



*THE ARLINGTON BAND*

*SPIRIT*<sup>TM</sup>  
*PRIDE*  
*TRADITION*



# THE ARLINGTON BAND

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# *THE* ARLINGTON BAND

The AHS Colt Band has been the symbol of Spirit, Pride and Tradition for not only Arlington High School, but for the city of Arlington for over one hundred years. With the formation of an Alumni Band, our ties to the traditions of our great school have become even stronger. Our Parent organization, the AHSBBC, is strongly committed to supporting the educational opportunities of our band program. Please check out our website at <https://www.ahscoltsbbc.com/> for constantly updated information.

In this handbook you will find answers to most questions that might arise throughout the year. Please keep it handy. You can always contact the directors at the band hall, or e-mail us at our addresses listed below. Our Marching Season music is already out and our drill is being finalized as I type this letter. We, the directors of the Colt Band, are looking forward to the opportunity to help lead a new group of colt band members to another even more successful year!

Band Directors:

Nathan Burum – Director of Bands - Wind Symphony - [nburum@aisd.net](mailto:nburum@aisd.net)

Nathan Hervey – Associate Director - Symphonic and Jazz - [nhervey@aisd.net](mailto:nhervey@aisd.net)

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Brian Lowe - Associate Director - Percussion - [blowe@aisd.net](mailto:blowe@aisd.net)

Franklin Garza – Director of Visual Ensemble – [fgarza1@aisd.net](mailto:fgarza1@aisd.net)

## **Student Discipline and Classroom Expectations**

The success of the AHS Band Program is dependent on student discipline and exemplary behavior both in the classroom and on the practice field. Students are expected to be prompt and prepared for class. Students need to set their arrival time to rehearsal to allow time to get their instruments and materials ready so they are prepared to begin class at the appropriate time. If even one student is late, it costs the entire band rehearsal time. Students must have the necessary materials at each class. Although the requirements vary slightly from band class to band class, students always need their instruments (in proper working condition), music, pencil, and any other materials specific to their class (mutes, drill books, flip folders etc). If a student does not have their materials, the entire band suffers. Students are also expected to maintain good classroom discipline. Talking during rehearsal, disruptive behavior, or poor rehearsal participation on the part of an individual greatly affects the learning opportunities for all the students in that class. In order to help teach responsibility, students will be held accountable for being **Ready, Respectful, and Responsible** for each rehearsal.



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## **Respect**

In order to have a successful band program, students and teachers must function in an atmosphere of respect. Students must respect the feelings and property of their fellow students. Students will treat their student leaders, teachers and other instructors with respect as well. The band hall also deserves respect as a place of learning, as well as a center of Pride and Tradition. As a member of the Arlington High School Band you will be expected to adhere to these guidelines. Students who are disrespectful will be subject to severe disciplinary action. Severe demonstrations of disrespect toward the Band, its Directors or members, the school etc. (such as, but not limited to theft, vandalism, harassment, use of alcohol or drugs etc.) or repeated disrespectful actions can be cause for student dismissal from the organization.

## **In the classroom:**

Although the discipline management plan for each band class will vary slightly (see teacher for detailed class plan) all will follow the AHS code of student behavior. All students are expected to have all required materials in class each day and uphold the highest standards of behavior at AHS.

## **Student travel:**

Whenever the band travels, all school policies are in effect. Whenever the band is in rehearsals, performances, trips, games etc., it will be treated as a classroom with regard to school policy. Refer to student code of conduct for clarifications, especially on AISD Zero tolerance policy.

## **Cell Phone Policy:**

The cell phone / technology policy of the AHS band is identical to the school district policy. In all classes, the teacher mandates all phones be put in the cell phone holder. If the teacher chooses, students may access technology, but only with permission. If the instructor does not give permission to the class or the specific student, then all phones must be placed in the holder during class. This includes set-up time, instructional time, and tear down time. Any student using a cell phone or other tech. device during class time, without expressed permission from the instructor of that class will have the device confiscated. It will be returned as per AISD policy.

In marching band rehearsal, students may use cell phones during breaks, provided that it does not prevent the student from returning from the break at the appropriate time. Cell phone use during instruction time (whether the student is actively involved or not) is for UDB use only. Cell phones are permitted on bus routes to football games and performances. In the stands at a game or contest, cell phone use is prohibited without director approval.

## **Student Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances of the organizations of which they are a member. Students are strongly encouraged to attend other fine arts activities both by other organizations on campus, and by other schools and professional groups as well. Students will often receive extra credit for attending professional or university level performances. See your teacher for details.

