



2019-2020
Band Handbook



HOOKS HIGH SCHOOL BAND
GENERAL INFORMATION HANDBOOK

2019--2020

Welcome

Welcome to the 2019 Hooks High School Band. Your membership in this organization will make this the most entertaining and exciting year we have ever had. The purpose of this handbook is to refresh the upperclassmen on the band procedures and rules and to give new students and their parents an idea of what to expect from a year in band. We ask that both you and your parents read this handbook thoroughly. It contains everything you need to know regarding the rules of the band. It should serve as a reference guide for any questions that may come up throughout the year. You and your parents are asked to sign the handbook conformation slip on the last page and return it to the band office as soon as possible. No one will be allowed to participate in the band without returning the signed conformation slip. It will also be necessary to complete the medical information form in the event of an emergency.

Mission

The Hooks High School Band represents the commitment of the Hooks ISD to provide music education to each student in the school. It is our goal to provide each member with learning opportunities in music, discipline, critical thinking, physical coordination, team work, responsibility, and social interaction. We do this through structured practices, performances, and both individual and group competitions. It is also our wish to provide entertainment and cultural activities to the public in general and the citizens of Hooks specifically. We wish to showcase the best and brightest that Hooks High School has to offer.

...About the Staff

JONATHAN KELLY – Mr. Kelly is in his 20th year as Director of Band at Hooks High School and in his 31th year of teaching overall. He came to Hooks from Prescott, Arkansas where he was director for six years. Before that, he was the assistant director of Bands and percussion instructor at Hope High School under Robert Hesse for four years. He also served as band director and men’s basketball coach at Spring Hill, Arkansas. He received his Bachelors of Music Education degree from Henderson State University in 1988 and his Masters of Music in Percussion from Louisiana State University in 1996.

BAND HALL.....903-547-2493
EMAIL.....kellyj@hooksisd.net

ADAIR MELTON – Adair Melton has taught at Hooks for 25 years. Before that she taught in Queen City and New Boston. Mrs. Melton received her Bachelors and Masters degrees from Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. Mrs. Melton is married to Charlie Melton, Director of Bands at New Boston. The Meltons have two daughters, Mallory and Kaylin and one son, Conner.

JUNIOR HIGH PHONE.....903-547-2568
Email..... meltona@hooksisd.net

BELYN GRAVES – Belyn Graves is in her 7th year as Assistant Band Director at Hooks and 9th year of teaching overall. She previously taught at Lafayette County in Stamps, Arkansas for two years. Mrs. Graves received her Bachelors of Music Education from Southern Arkansas University in 2010. She is married to Nick Graves and has two dogs, a pug named Buggy and a Weimaraner named Stella. The Graves are proud parents of two boys, Nolan and Ian.

Email..... gravesb@hooksisd.net

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the band is open to any student enrolled at Hooks High School. Students should sign up for band prior to the beginning of the school year. Any student wishing to join band after the first day of class must have a 70+ grade in all classes for the previous six weeks. This includes the last report card of the previous year.

Transfer students may join the band anytime provided they can demonstrate ability on their given instrument.

ELIGIBILITY

Texas UIL regulations state that a band student must have a 70+ in each class to participate in performing groups. Each student starts the year with a clean slate. When report cards come out every six weeks students must have a 70+ in all classes to continue to be eligible. If the student has dropped below 70 in any class, they are ineligible for 3 weeks. Grades are then checked again and if the student has 70+ in all classes (not just the one that was low) they become eligible. If not, they must wait until the next report card to check grades again. Students that are UIL ineligible are required to attend all practices with the band but they are not allowed to participate in any extra-curricular performances. Student grades are monitored by the band directors and they and their parents will be notified if a problem develops.

