

# WEST RUSK RAIDER BAND HANDBOOK



**Directors:**

**Grady Haffner & Stephanie Haffner**

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Welcome to the West Rusk High School Band! You have chosen to participate in an organization that involves team work, discipline, dedication and pride in what it is doing. You will find a cross section of the school in our band. We have athletes, cheerleaders, National Honor Society members, and many other activities in which our band students are also involved. Many of our members will attain scholarships to college, not just in music, but in many other areas. We want this once in a lifetime opportunity to be the best possible experience for you, so we do expect that you give it your best effort in both rehearsals and performances.

This brief handbook will clarify all of the expectations that go with being in a championship program. Please read all the material contained in this handbook with your parents, sign the form on the last page, and return it to the band directors.

## **PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES**

It is our goal that every WEST RUSK RAIDER BAND MEMBER develops a lifelong appreciation for the value of music in his or her life. Music gives people a chance to feel, hear, and create in a way that no other activity can provide. It opens a world of sound, form, and emotion that are critical to the aesthetic development of each person.

We want every student to become the most proficient musician and performer that he/she is capable of. Through our band program, we hope to instill in every student a strong sense of self discipline, self-motivation and an inner drive for excellence in everything they do both inside and outside the band program. We hope to develop an attitude of success while striving to focus each student's skills and abilities to the common good of the band.

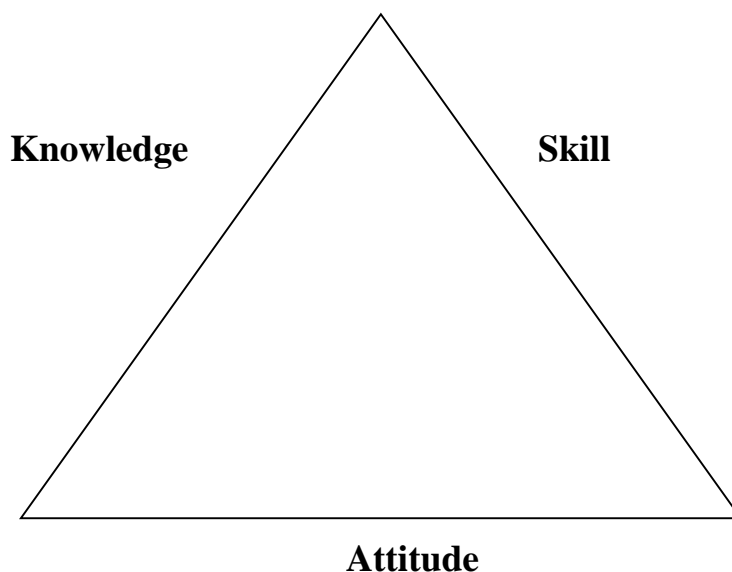
### **I: GENERAL**

In order to develop and maintain an outstanding band program at West Rusk C.C.I.S.D., the following policy will be in effect. All students are expected to read and follow these guidelines without exception. These rules are not intended or designed to discourage anyone. Their use should insure that each student is aware of what is expected of him/her, and also what he/she should expect from fellow band members. Those who may be having difficulty should ask for help, and if asked, all members of the band should be willing to help in any way possible. Each band member should be willing to do more than his/her part to insure that the RAIDER BAND reaches its goal of excellence in all areas of performance.

On the following page, you will find the A.S.K. triangle. It is the basis for total musicianship; for success at all levels; it shows a goal set and made; it can be applied to any aspect of your education, and even life.

## What It Takes

Take a careful look at the A.S.K. triangle:



“A”= ATTITUDE -

This is the most important part of the triangle because it supports the other sides. “Nothing great will ever be achieved without the proper attitude.” Proper attitude will help overcome any obstacle. Remember, CAN’T is a negative four-letter word. “I CAN AND I WILL” will work wonders.

“S”= SKILL -

Some people have more natural ability than others and some do not have much natural ability at all. Take what you have and build on it. Skill involves the mechanical and musical aspects of playing your instrument and yes, even marching. Skill is really no problem as long as you remember ATTITUDE. Get some method books, listen to your director, take private lessons, and go to work. PRACTICE. Skill does take time, effort, and dedication to develop. Some people think playing a musical instrument is easy. It takes years to master a musical instrument. This time spent will pay great rewards. Remember, “Rome was not built in a day.”