**Please note that band rehearsals, sectionals, and performances that are scheduled outside of the school day are required as part of the course and are therefore a part of the student's grade in band as per UIL/TEA policy.**



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## **Student Absences:**

Students may be excused from a required activity for the following reasons:

1. *Illness of student*
2. *Death in immediate family*
3. *Family emergency*

Whenever possible, the band directors should be notified in advance of an absence. If a student has a conflict with a scheduled event, the directors should be notified of the conflict in writing at least **2 weeks prior** to the event. Directors will then determine if the conflict will be excused or unexcused.

**An unexcused absence or tardy from a rehearsal, sectional or performance may affect the following:**

**Student grade**

**Participation in future performances**

**Status in the drill (alternate assignment)**

**If absence problems arise, they will be addressed on an individual basis with the student and parents involved.**

## **Work:**

**Work is never an acceptable excuse for missing band activities.** Students are provided with a calendar in advance to allow for scheduling. **Most employers are willing to work with the band on scheduling.** They are members of the community and support our program. Notify your employers of your conflicts in plenty of time for them to schedule workers. If your employer seems inflexible, please contact your director. We can help smooth things over with your employers. Oftentimes a simple note from us verifying the conflict is all that they need to work with you!

## **Doctors' appointments:**

We understand that Dr. Appointments can be challenging to schedule. Regularly scheduled appointments; however, such as orthodontics, dermatologists etc. should not be scheduled during rehearsal time and may not be excused.

## **Football Play-offs:**

When the football season is extended due to play-offs, the band is expected to perform. Students will be required to attend all play-off games. The AHS Colt Football team is outstanding year after year! Please try to keep track of the season and do not schedule important events on probable play-off dates.

## **Marching Band**

Due to the special nature of marching band, the discipline policy will be different from the traditional classroom management program. While the policy will be consistent with school policy, it will deal with minor infractions in a positive manner stressing reinforcement of skills rather than punishment.

## **Uniformity:**

The purpose of the band wearing a uniform is to be as "uniform" in appearance as possible.

**Jewelry:** There should be no visible jewelry. Earrings must be invisible at a distance of 5' or less (Small silver or gold ball studs no larger than 3mm are acceptable). No other visible piercing is allowed. If you have a question regarding earrings or other jewelry, see a director prior to inspection. Any student wearing jewelry



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deemed inappropriate will be required to remove it until after the activity is complete. Watches or bracelets which are visible when arms are in playing position must be removed prior to performance.

**Make-up:** make-up must be simple and neutral. Temporary facial tattoos or face paint and glitter are not allowed.

**Hair:** Hair must be neat, clean, and well groomed. Long hair must be in a tight braid. *In marching season, hair must appear uniform.* Hair dyes, paints or extensions that are not a natural color are not allowed. Any student, whose hair touches the collar of their uniform, prevents the headgear from fitting properly, or sticks out the sides of the headgear must get it cut or put up inside their hat in a fashion that allows uniform appearance. Students are responsible for bringing the necessary supplies to put their hair up prior to the beginning of inspection.

**Nail polish:** nail polish must be neutral or clear.

## **Uniforms:**

Students are expected to maintain their uniforms in optimal condition. They must be careful not to damage their uniform in any way! Uniforms must be kept clean and hung properly to help maintain a pressed look. Uniforms will be inspected prior to and after performances. If the uniform is damaged or receives excessive wear and tear over the course of the season (excessive wear and tear and any damage evaluations will be made by the directors of the AHS Band and reviewed by the Director of Fine Arts and the Principal of AHS), it will be the financial obligation of the parent or guardian to repair or replace the uniform. Uniform replacement costs could exceed \$800.00. If the student is habitually abusing the uniform, it may be collected permanently. When in public, the uniform is either worn completely, or not at all. Students wearing the uniform in an improper fashion will be subject to disciplinary action. The student is required to provide crew type black socks (ankle socks will not pass inspection) and approved black and white gloves as well as approved marching shoes. Proper socks, gloves and shoes may be purchased through the band.

## **Inspection:**

Before and after each performance, students will be inspected to ensure uniformity, condition of uniform, and materials. The pre-game inspection will be conducted to determine if all students meet the uniformity standard. Student materials will also be checked to ensure that all members have hat, plume, uniform (in proper condition), gloves, instrument (in good working order), flip-folder (with all necessary music), poncho, and any other required materials. Students not passing pregame inspection will sit with the directors during the game. Students not wearing the correct socks will need to purchase one from the band. Post-game inspection is to ensure that the uniform is properly hung, and in good condition for the next performance. Uniforms not passing post game inspection will be sent to the cleaners for cleaning and pressing. If the uniform must be cleaned more often than the uniform fee allows, the parent or guardian will be billed for the cost.