PHYSICALS

Beginning this year, all students in marching band must have a physical examination every two years. Because this is the first year of the program, all students must have had a physical in the last 6 months to participate in marching band. If you did not get a physical with the rest of the class last spring, see Mr. Kelly for forms and information on where to get yours.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Class attendance will be worth 20 points a day for class work. **Class work must be made up regardless of the reason for the absence. 1st period class during marching band will begin at 7:50. Students should be in the band hall by 7:45 in order to be ready for class to begin!**

AFTER SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Because band is a group performance activity, a strict attendance policy is necessary. The marching band rehearses on Monday nights from 5:30-8:00 with one additional hour of sectionals after school to be determined. Parents will be notified after the second absence. Extenuating circumstances (such as serious illness or a death in the family) will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Students with excessive absences will be subject to benching, suspension, or expulsion.

BENCHING, SUSPENSION, OR EXPULSION

When a member is benched, they must wear the uniform, be on time for the event, stay for the entire event and play their instrument if required to do so. Various privileges may be revoked.

When a member is suspended, they cannot attend an event in uniform or in any way gain recognition as a member.

When a member is expelled, they will turn in all equipment and have their schedule changed so that they no longer meet as a band member.

Violations that would lead to benching, suspension, or expulsion include, but are not limited to:

- Unexcused absence from a performance.
- Any act that shows disrespect
- Any act that causes embarrassment to the school or band program
- Inability to get along with others.
- Violation of the school drug and alcohol policies
- Violation of the school public affection policy
- Vandalism
- Failure to follow instructions
- Excessive absences
- Failure to follow band rules
- Violation of any school rule while at a band function

DRUG TEST

Members of the Hooks High School band are subject to random drug testing under the policies of the Hooks School Board. Students failing a drug test are suspended from all band activities for 30 school days as set by the Principal and must pass all drug tests administered during that time. Students are welcome to drop band from their schedule but if they choose to remain in the class, they will be required to sort music and do other similar support work to receive a grade.

NOTE: After much consideration, it is the decision of the band NOT to adopt any unilateral policies regarding students who violate the district drug policy beyond what the Hooks ISD School Board mandates. Each case will be regarded individually and what, if any, additional action taken will be decided upon on a case by case basis.

BAND ACTIVITIES

Marching Band

The Hooks High School Marching Band performs at all Hornet football games including playoffs. “If the team plays, we play.” Additionally, the band performs at several contests each fall as well as special performances such as parades and pep rallies. The Band strives to represent the very finest in musical and marching quality while representing the school, community, and state.

Christmas Concert

At the end of the fall semester, the band presents a program consisting primarily of “seasonal” music. The selections are varied and will generally include sacred and secular material and will reference a wide range of winter and seasonal icons. We recognize that some families would prefer their children not participate in this program due to their spiritual beliefs and we respect that choice. However, we do need some form of assessment for the final six weeks of the fall semester. We hope that our students will choose to participate in the All-Region tryout process, and if so, the music they prepare for that event will suffice to be graded for their December assignment. However, if you choose not to try out for the All region band, we will need to give you an alternative playing assignment that will need to be performed prior to Christmas break. Music performed will need to be “in public”; either for the Region judges, or failing that, in front of the full band in class. If you have any questions or wish to discuss the assignments, please see Mr. Kelly.

Concert Band

The concert band is the primary musical organization of the school. Seating for the band is determined by competitive tryouts.

Jazz Band

The Jazz Band meets after school in the spring. The Jazz Band is made up primarily of Saxes, Trombones, Trumpets, and Rhythm; however, we make every effort to include any students that wish to study jazz. Because it only meets once a week, attendance is crucial and home practice is a must. The Jazz Band performs at the annual Band Banquet and at other events that present themselves.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES

All-Region Tryouts

The All-Region Band is made up of the best players from this corner of the state. Students audition on prepared material in December. Students selected participate in a 2 day clinic in January. **We consider the ability to perform the Region tryout music the educational goal of the program. It represents all of the skill sets a High School musician is expected to master. Most colleges expect students to perform this music to audition for scholarships. Therefore, we place a high emphasis on practicing and mastering the Region music each year. All students, regardless of age, grade, or experience, are expected to work toward this goal.**

Area/All-State Tryouts

The top students from the Region band will advance to the Area tryouts. The tryout material is the same as the All-Region music. The top students from this tryout advance to All-State.

