



MIGHTY RAM BAND

HANDBOOK

2026 - 2027

The following policies were drawn up to allow us all to be aware of the rules necessary to keep the Mighty Ram Band functioning in a smooth and positive manner. Please also refer to the SFDR CISD Fine Arts Department Handbook for additional policies covering the band program.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

The following situations constitute an excused absence:

- 1) Illness--Requires a note from parent.
- 2) Death in the family--Requires a note from parent.
- 3) Extreme family emergency--Requires a note from parent
- 4) Doctor's appointment (emergency)--Requires a note from parent. Please do not schedule doctor's appointments during rehearsals and performances.
- 5) All other circumstances considered to be extenuating according to the San Felipe Del Rio C.I.S.D. attendance policy.

Note: All absences require a note!!! Email to Mr. Schindler: john.schindler@sfdrcisd.org is acceptable

An alternate assignment will be required for an excused absence from a performance

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Most other absences are unexcused at the discretion of the director. The following actions will be taken for unexcused absences:

- 1) In marching season, content and valuable instruction time will be lost and cannot be recovered. As a result, a substantial number of points will be deducted from the academic grade. There are 4 rehearsals per week that count as 25 points for each rehearsal. One unexcused absence will result in a grade of 75 for the week. A student that misses more than 1 rehearsal in the same week, will not be allowed to perform at a game or competition. Continued unexcused absences could result in removal from the marching formation and/or being removed from band.
- 2) In concert season, the same policies will apply as mentioned above. Repeated absences could result in being moved to last chair, and/ or being moved down a band.
- 3) Second unexcused absence in either marching or concert band will result in a parent conference.
- 4) Repeated unexcused absences could result in removal from band.
- 5) In short, be responsible for your own actions concerning these matters!

EXTRA REHEARSALS AND SECTIONALS

In addition to regular rehearsals during the school day, each member is required to attend additional rehearsals each week for a grade mainly during marching and concert season. These are required rehearsals and the same absentee rules apply to them as apply to our regular rehearsals! The day and time of sectionals are varied according to which section the student is in. Sudden illness, death in the family, or emergency will be excused if a parent note is turned in. Any student that has an unexcused absence from a scheduled rehearsal sectional **will not be allowed to participate in the band's next scheduled event and will be moved to the bottom of his or her section and/or lose their marching spot.**

PERFORMANCES

All band members are required to participate in **ALL** performances. Please keep track of the calendar that is passed out at the beginning of summer band for football games and marching competitions, as well as concerts and festivals. This does include **PARADES** and **GRADUATION**. Missing a performance results in receiving a failing grade within the six weeks and may possibly jeopardize the member's chance for going to contests and trips with the band. Repeated absences from performances will result in removal from band.

TARDIES

Members should arrive at least 10 minutes before the designated time for rehearsals. Get there in time to get your instrument, music, stands, etc. and get in your seat, ready to play at the appointed time. Anyone who arrives later than the scheduled time and is not in their assigned place is tardy and results in missing valuable instruction time. In addition, arriving late creates a class disruption.

UNIFORMS

Although there is no rental fee involved, you are expected to take excellent care of the uniform checked out to you. You will be held responsible for any damage to the uniform or lost uniform parts. Please hang up your uniforms properly after performances. Students may take the uniforms home only for alterations. All students are required to purchase band shoes, band shirt, shorts, and gloves (we do this in summer band camp, from a specific companies). In addition, all concert bands wear formal concert attire for competitions that is provided by the school district.

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT

Enrollment in all Band classes is mandatory for all band students. Exemptions will be done on a case-by-case basis for true conflicts in the master schedule that can be resolved in no other way and for seniors that may need another course to graduate that cannot fit into their class schedule. Conflicts can be resolved by having a student enroll in 8th period band if the other period does not work out. Students that are not participating in marching are not eligible to perform with the Wind Ensemble (Top Band).

GRADES

Music must be passed off not only for a grade, but also to be able to perform at games and competitions. Do not wait until the last minute or you may not have ample opportunity for this.

For **Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band**, grades will be determined by the following: This is a performance/participation grade based on rehearsal attendance, class participation, performance attendance, and daily test grades.

The following items **subtract** points from your grade:

- Missing rehearsals - unexcused-loss of instruction - results in a deduction.
- Missing performances - unexcused-loss of valuable performance time- comparable to missing a major test - results in deduction for the six weeks.
- Forgetting/not having horn or equipment- causes loss of instruction - results in a deduction. Not having your horn in working order - same as not having it!