## **Behavior at games or competitions:**

At all times, members of the AHS Band are expected to represent our organization in a positive manner. They are expected to show proper discipline, respect, manners, as well as a high level of character. Public display of affection is prohibited. The band or booster club will provide all needed drinks, snacks or meals. At no time are students allowed any food or drink that is not given to them with the expressed approval of the directors. Students will go to the restrooms in groups for both safety and convenience. The students are to go directly to the restrooms and return quickly. No side trips to visit with friends, relatives, or concession stands are permitted. Students will be chaperoned at all times for their safety and well-being.



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## School Owned Equipment

### Instrument Storage Lockers:

Each student will be issued an instrument storage locker with a combination lock. Students must keep the door closed to their locker at all times, and keep them locked after their rehearsal is over. Students may use this locker only for their instrument and supplies for band (music, tuner, metronome, music books etc.). No food or drink is to be placed in these lockers at any time. Nothing may be hung on or attached to the locker at any time. Lockers will be randomly inspected. Any materials not allowed in the lockers will be either disposed of or placed in the lost and found. Students who disregard these rules will receive one warning, and then they will receive disciplinary action and/or grade reduction.

### School Owned Instrument Policy:

Students who use a school owned instrument are required by the district to pay an instrument usage fee. This fee goes directly to AISD, it does not go to Arlington High School or the band program.

Students who use school owned instruments must fill out a "Blue Card". This card outlines the responsibilities of the student and parents with regard to the care of school owned equipment. The instrument will be issued in good condition. If over the course of the year the instrument needs to go into the shop, payment for the repair will be based on the following criterion:

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| ● Repair due to normal wear and tear on the instrument.            | School pays         |
| ● Repair due to normal maintenance requirements of the instrument: | School pays         |
| ● Repair due to abuse or neglect on the part of the student:       | Parent/student pays |
| ● Repair due to lack of proper routine maintenance by student      | Parent/student pays |
| ● Repair due to accidental damage to instrument:                   | Parent/student pays |

If there is a problem with the instrument that is discovered right after check-out, it is the responsibility of the student or parent to bring the problem to the attention of the directors immediately to avoid having to pay for the repair. Instruments will be assigned by the directors based on student performance needs. If the need to reassign instruments arises over the course of the school year, the directors will reassign as appropriate.

## Band Placement and Audition Procedures

### Admission to Band:

All students must audition each semester to be in a band. They will be evaluated by the directors in the following areas: Musical proficiency and improvement, tone quality, technique, mastery of the assigned audition material, and presentation. New members must demonstrate a minimum level of proficiency to be allowed to enroll in band.

Returning members must demonstrate a good work ethic, responsibility, a cooperative attitude toward instruction, a positive attitude, and show an improvement in musical skills. Repeated demonstrations of poor work ethic and/or behavior problems and/or failure to improve musical skills can be cause for not being allowed to re-enroll the following semester/year. Students who enter band during the middle of a school year will be asked to audition. If due to time restraints a formal audition cannot be arranged, the student will be placed according to the best guess of the band instructors. This will not be considered an indication of future placement in the band program.





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## **Band Placement:**

Students are assigned to a band class based on ability level. This level is assessed through an audition procedure. All students audition over the same material and are ranked by score from highest to lowest. The highest scoring students in each section make the Wind Symphony, second highest are placed in the Symphonic Band, third highest in the Concert Band, and the remainder are placed in the Varsity Band. Students have the opportunity to re-audition each semester for band placement. **Students are expected to double block band.** They receive credit for each block.

## **Double Block Exceptions:**

Students who are unable to double block band may be assigned to a lower level band if the director feels that they will not be able to keep up with the class requirements. If a student exhibits conduct in class which prevents proper instruction by the teacher and/or proper learning by the other students, they may be re-assigned to a less or non-competitive ensemble. All students must exhibit mastery of the appropriate level of Ensemble Rehearsal Skills required by the director of each ensemble before a student will be advanced to the next level of ensemble. (see Ensemble Rehearsal Skills) Students who have previously failed to fulfill the requirements of a specific ensemble may be denied future membership in that ensemble. This decision will be based on director discretion and student conference.

\*\*to see specific audition requirements, see director for current audition information\*\*

## **Ensemble Rehearsal Skills**

**Ensemble Rehearsal Skills** are the building blocks of a successful ensemble experience. Students must first learn how to take care of their individual responsibilities, and then grow to become an active, participating member of a team, and eventually develop the skills necessary to become a true ensemble musician: thinking, working, and performing as a single unit.

