

Garrison Bulldog Band

"The BIGGEST little band in East Texas!"

2020 - 2021 Handbook



Garrison Band Director:
Scott Williams

Clark Barnett, Garrison High School Principal

Reid Spivey, Superintendent

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Read this constitution and handbook completely.

Please fill out and return the forms on pages 9 - 10 of the handbook to Mr. Cotton prior to the first day of the 2019 - 2020 school year.

These forms will be filed and secured in the band hall.

Sponsor/Director Contact Information:

**Scott Williams
Band Office Phone: (936)-347-7040**

GARRISON BULLDOG BAND HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION

CONGRATULATIONS on your decision to be a part of the fine tradition of pride and excellence that is the foundation of the **AWARD-WINNING GARRISON BULLDOG BAND (G.B.B.)!**

As one enters the city of Garrison, the welcome sign states that we are the "Biggest little town in East Texas!" This also applies to our band program. We are indeed the "BIGGEST little BAND IN EAST TEXAS!" We have the biggest **P.R.I.D.E.** of any other band in East Texas. Not only pride in our band program, but we take pride in our school and community.

Persistence

Responsibility

Integrity

Determination

Excellence

The purpose of this handbook is to provide information about the band program at Garrison ISD. It will be valuable to all members of the program and their parents. This handbook contains a wealth of information to help you understand what it means to be a member of a tradition of pride and excellence. This handbook is practical as well as informational.

The band program rules and regulations are specified within the contents of this handbook. In addition to this handbook, band students are also to uphold all guidelines and polices established by Garrison ISD. For any further information, please call the Garrison Bulldog Band office at 936-347-7040.

PHILOSOPHY

Music education is a vital part of becoming educated and prepared for life. The primary goal of the Garrison Band Program is to provide young people with an experience in music that is educational, rewarding, and enjoyable. We teach creative and critical thinking, problem solving, and personal responsibility every day.

These lessons are inherent in every music class and will be advantageous to students long after high school. In addition, students learn interpersonal skills and the ability to motivate and influence a group to work together toward a common goal for the common good.

Band is performance and activity oriented. It is our belief that student become involved in music through the challenge of quality performances. Competitive activities are strongly emphasized and utilized as a key motivating factor in the band program. Garrison ISD prides itself in encouraging and allowing student to participate in **ALL** desired activities.

GOALS OF THE BAND

Mental and Physical Discipline

G.B.B. students shall be provided opportunities to: develop powers of concentration to memorize music; Prepare and practice individual parts; develop self-discipline and group discipline; and memorize Marching drills.

Citizenship through Group Endeavor

G.B.B. student shall be provided opportunities to: develop leadership abilities; develop responsibility; develop the ability to cooperate with others and to work as a team member; and develop diligence.

Physical Conditioning

G.B.B. students shall be provided opportunities to: develop strength; stamina; and endurance; and develop coordination.

Cultural Growth

G.B.B. students shall be provided opportunities to attain knowledge of music history and band literature through performance.

Ability to Make Musical Value Judgments through Critical Listening

G.B.B. students shall be provided opportunities to recognize quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulations.

Music Theory

G.B.B. students shall be provided opportunities to: know and use note values and rests; know and use keys, key signatures, and scales; know and use musical terms, signs, and symbols; recognize and tune intervals and harmony, and train the ear.

Proper Instrument Technique

G.B.B. students shall be provided opportunities to: care for the instrument; assume correct posture and playing position; develop the embouchure; develop good tone; breathe properly; develop technical proficiency (fingerings, articulations, etc.); and develop rhythmic skills.

Creative Self-Expression

G.B.B. student shall be provided opportunities to: express oneself in every performance experience; and explore careers.

Each one of the above elements will be stressed throughout the year. It is very important for daily home practice and for students to be present at all rehearsals and performances. With this in mind, we will be able to continue our winning tradition.

