



A&M Consolidated Band Program Handbook

Introduction

This handbook is designed to be a guide for parents and students to understand the expectations of the A&M Consolidated High School band program. For more specific information, please contact Steve Fry at 979-764-5500 xt. 6123 or at sfry@csisd.org.

Mission Statement

The A&M Consolidated High School Band Program will be built on five pillars. Those five pillars will be the following: 1. Toughness & Grit. 2. Be Professional in all that we do. 3. Have Pride in your program. 4. Achieve a Fundamental Skill-Set that will last a life time. 5. Develop High Character Attributes.

Why do I and my parents need to read this handbook?

The information in this document guides our program, protects you, and the A&M Consolidated band program. It is in your best interest to be familiar with the policies and procedures the next several pages, as they detail the operation and decision-making process of the band program. When you sign the handbook receipt page, both you and your parents agree to adhere to all aspects included in the handbook. Like any binding document, it is important to read and understand it before you sign.

A&M Consolidated High School Band Staff

This is the breakdown of the A&M Consolidated High School band staff. If you have questions about certain groups that your child is in, this is the contact information for your child's director.

Steve Fry	Director of Bands – Wind Ensemble Dir.	sfry@csisd.org
Andrew Parham	Asst. Band Director	aparham@csisd.org
Hope Mulholland	Color Guard Director	

The A&M Consolidated Band Program

The A&M Consolidated High School band program is a program for 9th through 12th graders who have progressed from Middle School Band to High School Band. The band is a fully instrumented group that represents the school and community. Membership is subject to director approval. Students must be academically eligible to perform in any extra-curricular activity.

The A&M Consolidated High School Band has a strong history of outstanding musicianship and citizenship among its members. The name A&M Consolidated Band is synonymous with quality. It is necessary for each member to make a commitment to excellence to maintain the reputation that the group has earned.

SECTION 1: PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

Band is a **full year course** consisting of two distinct seasons. The fall semester is primarily considered Marching Season, while the spring semester is considered Concert Season and Winter Guard/Percussion season. The following is a description of the various groups associated with the A&M Consolidated High School Band Program. There are course fees that apply to all students who sign up for the band program. These fees are collected at the Spring and Fall registration. Students who fail to pay their fees will not perform with the band until all fees are collected. Fees that have been collected are non-refundable since many of the financial deadlines must be organized before the first day of school.

A. Marching Band

Marching Band begins with Summer Band in August and continues until the end of football season, or through the final Marching Band performance of the year. Rehearsals during the curricular year are held before or after school with extra practices scheduled by directors. All students audition using prescribed music, scales, and marching fundamentals. Some students in each section are selected as shadows. This means they share a spot in the drill with another member. In all cases the director determines between the two for placement during performances. Members with an unexcused absence from any rehearsal or performance may lose placement status and become alternates for the remainder of marching season. Failure to meet play-off deadlines or failure to meet daily requirements may result in probation or suspension.

Activities include performances in the stands and on the field at football games, pep rallies, parades, and contests. ALL members attend ALL functions, which include the following:

- a. Summer Band Rehearsals, scheduled before school begins
- b. Sectionals and rehearsals as scheduled
- c. All football games (includes playing in the stands)
- d. Community parades
- e. UIL and invitational marching contests
- f. Any other performance required by the director

Membership in the Marching Band is required of ALL Band Students. *In extremely rare and severe cases, a student's involvement in Marching Band may be individually structured. These cases must be approved by Steve Fry, A&M Consolidated Director of Bands, no later than the end of the previous school year.*

B. Concert Bands and Ensembles

The marching band is split into ability-based Concert Bands. All students must audition for their class placement near the end of each semester. These auditions will be similar in structure to the All-Region auditions. The students will play in front of their peers in their sections and the directors will be behind a screen. This process will help in the authenticity of the audition. Once the names are put with the scores, the directors may take the students scheduling conflicts, work ethic, eligibility issues into account for class placement.

Wind Ensemble

This is the top performing ensemble at A&M Consolidated High School. The band performs literature that is at the highest varsity level and into the college level. Students in the Wind Ensemble are required to participate in the TMEA All-State Band Process based on the recommendation by the staff. Students will pass this music off with staff members before they can audition. Woodwind and brass players are required to perform in the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest in the spring. Members of the Wind Ensemble are

expected to take private lessons (conflicts will be handled by the Director on a case by case basis). The students in this band are typically older and more advanced players. These students also are quite serious about improving their musical abilities; therefore, most of these students have invested in professional quality musical instruments. This band will have extra rehearsals outside the school day. Those rehearsals will be placed on the calendar at the appropriate time for students to work around. All Non-Senior band students are required to perform at the Graduation Ceremony.

Symphonic Band & Concert Band

This is the second performing ensemble at A&M Consolidated High School. The band performs literature that is at varsity level and non-varsity level. Students in the Symphonic Band are required to participate in the TMEA All-State Band Process based on the recommendation by the staff. Woodwind and brass players are required to perform in the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest in the spring. Members of the Symphonic Band are highly encouraged to take private lessons. The students in this band are typically younger and less advanced players. These bands will have extra rehearsals outside the school day. Those rehearsals will be placed on the calendar at the appropriate time for students to work around.