### **Skill Level 1: Sub-Concert Band**

The first level of skills that a student must master is personal responsibilities. We look for students to consistently:

1. Demonstrate the ability to have all materials at every rehearsal (this would include instrument, pencil, tuner, music, reeds, mouthpiece, ligature or brass mouthpiece, valve oil and any other assigned materials).
2. Demonstrate the ability and knowledge to have your instrument in good working condition. Students must be responsible for proper care and maintenance of their instrument and need to understand that with proper care, instruments very seldom need to go into the repair shop!
3. Demonstrate the ability to constantly arrive on time to rehearsal and quickly and quietly go through their set up procedure (this may vary slightly from class to class).
4. Be respectful to the teacher and other students and aid in maintaining a proper classroom atmosphere.
5. Follow all classroom rules.

### **Skill Level 2: Concert Band**

The second level of ensemble rehearsal skills relates to fundamental team skills.

1. Demonstrate mastery of Skill Level 1
2. Demonstrate the ability to breathe in tempo with an ensemble and consistently start and stop notes "in time" using visual, and audible cues.





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3. Demonstrate the ability to follow the conductor's gestures in attacks, releases, simple ritardandos and accelerandos, crescendo and decrescendo gestures.
4. Demonstrate the ability to hear flat and sharp pitches relative to a reference tone and understand the basics of how to adjust properly to the reference pitch.
5. Demonstrate the ability to make simple balance judgments and understand how they fit into the ensemble sound.
6. Demonstrate mastery of your personal instrument to a skill level high enough to be able to apply these rehearsal skills with fellow ensemble members.

## **Skill Level 3: Symphonic Band**

The third level of ensemble skills relates to the mastery of team skills and the strong development of ensemble skills.

1. Demonstrate the mastery of Skill level 1 & 2
2. Demonstrate the ability to begin and end notes in time with the ensemble using visual and/or audible cues and the ability to make judgments about the quality and precision of the attack and release from an ensemble perspective.
3. Demonstrate the ability to follow the conductor in attacks, releases, ritardando and accelerando, crescendo, decrescendo, rubato as well as tempo changes and meter changes. Be able to judge from the relative speed and impetus of the ictus in order to prepare for and anticipate changes in these areas.
4. Demonstrate the ability to tune their instrument to itself and to a reference pitch. Know how to utilize a tuner/pick-up combination to assist in this process, but also be aware of its limitations.
5. Demonstrate the ability to discern relative intonation on the following intervals: Unison, octave, Perfect 4th, Perfect 5th and the interval of a 6th and be able to match those pitches.
6. Demonstrate mastery of your personal instrument to a skill level high enough to be able to apply these rehearsal skills with fellow ensemble members.

## **Skill Level 4: Wind Symphony**

The fourth level of ensemble skills relates to the mastery of team and ensemble skills. Students who progress to this level are capable of consistently demonstrating the highest cognitive skill levels. They must be able to analyze themselves, the sub groups, and the ensemble as a whole. These students are able to make judgments, use reasoning and prior knowledge to develop solutions, and to anticipate the music and pre-solve upcoming problems.

1. Demonstrate mastery of skill levels 1-3
2. Demonstrate the ability to analyze and correct attacks and releases based on diction, style, knowledge of historical period, and customary practice.
3. Demonstrate the ability to follow the conductor in attacks, releases (in musically appropriate style), complex rubato and interpretative tempo changes as a member of an ensemble.
4. Demonstrate the ability to hear relative pitch and perform diatonic and melodic passages in tune with yourself and with others without the aid of a reference.
5. Demonstrate the knowledge of common practice interpretation in major styles of music from historical and practical viewpoints.
6. Demonstrate the ability to use ensemble skills consistently in a group performance environment.
7. Demonstrate mastery of your personal instrument to a skill level high enough to be able to apply these rehearsal skills with fellow ensemble members.

## **Arlington High School Band Ensemble Descriptions**

### **Wind Symphony:**

Wind Symphony is made up of the top performers in the Arlington High School Band Program. These students are required as part of their grade to participate in *All City Band Auditions*, *All Region Band Auditions*, *UIL Solo*



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*and Ensemble Contest* and be prepared to attend weekly sections as scheduled. They are required to attend all performances and rehearsals of this group. Students from the Wind Symphony are expected to perform in the *Full Orchestra, Musical, Graduation Band* and other honor ensembles. Students who fail to fulfill these requirements will have their grade lowered, and may be denied future admission into this prestigious group. Students are expected to be positive role models for the other students in the band. They are expected to be active and participate in all band activities (i.e. summer events, camps, and social functions). Student grades will be based on the completion of assigned objectives, classroom performance, and attendance to required events. Students will be notified at the beginning of each 6 weeks grading period as to the specific objectives for that six-weeks. Students will be provided with a calendar to help them schedule for required performances, rehearsals and other events.

