

Ross S. Sterling High School Band Handbook

2006 - 2007

2006 - 2007 Drum Majors and Field Officers

Head Drum Major:

Paul Roberts

Assistant Drum Majors:

Robert Harewood

Lisa Mercaldo

Woodwind Captain:

Lorin Kirk

Brass Captain:

Chris Wurzbach

Percussion Captain:

David Toney

Field Officers:

Yoli Bartholome

James Chase
Eric Diaz
Leigh Garcia
Rashad Goree
Chris Haney
Greg Hollaway
Krista Huff
Chris Hunter
Sarah James
Kiley Krizak
Charles Lester
Libby Lipps
Austin Moore
Raul Ramos
Alissa Rhodes
Lauren Tanton
Amanda Thain
Ryan Walker
Chris Woolford

Student Leadership 2006-07

DRUM MAJORS:

Drum Majors are selected at the end of each year based on competitive audition. They are responsible for maintaining high morale, spirit, and cooperation in the band. Requirements for Drum Major are as follows:

1. Turn in a completed application by the required due date.
2. Demonstrate all marching fundamentals and teach them.
3. Perform all vocal commands.
4. Be able to conduct 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 patterns in various styles.
5. **Have an outstanding record** in band.
6. Be able to spend many extra hours on band projects.

FIELD OFFICERS:

Field officers are selected at the end of each year based on competitive audition. Field Officers are responsible for maintaining high morale, spirit, and cooperation in the band. Requirements for Field Officer tryouts are as follows:

1. Turn in a completed application by the required due date.
2. Demonstrate all marching fundamentals and teach them.
3. Perform all vocal commands.
4. **Have an outstanding record** in band.
5. Be able to spend many extra hours on band projects.

BAND COUNCIL:

The Band Council is composed of elected and auditioned positions. It serves as a way for the student leaders to assist in all aspects of the band program under the leadership of the band director.

PRESIDENT: _____

- A. The student representative of the band.
- B. Conducts all band council meetings which are held at least once a month.
- C. Appoints committees as necessary.
- D. Promotes band activities.
- E. Reports to the band directors with any suggestions for improvement of the band program.
Responsible only to the directors for carrying out his/her duties.
- F. Represent the band by accepting concert band awards and presenting awards given by the council/band.
- G. Must be ready to assist at every rehearsal and performance when necessary.

VICE PRESIDENT: _____

- A. Assumes the president's duties should the president be absent.
- B. Serves as the chair of any committees appointed by the president.
- C. Appoints and chairs a library committee to oversee distribution and collection of music.
- D. Must be ready to assist at every rehearsal and performance when necessary.

SECRETARY: _____

- A. Supervises all band correspondence and announcements.
- B. Takes daily attendance at rehearsals and performances.
- C. Take, post, and file legible minutes of all the council meetings.
- D. In charge of all correspondence by the band and council.
- E. See to it that all persons working in behalf of the band receive a written thank you.
- F. Contribute to band web site
- G. Must be ready to assist at every rehearsal and performance when necessary.

HISTORIAN: _____

- A. Maintains a visual and written record of all band events.
- B. Collects pictures and videos for the end-of-the-year band DVD.
- C. Publicize the activities and accomplishments of the band both at school and in local newspapers.
- D. Contribute pictures, videos, etc. to band web page
- E. Must be ready to assist at every rehearsal and performance when necessary.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES:

_____-Senior, _____-Junior,
_____-Sophomore

Class Representatives - general responsibilities:

- A. Must represent the views of his/her class.
- B. Take class votes/surveys.
- C. Responsible for recruitment.
- D. Be leaders and keep members of their respective classes informed.
- E. Must be ready to assist at every rehearsal and performance when necessary.
- F. Senior representative is in charge of gathering senior wills, awards, and other senior readings for the band banquet
- G. Junior representative is in charge of senior recognition at the band banquet.

H. Sophomore representative is responsible for having a band handbook at every band council meeting.

DRUM MAJOR: Paul Roberts

- A. Must remind council members of scheduled or called meetings.
- B. Is an at-large representative to represent the views of the whole band.
- C. Responsible for recruitment.
- D. Must be ready to assist at every rehearsal and performance when necessary.

ASSISTANT DRUM MAJORS: Robert Harewood and Lisa Mercaldo

- A. Responsible for having a band handbook at every band council meeting.
- B. Is an at-large representative to represent the views of the whole band.
- C. Responsible for the clearing of the stage after concerts.
- D. Must be ready to assist at every rehearsal and performance when necessary.

CAPTAINS:

Chris Wurzbach-Brass, Lorin Kirk-Woodwind, David Toney-Percussion

- A. Must represent the views of his/her particular section of the band.
- B. Responsible for the clearing of the stage after concerts.
- C. Must be ready to assist at every rehearsal and performance when necessary.

