

# **Frisco High School Band**

David Simon, Matt Courtney, Heath Dillard, Toby Leikness, and Michael Patri, Directors  
6401 Parkwood Drive, Frisco TX 75034, 469-633-5530



## **Band Handbook 2026 – 2027**

***“Shared Pride Through a Consistent Standard of Excellence.”***

**[www.friscohsband.org](http://www.friscohsband.org)**



**@friscohighband**



**@friscohighband**

**@FriscoHighBandBoosters**



**Parents: [bit.ly/GroupMePARENT](https://bit.ly/GroupMePARENT)**

**Students: [bit.ly/GroupMeMEMBER](https://bit.ly/GroupMeMEMBER)**

# **WELCOME TO THE FRISCO H.S. BAND**

This handbook is provided to help you understand the rules and procedures under which this band program will operate. It is a “living” document. The band staff and/or campus administration reserve the right to amend band policy if deemed necessary for the best interest of the overall band program. Please read this entire handbook carefully and make sure that you understand it in its entirety. Please contact a director if you have any questions.

As a member of the Frisco High School Band, you are a part of one of the most outstanding high school band programs in the country. You also represent over *100 years* of tradition within the Frisco community. That makes each one of us a very visible and important part of the Frisco community. The standards for The Frisco High School Band are high, and we embrace and celebrate that responsibility. Within this high school, you are a part of the largest student organization on campus, and one of the most important and respected groups. As with all organizations, the success of the FHS Band will depend on the loyalty, cooperation, and dedication of each and every member.

Commitment is crucial to our band. It is demonstrated the following ways. First, by making up one’s mind to be a proud and contributing member; second, by giving the organization all one can in interest, effort, and attention; and finally, by observing and following the objectives and guidelines of the organization. This is a necessary part of any outstanding program.

The guidelines outlined on the following pages are intended to be simple, sound, and easy to understand and follow. They reflect years of experience and hours of careful thought and planning. In following them, you are meeting an obligation that you owe to your community, school, and most importantly, to yourself.

Remember that your directors are always available for questions and/or assistance.

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# **GENERAL BAND OBJECTIVES**

## **Educational Objectives**

- To instill in each participating member the desire to succeed in his/her endeavors
- To provide aesthetic expression and outlets for creativity through music as an art form
- To educate the individual as to the importance of teamwork in all facets of life
- To develop and enlarge an appreciation of music through exposure to and performance of the best available symphonic and marching band music

## **Cultural Objectives**

- To help students in grow into responsible and successful members of society, able to contribute positively both individually and as a member of a group, and demonstrate the essential characteristics of integrity, dependability, and loyalty

## **Public Relations**

- To represent Frisco High School and the Frisco Independent School District in community, school, and University Interscholastic League events

# **Student Mission Statement**

*Developed by the 2026-27 Student Leaders*

*Shared Pride Through a Consistent Standard of Excellence.*

***We, the Frisco High School Band, through inclusivity and pride, aim to foster a consistent standard of excellence and establish a lasting legacy.***

***We are, THE O.R.I.G.I.N.A.L.***

***Optimistic Resilient Inspiring Genuine Innovative Noble Ambitious Limitless***



## I. Marching Band

Directors: Mr. Simon, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Dillard and Mr. Patri (percussion), Mr. Leikness (color guard)

The Frisco High School Marching Band is made up of students from all concert bands and color guard. The FHS Marching Band maintains a long history of great traditions, pride, discipline and excellence. The band performs at every FHS pep rally, varsity football games, selected marching contests and community events. The marching band rehearsal and performance schedules can be found on the Band Calendar on the Band Website. All Varsity Football Game performances and all marching band contest performances are mandatory. Marching Band students are eligible to receive a physical education course credit. ***See further Marching Band information beginning on page 6.***

## II. Wind Symphony – UIL 5A “Varsity”

Prerequisite: Audition

Director: Mr. Simon

The Wind Symphony is the top-performing ensemble at Frisco High School. Students will have the opportunity to continue their development at the most advanced levels. The Wind Symphony will perform with the members of the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band at all pep rallies, football games, parades, and marching competitions. Additional performances will be given periodically throughout the year at school, community, and UIL events. Wind Symphony students are required to attend the annual Spring band trip and compete in the trip related contest.

As a select organization, members will be expected to maintain the highest levels of responsibility and preparation. Members are also required to audition for the All-Region Band and perform a solo and an ensemble at the Solo and Ensemble Contest. Attendance at all out-of-school rehearsals and performances is required. **Students that make the Varsity Wind Symphony are expected to enroll in both A day and B day instrumental ensemble blocks.** Students must consciously work both in and out of rehearsal to improve their individual musicianship, while also pursuing individual and ensemble goals. Members are **strongly encouraged** to take private lessons.

## III. Wind Ensemble – UIL 5A “Non-Varsity”

Prerequisite: Audition

Director: Mr. Courtney

The Wind Ensemble offers the opportunity for continued development at a challenging high school level. The Wind Ensemble will perform with the members of the Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band at all pep rallies, football games, parades, and marching competitions. Performances will be given throughout the year at school and UIL events. Attendance at out-of-school sectionals and full ensemble rehearsals and performances is required. Wind Ensemble students are required to attend the annual spring band trip and compete in the trip related contest.

Members of the Wind Ensemble are expected to audition for All-Region and perform a solo at the Solo and Ensemble Contest. **Students that make the Wind Ensemble are expected to enroll in both A day and B day instrumental ensemble blocks.** Students must consciously work both in and out of rehearsal to improve their individual musicianship, while also pursuing individual and ensemble goals. Members are **strongly encouraged** to take private lessons.