Both bands will perform at the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading contest as well as other concerts throughout the year. All non-senior band students are required to perform at the Graduation Ceremony.

Percussion Ensemble

Fall Marching Percussion and Spring Concert Percussion Ensemble fall under the umbrella of Percussion Ensemble. Percussion Ensemble is a year-round activity that varies from 1st semester to 2nd semester with a wide variety of performance experiences for students.

Full Orchestra

This ensemble is composed of members of the principal players from the A&M Consolidated High School Wind Ensemble and the A&M Consolidated Orchestra Program. This group will be directed by the orchestra and band directors. If one of the principal players from the Wind Ensemble cannot participate, then the next student in line based on their playing audition will fill the spot. Rehearsals will be held before or after school. The Full Orchestra will perform at the UIL contest in late spring. The Full Orchestra will perform at several concerts throughout the year.

Musical Pit Orchestra

This ensemble is composed of members of the principal players from the A&M Consolidated High School Wind Ensemble and the A&M Consolidated Orchestra Program. This group will be directed by the orchestra and band directors. If one of the principal players from the Wind Ensemble cannot participate, then the next student in line based on their playing audition will fill the spot. Rehearsals will be held before or after school. The Musical Pit Orchestra will perform at the school musical early in the spring semester.

Winter Guard

This ensemble is comprised of students who were part of the color guard from marching season. This group will also have auditions to bring in new students to the activity. The A&M Consolidated High School Winter Guard is competitive in the TCGC circuit. A student has to be enrolled in the color guard class to be a member of the color guard.

Rehearsals Outside the School Day

Those rehearsals will be put on the calendar in a timely fashion, so parents and students will have enough time to schedule doctor appointments and work conflicts.

Performances

All performances are required of all students in the prescribed ensemble(s). For an absence from a performance to be excused, it must be communicated to the primary director of that affected ensemble at least **two months** prior to the absence. The director will then decide whether the absence is excused or unexcused. Any unexcused absence from a performance may result in the students failing Band for the current marking period and removal from the Band Program.

SECTION II: GRADING

The A&M Consolidated High School Band Program follows the grading guidelines set for by CSISD. A student's Daily Grade counts as 30% of the student's average, while Major Grades are 70%. In all bands, daily grades are based on *daily rehearsal*, *sectionals* (before & after school), and *written assignments*. Sectional grades will be based on attendance and punctuality. Daily Rehearsal Grades will be based on preparedness for class, daily effort, progress, and a courteous and cooperative attitude. Written assignments will be graded on subject content, neatness, and grammar.

A. Daily Grades (30% of grade) *Ensemble Rehearsal Skills (see attached sheet)*

- Daily Rehearsal Grade: Each student is expected to be punctual, attentive, courteous, and cooperative with staff members and other students always. Students need to make sure that they have: music and all accessories each day (beginning with a sharpened pencil!):
Woodwinds: Reeds, Cork Grease, and Cleaning Equipment.
Brass: Mutes, Valve/Slide Oil, and Cleaning Equipment.
Percussion: Mallets/Sticks/Supplies.
- Outdoor Marching Rehearsals:
Each student is expected to be punctual, attentive, courteous, and cooperative with staff members and other students always. Students need to make sure that they have: WATER JUG full of water (no carbonated beverages)
White T-shirt, athletic shorts, and shoes with good arch support (no sandals!)
Please refer to the A&M Consolidated High School Band Heat Policy (*Section IV – H*)
Lanyard containing - mini music, coordinate sheets, & chalk as instructed
Music binder or flip folder and lyre
Sun block, hat, and sunglasses are encouraged
- Sectional: Rehearsals that will happen before or after school.
- Written Assignment: Any written assignment that is assigned by the director.
- All music necessary to rehearse each day

B. Major Grades (70% of grade)

- **Playing Tests** - (including chair tests and band placement tests)
- **Performances** - (All concerts, performances, and required competitions)
 - a. Attendance & Required materials go into calculating the student's grade.
- If a student is unable to attend a performance or competition they will earn their grade with either a performance for the directors or an alternate assignment. Since performances are part of the curriculum for the band these two options will not receive full credit.
- *Students will be asked to play individually for directors each grading period. Materials for these hearings may include scales, contest music, All-State tryout music, solo & ensemble material, etudes, music in the folder, and sight-reading literature.*

SECTION III: DISMISSAL AND/OR SUSPENSION FROM BAND

- Any student may be dismissed from the band or suspended from band activities because of a poor or defiant attitude, lack of preparedness, failure to cooperate or participate, refusal to conform to rules and regulations (sections IV and V), or consistent misconduct. In any instance where school or community rules are violated, the dismissal or suspension from band may occur in addition to school or community consequences. Cases will be handled on an individual basis. Students' actions and behavior outside of Band activities may affect their status in the Band Program.
- A band director must sign a note dismissing the student before a schedule will be changed. This is to ensure items have been returned to the band department. All items must be returned, and debts cleared before a student's grades will be released.
- *A&M Consolidated policy on ineligible officers is as follows*: If an officer becomes ineligible at ANYTIME during the school year they will be placed on a probationary status for one grading period (6 weeks). Upon completion of that grading cycle if the student officer is still ineligible they forfeit their office and are excluded from holding another office for the remainder of their band career. If the student regains eligibility they continue as an officer of A&M Consolidated Band. Upon a second offense they will forfeit their office and are excluded from holding another office for the remainder of their band career.