Outline for Success

S – Success

U – Understanding

C- Compassion

C – Creativity

E – Excellence

S – Self-Discipline

S – Self-Acceptance

DIRECTOR’S NOTE TO THE GARRISON BULLDOG BAND

All of the goals mentioned above are attainable by means of a strong bond with your fellow G.B.B. members, a desire to strive for perfection, and a genuine love for music. We meet each year with a fresh blend of personalities, talent and obstacles; each of us must use our own innate abilities and learned knowledge to overcome those obstacles. If every member of the G.B.B. strives to be the best at all times, no goal is out of reach. Success and failure alike help us grow and mature; take advantage of these moments. Treat each moment as an opportunity to make something incredible happen.

Each of us is an integral part of this organization; this includes band members, directors and families. We must work as one to attain each of the goals above.

I. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Garrison Bulldog Band is open to students who begin their membership in 5th or 6th grade band, and are currently in the 7th – 12th grade. Students that are not consistently enrolled in band, removed from the band program, or for any reasons wants enroll in band may **ONLY** enroll through a means of an audition and approval by the band director.

II. SUMMER BAND CAMP

Summer Band Camp is very important to all students who enroll in High School Band. Attendance is crucial during these three weeks of preparation. Excused absences must be **pre- approved** by the band director.

III. ATTENDANCE – REHEARSALS/PERFORMANCES

All members of the Garrison High School Band need to attend all rehearsals and performances unless excused by the band director. In case of an emergency, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the director before the rehearsal or performance, (unless impossible) or the absence is unexcused. **Please do not use the band program as a means to punish your child. We are a team, therefore depend on all members!**

Throughout the school year the band will have many performances. Some of the performance opportunities are mandatory while others are voluntary. Below you will find a list of mandatory performances as well as those that are voluntary.

To perform: Rehearsals/Sectionals, Pep Rallies, Football Games, Pre-UIL Marching Contest, UIL Marching Contest, Parades/Community Functions, Christmas/Spring Concerts, Pre-UIL C/SR Contest, UIL C/SR Contest, and any other performances in which the full band is necessary.

Voluntary: All-Region Band/Jazz Tryouts, All-Region Band Clinic/Concert, Solo & Ensemble Contest, and any other performances in which the full band is not required to perform.

Absences are outlined in the Grading Policy section.

IV. GRADING/DISCIPLINE POLICY

Each six week grading period will consist of the following:

1. Rehearsal Participation.....30%
 - 100 possible points per rehearsal
2. Performance Participation.....30%
 - 100 possible points per performance
3. Music Pass-Off.....20%
 - 100 possible points per selection
4. Daily Class Participation.....20%
 - 100 possible points per six weeks

REHEARSAL PARTICIPATION: Students must attend each rehearsal with the required equipment. Tardiness, unexcused absence or failure to bring all necessary equipment (music, instrument, pencil, correct footwear etc.) will result in point deductions.

PERFORMANCE PARTICIPATION: Students must attend performances with the required equipment and attire. Tardiness, absence or failure to bring all necessary equipment/attire (music, instrument, uniform, etc.) will result in point deductions.

MUSIC PASS-OFF: Students will be required to pass off small selections from their performance literature. Perfection is not expected, but continual improvement is. Failure to attempt a pass off or a lack of effort will result in point deductions.

DAILY PARTICIPATION: Students must make a genuine effort to learn and improve daily.

ELIGIBILITY

Scholastic eligibility requirements are based on UIL rule and regulations and TEA House Bill 142 Rules and Regulations.

DISCIPLINE: Failure to maintain exemplary behavior will be reflected in each category resulting in a deduction of points.

The disciplinary procedure is as follows:

- First offense.....verbal reprimand, 25 point deduction
- Second offense.....verbal reprimand, call home, 50 point deduction
- Third offense.....office referral, call home, 100 point deduction

A third offense will result in suspension from that week's performances (Pep Rally, Friday Game, etc.) or removal from the band program at the band director's discretion.