“K”= KNOWLEDGE -

“What is an eighth note?” “What does “mezzo forte” mean?” “What is vibrato?” If you don’t know something, find out. Look it up or ask someone. Read, listen, imitate, ask questions, build a CD library of more than just popular music.

## II: ATTENDANCE AT REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

**All Rehearsals Will Begin On Time.** Each student will be in his/her place with all equipment and materials necessary before the rehearsal is to begin. This means that everyone should be at least 10 minutes early in order to gather all equipment, materials, etc. and still have time to warm-up properly. Rehearsals will normally be scheduled well in advance, so each person is expected to be at **ALL** rehearsals that involve him/her. Your personal schedule should be arranged as soon as you know about a rehearsal so you can attend. The only absences that will be excused automatically will be those that involve the student's illness or a death in the family which requires his/her absence from school. If another situation arises where the student feels he/she must miss a rehearsal, the student's absence **MUST** be discussed with the director. This includes absences for school-sponsored activities. **DO NOT BE TARDY. NO** tardiness or absences, other than those resulting from an emergency situation covered above, will be excused unless the director is notified in advance. Tardiness will result in missed time being made up after rehearsal, during your personal time, or during third quarter breaks at football games (i.e. helping the director bring in equipment or putting the plumes up after halftime.) Unexcused absence will result in the loss of performance privileges, loss of third quarter breaks, and/or other disciplinary actions such as probation as assigned by the band directors. **Please let a band director know if you are going to miss a rehearsal either in person or by phone.**

**All Performances Are Mandatory.** The Raider Band will perform at all varsity football games, pep rallies, U.I.L. contests, Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, and also other parades and events. If absent and unexcused from a performance, the student may be dismissed from the band immediately, receive a failing grade for the current grading period, or other suitable penalty enforced such as a probationary period in the band, at the discretion of the director. Absences from the performances are excused only in the event of sickness or family emergency and must be approved in advance by the director.

**Section Rehearsals:** Attendance is required. Each section rehearsal will be graded on attendance and attitude. It is the student's responsibility to arrange transportation or work out his/her schedule to allow attendance at all section rehearsals. If a student has an excused absence from a section rehearsal, it is the responsibility of the student to make it up to avoid a grade reduction.

**A Word about Alternates in the West Rusk Raider Band.** Since there is a no-pass/no-play rule in Texas, members of the band who fail one or more classes will not be able to perform with the band at football games, pep rallies, and other marching and U.I.L. events ( i.e. All Region and Solo/Ensemble Contests). All eligible students who meet musical standards (i.e. playing off music) and behavioral expectations set by the band director will get to perform. Students who do not meet these expectations may be taken out of the performing group and placed as an alternate. Constant evaluation and adherence to attitude and attendance policies will be the determining factor in who performs with the West Rusk Raider Band.

### III: ATTITUDE AND EXPECTED BEHAVIOR

A cooperative attitude is expected of each student. Anyone not wishing to work with the director and other students in a cooperative and constructive manner will not be tolerated. The following rules will apply throughout the school year:

1. Pay attention at all times. This means no talking or playing instruments in class unless instructed by the director.
2. Follow instructions immediately.
3. Raise your hand to ask a question or to get out of your seat for any reason.
4. Bring everything you need to class. Everyone should have their instrument, music and a pencil at every rehearsal. Woodwind players should have at least two good reeds. Brass players should have valve oil and their instruments should be in good working order.
5. Be on time. "To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late."
6. No horseplay, running, punching, slapping, cursing, malicious teasing, etc. will be allowed.
7. Instrument cases are to be shut, latched, and placed in the proper instrument storage area when your instrument is not in use. You will be provided a place for your instrument, uniform, etc. Do not leave these items lying out in the band hall.
8. Absolutely **NO** gum, candy, soft drinks, chips, food or drink of any kind will be allowed in the band hall.
9. Treat others as you would want to be treated. Honoring and respecting your peers and teachers just as you would want to be honored and respected.

Failure to follow these rules will result in disciplinary action by the band director such as a loss of performance, a loss of trip privileges, being placed on probation, being assigned a detention, and or any other disciplinary action that follows district policy.

