

Odem High School



2021-2022 Band Handbook

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Preface

Welcome to the Odem Band Program! The Odem High School Band has an outstanding tradition of success, and we are glad that you have chosen to continue to be a part of it. The Odem High School Band has continued to excel and push itself to new heights each year from the State Marching Contests in 2019, 2017, and 2013, to performing at Carnegie Hall in 2016!

The goal of the Odem High School Bands is to always strive for excellence and quality in musical performance. The success of the band program centers on pride, commitment to task, and the willingness to work hard to achieve a common goal. We do not expect every student in the bands to become a virtuoso musician, however, we do expect every student to exhibit mature, responsible attitudes and actions at all times, and to be willing to contribute hard work for the benefit of all.

Every year is a new challenge – new combinations of personalities and talent, new audiences, new music, and new members. By accepting membership in the Odem bands, you agree to perform to the best of your abilities and work together with the band directors to make this year's band the finest musical organization that our combined efforts can produce.

This handbook is designed to convey the guidelines and operating procedure of the Odem Bands. Its purpose is to help answer student/parent questions and also serve as a guide for defining the procedure of the organization. If you need further information, please call and we will assist in every possible way.

2021-2022 Odem-Edroy I.S.D. Band Staff

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Odem Bands Website: www.odembands.org

Odem High School Facebook Page: Odem High School Band

Remind 101: Text Number 81010 the message @thespiri to join!

Twitter: @TheSpiritofOHS

ODEM BANDS HISTORICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Odem High School Superior at UIL Region Marching Band Contest

1972-1983, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

Advanced to UIL Area Marching Band Contest

1999, 2003, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020

Finalists at UIL Area Marching Band Contest

2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020

Semi-Finalists at the UIL State Marching Band Contest

2013: 12th Place at State

2017: 17th Place at State

2019: 20th Place at State

Sweepstakes Odem High School (Varsity)

1957, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1983, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

Sweepstakes Odem High School (Non-Varsity)

2011, 2015, 2019 and 2021

Sweepstakes Odem Junior High School (Varsity)

2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021

Sweepstakes Odem Junior High School (Non-Varsity)

2011

Odem Junior High School TMEA State Honor Band Semi-Finalist:

2012: 7th Place

Odem High School TMEA State Honor Band Finalist

2019: 8th Place

Odem High School ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series State Finalists

2017, 2018, and 2019

Odem Junior High School ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series 'Concert Selection' State Champion

2015

Odem Junior High School ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series 'Concert March' State Runner-Up

2014

Odem Junior High School ATSSB Outstanding Performance Series State Finalists

2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2021

Total All-State Students: 10

2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 Odem-Edroy ISD Named as One of the National "Best Communities for Music Education" by the NAMM Foundation

2016 Performed at Carnegie Hall by invitation of Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY)

Code of Conduct

Any organization that has high performance standards must also have high behavioral standards. The basic behavioral guidelines for students in music activities are taken from the OEISD Student Code of Conduct Handbook. Specific guidelines above and beyond those outlined in the Code of Conduct Handbook are contained within this document. All students within the Odem High School Band are expected to 'Set the Example.' This means within the school and anytime that they are representing the Odem Bands!

Students will be expected to follow all school rules and band hall rules. Breaking rules usually results in one warning and a parent conference; however, depending on the severity of the infraction and the rule involved, a serious infraction may result in immediate removal of the student from Band upon the directors' request. Parent support of our school and band rules and regulations is of great importance to us. Our goal is to work with parents in order to solve any discipline problem prior to the problem becoming a major issue.

All of the band member guidelines stem from a respect for each other, equipment and facilities. Rules are posted and explained to all band students at the beginning of the school year. Our rules are designed to help facilitate the "safe educational environment" that is crucial to our future success at Odem High School.

Band students at Odem High School shall always strive to enhance the reputation of and promote the discipline, good order, morale, and the educational environment of Odem High School. Student usage of drugs, alcohol, and other controlled substances is strictly prohibited as per the OEISD Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct.

Students found to be consistently failing to uphold this code of conduct may face consequences such as, but not limited to: suspension of Friday Night Game Travel/Performances, Contests, Removal from Field Spots, Removal of Leadership Positions/Responsibilities, or Removal from the Odem Band Program. All students involved in extra-curricular activities at Odem High School are subject to drug testing at random intervals.

Students are reminded that social media posts that are inflammatory in nature towards both Odem students and students and other bands are inappropriate. While we will not actively police social media, should the use of social media or electronic expression result in a substantial disruption of the operation of school or violate District policies, including but not limited to FFH and FFI (Legal and Local), disciplinary measures may be taken. Any concerns in regards to cyber-bullying or harassment will be turned over to the school administration for investigation, if required by district policy FFH and/or FFI.

Failure to uphold the OHS Band Student Code of Contact may result in loss of leadership positions or eligibility to apply/try out for section leader and drum major positions. Depending on the severity of the offense a student may also be removed from the Band Program at the directors discretion.