## **Symphonic Band:**

Symphonic Band is made up of many excellent performers at AHS. These students are required as part of their grade to participate in *All City Band Auditions, UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest* and be prepared to attend weekly sections as scheduled. Students in the Symphonic Band are encouraged to participate in *All Region Band Auditions*. They are required to attend all performances and rehearsals of this group. Because of the prestigious nature of this group, students are expected to be positive role models for the entire band. They are expected to be active and participate in all band activities (i.e. summer events, camps, and social functions). Student grades will be based on the completion of assigned objectives, classroom performance, and attendance to required events. Students will be notified at the beginning of each 6 weeks grading period as to the specific objectives for that six-weeks. Students will be provided with a calendar to help them schedule for required performances, rehearsals and other events.

## **Concert Band:**

Concert Band is made up of younger or less advanced musicians than the top two ensembles. However, if instrumentation is adequate, these students will participate in the same competition schedule as the Wind Symphony and Symphonic Bands.

These students are encouraged to participate in *All City Band auditions* (all or part of the audition material will be required learning), and are required as part of their grade to participate in *UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest*. Student grades will be based on the completion of assigned objectives, classroom performance, and attendance to required events. Students will be notified at the beginning of each 6 weeks grading period as to the specific objectives for that six-weeks. Students will be provided with a calendar to help them schedule for required performances, rehearsals and other events.

## **Varsity Band:**

Varsity Band is made up of students who for whatever reason need more individualized instruction on their instruments. These students are encouraged to participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest, and with director approval, audition for All City Band. Although this is a non-competitive ensemble, students will have to work hard to gain the skills needed in the top three bands. Students may be required to purchase a method book for daily instruction.

Student grades will be based on the completion of assigned objectives, classroom performance, and attendance to required events. Students will be notified at the beginning of each 6 weeks grading period as to the specific objectives for that six-weeks. Students will be provided with a calendar to help them schedule for required performances, rehearsals and other events.



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## **Marching Band:**

All members of the AHS Band program are also members of the Marching Band. The Marching Band has scheduled summer rehearsals, performs in the Fourth of July Parade, performs at all football games, participates in Dean Corey Marching Spectacular, and at least two Festivals each season as well as UIL Marching Contest. The Band meets to rehearse each Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday after school (see calendar for specific dates and times). Secondary heat index rehearsal times are as follows: Monday - Thursday 6am - 7am and Saturdays 7am - 11am. All rehearsals and performances are required. Students with an unexcused absence from a rehearsal will lose points toward their grade and may be replaced in the marching show. If a student is replaced by an alternate for an unexcused absence, he/she will become an alternate and have to wait for a new spot to open up before they can rejoin the show. If a student has an unexcused absence from a performance, they will suffer the same consequences listed above; in addition they may be made a permanent alternate and not be allowed to participate in the show for the remainder of the season. For student attendance requirements see the **"Student Absences" section** in this handbook. We work very hard to make sure that every member of the band has the opportunity to perform with the AHS Marching Band. In order to be sure we have enough members to fill the show even with eligibility requirements, we have extra performers called alternates. These students will perform in halftime shows, but may not perform in the competitive drill. They may have the opportunity to replace a student in the competitive drill either due to loss of eligibility by the performer, or by unexcused absence or tardy. Students will earn a competitive performance slot by evaluation. Directors will observe and evaluate student performance during summer marching activities (Fish Camp, Fourth of July Camp, Band Camp and Summer Band). Students with the best fundamental marching and playing skills will earn a permanent spot in the drill. Other students will be assigned an "alternate" spot.

## **Jazz Band:**

The AHS Jazz Band is an elite ensemble composed of many of the top musicians at Arlington High School. Membership is by audition only. Students must be a member of the Band to be eligible for membership (see exceptions). Students in this class will learn music, styles, theory, and history of Jazz through playing and hands on composition. The Jazz Band has a very busy performance schedule throughout the year. Often functioning as musical ambassadors for AHS, they frequently perform more than fifteen public performances a year for elementary and junior high schools, civic functions, and other events. Band Students must double block their primary band class in order to be considered for jazz band membership.

## **Exceptions:**

Non-Band students may audition for open positions on the following instruments in the event that they cannot be covered adequately by band students: Guitar, Bass Guitar/upright bass, Piano/keyboards, Drum Set, Vocals. Students, whose parent organization is not band, will be expected to pay a reduced Jazz Band fee to cover certain costs associated with this organization. The fee will be \$30.00.

## **Drumline:**

The Drum line is a sub-organization of the AHS Marching Band. Students may audition for positions including snare, tenor, bass, cymbals and front ensemble (made up of mallet and auxiliary percussion). Membership is by audition only. Drum line is open to band members who are percussion students only (see exceptions).

