



**JAMES E. TAYLOR
HIGH SCHOOL BAND**

**Student Handbook
2007-2008**

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INTRODUCTION

This is your life! Welcome to it.

The 2007 - 2008 edition of the Taylor Band Handbook is intended to give all readers an idea of what being a member of the Taylor Band is really like: what to do, what to expect, what to look forward to, what to look out for, and most important - how to be a successful and contributing member of the greatest organization anywhere. As a member of the Taylor Band, a student can look forward to a positive, rewarding, exciting, enjoyable, and hard-working experience. The most successful member of the Taylor Band is one who loves to excel and understands the commitment required to do so.

The **James E. Taylor** High School Band (“Jet Band”) has become one of the finest and most respected band programs in the state of Texas. The Taylor Band Program has received scores of awards recently. In the fall of 2002, the Taylor Band advanced all the way to the UIL State Marching Band Contest. In the spring of 2007, two of the Taylor Bands received Sweepstakes Award for UIL Concert and Sight Reading. The marching band has received first division ratings at UIL Marching Contest and many other invitational marching festivals for a countless number of years. The concert bands have received first place awards and first division ratings at many invitational concert and sight reading contests. The jazz band has received numerous first place and first division awards at jazz festivals and competitions throughout Texas and was awarded the Distinguished Performance Award at the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest. The Color Guard and Winter Guard have received many first place awards, three state championships, a top ten and a top three finish in the WGI World Championships and most recently finished 11th in 2007. In addition, many students have excelled in individual competitions, including selection to District, Region, Area and All-State Bands, Jazz Bands and Orchestras. Thousands of students have received first division ratings at Region and State Solo and Ensemble contests. It is easy to see that members of the Taylor High School Band are a part of a successful, established, and prestigious program. Students who are a part of a winning program build self-esteem and learn how to set and reach lofty goals.

A student in the Taylor Band is actively involved with a large group of bright, talented, hard-working, dedicated people committed to the same goal; this makes the band a very positive peer group. The band actually becomes a second family to its members. Even though the families of Taylor Band students tend to be loving, nurturing ones, having an additional family like the Taylor Band can provide countless positive skills that can be used for a lifetime. Parents of Taylor Band students immediately become a vital part of this second family. Parents work together, get involved with the band and become the most enthusiastic fans. Through the years, many parents have commented that involvement with the Taylor Band has brought their family closer, because they spent more time with their child and experienced so much together.

Being a member of the Taylor Band encourages academic excellence and promotes greater self-discipline. The No-Pass, No-Play rule is a great tool in motivating students to set high academic standards. Band members will naturally want to participate in the activities of the band and spend time with fellow band members; a student who fails to keep grades up misses out on so much. Students soon learn that maintaining good grades in all academic classes must be the priority. In order to keep up with the extra rehearsal hours and achieve high grades, students must use other hours effectively. Thus, students in the Taylor Band quickly learn the positive trait of self-discipline.

Students graduating from high school after completing four years of high school band are proven to be among the most successful students at the collegiate level. Research shows that much of the reason for this success is directly attributable to the discipline learned while a member of the band. Further research proves that students studying music during high school years have significantly higher average S.A.T. scores than students not studying music. Thus, members of the Taylor Band are becoming better prepared to be successful college students.

In a typical classroom, a student's main objective is to learn as much as possible, and to earn as high a grade as possible. In the Taylor Band, a student gathers much personal knowledge and skill, but the student also has a crucial role to play in the success of others. Band students are constantly judged as a group, a team, a band - not as individuals. To realize that everyone else in the band is counting on you to do your job perfectly is an awesome responsibility. A sincere commitment to excellence is a most important first step on the road to success and handling this task. All the actions of a particular student reflect - for better or worse - on the entire Taylor Band. It makes membership in the band a responsibility to be taken seriously. It makes the job both exciting and demanding. It also builds friendships that last a lifetime. Taylor Band members are proud of each other, cheer for each other, cry with each other, are concerned for each other and stand by each other forever.

This handbook has been compiled to inform students and parents of some of the responsibilities that go along with the privilege of membership in the JET Band. Read the handbook carefully. Learn it. Live it. Love it.

Work hard.

This is your life.

COMMON QUESTIONS / COMMON ANSWERS

1. Can just anyone be in the JET Band?
Yes and No. A student playing a musical instrument will need some previous experience like junior high band or strong private musical background. Auditions for color guard and jazz band are open to all Taylor students.
2. Do students have to try out for band?
Students are placed into one of five performing bands by ability and experience. An audition is necessary to accurately evaluate for which level band a student is most suited. This audition is in May for the upcoming fall semester, and in November for the spring semester.
3. Can a student be in band for only one semester a year?
No. Students must sign up for both semesters to receive full credit, to cover the state-mandated "Essential Knowledge and Skills for High School Band", and to receive a P.E. credit. Further, all of the concepts introduced and taught during the fall semester are prerequisites to the information taught in the spring semester.
4. How many students are in the band program at Taylor High School?
In the 2007 - 2008 school year, there are approximately 290 students in the THS Band program.
5. Do all students participate in marching band?
All band classes combine together to form the marching band. In order to receive P.E. credit, a student must complete the Essential Knowledge and Skills for High School Band that pertains to marching band. All band students, therefore, are members of the marching band. Because of contemporary drill design, potential sickness, injury, loss of eligibility and other factors, not every student is guaranteed a performance position in the Contest Band.
6. Does the No-Pass / No-Play rule affect a student's participation in band?
Band students must pass all classes to participate in the extra-curricular activities of the band, such as contests, competitions and football game halftimes. The class time instruction and all after school rehearsals are considered curricular and students participate in these regardless of academic eligibility.
7. What expenses can a band student expect?
Band students are expected to provide a pair of black shoes, a uniform bag, a band t-shirt, a rain poncho, two pairs of white gloves, black socks, various method books, a music flip-folder, a lyre, a drill writer's fee, and modest travel costs during the fall marching season. In the 2007 - 2008 school year, these items will cost a total of about \$330 for the freshman year. Most of these items last more than one year. There are numerous other optional activities of the band that can cost more money.

8. What kind of credit does a student receive for band?
A student receives P.E. credit in the fall and fine arts credit in the spring. This means that students in band for all four years do not have to take any physical education courses and therefore have more space in their schedules to take additional electives. Students not in band must take P.E. and thus lose a spot for additional electives. On the advanced graduation plan, students must have fine arts credit. Band provides this fine arts credit.
9. How much after school rehearsal time is expected of a band student?
During marching season (approximately the first twelve weeks of the school year), the band rehearses three or four days per week after school. These rehearsals are 2 to 3 hours each. The remainder of the year, students have a one-hour section rehearsal once a week. Every week in April, there are two evening rehearsals, each lasting 90 minutes.
10. Can a student participate in athletics and band?
Yes. The athletic department works closely with the band to arrange practice time and rehearsal schedules to accommodate students participating in both activities. It is not always easy, and does require some advanced planning, but most conflicts are worked out with good communication among student, parent, coach and band director.
11. What kind of contests/competitions does the band participate in?
Each year the band participates in at least two marching contests, at least one parade, at least two concert and sight-reading contests, and an invitational concert festival. Also, individual students are encouraged to participate in region band and orchestra auditions and solo and ensemble competitions.
12. Has the band program enjoyed any recent competitive success?
The band, jazz band and color guard have all won numerous festivals in the last few years and have been recognized as state champions in several areas. The various bands have been consistent first division and sweepstakes winners at many competitions, and the JET Band is widely respected in a state renowned for its great band programs. The Taylor Drum Line finished 2nd at the 2007 Foster Drum Line Competition with the front ensemble winning the caption award. The Taylor Winter Guard is a three-time state champion in its circuit and in 2007 finished 11th at the WGI World Championships in Dayton, Ohio.
13. Who provides the band uniforms?
The Katy Independent School District purchases the concert band and the marching band uniforms, except for shoes, socks, gloves, t-shirts and rain poncho. Students in color guard and jazz band provide their own respective uniforms for both semesters.
14. How much does the band travel?
The marching band attends all football games of the Taylor Mustangs, travels to all the competitions listed above and takes a Spring Trip each year. The Spring Trip is funded by fundraising and/or student/parent monetary contribution.
15. Can a student take private lessons at the school?
Yes. The Taylor Band maintains an outstanding staff of private lesson specialists on each instrument. The teachers come to KISD campuses weekdays between 3 and 9:30 PM. Lessons are weekly, and are 30 minutes in length. The current cost is \$16.00 per lesson. Although no student is required to take private lessons, the great majority of THS Band students take lessons because of their desire to excel.