SECTION IV: GENERAL BAND REGULATIONS

A. Attendance, Punctuality and Truancy

- Band members are expected to attend ALL rehearsals and performances. Whenever a student is forced to be absent from or late to an after-school practice or event, the student and parent are expected to make EVERY EFFORT email & phone call to the director of that ensemble ahead of time. If a student emails a director, then they must attach their parent to the email.
- Any absence will be classified as excused or unexcused. An absence may be excused if the student misses for extreme illness, another school function (worked out in advance with the director), or a family emergency which is severe in the judgment of the director. Excused absences must be approved by a director in advance whenever possible. Failure to do this will cause the absence to be unexcused. IN ALL CASES THE DIRECTOR WILL MAKE THE FINAL JUDGMENT.
- A student who has unexcused absences or unexcused tardies may forfeit any position of leadership or honor with the band, lose his or her position in the marching band, be transferred to a lower band or non-performance group, or be dismissed from the band program.
- Any student who is truant (deliberately misses a rehearsal without reason) may lose his or her position in the marching band, be transferred to a lower band or non-performance group in concert season or be dismissed from the band program.

B. Conduct (in a band setting)

- Band members must be prompt, courteous, and cooperative always. Band members must exhibit good discipline and attention throughout rehearsal. All students are expected to exhibit model conduct at rehearsals and during functions.
- Disturbance by any band member in rehearsal shows a lack of respect to the band. Students who repeatedly disturb or distract may be placed on alternate status, moved to a lower band, or dismissed from the band program.
- Students are to respect themselves, their peers, officers (no matter their relationship), directors, and other authoritative figures always, no exceptions.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices are never allowed in rehearsals or performances. Any cell phone or other electronic device taken up during rehearsal or performance will only be released to the student at the end of the day. If it happens more than once, then the phone will be kept until the end of the week.
 - **General Misconduct (Being put "On Report")**
 - Distracting behavior, talking out of turn, or general inattention may result in a band member being put "On Report."
 - Students "On Report" may not march into the stadium on the next home game and must help clean the stands after the upcoming game. Additional consequences may also be implemented if deemed appropriate.
 - Examples of general misconduct: Talking out of turn, failure to stand at attention or check, chewing gum and eating when in the fine arts wing or participating in any activity with the band, playing instrument out of turn, disruptions (running, yelling, etc.), or any other distracting behavior which detracts from a positive, focused atmosphere.
 - General misconduct may result in suspension from the organization. Continued general misconduct will be categorized as severe misconduct.
 - **Severe Misconduct**
 - If misconduct is serious in nature the offender will be subject to disciplinary action by the director and/or the school. In any instance where school or community rules are violated the dismissal or suspension from band may be in addition to school or community consequences. Cases will be handled on an individual basis.
 - Examples of severe misconduct: Defiance, physical aggression, stealing, threats, failure to cooperate, or other behavior which is harmful to the well-being of the program.
 - **Conduct (in general)**
 - Because of the many contacts an A&M Consolidated band member makes in public, he or she must act as a goodwill ambassador for A&M Consolidated

High School. It is always expected that each student act like a lady or gentleman.

- Students who are written up for a major school offense by any teacher, or convicted of a misdemeanor or criminal offense, at any time may forfeit any position of leadership or honor with the band, lose his or her position in the marching band, be transferred to a lower band or non-performance group, or be dismissed from the band program. In any instance where school or community rules are violated the dismissal or suspension from band may be in addition to school or community consequences. Cases will be handled on an individual basis.
- Any student who violates rules set forth by the school or community while representing the band may forfeit any position of leadership or honor with the band, lose his or her position in the marching band, be transferred to a lower band or non-performance group, or be dismissed from the band program. In any instance where school or community rules are violated the dismissal or suspension from band may be in addition to school or community consequences. Cases will be handled on an individual basis.
- Examples of General Conduct violations include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Vandalism, malicious mischief, or immorality
 - The use of tobacco in any form
 - The use of alcoholic beverages under any circumstances
 - Possession, use, transmission or being under the influence of any illegal drug.

C. Tutorials

If you have a grade of 75 or lower in a class, you must attend tutorials three times a week after school or during success until your grade (in that class) is above a 75. Please bring this sheet with you for your teacher to verify your attendance and turn it into the folder by Friday. If you do not turn this sheet in or go to 3 tutorials during the week, then you will forfeit your marching spot for the week.