#### **IV. Symphonic Band – UIL 5A “Sub Non-Varsity A”**

Directors: Mr. Simon and Mr. Courtney

The Symphonic Band offers the opportunity for continued development at a challenging high school level. The Symphonic band performs with the members of the Wind Symphony and Wind Ensemble at all pep rallies, football games, parades, and marching competitions. Performances will be given throughout the year at school and UIL events. Attendance at out-of-school rehearsals and performances is required.

Members of the Symphonic Band have the option to audition for All-Region and perform a solo at the Solo and Ensemble Contest. Symphonic Band students are eligible and encouraged to participate in the annual Spring Band trip. Members are **strongly encouraged** to take private lessons.

#### **V. Jazz Band**

Prerequisite: Audition

Director: Mr. Courtney

The FHS Jazz Band begins after the conclusion of marching season. Entrance is by audition only. It is a “0” hour course and rehearsals are held before and/or after school. The band performs a variety of jazz styles including swing, Latin, funk, and pop. The band performs regularly at concerts throughout the spring semester, and academic credit is given to participants in the jazz band. Jazz Band membership is open only to secondary students who are a part of a parent large ensemble band organization (marching and concert band) at FHS. Jazz Band membership is open to students outside the band program only when there are no qualified band member candidates for keyboard, rhythm guitar, bass guitar, and/or drums. Upper-classmen in the group are encouraged to prepare and audition in the All-Region Jazz Ensemble auditions.

#### **VI. Color Guard**

Director: Mr. Leikness

The Frisco Color Guard performs as part of the Frisco High School Band, and is under the direction of Mr. Toby Leikness. During the spring, the guard competes in the NTCA Winter Guard circuit. The award winning FHS Winter guard has achieved great success at the region, state, and national level. Color Guard incorporates elements of dance and choreography, 'equipment work' (flags, rifles, sabres), and theatrical performance. It is a GREAT opportunity for any student who wants to PERFORM and COMPETE, be part of a TEAM, and learn new skills! No prior dance or Color Guard experience is necessary to join- we teach our members 'from the ground up' each year, starting with the basics. Enrollment in the Color Guard class satisfies required PE Credits and Fine Arts credits.

## **VII. General Marching Band Requirements and Expectations**

All members of the Frisco High School Band program must participate in marching band (many students reflect on their experience and consider it one of the best parts of being in Band!)

Expectations for marching band members include:

- 1.) Attempt music pass-offs throughout the season
- 2.) Attend all rehearsals and performances, and
- 3.) Make a conscientious effort to improve

Students will share a **pre-game meal** provided and served by the Band Boosters, before the Band's departure to the game. Students are expected to work together to keep the cafeteria neat, and clean up after themselves. Proper manners should be demonstrated towards all parent volunteers, directors, and student leaders. Student Leaders will be asked to help oversee the mealtime. Parent volunteers should be thanked and shown appreciation for providing this meal, which is also a demonstration of pride in the band. Everything we do including this meal must reflect excellence!

### ***Checking Students Out from a Football Game:***

Students should plan on returning to FHS with the band following games and contests, as we must all contribute to the unloading and storing of equipment and uniforms. If parents must check out a student from a football game, this may take place *after the school song has been played* at the game's conclusion. Leaving early for homework, a birthday, or to see people that came into town, etc., is discouraged. A parent note must be turned in at least one day in advance of the game to request early check out. Sign-out with a director after the game may be completed by a parent only.

Flow of Information: In any large organization, it is important to have a leadership structure that is easy to understand. This structure allows the director to quickly and accurately convey information to a large number of people. On game day, the Flow of Information should be used for all questions and information concerning all aspects of the performance. The directors often have far too many responsibilities on game days to be answering questions that could otherwise be answered by a student leader.

Flow of Information:

1. Section leaders
2. Drum Majors
3. Supplemental Staff ('Marching Techs')
4. Directors

## VIII. Frisco Marching Band Assignment of Performance Roles

The Frisco Marching Band is the largest positive image-projecting organization on campus. The group appears in halftime performances during varsity football games and represents Frisco High School in public community events as well as in the competitive marching band arena. Each year from January through July, much thought and effort is put into the numerous factors that determine the number of 'positions' that should be charted in the competition show, or Field Production, for that season. These decisions must be made well in advance as a result of the time involved in the construction and design of the program each year. These estimations define how the music is arranged and determine the number of drill positions that are plotted. It is the responsibility of the directors to ensure that the students in the marching band are set up for success, including the job of fielding a complete ensemble. Directors carefully consider several factors when determining these numbers:

1. *Basic skills and physical conditioning that allow the student to march and play simultaneously, in tempo and without the threat of injury to him/herself or others*
2. *Student's demonstrated response and engagement during instruction*
3. *Academic Eligibility history*
4. *Attendance during previous school year and pre-season training rehearsals*
5. *Continued attendance at rehearsals during the school year*
6. *Completion of summer activities, such as Smart Music Summer pass-offs*
7. *Commitment to performance dates via attendance contract*

Based on these factors, students are eventually assigned into one of two categories towards the end of September, as our first contest: **PRIMARY MARCHING SPOT** or **ALTERNATE ("A-TEAM") SPOT**

This delineation determines the type of role that the student will have during the competition show. *All other aspects of membership are identical as outlined below:*

### Instructional and Performance Privileges for All Members Regardless of Assignments:

(Applies to Primary Marching Spots AND A-Team Spots)