16. What extra music experiences can a band student participate in?
Band students can participate in district and region band and orchestra tryouts, solo and ensemble contests, the orchestra for the all-school musical, and perform wind/percussion parts with the THS Orchestra. There are also small groups, which perform at various local civic and community functions.
17. Do band students do a lot of fund raising?
Fund raising is always optional. Each student who chooses to participate in the annual spring trip (usually about 98% of the band) pays his/her own costs. Students can fund raise all, part or none of this cost. KISD allows the band to sponsor one student fundraiser each semester (two per year).
18. Can a student rent an instrument from the school?
Certain instruments are available for rent through the school on an extremely limited basis. Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, French Horn, Euphonium and Tuba are some of the instruments available at a cost of \$100 per instrument per year.
19. Is there a Color Guard program?
Yes, a very successful and active color guard program is open to any Taylor High School student by audition, even if he/she is not already enrolled in band. The color guard meets year round. Students perform with the marching band in the fall semester and in the Taylor Winter Guard in the spring semester. The color guard is a separate class that meets during the school day, so for a student to be in the color guard, he/she must have room in the schedule for an elective.
20. Is there a Jazz Band at Taylor?
Yes, a very successful and active jazz band is open to all students by audition. Auditions are held the first week of the academic year, and enrollment and instrumentation are strictly controlled to maintain our high standard of excellence. The jazz band is an academic class and meets each day during the school day for academic credit.
21. Is there a Band Booster organization?
Yes, an extremely active group of parents and boosters provide the band with crucial support. The booster club undertakes a great number of service projects and fundraisers to assist the students in the band program. Parents are strongly encouraged to participate in the functions of the booster organization and thus foster a real family atmosphere in the THS Band.

GENERAL RULES OF CONDUCT

While the Taylor Band operates with a minimum number of rules and regulations, the list below is not intended to be all-encompassing. There are many additional rules and policies of the Taylor Band that are not listed here. This list is intended only to give a general outline of expectations for student conduct and parental responsibilities. Parents are expected to be aware of these rules and help their child(ren) follow the rules at all times. It is the belief of the Band Directors of Taylor High School that students choose how they act. If a student chooses to act inappropriately, the student is in effect choosing the consequences of that action.

1. Students will be on time (which means early) for all rehearsals, performances and activities.
2. Students will have all appropriate equipment and a great attitude at all times.
3. Students will not verbally or non-verbally disrupt instruction at any time. All rehearsals must be extremely quiet.
4. Students will follow instructions from directors, instructors, designated band chaperones, and student leaders. Instructions will be followed – cheerfully - the first time they are given.
5. Students will use appropriate language at all times.
6. Students will show respect for all fellow students, directors and staff members.
7. Students will treat carefully at all times all equipment and facilities of the Taylor Band (this includes all instruments, uniforms, music stands, etc.). Students will play only instruments belonging to them or instruments checked out to them.
8. Students will not eat or drink in the Taylor Band Hall or Band Hall Complex. Further, food of any type should not be brought into the band room at any time. Chewing gum and candy are not allowed at any time with the Taylor Band.
9. Students will follow all bus riding rules and travel policies set forth by KISD and the Taylor High School Band.
10. Students will follow all rules and policies set forth in the Taylor High School / KISD Discipline Management Plan.

DISCIPLINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

PART 1 - GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS

The Taylor High School Band will be a complete success if all of its student members are working toward that goal at all times. Pride, self-discipline, teamwork and respect are at the root of any great organization. When even one student, for one moment, for even a good reason fails to demonstrate these critical skills, the entire group falls short of being the best it can be. Students must show pride in themselves, their fellow students, their band, and their school at all times. Students must show disciplined habits during rehearsal, at all concerts and competitions, on all trips, during free time in the band hall, at all times around Taylor High School and any time while representing the Taylor Band. Students must exemplify the desire to work as a team and give up the needs of the individual for the success of the group. Students must show respect for themselves, their fellow band students, directors, instructors, and for all the equipment and facilities of the Taylor Band. When all of these ideals are met, the Taylor High School Band will be everything that it possibly can be.

PART 2 - REWARDS

Students who meet the goals and ideals can expect to get verbal and written praise from directors and instructors. Students can expect to be a part of a successful, respected band program. Students will be assisted in developing a positive self-image and will be proud of the disciplined, hard work required to meet the goals. Students can expect to be treated fairly, courteously and with respect at all times.

PART 3 - BEFORE SCHOOL DETENTION / REMOVAL FROM POSITION

Students who fall short of these expectations will be assigned early morning detention. The Taylor Band has early morning detention on Tuesdays and Thursdays that are regular school days. The detention is from 6:50 AM to 7:20 AM. During detention, students are expected to be silent and remain seated. Students may work on non-band assignments or read silently during this time. During marching season, students who are repeatedly assigned to detention or fail to serve a detention may be removed from the marching band drill. At any time during the year, students may also be excluded from extra-curricular activities including any and all band trips.

PART 4 - SEVERE CLAUSE

Students who demonstrate repeated and/or severe violations of the rules and regulations of the Taylor Band and/or of the Katy ISD Discipline Management Plan and Student Code of Conduct will be subject to stronger punishment as assigned by the Administration of Taylor High School. This punishment may include permanent removal from the band program.

GRADING POLICY

The Taylor Band and its directors and instructors believe that all its members can learn, achieve goals and improve as players, performers, students and people. Taylor High School recognizes the importance of band in the total curriculum and considers band an academic class. The grade earned in band is averaged into a student's GPA and therefore affects class rank. Student eligibility and participation in school related activities are also affected by the grade earned in band. Students' earned grades in band are calculated in the following manner.

DAILY PARTICIPATION - 25%

This includes being ready to rehearse and perform on time, with all necessary equipment and a great attitude. Participation also includes rehearsal discipline, which is one of the goals in the scope and sequence of the Katy ISD curriculum for band. Behaviors that are considered a part of the conduct grade in other classes are often a part of the earned grade in band.

TESTS - 25%

This includes any playing tests of skills learned during class, memory tests, scale tests, specific marching band skills exams and similar assignments. Also included are tape recorded tests and written music theory assignments.

AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE - 25%

Band students must attend all after-school rehearsals of the group to which they belong. This includes all full band rehearsals and scheduled section rehearsals. Students are expected to be present on time, dressed appropriately, and with all necessary equipment and a great attitude. Students are expected to remain at the rehearsal the entire length of the rehearsal. All rehearsals that are curricular are part of the earned grade in band.

PERFORMANCES - 25%

Band is a PERFORMING Arts Class. Virtually all performances of the Taylor Band require student attendance. At all required performances, students earn a grade for their individual performance. Students are expected to be present on time, dressed appropriately, have all required equipment, behave correctly, remain the entire time, and have a great attitude. Performance grades are lowered for failure to meet these expectations. A grade of "Zero" is issued for any unexcused absence from a performance. Some examples of unexcused absences are listed below.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

PHILOSOPHY: The Taylor High School Band operates under policies set down by the Texas Education Agency in its Essential Knowledge and Skills for High School Band, the Katy Independent School District's Curriculum Guide for High School Band, and policies set by administrators and band directors of Taylor High School.

In any high school band, success is based not solely upon a student's individual skills, but rather on the entire group's collective ability to work together as a BAND. This is one of the most important reasons that high school bands exist; to let students of all ability levels reach extremely high levels of accomplishment while working together as a unit. When even one member of the unit is missing, for even a moment, with even a valid excuse, the total group fails to be its very best. For this very obvious reason, parents and students wishing to see the Taylor High School Band reach its highest possible goals must constantly strive to eliminate all absences, for any reason.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

All students of the Taylor High School Band attend all after school rehearsals of the group in which the student is a member. All students of the Taylor High School Band attend all performances using the following guidelines:

Certain performances are considered curricular. This means that they are considered extensions of the classroom that happen outside of regular class time. Curricular performances therefore require attendance by all band students, regardless of their current eligibility.