Any serious infractions, such as stealing, fighting, insubordination, drug, alcohol, or tobacco use, and others listed in the West Rusk C.C I.S.D. Student Code of Conduct that would result in a student's removal from a regular school placement, whether the infraction occurs at school or at a school-sponsored activity, may be grounds for immediate dismissal from the WEST RUSK RAIDER BAND or other action as deemed necessary and appropriate by the director and principal. Once anyone is dismissed from or quits the band program, he/she may not join again without special permission of the band director. A probation period of at least 9 weeks will be mandatory. If successfully completed, all student privileges may be returned, with exception of being able to hold an office of leadership, including majorette and/or drum major, for a period of one year after reinstatement. If the probationary period is not completed successfully, he/she may be dismissed from the WEST RUSK RAIDER BAND program or given an additional probation period, at the discretion of the director.

**Demerit System**—In order to stay a member of the Raider Band, rules and expectations must be met. When students do not follow the expectations set forth, they will be given a demerit. Every five demerits a student receives will result in a parent contact. **When the student reaches 25 demerits they are permanently removed from band.** Below is a chart showing what behaviors will impose a demerit and how many demerits will be given.

<b>Offense</b>	<b>Number of Demerits</b>
<b>Talking/distracting others during rehearsals/performances</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Unexcused tardiness and absences up to an hour that has not been made up.</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Missing uniform parts at performances</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Not properly putting up equipment</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Failure to follow instructions</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Failure to have all materials during rehearsal/performances</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Cell phone out during rehearsals/performances</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Disrespectful to directors or being rude to other band members</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Foul language</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Not playing off music (per assignment)</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Unexcused absence from a performance</b>	<b>12</b>

#### **IV: MEMBERSHIP AND ENROLLMENT**

Membership in the WEST RUSK RAIDER BAND program is open to all eligible students. Students in beginner band are those students who have had no previous instrument instruction, or are lacking basic skills and techniques necessary for placement in a more advanced class. Membership in the middle school band is normally composed of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who have completed at least one year of band. Membership in the WEST RUSK RAIDER BAND is comprised of students who are in ninth grade and above and have completed at least three years of band instruction. Students are expected to demonstrate adequate technical and musical abilities. Students in the high school band are also expected to perform at several after-school and weekend activities and functions. Since enrollment in any band class at West Rusk C.C.I.S.D. encompasses the entire school year, each student who signs up to participate is expected to complete both semesters.

## V: BEHAVIOR AT PUBLIC FUNCTIONS AND ON TRIPS/BUS CONDUCT

Proper conduct at all public functions such as football games will be expected. The following is a list of expectations:

- **BUS TRAVEL** – while traveling to destinations out of town, there are several things each student will observe:
  1. Each student will go and return on the bus. If a student wishes to ride home with his/her parents, the PARENTS ONLY may pick the student up **IN PERSON**. **STUDENTS WILL NOT BE RELEASED TO ANY ONE OTHER THAN HIS/HER PARENTS.** In order for the student to ride home with his/her parents, a note must be presented to the director one day prior to the trip stating the parent's intent to pick up their child at the end of the event. Secondly, the parent must sign the child out in the presence of the director at the end of the event. The student must also be present with the parent when they are being signed-out. All other students will be given an approximate time of the band's arrival back at the band hall. All students are to be sure that their parents are aware of this time and are available to pick them up after an out-of-town trip.
  2. **SAFETY FIRST.** Absolutely no yelling, screaming, standing, etc. Do not change seats once you are on the bus. Keep all parts of your body in the bus at all times. Do not throw anything from or in the bus.
  3. Any electronic sound devices must be equipped with proper headphones. There will be no playing of instruments on the bus at any time.
  4. **Public displays of affection are not tolerated at any school function** according to the West Rusk C.C I.S.D. Student Code of Conduct.
  5. Pick up all trash on the bus, whether you put it there or not. The bus should be left cleaner and neater than when you got on.
  6. Remain in your seat and remain quiet when we reach our destination or arrive back home. Wait for the director's instruction and dismissal.
  7. Do not leave the area where you are supposed to stay. Always stay in groups of 2 or more people from our band.
  8. Possession and/or use of alcohol and/or any form of illegal drugs can result in immediate dismissal from the WEST RUSK RAIDER BAND, as well as disciplinary action by the school administration and any law enforcement agency that may be involved. Use of tobacco products may result in disciplinary action by the director and principal.
  9. Above all, leave a good impression on everyone you meet. Be polite; say "Please", "Thank You", etc. You are representing your school, your band, your teachers, your director, your parents, and yourself. Your actions are a reflection on all of them.
  10. You are to obey and respect all chaperons, teachers and administrators of West Rusk C.C.I.S.D or any other adult authority that has been designated by the band director and is responsible to look after your care and well being while on a trip.