ALL STATE

Students chosen for the All-State band will attend a 4 day clinic in San Antonio the second week of February. Upon arrival, Students will audition for chair placement in two performing groups. All expenses are covered by the school.

FOUR STATES HONOR BAND

The Four States Honor Band consists of two concert band and one jazz band chosen by nomination. Qualifications for selection include past participation, grade, and other accomplishments such as All-region, Area, State, Solo and Ensemble. This is a three day clinic in Texarkana in January.

UIL SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

The UIL Solo and Ensemble contest occurs in February. Students who choose to participate in this will be required to play music from a required list with a piano accompaniment. Students playing a grade 1 selection from memory are eligible to advance to State. Due to rising costs, the band no longer attends the State Solo and Ensemble contest Memorial Day Weekend. However, if you wish to attend on your own, the school will pay your entry fee.

AUDITION FEES

All individual events require audition fees. Audition fees are paid in advance by the school. If a student drops out of an event after the deadline, they are responsible for reimbursing the district for the fee.

GRADING

All students will be given grades for band and will receive points toward their Grade Point Average for band work. Grades will be based on the following:

1. Music pass offs;
2. Rehearsal attendance;
3. Performances
4. Chair/playing tests

More detailed information will be given to the class on the first day of school.

“THE CLIPBOARD”

Each day, students will record their practice time from the night before on the practice clipboard. We use this information to evaluate the musical health of the band. Aside from the obvious musical benefits of practicing, the purpose of this is to encourage;

1. Responsibility
2. Honesty
3. Musical Progress

Each student is encouraged to accept the **“Zaliski Challenge”**. The challenge is to practice your instrument outside of class at least 10 minutes a day no matter what. Ten minutes won't make you a top musician, but at the end of the year it would be over 60 hours of practice you wouldn't have put in otherwise.

“Learn it at school, get good at it at home!”

REQUIREMENTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM

1. Practice every day
2. Be at each rehearsal
3. Have a positive attitude
4. Be on time
5. Pay attention at all times
6. Hustle
7. Have all equipment
8. Follow instructions
9. Respect authority
10. Don't talk
11. No horse playing

TRANSPORTATION AFTER AN EVENT

Each student will be responsible for transportation following a practice or performance. We will make sure every student knows the quitting time of each practice and do our best to return from trips at the published time. Parents are responsible for picking up students within a reasonable time from the end of an event. **Please be considerate of staff member's families and schedules and do not allow students to remain at the band hall for extended periods of time following an event. Students left at the band hall after dark for more than half an hour following an event will be taken to the Hooks police station and may be picked up there.**

PERFORMANCES

Performance attendance is mandatory and is worth up to 1/3 of the student's grade. If a student misses a performance, a parent must call in order for the absence to be marked “excused”. Each student is required to attend every performance. Performances reflect all the time and energy spent in rehearsal. They are the end result of our work! When one student misses a performance, it affects the entire group. All students must be in school on the day of performance. Students who skip a performance will be subject to removal from band.

SEATING TRYOUTS

Students in the Hooks Bands will be ranked according to their musical ability for a more desirable overall result. This is done by a system of chair placement with the most outstanding musicians occupying first chair. Students who are not satisfied with their placement may challenge the person directly above their position by audition. The entire Chair tests will take place each 6 weeks beginning after football season. There will not be any chair placement during marching season. You will be put on any part, at the decision of the band director, to help get the best sound from the performing group as possible.

AUXILIARY MEMBERS – COLORGUARD

The Colorguard is an extremely important part of the Hooks High School High School Band. The Colorguard performs at all football games and competitions, in which the band is involved. Auxiliary members will be responsible for all of their own equipment being loaded and unloaded for trips. The group will get together and decide who will do the moving of equipment at which games. Tryout procedures will be outlined at a meeting of all interested students and parents in the spring. Auxiliary members are responsible for purchasing and maintaining their own uniforms and equipment. **Captains will be chosen by the staff each year from those wishing to be considered and will be based on the candidate's behavior, audition routine, leadership, attitude, and work ethic observed during the previous marching season.** Captain candidates must be in concert band.

