

Terry High School



Band Handbook 2021-2022

bulldogbands.org

"Legacy, Pride, Excellence"



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MISSION

“Teaching Students through Music”

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Terry High School band program is to produce quality musicians, as well as productive members of society, through the teaching of music, leadership, and responsibility. The goal of the handbook is to express the roles, expectations, and obligations of the band directors, students, and parents. The Terry High School Band program is dedicated to preparing and performing high quality music that is both enjoyable and educational. To achieve a successful cohesive band program, the rules, procedures, and expectation laid out in this handbook must be adhered to.

The High School Band is an important part of the cultural environment of any high school experience. Through the study of great works of music, music theory, and instrumentation, students will improve upon themselves and their culture. By participating in the band program, students will acquire the necessary skills needed to become well-rounded, productive members of society. Those skills include: Time Management, Organization, Planning, Discipline, Determination, Teamwork, Leadership, Performance, Composure, Dignity, Open-Mindedness, Obedience, and Responsibility.



DIRECTORS

Justin Cook	Director of Bands	jucook@hindsschools.com
Nicholas Fuqua	Assistant Band Director	nfuqua@hindsschools.com
Keshawn Williams	Assistant Band Director	kewilliams@hindschools.com
Patrick O'Donovan	Middle School Band Director	podonovan@hindschools.com
Ivon Johnson	Assistant Band Director	ijohnson@hindschools.com

BAND BOOSTER OFFICERS

President	Kellani Vanish
Vice President	Averi Powell
Secretary	Tracey Hughes
Treasurer	Eric Lollis
Hospitality Committee Chairperson	Kenya Brown
Chaperone Committee Chairperson	Angela McGee
Communication Committee Chairperson	Margaret James
Fundraiser Committee Chairperson	Jackie Brooks



ATTENDANCE POLICY

Excused Absences

The only excusable absences are prearranged school conflicts and those that would be excused by the school for regular attendance records (e.g., illness, death in the family). All performances and rehearsal are required. Please keep in my mind that band camp is **REQUIRED** for you to be able to participate in the marching band. Failure to attend band camp will result in you being removed from the field show. Any person who is removed from the field show will become an alternate.

If you are going to miss a rehearsal or performance for any reason you must notify the band staff as soon as possible. We understand that things come up and we will work with you, but you must communicate with us. If you wait until the very last minute, except for extreme emergencies, your grade is going to be lowered. Missing a performance will result in a 0 for a test grade.

Unexcused Absences/Tardiness

During the normal school day band will be during 5th block. This block runs from 2:45 to the end of the school day. The students will have an attendance block that we will start each rehearsal in. We will show them where to stand in their attendance block during band camp. Students will have 10 minutes at the beginning of class to change into their marching clothes and get to the attendance block. Rehearsal will start promptly at 2:55. Failure to be in your spot in the attendance by 2:55 will be considered an unexcused tardy unless you provide proper documentation. If you have an unexcused tardy you will be disciplined according to the Hinds County School District Handbook policy. Frequent tardiness will result in you being removed from the field show and assigned a spot as an alternate.

Unexcused absences are any absences that **DO NOT** have proper documentation with the band staff. Any doctor's appointment will be considered unexcused unless proper paperwork is given to the band staff. Attendance at all rehearsals is vital to the success of the marching band and unexcused absences are detrimental to our success. Multiple unexcused absences from rehearsals will result in removal from the field show and you will be assigned a spot as an alternate.



Conflicts with Band and other School Activities

We encourage all our students to participate in as many organizations, sports, and clubs as they can. It is important to be involved in the school and the community. However, this can sometimes cause scheduling conflicts, especially with other extracurricular activities. Arrangements must be made with both the band staff and the person in charge of the activity. We ask that you communicate with all parties when you will be missing band due to school related functions.

Missing multiple rehearsals due to other conflicts will result in removal from the field show. We are willing to work with you if you communicate and come up with a reasonable schedule for attendance.