Expenses and Fees

The goal of your directors is to keep expenses and fees as low as possible. Below is an explanation of fees and expenses you will have while in band:

Occasional Expenses:

- Band Shoes --\$24.00
- Gloves--\$3.00
- Tote Bag--\$20.00
- Garment Bag--\$21.00
- Piano Accompanist--\$25.00
- Instrument Repairs and Maintenance--Varies
- Reeds, oils, lyres, flip folders, etc.--Varies

**Yearly Expenses:

- Band Assessment Fee--\$50.00
- Uniform Fee--\$15.00
- T-Shirt Cost--\$10.00
- Instrument Use Fee--\$30.00 (school-owned instruments only)

Optional Expenses:

- Band Letter Jacket--\$90.00 up
- **Band Spring Trip--Varies

**We provide fund raising opportunities to help defray the costs of Yearly Expenses and the Band Spring Trips. All fund raising money turned in will be applied to unpaid band fees before being applied to any other expenses.

The Blue Box

All money paid to the RSS Band must be paid to "The Blue Box." All money must be enclosed in an envelope (provided) with the following three things written on the envelope:

1. Student's name
2. Amount of money
3. Purpose of the money

You may make payments in the form of cash, personal checks, cashiers checks and money orders. All checks must have the driver's license number of the person signing the check. It must be printed clearly on the front of the check (preprinted or hand written). Large amounts of unrolled coins will not be accepted.

Classes Available Through the Sterling High School Band Program

General Membership Requirements

Students who have completed their eighth grade band classes, or are entering from another high school where they are currently enrolled in band, are eligible to be members of the RSS Band. Any student not meeting one of these requirements must have the approval of the head band director prior to registering for band.

Marching Band

All students in the RSS Band program must be active members of the marching band. Varsity football players and volleyball players are exempt from this rule. Athletes that are no longer on their teams for any reason will immediately report to marching band and be expected to work their way into the marching program.

All students who actively participate in marching band will receive a waiver in Physical Education for the Fall semester. This waiver will be granted to students based upon attendance at all marching band rehearsals, functions and performances.

Members of the Marching Band will be expected to do the following:

- Attend daily rehearsals after school
- Practice daily
- Attend all performances
- Memorize all required music
- Be academically eligible at all times
- Other duties and performances as assigned

Students not meeting all expectations may be removed from the marching band and/or the band program.

Wind Ensemble

This is the top band in the Sterling High School band program. Membership in this band is based upon competitive audition. These auditions occur in May preceding the current school year. No one will be placed in the Wind Ensemble without an audition.

Members of the Wind Ensemble will be expected to do the following:

- Practice daily
- Try out for All Region Band
- Perform a solo at UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest
- Attend weekly sectionals
- Attend six Thursday evening rehearsals
- Perform in a minimum of four scheduled concerts

- Be academically eligible every six weeks
- Other duties and performances as assigned

Students not meeting all expectations will be moved to a lower band.

Symphonic Band

This is the second band in the Sterling High School band program. Membership in this band is based upon competitive audition. These auditions occur in May preceding the current school year. No one will be placed in the Symphonic Band without an audition.

Members of the Symphonic Band will be expected to do the following:

- Practice daily
- Prepare All Region Band etudes
- Perform a solo at UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest
- Attend weekly sectionals
- Perform in a minimum of two scheduled concerts
- Be academically eligible every six weeks
- Other duties and performances as assigned

Students not meeting all expectations will be moved to a lower band.

Concert Band

This is the third band in the Sterling High School band program. Membership in this band is based upon competitive audition. These auditions occur in May preceding the current school year. No one will be placed in the Concert Band without an audition.

Members of the Concert Band will be expected to do the following:

- Practice daily
- Perform a solo at UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest
- Perform in a minimum of two scheduled concerts
- Be academically eligible every six weeks
- Other duties and performances as assigned

Students not meeting all expectations will be moved to a lower band.

Cadet Band

This is the fourth band in the Sterling High School band program. Students who do not audition or students lacking in basic playing skills will be placed in this band.

Members of the Cadet Band will be expected to do the following:

- Practice daily
- Other duties and performances as assigned

Students not meeting all expectations may be dismissed from the band program.

Advanced Placement Music Theory

This class is a first year college class and includes instruction in music history, theory, ear training and dictation. It is offered to juniors and seniors with the approval of the instructor. In addition to receiving AP credit, this class is for students seeking a broader knowledge of how music works. While not technically a part of the band program, it is worthy of mention here. Students do not have to be in band to take music theory.

Additional Performance Opportunities Available Through the Sterling High School Band Program

Jazz Band

The RSS Jazz Band meets after school starting at the end of marching season. Membership in the group is based upon competitive audition. The Jazz Band keeps a very active performance schedule throughout the spring semester. Attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances in order to retain membership in this group.