Certain other performances are considered extra-curricular. This means that these performances are competition-oriented or require a loss of class time other than band class. According to TEA Guidelines, students must earn a grade of 70 or above in all classes in order to participate in any school sponsored extra-curricular performance. A student is considered "eligible" for all performances in a six week grading period if in the previous grading period he has earned a grade of 70 or above in all classes. Students who fail to meet eligibility requirements are suspended from performances with the Taylor Band for three weeks. An ineligible student becomes "eligible" by earning a grade of 70 or above in all classes at the end of the three week suspension period. This three-week period is marked by the distribution of KISD Progress Reports. All students in the Taylor Band will be expected to attend all after school and evening rehearsals regardless of eligibility.

Excused absences are possible. Some examples of excused absences are a student's personal illness, death in student's immediate family, an extreme family emergency, or another Taylor High School-related activity approved by the other sponsor and band director AT LEAST 24 hours in advance.

Some examples of unexcused absences are: part time jobs, no transportation, family outings, family reunions, family vacations, babysitting siblings, dance class, piano lessons, regularly scheduled doctor's appointments, or driver's education. Any student who receives an unexcused absence from a curricular activity can expect his grade to be lowered, and may find himself removed from an upcoming performance. A written parent note explaining an absence for an unexcused reason is appreciated, however, the director's acceptance of the written note does not turn the unexcused absence into an excused absence.

AFTER SCHOOL ABSENCES

If a student misses, or needs to miss, a band rehearsal or sectional for reason of one of the excused absences listed above, a written parent note must be turned in to a band director within 24 hours of the student's return to school (just as handling an absence from school). Any student who does not turn in a signed parent note for an absence from a required Taylor Band function, even

with an excused reason, will automatically be given an unexcused absence. Whenever possible, parent notes should precede a student's absence.

Absences from performances cannot be excused except in extreme cases. Band is a performance medium and a student's grade cannot be evaluated clearly if he misses a performance.

ELIGIBILITY / ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Many of the activities of the Taylor High School Band are considered "extra-curricular". For this reason, the "No-Pass, No-Play" rule affects the students of the Taylor Band. Students must pass all classes to be eligible to participate in any extra-curricular performance of the Taylor Band. Full band rehearsals, section rehearsals, and other preparations for performances are not affected by the eligibility rule. All students are expected to attend all rehearsals that pertain to them. The eligibility rule affects only extra-curricular performances. A student who earns a grade below 70 for a six-week grading period in any class is ineligible for extra-curricular performances for a three-week period at the beginning of the next grading period (there is always a one-week grace period at the beginning of each six weeks). If, after the three-week suspension, the student has a grade above 70 in all classes (not just the one previously below 70), the student becomes re-eligible. The Taylor High School Band staff checks grades regularly for all students in the band program. Often, the band staff knows before students and parents how well or poorly a student is doing in a particular class. When a student begins to struggle or have comprehension problems, the band staff will likely begin encouraging the student to work harder in a particular academic area.

SUMMER BAND

The Taylor High School Band holds rehearsals each summer before the beginning of the fall semester. The purpose of the rehearsals is to allow the band to adequately prepare for the upcoming marching season. This is also an important time for the students in the band to meet and greet each other. In a group as large as the Taylor Band, students need to have time to establish bonds of friendship and a strong work ethic. Students build a true "esprit de corps" during summer rehearsals. This relationship with each other and the group as a whole makes summer band the most important time of the year for the Taylor Band. No grades are assigned during summer band; however, attendance is checked and marching positions in the contest/competition band are assigned based on attendance, work habits and development of skills taught during the summer rehearsals. Students who miss all or part of summer band are immediately behind the rest of the group, and may battle the rest of the season just to "catch up" instead of striving to excel. In addition, they will likely not receive a performance position at the start of the marching band.

Generally, summer band always begins on August 1, regardless of the date for the beginning of the KISD school year. Parents wishing to see their child excel in the Taylor Band should make travel and vacation plans with this schedule in mind.

MARCHING FUNDAMENTALS

1. To the Ready

This command is not a formal command, but lets the band know that a formal command is just about to be delivered. When the command “To the Ready” is heard, all talking stops. The feet are shoulder width apart, knees and hips are relaxed, shoulders are directly over the hips, chin is down and resting on the chest, hands are together with left over right (with instrument, horn is all the way down, held in both hands, in a vertical position). At “To the Ready”, silence is required.

2. Attention

This is the most important of all marching fundamentals. At performances, this position is the first thing the audience (and judges) will see and they will form their impression of the band before a move or sound is made. A uniform position by all members of the band will make a lasting impression. Remember, one never gets a second opportunity to make a good first impression!!!! This position should instill a sense of pride in the band and the school. How the band carries itself on the field tells the audience if the band is prepared for its upcoming performance.

Physical Characteristics involve the following:

Feet are together. The weight of the body will be evenly distributed over both feet and balanced over the insteps. This will give the marcher a slight sense of leaning forward. Knees are relaxed, but not bent. Avoid locking the knees. Calf, thigh and “butt” muscles should feel firm. Stomach is tucked in and firm. Rib cage is lifted in an effort to create the illusion that all marchers are tall. This will also enable the marcher to use the correct breathing technique used to play a wind instrument. Shoulders are back and relaxed. At this point, the shoulders, hips and heels form a vertical line. Elbows are slightly bent and somewhat relaxed. Hands are held in a relaxed fist with the thumb to the side of the index finger. Middle finger will be in line with the seam of the pants. The thumbnails face forward. The chin is lifted so that it is parallel to the ground. The vertebrae are lined up and as far apart as possible. Eyes are focused just above the horizon. Mouth is closed. With instruments, each is different, but held with both hands in a proud and upright manner. There is no talking and no movement while at attention.

The command for attention is “Detail, a-ten-hut”. The response is “Hut”.

3. Parade Rest

This is a more relaxed form of attention. All the physical characteristics are the same as attention except the feet and hands. The feet move to shoulder width by stepping out with the left foot (right foot remains stationary). The left hand (fist) goes behind the back at the waistline with knuckles along the spine. When holding an instrument, the horn goes down, both hands remain on the horn. There is no talking and no movement at parade rest.

The command for parade rest is “Detail, Parade Rest”. The response is “One”.

4. Form Check

Form Check is a more formal version of “to the ready”. All the physical characteristics are the same as “to the ready” except for the feet, which are together as they would be at attention. This fundamental is used as a way to check the shape and spacing of forms without the rigidity of being at attention. There is no talking and no movement during form check.

There is not a formal, in tempo command, simply the words “Form Check”.

5. **Horns Up**

This command is executed two different ways. A) Without a horn: All parts of the body remain at attention except the hands and arms. The arms and hands move up quickly to eye level, the left hand is placed over the right fist, the thumbs are crossed left over right, the thumb nails are at eye level, the fore arms are at 45 degree angles with the ground and form a 90 degree angle with each other, the elbows are lifted up off the rib cage and held away from the body. B) With a horn: Each instrument is different, but all are held tall and proud with both hands in contact with the instrument. The command for horns up is "Horns Up". The response is "Up".

6. **Mark Time**

This is a way for the lower body to keep time to the music without moving anywhere. Starting with the left foot (always), the knee moves out slightly, just enough to barely elevate the heel. This motion happens on the "te" (upbeat) of the beat the heel moves back to the ground on the number or downbeat. The upper body must not move while marking time.

The command for mark time is "Mark Time, Mark". There is no band response.

7. **Turns**

Turns move the body 90 degrees to the left or right in four counts. Moving the feet just as in a mark time, the body moves left or right depending on the command. The balls of the feet stay in contact with the ground and shuffle or slide around, the heels move up only slightly. The upper body must not move or wobble while executing a turn. Turns can be executed from a stationary position, a forward march or a backward march. Whatever the body was doing before the turn should be continued after the turn.

The command for turns is "Left Turn, Mark" or "Right Turn, Mark". There is no band response.