- Rehearse as a unit during band classes
- Rehearse as a unit during marching fundamentals
- Rehearse as a unit during music ensemble rehearsals
- Perform as a unit at all pep rallies
- Perform as a unit at all parades
- Perform as a unit during the Stars Dance Team Feature at halftime
- Perform as a unit in the stands at all football games

### Instructional and Performance Differences between Alternate and Primary Marching Spot Performers:

- Primary Marching Spot members are principal marchers that march and play during the competition show during halftime and for band contests throughout the season
- Alternate (or "A-Team") Spot members march and play during the competition show during halftime until approximately the end of September; at that time, members are assigned an auxiliary role for the competition show. Auxiliary roles include performance contributions in the areas of visual effects or logistical assistance, depending upon the needs of the program and the preference of the individual student. ***This privilege is extended upon a contingency of academic eligibility and the student's attendance and performance history.***

## **VERY IMPORTANT-Attendance & Participation Considerations:**

**All students are expected to be present for the duration of all rehearsals and performances.** Absences will be notated as unexcused except when the absence is a) the result of student illness or the result of an extreme and unavoidable circumstance, and b) the absence is communicated to Mr. Simon via email by a parent. Please note that sending an email does not guarantee an absence will be excused, if the absence does not fall into one of the listed categories. Position assignments resulting from either excused or unexcused absences are handled with all considerations at hand.

**A Primary Marching Spot Member (principal marcher) OR A-team member may forfeit his or her role if they miss a performance of any kind for any reason.** In addition, a temporary or permanent loss of role (whether Primary or A-team Spot role) may result from unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances, extended absences (even if excused), failure to maintain passing grades in all classes, disciplinary concerns, tardiness/early departure from rehearsals, or a lack of preparation, effort and engagement during rehearsals. **Due to the crucial nature of stadium rehearsals and game/contest day run-throughs, partial or full absences from these particular rehearsals are given weighted consideration when determining roles and responsibilities.**

As with any similar team-oriented and competitive activity involving student performers, ***no performance role is guaranteed for any student throughout the marching season.*** Personnel changes may be made up to and including the final week of the contest season for a variety of reasons and circumstances. Parents and students should keep this in mind when purchasing tickets, inviting family members to performances, etc.

## **IX. Absence Policy**

WORK SCHEDULES, FAMILY TRIPS, and other activities **should not interfere** with the rehearsal and performance schedule published before the end of the previous school year. Students who enroll in other school activities such as athletics, choir, drama, etc. need to plan ahead to avoid conflicts that cannot be resolved. Ask to receive a complete semester calendar from all your activities so that you can have the maximum amount of time to work out potential schedule conflicts. The band directors will work together with the other teachers, coaches, and directors of various activities to give each student every opportunity to be a part of other groups.

However, other groups, organizations, or businesses that may change schedules or make demands of students on short notice should not be allowed to interfere with long-scheduled rehearsals or performances of the band. Non-school sponsored activities, teams, organizations, or jobs should be scheduled around the practice/performance schedule of the band. **Any questions or concerns related to marching band attendance should be directed towards Mr. Simon.**

The Band is dependent on ALL of its members. Unlike most other classes where individuals are accountable only for their own success or failure, the Band's success is dependent on the full participation of all its members. The following attendance policies will affect the students' grades and chance to participate:

### **Excused Absences**

1. Significant student illness
2. Death in the family
3. Emergency medical situations (*Please schedule all pre-planned, non-emergency medical appointments around rehearsals and performances*)

4. Mandatory religious obligations
5. Pre-arranged schedules that overlap with other FHS activities (*EMAIL Mr. Simon directly in these circumstances*)

**\*All marching band absences require an email to Mr. Simon, especially to be considered for excused status. The directors have the final determination in whether or not an absence is excused. Only requests made in advance of the designated event will be considered (unless in a sudden emergency situation)**

#### Unexcused Absences

1. Work Schedule (*Students should plan ahead and go over the Band calendar with their boss*)
2. Forgetfulness
3. Attending tutorials during rehearsal (*Each academic department at FHS offers tutorial opportunities throughout the week; they should find opportunities on mornings or afternoons when there are not Band rehearsals or performances*)
4. Choosing to stay home to work on homework/projects (*Students should plan ahead and take care of business when it does not interfere with the communicated schedule*)
5. Oversleeping
6. No ride to rehearsal (*Students should ask section leaders for help if they anticipate a need for a ride!*)
7. Non-emergency, planned medical appointments
8. Any other reason not listed above as excused

**\*\*After the first day of school and once the grading period begins, all rehearsals and performances are graded activities. Unexcused absences will deduct from a student's grade; partial credit may be earned back if student completes designated make-up activities.**

**Excused absences must still be made up in most instances, and full credit will be available.**

#### **Marching Band Performance, Absence Make-Up Policy:**

It is VITAL that all our members attend each rehearsal throughout the school week, so they *and those around them* are comfortable with their role in the show. Therefore, in order for students to perform at halftime during that week's varsity football game, they must 1) attend all rehearsals OR 2) complete make-up time for any rehearsals missed, whether for excused or unexcused reasons.

A fully missed rehearsal, on any day of the week, will require ONE (1) hour of monitored, individual make-up time by the student to allow them to march the game that week. Two missed rehearsals would require two hours, and so-on. Make-ups must take place on the Band practice parking lot- the student must have all his or her normal required materials, and practice marching the sets we rehearsed during their absence, while holding their instrument/equipment as they would in the show.