Please feel free to contact the directors at any time regarding your students' behavior in band. Our phone number is 361-368-3401 x105. Please see the following OEISD Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct for more details.

Odem-Edroy Independent School District

Extracurricular Code of Conduct

1. Extracurricular Activities: General Provisions

What is an Extracurricular Activity?

- Any University Interscholastic League (UIL), School District, or campus-sponsored or related public performances, events, contests, demonstrations, displays, club activities, athletics, whether on- or off-campus;
- Any elected offices and honors (such as student counsel and homecoming queen);
- All co-curricular activities, which are those held in conjunction with a credit-bearing class, but that may take place outside of school and outside of the school day (such as band and choir);
- All national organizations (such as National Honor Society or Future Farmers of America); and
- Any activity held in conjunction with another activity that is considered to be an extracurricular activity (such as a meeting, practice, or fundraiser).

Why are Extracurricular Activities Important?

- They promote self-discipline, responsibility, leadership, teamwork, self-confidence, commitment, and student wellness.
- They enhance and enrich curricular educational offerings.
- They offer participants the opportunity to be leaders and role models on campus and in the community.
- They enable participants to represent the School District in a positive manner.

2. Jurisdiction

Who is Subject to the Extracurricular Code of Conduct?

Any student who participates in one or more extracurricular activities is subject to the Extracurricular Code of Conduct (ECC). A student is subject to the ECC from the time he/she is selected for, elected to, or otherwise joins an extracurricular activity and continues to be subject to the ECC from that point forward unless or until the student no longer participates in extracurricular activities.

When Does the Extracurricular Code of Conduct Apply?

The privilege of representing the School District carries with it a greater responsibility to conduct oneself with respect and dignity, and to serve as a role model for all students. Consequently, extracurricular activity participants are expected to comply with the ECC at all times, regardless of location. This includes both on and off-campus conduct as well as evenings, weekends, holidays, and summer vacation.

3. Conduct Expectations

What is Expected of Extracurricular Activity Participants?

Participants in extracurricular activities are representatives of the School District, and must conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the School District at all times. Specifically, they must:

- Maintain an average of 70% or better in all academic courses, except as provided in District policy FM (Legal);
- Be punctual and prepared for all games, practices, meetings, performances, camps, and/or other scheduled events related to an extracurricular activity;
- Treat all school property with respect and ensure that school property is returned upon request and in good condition (excluding reasonable wear and tear);
- Abide by the District's dress and grooming standards for students as well as any dress and grooming standards applicable to the specific extracurricular activity;
- Comply with UIL rules, including those related to random steroid testing, if applicable;

- Be courteous and respectful toward all fellow participants, school faculty and staff members, spectators, parents, and officials, whether from Odem-Edroy ISD or from any other school district;
- Provide at least Twenty-Four hours advance written notice to the coach or sponsor of an activity if they are unable to attend a game, practice, meeting, performance, and/or other scheduled event related to the extracurricular activity;
- Complete safety training and maintain certification as required regarding: the use of automated external defibrillators (AED's), recognizing the symptoms of injuries, and the risks of using dietary supplements;
- Comply with all rules and guidelines in the ECC and those established for a specific extracurricular activity in which the student participates; and
- Comply with and adhere to the behavioral standards identified in the District's Student Code of Conduct.

4. Prohibited Conduct

What Conduct is Prohibited for Extracurricular Activity Participants?

Category A Violations:

- Engaging in theft, destruction, or misuse of school district property;
- Failing to return school property as directed where the property is valued at more than \$ **50**;
- Engaging in hazing, harassment or bullying of others as defined by the Odem-Edroy ISD Student Code of Conduct;
- Buying, selling, giving, delivering, using, possessing, or being under the influence of tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, a controlled substance (without a proper prescription), or a dangerous drug at any time and regardless of whether the student is on school property or at a school-related activity;
- Engaging in any unreasonably dangerous athletic technique that unnecessarily endangers the health or safety of a student;
- Engaging in conduct prohibited by the District's Student Code of Conduct that is punishable by placement in DAEP or expulsion.

Category B Violations:

- Being absent from games, meetings, practices, performances, camps, and/or other events without permission from the activity sponsor or coach;
- Engaging in acts of poor sportsmanship, such as cheating, using profane language, or taunting other participants;
- Being insubordinate to a coach or sponsor;
- Being disruptive during a game meeting, practice, performance, camp, and/or other event;
- Failing to return school district property as directed where the property is valued at \$ **30** or less;
- Violating the established rules or guidelines of a specific extracurricular activity in which the student participates;
- Violating the District's standards for dress and grooming or the standards set for the specific extracurricular activity; and
- Engaging in general misconduct prohibited by the District's Student Code of Conduct.

Note: Students placed in DAEP are ineligible to participate in or attend extracurricular activities pursuant to Texas Education Code § 37.006(g).

Note: The standards of the ECC are independent of the Student Code of Conduct. Violations of these standards of behavior that are also violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in a student being disciplined under both standards.