All students will be required to have a permission form on file with the band director prior to going on any out-of-town trips. This form will include any medical information to be used in case of emergency and will be used throughout the year. Updated information, such as changes in address, phone number, medical conditions, prescriptions taken, etc. should be provided for the director as appropriate.

➤ **FOOTBALL GAMES**

1. No one but band personnel is allowed in the band section of the stands. Ex-band students or special visitors are sometimes exceptions, but only by prior permission from the director.
2. The band will remain in the stands during the first, second, and fourth quarters. Students will normally have 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter off after half-time, but this privilege may be revoked if students are late to the game, out of uniform, late returning to the stands after third quarter break, etc. All students must be back in place, dressed, and ready to play at the end of the third quarter.
3. Third quarter instructions:
  1. After halftime, enter back into the stands and stand at attention at your seat until the drum major dismisses you. Do not leave until dismissed.
  2. Put your instrument in the case or secure them so they will not be damaged.
  3. If we take our coats off, leave your band shirt tucked in and your suspenders on.
  4. Visit the concession stand and immediately come back to the band area. Do not hang around the concession area.
  5. Be in your seat by 0:00 at the end of the third quarter ready to play.
  6. Violation of these rules will result in loss of third quarter break and/or other disciplinary action.
4. Do not play your instrument in the stands unless the entire band plays together. It is very distracting to the football audience and to other band members and also makes the band look and sound unprofessional.
5. There is great potential for damage of expensive personal and school instruments while in the stands. Moving from seat to seat can cause damage as well, so stay in your seat. Don't leave your instrument out in the open or unattended.

## **VI: INSTRUMENTS**

For a number of students in the West Rusk Band Program, instruments are provided for student use at no or little charge. Each and every band student is expected to keep his/her instrument in excellent playing condition at all times. When the student is issued a school owned instrument, he or she needs to look over the horn

and list any damage and/or defects on his or her checkout form. When the instrument is checked back in, the band directors will evaluate the condition of the horn. Any damage other than normal wear and tear not listed on the check out form will be the student's financial responsibility. Any student not taking proper care of the instrument that is issued to him/her may also be subject to having that instrument taken up, repair charges being levied, and/or having to provide his/her instrument in order to continue in the WEST RUSK BAND program. Students are expected to NEVER bother another person's instrument or case and NEVER allow anyone else to bother theirs. Each student is expected to keep an adequate supply of reeds, oil, etc., at all times and all students are to have their name attached to the instrument case with a name tag or label.

## **VII: GRADING POLICY**

In order to continually improve and build up a tradition of excellence, each individual student must be responsible and accountable for steady improvement. Dedication, dependability, achievement, and good attitudes are important factors to ensure continued success for the WEST RUSK RAIDER BAND.

The directors will evaluate each student in the WEST RUSK RAIDER BAND on the following:

### **1. PERFORMANCE GRADES:**

ATTENDANCE, PUNCTUALITY, AND PREPARATION for all rehearsals and performances: This means that you should be dependable with attendance, on time, and should always have all equipment needed. An unexcused rehearsal absence may result in consequences such as no 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter break, not performing on Friday nights, not performing in concerts or contests and/or a zero participation grade for that day. If a rehearsal is missed, it must be made up within a week by an individual practice with the band director. An unexcused performance may result in dismissal from band and/or failure for the grading period.

### **2. MUSIC ACHIEVEMENT GRADES:**

This is a grade based on MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENT both in rehearsals and in public performances. This includes progress on your instrument, music playoff grades, chair try-outs, challenges, memorization, participation in All-Region and Solo and Ensemble Contest, U.I.L. Contests etc.

