

## *Preface*

This manual is to be distributed to every member of the Slidell High School Band. Its purpose is to give parents and students a clear and concise understanding of the workings of our band department and to provide a guide that covers most aspects of the function and requirements of participation. All members are to be thoroughly familiar with the contents herein, for they will have a direct bearing on the success or failure as members of the Slidell High School Band.

It is my sincere hope that you enjoy the many benefits and rewards that a music education brings.

## *The Marching Tiger Band*

The Slidell High School Marching Band is the most visible and recognizable group in the Slidell Band program. Participation is required of all students who are members of performing band ensembles unless their services are required as football players or cheerleaders during the football season. Membership in the marching band is not necessarily permanent, and students may be subject to challenges, re-auditions, and/or demotion to a non-performing group.

The Marching Tiger Band performs at all Slidell High School football games, marching festivals and competitions, Mardi gras parades, and all other scheduled events. The marching band rehearses every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 4:20-6:00 PM. Attendance at all scheduled performances and rehearsals is required.

Occasionally, when the entire band is not needed, or when space or funds prohibit, a smaller band will be used for certain events. The “pep band” will be chosen by the band director based on instrumentation requirements, section rank, and seniority.

## *Symphonic Band*

The Slidell High School Symphonic Band is a group of musicians selected by audition in the fall of each school year. The Symphonic Band performs for the winter and spring concerts, District and State Festivals, graduation, and all other scheduled events. The Symphonic Band rehearses regularly after school every

Tuesday and Thursday from 4:20–6:00. Students will be notified in a timely manner of all extra rehearsals. Attendance at all scheduled performances and rehearsals are required. Membership in the Symphonic Band is not necessarily permanent and students may be subject to challenges, re-auditions, and/or demotion to a non-performing group.

## *Concert Band*

The purpose of the Concert Band is to provide its members with the training and/or maturational development necessary for future membership in the Symphonic Band. The Concert Band also performs at all school concerts and other scheduled events. The Concert Band rehearses on Wednesday afternoons from 4:20–6:00 in March, April and May. Membership in the Concert Band is not necessarily permanent and students may be subject to challenges, re-auditions, and/or demotion from the group.

## *Rehearsals*

In order to insure a successful band program, it is often necessary to hold rehearsals outside of the school day. Attendance at all rehearsals is mandatory. Excuses from rehearsals are rare, and except in the case of illness or emergency, a written excuse must be presented in advance of the absence. A written excuse, however, does not necessarily excuse a student. Decision of whether a student is excused will be the band director's or the principal's. Each absence from a rehearsal will result in the lowering of the student's grade one letter for each occurrence. The accumulation of three unexcused tardies or early departures from rehearsal will be the equivalent of one absence, and will result in the lowering of the student's grade one letter on the date of the third infraction. (See section on grading for more information.)

## *Performances*

It is impossible to perform successfully without an entire group. The absence of one player from a group will cause the entire ensemble to suffer. For this reason, it is mandatory that all students attend and participate in all performances pertaining to their particular group or ensemble.

All students will be issued a schedule of the current year's performance schedule. Please use this schedule to plan vacations, trips, and appointments.

While some events are subject to last-minute changes, it is a rare occurrence. In the event of a change, students and parents will be notified as soon as possible so that accommodations may be made. Because these events provide a unique educational function outside of the classroom, missed performances cannot be made up. Exceptions are rare, and are subject to review. (See section on grading for more information.)

## *Challenge System*

Alternates are chosen based on summer attendance and band camp attendance. **BAND CAMP IS MANDATORY!** Alternates will have the option of challenging one person per week within their section for a position in the show.

A challenge will consist of marching assigned drill sets and corresponding music. Challenges will be held at the end of after school practice every Tuesday beginning the first full week of school.

A person who misses rehearsals because of extended illness, injury, or absences may be placed on alternate status at the discretion of the director.

## *Building Use*

The maintenance of a facility like our band room is a large task. The manner in which it is maintained is a reflection of our pride in our organization. Observance of the following rules will insure a well-kept room, and will lighten the burden on everyone involved.