5. Consequences

Category A Violations:

First Offense:

The student will be suspended from participation for One school week and will be placed on a behavior contract for Two school weeks. In the case of DAEP Placement this consequence will begin upon the students return to class.

Second Offense:

The student will be suspended from participation for Three school weeks and will be placed on a behavior contract for Six school weeks. In the case of DAEP Placement this consequence will begin upon the students return to class.

Third Offense:

The student will be suspended from participation from **all** extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year. If the violation occurs within 3 school weeks of the end of the current school year, the student will be suspended for the remainder of the current school year and the entirety of the next semester, including any extracurricular activities or events during the summer months.

Fourth Offense:

The student's participation in **all** extracurricular activities will be revoked for the remainder of the time the student attends that campus, or any other Odem-Edroy ISD campus serving the same grade levels as the campus the student currently attends. For example, the remainder of the student's high school career.

Category B Violations:

First Offense:

The student will receive a verbal warning and reprimand and will be directed to refrain from future violations.

Second Offense:

The student will receive a written warning and parent notification, and will be directed to refrain from future violations.

Third and Fourth Offenses:

The student will be suspended from participation for One school week and will be placed on a behavior contract for Two school weeks.

Fourth Offense:

The student will be suspended from participation for Three school weeks and will be placed on a behavior contract for Six school weeks.

Fifth Offense:

The student will be suspended from participation from **all** extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year. If the violation occurs within 3 school weeks of the end of the current school year, the student will be suspended for the remainder of the current school year and the entirety of the next semester, including any extracurricular activities or events during the summer months.

Sixth Offense:

The student's participation in **all** extracurricular activities will be revoked for the remainder of the time the student attends that campus, or any other Odem-Edroy ISD campus serving the same grade levels as the campus the student currently attends. For example, the remainder of the student's high school career.

Definition: "weeks" means school weeks, but also includes any non-school weeks in which an extracurricular competition or event occurs, such as camps during the summer or on school holidays.

Definition: "suspension" means that the student will not be permitted to participate in any competition, contest, scrimmage, performance, or election associated with an extracurricular activity. The student may continue to participate in practices.

Note: An extracurricular activity participant starts each school year with a clean slate, unless he or she had participation in extracurricular activities revoked during the previous school year, in which case that revocation continues from year to year. In addition, any consequences that were assessed during the prior school year for which the student owes additional suspension or behavior contract time must still be completed. For example, a student who was suspended from participation for 4 school weeks during the last week of school may have an additional 3 weeks of suspension to complete beginning with the next school year.

6. Procedures

Who Determines that a Violation of the ECC has Occurred?

The activity sponsor or coach will determine whether a violation of the ECC has occurred and will assess the appropriate consequence. Serious infractions resulting in removal or suspension from the extracurricular activity will be determined by the Principal in consultation with the Sponsor.

How will Consequences be Assessed for Different Violations of the ECC?

Consequences for violating the District's ECC are assessed based on the severity of the violation and the commission of prior ECC violations.

Is a Student Entitled to Participate in Extracurricular Activities?

No. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. As such, a student's participation may be revoked at the District's discretion.

How Will Parents be Notified that a Violation of the ECC has Occurred?

Parents will be notified of all violations *that result in suspension from participation* in extracurricular activities. The activity sponsor or coach will contact the student and the student's parent via telephone or face-to-face conference within 5 school days from the time the activity sponsor or coach learns of such a violation. At this time, the activity sponsor or coach will inform the parent and student that a violation of the ECC has occurred, discuss with them the applicable consequences, and give the student an opportunity to respond to the allegations.

What if a Parent Does Not Agree with the Decision?

All appeals will be addressed through the District's complaint process, contained in policies FNG (Legal) and (Local). A decision of the Odem-Edroy ISD Board of Trustees regarding an extracurricular activity complaint is final and is not appealable.

Management of Felony Crimes

It will be considered a breach of the Code of Ethics to willingly allow a band member who is charged with, and/or under indictment for, a felony crime to participate in any contest. This action should not be considered a presumption of guilt, but rather it affords the accused member the time and opportunity to clear his/her name. The member may be allowed to remain on his/her team as a suspended member, but should not be allowed to represent his/her school or community in a contest while under this suspension.

Management of Other Crimes and Suspicion of Crimes

The Band Director reserves the right to suspend any student musician, who is suspected of committing any crime depending on the circumstances. The Band Department's decisions will not conflict with any state, or federal laws or the Local Code of Conduct.

DRUG TESTING POLICY

Statement of Need and Purpose

Recognizing that observed and suspected use of alcohol and illicit drugs by students is increasing, a program of deterrence has been instituted as a proactive approach to a truly drug free school. Likewise, through participation in extra-curricular activities, students using illegal drugs pose a threat to their own health and safety, as well as to that of other students. The purpose of this program is threefold:

1. To provide for the health and safety of all students.
2. To undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing a legitimate reason for students to refuse to use illegal drugs.
3. To encourage students who use drugs to participate in drug treatment programs. The program is non-punitive. It is designed to create a safe, drug free environment for students and assist them in getting help when needed.