After School Rehearsals

During marching band season, we will be having after school rehearsals on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon until State Marching Evaluation. These rehearsals will be an extension of the normal school day and will go until 5:30. **Being a successful band program requires a major time commitment and attendance at these rehearsals is required to be a member. It is the YOUR responsibility to make arrangement to be picked up from these rehearsals. Not having a ride IS NOT an excuse for missing. Failure to attend after school rehearsals will result in removal from the field show.**

GRADING POLICY

Grading

We will follow the Hinds County School District grading policy (Daily Grades-25%, Test Grades 50%, and Exam 25%). The students will be given a grade each day that will then be put into a weekly grade. During football season Friday night performances will be test grades. 50% of the test grade will be performance in the field show and the other 50% will be performance and behavior in the stands. If you are sidelined from a performance for any reason you will get a 0 for your field show grade.

You will be given one daily grade per week. This grade will be out of 100 points with each day of the week being worth 20 points in a 5-day week and 25 in a four-day week. If you show up to rehearsal each day on time and do what is expected of you, you will receive the full 100 points. Failure to reach our expectations, excessive tardiness, failure to participate, and attitude problems will all result in lowered grades.



Football Games

You are required to be at all football games for the duration of the game. You can only eat during the third quarter. **Absolutely no food or drinks (other than water) are allowed in the stands in the first, second, or fourth quarters.** Third quarter break is a privilege and any student who does not follow the rules, is not back in their seats for fourth quarter, or who is eating outside the third quarter will have that privilege taken away.

Football games are supposed to be fun and we want the band to enjoy themselves. However, this does not give you the right to do whatever you want or act outside of the rules of the band or the school. You are still subject to disciplinary action according to the handbook for major issues. Dancing of any kind that is not approved by the band staff or part of the visuals the band performs is never allowed. **This is a zero-tolerance policy and failure to adhere will result in removal from the marching band.**

Rehearsal Etiquette

Rehearsal etiquette is vital to the success of the program. To be where we want to be as a program, we must have efficient rehearsals. Rehearsal will begin promptly at 2:55 in our attendance block. The agenda for the day will be posted on the board for students to see when they enter the band hall. During rehearsal there should be no talking, especially when a staff member or section leader is speaking. No phones are allowed in rehearsal for any reason. If we see a phone in rehearsal it will be taken, and you will be disciplined according to the HCSD handbook. When band staff is talking, you should be at standby so that we know you are focused and on task. Failure to adhere to these rules will result in a lowered grade, disciplinary action, and possible removal from the field show.

Dress for rehearsal: Students can bring clothes to school to change into for afternoon rehearsal. However, all clothes must be in compliance with the school dress code. Any student who does not follow dress code will not be allowed to rehearse until they are in dress code. Dress comfortably, but appropriately.



RULES AND PROCEDURES

Behavior Policy

1. Students will respect the directors, staff, students, and themselves.
2. Students are expected to be on time for all rehearsals and performances.
3. No phones are allowed during rehearsals unless approved by the director.
4. No gum, food, or drink (other than water) will be allowed in the Band Hall.
5. All trash must be placed in the garbage can.
6. Students will not touch anything that does not belong to them.
7. If you are not a percussionist do not touch the percussion equipment.
8. If you are not in the color guard do not touch the guard equipment.
9. Keep the bathroom. DO NOT put brown paper towels in the toilet!
10. Students must wear shoes that are properly secured to the foot. (Sandals, flip flops, slides, etc. are not allowed)
11. Students must have coordinate sheets, music, lyre, and flip folders at all rehearsals.
12. No student is allowed in the band hall unless the band staff is present.
13. Non-band students are not allowed in the building for any reason.
14. Student will follow all Terry High School rules listed in the HCSD handbook and will be enforced accordingly.
- 15. Zero-Tolerance Bullying Policy: Any student caught bullying a member of the band will immediately be removed from the band program. Students are expected to report any cases of bullying to the band staff immediately.**

Student Expectations

The school administration and band staff have high expectations for the band and its members. The band is expected to act with class and integrity both inside and outside of school. Each student is expected to meet these expectations. Failure to do so will result in removal from the field show and possibly the band program altogether. Continued discipline problems in other classes, in the hallways, at lunch, on the bus, or at any school related functions will not be tolerated.

If you are assigned in school detention, suspended, or absent on the day of a performance you ARE NOT allowed to perform, even if the performance is after school. This includes Saturday performances. If you miss a performance due to disciplinary action or the absence is unexcused you will be given a 0 for that performance.