Student Name	Teacher Name/Class	Date	Time In	Time Out	Teacher Initials

V. BAND REGULATIONS FOR SPECIFIC SETTINGS

A. PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EXAMS

The University Interscholastic League requires that student athletes have documentation on file each year that includes a medical history, acknowledgement of rules and risk of concussion and/or sudden cardiac arrest, a steroid testing agreement, and permission to participate in UIL activities. As a minimum requirement, the Pre-participation Physical Examination completed by a physician must be completed before any physical participation can take place. This needs to be done before Spring Camp starting May 28th, 2019.

College Station ISD recognizes that the pre-participation physical examination (PPE) is an important requirement in any organized program and should be performed by the athlete's primary care physician or school/team physician ANNUALLY. College Station ISD believes that going beyond the UIL minimum requirement is imperative as health conditions may change from year to year and the development of subtle problems may be overlooked. On the PPE form, the parent/guardian is required to reveal pertinent medical history. During the physical examination, the physician will go over the medical history and should educate the athlete about their individual health risks. PPEs for the 2019-2020 school year will not be accepted if physical is dated prior to April 1, 2019. College Station ISD believes that each child should establish a primary care physician and utilize that physician for their PPE. At the same time, we understand that due to circumstances, an option for athletes to obtain a less costly PPE is necessary. For that reason, College Station ISD offers three "Physical Days" in which College Station ISD athletes may obtain a pre-participation physical examination for \$10.

CSISD PHYSICAL LOCATIONS/DATES:

College Station High School – April 24th 4-6:00pm

A&M Consolidated Middle School – April 24th 1-4:30pm

A&M Consolidated High School – May 1st 3-5:30pm

B. Rehearsal Rules

- No student food, drinks (excluding water jugs), or gum in the fine arts area at any time. Treat the area with respect and keep it clean.
- No disruptive behavior at any time. When the director stops the band, it is not a time for talking or discussion.
- Get a drink of water and go to the bathroom **before** rehearsal begins.
- Check your instrument and/ or guard equipment before rehearsal and get it fixed at that time.
- Get necessary supplies (reed, valve oil, sticks, mute, tape, gloves etc.) before rehearsal begins.
- No cell phones, iPods, game systems, etc.
- **BE IN YOUR PLACE WITH INSTRUMENT/ EQUIPMENT AND EVERYTHING YOU NEED AT THE SCHEDULED REHEARSAL TIME.**
- Do not get up from your chair or move away from your area for any reason after rehearsal begins unless it is an emergency and you have asked for, and received, permission.
- Do not talk during rehearsal, except to ask the director about the music or guard work or about instructions you have been given.
- Always give the director your total attention.

C. Instrument/ equipment and Music Inspection

Inspection will be held prior to all performances and any other time deemed appropriate by the director. During inspection you will stand at attention until given the stand-by command. Remain quiet unless required to respond to a question from an inspecting officer.

- Woodwind Instruments: No lipstick on reeds, extra working reeds, instruments clean and free of dust or dirt under the keys. Lacquered and silver horns must be shiny and free of fingerprints and dirt. No lipstick or gross deposits inside mouthpiece.
- Brass Instruments: Check valves and slides, make sure all work freely. Instrument should be clean, steins round and horn spotless. No lipstick or gross deposits inside mouthpiece.
- Percussion Instruments: Drumheads clean with no rips, drum shells and chrome clean and polished. Harnesses should be clean and taped with all bolts tight. Cymbals should be polished, all pit equipment in good repair with bolts and screws tight, keyboard instruments and cymbals polished or oiled and drums polished. All sticks and mallets should be in good repair and taped properly.
- Colorguard equipment: All flag poles are neatly taped and no frayed or stained flags
- Music Flip Folder: Must be presented during inspection. Each flip folder must have the owner's name clearly marked on it.

D1. Uniform Inspection

The band uniform began as a traditional military uniform. Like the American flag and other patriotic symbols, it will always be treated with respect. The uniform is to be either on or off. It is never worn halfway: The jacket should be zipped with collar buttoned. Carry the shako (hat) upright over your hand; not swinging from its strap like a bucket.

- **SHAKO:** The shako (hat) should be worn straight on top of the head. It should be kept clean and in good repair. All fingerprints should be wiped off the brim with a damp cloth prior to inspection. When off the head, it should be carried over the fist, dress-style, or cradled inside the bend of the right elbow.
- **JACKET:** The jacket should always be worn completely zipped and fastened in public (this includes hook on collar). Exception: In extremely hot weather you may be INSTRUCTED to take off the jacket when in the stands. You will then fold it to lay it on top of the shako box.
- **PANTS:** Pants must be clean and neatly pressed (they must NOT be wrinkled). The pants should be long enough to touch the shoes without breaking the crease.
- **SHOES and SOCKS:** You will purchase the black marching shoes at Band Registration. They must be kept clean and spotless. Long Solid black socks are to be worn with black shoes. Make every effort to shine your shoes - there should be no excess polish on the shoes that will rub off on the uniform.
- **GLOVES and GAUNTLETS:** Gloves should not be torn. When not wearing gloves, store them in your pocket of your bib pants. Store your gauntlets in your shako box.
- **UNDERNEATH:** Students will wear the band Maroon dry-fit shirt and Black compression shorts underneath the uniform. When not in uniform, students need to wear their Black A&M shorts.
- **GUARD:** The Color Guard will always be in dressed uniformly during the game. Members of the guard will wear their uniforms in a manner dictated by the Color Guard Director and will follow the same protocol as the rest of the band regarding other aspects of dress.
- **PERSONAL GROOMING:** All students will conform to standards set forth in the A&M Consolidated High School Dress Code. In addition, **no jewelry is to be worn** except for senior rings worn by seniors on Senior Night. Long hair must be put up into a bun so that the shako fits well. **No nail polish** may be worn. Girls should not wear excessive make-up. The night of homecoming mums & garters may be worn into the stadium but must be removed for halftime.