Supporting Data

There is legal precedence for public schools to require drug testing under several circumstances. The United States Supreme Court addressed the issued of high school athlete drug testing arising in an Oregon school in **Vernonia School District v. Acton, 115 S. Ct. 2386 (1995)**. In **Vernonia**, the court authorized random alcohol and drug testing of high school athletes. The Court held that suspicionless drug testing is constitutional if there is a "compelling state interest" justifying the test. The Court held that deterring drug abuse by its school children is a "compelling state interest" which justified the random, suspicionless, and non-intrusive testing employed by the Vernonia School System. The United State Court of Appeals for the seventh circuit expanded upon the **Vernonia** decision, in **Todd, et al. v. Rush County School, 1998 WL 7352 (7th Cir. Indiana)**, by allowing an Indiana high school to require random suspicionless urine testing of not just athletes, but all students in any extracurricular activity.

Administrative guidelines for drug and alcohol testing

No participant shall be penalized academically for testing positive for illegal drugs or alcohol. The results of drug tests pursuant to this policy will not be documented in any student's academic records. Information regarding the results of drug tests will not be disclosed to criminal or juvenile authorities absent legal compulsion by valid and binding subpoena or other legal process, which the District shall not solicit. In the event of service of any such subpoena or legal process, the student and the student's custodial parent or legal guardian will be notified before the District makes response.

Participation on school activities

Participation in school sponsored extra-curricular activities is a privilege. Extra-curricular activities include all clubs and organizations, band, athletic programs, cheerleading, literary activities, One Act Play, including performances, contests, demonstrations, and other events of these mentioned activities.

Purpose of Drug Testing

The purpose of the drug testing policy is:

1. To prevent illegal drug and alcohol use.
2. To educate students as to the serious physical, mental and emotional harm caused by illegal use.
3. To alert students with possible substance abuse problems to the potential harms of illegal drug use.
4. To strive for an environment free of illegal drug use and abuse within the ODEM-EDROY Independent School District.

Participants of Drug Testing

Each student in grades 7-12 participating in extra-curricular activities and/or U.I.L. events, will be subject to drug and alcohol testing. Students will also be required to provide a urine sample when there is reasonable suspicion that the student is under the influence of drugs or alcohol or have in their possession drug paraphernalia. No student shall be allowed to practice or participate in any extra-curricular activity until the student has returned the properly signed "Drug and Alcohol Testing Consent Form."

Confidentiality

All information relating to biological testing or the identification of persons as users of illegal drugs will be protected by Odem-Edroy ISD as confidential, unless otherwise required by law, or authorized in writing by the person (parent or guardian) in question. Odem-Edroy ISD will not test for medical conditions under this policy. Results of tests will be known only to parents/guardians of the student in question and to the administrator (s) involved. No action will be taken until the appeal process has been completed. Activity sponsors and coaches will be notified of suspension from activities after the appeal process is completed.

The principal will assess disciplinary sanctions for being under the influence/possession (see definition) of drugs or alcohol while at school or a school-related activity according to Odem-Edroy ISD policy. All offenses are cumulative for the participants who test positive on a drug test administered pursuant to the terms of these procedures will only be subject to the sanctions contained herein and will not be subject to other Odem-Edroy ISD policies.

First Offense

Mandatory Substance Abuse Counseling for students and parents as approved by Odem-Edroy ISD. Any cost associated with the Mandatory Substance Abuse Counseling is the parent's/guardian's responsibility.

The student will be suspended from participation in all performances and contests in all activities for 30 calendar days. The suspension will begin after the appeals process has been finalized. The student may begin competing in activities, after the 30-day period, if the most recent tests are negative, and required counseling is completed. Any participant testing positive will be removed from the random testing pool, and will be required to be tested at the time of each random testing, for a minimum period of one calendar and a minimum of six (6) consecutive tests as scheduled.

Second Offense

Mandatory Substance Abuse Counseling for students and parents as approved by Odem-Edroy ISD. Any cost associated with the Mandatory Substance Abuse Counseling is the parent's/guardian's responsibility.

The student will be suspended from participation in all performances and contests in all activities for 60 calendar days. The suspension will begin after the appeals process has been finalized. The student may begin competing in activities, after the 60-day period, if the most recent tests are negative, and required counseling is completed. Any participant testing positive will be removed from the random testing pool, and will be required to be tested at the time of each random testing, for a minimum period of one calendar and a minimum of six (6) consecutive tests as scheduled.

Third Offense

Mandatory Substance Abuse Counseling for students and parents as approved by Odem-Edroy ISD. Any cost associated with the Mandatory Substance Abuse Counseling is the parent's/guardian's responsibility.

Suspension from participation and practice in all extra-curricular activities will be for one (1) calendar year.

Fourth Offense

Suspension from participation and practice in all extra-curricular activities for the remainder of time the student is enrolled in Odem-Edroy ISD schools.

Independent Middle School & High School Tests

Student's drug testing history will start over when they reach the high school. Positive test results will not carry over from the Middle School, all students will start the ninth grade with a clean slate.

