

Fruitvale ISD

Band Handbook

2024-2025

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your support of your band student(s) and the Fruitvale Bobcat Band program. With other school programs, our band provides an important, highly visible source of pride in our school and community. Please consider being an active Band Booster. For your student to succeed in this and all school endeavors, we as parents, teachers, and students must all work closely together: students with discipline, effort and practice; instructors by sharing talent and experience with students to teach them; parents with emotional, financial and practical support to enable students to attend all practices and performances.

Music is its own reward; it offers stimulation, enhanced intellectual activity and the pleasure of self expression at a new level. Exhaustive research confirms that students in music programs experience expanded comprehension, increased awareness and a generally higher performance in other classes.

For the Fruitvale Bobcat Band to achieve the highest individual and group goals, each student must present a positive, disciplined and cooperative attitude to produce creativity, communication, critical assessment, and commitment.

Thanks again for your support and for the opportunity to serve you and your children.

Please take a few moments to go over the handbook with your student. We ask that, following your review, you and your student sign the Handbook Acknowledgement Form and return it.

Welcome to the Fruitvale Band Family.

Jerromy E. Falk

Band Director

Fruitvale ISD

Welcome to the Fruitvale Band

This handbook is provided to all Fruitvale band students so they may be better informed of the regulations and guidelines expected of them. It has been put together as a cooperative effort between the administration and director and all these guidelines must also comply with all state and local school policies.

It is my desire that your tenure in the band program here in the Fruitvale Independent School District is one of the most rewarding and enjoyable experiences in your public school career. This Handbook has been prepared in order that you will be better equipped for the 2024-2025 school year.

The band program at Fruitvale adds an important part of school life. This group represents a large, colorful, visible and highly disciplined segment of the school. School life and many of the programs and traditions of the school would seem dull without the band. The band's appearance at sporting events, pep rallies, concerts, etc., adds a great deal of fun and enjoyment as well as a sense of pride to the whole community.

The main emphasis of the band program is musicianship and pride of accomplishment; followed closely by citizenship, tradition, morale, spirit, loyalty and class. It is the pride of a job well done and the accomplishments achieved that make the sacrifices worthwhile. It is possible, setting your schedule in a reasonable manner, to have a highly successful band career and still maintain high scholastic standings.

The success of the organization will lead to success of the individual and vice-versa. Many colleges and universities are now offering wonderful scholarships to many musicians because they realize, in most cases, the students involved in band are generally a cut above those outside of music. Scholarships that are offered to music students do not require them to major in music, but just enjoy playing their instruments and be a member in their respective college band. It has been proven that music students that have studied for any length of time, learn skills that are sought after in today's workplace. These students have also been instilled with the discipline needed to succeed in scholastic endeavors while in school. Music education fosters a life-long interest in and appreciation of music and contributes greatly to the development of mental awareness and a well-rounded character.

Welcome to the Fruitvale Band Family,

Jerromy E. Falk

Why Music?

Music Is A Science. It is exact, and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's full score is a chart, a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody and harmony all at once and with exact control of time.

Music Is Mathematics. It is rhythmically based on the subdivision of time into fractions, which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper. Music Is Foreign Language. Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French and the notation is certainly not English – but a highly developed kind of short – hand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music is a most complete and universal language.

Music Is History. Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, often representing its country of origin and/or racial feelings.

Music Is Physical Education. It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lips, cheek, and facial muscles in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragm, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.

Music Develops Insight and Demands Research.

Music is all these things, but most of all, Music Is Art. It allows the human being to take all these dry, technically boring (but difficult) techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing science cannot duplicate; humanism, feeling, emotion, call it what you will.

That is why we teach music! Not because we expect you to major in music...

But so you will be human

So you will recognize beauty

So you will be closer to God

So you will have something to cling to So you will have more love, more compassion, more gentleness, and more good;

In short, More Life!

---Scott Rush

HIGH SCHOOL BAND

The Fruitvale High School Band is a course for the 8th through 12th graders who have progressed from the 7th Grade Band. Membership is subject to being a member of the band in the previous year. Students must be ACADEMICALLY ELIGIBLE to perform in any extra-curricular activity.