Multiple suspensions or continued time spent in ISD will result in removal from the program. You are expected to act according to rules of the band, the school, and the district at all times. You represent the band wherever you are, and your actions have consequences.



Miscellaneous Information

The band hall will be locked during rehearsals. You are responsible for your things while they are in the band hall. Do not leave anything unattended or in the band hall overnight. The band is not responsible for lost or stolen items. All rules must be followed at all times.

This handbook does not supersede the rules of Terry High School or the HCSD handbook. All rules will be followed, and the appropriate discipline will be taken. Disciplinary actions will be handled according to the district handbook.

We want band to be an experience that is both fun and enjoyable. This handbook is written to ensure that band remains a fun and positive atmosphere. If you follow these rules and meet expectations band will be a fun, enjoyable, and successful experience.

Pass Offs

We will have music pass offs each Thursday. Halftime music must be memorized. Failure to pass off music will result in being sidelined for Friday night performances.

Travel Policy/Bus Rules

According to the MHSAA, students are required to ride the bus to performances. Students are allowed to leave with their parent/guardian after events but must be signed out with the approval of the band staff. Students can only leave with an approved individual after a written and sign notice is documented at least 24 hours in advance. In any other situation students will ride back to the school.

1. Students will remain seated at all times.
2. No singing, chanting, or excessive noise will be tolerated.
3. Conversations and noise must remain at an appropriate volume.
4. Flash notifications must be turned off.
5. Buses must be kept clean.
6. Students are expected to be picked up within 30 minutes after returning to school.



Uniform Policy

During the first few games, we will wear our “summer” uniform, which consists of the following: Dri-Fit Terry Band shirt, Terry Band shorts, and tennis shoes with black socks. The marching band uniform consists of the following: Bibbers, Jacket, Shako, Plume, Black Gloves, Black Socks, and Band Shoes.

1. No jewelry may be worn while in band uniform.
2. Hair must fit into the Shako. (Not negotiable)
3. Bibbers must be on, zipped up, buttoned, and worn correctly at all times while in uniform.
4. Band shirts must be worn under the band uniform.
5. Long or bright colored fingernail polish are prohibited.
6. Long black socks are required while in uniform.
7. Student will only wear the uniform assigned to them.

Students who are in violation of any of these rules will not be allowed to perform and thus, will negatively affect your grade. Students are responsible for the uniform assigned to them. When you turn in your uniform, it needs to be the uniform that was assigned to you. Student will not take any part of the band uniform out of the uniform room without the permission of the band director. Students are financially responsible for any lost or damaged uniform.



FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Band Fees

Band fees are a major source of income for the band. The band fees are \$400 for students who own their own instruments and \$450 for people who play on school owned instruments. This money covers: Summer Uniform, Marching Shoes, Uniform Fee, Show Music, Marching Drill, Color Guard Choreography, Stand Tunes, MHSAA Fees, Marching Competition Fees, Travel Costs, Adjunct Staff, Concert Music, and Festival Site Fees. A financial report will be available at each band booster meeting. The extra \$50 fee for using a school owned instrument covers the cost of maintenance and cleaning. However, the student is responsible for the instrument that they are issued, and continued issues may result in you being responsible for repair.

The first half of the band fees is due at Band Camp Registration on July 15, 2021. The second half of the band fees is due February 3, 2022. If you are removed from the band for disciplinary reasons or you quit band you are still responsible for your band fee.

Color Guard and Drum Major Fees

On top of the band fee, color guard members and drum majors are also responsible for the cost of their uniform. The color guard and drum major fees for 2019-2020 are \$150. This fee is due at Band Camp Registration on July 15, 2021.

FUNDRAISING

The band will participate in various fundraisers throughout the school year. These are intended to supplement the band with extra money and to keep the cost of band dues from going up. Due to our status as a 501(c)(3) fundraising money CANNOT be applied to band dues.

BAND BOOSTER CLUB

Band booster meetings will be on the first Monday of each month during the school year. If there is a holiday on the first Monday, the meeting will be on the following Monday. The meetings will be at 6 P.M in the Terry High School Band Hall. It is important to note that the booster club is different than the booster executive board. As a parent of a student in the Terry High School Band you are automatically a member of the booster organization. These meetings are open to everyone and we will talk about multiple aspects of the band program. This is also a good time for parents to voice concerns, ask questions, and give suggestions.