The parking lot will be open, and make-up opportunities available on Mondays and Tuesdays, from 7:30 – 8:30 am; Wednesdays from 4:40-5:40 pm; and non-game-day Thursdays from 4:40 – 5:40 pm.

### **TYPICAL Weekly rehearsal schedule:**

- Monday, 5:00 – 7:30 pm (ALL MEMBERS)
  - If missed, make-up one hour Tuesday morning, Wednesday afternoon, or Thursday afternoon
- Tuesday, 5:00 – 7:00 pm (ALL MEMBERS)
  - If missed, make-up one hour Wednesday afternoon or Thursday afternoon
- Wednesday, 6:30 – 8:00 am (PERCUSSION ONLY)
  - If missed, make-up one hour Wednesday afternoon or Thursday afternoon
- Thursday, 6:30 – 8:00 am (WINDS ONLY)
  - If missed, make-up one hour Thursday afternoon
  - *Thursday, 5:00 – 6:30 pm- COLORGUARD ONLY (no makeup available that week)*
- Friday, 6:30 – 8:00 am (ALL MEMBERS)
  - *If missed, make-up is NOT available prior to the Friday Night football game; student will not perform at halftime, and will complete the one-hour make-up the following week*

**TARDIES-** Unexcused tardies will affect a student's grade, but will not need to be made-up if they arrive within 15 minutes of the start of rehearsal. Tardies greater than 15 minutes will require make-up time equal to the tardy, to qualify to march at that week's football game.

### **X. Rehearsal Expectations**

Every member is expected to bring his or her flip folder, music, and all other necessary materials/equipment to EVERY rehearsal (These should be kept in the *Band Bag* during marching season). This will be checked periodically and grades will be assessed. Music will also be checked periodically to be sure that all music is numbered in an orderly and sequential manner; in addition, music will be checked to be sure that all appropriate markings and added information are written on the page. It is also expected that your instrument will be stored in the appropriate assigned location.

### **XI. Sectional Rehearsals**

In the Spring, a weekly concert band sectional will be scheduled for sections in each band. The sessions are used to develop the proper tonal concepts, as well as to focus on the individual's music. The sectionals are an essential part of our total program, and attendance at all sectionals is required.

### **XII. Out of School Rehearsals/Clinics**

Additional rehearsals may be necessary from time to time, either to rehearse with a clinician or combine with percussion in the Fall. They will be scheduled as conveniently as possible, and notification will be made well in advance of the rehearsal. Students are expected to be in attendance and to make the necessary accommodations. Unavoidable conflicts must be discussed and resolved with the director prior to the rehearsal.

Throughout the year, we bring in excellent high school and college band directors to “clinic” the bands. The expertise brought to Frisco by these individuals is invaluable. Clinic sessions may be scheduled during or outside of school. Attendance at these sessions is mandatory.

### **XIII. Football Game Procedures**

The football game is viewed as a performance of the band program. Such a performance includes all aspects of the game from arrival to departure.

- Students will arrive at the set report time.
- Students will load and be prepared to travel at the set load time.
- Students will load the buses with all equipment needed for the performance.
- Inspection of all students prior to boarding the buses.
- Upon arrival at the performance area, students will prepare equipment for unloading. Students will unload buses when instructed to do so by a chaperone or director. Students must be in full uniform excluding hat, gloves, and gauntlets.
- Students will report to the entrance formation for final inspection. Students will march in to a drum tap or cadence upon instruction from a drum major or director.
- Students will report to seating area. Students will remain standing at attention until all band members are ready to be seated. Students will sit when instructed by a drum major or director. Students must sit in assigned seats and remain in that seat at all times.
- Students will remain in the band seating section at all times during the game. Water will be provided by the band parent organization. Students will refrain from accepting food or drinks from parents, relatives, or friends.
- Students must keep their hat boxes and hats clean and empty. No food, candy, beverage, or additional items not approved of by the directors are allowed in hats and/or hat boxes.
- Students needing a restroom break must be accompanied by a chaperone. Restroom breaks will not be granted in the second quarter of a football game except in emergencies.
- Students will be expected to listen for and watch the directors and drum majors during the game. Students will need to be prepared to perform at all times.
- Students will refrain from playing their instruments on an individual basis. The band will perform as a group.
- At the appropriate time, the band will be dismissed from the stands for the half-time performance. At this time, the band must move quietly and efficiently to the appropriate area and put on jackets and plumes. Students will need to be focused on the directors and drum majors instructions.
- At the conclusion of the half-time performance, students will return to the stands and continue performing throughout the remainder of the game.
- Upon return to the band hall, students will insure that all personal items, uniforms, and instruments are placed in the proper storage areas.

## **XII. Marching Uniforms**

It is a privilege to wear the Frisco High School Band uniform. Students must follow all uniform guidelines in order to protect the integrity and quality of the uniform. A cleaning fee is included in the Band Fee at the beginning of each school year. The school will arrange for cleanings throughout the fall. Students will be issued all uniform parts listed below. If any part of the uniform is damaged or destroyed when it is checked in following marching season, students will be held responsible for the replacement costs.

1. Hang up the uniform correctly (pants hung folded on the crease) immediately after undressing.
2. Do not leave the garment bag zipped closed immediately after a performance, as the uniform gets damp or wet
3. Do not attempt to wash or dry uniform (they will be cleaned by the Band Boosters).

In addition, each student needs the following items to complete the uniform:

1. Marching uniform shoes - ordered through the Band at Band Registration
2. Gray socks - ordered through the Band at Band Registration
3. Band Shirt - ordered through the Band at Band Registration; worn under uniform
4. Black shorts - ordered through the Band at Band Registration; worn under uniform and as part of our 'Summer Uniform'

Marching uniforms will be issued during the beginning of the school year and will be stored at school.