**Exceptions:** Students who play a non-marching instrument (oboe, bassoon) as well as students who have physical limitations which would prevent them from marching may audition for Front Ensemble or Cymbals at the director's discretion.



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## **Percussion Ensemble:**

Percussion ensemble is a sub-organization of the AHS Band program. Students will need to be enrolled in percussion ensemble class to be a member. Percussion ensemble performs a variety of literature, but specializes in new and exciting literature written for this medium. Members have the opportunity to explore a variety of large and small ensemble performance settings. Students in this class are expected to participate in the UIL solo and ensemble competition. **All percussion students are required by the district to pay a percussion usage fee.** See AISD fees for more details.

## **Visual Ensemble / Winter Guard**

### **General information:**

Since membership in these organizations is by audition only, and open to the student population as a whole, students will be required to sign an agreement detailing specifics of maintaining membership. Violation of these agreements can result in suspension, removal and banning from future auditions. Membership in either Visual Ensemble or Winter Guard constitutes membership in the AHS Band program and students are subject to all requirements, obligations and benefits of membership.

### **Visual Ensemble:**

Visual Ensemble is a sub-organization within the AHS Band. Membership is open to all members of the band, orchestra, choir or at-large students at AHS. It is important to note that since this is a sub-organization, students must remain a member of their “parent organization” in order to be eligible to participate in this sub-group. In order to be considered for membership, students must attend the color guard workshop in May and be selected by audition. (See the Visual Ensemble handbook for the most current membership requirements.) Members of the Visual Ensemble receive fine arts and P.E. credit. They are expected to be enrolled in Visual Ensemble class, maintain academic eligibility, and participate in all after school rehearsals and all organization performances. There will be a fee involved in being a member of this organization. It will vary from year to year depending on the projected cost of uniform and materials.

### **Winter Guard:**

Winter Guard is the spring semester equivalent of Visual ensemble. Winter Guard is open to all members of the Visual Ensemble as well as students from other parent organizations or at large students. Membership is determined by audition and instructor recommendation. Members of the winter guard receive fine arts and P.E. credit. Participants are expected to take winter guard class, participate in all after school and weekend practices and performances. There will be a fee associated with membership to this organization. This fee will vary slightly from year to year depending on the estimated cost of uniform and materials.

## **Parent Organizations**

The Music Fine Arts programs at Arlington High School are considered parent organizations. The Band, Choir and Orchestra are both large organizations consisting of sub-groups. Membership in sub-groups is dependent on membership in the larger organizations. A student cannot be a member of a sub-group without meeting membership requirements of the parent organization. For example: A student cannot be in a performing ensemble (like the “Wind Symphony”) without also being in the Marching Band. A student cannot be in the Visual Ensemble, Winter Guard, or Jazz Band without being a member in good standing in their parent



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organization (band, orchestra or choir). **If for any reason a student chooses to terminate their membership in their parent organization, their membership in any sub-groups is also terminated.** Below is a listing of sub-groups within the Band and requirements for membership.

- **Wind Symphony** (placement by audition)
- **Symphonic Band** (placement by audition)
- **Concert Band** (placement by audition)
- **Varsity Band** (placement by audition)
- **Jazz Band** (placement by audition, only open to students grades 10 – 12 who are currently double-blocking their band class)
- **Drum Line** (Only open to members of the percussion studio - see exceptions)
- **Percussion Ensemble** (Only open to members of the percussion studio - see exceptions)
- **Visual Ensemble** (placement by audition)
- **Winter Guard** (placement by audition)
- **Full Orchestra** (Only open to members of Wind Symphony)
- **Musical Pit Orchestra** (Only open to members of Wind Symphony)

## Exceptions:

Students (not members of a parent organization) can audition and join the Jazz Band provided that they play a non-band instrument that cannot be covered by a current Jazz Band member (guitar, bass, piano, vocals etc.). If they are members of a parent organization at the time they join a jazz band, they must maintain that membership. If a student does not have a parent organization, the band will become their parent organization by default. Color Guard / Winter Guard are open to all students at AHS. Membership is by audition only. (For more details, see current audition requirements for these organizations)

## Band Fees

Because of the expense of running a successful Band Program, there are certain fees involved. Our fees are among the lowest in the area, and the money collected is used directly to benefit the students involved with the AHS band program.

### Band Activity Fee:

Each year, all band students are required to pay an activity fee. This fee is used to offset the costs of drinks and/or snacks at football games and other activities, student entry fees, band “Show Shirt”, etc. This year the Band Activity fee needs to be paid before the student is issued a uniform, or before the end of the first two weeks of school.