DISMISSAL FROM THE BAND

Any student may be dismissed from the band because of lack of cooperation, refusal to conform to rules and regulations or having a generally poor attitude.

V. ABSENCES

With at least a 48 hour **prior approval** by a director, students may be excused from a rehearsal or performance for the following reasons: school sponsored activities, sickness (doctor's note provided), family emergencies (parent note provided) and prior notice (parent note provided one week in advance). All students participating in multiple co-curricular activities share responsibilities equally between organizations.

An unexcused absence from an afternoon rehearsal or a performance will result in a "0".

VI. ALTERNATES

Alternates are held to the same responsibilities, but they will not march with the block band during half-time shows. Standard grading policy applies. A student may become an alternate due to the following:

- Failure to attend Summer Band Camp without prior notice
- Failure to pass off music
- Failure to maintain sound disciplinary behavior

- Unexcused absences from rehearsals and/or performances
- Failure to maintain effort

Alternates may earn a position in the half-time block by issuing a challenge to a section member in the block. Challenges will consist of playing and marching tests carried out on Monday afternoons following full band rehearsal. Challenge forms are available in the band office. In addition to a successful challenge, alternates must show improvement in the category previously neglected.

VII. CONDUCT

G.B.B. students will demonstrate an attitude of good discipline and attention during rehearsals. Each rehearsal should be a musical learning experience for each student. Each performance will be only as good as its best rehearsal. Disturbances by band students in rehearsal show a lack of interest and respect to the band; therefore, they should find another activity to hold their attention.

Maintaining exemplary behavior at all times promotes success and fosters personal and professional growth within the band. As outlined in the Grading Policy section, disciplinary action will be taken for the following infractions:

- Any disrespectful behavior toward directors or fellow students.
- Consistent tardiness or absences from rehearsals.
- Abuse of instruments or other school property.
- Other infractions stated in the school handbook.

FOOTBALL GAME RULES AND CONDUCT

- **Every student must attend each football game.** The only excuses accepted for absences are ineligible, death in the immediate family, contagious illness, or a doctor's note.
- No sunglasses, hats (only marching shakos) or other inappropriate attire.
- No visitors in the stands unless approved by a band director.
- Exit stands by going to the end of the row and down the stairs, not from bleacher to bleacher.
- Uniforms should be worn in full dress unless instructed otherwise by a band director.
- The proper band t-shirt must be worn under the uniform coat at all times.
- The band will only perform in the stand the tunes which have been rehearsed.
- All band students should be back in the stand after 3rd quarter break with instrument, flip-folder, etc., ready to play at the beginning of the 4th quarter. **If you miss the 1st note of the 1st song of the 4th quarter, you will miss the 3rd quarter privileges in the following week.**
- In order to keep uniforms and instruments intact, students should keep movement in the stands to a minimum. **STAY IN YOUR SPOT!**
- No jewelry should be worn while in band uniform (only class rings are allowed).
- No make-up, face paint, hair glitter, etc. may be worn in uniform.
- You must properly store your instrument, music, and uniform at the end of each game.
- Long hair must be put under band shako during performances.
- No playing instruments in the stands unless instructed by the band director.
- Do not spray perfume, hairspray, deodorant etc. in the stands.
- Listen and watch the director(s) and drum major during the game. Always be ready to play!

BAND HALL RULES

- To be early is to be on time... **Always be on time!**
- Know when to talk and when to listen.
 1. When a director is on the podium, do not talk.
 2. Always raise your hand before speaking.
- The Band Hall is to be used for an academic or musical purpose only.
- No cell phone use during rehearsal.
- No food/drinks allowed during rehearsal. Food and drinks are allowed during breaks. You are responsible for throwing your own trash away.
- No gum in the Band Hall.
- The Band Hall is your room; keep it clean!
- No backpack, books, bags, or purses are allowed in the setup (all items are to be placed in assigned slots or neatly placed at the front of the room).
- Hats are not to be worn in the Band Hall.
- You will need your music, instrument and a pencil at every rehearsal! If you are missing an item, ask before class begins. Do not ask during rehearsals.
- Students are to only play/touch instruments assigned to them. Respect others and their property. In other words, "Treat others as you want to be treated."
- Instrument cases are to be in the student's assigned slot, and latched at all times.
- For security purposes, only band students are allowed in the band hall.
- This band is only as strong as its weakest member. Make sure you are always giving your 100%.