1. No gum, candy, or food allowed in the band room (this includes before and after school).
2. All trash should be placed in the trashcan located at the front door. This includes broken reeds, reed cases, paper, broken pens and pencils, etc.
3. Stack up all chairs and neatly move them to the back of the room and place all stands on the racks at the end of rehearsal.
4. Do not write on the stands or chairs, or otherwise deface school property.
5. Do not write on the walls, or place unapproved messages or signs on the bulletin boards.
6. Store your instrument in the shelves provided. DO NOT leave instruments on the floor or outside of the storage room overnight. Do not play on any instrument that does not belong to you. This includes percussion equipment, mallets, and sticks.
7. The storage rooms, offices, and director's podium are off limits to students.

## *Band Uniform*

The Slidell High School Band uniform represents much more than the sum of its component parts. It is symbolic of a tradition of pride and excellence of all those who have been a part of the development of our program. These alumni feel a renewed sense of pride every time they observe you continuing the tradition, just as many of you will in the future. When in uniform, remember that you represent the entire Slidell High School Band, especially when you are apart from the group. What you do and the manner in which you do it will reflect on your band, school, and community.

All members will be issued a uniform at the beginning of each marching season. It is each student's responsibility to maintain the uniform in the condition in which it was received. Under no circumstances should any alterations be made to any uniform without the prior consent of the band director. Failure to follow this may result in the replacement of the uniform at the student's expense. Students must wear shorts and a T-shirt under the uniform at all times. Jeans are not allowed under the uniform! As the weather turns cooler, warmer clothing underneath the uniform will be permitted, as long as it does not show. At the conclusion of the game/parade, uniforms will be hung neatly by each individual student and placed on the rack. Failure to return a uniform neatly will result in disciplinary action and the assessment of a fine equal to the cost of cleaning the uniform.

The marching uniform includes black "Dinkles" shoes\*, black socks, uniform pants, uniform coat, hat and plume. Excessive makeup, face painting, jewelry, or extreme hairstyles are not acceptable.

Concert uniforms will consist of all black attire. The gentlemen should wear black pants, black button-up, long-sleeved shirt, black shoes and socks, and a black belt. A black tie may be worn, but is not required. The women should wear black pants or a black, full-length skirt, black blouse either full-length or 3/4 length, or a black full-length dress, black hose and black shoes. Any under shirts must be black. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum.

\*Must be ordered from the band department at the beginning of marching season.

## *Inspections*

At a designated time before performances, inspections will be held to determine the appearance and readiness of each band member to perform. Items to be checked during inspection include:

1. Student is in place in formation at the designated time.
2. Uniform is properly worn.
3. Shoes are regulation, Dinkles, and are cleaned. Socks are black.
4. Student has the proper music, accessories and equipment.
5. Mouthpiece is clean; reed instruments have good clean reeds.
6. Instrument is shined and in good working order.
7. Student remains properly in line.
8. Student stands and remains properly at ready, attention, etc.

Failure to successfully pass all of the above items will result in the student being assessed a double tardy. Students may also face disciplinary action, or in some instances, dismissal from the game or performance until proper standards are met. Students who are asked to leave will receive an “F” if they do not return. (Three tardies equal one unexcused absence or one letter grade. See section on grading.)

## *Guidelines for Game Behavior*

The primary function of the Slidell High School Band during football season, aside from performing at pre-game and halftime, is to provide support for the football team from the stands in conjunction with the cheerleaders, Swingerettes, and colorguard. Toward the accomplishment of this task, it is necessary to set forth the following rules and regulations.

1. After roll call and inspection, we will march to the stadium in parade block to a drum cadence. Students are to immediately line up on the sideline to prepare for pre-game. At the conclusion of pre-game, we will march to the bleachers in a single file line to a drum tap. Students are to remain standing until all lines are straight and the signal has been given to sit.
2. Once you have been assigned a seat, you must stay there until moved by the director. All lines are to be kept straight.
3. Unless specifically stated by the director, nothing is to be brought into the bleachers except music and your instrument. This includes cell phones, ipods/mp3 players, blankets, etc.
4. Eating, drinking, or chewing gum is not allowed in the set-up except during half time and third quarter.