D2. Uniform Care

Care is taken to be sure that you are issued proper equipment and uniforms that fit as well as possible. If you have a problem with your uniform, check with one of the uniform officers. Take care of any problems well ahead of the performance. The uniform is always to be treated with respect. After a performance it is easy to dismiss proper treatment of the uniform because you're exhausted. Please do your best to take an extra few moments of care with your uniform.

- HANG IT UP: Never allow your uniform to lay on the ground. It should be neatly hung on a plastic hanger inside the bag, with shoes in their pouch and shako in its box. Failure to keep your uniform off the ground will be met with severe consequences.
- KEEP IT COVERED: Always, unless dressing or undressing, you should keep your uniform covered with a uniform bag.
- TURN IN AT SCHOOL: You are responsible for turning your uniform in after performances
- USE: The A&M Consolidated Band Uniform is to be used exclusively for AMCHS functions. At no other time are you to wear the uniform or make any other use of it. Exceptions: With permission of the director, you may wear the uniform for pictures or other special functions

E. Transportation To and From Band Functions

On band trips, all band members ride to and from the destination on designated buses. Students may not change buses on the return trip. There are two exceptions to these rules.

- A band member may be released to a parent only after the band has finished.
- Parent must notify the band director of plans prior to the trip and must fill out a CSISD travel release form.
- Band member must travel with the band to the original destination.
- Parent must come to the director personally to pick up the student.
- Any other arrangements must be made through school administrators. Band directors must be notified by the administrator in writing of these arrangements before the trip.
- In case of emergency, the director may approve other means of transportation. All parents must sign an Emergency Medical and Release Form before students make any trip with the band.

F. Bus Trip Rules

Making trips as a part of the A&M Consolidated Band Program is a privilege granted to you and carries with it certain responsibilities on your part. You will be expected to sit quietly on the bus as it is loaded, during the ride, and unloading. You should always conduct yourself as an ambassador of our school. The following rules suggest the expectations of the directors and administration:

- Always show proper respect and cooperation to all adult supervisors, chaperones, and bus drivers.
- Be quiet any time roll is taken, and instructions are given.
- Remain seated whenever the bus is in motion. Do not move from your seat until instructed to do so.
- No movement in aisles except for loading and unloading of bus.
- Do not use the back door of the bus for entry or exit unless there is an emergency (wreck, etc).
- No changing of buses. Student must return on same bus.
- Do not put anything out of the window: Keep your hands, etc. inside the bus at all times.
- No Public Display of Affection (PDA).
- Conversations must be kept at a moderate voice level. Adults determine what is "too loud."
- Avoid sudden bursts of high-pitched laughter.
- Never throw anything.
- Never play your instrument on the bus.
- Snacks may be taken on the bus as long as this privilege is not abused. An unclean bus will result in suspension of food and drink privileges.
- MP3 players may be used **ONLY WITH HEADPHONES.**
- File off the buses in an orderly manner. Do not crowd or push. Do not leave the buses until a band director instructs you to do so.

- After returning to A&M make sure your instrument is put up and the Band Hall is in order.
- Always use good judgment (common sense) to decide what is proper. When in doubt - don't do it!
- The bus will be seated Co-Ed. Abuse of this privilege by breaking the A&M Student Code of Conduct by any member of the band will result in segregating the bus, ex. boys front and girls back. At night, the bus will split with boys front and girls in the back.

G. Football Game Rules

The appearance (ALWAYS, not just on the field) that the band makes at football games is very important. Make the band's contribution to the game an outstanding one. Many people from outside of A&M Consolidated will see our group, and the impression they receive has a great deal to do with the building of spirit and reputation of the band. The A&M Consolidated Band, Bengal Belles, Cheerleaders, and our Student Body reflect the image A&M Consolidated High School. Let's make that image a powerful, favorable one.