### **3. PARTICIPATION GRADES:**

These grades are given based on ATTENTIVENESS AND ATTITUDE during rehearsals and performances, performance of MARCHING FUNDAMENTALS AND MEMORIZATION of marching drills and maneuvers, COMPLIANCE WITH REHEARSAL PROCEDURE and all announced or posted rules concerning any band activity, COMPLIANCE WITH ALL SCHOOL RULES AND GUIDELINES, and CARE

AND MAINTENANCE of any and all uniform and band equipment issued to the student.

## VIII: ELIGIBILITY

All students are required to have a passing grade in every class each grade reporting period to assure continued participation in all aspects of the WEST RUSK RAIDER BAND. Participation in U.I.L. Contests, as well as other events in which the band participates is subject to State Board of Education, Texas Education Agency, and Local School Board policies regarding scholastic requirements.

## IX: UNIFORMS

It should be the highest honor to be allowed to wear the uniform of your school. Wear it with PRIDE and conduct yourself in a manner that is benefiting to the WEST RUSK RAIDER BAND. The following is a list of instructions on the care and wearing of the uniform.

1. **HAT** – The hat is to be kept in the box, which is provided, at any time it is not being worn. The hat should be worn on top of the head. Hair extending below the collar must be worn inside the hat. Plumes will be issued immediately before each marching performance and taken up immediately following. Plumes are very delicate and damage rather easily. After performances, NEVER remove plumes until the directors tell you to.
2. **COAT** – The coat should be worn completely buttoned and fastened at all times when in public unless otherwise specified by the director. Band T-shirts, which are to be purchased by each band student, will be worn underneath the standard uniform coat and should not be visible with the coat on. This will allow the entire band to remove their jackets after halftime or when the weather permits. In hot weather, the director will specify whether to remove the coat. If the uniform jacket is removed it should be folded neatly in two and placed in the stands on top of your hat box.
3. **Pants** – The uniform pants are made to extend all the way up to mid-chest and must be worn that way at all times. Shoulder straps (which should always be worn on the shoulders) may need to be adjusted in order to correct the length. You may hem the pants as necessary, but DO NOT cut any material. The pants must extend to  $\frac{1}{2}$ ” below the top of the back portion of the band shoe but cannot drag the ground.
4. **SOCKS** – Solid black socks should be worn at all times. The top of the sock should not be visible when sitting and/or standing. **NO ANKLE SOCKS WILL BE ALLOWED.**
5. **SHOES** – Black band shoes approved by the director and purchased by the students are to be worn with the uniform. Shoes should be black and clean. Initials should be marked on the sole of the shoes. Dirty or worn black tennis shoes or other shoes that detract from the uniform will not be permitted.
6. **JEWELRY** – Only watches, finger rings and stud earrings are allowed; no hoop earrings. Guys cannot wear any earrings of any kind.

7. **UNIFORM CLEANING** – It is the student’s responsibility to keep the uniform hanging on a coat hanger in the provided uniform bag and in good condition at all times. **All uniforms must be checked back in and hung up in the uniform storage room at the band hall after each performance.** Failure to do this could result in loss of third quarter breaks, charge for uniform cleaning, or other punishment deemed suitable by the directors. It is not acceptable to wear a wrinkled or dirty uniform at any performance. It is not necessary to have your uniform cleaned unless it has become filthy through your own mistreatment of the uniform. We will have all the uniforms cleaned together at the end of concert season, marching season and the week before marching contest. If it is damp due to perspiration, rain or humidity, leave the bag unzipped to allow air to circulate.

**Each student is responsible for the uniform issued to him/her.**

## **X: INDIVIDUAL AND SMALL GROUP EVENTS**

Students in the WEST RUSK RAIDER BAND are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to tryout and participate in All-Region Band, U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble Contest, and other individual contests. These contests help you improve on your instrument, build confidence, and earn recognition you need when you are applying for admission and scholarships for college.