Full Orchestra

Band and orchestra students combine on Monday evenings to form the Sterling Full Orchestra. Membership in this orchestra is based upon competitive audition. The Full Orchestra usually has three concert performances and competes in the UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest. Attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances to retain membership in the group.

Rules and Regulations

Marching Band

No member of the band has a “guaranteed” position in marching drills. The head band director is responsible for selecting all members of the band who will actually march at half-time and/or at contests. All members will march at all parades and perform music during football games, concerts and pep rallies.

Attendance at all rehearsals, performances and classes is extremely important. The marching band will rehearse every day after school. Problems of a specific nature or excuses from marching rehearsal should be presented in writing to a director at least 24 hours prior to the absence. Please schedule doctor’s appointments during your band class instead of after school. Members who are absent will be replaced by an alternate. Upon returning to the rehearsal, students who have excused absences will regain their original positions. Students with an unexcused absence will return to the drill at the director’s discretion.

Regulations for Football Games

1. The band will enter and exit the stands as a unit.
2. No jewelry or makeup (including nail polish) is to be worn while in uniform.
3. Non-band members will not be allowed to sit in the band formation in the stands.
4. The band parents will supply the students with water before the game and after half-time. No other food, drink, or gum is allowed in the stands during the game.
5. The entire band stands when the Rangers are on offense and remains seated when they are on defense.
6. Remain in your block position in the stands at all times.
7. Hold on to your instrument at all times.
8. The band plays often during the game. While the band is not playing you may visit with your neighbors or watch the game. Books, magazines, iPods, radios, or any other toys should not be brought into the stadium.
9. Alternates need to sit in their places during half -time performances and will remain in full uniform. Often they will be required to move equipment on and off the field.
10. At home games, no one is allowed to go to the restrooms except for emergencies. Students will be allowed to use the restroom during the third quarter of away games.
11. The band is an ambassador of our school, district, and community. We expect all band members to conduct themselves properly at all times.

Remember that all school rules apply when traveling with the band.

Leaving Away Games

In some instances members of the band may wish not to return from an away game with the band. This will be allowed only if you have written permission from Mr. Trey Kraemer, principal of Sterling High School. Students may leave only with their own parent or guardian. The students must turn in their uniform to their field officer before leaving the stadium.

Bus Etiquette

1. Be extra polite to chaperones!!! They are in charge!
2. Pay attention and remain quiet during announcements and roll check.
3. Stay seated at all times.
4. Yelling, singing, or chanting is not allowed.
5. You may play stereos only with headphones.
6. Place all garbage in the bags provided by the chaperones.
7. Keep everything inside the bus -- nothing is to be put out of the windows.

8. The emergency door is never to be opened while the bus is in motion.

GENERAL REGULATIONS - ALL BANDS

UNIFORMS:

Band uniforms are the property of the school district and will be issued to each student in the marching band. Any damage due to mistreatment or improper care of the uniform will be the responsibility of the student and parents. Students are fitted as closely as possible. When alterations are needed, the uniform will be altered by a member of the uniform committee only! Students and their parents are not to make any alterations to any Sterling Band uniform.

The uniform will be checked out to each student before every performance and returned that evening. It is mandatory to wear the uniform properly in public. The hat must be worn on the head with the brim directly above the eyebrows. All buttons and zippers should be properly fastened at all times. The trousers are made to be worn high on the waist and the suspenders should be adjusted for your particular height. Black socks and black band shoes must be worn with the uniform. See the August calendar for information about ordering the shoes.

Band uniforms must be hung on the prescribed hanger after each game in the manner demonstrated by the directors. Failure to do so will be reported to the director by the Student Uniform Captains. This could result in the uniform being cleaned and pressed at the student's expense. Students who lose or misplace the prescribed hanger will have to purchase a new one for \$5.00. The hangers are available in the directors' office.

PERFORMANCES:

Throughout the year, each band will present several public performances. Each performance is very important and attendance **is required**. Since we are a performance based organization, all performances will be graded and will effect the students' report card grades. Please check the calendar in this handbook for all upcoming events.

Only two reasons for missing a performance will be accepted:

1. Illness, which must be attested to by a physician
2. Death or serious illness in the family.

An unexcused absence may seriously effect the student's grade. Repeat unexcused absences from rehearsals and/or performances will cause the student to be dismissed from the band program.

SECTIONALS and AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS:

Sectionals and after school rehearsals are extensions of the classroom. After marching season is completed, sectionals will be scheduled once a week for each instrument group. These sectionals usually last an hour. Since sectionals are only once a week, it is important that you make time in your schedule for these rehearsals. To be eligible for contest performances and the spring trip, you must not have more than two unexcused sectional absences.