Playing tests:

- Playing tests may be given throughout the six weeks and will average in under the test category.

In addition: All Wind Ensemble Band students are strongly encouraged to prepare and audition for the All-Region Band. All Band students will perform in an ensemble at the U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble Competition. The grade for this will be determined by the amount of preparation put into each event and the results of each performance.

BAND TRIPS

Attendance and tardiness rules apply for trips. All members are expected to travel with the music organization unless special arrangements have previously been made with the director.

Students are required to wear their travel uniform which includes: band shirt, band shorts, black socks, and band shoes

Students will be on an assigned bus and will be expected to go and return on the same bus. No changes will be allowed. Follow the itinerary times that will be provided for each trip.

- A. Band directors and chaperones shall be monitoring band conduct on trips.
 - 1. No glass containers allowed. (Federal law). Only drinks in canned or sealed plastic bottles are allowed.
 - 2. Any self-filled container will not be allowed on the bus.
 - 3. Each time you board the bus, sit in your assigned seat.
 - 4. Chaperones will check roll each time we load. Remain seated and quiet during roll call.
 - 5. You must remain seated-no three to a seat, no sitting in the aisle, etc.
 - 6. Remain seated until the bus stops.
 - 7. Stay on the bus until authorized by the director or chaperone to do otherwise.
 - 8. Do not put arms or head out the bus windows or throw anything out the windows.
 - 9. Bus captains are to check and help chaperones clean their bus if necessary.
- B. While on a trip, always use the 'Buddy' system. Never go anywhere alone.
- C. When signing up for a trip, **sign only your name**. Do not change once you've signed.
- D. Only small items will be allowed on the bus.
- E. No public displays of affection or physical contact will be allowed. Do not invade your neighbor's space.
- F. Students are not allowed to have or use alcohol, tobacco, or drugs. Prescription drugs will be handled by a chaperone.
- G. Proper conduct must be maintained at all times and must not violate anything listed in the school district's student code of conduct
- H. No blankets allowed
- I. Student Release Form must be filled out prior to trip and turned into the band office by Thursday of that week.

BAND PLACEMENT

Auditions were held in May to place students in one of three bands. Any student that did not audition was automatically placed in 3rd band. Placement in Wind Ensemble is based on a series of criteria as well as through the auditions done in the month of May. Some of this criterion is: participation in Solo Ensemble, conduct, attitude, dependability, eligibility, attendance for rehearsals and performances, and the student's demonstrated ability to perform the level of the music for the band in which they are placed.

End of the Year TRIP

It is the policy of the Music Program that students will receive the opportunity to travel as a member of their instrumental music program every other year. Numerous fundraisers will be held throughout a trip year. Students are strongly encouraged to utilize these events to help defray the costs of the trip. In addition, these trips are a reward for hard work and dedication throughout the year. **A band student must participate in at least 2 of the following events in order to be allowed to attend the End of the Year trip: U.I.L. Marching, U.I.L. Concert/Sight-Reading contest, and UIL Solo and Ensemble.**

CONDUCT

The conduct of each band member should be above reproach. By the time a student reaches high school, he/she should know how to show appropriate behavior. The high standards set by the Mighty Ram Band will be strictly enforced. Poor behavior is a sign of lack of pride and a lack of concern for the band. Use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs during school functions will result in possible termination from the band program. Bullying, vandalism, theft, lack of respect for other student's property, posting online offensive remarks about band activities or any of its members on social media, not following the guidelines set forth in itineraries or any serious violation of the standards of behavior from the Student Code of Conduct Handbook will not be tolerated and may also be grounds for dismissal from the program. During marching season, the student could be removed from the marching band formation for inappropriate behavior. Members who continually display inappropriate conduct or violate the policies of the school could be removed from the band program.