The High School Band is developing a strong history of outstanding musicianship and citizenship among its members. PRIDE is synonymous with QUALITY. It is necessary for each member to make a commitment to EXCELLENCE in order to maintain the reputation the group is working hard to earn.

Each student is expected to be prepared for all performances with all materials and to be on time. All members are expected to have a high degree of discipline. Discipline is a quality that must come from within each individual student. Because of this fact, each student is responsible for his/her own actions as a member of the band. Any student that shows the inability to work effectively in class or on the field, may be reassigned to another class at the discretion of the Band Director and Administration.

As a school group, the Band is governed by School and School Board policies any time we are together, whether it involves all students, or just one. The Medical Release Form you sign will be in effect throughout the year for trips related to the Band. Any student who violates school rules while with the band, will be subject to all usual disciplinary procedures. In addition, these students will be subject to possible dismissal and/or the inability to travel or perform with the Band.

MARCHING BAND:

Marching Band begins with Summer Band and continues until the end of contest season. Rehearsals during the curricular year may be held during school and on occasion when needed with extra practices scheduled by section as well. Some students in each section may be selected as alternates. In all cases, the Director determines the placement.

Every student will play their show songs from memory. Failure to meet playoff deadlines or failure to meet daily requirements may result in a drop in grade and/or not being able to perform at halftime or contest. These students will be considered alternates for the events and will be required to attend the Contest or performance but not perform with the band. Activities include performances in the stands and on the football field at Football games, pep rallies, parades and contests. **ALL** members must attend **ALL** functions.

FOOTBALL GAMES:

All Marching Band students must attend all HOME games. You must stay in the Bandstand area until the end of halftime, you will have the 3rd quarter off to get food, mingle, etc. You must be back in the Marching Band bandstand area **(2), two minutes before the 4th quarter starts**, and then stay until you are dismissed after the game. Each student must have his/her uniform and instrument put away before they will be dismissed to go home.

IF we attend the Away Games:

All Marching Band students must attend all AWAY games. Details for AWAY games vary. Mr. Falk will instruct the students in advance on the details for each game. The equipment truck must be loaded 15 minutes prior to departure time. Each student is responsible for getting their instrument onto the equipment trailer. All students must ride the bus to AWAY games and stay with the band group; parents are welcome to spend time with the students during the 3rd quarter, but they may not sit in the stands in the designated Marching Band area. The truck must be unloaded and instruments put away before being dismissed to go home. **Marching Band students may ride back with their parents only under special circumstances, and a signed permission note is required in advance to be approved by Mr. Falk and signed by an administrator. If the student rides back with their parents, it is the responsibility of that student to make sure his/her instrument gets unloaded from the truck.**

CONCERT BAND:

Preparation for concert season is ongoing. Concert season begins at the conclusion of marching season and continues until the end of the second semester. Students must pass all subjects and maintain a good attitude, great work ethic, and practice to get better as an individual.

Performances will include UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest (HS and 7th), a Christmas Concert, Spring Concert and special events (possibly). In addition, extra full band rehearsals and clinics may be scheduled. **All students are required to attend all contests, unless it conflicts with another school event, or permission is given by the director for medical/family emergencies.**

EQUIPMENT, INSTRUMENTS, AND UNIFORMS:

Students will be responsible for the upkeep and care for all of their equipment, whether it is school owned or not. **Any damages to the instruments, music, uniforms, or any other equipment will be repaired or replaced at the student's expense.**

ELIGIBILITY:

TEA and UIL have very strict policies when it comes to eligibility issues and events that are deemed “extracurricular.” Some activities the band participates in are curricular or academic, and others are extracurricular. Either way, in order for a band student to participate fully in the band program, he/she must make a 70% or higher in all of their classes. Grade checks will occur at the end of each nine week grading period.

It takes many hours of preparation for the band to become a quality unit. If individuals become ineligible, the band has to be re-taught and valuable time is lost. Students that have excessive eligibility problems will be excluded from the marching show and the concert band until a time comes in which he/she can prove he/she can consistently remain eligible. Student leaders as well as members of auxiliary units of the band will be removed from his/her position if he/she becomes ineligible at any time during the year.