- EACH PERSON is responsible for his or her equipment AT ALL TIMES.
- Get into your uniform, retrieve your equipment, form 2's and form the stadium seating block after stepping off the bus.
- Get into your place in the stands as quickly as possible. Bring NOTHING into the stands besides your uniform, music, shako box and instrument. **THIS INCLUDES CELL PHONES.**
- BE PROPERLY UNIFORMED AT ALL TIMES. Do not adjust your uniform. Do not wear anything in addition to your uniform (including headgear, etc.).
- Sit in your assigned seat and DO NOT MOVE AROUND during the game.
- The band is always on stage and you must uphold the reputation of the A&M Consolidated Band as a group: Do not draw attention to yourself by signaling or calling to friends. Never lean or throw anything over the side.
- No "noodling or hacking" (blowing on instruments or drumming) at any time the band is not playing as a group. The percussion section is to play only with the full band or as a section with cadences.
- Do not use unauthorized refreshments during the game (including Gatorade in your water jug). After the half-time show refreshments may (or may not) be authorized. NO EATING WHATSOEVER is allowed in uniform.
- Only BAND PERSONNEL is allowed in the band section. Adult Chaperones that are working with the band that night are considered band personnel. Graduated band students or special visitors are sometimes exceptions but only with SPECIAL PERMISSION from a director.
- ALWAYS be prepared to play. Watch whoever is always directing when they are standing in front of the band. Get music up rapidly when it's called. Watch for cutoffs in the music since the Band might stop when play resumes on the field.
- File in an orderly manner from the stands to the formation before the half-time show. DO NOT PLAY YOUR INSTRUMENTS. If it is cold, blow air through your horn to warm it up. GET QUICKLY INTO FORMATION AND ASSUME STAND-BY POSISTION, so that our entrance onto the field can be made as soon as halftime begins.
- Always treat visitors and other directors and guests politely. Stay with the group: No student will be permitted to run out onto the field after the game to greet players or any other silly thing.
- Students should use the restroom before and after the game and avoid going during the game. If an emergency arises during the game, it should be brought to the attention of the section leader for that student's section. When at away games, students will be accompanied by adult chaperones. When traveling to the restroom, students should go in pairs. Go directly to and from the bathroom.
- USE COMMON SENSE

H: A&M Consolidated High School Marching Band Assignment Policy

The following guidelines have been created to give the members of the A&M Consolidated High School Band information on set marching positions and alternate positions. Due to the difficulty of learning to perform our marching band show, we try to set each marching position as soon as possible. Students who meet all the requirements stated here and other requirements of the band, school and state for this activity will be considered for a marching spot.

- **What is a Primary Marcher?**
A student who has a marching spot and will march every performance the entire season. Exceptions would occur due to injury or ineligibility. Additionally, a Primary Marcher can lose their position by failing to complete Smart Music assignments or missing rehearsals.
- **What is an A/B Marcher?**
A student who share a marching spot and will march every other football game and split competitions. A/B students will rehearse with the band throughout the season and rotate in and out of their positions. We will provide parents with a schedule of performances prior to the season starting so you can plan. An A/B marcher may move into a Primary Spot if another student becomes unable to fulfill their responsibilities due to injury or ineligibility. Additionally, a primary marching spot may open because of another student not keeping up with Smart Music. A/B students must keep up with Smart Music as well.
- **What is an Alternate?**
As with most competitive, large, high school marching bands, the A&M Consolidated High School Marching Band has an alternate marcher policy. In order to design a particular musical and visual effect, a competitive marching show is written for a specific number of marchers. A competitive show is always written with fewer positions than there are members in the marching band. An alternate marcher is a student who has not been assigned to a specific position in the competitive marching show. In some ways, an alternate marcher is like that of a 2nd string player in competitive sports in that the alternate marcher is in good standing and ready to perform when called up to the field.
Specifically, the alternate marcher will:
 - Learn all fundamentals
 - Memorize all music
 - Learn a position in the show (shadow a primary marcher)
 - Assist with props for performances
 - Be ready to take another marcher's position
 - Be involved in all trips, football games, pre-game, parades, and special performance opportunities.

In a short, an alternate marcher does everything that a primary marcher does except for marching 100% of the time in the varsity band show. Alternate students may move into an A/B spot should one open-up due to injury or ineligibility. Alternates must keep up with SmartMusic and attend all rehearsals in order to improve and work towards earning a primary position.

Why do you have these positions?

There are two reasons for creating A/B & Alternate positions.

1. First, the show has been written for a specific number of students. To commission music and drill, an estimate of the number of students in each section and the entire band must be submitted months in advance. Otherwise, drill maneuvers and music will be received late, creating a "catch up" form of rehearsal. That process would always put our students at a

competitive disadvantage compared to other bands. An effort to create a position for every student that registers for band at the beginning of summer band camp would mean that our drill may not be ready until as late as October, leaving only a few weeks of season remaining.

2. Secondly, we have occasionally experienced attendance difficulties, lack of music or drill memorization, and work ethic issues that make it impossible for the band as whole to remain competitive. When one person is missing from the field or out of position, it affects the entire group. It is vital that all marchers on the field be well prepared to march and perform as a cohesive unit. The reserve marcher policy will ensure that every marcher on the field is completely dedicated to the success of the entire band.