5. The band set-up is off limits to non-band members.
6. Do not play your instrument in the stands unless the entire band or an entire section is performing.
7. Do not watch the game while the band is playing. Concentrate on the task at hand.
8. Sit up straight and place your feet flat on the space provided for that purpose. Do not lean back on the seat behind you.
9. Take pride in the sound, appearance, and discipline of your band.
10. Students are to remain in the set-up at all times. Water will be distributed by band helpers and chaperones.
11. At the conclusion of the game, remain seated until instructed to move. We will exit by rows for dismissal.
12. All performances are considered academic commitments. Therefore, all school rules are in effect for the entire performance. Any student suspected to be under the influence, or in possession of, alcohol or any controlled substance will be dealt with strictly in accordance with school board policy.

## *Travel Information*

The operation of the Slidell High School Band requires that the band travel many times during the year. All members are required to travel with the band. Exceptions to this are very rare, and permission to travel separately can only be given after a travel consent form is completed and approved by the band director or principal.

Any trip with the band is considered an academic commitment. As with any school activity, all school rules are in effect. Any student found in violation will be dealt with according to school policy. In severe cases, students will be referred to the school administration, and will be dealt with according to school board policy. Chaperones and bus drivers are to be treated with the utmost respect. Remember, we cannot travel without them. Please show your appreciation for the service they are providing.

Prior to every trip, a bus list will be posted for students to sign. Never remove or change anyone's name. Doing so will result in the offender being assigned a seat on the bus. Once everyone has signed, the list will be removed and typed for use in roll call. Once the list has been removed, no changes will be made. The seat you sign for is your assigned seat!

Students are responsible for the loading of their own instrument and equipment!

## *Grading Policy*

In computing grades for each grading period, several factors will account for the final grade. Each of these factors takes in to account the elements necessary to produce a successful band program. All grades are computed on a percentage basis and comply with the school/parish grading system. The grading categories are as follows:

In Class Work	After School Rehearsals	Exams
40%	40%	20%

**In Class Work** – This category will derive its grades from playing tests, tuning charts, and instrument and folder inspections.

**After School Rehearsals** – In order to insure a successful band program, it is necessary to hold after school rehearsals. During marching season, we will have after school rehearsals on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 4:20–6:00 PM. In concert season, the Symphonic band rehearses two days per week and the Concert band rehearses one day per week after school. In this category, each un-excused absence will result in a loss of 10 percentage points or the lowering of the grade by one letter.

**Exams** – Since band is a performance-oriented class, part of the exam for this class will be the performances we give. The other part will consist of musical terms. In the event there is no performance within the grading period, the exam will consist of an audiotape or cd. On this tape/cd will be a quality recording of the student performing the prescribed audition music, scales, and/or performance music. Due to the nature of performances outside of the school day, no performance may be “made up.” Any un-excused absence will result in the loss of 20 percentage points.

An excused absence is one that is documented by a doctor, obituary, or family emergency. An excused absence for a family emergency must be approved by the director and must be verified by a parental note and phone call. All excuses must be turned in within five days of returning to school.

## *Band Fee*

While the band department receives a certain amount of money from the school board budget, most of this money is earmarked for certain expenditures which

must be paid each year. Included in the budget is money for band music and drill, money for maintenance, and money to pay for District and State Band Festival expenses. In addition, the budgeted money is most frequently inadequate to cover the expenses for which it is allotted.

Each band member is required to pay the yearly band fee. This fee covers the cost of all uniform cleaning, rental and maintenance of school-owned instruments, items in connection with the Band Awards Banquet, and other budgetary inadequacies.

### *Instruments and Equipment*

It is highly recommended that you consult with your band director before buying a new instrument or mouthpiece. Likewise, any used instrument that you plan to buy should also be examined. It is quite possible that you could save a great deal of money, and possibly avoid the purchase of a lesser-quality instrument at too high of a price. It is also recommended that all instruments be inspected by your director before bringing it to the shop for repairs. Most often, the problem can be fixed in a matter of minutes free of charge.

Students who play on high quality instruments are able to do everything much easier and produce a much finer sound than students who play lesser-quality instruments. Often a good, professional instrument can be purchased for the price of a student model. Again, consultation with the director is crucial.

### *Additional Equipment*

Every brass player must furnish his/her own valve oil and slide grease.  
Every woodwind player should provide his/her own cork grease and reeds.  
All percussionists must furnish their own sticks and mallets.  
All band members must have a lyre and flip folder with enough pages to hold all marching music.