Prior to departing for football games or contests, the Band will change at school and have inspection before departure. You will take your garment bag on the bus so you can change out and hang your uniform after the game for the bus ride home.

**Marching Uniform Guidelines: *The uniform should be hung in your garment bag when not worn.***

### Personal Grooming and Miscellaneous

- If you have long hair, it must be kept up in your hat
- No jewelry of any kind – including earrings, watches and wristbands
- **All stand tunes must be in your flip folder**
- The blue UA band shirt or the official marching production show shirt must be worn under uniform at all times. No exceptions!

### Jacket

- Must be clean and non-wrinkled
- Sleeves at the wrist when in playing position

### Pants

- Buttoned and pressed so there is a slight break at the shoe (handled by the Band Boosters)
- Clean and non-wrinkled

### Socks

- Gray, band-provided socks are required for all uniform inspections (ordered through the Band at Band Registration)

### Shoes

- Cleaned and polished (free of scuff marks, scratches)
- Correct color: Gray

### Gloves

- Black, un-faded, and unstained
- Fingers cut for woodwind players. Band Leadership Team members will be the only ones allowed to cut these for students to ensure uniformity.

**Uniform Inspection:** Prior to departure for a marching band performance, students must have on the complete uniform with black badger shorts and official blue band shirt underneath, with correct socks and shoes. Your gloves, hat in open hat box, rain jacket (ordered through the Band at Band Registration), flip folder, and blue water jug should be placed on the floor in front of where you are standing. Ball caps (other than the official blue band camp) and jewelry may not be worn with the uniform at any time. Students who do not pass the inspection may not be allowed to attend the event and sent home with an unexcused absence recorded.

## **XIII. Concert Uniforms**

Students in all bands will perform in formal concert uniform at all home concerts and at contests and festivals in the spring- please [click here](#) to see further explanation and examples of the guidelines below.

Students wearing a tuxedo will be issued a school-owned tuxedo, and will need to furnish:

1. **Black dress shoes and all black dress socks** (purchased independently by the student)

Students wearing a concert dress will be issued a school-owned concert dress and will need to furnish:

1. **Closed-toed, all-black dress shoes, 1-2" heel** (purchased independently by the student)

**ANY TUXEDO OR DRESS NOT RETURNED AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR WILL RESULT IN A \$100 REPLACEMENT FEE.**

## **XIV. Use of Band Facilities**

Students are welcome and encouraged to use the band hall practice rooms for daily practice either before or after school. Please be aware that rehearsals, sectionals, and private lessons will always take priority. Students will be assigned an instrument locker. Please make every effort to keep your instrument or stickbag locked up when not in use. In addition, because we have thousands of dollars' worth of instruments and equipment stored in the band hall, **non-band/color guard/music theory students will not be allowed into the band hall.** This policy is designed to keep your instrument and supplies safe and secure. Please ask friends to wait for you in the hallway just outside of the band room.

### **Lockers**

- Everyone must have a lock for their locker
- Nothing should be placed on top of the lockers
- **No eating or drinking in the instrument rooms** – no exceptions.
- Nothing should remain on the instrument room floor or on the top of the lockers (except on game days) – empty instrument cases should be placed in your locker during rehearsals.

### **Band Hall**

- **No eating or drinking anything besides** water in the band hall.
- Non-band students are not allowed in band hall or instrument rooms.

## **XV. Grading Policy**

Grades in band will consist of professionalism during co-curricular and extra-curricular performances, rehearsals, and sectionals; playing tests, and quizzes. Per Fisd guidelines, all grades are entered into a single category. Our make-up and retest policy is in accordance with Fisd and FHS policy. It is the student's responsibility to inquire about any work missed due to an absence. Students should also try to arrange a time convenient for both the student and director to make up any missed assignments. Assignments will adhere to the Fisd late-work policy: Assignments will not be accepted beyond the end of the 9-week grading period in which they are assigned.

In determining the band class grade each 9-weeks, two areas comprise the average:

1. **Professionalism and participation in group activities** – Including, but not limited to: marching band rehearsals and performances, concert band rehearsals and performances, sectionals, and other musical performances. 'Professionalism' is evaluated inclusive of these factors- having required music, instrument present and in working order, pencils at all rehearsals; correct marking of music; care and maintenance of instruments, being on time, proper rehearsal etiquette and effort.
2. **Individual skills assessments**- Including, but not limited to: marching band music pass-offs, concert band music pass-offs, objective sheets, online 'make-music' assignments, solo and ensemble festival performances, and in-class assignments.

## **XVI. Academic Eligibility**

The FHS band is bound by all eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and FISD. Any student who records a grade lower than 70 in any non-AP, non-IB, or non-advanced course at the end of a six-weeks grading period shall be suspended from participation in extra-curricular performances for at least the following 3 weeks beginning one week after the end of the six-weeks. If at the conclusion of that 3-week grading period, the student is passing all courses, he/she can regain their eligibility one week after the 3-week grade check. However, if at that time the student is failing any course, the eligibility is lost for the remainder of the six weeks.

**Students who lose their eligibility are still required to attend all rehearsals as well as participate in curricular activities (concerts).** It is vital that all students remain eligible. The FHS band staff will always encourage students to attend tutorials. Some academic tutorials are offered by upperclassmen within the band program to help students who are struggling with their grades.