June Ratings and Assignments

To provide students feedback on their status heading into the summer, all woodwinds and brass will receive a rating of I, II, or III at the June Camp. Based on movement performance at the Basics Camp, Spring Camp, Summer SmartMusic preparation, semester auditions for 10-12 graders, and middle school director recommendation for incoming 9th graders, we will provide a rating for students before the summer. These ratings allow students and families to plan for the fall and give an idea what areas to improve to prepare for August. Final positions will be assigned during the week of 8-8's, based on summer SmartMusic and the August camp.

Division I Rating

Students who receive a rating of I are on track to serve as Primary Marchers for the upcoming season. We believe these students possess both the musical and physical skills to receive a marching spot. These spots are contingent on students staying in shape over the summer and keeping up with conditioning. Additionally, students who receive a I rating must keep up with SmartMusic assignments in order to keep their spots. Students who fail to keep up with summer physical conditioning and complete SmartMusic assignments maybe re-assigned to an A/B or Alternate position in August.

Division II Rating

Students who receive a rating of II show much promise. A division II rating may mean there is a need for improvement either in visual/physical responsibilities, music, or both. Student with a division II rating may also be in a section with more students than there are spots available. Students who receive a division II may end up in a Primary Position, an A/B position, OR an alternate position depending on summer improvement and progress. Students who show marked progress on SmartMusic and improve upon visual responsibilities will receive strong consideration for a position upon returning in August.

Division III Rating

Students who receive a rating of III have a need for improvement either musically, visually/physically, or both at a level that we believe they may not be ready this year to march in the show. Students who receive a III are on track to serve as an Alternate for the upcoming season. With that said, if a student shows significant improvement musically and visually over the summer, they may receive consideration for an A/B position upon return in August. Keeping up with SmartMusic would strongly improve a Division III's chance at a position.

Who selects a primary marcher versus an alternate or A/B marcher?

The A&M Consolidated High School band staff will choose these positions. Attendance record, music and drill memorization, body coordination (marching and dancing), and a healthy cooperative attitude will be among the criteria considered for primary marcher status.

Special Notes:

- A marcher's status will NOT be determined based on parent involvement or donations.
- A delinquent required payment may subject a marcher to alternate status.
- A history of on-time full payment does not guarantee that a marcher will be given primary status at any time during the season.
- All part assignments and positions are subject to change for the benefit of the band and the individual.
- A primary marcher who misses multiple rehearsals and or practices maybe subject to replacement by a reserve marcher. This includes Spring & Fall Band Camp.
- A primary marcher who falls behind or struggles to perform either the music or marching routine maybe replaced by a reserve marcher at the discretion of the Head Band Director

All decisions on this are left at the Discretion of the band staff, and will be based on excellence

I. A&M Consolidated High School Band Heat Policy

We will instruct the students to increase their water intake and eliminate carbonated drinks or other drinks containing caffeine. The students are instructed to wear white T-shirts. No jeans or black colored clothing will be allowed. We will instruct the students to wear caps, sunglasses, sunscreen, and appropriate footwear. No sandals or similar footwear will be allowed. Students should wear an athletic-type shoe with good support. Flat bottomed skate shoes are not good for proper marching technique. All students will have an individual water jug. The A&M Band Hall has an ice machine available to the students. We inform the students to immediately take a break on their own if they feel a least bit "too hot". They are to get their water, move to a shaded area, and "cool down". The student will be monitored to see if any further assistance is needed in rehearsal. At the discretion of the director, the student may then be removed from any further physical activity for the remainder of the rehearsal. If the student does not improve quickly, we will make every effort possible to contact the parent to pick up from the practice area. In the event of a more serious or life-threatening condition, EMS will be contacted, and the Band Staff will follow CSISD emergency protocol.

J. Instrument Lockers

All students are provided their own instrument locker. Students are provided a combination lock at the beginning of the school year. Personal locks are prohibited. **If the student loses or damages the lock they must pay the school \$5.00 for a replacement.** No student is to share a locker or combination with any other student unless space is limited, and the director makes such an assignment.

K. School Owned Instruments

CSISD rents selected woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments for students to use at AMCHS. The rental fee is \$100.00 for the school year. These instruments are very expensive and must be treated with respect. We expect the instrument to be returned in the same condition in which it was issued. Repair of any damage, even minor will be the financial responsibility of the student who was issued the instrument. Do not take a school owned instrument to the shop without talking to a director first. We only use certain repair shops and need to be sure the work is done correctly. Most of the time, the directors will send the instrument to the shop and give the student or parent the invoice for the repair cost. The invoice must be paid in full before the student may receive the instrument back.

COLORGUARD EQUIPMENT- All colorguard equipment is school owned and will be assigned to you at the beginning of the marching band season, collected and will be redistributed at the beginning of winterguard season. Repairs must be reported

immediately. Failure to return school owned colorguard equipment will result in an invoice at the end of the season for replacement cost and your last report card will held as well.

L. Spring Trip Participation

All students must be eligible to participate in the annual Spring Trip. A&M's Spring Trip is a No Pass/No Participate activity. If a student becomes ineligible during the grading period the trip is scheduled that student forfeits all monies paid toward the trip and no refund will be given.