As stated previously, sectionals are extensions of the classroom (co-curricular); therefore, even students who are ineligible for competition must still participate in these rehearsals.

After school rehearsals for the full band are sometimes necessary. You will be notified about the times and dates of these rehearsals weeks in advance.

Problems of a specific nature or excuses from sectionals, or after school rehearsals, should be presented **in writing** to a director no later than 24 hours prior to the absence.

Make sure that your employer does not schedule you to work at the same time as your sectional or rehearsal. Employers must understand that school activities come first. Also, plan **now** for driver's education classes. We can work out problems, if informed months in advance.

PERSONAL INSTRUMENTS:

Instruments must be kept in good playing condition at all times. Students are responsible for the maintenance and repair of their instruments and all expenses incurred.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS:

School owned instruments are the responsibility of the student and parents to whom they are checked out. Every person using a school owned instrument must pay a \$30 per year user fee. Students playing school owned instruments are expected to provide their own supplies (mouthpieces, reeds, oils, etc.).

It is the responsibility of the user to pay (in addition to the \$30 user fee) for any damage during the check-out period. A director should be informed immediately of any damage so the instrument can be properly repaired by a trained instrument repairman. Students may not take school instruments to a repair shop on their own. School owned instruments must be repaired by an approved music repair service. See your director for the name of approved repairmen. Students are responsible for the maintenance and repair of their instruments and all expenses incurred.

PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Percussion students will supply their own mallets, sticks, drum heads and any other general supply items needed to perform their parts as required by their music. GCCISD will provide only snare drums, tom-type drums, bass drums, timpani, and keyboard instruments (ie. large instruments). These will be provided to students who have paid their \$30 user fee. Students without instruments, necessary equipment and supplies will not be allowed to participate in any of our programs. Students who consistently do not participate will be dismissed from the band program permanently.

INSPECTIONS:

All instruments will be inspected at the end of each semester by the directors. All students will be responsible for properly cleaning their instrument for this inspection.

PRIVATE LESSONS:

Private lessons are an integral part of the student's musical development. Lessons help the student achieve higher goals in music and improve their study skills. If you are interested in taking lessons, please get the information concerning private lessons from your directors as soon as it is available. These lessons are offered through the Lee College music program. Please note that the bands which consistently out perform us at contests, have 75 to 90 percent of their students taking private lessons. Do your part to help improve your musical development and our program by participating in private lessons.

BAND TRIPS:

Band trips are taken only following the approval of the GCCISD Board of Trustees. All school, band and board policies are in effect during trips. Students who violate regulations on trips will be subject to disciplinary action upon return and/or may be sent home from the trip at the parent's expense.

INTERPRETATION OF POLICIES AND REGULATIONS:

This handbook has been prepared as a general guide to the operation of the Sterling High School Band. It must be understood that the students with whom this department deals are all individuals. Therefore, it is necessary to understand that every infraction is unique, and the Director of Bands, with the consent of the GCCISD administration, has the authority to render all judgments concerning any matter pertaining to the overall band program and its operation.

Place band calendar here

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND PERMISSION FORM GUIDELINES:

No student will be allowed to travel with the R.S.Sterling Band until the Acknowledgment Form and the Permission Form have been signed and filed in the Head Band Director's office. The Permission Form **MUST** include a xeroxed copy of the front and back of the student's insurance card, or proof of school insurance.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

We, the undersigned, have read the 2006- 2007 Sterling High School Band Handbook and understand all policies within.

Printed Name of Student

Date

Signature of Student

Signature of Parent/Guardian

PERMISSION FORM
Ross S. Sterling High School
Baytown, Texas

Date: August 1, 2006
Sponsor/Instructor: Richard Clem/Zeb Moore
Nature of Trip: Various Marching Band Activities
Date(s) of Trip: August, 2006 to May, 2007
Destination: Various cities

We, as the parents have discussed this trip with _____
(Name of Student)

and have given our permission for him/her to make the trip and participate in the activities. We understand that our student will be traveling by means of a G.C.C.I.S.D. school bus. _____ has assured us that he/she will conduct _____ himself/herself in such a way as to give credit to our school and community. We know this is an approved school trip and we understand that school rules of conduct will apply throughout the trip. We are also aware that the district policy on dress is required for this trip. It is understood that precautions will be taken in the interest of the student's safety and well-being. We agree that the faculty members, sponsors, and other adult chaperones who are going will not be held responsible for any accident or misfortune which might occur in connection with this trip. Richard Clem has my consent to give permission for any emergency medical treatment for my student. You may be assured that _____ is being allowed to take this trip with our full consent. _____ (Name of Student)

(Signature of Parent or Guardian)

As a student of GCCISD, I have read this and will abide by these requirements.

(Signature of Student)

Emergency Home Phone Number _____

Is your child allergic to any medication? _____ If yes, please list them below:

