**Forward**

As a member of the **Spirit of Saginaw Band**, you will be a part of Saginaw High School’s most respected organization. The success of the band will depend on the **Loyalty, Cooperation, and Dedication** of each and every member.

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

**Spirit of Saginaw Band Philosophy**

* To teach the importance of self-discipline, cooperation, loyalty, and respect for others, as well as the importance of responsibility.
* To teach an appreciation and understanding of the performing arts and how music influences and reflects history and culture.
* To instill a desire and appreciation for excellence in performance of any endeavor.
* To teach students how to set and achieve goals in their personal and professional lives.

**Band Creed**

* We the Members of the Spirit of Saginaw High School Band, in order to become a more successful organization, shall strive to our very best to become a group that will not settle for second best.
* We are a group with honesty, dignity, strength, and pride. Only through hard work shall we achieve our dreams!

**Band Member Responsibilities**

* Be in regular attendance and account for all absences.
* Be personally clean, neat, and dressed appropriately
* Be personally responsible for all information regarding the band, rehearsals, events, schedules, and be responsible for relaying such information to parents and/or guardians.
* Be respectful of school property, such as instruments, rehearsal facilities, etc.
* Be respectful to others, such as peers, directors, volunteers, etc.



**Behavior and Discipline**

Exemplary behavior is expected of all band members at all times. Remember, you are a representative of not only your band, but your school, family, and community.

There is no way to list all the do’s and don’ts of being a band member. Common sense must prevail with a group of our size and stature. The Director of Bands reserves the right to exercise the authority to make the final decision regarding disciplinary action or removal from the program. Any member expelled, suspended, or placed in ADC may be immediately dismissed from the band. The dismissal may be for any period of time, as decided by the director and the campus principal. The campus principal will have the final say concerning disciplinary action.

The following infractions are some of the more obvious that qualify for disciplinary action, and or immediate removal from the program:

* Any disrespectful behavior such as foul or abusive language to students or teachers.
* Excessive tardiness or absences at rehearsal or performances
* Any misuse or abuse of school property, or property of others.
* Alcohol, smoking or drug use at any school function at any time.
* Any action which dishonors or disgraces the Saginaw High School Band or the school in anyway.
* Other infractions of the rules stated in the Saginaw High School Student Handbook, or as stated in the Saginaw High School Band handbook.
* Repeated disregard of Band Member rules.

**General Band Hall Rules**

We are fortunate to have one of the finest band rehearsal facilities in the State of Texas. Band members are to keep the band hall clean and neat. Keep chairs and music stands in place and use the wastebasket for items to be thrown away. Use all equipment such as chairs and stands as they are intended to be used. Leave all food and beverages outside of the band hall.

* Eating, drinking, or chewing gum is not allowed in the band hall at any time, unless given permission from a director.
* Stay out of offices, practice rooms, and instrument storage rooms without permission.
* Music stands are provided for music…do not use as a table…do not lean on or play with stands
* Do not write on the whiteboard without permission
* Put your instrument in the proper slot in your assigned locker. DO NOT leave your case or instrument on the floor.
* Lockers shall remain clean. Items other than instruments, music, and books should not be kept in lockers. Use your SHS assigned locker to store book, bags, etc…NOT THE BAND HALL!
* Do not leave purses or other valuables unlocked in the band hall. If you need a lock for your instrument locker, see a director
* Keep your locker room locker locked at all times.
* Take your personal belongings home every day. i.e. Marching Band rehearsal clothes, jackets, backpacks, etc.

**Rules for Rehearsal**

* Enter the band hall quietly before rehearsal begins.
* Be prepared for rehearsal ON TIME (instrument, music, pencil, etc.)
* Keep cell phones and mobile devices put away. Do NOT have them on your stand unless approved by director (i.e. tuner and metronome apps). If there is an emergency, parents/guardians can contact the school or directors.
* Play your own instrument and no one else’s unless you have director approval.
* Instrument, case, music, books, etc., should be kept in their proper place before, during, and after rehearsals.
* Give 100% effort during all rehearsals and performances. Do not disrupt or disturb rehearsal with inappropriate activities.
* Remain on task at all times; do not talk or interrupt the focus of a rehearsal.
* Show good rehearsal etiquette by being a good team player-study your part quietly while the director works with another section.
* Play your instrument THE RIGHT WAY—EVERYDAY!
* Absences should be reported in advance, in writing if possible, to be excused. An email must be sent to a director from a parent or guardian, in any case, to be kept on file to document and excuse the absence. Excessive absences is unacceptable, and will result in failing grades, student placed on alternate status, and ultimately dismissal from the program (Director of Bands discretion)
* Always strive, persevere, and maintain a positive attitude toward achieving your goals as a band member during the tough times as well as the good times. No one is expected to be perfect, but everyone is expected to give their all!



**Band Travel**

Full instruction will be given before leaving for the destination. All band members will travel to performances, destinations, etc., on school approved transportation. Students may ride back from a performance with a parent or guardian if signed out on location. NO STUDENT is allowed to leave with anyone but their own parent or guardian unless arrangements have been made prior to the trip, with approval from the principal and the band director.

**Bus Conduct**

* Band students are expected to follow all rules and regulations established and approved by the school district in the “Student Handbook” and “Code of Conduct”.
* Everyone is to remain seated at all times
* No food or drinks on bus without permission.
* Do not put hands, arms, or heads out windows while traveling.
* Uniforms must be worn or carried on hangers.
* No hitting or banging on bus seats
* No shoe polish writing on buses (ours or anyone else’s)
* No exit through rear door except in an emergency.
* Do not get off the bus until the director has given instructions to exit.
* No switching buses
* No group singing or chanting
* No squealing or unnecessary shouting
* Chaperones will check roll each time the bus departs.
* Chaperones have the authority to assign seats.
* At the end of each trip, the student is responsible for unloading his/her equipment. Nothing should be left on the bus.
* Do not play instruments on the bus.
* When the bus comes to a halt, all talking, noises, and other distractions shall cease until the bus is in motion or permission is given.
* Appropriate behavior should be conducted at all times on the bus between males and females.

 

**Auditions**

* Students are required to audition for select performance ensembles.
* The Head Band Director determines audition requirements.
* Directors will notify students of audition dates, requirements, and results in a timely fashion.
* Directors or qualified adjudicators will serve as an evaluator during auditions.
* Students will be re-evaluated periodically for participation in select performance ensembles
* Audition material will reflect the director’s anticipated performance level for the students and will be based on prior learning.

**Audition Specifics:**

* There will be two major auditions each year to place students in band classes. There will be one in May and one in November.
* Students will be evaluated by SHS band directors or qualified professionals.
* Student chair placement within a band may change during the semester at the director’s discretion based on performance.
* Auditions for marching band auxiliary groups will be announced and held during the spring. These include drum majors, color guard, drum line, and student leaders.

***\*Members must try out each year for a place in the Spirit of Saginaw Band. Members who have resigned, dropped out, or have been dismissed from the band for any reason during the year must receive permission from the Head Band Director to audition.***

**Private Lessons – Voluntary Music Enrichment Program and Fees**

* Private lessons are provided for interested students as an enrichment program in Band
* The Head Director coordinates the private lesson program in each high school attendance area in collaboration with EMS-ISD guidelines.
* The private teachers are contracted through the EMS-ISD and must complete an Application and a Criminal History check.
* The private teachers are hired, supervised and evaluated by the Head Director at each high school and teach at each secondary campus.
* Private study fees are consistent throughout the District and are determined through the Office of Fine Arts. The current fee is $19 per1/2 hour lesson.
* While private study is not a requirement for participation in any of the music organizations, students are strongly encouraged to participate.

**Rehearsal and Performance Schedules**

* Participation at sectionals, rehearsals, and performances is required and will be integrated into the student’s grade in accordance with the EMSISD Instructional Operating Guide (I.O.G) and TEA/UIL guidelines.
* A schedule of activities and events will be provided to students and parents in May of the previous year and the first week of the new school year. Supplemental schedules are provided as needed to students in a timely fashion of any new or updated activity or event.
* Regularly scheduled sectionals, rehearsals, and concerts are curricular and have no academic eligibility requirements.
* The director or someone designated by the director will supervise all required practices, rehearsals, and performances that are school sponsored.
* In addition to local performances, special performance ensembles make numerous other appearances during the school year.
* Performance courses in band involve outside of school rehearsals and performances. Students who are members of principal performing groups are expected to fully participate in all performance activities including approved travel.

\*A complete schedule for summer marching band (the first 3 weeks of August) will be given to student at the end of May. These rehearsals are mandatory and necessary to prepare the band for performances early in the school year. During the school year, the following schedules will be observed: M-F, 7:00 AM – 8:30 AM

**Marching Band**

**Competition Marching Band**

Students are selected for drill positions in the Competition Marching Band pending satisfactory demonstration of musical skills including scales, etudes, or other performance material selected by the directors and basic marching fundamentals. Members of the Spirit of Saginaw Marching Band who make the Competition Marching Band are required to meet the following requirements and responsibilities:

* Not be enrolled in any class or activity that interferes with the morning rehearsal schedule or posted performance schedule. Examples being:
	+ Any sport or activity that practices before school during the Fall.
	+ Dual credit courses which meet before school
* Performing at all home and away football games.
* Performing at all marching band competitions.
* Performing at all District related events such as pep-rallies and other special performances.
* Attending August band camps at Saginaw High School.
* Attending all scheduled marching band rehearsals during the school year.

**Non-Varsity Marching Band**

Members of the Spirit of Saginaw Marching Band who make the Non-Varsity Marching Band are required to meet the following requirements and responsibilities:

* Performing in the stands and at half time for the Star Steppers at all home and away football games.
* Potentially assisting with one of the many aspects of the half-time show. These roles will be determined during our Summer Band Camp.
* Performing at select school related events such as pep-rallies and other performances.
* Attending the August band camps at Saginaw High School.

**Marching Band Attendance**

* Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances of the marching band.
* An unexcused absence from a performance will jeopardize one's position in the marching band. Note the band calendar and clear all the performance dates now!
* A student is tardy to rehearsal if he/she is not in the attendance block with instrument and supplies when the drum major begins the rehearsal.
* Habitual tardiness will jeopardize one's position in the marching block and may result in removing the student from performances or competition block.

**Football Game Stands Etiquette**

* ***No cell phones in the stands!***...leave them on the bus
* No food or drink in uniform; only water
* You must sit in windows, with your sections
* No doodling on your instruments; only play with full band when a director gives you the go!
* Drum line will cadence when a director gives the go ahead
* Blasting, poor visual moves, and foul language is prohibited at all times
* 3rd quarter is the break quarter; the entire band must be back in the stands before the start of the 4th quarter. Failure to do this as a band will cost the band it’s 3rd quarter for the following game
* In order for a marching band to support its football team, everyone must have a flip folder ready at all times.
* Stand tunes must be ready, available, and in a flip folder to use properly
* Please keep your eyes on center podium for instructions throughout the game
* When the team is in scoring position, please keep the fight song and your instruments ready
* Do not request songs
* Do not wonder through the band block. Stay in your section and seat
* If you need to use the restroom, please ask first

You represent your school, band, and community every time you put on the uniform and play your horns. Act accordingly!!

**Letter Jackets**

 *STUDENTS CAN EARN ONLY ONE LETTER JACKET FROM ONE ACTIVITY!*

Example: A student who has previously earned a letter jacket in Swimming cannot earn another jacket from band. The district will only provide one jacket, one time.

Student must complete 6 Major events. They are limited to the following events:

* UIL Region Marching contest
* Receive first division at UIL Solo and Ensemble contest
* UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest
* Making the All-Region Band

\*Student must have been academically eligible during the event for it to count.

Automatic Letter Jacket award:

* Making the All-Area Band
* Making the All-State Band
* Earning a First Division at the UIL State Solo and Ensemble Contest
* Starting of their 4th year in band (if not previously earned in another activity)
* Qualifying for the UIL Texas State Marching Contest

Color Guard Criteria:

* Starting their 4th year in Marching band
* Completing 2 seasons of Color Guard & 2 seasons of Winter Guard
* Placing in Finals at Winter Guard International Regional Competition
* Medaling at Championships
* Qualifying for the UIL Texas State Marching Contest



**Communication**

* The following websites are available to communicate to students and parents in a timely and accurate way. Students and parents are encouraged to visit these websites often to gather information about upcoming events and possible schedule changes. Music will also be posted on these sites. The Spirit of Saginaw band site is maintained by the band booster organization. Music from this site is password protected. A username and password will be provided by the band director.
* <http://www.emsisd.com/domain/1632> -- maintained by band directors
* [www.spiritofsaginawband.org](http://www.spiritofsaginawband.org) – maintained by Band Booster Club. Also, sign up the Band Booster Newsletter on this website.
* Twitter – this is main source of communication from the band directors. Please subscribe and turn on text alerts to stay up to date with the ever changing Marching Band season. @SpiritofSaginaw
* Email communication is the preferred way communication between parents and band directors.
* Remind is a text service used by the band directors to get info out to students. Text “@sosband” to 81010
* Mr. Pearson – mpearson@ems-isd.net
* Ms. Holley – aholley@ems-isd.net
* Ms. Giba – jgiba@ems-isd.net
* Mr. Juhl – agrossman@ems-isd.net

**Summation**

Participation in the Saginaw High School Band is dependent upon effort and a true desire to succeed.

The rules stated in this handbook are easy to understand and follow. The band directors and administration of the EMS-ISD feel these rules are fair, just, and are in the best interest of the overall Saginaw High School Band, school, and each individual who participates.

Congratulations on becoming an esteemed member of the “Spirit of Saginaw” Band!

**Please sign and detach the final page to acknowledge that you have read the Band Handbook**

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**Member Contract**

By signing this contract, I, (print name) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that I have read the Spirit of Saginaw Band Handbook.

I further accept my position in the Spirit of Saginaw Band show.

By accepting this position, I agree to do everything expected of me by the school, the organization, and the directors and adhere to the rules and guidelines laid out verbally, in the school student handbook, and the band handbook. I commit to give my best and full effort in my *attitude,* *academics, attendance, musical performance, and marching fundamentals*.

I will commit to better myself, my section, and the band, and to continue to work towards success by taking whatever steps are necessary and needed throughout the season. I also acknowledge that if I do not show I’ve put enough effort and commitment to this position, I will default my spot.

I take pride in being a member of the Spirit of Saginaw Marching Band, and by signing this form, show my understanding and acceptance of the expectations, and commit to be a positive member in continuing the history of excellence that is the Spirit of Saginaw Band.

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

Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Sign and Return***



Matthew Pearson, *Director of Bands* Alyson Holley, *Assistant Director of Bands* Jenn Giba, *Percussion Director*

Art Juhl, *Color Guard Director*