

UVALDE HIGH SCHOOL POLICY BOOK

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Philosophy

The band program is directed toward guiding students to an appreciation and understanding of music, while expanding cultural awareness and a discriminating aesthetic sense through developing the highest quality of instrumental & musical proficiency as possible. The growth, self-discipline, positive self-image, commitment, responsibility, and teamwork will be strengthened through his or her participation in the district's band program. Likewise, the colorguard program is also designed to provide students with a deeper appreciation and understanding of music. Through a combination of physical, visual and emotional means, students will be exposed to the intricacies of different musical styles throughout their participation in this program.

Overview

The band program consists of grades sixth through twelfth on three different campuses. Flores Elementary is home of the sixth grade beginning band. The Jr. High campus consists of seventh and eighth grade intermediate band members and offers a beginning class for first year players. The High School is home of the award winning Coyote Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Mariachi Band and Illusions Colorguard.

Team Teaching

The success of our program can be directly attributed to the team teaching approach that we utilize. A certain number of directors are available for all band classes to assist with instruction. There is a team leader assigned to each class who is responsible for the general operation and instruction of that class, including: setting lesson plans and goals for the class; conducting rehearsals; making parent contacts; submitting grades; preparing for contests; assigning specific class duties to assistant directors that have been assigned to that class.

Scheduling

It is imperative that scheduling across the separate campuses does not conflict with the team teaching strategy. The administration and counselors should be commended for their work and cooperation in achieving this balance.

Performances

Students have the opportunity to perform as a group in halftime shows, parades, concerts, UIL contests, TCGC & WGI contests, festivals, and other community performances; as well as in individual competitions such as UIL Solo and Ensemble contests, and TMEA Region Band auditions.

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COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Band I, II, III, IV

This course gives the student the opportunity to refine their musical understanding and skills. Students will have the opportunity to learn and perform a variety of works for Concert Band. This class also includes Jazz Band, Mariachi, and Marching Band. Students forming sub groups such as jazz band and percussion ensembles will be chosen from the band by audition. Students will have a wide variety of performance opportunities.

Prerequisite: Min. 1 yr prior band experience or director approval.

Credit: ½ unit of PE in Fall / ½ unit of Fine Arts in Spring

Mariachi I, II, III, IV (Instrumental Ensemble) – board approved summer 2003

(for further details see next page)

This course is designed to allow students to explore small ensemble playing in depth. Performance opportunities include: Mariachi. Emphasis is on performance.

Prerequisite: Students must audition **and** have previous band experience, or successfully completed grades 6 - 8 of the UCISD guitar program, or successfully completed grades 5 – 8 of the UCISD violin program or approval of director.

Jazz I, II, III, IV (Applied Music)

(for further details see second page following this one)

This course is designed to allow students to explore small ensemble playing in depth. Emphasis is on Jazz style music and performances.

Prerequisite: Students must audition **and** have previous band experience, or have approval of director.

Colorguard I, II, III, IV (Enrolled in Band I, II, III, or IV per State requirements)

This course gives the student the opportunity to develop as an auxiliary performance ensemble. Techniques in modern dance, jazz dance, ballet, theatrical interpretation, and all aspects of different interpretations of prop work will be covered. Performances will include football games, band contests, parades, and indoor guard competitions in the spring.

Prerequisite: Students must meet audition requirements, or have director approval, prior to enrollment

Credit: ½ unit of PE in Fall / ½ unit of Fine Arts in Spring

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MARIACHI DESCRIPTION

Description

Mariachi is an instrumental ensemble specializing in Mexican folk music. Mariachi gives students an opportunity to explore the rich musical traditions of Mexico. Mariachi also gives the students an opportunity to learn musical instruments that are not typically used in band.

Requirements

In order to be a member of the UHS Mariachi, a student must meet at least **one** of the following requirements:

- Must have previous band experience
- Must have successfully completed grades 7 - 8 of the UCISD guitar program
- Must have successfully completed grades 6 – 8 of the UCISD violin program

Transfer students

Students transferring from another school district must meet at least **one** of the following requirements:

- Must have been a member of the band program in his/her former school district.
- Must have been a member of a string orchestra program in his/her former school district (UHS does not currently have a string orchestra). The student will not be required to enroll in band.
- Must have been enrolled in a mariachi ensemble in his/her former school district that does not require con-current enrollment in orchestra or band. This will require verification by the UHS Mariachi Director.

Auditions

In addition to meeting the specified requirements, all students must complete a successful audition in order to be considered for the UHS Mariachi

Band Jacket Credit

Members of the Mariachi receive 5 points towards their Band Award Jacket for successful completion of each full year in Mariachi. *Note – If a student is in both Mariachi and Jazz Band con-currently, that student can only take credit for ONE of these groups.*

Rules and Policies

The UHS Mariachi adheres to all UCISD and UHS Band Policies in matters regarding grading, policies and other procedures.

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JAZZ DESCRIPTION

Description

The Jazz Band is an extension of the Band program that is meant to provide a greater working knowledge of various jazz styles. Members will perform and compete in various locations and times, as set by the director.