### Visual Ensemble / Winter Guard Fees:

Members of the Color Guard/ Winter Guard will have an additional fee to help offset the extra expenses involved with these programs.

### Marching Prop Fee:

This fee will be used to cover the cost of extra worn parts on our uniform and or on field props.

**Glove Fee:** Students wear gloves with their uniforms at games and performances. These tend to get lost, torn, dropped, dirty etc. Students receive 4 pairs of gloves per year.



# THE ARLINGTON BAND

**Marching shoes:** The AHS Marching Band uses the “VIPER” marching shoe.

**Every upperclassman will be held accountable for having these items in proper condition.**

- o **Check your marching shoes. Do they need to be cleaned or replaced?**
- o **Check your green colt band shirt. Is it dirty, torn, too tight, or need to be replaced?**
- o **Check your ball cap. Is it clean, looks uniform, or need to be replaced?**
- o **Check your flip folder. Is it in good condition? Is it Role Model worthy?**
- o **Do you have your water Jug? Is it clean?**
- o **Find your 4<sup>th</sup> of July shorts. Do they still fit properly? Are they still BLACK?**
- o **Find your black belt.**

## Fee Sheet

We do our very best to make our Band fees as little as possible. Because of this, we expect our band students and families to help us raise more money by fundraising. If you don't feel comfortable fundraising please pay the fundraising fee listed below.

Please pay fees in full by **UIL Marching Contest - October 10, 2023**

<b>Band Activity Fee:</b>	<b>\$275.00</b> - includes transportation, entry fees, music show shirt and more
<b>Parade Uniform Shirt:</b>	<b>\$65.00</b> - includes Green Colt Band, Black Shorts, Band Ball Cap
<b>Marching Prop Fee:</b>	<b>\$60.00</b> - includes dry cleaning for marching uniforms and concert uniform
<b>Shoe order:</b>	<b>\$42.00</b> - mandatory for freshman and 10-12 who need a new pair
<b>Gloves:</b>	<b>\$20.00</b> - mandatory for wind players only - includes 4 pair
<b>Show Shirt:</b>	<b>\$18.00</b> - only if you want an extra one - included in activity fee
<b>Fundraising:</b>	<b>\$500.00</b> - only if you don't want to fundraise throughout the year

**The following fees are for students in Percussion and Colorguard only:**

<b>Drumline Fee:</b>	<b>\$100.00</b> - includes drum heads, mallets, sticks, music, and techs
<b>Color Guard Fee:</b>	<b>\$300.00</b> - includes flags, bags. Does not include guard uniform
<b>Color Guard Uniform:</b>	<b>\$\$\$</b> - TBD

## Double Blocking Band vs. Single Blocking

When we refer to “double blocking” we mean taking band class every day (A-days and B-days). **Band is different from other “double-blocked” courses** in that you get credit for each block because A-day classes and B-day classes are completely different courses. All Band members are required to “double block” band with the following exceptions:

**Exceptions:**

**Conflict with required academic courses**





# THE ARLINGTON BAND

On occasion, a student may need to take a course in order to fulfill graduation requirements which conflicts with their scheduled band class. See the attached “Request to Single-Block” form for instructions on how to deal with this problem.

## **Conflict with another AHS parent organization** (see “parent organizations”)

Sometimes students can run into scheduling conflicts when trying to be in Band and Choir, Orchestra, Theatre, Athletics etc. The AHS Band is committed to supporting our fellow Fine Arts and Athletic organizations. See your Band Director for details on how to work around these conflicts.

## **Request to Single Block**

In order to achieve our highest expectations in performance, all band students are required to double block band by taking both the Band and Ensemble sections of their class. We understand that sometimes there are circumstances which prevent students from being able to arrange their schedule in this manner.

Please understand that failure to double block your assigned class can result in you being moved to a lower level ensemble if the instructor feels that you will have trouble keeping up with only half the instruction time.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Private Lessons:**

Private lessons are one of the most important parts of our Band program at Arlington High School. We encourage all students to participate. Private lessons allow students to receive individualized instruction from an expert on their instrument in a one on one setting that is impossible to achieve in a classroom setting. Since AHS is a member of the Arlington Music Enrichment Program, students can choose to take lessons from a staff of approved instructors during the school day, often during their Band class. Students who take lessons are consistently the best performers at the school. The cost for AMEP instruction this year is \$23/25 per week.