Executive Board

The executive board consists of the following positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Vice Treasurer, Secretary, and Concessions Chairman. The process to becoming a board member is through a nomination and a vote by the body. If you are interested in one of these positions, please email Mr. Cook ASAP.

REQUIRED FORMS

There are multiple forms required by the MHSAA to participate in extracurricular activities. Hinds County is using a program this year called DragonFlyMax. The directions for how to sign up for this program are on Mr. Sweat's faculty page on the THS website. Once you sign up, all the forms that are needed will be available for you to fill out. All forms must be filled out in order to participate. You will not be allowed to participate in performances or travel with the band unless this is completed.

PARENT CONFERENCES

The band staff is always willing to sit down with parents and discuss any questions or concerns. If you have questions or concerns with regards to discipline, band fees, payments plans, booster meeting minutes, or any other aspect of the band program, contact a member of the band staff or set up a conference through the front office. **These meetings must be scheduled during school hours, we will not meet with parents after rehearsals or football games.**

SOCIAL MEDIA

This year we will be providing updates, results, pictures, and many other types of information through social media. We must have your permission to post pictures of your student online. Please indicate on the signature page whether you agree to this. We will not post anything online without your permission. More information can be found on Mr. Cook's faculty page on the Terry High School website.

EDUCATION AND IMPROVEMENT

Private Lessons

The students in our program that study privately are typically the students that sit near the top of their section, place well in clinic auditions, gain membership to the All- State Concert Band or MS All-State Lions Band, and earn the most money in college scholarships. The best way to improve on your instrument is to study privately with a specialist on your instrument. There are several options available to you, including studying with another student (on approval from a director), a band director, or with a local private studio teacher. We encourage ALL students in the band program to seek out private instruction. For more information speak to one of the band directors.



Band Clinics

There are several clinic opportunities available to students throughout the school year. Most of these clinics are in the Spring semester, however there are some available to students during the fall. The dates and audition requirements for these clinics vary the information can be obtained from a band director. Most universities in Mississippi have a Saturday set aside during football season to provide an opportunity for students to attend a game and perform alongside the band. There also opportunities not associated with universities. These include State Band Clinic in Natchez, MS and ECMBDA at Ridgeland High School.

Lions Band/All State Band

The pinnacle of band in the state of Mississippi is the Mississippi Lions Band and/or All State Band. Membership in this group requires tremendous dedication to practicing your instrument. The process involves multiple rounds of auditions against the most talented students in the state. More information on the Lions Band and All State Band can be obtained from the Band Staff.



EVENT CALENDAR

August-

13 – Meet the Bulldogs @ 5:30

27 – Football @ Raymond

September-

3 – Football @ Crystal Springs

10 – Football vs. Murrah

17 – Football @ Poplarville

24 – Football vs. Brandon

25 – C.D. Hagan Marching Comp @ Brandon HS

October-

1 – Football @ Northwest Rankin

2 – Copiah Marching Festival @ Copiah Academy

8 – Football vs. Pearl (Homecoming)

9 – State Marching Evaluations @ Pearl HS

15 – Football @ Oak Grove

22 – Football vs. Warren Central (Byram Middle Night)

29 – Football @ Meridian

November-

5 – Football vs. Petal

December-

TBA – Byram Christmas Parade

TBA – Terry Christmas Parade



BAND CONTRACT AND SIGNATURES

Student Agreement:

By signing this agreement, I agree to follow the rules, expectations, and procedures required of me as a member of the Terry High School band.

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Agreement:

I have reviewed the policies and procedures in the Band Handbook, and I have discussed them with my student. By signing this document, I understand and agree to follow the policies, rules, expectations, and procedures outlined in the Terry High School Band Handbook.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Social Media Release Agreement:

This year the band staff will be using both Facebook and Instagram. We must have the permission of both the parent and the student to post pictures online. Please indicate below whether we have your permission to post pictures on social media.

___ Yes, I give permission for my picture to be used on social media.

___ No, I do not give permission for my picture to be used on social media.