## **XI: PERFORMING ENSEMBLES**

The WEST RUSK RAIDER BAND is made up of many different performing ensembles. The following is a list of ensembles and their descriptions:

1. **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginner Band:** This group is made up of 6<sup>th</sup> grade band students. Emphasis is put on posture, hand position, development of good sounds. This group will be divided into two groups for fundamental teaching – woodwinds and brass/percussion. This group will perform a Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, and any other concerts or contests the directors feel are necessary.
2. **Middle School Band:** This group is made up of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students. Emphasis is put on group rehearsal techniques, scales, and good ensemble sounds. This group will perform a Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, one varsity football game with the High School Band, and any other concerts or contests the directors feel necessary. Every 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band student is highly encouraged to participate in all individual contests.
3. **High School Band:** This group is made up of 9<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade band students. During the fall semester, this group will march at all varsity football games, in the U.I.L. Marching Contest, in the Christmas Parade and perform a Christmas Concert. In the Spring semester, the High School Band will participate in U.I.L. Concert and Sight Reading Contest as well as perform a Spring Concert. Every High School band student is highly encouraged to participate in all individual contests.

When the number of students in the High School Band are large, the directors may choose to form a Symphonic Band (Varsity) and Concert Band (Non-Varsity) based on the ability level of the band students by audition.

## **XII: OFFICERS, MAJORETTES, AND DRUM MAJORS**

The student leadership of the band is essential in ensuring the success of the program. Each member of the Band Council is responsible for his or her specific jobs as outlined below. Problems that arise that are unable to be resolved among the students will be handled through the Director of Bands.

All Positions to the Band Council will be appointed by the Directors, except for Band President, and are subject to their oversight. Each office is absolutely critical to the success of the organization and is responsible in assisting the band directors with the implementation of band policies. The following positions are responsible for the social and political workings of the band program. Each Officer is expected to:

1. Attend ALL summer practices, meetings and have no un-excused absences from band activities during the year.
2. Provide leadership through example, promote the highest expectations and standards for band members, and show a zero tolerance for negative behavior.

The Band Council of the West Rusk Raider Band will be made up of the following:

**Drum Major(s):** The Drum Major is the field commander of the band and is the student leader of the band for all marching band activities.

**Section Leaders:** Section Leaders are selected by tryout or band director discretion in the spring and must meet the following requirements:

1. Responsibilities for their individual sections: Behavior, Attendance, Music Play-offs, other jobs as assigned. They are expected to execute marching fundamentals correctly and understand their portion of the drill.
2. Must have been a proven leader throughout the entire year. This will be at the discretion of the Band Director.
3. Must lead by example

**Drum Captain:** Drum Captain is responsible for the Drumline. The Drum Captain will have the responsibility to make sure that all equipment is loaded in the trailer/band van prior to “sit down” time for football games. The Drum Captain is also responsible for making sure that the line is warmed up and set to go at appointed rehearsal times. The Drum Captain will be in charge of leading section rehearsals. The day-to-day marching quality will be the responsibility of the Drum Captain. This person is also responsible for the look of the Line, which includes marching style, drum cleanliness, uniforms, and sticks/mallets (taped etc.).

**Quarter Masters:** Selected by the Band Directors each spring for the following year, Quartermasters will assist in distributing uniforms and instruments at Band

Registration and as needed throughout the year. The Quartermaster must maintain accurate records of all uniform parts and instruments. Positions assigned as needed.

**Librarians:** Selected by the Band Directors each spring for the following year, Librarians will assist with the issue of all-necessary music and the organization and upkeep of the music library. Prior to band camp and during the year they will be responsible for copying music, building flip-folders, and providing band members with replacement parts. Positions assigned as needed.

**Loading Crew:** These persons are responsible for moving the band. Any aspect of getting the band from West Rusk to out-of-town games and contests in the fall and spring will be the responsibility of the Loading Crew. This includes, but is not limited to, loading of the trailer, including placement of the instruments in a way that will reduce damage to them. These individuals will be responsible for all wind instruments and percussion, but not auxiliary lines. They will also need to load the water coolers, drinks, hat boxes, plumes, seat covers etc. Most importantly, these people are responsible for ensuring a seamless and rapid transition in the loading/unloading of all band equipment.

## **DRUM MAJOR AND MAJORETTE POLICIES**

The Drum Majors and members of the Majorette Line are first and foremost members of the WEST RUSK RAIDER BAND. As student leaders, their attitude and behavior MUST be exemplary. Each person selected for a position of leadership is expected to follow these rules and regulations without exception.