Free concerts, section rehearsals, concert rehearsals, and private lessons are all considered Curricular. Events that are considered Extra-Curricular include:

1. Any event with paid admission
2. Any event that is inter-school competitive
3. Any event that takes place off of the FHS campus

Should a band student become ineligible for extra-curricular performances (marching band performances, off-campus appearances *except* UIL Concert and Sight-Reading), he/she will still be eligible for curricular functions (on-campus concerts, rehearsal before or after school, UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluation). Ineligible students will be given alternate assignments in lieu of extra-curricular events.

## **XVII. Individual Competitions**

The band staff encourages participation in the individual competitions and festivals offered during the year.

**TMEA All-Region** tryouts involve the finest students from schools in our Region and are the first step in advancement toward All-State. All students in grades 9-12 may participate if academically eligible. All students in the Wind Symphony students are required to audition; Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band Students are encouraged. The music is distributed in late July and the tryouts are held in December. Students must check their calendars carefully and make a complete commitment to both the tryouts and the performance (should they earn a spot in an all-region band) before entering.

**Band Re-auditions for Spring Semester:** All Frisco Band students will re-audition for their Spring-Semester Band Placement. Re-auditions take place in November just prior to Thanksgiving. **The material for all Band student re-auditions will be the “freshmen-cut” portions of the Region Band Audition Etudes**, for both students who will actually audition for All-Region and those who will not. All students will receive this music prior to the beginning of school. They may receive instruction to prepare for their audition through private lessons ([www.friscohsband.org/privatelessons](http://www.friscohsband.org/privatelessons))

**UIL Solo and Ensemble** competition takes place in February. All students in grades 9-12 may participate if academically eligible. Unlike middle school solo and ensemble, the University Interscholastic League (UIL) governs the high school level and maintains very specific music lists and rules for performance. Soloists hoping to advance to State must perform from memory at the region level. There is a short-list of class 1 solos that do not require memorization due to their difficulty. The UIL limits participation to two different events. The Band program will coordinate pianists to accompany students on their solos (students responsible for fees).

**UIL State Solo and Ensemble** is held during the Memorial Day weekend each year in Austin for all students who receive a 1<sup>st</sup> division superior rating on a class I ensemble, or a memorized class I solo at the region level. Students must enter all events in which they qualified if they wish to go to the State contest. Students are responsible for their own accompanists, if needed, and are required to perform all events entered. They must also handle their own transportation and lodging, as the Frisco Band does not travel as group to State Solo and Ensemble contest. Thus, it is not required that our students participate in this event, even if they qualify. According to UIL, band directors and school district personnel reserve the right to determine whether or not a student participates at the state level regardless of the rating at the regional level.

### **XIII. Student Leaders (“Band Leadership Team”/ “BLT”)**

Student Leaders include Drum Majors, Section Leaders, Squad Leaders, Music Team, Equipment Team, Uniform Team, and Spirit Team. Leaders are selected through an application and interview process in the Spring, and must meet the following requirements to tryout:

#### ***Drum Majors:***

1. Must be academically eligible at the time of tryouts
2. Must attend all band leadership workshops and training
3. Must complete the drum major application packet
4. Must complete the additional Band Leadership Team Application Form
5. Must complete the audition process of training, application, audition, and interviews

#### ***All Other Leaders:***

1. Must be academically eligible at the time of tryouts
2. Must attend all band leadership workshops and training
3. May be a member of either of the concert bands, or Color Guard and Winter Guard
4. Must complete the additional BLT Application Packet

ALL STUDENT LEADERS SELECTED MUST FULFILL THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS TO REMAIN IN THEIR OFFICES:

1. Play a solo and an ensemble at the Region UIL level. (wind and percussion only)
2. Tryout for All-Region Band (wind and percussion only)
3. Attend ALL summer practices, meetings, and have no un-excused absences from band activities during the year.

4. Provide leadership through example, promote the highest expectations for band members, and show a zero tolerance for negative behavior. Band officers with any disciplinary referral in any class will be removed from office.
5. Remain academically eligible throughout the year

FAILURE TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE OUTLINED LEADERSHIP JOB DESCRIPTION COULD RESULT IN A STUDENT BEING REMOVED AS A LEADER FOR THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR.

## **XIX. CutTime**

CutTime is the communication and payment app for all Frisco ISD Fine Arts Programs. This is a one-stop-shop for all Band fee payments, receiving announcements, and signing most of our required documents!

Directors have added students and guardians to the Frisco Band CutTime account. Guardians are added via their cell phone numbers (email is used as backup). There is no login process or password to keep track of; any time you wish to visit your account page, you simply click your unique “Magic Link” provided to you via text message. You can also bookmark your CutTime page, so that you can return to it any time to check your account balance, sign documents, re-read announcements, etc.

Payments are made with a link to Stripe®, but a Stripe account is not required. You will be prompted to enter credit or debit card info and the information is secure. (We will still accept payments by paper check, made out to ‘Frisco Band Boosters’- though online payments are preferred if possible!). You may also SHARE costs for your student, with relatives or friends. There is an easy way to invite them to pay as much of your students’ balance as they like, via their cell phone number!

