of rehearsal.

Tardiness

Students not in their designated area at the appropriate time will be marked tardy. A tardy will be converted to a mark of absent 15 minutes after the rehearsal begins.

Excused Tardiness

Tardiness may be excused at the discretion of the directors. Tutorials, appointments etc. will not be an excuse for tardiness unless prior arrangements, with written documentation, are made and approved by a director.

Unexcused Tardiness

Students who have more than one unexcused tardy shall make up missed time at a time to be arranged by the director and may be subject to one of the following consequences at the discretion of the band directors:

- Loss of spot as a primary marcher
- Loss of chair placement
- Loss of marching privilege (for one game) at a football game
- Requirement to stay after rehearsal or report early to next rehearsal to make up lost time
- Requirement to make up 15 minutes of fundamental marching with section leader

Absence

Students not present at the appropriate time may be marked absent.

Excused Absence

Absences will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Appointments, tutorials etc. will not be an excuse for an absence. Absence due to personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances (approved by the director) may be considered for excused status. Students who are continually ill will be required to provide a doctor's note releasing them from participation in order to ensure the wellbeing of the child. If in doubt, an absence should be checked with a director.

Unexcused Absence

Students who have an unexcused absence or students with a pattern of excused absences may be subject to one or more of the following consequences at the discretion of the directors:

- Make up missed time
- Loss of spot as a primary marcher
- Loss of marching privilege for one game
- Loss of attendance privilege for one game
- Loss of chair position
- Schedule change
- Removal from program

Parents will be notified immediately

Band Rehearsal Guidelines and Student Conduct

1. NO food, gum, or drinks are allowed in the band facilities.
2. Students must enter the band facilities calmly and quietly.
3. Students should not enter the band hall unless a director is in the vicinity.
4. No unauthorized students or visitors allowed in the band facilities.
5. Bullying or hazing will not be tolerated.
6. Theft will result in removal from the organization.
7. Be seated with your instrument, music, and pencil at the time designated by the director.
8. Show good rehearsal etiquette by being a good team player. Remain on task at all times; do not talk or interrupt the focus of the rehearsal. Raise your hand and ask questions if you need individual help. Maintain proper posture at all times.
9. Cell phones are not to be seen or used during any rehearsals. If a director sees your phone out during a rehearsal, it will be collected and only a parent will be able to pick it up.
10. Be mindful and respectful of groups that are rehearsing in the band facilities and do not disturb their rehearsal time.
11. Do not leave books, purses or other valuables unlocked in the band hall or in your instrument locker. The Band Department is not responsible for personal items stored anywhere in the Band Hall. Students are advised to lock all valuables in their assigned locker.
12. Students are solely responsible for the care and maintenance of their assigned equipment. All instruments and equipment are to remain in their cases, with shut latches, when not in use. Students should have a nametag on their instrument case that is clearly visible. Be sure that your serial number, make and model of your instrument are written down at home. Students will be held responsible for any damage to the instrument or equipment, outside of the normal wear and tear.
13. Take proper care of your band uniform. All parts should be returned to their proper place and be hung correctly. Uniforms should never be laid on the ground! Uniforms are to remain stored in the Uniform Room when not in use.
14. Instrument lockers shall remain clean. No food should be left in the locker! Marching shoes and rehearsal clothes must be stored in a bag during marching season. Any items left on the Instrument Room floor will be discarded at the end of the day.
15. The practice rooms are for the convenience of any private lesson staff and for student practice. They are not to be used by any other person or for any other reason besides practicing or music pass-offs. A maximum of two people should be in a practice room at a time, unless approved by a band director.
16. Students should not enter the directors' office without permission. Please knock and wait for a response. No student is to use the band office computers/phone/copier without permission.
17. Please be considerate of the directors' requests for assistance and/or performance of tasks around the band hall.
18. Band members serve as goodwill ambassadors for the school and the community. Polite and courteous behavior is a credit to the band organization, to the school, and to the parents. Be respectful at all times.
19. There will be NO CHANGING in ANY band practice facility.
20. Follow all school and district rules. Any infraction of conduct, attitude, or responsibility will be dealt with in one or more of the following manners:
 - a. Conference with student
 - b. Conference with parent
 - c. Probationary contract
 - d. Expulsion from band program
 - e. Other (as designated by school administration)