VIII. UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

For our performances as a band we will have specified attire depending on the venue. You can find the specifics below:

Military Uniform: The full West-Point style uniforms are provided by the school. Students will be fitted for a uniform during the registration process. The uniforms must be turned in after each performance. They are dry-cleaned three times during the school year. The first cleaning is taken care of with a portion of the band registration fee.

Uniform parts provided:

- Coat
- Bib pant
- Cross-belts with hardware
- Shako
- Plume
- Garment bag

We use traditional white band shoes (Drillmaster, Speedsters, Dinkle, etc.). These are purchased by the students during the registration process. White crew or knee socks are also required. Students will undergo a uniform inspection at each performance. All hardware should be polished. Shoes and socks should be clean and bright white.

Warm Weather Uniform: During the first few summer performances, we use a uniform band shirt and either khaki shorts or blue jeans (to be decided by director). The band shirts are ordered during the registration process and covered by part of the registration fee.

The band t-shirt is to be worn at every performance, even under the Military Uniforms. This ensures uniformity if we remove the coats.

Equipment: Each student is responsible for his/her own equipment when we travel. This includes uniforms, instruments, music and accessories. Instruments must be properly stored and placed in the correct location to be loaded on the band trailer.

School Owned Instruments: Garrison ISD will provide each student with an instrument, and materials for properly maintaining the instrument. This equipment has been purchased by the district for student use because of the extremely high value and cost; thus, all instruments will be handled with care. If any student is purposely damaging or abusing any school-owned instrument/equipment, the student instrument will be removed from the student and any repairs needed must be paid by the parents.

IX. Transportation and Travel Policies

Throughout the year, we travel using school transportation. Normal Garrison ISD rules and bus policies apply during these trips. Junior High students will ride separately from the High School students. Any State rules also apply (Coved 19)

Students will travel to all events in ISD vehicles. We will always travel to performances as a group; however, a release form must be filled-out and returned to the director if a student is riding home with a parent. Students may only ride home with their parents unless prior written notice is given to a director and approved by the high school principal (in this case, students may only be released to other parents). Students are still responsible for their equipment.

Throughout the year, we will travel using school transportation. Normal Garrison ISD rules and bus policies apply during these trips. **7th and 8th grade students will ride separately from the 9th – 12th grade students.**

- Any infractions of ISD rules will be handled as if we were on campus.
- Only bottled drinks with caps.
- Stay seated when the bus/vehicle is moving.
- No boy will be allowed to sit in the same seat as a girl, and vice versa.
- Upon arrive at our destinations; stay seated until you are released by a director.
- Return the bus in better condition than when we loaded. All trash must be picked up and placed in trash bag.

Adult chaperons are a great asset to the band program. Proper respect will be shown to all adults associated with the band program at all times.

X. Band Officers

Band officer elections will take place the second week of Summer Band Camp. Officer positions are open to any band students. Those elected will hold additional responsibilities and, with the Drum Major and Majorettes, will represent the entire organization. Positions and responsibilities are as follows:

- President
 1. Communication liaison between students, directors & Drum Majors.