Missed Random Test due to Absence

If a student is absent during a random or mandatory testing period, the parent will be notified. The student will then be required to be tested as soon as deemed possible by the principal upon returning to school.

Students Opting out of a Program or Activity

If a student leaves/quits a program/activity, in order to be reinstated he/she must have the permission of the sponsor/coach and principal. He/she will then be administered a test at the next possible testing period and will return to the status they were in when they left the program/activity.

Nicotine Offenses

If a student tests positive for nicotine his/her parents and activity sponsor/coach will be notified.

Drug Testing Procedures

Testing will be conducted by licensed professionals, and lab work will be done at a government certified lab. Participants will be required to produce a urine sample, which will be divided into two separate bottles and sealed, in the event a confirmation test is needed. Participants and/or parents and guardians will have the opportunity to provide information concerning prescription medication being taken by the participant.

Confirmation of a Positive Test Result

Testing of a drug urine specimen is a two-step process. If the initial screening tests positive, it will be confirmed by a second test, using the gas chromatography/mass spectrometry technique, on the same specimen. A sample shall not be reported as positive unless both tests are positive.

Appeal Process

Parents/guardians of any participants testing positive will have an opportunity to request a second test, using the second specimen bottle originally obtained, within seventy-two hours of the initial test results. If the results of the retest are negative, the participant will remain in good standing. If the retest results are positive, the parents/guardians are responsible for the cost of the retest, and the participant will be subject as per this policy.

Band Hall Guidelines

- Follow all classroom procedures
- Be seated or at rehearsal location with instrument, music, pencil, and supplies when the tardy bell rings.
- Show good rehearsal etiquette by being a good team player—practice your part silently while the director works with another section. Remain on task at all times; do not talk or interrupt the focus of a rehearsal.
- Maintain proper posture at all times, regardless of instrument, as it affects the sound of the ensemble.
- Be intent on improving your performance skills.
- Leave your bags and books in the locker room when arriving to class.
- Leave cases in the instrument storage room during class
- **No food, gum, or drink is allowed in the band hall.**
 - **Food may only be consumed in the Cafetorium or Side Patio! At no time should food or drinks be found in the band hall or locker rooms.**
 - **Bottled water is allowed and encouraged throughout the year.**
- Hats are not to be worn inside the Band Hall, Jazz Room, or Cafetorium!
- All instruments remain in cases **with latches closed** in their proper storage place when not in use.
- Disorderly behavior and abusive language will not be tolerated.
- Please be considerate of directors' requests for assistance with tasks around the band hall.
- All students will adhere to the *OEISD Student Code of Conduct Handbook*.

Locker Room Usage

The HS Band Hall contains a male and female instrument storage area. These areas are primarily for the use of storing instruments, uniforms, and students' backpacks during rehearsal. They are not to be used as areas to hang out. The area is to be kept neat and tidy through the marching season and the school year. Students should not at any point keep or eat food in this area. **Valuables such as cell phones, money, jewelry, etc. should not be left unattended in the Locker Room!**

Upon directors' discretion these rooms may be used as small ensemble practice rooms. Only upon confirmation from a director should this be the case. Gentlemen should not enter the Ladies locker room/vice versa through the season. Students are not to hang out in these rooms at any time!

Students should enter to leave their stuff, get their supplies out, and immediately exit to class. Failure to use these rooms in a responsible manner will result in loss of privileges of these rooms!

Failure to Follow Procedures During School May Result in the Following Consequences

- 1st Infraction - Verbal Warning/Redirect
- 2nd Infraction – Detention and Parent Phone Call
- 3rd Infraction – Detention and Parent Teacher Conference
- 4th Infraction – Office Referral

Severe Discipline Infractions May Result in Immediate Office Referral and the student's suspension or removal from the Band.

Placement in ISS/AEP throughout the year may affect students being allowed to travel with the band at the Band Directors' discretion.

A student may be removed from participation in extracurricular activities or may be excluded from school honors for violation of extracurricular standards of behavior for an activity or for violation of the Student Code of Conduct. FO(Local)

The terms of a placement in DAEP under Education Code 37.006 must prohibit the student from attending or participating in school-sponsored or school-related activities. This include auditions and tryouts for future years. *Education Code 37.006(g) FOC (legal)*

Grading Guidelines

Students will be expected to meet the responsibilities for each band class as listed in the preface of this handbook. Since band is an academic music class with some extra-curricular activities attached, the band student's grade will reflect achievement in both curricular and extracurricular areas as per the TEA/UIL Side-by-Side.

A band member's six weeks grade will be an average of the following items:

➤ Participation

- ❑ The student will be on task and focused during all rehearsals.
- ❑ The student will have instrument, music, pencil, and supplies.
- ❑ The student will be prepared to play his/her part successfully.
- ❑ The student will mark music and take notes as needed.

➤ Skills

- ❑ The student will be expected to improve individual music skills.
- ❑ An evaluation of this improvement may include recorded music tests, individual playing tests, section tests, scale tests, and written tests.
- ❑ The student will be evaluated on improvement of his/her ensemble skills during daily rehearsals.