8. **Forward March/Glide Step**

The glide step is the most fundamental of all movements executed by the marching band. The first step or preparatory step or step-off is executed on count 4 with the left foot moving out, with the sole of the shoe remaining parallel. On count 1, the left heel hits the ground and the left toe is pointed upward at as extreme an angle as possible. The foot lands heel first and rolls down all the way to the toe. As the glide step continues the foot remains curved with toes always pointing up. The entire sole of the shoe must be visible from the front just before the foot hits the ground. The action of rolling from heel to toe is critical and requires great exertion by the foot and calf muscles. The hips must remain clinched at all times to keep the upper body from bouncing or wobbling. The upper body must remain absolutely still when marching so the best possible sound can be produced on the instrument. The shoulders must not fall behind the hips. The body must have the sensation of moving and leaning forward at all times, giving an aggressive posture. The ankles cross on the up beats and the heels land exactly on the downbeat. Each step is exactly 22 1/2 inches long or 8 steps every 5 yards (8 to 5). The overall look is of very smooth, gliding motion regardless of tempo. The command is "For-ward, Mark". There is no band response.

9. **Backward March**

A large percentage of the marching done in a show performance is done backward. To correctly and smoothly move backward several important steps must be followed. On count four, rise to tiptoes, then remain on toes for the duration of the backward movement. All other body parts remain at a forward march (posture, head, etc.). The heel of the foot must never get close to the ground. The upper body must not bounce, sway or bobble. This will require great exertion in the feet, calves, thighs, and buttocks. Ankles cross on the upbeats. Remember, backward march is tiptoe marching. Sometimes, on very slow tempos, the foot will actually roll backward, from toe to heel; this is rare, but occasionally important.

The command is “Back-ward Mark”. There is no band response.

10. Drag Halt

The halt is a snappy way of returning the body to attention from a moving direction. On count four, the body totally freezes, the left foot remains behind and the left knee snaps to a bent position. On count one the left foot drags across the ground very quickly, snapping into place against the right foot with toes and heels immediately together.

The command for a drag halt is “Detail, Halt”. The response, when not playing an instrument, is “One, Two”.

11. Flanks

A flank is executed from a forward march and immediately turns the body 90 degrees in a new direction. On count four, the right foot is placed at a 45-degree angle toward the new direction; this is called the “prep step”. On count one, the entire body snaps quickly in the new direction. It is important to not let the upper body sway, bounce or bobble when turning. This is a more “hard” move where as the turn (accomplishing the same thing but using four counts) is a more “soft” move. The command for a flank is “Left Flank, Mark” or “Right Flank, Mark”. There is no band response.

12. Slides

A slide allows the body to move to the left or right while keeping the shoulders (and thus the instrument) facing straight ahead. The lower body executes a flank exactly as described above. The hips are at a 45-degree angle to the new direction and the shoulders are parallel to the previous direction. This maneuver requires great exertion in the stomach muscles and lower back. Often, this fundamental is performed poorly because the marcher will not keep the shoulders flat to the front.

The command for a slide is “Left Slide, Mark” or “Right Slide, Mark”. There is no band response.

13. To The Rear

To the rear turns the body all the way around (180 degrees) and is executed while forward marching. To the rear is just like a left flank, except the body turns all the way around, not just 90 degrees.

The command is “To the Rear, Mark”. There is no band response.

14. Dress

Normally, the head is always facing straight ahead while marching or standing at attention. The dress commands allow a marcher to turn the head to the left or right and look to see if the formation needs adjustment (up, back, left, right, etc.). Only the head moves, horns stay at play position, upper and lower bodies remain at attention. There is no talking and no additional movement while dressing a formation.

The command is “Dress Right Dress” or “Dress Left Dress” or “Dress Center Dress”. The response is “And, One”.

15. Adjusted Stride Marching

This is not really a marching fundamental, rather a technique used for approximately 85% of all show marching. For example, a marcher will have to move from point A to point B in 16 counts. This may require the step size to be more or less than 22 1/2 inches. The important thing to remember is that each of the 16 steps must be exactly equal in length, none should be smaller or larger than any other, and the new destination must be arrived at on count 16, not before. There is no formal command for adjusted stride marching.

MARCHING SEASON / FOOTBALL GAME PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES

Members of the Taylor High School Band must represent themselves, the band, Taylor High School and Katy ISD in a positive way at every performance. Anytime the band plays for an audience it is considered a performance. This includes pep rallies, football games, guest appearances and marching contests. Each member is required to make a good impression at each performance. The guidelines below will be helpful in fulfilling this requirement.

UNIFORM INSPECTION

Every band member must meet the assigned uniform requirements at each performance. The assigned requirement will depend on the type of performance. One of two uniforms will be used most of the time.

Uniform I - for casual performances - consists of a band shirt, blue denim jeans or blue denim shorts and tennis shoes. The band shirt is always worn tucked into the pants. There will be no exceptions to this policy. This uniform is worn at events such as pep rallies.

Uniform II - for formal performances - consists of a band shirt, light weight shorts to be worn under the uniform pants, black band bibber pants (hemmed correctly), crew length black socks with no design or striping, polished black band shoes, a blue band jacket, assigned jacket attachments (chest plate or drop), white marching band gloves, rain poncho, a band hat in its box, and a plume. All parts will be checked for cleanliness and proper fit. All guidelines explained in the Uniform Contract and Uniform Policy portion of this handbook must be followed.

Each member of the band is expected to arrive early for each performance event to check out all parts of the appropriate uniform. Failure to have all uniform parts will result in that member's immediate removal from the drill (including that performance) for a length of time to be determined by the director.

MUSIC

Every band member must meet the assigned music requirement at each performance. The assigned requirement will depend on the type of performance. This requirement includes not only knowledge of each piece, but also the actual possession of each piece at that performance. Requirements will be laid out prior to each performance. All "stands" music will be kept in a flip folder with the band members name on each piece. No students should share music at a football game.

INSTRUMENTS

Every member will be responsible for making sure his/her instrument is clean and in excellent working condition at each performance. This includes mouthpiece, reeds, mallets, sticks, etc.

FOOTBALL GAME GUIDELINES

Run-Throughs - Every member of the Taylor Band is expected to be on time (which means early) for run-throughs, wearing the assigned uniform parts, with all necessary equipment.

Inspection - All uniform parts must be clean and worn correctly. All members must have all music in a flip-folder. Color Guard members must have all equipment for performance. Students are not allowed to wear jewelry of any kind (particularly rings, earrings, watches and bracelets) Nail polish and lip stick must be removed before inspection.

Uniforms - When off the bus at the game site, all parts of the uniform must be worn at all times and worn correctly. In the stands, band hats may be removed, but no other hat or scarf may be worn on the head.

Stands Behavior - When seated in the stands, all Taylor Band members are expected to follow these guidelines:

1. Remain seated in your section at all times.
2. No food, candy, gum or drinks of any kind, except water after arrival and one soft drink after halftime provided by the band boosters.
3. Non-band visitors are not allowed in the band section at any time during the game (former Taylor Band students are possible exceptions). This includes non-chaperoning parents.
4. Be ready to play at all times.
5. Never play an instrument in the stands unless the band is playing all together, or with special permission from a director.
6. No instrument cases, book bags, back packs, tote bags, etc. will be allowed in the stands. Girls, leave purses at home.
7. Members will not be permitted to use the restroom at any time during a home football game.
8. Walkmans, non-band noise making devices, stereo equipment, etc., are not allowed in the bus or in the stands.

After game/performance procedures - Upon return to the band hall, all equipment must be put away neatly and quickly. Each student is responsible for his own equipment. The loading crew is not responsible for putting away other band members' equipment. Band uniforms will be checked in at the band hall after each performance. Shoes, socks and band t-shirt should go home with each student, the rest of the uniform should never be taken home.

UNIFORM POLICY

RESPONSIBILITIES

The parts of the Taylor Band uniform that are the property of Katy ISD are: a blue marching jacket with a chest plate and drop, sweat collar, a black tuxedo jacket, tuxedo shirt dickey front, a black bow tie, black bibber pants, a hat, a hat box, a plume, a garment bag, and a wooden hanger. The parts of the Taylor Band uniform that each student is expected to provide are: a pair of black band shoes, solid black crew length socks, a pair of white marching band gloves, a uniform travel/hanging bag, and a Taylor Band rain poncho. At the beginning of each school year (usually during summer band) each student will be fitted for uniform parts that are the property of KISD. To

insure complete uniformity, the parts of the uniform that each student provides for himself/herself are sold through the band from a specific supplier. All students are expected to purchase these items through these suppliers on “Money Day” at the beginning of the school year. If cared for properly, many of these student-owned items will last more than one year. If a member damages or loses any part of the uniform, the band member responsible for the damage or loss will pay the cost of repair or replacement of that article. The prices for these articles are available in this handbook or from a uniform staff member.

CHECK-IN / CHECK-OUT

The parts of the uniform that are the property of KISD will be checked-out to each student immediately before each performance and checked-in immediately after each performance. Students should arrive at the band hall early enough to get through the checkout procedure and be at run-through or warm-up on time (which means early). Students should also plan on staying after each performance for an appropriate length of time to allow for check-in of all uniforms. Students who fail to follow the appropriate check-in / checkout procedure will be dealt with in the manner described in the discipline management and attendance policy sections of this handbook.

UNIFORM CLEANING FEES

The uniform staff of the Taylor Band will determine how often the uniform will be professionally dry-cleaned. Each student will be expected to pay a “Uniform Cleaning Fee” at the beginning of each year to cover this cost. Parents can expect the uniform to be cleaned six to ten times per year at a cost of five dollars per cleaning. The uniform staff and dry cleaning establishment will be responsible for the pick-up and delivery of the band uniforms to and from the cleaners. No student should ever take his/her uniform to the cleaners without express permission from the uniform staff of the Taylor Band.

INSPECTION

The following checklist should be used when preparing for marching uniform inspection:

1. Polished black marching band shoes
2. Solid black crew length socks
3. Light weight (suggest nylon) shorts to be worn under band pants
4. Black bibber pants hemmed correctly
5. 2007 - 2008 White JET Band t-shirt
6. Blue marching jacket
7. Assigned chest plate or drop
8. Sweat collar
9. White marching band gloves
10. Hat and hatbox
11. Silver Mylar Plume
12. Taylor Band rain poncho

Included in the inspection, but not a part of the uniform:

1. Instrument - sparkling clean and in great working condition
2. Music - in a flip folder with student’s name on the front of each piece
3. Lyre
4. Neck Strap, extra reeds, etc.

Other inspection considerations include:

1. No jewelry of any kind is worn with the band uniform. This includes watches, rings, bracelets, and earrings. Necklaces worn under the band t-shirt are permitted.
2. No colored nail polish is to be worn. Clear polish is permitted.
3. When wearing the marching hat, hair must be pulled up off the collar and worn inside the hat.
4. Eating or drinking is not permitted in uniform, except for one band booster provided soft drink after halftime performances.

Inspection will be held prior to each performance. Failure to meet the standards of the Taylor Band will result in disciplinary action and/or lowering of a student's performance grade. In the event of a serious infraction, marching privileges will be lost for that game. A student's drill position can be taken away permanently for repeat offenses.

KATY ISD OWNED UNIFORM PARTS REPLACEMENT PRICE LIST: 2007 - 2008

Black bibber pants	\$105.
Blue marching jacket	\$95.
Reversible chest plate	\$65.
Sequin drop	\$45.
Marching band hat	\$35.
Marching band hat box	\$15.
Silver Mylar Plume	\$15.
Black concert jacket	\$85.
Pleated tuxedo shirt dickey front	\$25.
Black concert bow tie	\$5.
Wooden uniform hanger	\$5.

BUS RIDING RULES

The Taylor High School Band travels by bus very often. It is imperative that the following rules be followed so that the band can maintain a good reputation and rapport with the KISD Transportation Department and other charter bus companies:

1. Observe the same conduct as in the classroom.
2. Cooperate with the driver and adult chaperones.
3. Be courteous, use no profane language.
4. No food, drink or candy is to be consumed on a KISD bus.
5. Do not use alcohol, tobacco or other illegal substances.
6. Keep the bus clean.
7. Do not be destructive.
8. Stay in your seat. Do not stand while the bus is in motion.
9. Keep head, hands, feet and belongings inside the bus.
10. Band Directors, staff, bus drivers and adult chaperones are authorized to enforce rules.
11. When traveling to a performance, all students must exit the bus in full uniform.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS: CHECK OUT, CARE, MAINTENANCE AND FEES

The Taylor Band makes available to all students certain instruments and equipment. If a piece of equipment is available and the student has received adequate instruction concerning appropriate care and maintenance of the equipment, a student may check out or be issued a KISD-owned piece of equipment.

CHECK OUT

If enough instruments are available, students performing on the following instruments will be issued an instrument owned by KISD: Piccolo, Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, French Horn, Euphonium, and Sousaphone/Tuba. Occasionally, there are more students performing on a particular instrument than there are instruments available. When this situation occurs, the directors will attempt to work out an instrument-sharing plan for the students involved. Each student will be expected to own his/her own mouthpiece, reeds, ligature, accessories, etc. It is highly recommended that students/parents provide their own instrument rather than hoping KISD will have one available. Percussionists may check out a piece of school-owned percussion equipment over night at any time during the school year. Students will fill out appropriate forms with the Band Directors before taking any equipment from the Taylor Band Hall.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Many of the instruments provided by KISD are quite old and not very pleasing to the eye. These instruments are, however, in adequate playing condition. New or old, beautiful or frightful-looking, all instruments must be returned in at least as good condition as they were checked out. Any damage that occurs will be the financial responsibility of the student and parents. Students will pay for the cost of all repairs to an instrument damaged by the student before another instrument will be issued.

MAINTENANCE FEES

KISD currently charges \$100 per year per instrument to cover the cost of routine maintenance and normal wear and tear. This fee is paid by all students performing on or checking-out any piece of school-owned equipment (including percussionists and those students performing on percussion equipment during marching season). Parents will remit all maintenance fees to the Taylor Band staff.

EXPENSES TO EXPECT

As with most extra-curricular activities, there will be some expenses incurred with the Taylor High School Band. Katy ISD provides much funding for the Taylor Band, as does the Taylor High School Band Booster Organization. However, there is a limit to these funds. Thus, there are a number of items that students/parents will be expected to provide for successful participation in the Taylor Band.

1. Band Shoes ~\$37 (should last more than one year)
2. Black Band Socks ~\$4 per pair (need two or three pair)
2. Uniform Bag ~\$27 (should last all four years)
3. Band Shirt ~\$10 (might wish to purchase more than one)
4. Lyre/Flip Folder ~\$7
5. White Marching Band Gloves ~\$4 (should purchase at least two pair)
6. Taylor Band Rain Poncho ~\$17
7. Private Lessons \$16 per lesson, per week
8. Spring Trip (see "Spring Trip" section of THS Band Handbook)
9. School owned instrument maintenance fee ~\$100 per year
10. Method and Technique Books ~\$12 - \$15
11. Occasional entry fees, accompanist fees, etc.

COURSE CREDIT

Members of the Taylor High School Band earn P.E. credit during the fall semester for marching band, and fine arts credit in the spring semester for concert band. (Students in color guard earn a P.E. credit in the fall and an elective credit for winter guard in the spring.) The Texas Education Agency requires 24 credits for graduation from a Texas Public High School, including credits in both P.E. and Fine Arts. For those students who excel academically and plan to attend college, the Taylor Band is a "kill two birds with one stone" savior. Students in band for four years at Taylor High School will earn two credits of P.E. and two credits of fine arts. Students enrolled in electives other than band have to find room in the schedule for P.E. and fine arts courses. On the other hand, students in the band will have room in their schedules for additional advanced courses of their own choice. One can easily see that those students in band who plan to attend college have a real advantage over those students not in band. Listed below is just one example of a graduation plan that includes four years of band. There are many other ways to get all the credits required for graduation and be in the band for four years.