### *School-Owned Instruments and Equipment*

School-owned instruments and equipment are assigned to students who play very expensive instruments such as oboe, bassoon, bass and contra clarinets, tenor and baritone saxophones, French horns, large bore trombones,

euphoniums, and tubas. These instruments will be distributed to students according to the needs of the band department.

Members are responsible for these instruments at all times. Any damage to these instruments or equipment will be the student's burden. Never should a student or parent attempt to repair a school-owned instrument, and these instruments should never be brought to the repair shop without the consent of the director.

Many times, a family's homeowner's policy will cover these instruments. Check with you agent to see if this is a possibility.

### ***Band Officers and Duties***

#### **Drum Major:**

- Head commander of the field
- Student representative of the band
- Conducts the group at all marching performances
- Holds inspection before each performance

#### **Field Sergeant:**

- Conducts the group in absence of the Drum Major
- Assistant commander of the field
- Assists Drum Major with conducting duties as needed on the field
- Holds inspection before each performance

#### **President:**

- Student representative of the band
- Conducts band officer meetings
- Sees that officer meetings are held when needed
- Reports to director any problems or suggestions that may improve the band program
- Keeps attendance records for every rehearsal
- Holds inspection before each performance

#### **Vice President:**

- Assumes all duties of the president in his/her absence
- Oversees detail work crews
- Responsible for the overall cleanliness of the band room and instrument storage area

**Historian:**

Accumulates photographs, newspaper clippings, etc. that relate to the band  
Responsible for producing a slide show and photo album for the band

**Librarian:**

Assist the director with music and library duties

**Chaplain:**

Responsible for leading motivational type presentations before every performance

**Quarter Master(s):**

Responsible for the upkeep of the practice field  
Responsible for the unloading and loading of equipment prior to rehearsals and performances

## *Band Booster Club*

The Slidell High School Band Booster Club is an organization of parents and other interested parties. The purpose of the club is to provide financial support and help to promote band spirit.

Committees are formed to provide necessary services to the band. Among these services are providing chaperones for trips, helping with fund-raising projects, speaking to school and school board officials on behalf of the band, aiding with public relations, and serving on telephone committees.

Membership is open to anyone with a sincere interest in the welfare and success of our band.

## *Points for Achievement*

Learning and achievement in the high school band will be measured by points earned by the student. All awards will be based on this point system.

There are several ways a student may earn points. These ways are listed on the next page. When a student completes the achievement that he or she is seeking, they receive the number of points listed. In order to earn a band medal, a student must receive 400 points during the school year.

## *Points for Achievement*

1. Make All-State Band.....	50
2. Make All-State 2 <sup>nd</sup> Round.....	75
3. Tryout for All-State Band .....	100
4. Make District Honor Band.....	50
5. Tryout for District Honor Band .....	75
6. Make Parish Honor Band .....	50
7. Tryout for Parish Honor Band.....	75
8. SLU Invitational Honor Band .....	50
9. Participate in Solo and Ensemble .....	25
10. Earn superior in Solo and Ensemble .....	50
11. Tryout for drum major or colorguard.....	25
12. Make drum major or colorguard.....	50
13. Earn superior rating for Colorguard, D.M., Drums .....	50
14. Superior Concert .....	50
15. Superior Sightreading .....	50
16. Superior Marching.....	50
17. All Superior.....	200
18. Make Symphonic Band .....	50
19. Make Concert Band.....	25
20. Make Jazz Band .....	75
21. Take private lessons from an approved teacher in a consistent manner .....	150
22. Officer, group captain .....	50
23. Band Camp.....	15-60
24. Other accomplishments.....	10-100
25. Parent meetings.....	20
26. Attendance of cultural events.....	25
27. Challenges .....	25
28. Summer music camps.....	100

# *Slidell High School Band Agreement*

This manual has been designed to provide you with the rules and requirements for participation in the Slidell High School Band. Its purpose is to give parents and students a clear and concise understanding of the workings of our band department and to provide a guide, which covers most aspects of the function and requirements of participation.

We, the undersigned:

1. Have read and thoroughly understand and agree to comply with the contents of this manual.
2. Understand that this manual is to serve as a reference for student participation.
3. Understand that this document must be returned within one week of receiving this handbook.
4. Understand that no student will be allowed to participate in any band function who has not returned this document.
5. Understand that sanctions will be given by the teacher or administrator for any infraction after considerations have been given to all extenuating circumstances.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Parent/Guardian Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date