UNIFORM RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Your uniform must be neat and clean at each performance.
2. Band T-shirt worn under the uniform top;
3. Black band shoes that should be polished for every performance; and
4. Black socks must be worn with uniform;

NEVER wash the band uniform for any reason or dry them next to a heater. During the course of a game, the director may allow for the coat to be removed if each student is wearing their band T-shirt underneath. Do not unzip or remove the coat without permission. **T-shirts must be tucked in when the band is performing in public.**

UNIFORMS

Marching Band uniforms are provided for the band by the school. Uniforms will be fitted and assigned at the beginning of each season.

Uniforms will be passed out prior to performance and taken up following the performance. Students riding home with their parents after an event must bring their uniform to the band hall as soon as possible. **Students are not dismissed from the event until the uniform has been passed in and inspected.**

Auxiliary members (drum major and Colorguard) are required to purchase and maintain their own uniform.

BAND T-SHIRTS and SHORTS

All band members will be provided with one free band t-shirt and a pair of blue shorts. In addition we ask each band student obtain a pair of blue jeans and a plain, white t-shirt to wear in hot weather. The band shirts are considered a uniform for the fall semester and should only be worn when required. The shirt should be worn on game days and must be worn under the uniform at performances. The shirt should be kept up with in the spring to be worn for performances then as well. Students who lose or damage their shirt must purchase a new one for \$15.00

INSPECTION

An inspection will take place before every performance of the band. Items to be inspected will include music, gloves, hats, shoes, uniform, horns, mouthpieces, reeds and T-shirts. Passing inspection is a matter of PRIDE.

DETAIL

Detail is work duty assigned as punishment. Detail will be issued to any band member who violates any established rule or fails to follow band procedure. The length and type of detail will be at the discretion of the band director. Detail worked off immediately after a rehearsal is usually reduced. Otherwise detail is best worked off after school on Monday or following a football game. If detail is not worked off within a week, the student will be subject to other disciplinary action.

EQUIPMENT

Students will be responsible for the upkeep and care of all of their equipment, whether is school owned or not. Any damages to the instruments, music, uniforms or any other items will be repaired or replaced at the student's expense.

INSTRUMENTS

Each member of the band is expected to have an instrument in good working condition with all supplies needed at each rehearsal. Students with instruments in need of repairs must have the repairs done as soon as possible.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

Larger instruments such as percussion, low brass, French horns, and unusual instruments such as double and low reed instruments will be provided by the school. Students are responsible for any damages or repairs that need to be made on that instrument while it is in their possession. Instruments will be checked out at the beginning of each semester

INSTRUMENT STORAGE

A limited number of instrument storage areas are available for the students in band to use. The slots will be assigned by instrument at the beginning of the semester. The areas should be kept neat and clean at all times. This is not a pantry. Food and drinks left in the lockers will be thrown out. Failure to look after an assigned area may result in loss of locker privileges. **DO NOT STORE VALUABLES OR MONEY IN THE INSTRUMENT STORAGE AREA.** We will make every effort to keep the band hall locked when not in use, however, many students are in the band hall every day and there is no way to make the room absolutely secure. Valuables such as purses may be locked in Mr. Kelly's office during rehearsal.

INSTRUMENT REPAIRS

If an instrument is in need of repair it is the responsibility of the student to take the instrument to a repair shop. If it is not possible to take it in yourself, arrangements can be made with to send your instrument for repair through the school. Please don't attempt home repair.

MONEY

Any money that must be turned in to the band office must be in correct change and put in an envelop. The envelope should have your name, the amount, and what it is for written on the outside. DO NOT TURN IN ANY MONEY THAT IS NOT IN A LABELED ENVELOPE.

LETTERING

A band student will be said to have lettered after they complete 3 years of participation in the Hooks band. Students may letter in only 2 years by; 1.-- Maintaining eligibility for two years; 2.-- Audition for the Region band each year; and 3.-- Participate in Solo and Ensemble contest each year. A “letter jacket” is awarded to each student who letters.