### **Band Trips:**

The AHS Band will take an annual spring trip. The purpose of the trip is to give the students an opportunity to compete or study in an area of the state, country, or world unlike the area in which they live. When the band competes at the UIL Contest or at various Festivals throughout the season, we see the same bands, clinicians and judges year after year. Travel to new locations exposes the students to band programs from other places and allows us the opportunity for fresh feedback from a new set of judges or clinicians. Another goal of the spring trip is to be educational. We strive when planning trips to include sites of historic, scientific, and cultural significance. Another goal of the trip is to build unity and friendships within the band program through shared experiences. The trip cost will be subject to the itinerary. Students will have the opportunity to raise funds to help lower the cost of the trip. All eligible band students are encouraged to take part in this performance experience. While on the trip, students will be subject to all rules, regulations, and expectations of AISD, AHS and the AHS band program.

### **How to earn a band letter:**

Students may earn a “Letter” in band by achieving the highest level of expectations each year. These are chenille block letters that a student can sew onto their letter jacket. Each year, students will fill out a form listing everything they have done to earn their letter. Students will receive their letter at the Band Awards Banquet. It is very rare to earn a letter as a freshman. Often, students do not letter until their junior or senior years! Look over this sample form to see the kinds of things that earn students points. *The actual list will vary slightly from year to year depending on the goals of the band.*





# THE ARLINGTON BAND

## Lettering in Band

We want the lettering process to be attainable and thorough for all our band students and believe the process should enhance the following: musical development, competition, leadership, participation, commitment, and loyalty.

**Process:** Students must complete objectives each grading period that fall into four different categories. Parents are able and encouraged to help their student letter. Students will turn in their letter sheet to Mr. Burum 3 weeks before the banquet. The categories are taken from our Fight Song:  
**Brave, True, Loyal, Eager.**

### Process categories:

1. Brave - compete at the following
  - a. All City or All Region or All Region Jazz
  - b. Solo and Ensemble
2. True - believe in your musical talent
  - a. Complete assignments/pass-offs each grading period on the due dates - see objective sheets
  - b. Play 12 major scales on page 44 of the Blue Book each grading period
  - c. Play a 2 octave Bb and F Chromatic Scale each grading period
3. Loyal - attendance at rehearsals
  - a. Rehearsals - 97% attendance at all marching, concert, sectionals
  - b. Parent Volunteering - see booster club website
  - c. Parent attends booster club meetings
  - d. Parent is a booster club member
4. Eager - show up on time, ready, and compliant
  - a. 2 tardies or less in each grading period
  - b. No office referrals, period!

**Automatic Qualifier:** Students accomplishing all of the following earn a letter in band for the current school year: earning a chair in either the State/All-Region/City Band, a 1 on a class 1 solo at UIL Solo & Ensemble, attending all rehearsals, festivals, competitions, and concerts.

**Bonus Considerations:** surpassing fundraising goals, taking private lessons, sponsoring the band, triple blocking band, quadruple blocking band, earning a chair in another performing ensemble outside of school, attending a summer band camp, attending an instrument specific clinic throughout the year.

Colorguard and Percussion are held to the same categories but with modified goals specific to their skill set. Separate letter forms should be completed for students in Percussion and Guard.



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Requirements for lettering in Band. Check all that was completed.

Brave - compete at the following

All City or All Region/Jazz

Solo and Ensemble earning no lower than a 2

True - believe in your musical talent

Turn in all assignments each grading period by the assignment due date

Score an average of 60 or higher on your All Region sectional music

Loyal - 97% attendance or better

Rehearsals - marching, concert, sectionals (teacher and/or student led)

Parent Volunteering

Parents are a booster club member

Fundraising Goal of \$500 (participation required. \$ amount not necessary)

Eager - show up on time, ready, and compliant

2 tardies or less in each grading period

No office referrals, period!

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

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I earned my Letter and I promise the above information is correct.

I earned my: (check which one applies)

Letter Jacket

Service Bar

3-year Letter Award Honor Cord for Graduation (Seniors Only)

4-year Letter Award Honor Cord for Graduation (Seniors Only)

Bonus: in case you are missing requirements, check all that apply.

surpassing fundraising goal of \$500

taking private lessons all year long

sponsoring the band

triple blocking band

quadruple blocking band

earning a chair in another performing ensemble outside of school (ie - FWYO...etc)

attending a summer band camp

attending an instrument specific clinic throughout the year



# *THE* ARLINGTON BAND

## **Arlington High School Band Booster Club**

**The Arlington High School Band Booster Club is one of the finest booster organizations in the World!** We highly encourage parents to participate in this organization by becoming a member. The Band Boosters provide invaluable parent support and fundraising for our organization. They coordinate volunteers, fundraise, provide chaperones, and too many other services to mention here. They hold monthly meetings in the Band Hall. For more information see their website at [www.ahscolts.bbc.com](http://www.ahscolts.bbc.com)

### **Booster Club: Parent-to-Parent questions**

Leslie Buer      President      [ahsbbcpres@gmail.com](mailto:ahsbbcpres@gmail.com)