Requirements

- Because the Jazz Band is an extension of the Band program, students who are in the Jazz Band must be enrolled in Band I, II, III, or IV. The only exception will be rhythm instruments and students playing these instruments must audition for the Jazz instructor.
- Students must complete an audition in order to be considered for membership in the Jazz Band
- If a student wishes to play an instrument that is not their primary band instrument, ie. Bass, guitar, piano, etc., they must exhibit enough proficiency on that instrument to satisfy the Jazz Band director. In addition, the student must continue to show improvements in their ability to play that instrument

Rehearsals *(required)*

The Jazz band will practice primarily during class time (Applied Music) but there may be additional rehearsals and attendance is required.

Auditions

The Jazz director, at his discretion, will set auditions.

Band Jacket Credit

Members of the Jazz Band receive 5 points towards their Band Award Jacket for successful completion of each full year in Jazz Band. *Note – If a student is in both Mariachi and Jazz Band concurrently, that student can only take credit for ONE of these groups.*

Rules and Policies

All Jazz Band students must adhere to all rules set forth by UCISD and the Uvalde High School Band department. Failure to adhere to any of the above requirements, rules and policies, may be cause for removal from the Jazz Band organization.

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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Article I

The name of this organization shall be the Uvalde High School Coyote Band.

Article II

1. The purpose of this organization shall be to promote, advance, and support Uvalde High School.

Article III

1. Any student enrolled in band or colorguard classes shall be a member of the band organization.

Article IV

1. All members of the organization shall be responsible for following the band policies set forth in the handbook. Any violations of these policies may result in the dismissal from the band program.
2. An elected band officer, Drum Major, colorguard officer, or twirler that fails any class will be removed from their position.
3. Any band member that becomes ineligible more than one time in a semester may be removed from performing band.
4. Any band member that does not perform for UIL Marching and concert contest will be excluded from band trips.

Article V

1. Officers will call and hold meetings regularly.
2. All meetings are open to faculty or administration that wish to attend.
3. Executive meetings may be closed at the discretion of the band directors.

Article VI

1. Band Officers will be elected by the band members in May. Nominees for band offices must meet the specific criteria and requirements as outlined in the band handbook. Officers of this organization shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Historian, two Quartermasters and two Librarians.
2. Term of office shall begin in August and continue through the end of the school year.
3. All vacancies shall be filled by selection of the band directors.

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Duties of the officers

1. The President shall preside at all meetings, appoint and be responsible for any sub-committees, and perform all duties that pertain to his/her office.
2. The Vice-President shall preside at any meetings when the President is absent or unable to perform his/her duties.
3. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the organization meetings and submit these to the band director to be kept on file.
4. The Historian will be responsible for keeping records of past and present accomplishments, newspaper articles, photos, honors, etc. The Historian will provide a band scrapbook and video presentation to be displayed at the annual band banquet.
5. The Quartermasters shall be responsible for issuing, care and maintenance of the bands uniforms and instruments.
6. The Librarians shall be responsible for the care and maintenance of the band library.

Article VII

1. The constitution may be amended by the band officers, with the approval of the band directors.

Article VIII

1. All decisions made by the band officers must meet with the approval of the band directors.

Article IX

1. Drum Majors, Twirlers, Band Officers and Colorguard Officers will be responsible for following specific criteria as set forth in the band policy handbook.

Article X

1. The Band Directors have the right to make any final decisions that would promote and benefit the Uvalde High School Band Program.

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OFFICER & DRUM MAJOR CRITERIA & REQUIREMENTS

Any band member wishing to be an officer or drum major must meet the following rules and criteria, **during the school year of the tryouts**, in order to be eligible. In addition, all officers and drum majors must also meet these rules and criteria **during their service year** in order to remain in their position throughout the year. If you have any questions about the criteria, please take the time to have these questions clarified by a director before the deadlines for these contests have passed! Absolutely **NO exceptions** will be made to these criteria.

1. Must maintain an A average in band.
2. Must remain academically eligible; an officer will immediately be removed from his or her position if they receive a failing six weeks grade in any class.
3. Must meet the following requirements to both **tryout for** and to **remain** an officer or drum major:
 - Must PARTICPATE in both:
 1. TMEA Region Band Tryouts

and

 2. UIL Solo/Ensemble contest
 - Must either:
 1. Make the TMEA Region Band

or

 2. Receive a 1st Division on a Class 1 or Class 2 solo on their primary instrument at UIL Solo/Ensemble contest.
4. Must exhibit exemplary citizenship in school and the community.
5. Must set an especially good example in rehearsal, and any other time they are with the band. Any behavior contrary to this may be cause for removal from a position.
6. Missing a performance may be cause for removal from position.
7. Officers will be required to hold and attend regularly scheduled meetings. Excessive absences from these meetings may be cause for removal from position.
8. Drum Major(s) must attend a summer camp selected by the band director. The Band Boosters, and/or other sources, will cover the cost of these camps.
9. Any officer or drum major that quits, or is removed from their position, will not be allowed to tryout for another position for one full year.

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