HORNET BAND AWARD

This award is given for students who take full advantage of the Hooks Band Program. To earn the Hornet Band Award the student must:

1. Have no unexcused absences for performances including absences for eligibility reasons.
2. Audition for the All-Region Band
3. Participate in all Clinics that the student achieves
4. Participate in all Band Fund Raisers.
5. Receive an A in band each grading period.

BAND BOOSTERS

The Band Booster Club is composed of all band parents and other supporters of the Hooks Bands. The Booster club supports the band in a number of areas including chaperoning trips, organizing band activities, and providing money for band activities. The Booster club raises money through the Miss Hooks pageant and other student and parent fund raisers.

Band Booster Camp Scholarships

One of the primary ways the boosters use their money for is to supply partial scholarships to camps in the summer. Students wishing to receive a scholarship may be asked to participate in a minor fund raiser to help with the cost. Scholarships are considered an investment on the future, therefore, any student who does not participate in band the following fall, must pay back the scholarship money. In addition, if a student fails to attend camp for any reason the money must be paid back as well.

CHAPERON GUIDELINES

Any parent is welcome to accompany the band on their trips as a chaperon. Interested parents should be aware of these guidelines:

- 1. Please sign up in advance. Don’ just show up on game day;**
2. Be responsible for roll call on your bus;
3. Maintain order and a reasonable noise level;
4. Help enforce bus rules;
5. Oversee the students while they are loading and unloading;
6. Observe students in restaurants and other places we visit;
7. Relay information from the director;
8. Help move equipment into and out of the Stadium;
9. Treat students with kindness and respect;
10. Please refrain from smoking in the band assembly areas.

BUS TRIPS

Transportation for our events will be provided by the district. The sole purpose of our trips is to transport the band to and from an event. It is not for entertainment. The following rules will be followed at all times for the safety of the band.

1. Respect for the driver and all chaperones.
2. Follow all instructions of monitors, drum majors, section leaders, directors, and other adults.
3. Completely quiet during roll call
4. No talking when the bus is in town or trying to park.
5. No loud talking, singing, yelling, or chanting
6. No food or drink unless approved by the director
7. Only stereos and games with head phones will be allowed
8. Remain in your seat
9. No public display of affection.
10. No throwing anything
11. No hairspray, perfume, or other scented products

Students are required to ride to all events with the band unless approved by the director. Students may ride home with their parents or guardians **AFTER** they have been signed out at the end of the event. Please do not ask to leave an event early. Students leaving with their parents must take their equipment with them or make arrangements to unload their equipment when we return.

Students wishing to be checked out by someone other than their parents **must** fill out an alternate transportation form **PRIOR** to the event. Please do not ask to leave without this form – this is a safety and liability issue.

HANDBOOK CONFIRMATION SLIP

I certify that I have read the contents of this handbook and agree to abide by all of the rules and regulations contained herein. I also give my permission for my child to travel with the Hooks Band to all band related activities as approved the district. Furthermore, by signing the space below, I agree to accept the discipline policies of the Hooks Band a stated in this handbook and approved by the administration of the Hooks ISD.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Student

Parent or guardian

PLEASE RETURN THIS SLIP TO THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Hooks High School Marching Band Medical Information Form

Student Name_____

Parent/Guardian Name_____

Address_____

Phone _____

Family Physician_____

Physician Phone_____

Insurance Company_____

Insurance Number_____

Daytime Emergency Contact_____

Phone_____

Evening Emergency Contact

(Other than home)_____

Phone _____

Date of Last Tetanus Shot_____

Please List any Medication you take _____

List any allergies (food and drugs)_____

List any other important information_____

Photo Release for Hooks ISD Band

I, _____, authorize the Hooks ISD Band programs to use all or part of the image of the minor(s) _____

_____,
in publications and or releases, including print, electronic, and/or video format.

I am the parent and/or legal guardian of the above mentioned minor(s), and as such have the legal right to enter into this agreement. I understand and agree that there will be no compensation for the use of the minor(s) image in whole or part.

Signature

Date