➤ Fundamentals

- ❑ The student will be expected to improve his/her performance fundamentals.
- ❑ An evaluation of this improvement will include daily observation of students during regular class time.
- ❑ Student posture, hand position, embouchure, air production, and articulation will be constantly monitored during rehearsals for improvement.

➤ After School Rehearsals

- Students must attend all after school rehearsals! Failure to do so will result in a grade of '0' in the grade book.
- If a student must miss a rehearsal, communication of that fact must be given to the Band Director in advance of the rehearsal.
 - This does not guarantee an excused absence. That is up to the directors discretion.
 - Failure to communicate even with a valid excuse may result in a '0'.
- Students who do not attend rehearsals in the evenings for marching band may be told they will not march at games and contests.

➤ Performance

- ❑ The student will receive a grade for each performance during a grading period.
- ❑ Performances will be counted towards up to 30% of students grade.
- ❑ The number of performances will be determined by the calendar.
- ❑ If no public performance occurs during a grading period, the performance grade will be based upon informal classroom performances determined by the director.
- ❑ STUDENTS MUST NOTIFY THE DIRECTORS IN ADVANCE IF THEY ARE GOING TO MISS A PERFORMANCE! **Excepting extenuating medical or family emergencies**, students will not be excused without prior notice. Within 48 Hours is not an acceptable period for most excuses! It is up to the directors' discretion as to whether an excuse shall be deemed excused or unexcused.

Missing a Pre-UIL Performance without a valid, **pre-approved** excuse, or medical/family emergency may result in the student losing their eligibility to perform at contest at the directors' discretion. They will be assigned an alternate written assignment.

➤ Additional Criteria Affecting Grades

- Consistent with Policy FM(Local), The District shall make no distinction between absences for UIL activities and absences for other extracurricular activities approved by the Board. A student shall be allowed in a school year a maximum of ten extracurricular absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of five absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of two absences for state competition.

❑ Excused Absences

In accordance with OEISD policy, all excused absences will be honored with no grade penalty. These will include: *Medical emergency or illness; Death in the family; Religious holiday; Family emergency; Medical or dental appointment*. Circumstances may justify an excused absence for reasons other than those listed above. If an excused absence is anticipated, a written notification should be submitted at least two days in advance when possible.

❑ Unexcused Absences

A major part of the music curriculum is the development of performance skills. Therefore, "unexcused" absences from a rehearsal or performance, which are integral to developing performance skills, will lower a student's course grade. Rehearsals are course requirements that require interaction from members of a group and cannot be made up. The student may have the opportunity to make up the grade per the director's discretion.

Performances are a result of group course requirements and cannot be made up. Therefore, an "unexcused" absence from a scheduled performance will reflect a grade of "0" to be averaged into the student's six weeks' performance grade, and the student "may" be subject to removal from the band program.

❑ Tardies

Because of the limited amount of rehearsal time and the importance of each member to the group, it is very important that everyone be on time. A student is tardy if, they are not in their assigned seat with their supplies by the time the director steps on the podium. Following those warnings students will be assigned detention and potentially ISS for being tardy.

Eligibility

The band staff will enforce all eligibility rules and regulations involved in the Texas Education Agency's NO PASS/NO PLAY law. Students who are ineligible will continue to rehearse during their band class, before and after school, and participate in curricular activities to earn their band grade. Ineligible students may not travel with the band to All-Region Auditions, UIL Solo and Ensemble, Participate in Pep Rallies, attend Marching Contests, or participate in other events that are extracurricular performances.

Per TEA, for a student to be eligible to participate for a six weeks period, a student must not have received a grade average lower than a 70 in any class preceding a six weeks period event. If a student should become ineligible, a student may regain eligibility seven days after a three-week period of the next six-weeks. Eligibility is gained by passing all classes.

Per TEA policy there is a Seven Calendar Day Grace Period following a Six-Week and Three-Week period. All grade changes must take place during this time.

Per TEA, Beginning May 1st, 2019 UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluation in the spring is now considered exempt from NP/NP. All students will be able to attend and perform at the event given they meet other guidelines. This change is new and was determined given that this is the only event in UIL that does not involve a ranking or advancement to a further level of contest. In this one instance students are given a Rating of performance based on a rubric by Texas Music Adjudicator Association members. It was determined that this is a curricular assessment of the skills and knowledge taught in the students' coursework, similar to STAAR or EOC exams. Directors still have the discretion to not bring a student who is unprepared, or that we believe may not be able to meet our code of conduct guidelines. This change ONLY impacts Spring UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluation - all other extracurricular events/trips shall be governed by NP/NP.