Our goal as a staff is to ensure that all students are treated fairly. Please call one of our directors if you have any concerns. We will work with you to resolve problems. We are here to provide a quality music education for all our students.

Online Citizenship and Responsibilities

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that band member websites are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication such as Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, photo sharing, emailing, or texting, etc., appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Members are responsible for their personal websites and postings, as well as posting from or on other students' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include but are not limited to profane, foul, or disrespectful language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, references to alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, and postings (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other bands. Any such incident will result in review by the principal (or designee) and may lead to probation or dismissal from the band. Band members that violate the above guidelines shall be subject to the following:

- Upon confirmation of a first violation, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the website(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal, directors, and band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior.
- Upon confirmation of a second offense, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the website(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal, directors, and band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior. In addition, the student will be suspended from all Band activities for a period no less than 3 school days.
- Upon confirmation of a third offense, the member will be removed from the band.

Violations that may be interpreted as bullying, racist, sexist, or threatening towards anyone may result in automatic expulsion from the Seguin Band Program.

The Seguin Matador Band

The Matador Band is the largest organization on the Seguin campus. It performs at all varsity football games, parades, contests and other public performances. The Matador Band is open to any student who has passed a proficiency audition or has director approval.

Marching Band Assignments

Once a student has been accepted into the marching band, he/she must pass a series of playing and marching evaluations and maintain passing grades in all courses. Since our marching band drills are pre-designed for a fixed instrumentation, it may be necessary to rotate some players in and out of a spot in the show from week to week. Beginning in 2021-2022 in order for a student to qualify for a "varsity" spot in our marching performances, they must demonstrate musical and marching mastery as determined by the directors. Students who do not meet the necessary criteria will be assigned to a "junior varsity" or "visual ensemble" position until the necessary criteria are met. Students will be evaluated based upon music pass-offs and marching fundamentals. Everyone's role is crucial in the success of the production of our show. Regardless of your role in the Fall Production, students will perform on their instrument during band class, pep rallies and in the stands at football games.

Rehearsal Schedule and Attendance

Summer band rehearsals begin approximately three weeks before school starts. Throughout the football season, full marching band rehearsal times will be noted on the band website. As per UIL rule, we will practice up to one additional hour on performance days.

Please refer to the attendance section of this handbook for ALL attendance requirements and procedures.

Marching Rehearsal Safety

Students' attire for all marching band rehearsals includes athletic-style shorts, light colored t-shirt, athletic shoes, and socks. Sunglasses, hats and the use of sunscreen are also strongly encouraged. Water bottles will be kept close, and frequent water breaks will be taken. Students should let a director know if they feel dizzy or weak. During rehearsals, the directors will constantly monitor the weather conditions and make adjustments as necessary for the safety of the students.

Band Uniforms

The band uniform should always be worn with pride! The uniform must never be worn incorrectly. These uniforms are in good condition, and they must be kept that way. Band uniforms are stored in the band hall and will not be issued to take home. They must be returned in the condition they were found after each performance. Each band member will be issued:

- Marching jacket
- Bibbers
- Shako (plumes are handed out for performance)
- Gauntlets

It is the responsibility of each band member to provide the following for every performance:

- Black MTX marching shoes
- Knee high black socks (no patterns or other colors)
- Gloves
- Show Shirt

Uniform Pride: Uniforms must be worn with pride. All students will wear the uniform the same way either all on or all off. There will be **NO RUNNING** in uniform. There will be no eating in uniform, unless approved by a director. There will be no profanity or disrespectful behavior or horseplay in uniform.