In the event that a student becomes ineligible, he/she may practice with the band however, TEA and UIL do not allow students that are ineligible to participate in football games, pep rallies, parades, or any other competitions. However, ineligible students are allowed (and required) to participate in school concerts in order to satisfy requirements in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills.

GENERAL BAND HALL RULES:

1. THERE WILL BE NO DESTRUCTION (HORSEPLAY) IN THE BAND HALL AT ANY TIME!!
WHEN THINGS ARE DESTROYED, EVERYONE LOSES. ANYONE CAUGHT DESTROYING ANYTHING IN THE BAND HALL WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINE ESTABLISHED BY FISD ADMINISTRATION.
2. FOOD, DRINKS, GUM OR CANDY OF ANY KIND ARE NOT PERMITTED INSIDE THE BAND HALL. WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP THE MAIN ROOM AND PRACTICE/INSTRUMENT ROOMS AS CLEAN AS POSSIBLE.
3. ONLY STUDENTS, THEIR PARENTS, AND SPONSORS ARE ALLOWED IN THE BAND HALL. THE BAND HALL HAS SOME VERY EXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT AND WE KNOW HOW TO TAKE CARE OF IT, BUT YOUR FRIENDS MAY NOT. FOR THIS REASON, PLEASE ASK YOUR FRIENDS TO WAIT OUTSIDE FOR YOU.

DISCIPLINE MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS:

Students involved with the Fruitvale High School Band are looked at as “band students” even at times when he/she is not formally participating in a band activity. Because of this, these students are expected to be good examples to all other students in his/her classes and in the community. You are not only representatives of yourself but representatives of this Band program, your parents, and this school at all times. Students that are in conflict with this philosophy will be removed from band at the discretion of the Band Director and Administration.

Band members are expected to follow all Fruitvale Independent School District policies regarding appropriate student behavior. Violation of the following policies will be handled by existing school policy in addition to the “FISD Band Consequences” listed below: boy/girl relationships, class cut (during or after school), destruction of school property, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, smoking, fighting, knives or weapons, bullying, profanity, sexual harassment, stealing, tardiness, and insubordination.

All negative student behavior (while in band, other classes, or in public) will be evaluated by the Band Director and Administration. Appropriate disciplinary action will be determined based on the severity of the incident and its impact on the band.

It should be noted that three things may result in immediate expulsion from the Fruitvale Band Program:

- Theft of any kind at school or away.
- Open defiance towards the Band Director (or other teaching staff).
- Any activity that could lead to the arrest and conviction of a student.

In the unfortunate event that a student is expelled from the band program, parents are asked to consider that his/her child has usually received ample warnings and “chances” to correct his/her behavior. Band is an elective in which the student must truly want to participate. The decision to remove a student from the band program will be determined by the Director and Administrator.

REHEARSAL PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS:

1. THE PRIMARY RULE FOR ALL REHEARSALS IS TO BE THERE ON TIME WITH ALL RELATED EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENTS READY TO PLAY. REHEARSALS WILL BEGIN AT EXACTLY THE TIME SPECIFIED AND WILL ALWAYS, (with very few exceptions), END BEFORE OR AT THE TIME STATED. (Please tell your parents/guardians that they may rely on this and to pick you up on time).
2. ALL CASES AND PERSONAL ITEMS ARE TO BE LEFT IN THE CABINETS, ON THE SHELVES, OR ALONG THE WALLS OF THE BAND HALL. THEY DO NOT BELONG AT YOUR CHAIR.
3. HAVE ALL YOUR MUSIC WITH YOU FOR EVERY REHEARSAL.