### **I. General Requirements**

Applicants for drum major and/or majorette must:

1. Have participated in one full marching season with the West Rusk Raider Band during the school year in which try-outs are to be held.
2. Drum Major applicants must be at least a freshman and have participated in one full marching season with the West Rusk Raider Band during the school year in which try-outs are to be held.
3. Have and maintained no lower than a grade of 85 in band
4. Have and maintained a good discipline record as certified by the appropriate principal. A student who has committed any serious offense as defined in the West Rusk Student Code of Conduct will not be allowed to try-out. Chronic behavior problems could result in an applicant not being allowed to tryout.
5. Make application on the form provided by the director, follow any and all procedures listed, fulfill all requirements by the deadline set by the director, and try out on the day specified by the director for a position for the following school year. The try-out day will be held at the end of the spring semester. Both Majorette and Drum Majors will try-out on the same day. Once the try-out has taken place and results are announced, there will be no other time for additional try-outs. All positions are for a one-year term only.
6. Be certified by the director as having a cooperative attitude and the ability to work cooperatively with other students and the directors.

If a person is selected for a position and fails to maintain any of these standards, he/she is subject to dismissal from that position. Any person who was selected to a position and fails to complete the requirements of that position, by dismissal or resignation without just cause, is not entitled to any recognition or benefits of that position, including, but not limited to, the privilege to try-out for majorette and/or drum major for the up-coming school year and recognition in any publications. Any student feeling they have just cause or an undue hardship **MUST** discuss this with the director and put their justification in writing prior to resigning their position. If it is found that the student has an undue hardship due to circumstances beyond his/her control, recognitions and benefits may be granted under extenuating circumstances.

## II. MUSICAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Majorettes and Drum Majors will be expected to demonstrate and maintain proficiency on their selected instrument.
2. Majorettes and Drum Majors will be expected to play their instruments when the band is rehearsing inside unless excused by the director. Failure to do so may result in the loss of performance privileges.
3. Majorettes and Drum Majors will be required to play off their marching music using their sheet music.
4. Majorettes will be required to play their instruments in the stands when not performing a routine on the track or field, unless given other instructions by the director. Failure to do so may result in the loss of performance privileges.

## III. TWIRLING REQUIREMENTS

1. It is not necessary for applicants for Drum Major to know how to twirl. The Drum Major is not considered to be a twirling position. However the Drum Major can be a member of the Majorette Line.
2. Candidates for Majorette will be required to perform fundamentals set forth by the band director and/or twirling sponsor.
3. Each candidate will prepare an original dance-twirl routine for solo performance to last between 1 and 3 minutes.
4. A group routine may, at the discretion of the director, be taught to all applicants by a person selected by the director. If a group routine is taught, all applicants must attend all group rehearsals in order to try out.

## XIII: LETTER JACKET AWARDS

Letter jackets will be awarded to deserving junior or senior students based on the following policy:

1. A student may receive a letter jacket by completing any of the following criteria...
  - a. Has completed 2 years as a member of the high school band.
  - b. Has completed 1 year as a member of the high school band and has made the all-region band.
  - c. Has completed 1 year as a member of the high school band and has made it to UIL State Solo & Ensemble Contest.

2. The student must be enrolled in band during the year in which they have qualified for a letter jacket.
3. Transfer students must be in the WEST RUSK RAIDER BAND at least one (1) full year in order to receive a jacket.

A student may receive only one award jacket from the school during his/her high school career. (You may not receive a band jacket and also receive a jacket for cheerleading, basketball, football, etc.)

## **XIV: OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES**

It is understood that band members may be involved in other school activities. Every effort will be made to cooperate with other programs. However, do not use other programs as an excuse to miss practice. All absences must be approved by the director.

### **EXCEPTIONS**

Any requirement contained within these band policies may be waived or amended by the director after consultation with the appropriate principal and/or superintendent. A waiver or amendment will be considered on an individual basis only after request is made in writing by the student stating which policy he/she wished to be waived or amended. Adequate justification for the request **MUST** accompany the request. Responses made will be reviewed in a timely manner, usually within five (5) school days, after receipt of student request.



## Band Policy Acknowledgement Form

I will go online to the school website and view the West Rusk Band Handbook on the Raider Band page. I do not need a hard copy.

I would like to receive a hard copy of the band handbook.

I understand and agree to abide by all rules and regulations as set forth in the band handbook. If I have any questions, or need clarification, I will ask the director.

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Student's Signature

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Parent's/Guardian's Signature

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Date