Mandatory Pre-Participation Marching Band Physicals

In recognition of the physical responsibilities of a marching band program, beginning in the 2021-2022 School Year UIL has voted to make it mandatory for all students to have Pre-Participation Physicals prior to Marching Activities. The rule is in effect August 1st, 2019. Students must have completed the appropriate Pre-Physical Form with a Physician, and turned it into the band office. Physicals are valid for two years and on the 3rd year a student must again complete a physical. In the event a student is also in Athletics only one physical needs to be completed. Please let the directors know that the physical was turned into the Athletic Department and we will get a copy for our own records. This also includes 7th/8th Grade students who participate in the Front Ensemble.

Alternates in Marching Band

The Spirit of OHS holds the policy of using alternates in Marching Band. Students may be selected as an alternate in the case of habitual grade concerns, skipping rehearsals or summer band, and/or if the directors feel the students are not ready to march a spot on the field. Alternates often gain spots as we approach the eligibility reports at the end of the first six-weeks. Alternates may have 'alternate' positions on the field or be responsible for shadowing another student. Alternates are not marched at contest and often not past the first few games. The head director holds the final say on placement of students on the field, if you have questions or concerns please contact them.

Calendar

A calendar is attached to this handbook at the back. Please take this calendar and put it on your refrigerator – or another prominent place in your house. The calendar details the band events for the school year. Some dates/times/locations will be "TBA" until they are confirmed. We strive to be as flexible as possible with the many schedules that we keep. Occasionally a date/time may change – we will inform you as soon as we know about any such occasion!

Student Leadership

For a band program to be successful there must be strong student leadership present. In ranking order (Highest to Lowest): Drum Majors, Section Leaders/Guard Captains, then Section Lieutenants. Additional leadership roles may be created at the discretion of the Band Director. Student leaders are held to a higher standard in their conduct. **Dishonorable conduct unbecoming of a member of the Odem Bands may result in the student forfeiting current and future leadership roles per the band directors' discretion.** The Odem Bands work under the philosophy of servant leadership. Auditions for Drum Major and Color Guard Captains occur in the spring by outside judges. Applications for Section Leaders are accepted in the spring and selection is made by the Band Directors.

All-Region, All-Area, and All-State Concert Bands

Odem High School students are highly encouraged to audition to become a member of the All-Region Honor Band. All students that wish to participate in the High School Wind Ensemble should plan to audition for the All-Region Bands. Students that do audition will be given preference over non-auditioning students into the ensemble. Any student that earns membership in the ensembles/advances is required to attend the region clinic/concert. Students that place in the top of their sections advance on to the Area Audition round in January to try out for All-State. All-Region band represents a unique opportunity for students to play in a very high caliber band, and work with a guest clinician. Students should have received music at the end of last school year for this ensemble, but will receive another copy at the beginning of school.

UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest

UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest presents a phenomenal opportunity to build musical skills for individuals. Students may choose to play a Solo, Trio, Quartet, Quintet, or other Small-Medium Ensemble from the UIL Contest List. The list may be found by typing UIL PML into Google. Class 1 is the hardest, Class 3 is the easiest. For most Class 1 Solos you must memorize to advance to State, but may play with music for the region level contest if you don't wish to advance. I would really like to see 30 of the high school students involved in this contest this year. The contest will be held at Robstown HS. Students that play a Class 1 Ensemble, a memorized Class 1 Solo, or a No Memory Require Class 1 Solo, and receive a First Division may advance to the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest held in Austin each year at the beginning of June/end of May.

UIL Marching and Concert and Sight-Reading Contests

Eligible students are required to participate in these concerts for part of their grade. Failure to participate as an eligible student shall result in a grade of '0' for the event and may not be made up! Ineligible students will be assigned an alternate makeup assignment. We must earn a Superior at all 3 of these performances to earn our Sweepstakes Award!

Screeching Owl Jazz Band

Jazz at Odem has become a tradition here in Odem To register for this course students must also be registered in their main band. We usually perform a Winter Concert, a Joint Concert with another school, a Spring Concert, and maybe a contest/festival. Interested students should be sure to speak with Mr. Rash the first week of school so we may get a schedule change for them. This will count as one elective slot. For more information please contact Mr. Rash.

Texas Music Scholars

The Texas Music Scholar Award designates students in high school music programs who exemplify attributes of meritorious performance in the areas of scholarship, musicianship, and citizenship. Designation is attained by TMEA Active Member recommendation of students in grades 9-12 who have met the following criteria during the current school year: Is a viable member of the school's parent musical organization for the entire school year, Maintains in all cumulative coursework an overall "A" average as defined by the local school district for the current school year, Maintains academic eligibility for the entire school year, participates in all scheduled events of the parent organization. Attends, as an audience member, two director-approved concert events of high school, collegiate or professional level during a school year. Has auditioned, been selected, and participated as required in a TMEA or ATSSB organization (band, orchestra, or choir). Performs a UIL Prescribed Music List Class 1 solo for a competition or public performance. Consistently exhibits behavior which brings honor to the parent organization, school and community. This distinguished award is given in the spring to the eligible students.