4. EXHIBIT GOOD BEHAVIOR AND PAY ATTENTION.
5. KEEP THE BAND HALL NEAT AND CLEAN. PUT ALL EQUIPMENT AND FOLDERS AWAY PROPERLY WHEN THE REHEARSAL IS OVER.
6. **ALL TALKING WILL IMMEDIATELY STOP WHEN THE DIRECTOR STEPS ON THE PODIUM.** ALL INSTRUMENTS WILL BE IN THE READY POSITION AND THEN MOVED TO THE PLAYING POSITION WHEN THE DIRECTOR RAISES HIS HANDS OR BATON TO BEGIN THE SONG.
7. DURING REHEARSAL, KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE MUSIC AND THE DIRECTOR. YOU MUST GO THROUGH THE PLAYING EXPERIENCE USING FINGERS, AIR, AND THE CORRECT SITTING POSITION. WHEN THE DIRECTOR WORKS WITH A PORTION OF THE BAND, THE OTHER MEMBERS WILL GO THROUGH THE PLAYING EXPERIENCE, BUT WITH NO SOUND.
8. IF YOUR INSTRUMENT BREAKS DURING REHEARSAL, DO NOT PLAY BUT FINGER ALONG UNTIL THE END OF THE PERIOD. LET THE DIRECTOR KNOW OF THE PROBLEM AFTER THE REHEARSAL.
9. IF YOU NEED TO PURCHASE REEDS, VALVE OIL, ETC., DO SO BEFORE REHEARSAL.

CHAIR AND BAND PLACEMENT:

As is customary with most school bands, the Fruitvale Band will place each member of the band in chairs within each section according to ability. This is done through a process known as chair placement testing. Everyone in the band is given one or more exercises for his/her instrument. After a suitable period of time for rehearsal, the members of each section, one at a time, are heard playing the excerpt by the director. The first chair player in each section is, theoretically, the best player in the section. Those players who aspire to be top chair in the section may achieve this goal through much practice and a process known as challenging. Challenges will be played before the Director. All challenge material will be picked out by the Director. Music will be given to both parties at the same time and a challenge time will be set up. However, the challenger may only challenge the person immediately ahead of him

ABSENCES FROM REHEARSALS AND PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

Students must participate in each public performance and contest made by the band. This includes pep rallies. Rehearsals and performances are subject to grading and the student must understand the importance of being there to prevent others from being put in uncomfortable situations. Students must be able to rely on what they hear in rehearsals so in the performances there are no surprises. In case of emergencies, the Director should be notified before the performance. If the Director is not notified before the performance, the absence will not be excused except in extenuating circumstances. Please do not ever "just not show up." The first unexcused absence in a grading period will result in a written warning. The second unexcused absence in the same grading period will result in the drop of the student's grade.

GRADING POLICY:

Grades will be determined by the following criteria:

- Playing Tests, Pass-offs, Inspections, Uniform care – 50% of grade
- Attendance at performances - 25% of grade
- Participation in band class (before, during, after) - 25% of grade

The core of a band student's daily grade is based upon the following:

- Cooperation
- Attitude
- Musicianship

This is a daily grade that includes the cooperation involved with having all materials, being on time and willing to do what is asked to ensure a healthy and productive rehearsal. Attitude is also assessed by how a student accepts direction during rehearsal. Finally, musicianship involves the performance of tasks needed during rehearsal.

Other grades will be given according to how well the student performs his/her part, considering his/her experience on his/her instrument and playing tests, preparation of the required music. Periodic instrument and folder inspection can be considered part of the grading process.

CONCLUSION:

Any deviation of routine not covered by band policies will be taken up on an individual basis by the Band Director and/or dean of students.

Any discipline/punishment administered for an extra-curricular activity will not exceed a single school year, unless it falls under the drug and alcohol policy.

Fruitvale ISD Band Handbook Acknowledgement Form

This acknowledges receipt of the Fruitvale Band Handbook. This handbook should be kept for reference. By signing below, you agree to be held responsible for its contents.

Please sign this page.

STUDENT NAME _____

(Please print)

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

Chaperone Volunteer Form

WANTED: BAND PARENTS to volunteer their time and talents to help our band be the best it can be!! Fill out this section ONLY if you wish to sign up to help with various things through the school year. One thing that I know I will need is help with the Concession Stand. I **DO NOT** want students doing this. I will need 3-4 people inside the stand and one person grilling outside. I will also be requesting help with the uniform fittings and chaperoning for trips, contests, and other things throughout the year. If you would be interested in any of the things listed below, please let me know which ones so that I can get you information when the events come up.

HS SCRIM -August 16th _____ HS SCRIM August 23rd _____ JH/HS September 6th _____

JH/HS HOMECOMING September 27th _____ JH & HS October 4th _____

HS October 18th _____ HS October 25th _____

Students Name: _____

Parents Name: _____

Parent Email: _____

Phone Number: Home: _____ Cell: _____