STUDENT DAILY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The beginning of class is very important. The routine is the same every day. The first thing you do in class is silently set-up. This includes: instrument, music, reeds, oil valves and slides, etc.
2. Enter the Band Hall calmly and silently; get materials out quickly. Be alert to where the directors are, and when a director steps on the podium, all sound should cease. There is to be no talking during class unless a class or individual response is solicited.
3. Behavior that interferes with the learning process or delays the class will not be tolerated.
4. Be in your seat immediately following the tardy bell with band binder, pencils, oils, reeds, mallets and sticks, instrument, and whatever else you need to fully participate in class.
5. During class, all instrument cases need to be closed and stored in lockers except for tubas, euphoniums, horns and percussion. Small instrument cases that can be stowed safely under chairs will be allowed in the band set-up (flutes, clarinets, alto saxophones, and trumpets).
6. When not playing, students should be actively engaged in the rehearsal i.e.. fingering, slide positions, or sticking. All students need to be prepared play at any moment of rehearsal.
7. Do not touch another student's instrument, even with his or her permission.
8. For your protection and for practicing purposes, instruments are to be taken home every day.
9. Instruments are only to be played in the DRHS Band Hall during designated class periods. Instruments should never be taken out of their cases except while they are in the Band Hall. (Hallways, the gym, buses, and bus stops are not instrument playing areas.)
10. No food, drink, gum, or running in the band hall or practice rooms.
11. Participate in class activities including singing, counting, playing, clapping and listening.
12. Use correct posture when it is time to sing or play music.
13. Be responsible for your instrument and music.
14. Play a respectful sound on your instrument **NOT** loud obnoxious noises.
15. Be prepared - bring your instrument, music binder, and band method book to every band class.
16. **Help out!** Put things away in the proper place when you are done using them.
17. Treat others how you would want to be treated, including the teacher.
18. Do not leave class without permission or until you are excused.
19. Have a good attitude.

Consequences for misbehavior may include:

1. First Offense- a warning issued.
1. Second Offense- seating may be changed and student will be counseled following class as to what behavior modifications need to take place.
2. Third Offense- parent contact will be made. Student also may be asked to pack up his or her instrument and given an alternative assignment.
3. Fourth Offense- Student/Parent Conference
4. Fifth Offense- Office Referral
5. Serious Offense- as outlined in the SFDRCISD Student Code of Conduct, serious offenses warrant an immediate office referral with school consequences.

STUDENT OUTCOMES

1. My group's success depends on my contribution.
2. I am responsible to and for my section, my ensemble and my program.
3. My attitude will dictate my success.
4. I will understand basic musical terminology and increase my musical vocabulary.
5. I will play with my best tone at all times.
6. I will play musically.
7. I will come to each rehearsal and performance prepared to the best of my abilities.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are not required but are highly recommended. Nothing can substitute for the knowledge and expertise gained from studying one on one with an expert on your particular instrument. Our philosophy on private lessons is: the better the individual student becomes on their instrument, the better our band will be!

TIME SCHEDULE

Band rehearsals are at the following times: ***Remember, the high school day begins at 8:15 am and ends at 3:35 pm.**

Marching Band-----

6:30am – 7:45am: every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at practice pad
3:45pm to 7:15pm: every Thursday at practice pad

Other times will be announced as schedules have to be adjusted for particular events or sectionals.

*** REMEMBER** - members should arrive at least 10 minutes before the designated time for rehearsals.

USE OF BAND TRAILER

We will have once again the opportunity to use the Mighty Ram Band trailer to transport our equipment and instruments to and from events. Parents might want to invest in insuring privately owned instruments (possibly through a homeowners' insurance) because neither the school district nor the band booster organization will be responsible for any damages or loss of any instrument or equipment while it is being transported in the trailer. This also applies to when we use a U-Haul, charter bus, or even a school bus.

RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the student to let Mr. Schindler know in advance when you are going to be absent. If you are going to be absent, let us know early before rehearsal so that we may plan accordingly.

It is also the responsibility of the student to present any notes for absences at the first rehearsal that you are back. If we receive no note from your parents, then we will assume the absence is unexcused.

This year is going to be a very exciting year for the Mighty Ram Band and will be an incredible experience for all! Our standards are high, but we feel that we are more than up to the challenge. We feel honored to have you as students in the Mighty Ram Band. By working together, we can have a successful and rewarding year. All of the hard work will be worth it when you feel the pride from the results we will achieve.

The band hall phone number at High School is **830-778-4310**
The main office phone number at High School is **830-778-4300**
Email Mr. Schindler: john.schindler@sfdrcisd.org

Thank you,

John Schindler
Head Band Director

So that we may know that all members and parents have reviewed this copy of our policies, please sign the form below and return it to your director by Friday, August 14, 2026.

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We have received and read the 2026-2027 copy of the Del Rio Mighty Ram Band Policies and Procedures and will make every effort to adhere to the guidelines set forth.

_____	_____	_____
Band Member Signature	Printed Name	Date

_____	_____	_____
Parent Signature	Printed Name	Date