2. Coordinates monthly officer meetings.
 3. Oversees the condition/cleanliness of the band hall.
 4. Supervises officer productivity.
- Historian
 1. Maintains a record of the year (band awards, memorable moments, etc.).
 2. Collects and maintains pictures and videos pertaining to the band.
 3. Collects any news articles, programs, announcements, etc.
 - Uniform Manager
 1. Maintains a record of the uniforms.
 2. Manages all uniform malfunctions & emergencies.
 - Equipment Manager and Loading Crew
 1. Responsible for the overseeing of loading and unloading of the band's equipment.
 2. Informs directors about any improper instruments not stored correctly.
 3. Will select four band students to be a part of the loading crew
 - Spirit Officer
 1. Promotes constant high energy, passion and drive.
 2. Coordinates with directors in planning band parties.
 3. Designs spirit posters throughout the year.

Drum Major: The position of Drum Major of the Garrison High School Band is open to any current band students entering 10th-12th grade. Students must maintain excellent academic standing and honorable discipline. The Drum Major acts as a representative and leader of the organization, facing great responsibility. Auditions are held in the spring semester. A separate handbook includes all guidelines regarding the position and the audition procedure.

Majorettes: The High School Majorette Line is open to any current band students entering 8th-12th grade. Students must maintain excellent academic standing and honorable discipline. Auditions are held in the spring semester. A separate handbook includes all guidelines regarding the position and the audition procedure.

XI. Letter Jackets

Junior and Senior band students may qualify for a letter jacket through various means. A junior student enrolled in his/her 3rd year in the High School Band will receive a letter jacket in the fall. A student may also "letter" in band by achieving the following:

- Receiving a 1st Division rating on a Class 1 Solo or Ensemble at UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest.
- Receiving an All-Area chair in the ATSSB/TMEA band auditions.
- Earning a chair in the Texas All-State Bands or Orchestras.
- Being drum major of the Garrison High School Band.

2020 -2021` Garrison High School Band Medical Authorization Form

The purpose of this form is to make it possible for parents and/or guardians to authorize the provision of emergency treatment for students who become ill or injured while under group authority, when parents and/or guardians cannot be reached for the purpose of giving consent for such treatment. Such authority is necessary to overcome legal obstacles to the provision of such treatment when all reasonable attempts to reach parents and/or guardians have failed. We must have this authorization to make the trip.

Health Insurance Information

STUDENT'S NAME _____ Sex _____
Last First Middle M or F

DATE OF BIRTH ___/___/___ HOME PHONE () _____

ADDRESS _____
Street City State Zip

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____
Street City State Zip

HOME PHONE () _____ ALTERNATE PHONE () _____

NAME OF INSURANCE COMPANY _____

INSURANCE COMPANY PHONE # _____

NAME OF INSURED _____ POLICY/GROUP NUMBER _____

PERSON TO CONTACT IF UNABLE TO REACH PARENT/GUARDIAN:

NAME _____ RELATIONSHIP TO STUDENT _____

ADDRESS _____
Street City State Zip

HOME PHONE () _____ ALTERNATE PHONE () _____

Medical Release

I, _____, give my consent; in the event that all reasonable attempts have been made to contact me at my home or my place of employment have been unsuccessful, for medical care or treatment to be administered in the event that the above student becomes ill or injured while participating in any band activity.

Parent/guardian signature DATE ___/___/___

Student & Parent Contact Information

Student Name: _____ M/F: _____ DOB: _____

Student E-mail: _____ Phone Number: _____

List of other co-curricular activities: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Parent E-mail: _____ Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Permission to Travel Form

I give permission for _____ (print student name) to travel with the Garrison High School Band to band events through-out the 2019-2020 school year.

Bus transportation will be provided by the *Garrison ISD*.

Parent/Guardian Signature

DATE ____/____/____

Handbook Acknowledgement

I have received a copy of the Garrison High School Band Handbook. I have read and reviewed the content. I understand the expectations that are to be upheld by my child and will encourage him/her to abide by the policies set forth in the handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature

DATE ____/____/____

I have received a copy of the Garrison High School Band Handbook. I have read and reviewed the content. I understand that membership is a privilege. I know that by signing this form I have agreed to uphold the expectations set forth in the handbook. I assume the necessary responsibilities as an integral member and will give my best.

Student Signature

DATE ____/____/____