Football Game and Marching Contest Procedures

Expectations are for Band and Colorguard

1. GAMEDAY AFTERNOONS:

Here is the typical schedule for a game:

- After School - Rehearsal at Stadium
- Dinner
- Inspection
- Load Buses (if away)
- Line Up (if home)
- Parade to Stands (if home)
- Halftime
- Depart Stadium
- Arrive Back to SHS

You will have little time between dinner and inspection, so you will need to come to school that morning with everything you need for the football game. It's a good idea to pack a sack lunch and a drink. Some parents also choose to bring their students something to eat before inspection. Choose the plan that best suits your schedule, but whichever you do, be sure to eat something before inspection. REMEMBER: THERE IS TO BE NO EATING IN THE BAND HALL – USE THE CAFETERIA!

Make sure you have everything you need for the game before you come to school on Friday:

- Band:
 - black marching shoes and long black socks
 - show/rehearsal shirt for under your uniform
 - flip folder, lyre and music
 - instrument
- Guard:
 - uniform
 - gloves
 - all equipment
 - tape
 - shoes
 - performance make-up

2. UNIFORMS: All uniforms will remain in the uniform closet except when in use. Arrive at the Band Hall early enough on game and contest days so that you have time to get your uniform and everything else you need for a performance. Find a seat and keep your belongings there. You will need compression or thin athletic shorts and the designated band shirt underneath your uniform at each performance. Keep track of YOUR hanger! Each hanger has a number that corresponds to your uniform number, so that you don't get yours mixed up. Leave your hanger on your assigned spot on the uniform rack so that it does not get lost.

After the game, make sure your bibbers are properly hung on the hanger and placed in the proper location.

3. INSPECTION: When inspection is held, students will be inspected for the following:

- a. All necessary uniform parts (socks, shoes, gloves, etc.)
- b. Condition of equipment
 - Brass: horns polished
 - Woodwinds: horns cleaned, at least three good reeds
 - Percussion: sticks/mallets (taped correctly); drum cleaned
 - Color Guard: all equipment properly taped; all silks checked for wear and tear

- c. Flip folder in good condition, properly labeled, with all of the necessary music in the correct order
- d. No exposed jewelry or face piercings (with the exception of guard costume pieces)
- e. No distracting makeup (basic neutral facial makeup allowed)
- f. Facial hair must meet district dress code.
- g. No fingernail polish or visible pen/marker markings on hands or elsewhere
- h. All hair should be neatly kept so that it does not reach the collar of the uniform

Consequences:

First Offense - If a student is late for inspection, or fails inspection by not meeting one or more of the criteria above, they will not be allowed to play in the stands that evening during the first half of the same. They will sit with the band director for the first half.

Second Offense – The same as above, but the student will also not be allowed to march at halftime.

Third Offense – Parent conference

4. **LOADING:** For those whose instruments are loaded onto the equipment truck, be at the school at the designated time to have your instrument packed and at the loading area. Instruments are to be placed at the designated area at the scheduled posted time. The loading crew's responsibility is to load the equipment that is placed in the loading area, not to come get your instrument for you. Upon return to the school after the game or contest, you are to pick up your instrument from the loading area and return it to the band hall. It is your responsibility to put your instrument away in your cubby.

5. **BUS RIDES:** All transportation to games and competitions (with the exception of some contests) will be on school buses. Remember that some drivers are less tolerant than others. Here are some general rules to follow regarding bus transportation:

Only private ipods and MP3 players with headphones are permitted. Those that have external speakers are not.

Remain seated at all times

Talking is to be kept at a reasonable level. Screaming, yelling, etc. is not acceptable.

Keep all parts of the body inside the bus at all times

Bus lists will be made prior to the first game and you must remain on your assigned bus

No talking until all buses have completely exited the campus

No talking when we arrive to a location

All trash must be picked up each time you exit the bus

6. **ALTERNATE TRANSPORTATION:** If for some reason you need to ride with your parents either to or from a band-sponsored event, you are required to give a completed Student Travel Release Form that is signed by the principal and a parent to Director of Bands AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED EVENT. This should only be used in situations where no other transportation alternative is available. This policy may seem strict, but it is enforced to protect our students. Only an adult driver has permission to take you to or from an event. Student drivers holding a valid driver's license MAY NOT transport any student other than themselves. When leaving the event with parents, it is imperative that you let the band directors know you are leaving, so that we can be certain you have left with your parents. You must either take your instrument with you or see to it that someone will bring it in from the loading area for you.

7. **ARRIVAL AT THE STADIUM:** The first people to get off the buses are the directors. Everyone else is to remain on board until instructed to unload. Once everything is unloaded, you are to quickly line up for stadium entry. You must be completely dressed in uniform by the time we line up. No unzipped bibbers or jackets! In general, we line up in the order that we sit in the stadium from top to bottom, beginning with tubas and low brass, followed by horns and trumpets. The Color Guard generally has the first two rows, depending on the stadium. As we march into the stadium, we will do so in a dignified manner, and everyone will remain standing in their places in the stands until instructed to sit down. Water will be distributed immediately after the game begins.

8. IN THE STANDS:

Once in the stadium, you are to remain in your designated place IN YOUR SECTION until time to leave for half-time or depart from the game.

Non-band members are NOT ALLOWED in the band seating area at any time. This includes adults that are not volunteering as chaperones.

ALL VISITORS MUST CHECK IN WITH A DIRECTOR (Alumni, Parents, Siblings, etc)

All students must have their music in a flip folder. Always have your instrument ready and watch closely for cut-offs in the music, as the band will sometimes stop playing in the middle of a song.

No food, drink or gum is allowed during games

You must have permission from the drum majors to use the restroom. Never go to the restroom alone - always go with at least one other person. Return quickly from the restroom so that others may go. Students are not allowed to visit the concession stand.

Do not play your instrument unless the entire band is performing.

NO cellphones allowed in stands. In the case of emergency contact a director.

Students are responsible for maintaining vertical lines.

9. CONDUCT: You must remember that from the moment we are off the bus, we are performing. You are expected to act in a dignified manner. During pre-game, we will stand while the other school's alma mater is being played. We will also be respectful while the National Anthem is being played. While we are on the sideline waiting for the half-time performance, you are expected to stand quietly. After the half-time performance, we will either proceed in an orderly manner back to the stands, or you will stand quietly in a relaxed parade rest while the home band performs.

You are part of a fine organization and are expected to act accordingly. At no time should anyone do anything or say anything that could reflect negatively on the group in general. Remember that these events are school-sponsored activities and general rules of conduct will apply, but because we are in uniform, you are expected to conduct yourself better than the average student.

POST Game – POST Performances

1. Students will be responsible for putting up all items including instruments and uniforms.
2. The Leadership Team will inspect the band hall to ensure that all band spaces are neat and clean.
3. All students are responsible for having a ride home at the appropriate time.

Concert Season Information

School Instruments

Certain instruments are available through SISD for rental for the school year. The cost of rental is \$60.00 for the school year. Any damage to an instrument beyond the normal wear and tear will be charged to the student/parent.

Band Auditions

There will be one major audition each year to place students in band classes and/or to assign chair placement within each ensemble. Students will audition in May for both Fall and Spring, with an opportunity to move up based on performance assessments. Student chair placement within a band may change during the semester at the director's discretion based on performance, attitude, or Region Band audition results. Students not in the varsity band that earn a position in the region band may be given an opportunity to challenge for a position. A position in a region band does not automatically guarantee a higher position in the band.

Sectionals

All students will be required to attend two 45 min to 1 hour sectionals each week after marching season. Attendance responsibilities are outlined on the attendance section of this handbook.

All District/All Region/Area/All State Band

All Varsity Band members are required to participate in the Region Band audition process. Junior Varsity members are highly encouraged to participate in this process as well. Region Auditions take place in late November or early December.

Extracurricular Trip Rules for Students

The sponsor shall function as the designated administrator in charge of the activity when an administrator is not present. Any violation of rules may result in penalties provided under the Seguin High School Code of Student Conduct, the Matador Band Handbook and/or the student being returned to Seguin ISD or the nearest available transportation terminal at the parent's expense.

All district and respective campus rules apply as well as the rules of the Matador Band.

Use or possession of tobacco, alcohol or any illegal drugs will result in notification of proper authorities and possible immediate return of the student to the District at the parent's expense. If illegal activity results in detention by authorities, parents shall have responsibility for all intervention, counsel and transportation.

Curfew will be established nightly and adhered to strictly by all students.

Students must stay in assigned rooms. No sexual or other improper activity is tolerated from students on overnight trips. No students are allowed in rooms of the opposite sex. Only participating Seguin ISD students are allowed in Seguin ISD rooms. Students must notify sponsor/chaperone of their whereabouts at all times if they are in a location other than their assigned room.

No phone calls are allowed between rooms after curfew. No long distance calls are to be made from hotel rooms.

No pay-per-view is allowed.

The sponsor will conduct a mandatory meeting with parents/chaperones prior to the trip. Failure of the parent to attend the meeting may result in the student and parent not participating in the activity.

Malicious or willful damage/theft of property by a student shall result in the student being returned to the District. Parents and students shall assume full financial responsibility for damages, transportation and any other associated costs.

Luggage and personal items are subject to search shall result being returned to the District officials and/or chaperones have reasonable suspicion that the luggage or personal items contain illegal items.

Students must maintain possession of receipts if any items are purchased by students while on band trips.

Seguin High School Band Department Courses

Wind Ensemble (Varsity)

Prerequisite: Audition and approval by Director

The Wind Ensemble is a performance-based class for students who demonstrate advanced musical development. Students will perform musical compositions, which are designed for concert performances. The Wind Ensemble performs at UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contests, and various state and national festivals when possible. There are opportunities for individual achievement through auditions for District, Region, Area, and All-State Band, and through our Chamber Music Festival (Solo & Ensemble). All Honors Band students are required to participate in District band contest and chamber music festival. Students not participating may be placed in a different band class. Students in the Wind Ensemble must be enrolled in the appropriate class period and *must participate in marching band*. Students with scheduling conflicts will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Varsity band students are encouraged to sign up for the instrumental ensemble class in addition to the varsity band class.

Wind Symphony (Junior Varsity)

Prerequisite: Audition and approval by Director

Wind Symphony is a performance-based class for students who demonstrate intermediate musical development. Students will perform musical compositions, which are designed for concert performances. The Wind Symphony performs at UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contests, and various state and national festivals when possible. All Wind Symphony students are required to learn District band music and participate at the chamber music festival. Students not participating may be placed in a different band class. Students in the Wind Symphony must be enrolled in the appropriate class period and *must participate in marching band*. Students with scheduling conflicts will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Symphonic Band (Junior Varsity)

Prerequisite: Audition and approval by Director

Symphonic Band is a performance-based class for students who are developing their musical abilities. Students will perform musical compositions, which are designed for concert performances. The Symphonic Band may perform at UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest, and various state and national festivals when possible. District band music is optional for this class but must participate at the chamber music festival. Students in the Symphonic Band must be enrolled in the appropriate class period and *must participate in marching band*. Students with scheduling conflicts will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Color Guard

Prerequisite: Audition and approval by director

Color Guard students will study intermediate and advanced forms of dance, choreography, color, and equipment. Equipment includes flag, saber, and rifle. Students will learn body movement and dance. During the fall semester, the Color Guard performs at football games and contests with the marching band. In the spring semester, the Color Guard members participate in Winter Guard. The Color Guard/Winter Guard will compete in local, state, and national competitions. Students must be enrolled in the appropriate class period and *must participate in marching band*. Students with scheduling conflicts will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. A supplemental handbook specifically for color guard will be issued to all color guard students.

Marching Band

Prerequisite: Audition and approval by director

Marching Band is the musical and visual production involving all band and guard members in the fall semester. Students will perform at the high school football games and local, state, and national competitions. Students will learn the basics of marching & maneuvering, and musicianship. Marching Band meets after school.

Attendance for Rehearsals and Performances (Marching, Concert and Color Guard)

Students must be present at all rehearsals and performances. SAT/ACT dates that occur on marching band performances and graduation must be avoided. Please refer to the attendance section (page 4 & 5) of this handbook for attendance responsibilities.

Eligibility

Students will be required to be academically eligible in order to perform or attend at any contests, public performances, trips, TCGC, WGI, UIL, football games and rehearsals. Students who become academically ineligible at the beginning of marching/football season will not be allowed to return for the duration of the season, regardless of regaining eligibility. Students eligible for a waiver, must complete the steps required at the appropriate time.

Re-enrolling in band/color guard

Students who are removed from band/color guard or quit will NOT be allowed to return unless approved by the director. Transfer students or students who have music experience and have not been enrolled in band may be evaluated for participation on a case-by-case basis. Transfer students will be required to audition prior to being assigned a band class.

Private Lessons

Seguin High School will offer a staff of private lesson instructors. These highly qualified teachers are specialists on their particular instruments. Private Lessons offer the students the opportunity to study at their own pace. If they need extra assistance on fundamentals, the private lesson instructors help to supplement their daily assignments. If the student feels they would like to push forward to upper level studies, the instructors will help in this process. In either case, individual instruction can only help!

Private lessons are usually 25-30 minutes long, once a week. Most lessons are scheduled during band class period although some lessons will be before school or after school. If a student is unable to attend a lesson, they are expected to communicate with the private instructor 24 hours in advance. If advanced notice is not given and the student does not show up for the lesson, payment for that lesson is still required.

Please note that the best bands in Texas have a majority of their students participating in private lessons. We HIGHLY recommend that students take advantage of private lessons.

REQUIREMENTS FOR LETTERING IN BAND

The requirements for lettering in band are outlined by the Department of Fine Arts for Seguin ISD. All fine arts programs will follow the same guidelines for receiving and ordering letter jackets.

DIRECTOR COMMUNICATION

If there are ever questions regarding band or color guard, we strongly encourage you to contact a director through email or office phone. This information can be found on the campus directory or our band website.

The school district does not provide cell phones to directors, therefore, we respectfully ask that students and parents refrain from contacting directors on personal cell phones.

PARENT CONFERENCES

If there are ever any questions or concerns that need to be addressed to a director, you may set up a phone or in-person conference. However, all conferences must be made by appointment during standard school hours. Conferences will not be held before/after marching practice, any event, football game, marching contest, concert, or during non-standard school hours.

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

for the Seguin High School Band Handbook

It is the intention of the Band Directors to provide a safe and positive musical experience for every band student. Some behaviors, which include but are not limited to theft, sexual misconduct, bullying, online or social media misuse, possession of tobacco, illegal drugs or alcohol would constitute immediate removal from the Band program.

In the event of other inappropriate behaviors (such as flagrant and/or repeated insubordination or persistent student misconduct in or around the Band Hall, or at band events), the directors will follow the guidelines below.

1. Director- student conference
2. Director- parent conference (with or without the student)
3. Student behavioral contract
4. Removal of student from Band Program

*****PLEASE SIGN THE STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING ONLINE LOCATED IN THE ONLINE REGISTRATION GOOGLE FORM*****