## **XX. Travel Policy & Guidelines**

Students who represent FISD and the FHS band on school sponsored trips are expected to maintain very high standards in behavior, punctuality, and respect at all times. Normal school policy dictates that band students ride FISD transportation to and from all off-campus performances and events when it is offered. On rare occasions, and emergency or other school-related event will necessitate a parent to provide transportation. In such an event, a note signed by the parent should be given to the director in advance of the event. If FISD transportation is provided, students are not permitted to ride home from a band event with anyone other than their parent. There may be times when students will be under the supervision of parent chaperones. Students are to treat chaperones with respect at all times. It should be understood that their directions are to be followed completely as if the directors said it. Bus trips should be orderly and calm. Students should remain in their seats for the entire trip. The noise level should be moderate. No student is to get on or off the bus unless instructed to do so. Students who are involved in a serious disciplinary offense on a school-related trip, such as use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol, stealing, fighting, leaving a room or bus at an inappropriate time, or other serious offense will face strong action which may include the following:

1. Being sent home immediately at parents' expense
2. Being held liable for damage of property
3. Being permanently removed from the band program
4. FHS administrative disciplinary action

### **Spring Trip**

Each year, the Frisco HS Band takes a trip in the spring in order to compete at a concert festival. Students and parents raise money throughout the year in order to supplement their payments for the trip. Please note that a timeline of full/partial refunds is released prior to the trip, and that students' ineligibility due to grades during the 9-week grading period that the trip occurs in will not be cause for a refund. The refund timeline will be released to the parents before the first trip payment is due. Any student who has been assigned to ISS, OSS, assigned to juvenile detention or expelled for part or all of a given school year may be denied permission to attend the spring trip with the band program. Refunds will be given in accordance with the timeline provided.

### **Football Season Bus Guidelines**

1. All band members will be assigned a bus to be used throughout football season.
2. Attendance will be taken on each bus, both to and from any performance or event.
3. Students must ride the same bus to and from the event.
4. Students must obey all school and bus rules.
5. No talking on buses when in parking lots upon arrival at performance events. Drum majors, BLT members, or staff will relay when talking is appropriate. This tradition should carry into concert season regardless of the type of group traveling. In marching season, all talking should cease when you can see the stadium. At the staff or drum majors' discretion, talking may be permitted when remaining in a parking lot for a prolonged period of time. Please, no talking on cell phones while in parking lots.
6. No food or drink is permitted on the buses – unless specifically allowed for special circumstance.
7. Show common courtesy and respect for the bus drivers and chaperones. Chaperones are volunteering their time for our benefit.
8. Uniforms on the bus should be in garment bags with band pants/shirt/shoes worn.
9. If you have a large instrument that is loaded on the equipment truck, you are responsible for getting your instrument to the truck before they start loading and responsible for taking your instrument with you when the pit crew unloads the truck.
10. All instrument cases should be labeled clearly with the student's name and *Frisco High School Band* on the outside of the case.
11. Students are **REQUIRED** to travel with the band to AND from ALL band events.

### **Football Game Guidelines**

1. Students who are tardy to call time and/or fail inspection could be sent home and not allowed participate with us at the game. This would result in a zero for their game grade.
2. No gum ever while in uniform.
3. Use the restroom before we leave for the game.

4. Look crisp and professional when marching into any stadium (home or away). All instruments within the section are to be carried in the same way. All uniform parts are to remain on and intact unless otherwise directed.
5. All band members will sit together in the stands – no non-band members allowed in our cluster.
6. During the game, no food or drink (besides water) is allowed in the stands.
7. Students are required to remain with the band during the entire game and will be sent to the restroom two at a time on an as needed basis at the discretion of the director(s).
8. Do not go into other sections of the stands at any time – stay together.
9. Uniform check-in and check-out procedures will change on a regular basis depending on the contest and cleaning schedule. When uniforms are checked out, sections will have an assigned time – during check-in, uniforms are subject to inspection for proper hanging condition, etc.

## **XXI. Fund Raising**

The Band provides opportunities throughout the year for fundraising, to help students offset the cost of activities such as our out of town Spring Trip. FISD policy allows students themselves to participate in one official fundraiser per year- for the Frisco Band this our annual Play-A-Thon in September. Each student is encouraged to make the most of this opportunity to help defer the cost of the trip, and to raise funds for other endeavors throughout the year. All monies raised from fund raising will be deposited into the general student activity fund and will be used to the benefit of all students.

## **XXII. FHS Band Boosters**

The Frisco High School Band has a very active and supportive parent organization. The club includes parents from both the Band and Color Guard. Without the hard work and dedication of our parents, the Band program at Frisco High could not be as successful and productive as it is. There are numerous areas in which interested parents can be involved in supporting the activities of the band. General meetings of the Booster Club are held throughout the school year; however numerous committees do most of the parent organization planning. Every parent of a Band/Color Guard student is considered a member of the Booster Club!! Visit the Band Website to learn more about the Booster Club and volunteer opportunities.

## **XXIII. Private Lessons**

Frisco ISD is fortunate to have an outstanding staff of private lesson teachers. This program is designed to enrich and further the level of performance of the musician. One on one, individual instruction is one of the main reasons why programs, especially in the North Texas area, are extremely successful. It is a general misconception that private lessons are set up only for students who are “falling behind” or for those musicians that are “not as successful” on their instrument. While private lessons can still be highly beneficial in these cases, supplemental private lessons are also designed and intended for students that are advancing and seeking increased success on their instrument. The opportunity to study one-on-one with a professional musician is invaluable and has proven to be one of the most successful ingredients to individual achievement. Lessons are customized and tailored for each individual’s needs.