24 CREDIT GRADUATION PLAN - INCLUDING FOUR YEARS OF BAND

<u>9th Grade</u>	<u>10th Grade</u>	<u>11th Grade</u>	<u>12th Grade</u>
English	English	English	English
Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies
Math	Math	Math	Math
Science	Science	Science	Science
Health/Keyboarding	Foreign Language	Foreign Language	Foreign Language
Band	Band	Band	Band
		Speech	Computer Science

BAND PLACEMENT

The directors of the Taylor High School Band believe that all students have the right to be a member of a successful musical ensemble. A successful musical ensemble is one that is small enough to allow for plenty of individual attention from the instructors, one in which the instrumentation is balanced, and one in which the students are as close to the same ability level as possible. For these reasons, the Taylor High School Band operates several different musical ensembles, and students are placed into one of the ensembles based upon an audition. Auditions for band placement are held twice a year. In May, students audition for placement for the upcoming fall semester. In December, students audition for possible reassignment in the spring semester. The audition consists of four or five parts: 1) a technical etude; 2) 12 major scales and chromatic scale; 3) sight-reading; 4) portion(s) of the Taylor Band Warm-up; and 5) past performance/director recommendation. The performing bands currently maintained by the Taylor Band Program are as follows:

WIND ENSEMBLE

The Wind Ensemble is the top-performing band at Taylor High School. This band has a long record of high achievement and is widely respected as one of the best performing bands in the state. Students in the THS Wind Ensemble will find an extremely challenging experience and a very high level of expectation for practice, maturity and quest for excellence. The group is made up mostly of upperclassmen.

SYMPHONIC BAND

The Symphonic Band is the second band at Taylor High School. This band has a long record of high achievement. The group is made up of mostly upperclassmen with perhaps a few underclassmen. This band has its own identity and offers students a highly demanding repertoire of music. All students who are members of the Symphonic Band will find a very challenging experience.

CONCERT BAND

The Concert Band is the third band at Taylor High School. This band has a record of success unmatched by most third bands in the state. The group is made up of a mixture of upperclassmen and underclassmen. This band offers students a demanding repertoire of music. Members of the Concert Band will find a challenging experience.

CADET BAND

The Cadet Band is the fourth performing band at Taylor High School. Students in this band are generally underclassmen and are still developing musical performance skills. Students are challenged at a level that demands excellence and continued musical growth while allowing all students to feel successful.

JUNIOR VARSITY BAND

The Varsity Band is the fifth band at Taylor High School. Students in this band are generally underclassmen and are still developing musical performance skills. Students are challenged at a level that demands excellence and continued musical growth, while allowing all students to feel successful.

COLOR GUARD / WINTER GUARD

The Taylor Color Guard is an auxiliary unit of the JET Band. The Guard adds visual impact to the marching band with color and movement. Flags, rifles, sabers, and dance bring excitement, fashion and flare to all performances of the Taylor Band. After football season ends, and during the spring semester, the guard moves indoors and performs as the Taylor Winter Guard. Members of the Taylor Color Guard learn pride, discipline and gain a sense of accomplishment that few other students ever achieve. The Taylor Guard has been consistently recognized as one of the finest of its kind anywhere at all levels of competition. The Winter Guard is a three time state champion in its circuit and has never finished lower than seventh in the state. Further, the Winter Guard finished tenth in 1995, third in 2003, and 11th in 2007 at the WGI World Championships in Dayton, Ohio.

MEMBERSHIP

The Taylor Color Guard is open to all students at Taylor High School. Students must audition for a position in the guard. Guard members are expected to be positive models of behavior and academic excellence for all students to follow. Thus, a teacher recommendation is an important part of the guard selection process. Previous dance experience is helpful, but not required. Each student will receive extensive instruction in beginning, intermediate and advanced dance. All that is really needed to be a successful member of the guard is a great attitude and a desire to excel. Students in the Taylor Color Guard participate for both school semesters. In the fall, the guard is an auxiliary unit of the Taylor Marching Band and in the spring, the guard moves indoors to compete as the Taylor Winter Guard. Students in the Color Guard are officially members of the Taylor Band Program and are expected to follow all rules and regulations that apply to any band member.

ACADEMIC CREDIT

Students earning membership into the guard through audition enroll in the course titled "Dance PEQ" during the fall semester. The course earns an academic credit for the student and is used as a P.E. waiver. Thus, each fall semester that a student is a member of the Taylor Guard, a P.E. credit towards graduation is earned. Students enrolled in guard throughout high school will never have to enroll in a P.E. course. In the spring semester, Winter Guard members enroll in "Dance – Fine Arts" and receive a fine arts credit.

UNIT LEADERSHIP

The Color Guard, as an auxiliary unit of the band, falls under the direct supervision of the band directors. The band directors hire professional instructors, highly competent in the area of dance and color guard to instruct the guard members. Guard members follow instructions and direction given by the guard instructor, who in turn follows instructions from the band staff. Student leaders are selected by the staff to provide positive role modeling for all guard members, to organize and run certain practices and to assist in group morale and discipline.

PRACTICE TIME AND PERFORMANCES

Students in color guard perform at football games as members of the Taylor Band, pep rallies, and other public performances of the marching band. The winter guard performs at numerous competitions and contests in the spring semester. The guard has two separate weeklong clinics during the summer in preparation for the fall marching season. The guard rehearses with the band during regular summer band rehearsals. Students in the guard rehearse each day during an academic class period and at all after school marching band rehearsals during football season. The Winter Guard rehearses on Monday and Thursday evenings. Guard members are required to attend all rehearsals.

EXPENSES

The Color Guard Fee for the 2007 - 2008 school year will be approximately \$850. This fee covers the cost of the following items: Transportation to TCGC events, Fall and Spring Costumes and instructor salaries. This fee does not include shoes, wind suits, makeup, uniform bag(s) and other necessary items. Katy ISD and the Taylor Band Booster Organization subsidize a great portion of the cost of having a successful guard. Fund raising opportunities are always available to students wishing to earn, rather than pay guard expenses.

JAZZ BAND

The directors of the Taylor High School Band believe that it is important for students to be exposed to as many differing music styles as possible. The true "American Music" is jazz and the Taylor Band operates a very successful and rewarding jazz program. Students enrolled in Jazz Band learn many jazz styles and receive instruction in improvisation. Jazz Band is an academic class (called "stage band" on the KISD course selection sheet) meeting during the school day. Any student at Taylor High School is eligible to audition for the Jazz Band. Instrumentation is strictly controlled, and an extensive audition is usually required for admittance to the class. The audition is held within the first week of the fall semester. Typically, past jazz experience is required to have a successful audition for the jazz band. The Jazz Band travels throughout the state and country attending various jazz festivals and competitions. The Jazz Band usually travels with the rest of the Taylor Band on an annual "Spring Trip". The student pays all costs for extra-curricular travel. Students are always given fund raising opportunities to help defray travel expenses.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The directors of the Taylor High School Band believe that it is important for students to be exposed to as many differing music styles as possible. Because of this belief, the band department works in close cooperation with the Taylor High School Orchestra. The Taylor High School Orchestra Department sponsors, organizes and rehearses a "full" symphony orchestra, which includes wind players and percussionists from the Taylor High School Band who are selected by the band and orchestra directors. The instrumentation for the wind and percussion sections is strictly controlled. Rehearsals are every Tuesday afternoon from 3:30 - 5:30 PM after marching season is completed with several extra rehearsals just before major concerts and contests. All rehearsals are in the THS Orchestra room. The band staff assists the orchestra staff in preparing the full ensemble for contests, competitions, festivals and performances. Because this group is completely extra-curricular (no during the day instruction and no assigned grades), wind and percussion students who successfully audition into the group are placed on a rehearsal / performance attendance and discipline contract. Failure to meet the expectations of this contract will result in dismissal from the group and a new audition being held for replacement of the member in violation. Additionally, a fee of \$30 to \$50 is collected from each member to cover travel costs and orchestra banquet expenses.

HONOR ORGANIZATIONS AND SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTESTS

The directors of the Taylor Band believe that all students should have the opportunity for many and varied enrichment activities. The Texas Music Educators Association (of which the band directors are active members) sponsors a series of tryouts for students to participate in, which culminate in the naming of several “All-State” organizations. Tryouts begin on a “district” level, then move to “region”, “area”, and finally “state”. Each year, three etudes are selected to be played by all the students statewide on a particular instrument. The music is distributed during August band rehearsals. The audition process for Region Band and Orchestra usually begin in November, and run in a progressive manner until early January. The highest placing students at each audition advance to the next tryout. The band directors of Region 23 (Taylor High School’s region) also sponsor a 9th grade region band for freshman students entering the tryout process for the first time. The reward for earning a position in any of the bands is the opportunity to perform with all the other students named to the group in an always terrific concert and to be instructed and conducted by some of the world’s best known and most respected music educators. Further, many colleges and universities base scholarship awards on a student’s participation in All-Region and All-State organizations. TMEA also sponsors a region and state jazz band. The selection and advancement through levels is very similar to the process used for band and orchestra. Students in the Taylor Band are strongly encouraged to audition for these organizations. Generally, the students most successful in the audition process are those who take private instruction. The directors of the Taylor Band are available on a limited basis to assist students in preparation for the audition. The ultimate responsibility for adequate preparation clearly rests with the student. All of the auditions have an entry of \$10 to \$20.

The University Interscholastic League sponsors Solo and Ensemble Contests at both the Region and State levels. Students can enter a solo and/or a small ensemble at any appropriate difficulty level to perform for a professional adjudicator. The students are given immediate constructive criticism concerning the performance. Ratings against a very high standard of excellence are awarded to all participants. The Region Solo and Ensemble Contest is held near the end of January or the beginning of February. Students earning a first division on a Class 1 event (the most difficult level) are eligible to perform at the state solo and ensemble contest held each May in Austin at the University of Texas. Students must perform Class 1 solos from memory at the region level to be eligible for the state competition. The entry fee for these events is between \$10 and \$15. In nearly all cases, solos must be accompanied by piano. Students performing solos pay an accompanist fee of \$35 to \$60. Taylor Band students are urged to participate in Solo and Ensemble contest. Playing ability improves with practice and preparation on any musical selection and the opportunity to get a critique from a professional should never be passed up.

Success at Region Band auditions and UIL Solo and Ensemble are the two ways that Taylor Band students earn letter jacket points most quickly. Please read the section of the handbook on letter jackets.

MUSIC CHECK OUT - CHECK IN

All music issued to a student is the property of the Taylor High School Band and must be treated with respect and care. Music should be kept neat, clean, as unmarked as possible, and always in a folder. Occasionally, photocopied music is issued to a student. Photocopying of copyrighted material is legal for educational purposes only if the photocopy is destroyed upon completion of the activity. It is the responsibility of the director to destroy the photocopies. For all of these reasons, all music issued must be returned. Lost or defaced music will be treated just like a lost or defaced textbook in any other academic class. It shall be the responsibility of the student to replace or pay for replacement of any lost music

PRIVATE LESSONS

Students in the Taylor High School Band are strongly encouraged to take private lessons. No student is required to take lessons and a student's band placement is not based upon whether or not he is enrolled in lessons. However, it has been proven over and over again that a student taking private lessons on his instrument is much more successful than he would have been without lessons. For example, rarely does a student not taking lessons audition well enough for placement at the top of his section. The Taylor High School Band staff strives to hire the most competent and professional players/teachers to give private instruction to THS Band students. Lessons with these instructors are assigned on a first come, first serve basis and often lesson slots fill fast and leave some students waiting for additional staff to be hired. For this reason, students and parents are urged to sign up for lessons early in the academic year. Many private teachers teach lessons "year round" (summer vacation and holidays included). Students are encouraged to take advantage of these "year round" lessons if at all possible.

Lessons are 30 minutes long, once per week. All lessons are taught on a KISD High School or Junior High School Campus between 3 to 9:30 PM. The cost will be between \$16 per lesson. Payment for lessons is made directly to the private lesson teacher. To enroll in lessons, a student must fill out a Private Lesson Application Card (available from the band director) and attach a check for deposit in the amount equal to four lessons. Parents pay the teacher directly on a regular basis worked out between the teacher and the parent. If a student must miss a lesson for any reason, it is the responsibility of the student and parent to inform the private lesson teacher at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled lesson. Failure to do so can result in an unexcused absence and the student will still be billed for the lesson. It is the responsibility of the private lesson teacher to exchange phone numbers with the student to ensure good communication.

The directors of the Taylor High School Band recognize the importance of private lessons, but also recognize the greater importance of section rehearsals and full band rehearsals. When even one student is missing from a group rehearsal, for even one moment for even a great reason (like a private lesson) the entire group fails to be its best. For this very important reason, students should strive to schedule private lessons away from times scheduled for group rehearsals.

BAND CAMPS

Several colleges and universities in Texas and surrounding states sponsor summer band camps. The camps are generally held in the months of June or July and vary in length from four or five days to two weeks. Summer camps are extremely valuable to high school band students. Students at band camps receive instruction from some of the finest directors and instrument specialists in the nation. Usually college faculty members and the most respected public school teachers are the instructors at all band camps. The cost for band camps vary with the length of the camp, but the going rate seems to be around \$70 - \$90 per day of camp, the longer the camp, the more it costs. The experience of the Taylor High Band Directors is that the longer camps are usually much more beneficial to the high school band student. Application forms and printed brochures begin arriving in the mail around the beginning of February each school year. The camp brochures are posted around the band hall, and application forms are available from the band directors. Because not all camps are alike and not all camps are suited for any student at any level, students and parents should ask a band director about which camp is best for which student. The rewards of attending a camp are many and the cost is very reasonable. If possible, all parents should consider a summer camp for their child.

S.A.T. / A.C.T. TESTING

The SAT and ACT College entrance exams are critical portions of a high school student's academic regiment. Much research has been done that proves that students studying music are much more successful at these exams than students not studying music. The testing agencies that administer these exams set the dates these tests will be given at least a year in advance and publicize these dates to allow students to plan. The band directors of Taylor High School understand the importance of these tests and encourage band students to take these exams. The directors plan rehearsals and performances throughout the school year to allow students to take these exams at least twice in the year without a band conflict. It is the responsibility of the student and parent to make sure to sign up for these exams only on the days that have no scheduled band event. There are always be at least two dates per test, per year to choose from.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The Taylor High School Band gives all students the opportunity to develop leadership qualities. Simply by being a member of the band, students learn to lead and to follow direction. Many of the tasks of operating a large, successful band program are the responsibility of the student members. The band directors will delegate a large number of jobs to students not only to make the logistics of running the band easier, but also to develop responsibility in students. The students elect some of the offices held by students, the directors appoint others and others are selected through audition.

ELECTED OFFICES

President - must be a senior in good standing and have proven leadership skills.

Vice-President - must be a senior in good standing and have proven leadership skills.

Treasurer - must be a sophomore, junior or senior in good standing and have proven leadership skills.

Secretary - must be a sophomore, junior or senior in good standing and have proven leadership skills.

Historians (4) - must be a sophomore, junior or senior in good standing and have proven leadership skills.

Senior Representative - must be a senior in good standing and have proven leadership skills.

Junior Representative - must be a junior in good standing and have proven leadership skills.

Sophomore Representative - must be a sophomore in good standing and have proven leadership skills.

Freshman Representative(s) - must be a freshman in good standing and have proven leadership skills.

Color Guard Representative - must be a sophomore, junior, or senior color guard member in good standing and have proven leadership skills.

APPOINTED OFFICES

Librarians (10+) - must be a sophomore, junior or senior band member in good standing and have proven organizational skills.

Uniform Captains (3+) - must be a sophomore, junior or senior band member in good standing and have proven organizational skills.

Equipment Captain - must be a sophomore, junior or senior band member in good standing and have proven equipment repair skills.

Loading Crew Captain - must be a junior or a senior in good standing and have proven leadership skills and have proven organizational skills.

POSITIONS BY TRY - OUT

Drum Major(s) - must be a junior or a senior in good standing, have proven leadership skills, have proven organizational skills and must attend summer drum major camp. Must have been selected as a drill instructor prior to drum major auditions.

Color Guard Captain - must be a junior or a senior color guard member in good standing with at least one year previous Taylor Color Guard experience, have proven leadership skills and have proven organizational skills.

Color Guard Lieutenant(s) - must be a junior or a senior color guard member in good standing with at least one year of previous Taylor Color Guard experience, have proven leadership skills and have proven organizational skills.

Drill Instructor - must be a sophomore, junior or senior in good standing, have proven leadership skills, marching band skills, and organizational skills.