Owl Band Booster Club

The Booster Club exists for grades 6-12 under the leadership of elected officers, and the guidance of the high school band director. The main objectives of the Booster Club are to support and enhance the band program, which includes the junior high school and High School, and to provide program communication to students and parents at all levels of participation. The Booster Club is an outside organization made up of Band Parents, students, and community members. We encourage all families to participate in the Booster Club because all band students benefit from the efforts of our parents. There are no membership dues; however, you are asked to register your membership to assist in communication.

The Booster Club meets the Second Tuesday of every month in the ODEM Band Hall. Our first meeting of the new school year will be on September 4th. Please join the "ODEM Band Boosters" page on Facebook!

Fundraising

Band students are encouraged to participate in school affiliated fundraisers that benefit the band. It is important for the fundraisers to be as successful as possible. The funds generated by these projects augment the monies provided by the district. All specifics regarding the fundraisers will be communicated to parents via handouts prior to the time of the program. Participation in fundraisers is voluntary, but it is important to note that the District spends upwards of \$300 per student throughout the band performance year.

In September we will begin our annual sponsorship fundraiser for the band program. It's anticipated that more information will be given early in September. The program will involve all band students from grades 6-12 this year. For students in 9th-12th grades a portion of donations will go towards their 2020 Trip to California. Due to the nature of the trip we will be doing multiple fundraisers this year. Student participation is never required, but it is the best we can do to help support them beyond the funds the school allocates.

Football Games

At all times during football games students are expected to adhere to both the OEISD Code of Conduct and the ODEM Band Code of Conduct. Students should remember at all times that they are representing ODEM High School! Behavior on the buses, on the field, and in the stands reflects strongly upon all members of the school!

Football games are required performances both in the Regular Season and during Playoffs. Failure to attend a game will be reflected in a student's grade. It may also result in the loss of a student's spot on the field.

All students participating with the marching band must remain with the marching band at all times. Leaving without permission may be considered a Class A Violation per the OEISD Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct and the student will be referred to the ODEM High School Administration for Disciplinary Action. Students may additionally face removal from the band program.

Social Media

Social Media can be a powerful tool for communication with people locally and around the world. The Odem Bands maintain three groups on Facebook: Odem High School Band, Odem Junior High School Band, and Owl Band Boosters. On Twitter the band may be followed as @TheSpiritofoHS. While the band program utilizes the powerful communication that may be achieved through social media, we remind students that items posted to any network across the internet should be assumed to exist forever. Students should understand that once an item is on a social network it is forever out there for anyone to screen capture, video, or save the item to their own device.

If the use of social media or electronic expression results in a substantial disruption of the operation of school or violate District policies, including but not limited to FFH and FFI (Legal and Local), disciplinary measures may be taken.

Performance Attire Requirements

Band members are expected to maintain a neat appearance at all performances.

Marching Band Performances:

- Black Marching Shoes
- Show Shirt
- Band Shorts
- Long Black Socks
- Marching Uniform

Students are checked out a marching uniform each season that consists of a Marching Coat, Bibbers (Overalls), Hat, and Plume. Plumes are generally collected and re-issued at each performance.

Our uniforms must remain in excellent condition! These uniforms will be checked in at the end of the season and must be in the same condition as received! The following prices apply to lost or damaged uniforms:

Uniform Coat:	\$225
Bibbers:	\$100
Hat:	\$60
Hat Box:	\$25

Campus Concert Performance Events (Winter, Pre-UIL, UIL Concert Contest, and Spring):

- Ladies – BLACK **slacks** and BLACK blouse. Blouses may not be sleeveless or have low collar lines.
 - **All Black and SLACKS only** for our performances. Thanks for your assistance!
- Gentlemen – BLACK slacks and Black nice button-up shirt. The shirts will be worn open collar with one button un-done.
- All students must wear BLACK dress shoes and black socks.

This year we will begin our transition to Tuxedos and Dresses for all performances. We started our set of these items last year for our Carnegie Hall Performance. The OHS Wind Ensemble will wear their school supplied Tuxedos and Dresses for their Pre-UIL, UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest, and other Contest/Festival Performances.

*As a band we want to look as professional as possible, please keep your outfit tasteful. If it is deemed otherwise students will be sent home to change, and not allowed back until they are dressed appropriately.

Enjoy your four years as a member of one the finest High School Bands in the State of Texas!

2021-2022 Band Fees

In order to simplify the collection of funds for the Odem Bands we are going to continue to collect our Student Fees for band. This fee will pay for items students are already expected to purchase plus an additional \$25.00 per student to help offset other costs in the spring.

High School Marching Band Band Fees:

Brass/Woodwind/Percussion Fall Fees:

10 th -12 th Graders who do not need shoes Fee (Due 8/6):	\$65
9 th Graders or 10 th -12 th who need shoes Fee (Due 8/6):	\$95

Color Guard Camp/Fall Fees:

Camp, Warm-Ups, Bag, and other supplies (Due 8/6):	\$450
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Spring Band Fee (All):	\$25.00
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High School Fee Payment Schedule:

August 6 th :	Fall Fee/Guard Fees Due
January 13 th Spring Fee:	\$25

Students will not receive their marching band shirt until they have made their first payment.