M. Band Hall and Fine Arts Facilities

We always take pride in keeping our Band Hall clean and neat, and it is the responsibility of all band members to keep it looking this way. Food and drinks (excluding water jugs) are not allowed in the Band Hall areas without director's permission. No one is allowed in the Color Guard Room, Ensemble Room, Library, and Uniform Room without expressed permission from a director. Students may use Practice Rooms before and after school.

The band offices are private and are not to be entered by any student without permission from the director or a staff member. All students should keep in mind that this is a place of business. If the door is shut, knock first.

Only *Band members* are allowed in the *Band Hall*. All other students must wait outside the Band Hall.

N. PRACTICE

As with any activity, you get out of it what you put into it. Band will not be "FUN" unless you practice! There are many values in the study of music as a discipline that transfer to other areas of life. Here is a suggested plan of study:

- Pick a set time each day
- Use a tuner for a portion of your practice session
- Have an acoustically dry place of practice
- Increase dynamic range (work on pianissimo)
- Use our daily warm-up & think "tone"
- Increase endurance (15 minutes of full tone playing)
- Play some form of scales at every practice session
- Increase range (highest note with good tone)
- Take a break every 20 minutes
- Use a metronome for part of the time
- Work on technique (articulations, accents, etc.)
- "I will start with ___ minutes and increase to"
- Practice sight-reading

A&M Consolidated Letter Jacket Points

Below is the CSISD Band Letter Jacket Policy. Band letter jackets will only be ordered at the last measuring session of each semester. The official record of student points earned is kept in Mr. Fry's office. All points and jacket awards are subject to director approval.

Band: To qualify for a Jacket before your senior year you must earn 16 points. Band Members who are seniors and have been involved in performing AMCHS Bands for all 3 previous years may be awarded a jacket at the end of their first semester as a senior.

- **Band Contests**
 - UIL Region Marching Contest - 1 point
 - UIL Area Marching Contest - 2 points
 - UIL Area Finals Marching Contest - 3 points
 - UIL State Marching Contest - 4 points
 - UIL Region Concert & Sight-Reading Contest 1 points
- **TMEA**
 - All-Region level (Orchestra or Band) - 5 points

- All-Area level (Orchestra, Band or both) - 8 points
- All-State - 16 points
- **UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest – UIL** (Class I and II)
 - 1st Division for Class I Ensemble - 1 point (more possible at state)
 - 1st Division for Class II Solo - 1 point (does not advance to state)
 - 1st Division for Class I Solo - 2 points (more possible at state)
- **Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest**
 - 1st Division for Class I Ensemble, State - 2 points
 - 2nd Division for Class I Solo, State - 2 points
 - 1st Division for Class I Solo, State - 4 points
- **A&M**
 - Member of Wind Ensemble through Concert Season - 1 points
 - Member of Jazz Ensemble through Festival Season - 1 point
 - Member of Symphony Orchestra through Spring Semester - 1 point
 - Service Duty 1 point per event (Can only receive 1 pt. per semester)
 - Student Leadership - 1 point

Color Guard: To qualify for a Jacket before your senior year you must earn 12 points. Members who are seniors and have been involved in performing AMCHS Bands for at least 2 years may be awarded a Jacket at the end of their first semester as a senior.

- **Band Contests**
 - UIL Region Marching Contest - 1 point
 - UIL Area Marching Contest - 2 points
 - UIL Area Finals Marching Contest - 3 points
 - UIL State Marching Contest - 4 points
 - UIL Region Concert & Sight-Reading Contest 1 point
- **Winter Guard**
 - TCGC Winter Guard Championships 3 points
 - TCGC Winter Guard Shows 1 point per show
 - WGI Regional 1 point
 - WGI Nationals 2 points
 - WGI Nationals Finalist 4 points
 - Solo and Ensemble Superior Rating 1 point
 - Solo and Ensemble Medalist 1 point
 - State Solo and Ensemble Finalist 2 points
 - State Solo and Ensemble Medalist 5 points
- **A&M**
 - Service Duty 1 point per event (Can only receive 1 pt. per semester)
 - Guard Officer 1 point

Conclusion

This document is meant to guide the decision-making process of students, parents, and the directors of the A&M Consolidated High School Band. By signing the Handbook Receipt Page, you agree to uphold the rules and responsibilities of a Tiger Band member to the best of your ability. Please remember that the purpose of a handbook is to provide information and create a framework within which important decisions can be made. Diligent adherence to these ideals will allow our program to continue to prosper.

A&M Consolidated High School Band Band Handbook Agreement Form

Student's Name (printed)

Grade

I have read the Band Handbook and understand its contents. I will follow, to the best of my ability, the rules and regulations contained therein. I understand that infractions of the rules and regulations will result in grade penalties and/or disciplinary action.

Student's Signature

Date

I am aware that my child has received a Band Handbook which explains the policies of the A&M Consolidated High School Band. I will encourage him or her to follow the rules and regulations in the handbook. I understand that infractions of the rules and regulations will result in grade penalties and/or disciplinary action. I understand that the interpretation of the handbook rests with the band director.

Parent's Signature

Date