Private lessons may occur before, during, and after the school day depending on availability. They are not required, but are highly recommended. Private lessons taught on campus are \$24.00 per ½ hour. Students traveling to a private teacher’s home to study may be subject to a different rate based on the teacher’s

experience and credentials. The band booster club is proud to offer ½ scholarships in the amount of \$12 per lesson to students meeting certain criteria. Requests for lesson scholarships should be directed to Mr. Simon, at [simond@friscoisd.org](mailto:simond@friscoisd.org). ***Though optional, private lessons are an imperative part of the Frisco Band Program and every student's musical growth!***

#### **XXIV. Frisco HS Band Letter Jackets**

Students earn a letter, and become eligible to purchase a letter jacket upon completion of the following:  
Two full semesters of Band or Color Guard, including **academically eligible participation at the following:**

- 1 UIL Region Marching Contest,
- 1 UIL Solo Contest (performing at least a SOLO), and
- 1 UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest (or a substitute event for Sub NV groups)

\*During the semesters in question, the student may not have any performance absences deemed unexcused by the program's director, according to the attendance policies outlined in this handbook.

#### **XXV. Online Social Network, Discussion Boards and Forums**

Online social networks are more prevalent and useful than ever before. However, the reputation of the Frisco Band program and its' members becomes more public. As members of this organization, both students AND parents are held to a higher standard in online correspondence and postings. The following policies apply to all FHS Band students:

- 1.) No negative or derogatory comments will be posted about fellow FHS Band members, the band program, parents, staff, administration, or FISD.
- 2.) No derogatory comments will be posted about other band programs, directors, or members
- 3.) Frisco HS Band students will not reply to a negative or derogatory posting by students of another school.
- 4.) Students should be mindful about photos that are posted. Any FHS Band student seen in a picture with an illegal substance or in a compromising position may be subject to the detrimental behavior policy.
- 5.) In addition, due to copyright infringement policies, members and parents of the Frisco Band are expected to refrain from posting videos of the marching and concert performances on video forums such as YouTube, etc.

Failure to abide by these policies may result in, but are not limited to: lowering of band placement, removal of leadership status, and/or removal from the band program.

## **XXVI. Detrimental Behavior Policy**

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

- Vandalism
- Theft
- Substance abuse
- Insubordination
- Bringing humiliation, embarrassment or danger to themselves or others
- Excessive ineligibility
- Deliberately disobeying rules while traveling or in class
- Unexcused absence from performance of any kind
- Bullying, or hazing of any kind

Any student who leaves the Frisco Band program voluntarily or who is removed for violating the detrimental behavior policy will not be permitted to audition or apply for reinstatement to the program for 1 calendar year.

## **XXVII. Concert Etiquette**

Audience manners are an expression of courtesy and respect for performers and others in the audience. Young people in our society are seldom exposed to formal concert situations and are often not aware of the standards of appropriate behavior. By following these guidelines, parents can help set a proper example for our students and make the concert more enjoyable for all. Thank you for your assistance!

- Avoid entering or leaving the venue during a performance. If you find this necessary, move only between pieces.
- Talking is inappropriate during a performance. Young children who are talking or crying should be escorted from the performance area.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices should be silenced. Such noise can be very distracting and ruin a band's performance and recording.
- In true formal concert etiquette, photography is strictly prohibited. In the school setting we understand parents would like to have pictures as mementos, so we urge you to use the following guidelines. No flash photography during the band's performance, as flashes is distracting to the performing band members and to the audience. If you would like to use flash photography please do so before or after the performance.

# *A Note To Parents*

Parent involvement and interest in their student's musical growth can be the single most important factor in their total music education. When parents are actively involved in their student's musical endeavors, the chances for success are exponentially greater than for the student whose parents show little or no interest at all. Students are learning more in the band hall than how to just blow a horn or beat a drum! They are developing "life skills" such as discipline, teamwork, responsibility, self-confidence, social skills, and critical-thinking skills. It is the goal of the FHS Band Staff to help each student develop in these areas, and we know if we work with you as a team we can be successful.

Many times parents say things like: "The only thing I ever learned to play was the radio;" or "I couldn't carry a tune in a bucket!" For those of you who feel you fit in this category here's some good news... it doesn't matter! What is important is that through your actions, you show your student that you care about their musical development. There are many ways to do this. You can show your support by attending concerts and contests and by attending civic and community or professional performances with your student. As much as possible, try to provide equipment and or accessories that they may need and give them a productive place in which to practice. Praise your student when they practice regularly and offer a little positive reinforcement when they don't. Ask your student how things are going in band class and have them play for you what they are working on. Parents do not need any prior musical experience in order to effectively support their student's development.

The directors, through this handbook, phone calls, emails, the website, and CHARMS, want to foster effective communication between the staff and parents. The goal is to keep you informed about your student's band activities so as to facilitate your involvement in their musical education. Our preferred method of communication is direct conversation with students, as we believe it helps teach them effective communication skills necessary for success beyond high school. Remember, you can be the most important figure in you student's musical growth, and if we work together we can make your student's experience in the Frisco Band a success!

Thank you for all you do.

# **Frisco High School Band**

## **Handbook Acknowledgement Form**

Frisco High School Band and Color Guard  
6401 Parkwood Drive, Frisco TX 75034



**PLEASE READ THE HANDBOOK CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING**

**(Available at [www.friscohsband.org/forms](http://www.friscohsband.org/forms))**

"We have read the FHS Band Handbook, and our student has our permission to participate in the Band activities stated in this handbook within the guidelines described. We understand that Band is a full-year commitment for the 2026-2027 school year."

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

"I have read the FHS Band Handbook and agree to abide by the policies stated. I realize that failure to follow policies or directions will result in disciplinary action that could lead to dismissal from the Band and Band classes."

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

Student Name- PRINT: \_\_\_\_\_