BAND BOOSTER ORGANIZATION

The Taylor Band is very fortunate to have a large and extremely supportive Band Booster Organization. The Booster Organization provides vital support for the extra educational needs of all students in the Taylor Band. Some of the numerous functions performed by the booster club include chaperoning all trips, assisting with uniform fitting, sewing flags, and sponsoring social gatherings for students. Also, the Booster Organization provides a large amount of funding for equipment, activities and staff not covered in the band budget from Katy ISD. In order to raise all the funds necessary, the booster organization sponsors a number of activities including garage sales, a silent auction, concession stands at various activities and many others. Meeting dates of the Band Booster Organization are printed in the JET Band "This Is Your Life" Calendar. In the 2007 – 08 school year, most booster club meetings will be held on Thursday evenings. All meetings are held at 7:30 PM in the Taylor Band Hall. Anyone who is interested in seeing the Taylor Band reach its full potential is invited to attend meetings and assist with the projects sponsored by this hard working and very fun group of adults.

STUDENT FUND RAISING

The Katy Independent School District allows students to participate in school sponsored fund raising activities with the money being used for a variety of purposes. Taylor High School Band student fund raising activities are offered to give students the chance to earn some or all of the money for extra-curricular trips which is not paid for by the school district. Student fund raising activities are selected by the directors and student leaders of the band, and are limited to those approved by Katy ISD and included on the approved vendor's list. The band is allowed one student fundraiser each semester. All money due the band through fund raising must be turned in promptly; failure to do so will result in disciplinary action. All students maintain a "trip account" through the year. Fund raising activities and individual student/parent contributions make up the balance in a student's trip account. Parent fund raising through booster club activities cannot be transferred into a student fund raising account.

SPRING TRIP

Each spring semester, the Taylor Band takes an extended overnight trip. The directors carefully select a destination and competition for the band based upon dates, costs, availabilities of lodging, and a variety of other factors. The trip is a competition for all the bands and is a vital portion of the educational development of each of the bands. For this important reason, it is critical that all students and parents work diligently throughout the school year to make sure that every student can participate in this activity. The trip is one of the activities that requires a monetary contribution from student and/or parent for participation. Fund raising opportunities are given twice a year (once per semester) so that students may earn a portion or all of the money for this trip. Please read the section of the handbook on "Student Fundraising". Katy ISD has a policy governing extra-curricular travel that allows for trips only within a 400-mile radius of the district. Once every four years, the band is allowed to travel outside of that radius. The next "big trip" will be in the spring of 2009. This year the band will be traveling to Corpus Christi April 26-28. Much more on the specifics of this year's trip can be obtained from the THS band directors.

OVERNIGHT STUDENT TRIP RULES

The Taylor Band takes pride in itself. This is never more evident than when the band travels on overnight trips. When traveling, each member of the band is expected to be on his/her very best behavior. Employees of travel agencies, tour groups, bus lines and hotels always compliment the Taylor Band as being the best group of young people anywhere. The reason this is true is because of the very strict, but fair, rules outlined below.

1. There will be no boys in girls' rooms or girls in boys' rooms for any reason, unless in the presence of a band director or principal. Any student violating this rule will be sent home.
2. Students will not be outside of their rooms after curfew unless accompanied by an adult chaperone. Students will be given a chaperone's telephone number to call in case of emergency. Any student in violation of this policy will be sent home.
3. The possession or use of any tobacco product, alcohol product, drugs, chemicals, inhalants, or any other intoxicants or mood-altering drugs is prohibited. Any student violating this policy will be sent home and referred to his / her campus administrator.
4. Students responsible for any property damage will be financially responsible for the damage.
5. Students are not to leave an assigned area for any reason or get into any vehicle other than school designated transportation.
6. Any student in violation of local, state or federal laws will be turned over to law enforcement authorities. If the student returns to the band, he / she will be sent home.
7. Any student who excessively violates any trip guidelines will be sent home.
8. Students will follow all policies set forth in the Taylor Band Handbook.
9. Violation of any of the rules listed above may result in permanent removal from the Taylor High School Band.
10. If a student must be sent home for any reason, the parent / guardian of the student agrees to pay the full cost of the student's return trip to Katy, Texas. The parent or guardian of a student in violation of trip rules will provide appropriate information (credit card number, etc) to school district personnel in order that appropriate return transportation may be purchased.

AWARDS BANQUET

The Taylor High School Band holds an awards banquet near the conclusion of each year. The banquet is held to recognize all students and parents for their personal contributions to the successes of the Taylor Band. Parents and friends are invited and encouraged to attend. Usually, parents and friends pay the full cost of their meals and Taylor Band students attend at a sizable discount in price. The banquet gives directors and parents the chance to say "Thank You" for a job well done. Though attendance is not required, virtually all students and parents attend the banquet every year. Individual student achievement awards are presented at the banquet. The awards are intended to single out students who have done work that is truly worthy of special recognition. Some of these awards are as follows:

DIRECTOR'S AWARD - awarded to the most outstanding member of the Taylor Band Program, the highest and most prestigious of all the awards.

OUTSTANDING WIND ENSEMBLE MEMBER - awarded to the student who contributes most to the success of this group.

OUTSTANDING SYMPHONIC BAND MEMBER - awarded to the student who contributes most to the success of this group.

OUTSTANDING CONCERT BAND MEMBER - awarded to the student who contributes most to the success of this group.

OUTSTANDING CADET BAND MEMBER - awarded to the student who contributes most to the success of this group.

OUTSTANDING JUNIOR VARSITY BAND MEMBER - awarded to the student who contributes most to the success of this group.

OUTSTANDING JAZZ BAND MEMBER - awarded to the student who contributes most to the success of this group.

OUTSTANDING DRILL INSTRUCTOR - awarded to the student drill instructor that most exemplifies the Taylor Band ideal of firm, yet positive leadership.

OUTSTANDING SOLOIST - awarded to the student in any of the bands who has most exhibited outstanding ability to perform solos with one of the bands.

OUTSTANDING DRUM LINE MEMBER - awarded to the student who contributes the most to the success of the marching drum line.

OUTSTANDING MARCHING BAND MEMBER - awarded to the student who contributes most to the success of the Big Blue Marching Band.

OUTSTANDING COLOR GUARD MEMBER - awarded to the student who contributes most to the success of the Taylor Color Guard.

OUTSTANDING SENIOR BAND MEMBER - awarded to the senior student who over the course of four years has contributed the most to the success of the Taylor Band Program.

OUTSTANDING FRESHMAN BAND MEMBER - awarded to the freshman that most exemplifies the Taylor Band ideal of hard work and disciplined habits.

MOST IMPROVED BAND MEMBER - awarded to the student whose instrumental playing ability has improved the most in the school year.

MOST IMPROVED COLOR GUARD MEMBER - awarded to the student whose color guard abilities have improved the most in the school year.

Other awards are added from time to time to recognize particular student accomplishment in areas not covered by these awards.

WHY STUDY MUSIC? WHY MAKE MUSIC?

MUSIC IS A SCIENCE

It is exact, specific, and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's full score is a chart, a graph that indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody, and harmony all at once and with the most exact control of time.

MUSIC IS MATHEMATICAL

It is rhythmically based on the subdivision of time into fractions that must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.

MUSIC IS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French, and the notation is certainly not English, but rather is a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music is the most complete and universal language.

MUSIC IS HISTORY

Music often reflects the environment of its creation, offering insight into other cultures and times.

MUSIC IS PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Playing an instrument requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lips, cheeks, and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragm, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.

MUSIC IS ALL OF THESE THINGS, BUT MOST OF ALL MUSIC IS ART

It allows a human being to take all these techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing science cannot duplicate: spirituality, humanism, feeling, transcendence, emotion, call it what you will.

THIS IS WHY WE STUDY MUSIC - MAKE MUSIC!

Not because we expect you to major in music

Not because we expect you to play or sing all your life

Not just so you can relax

Not just so you can have fun

But - so you will be human

so you will recognize beauty

so you will be sensitive

so you will be closer to an infinite beyond this world

so you will have something to cling to

so you will have more love, more compassion, more gentleness, more good –
in short, more life!

Of what value will it be to make a prosperous living unless you know how to live?

To what end is it to know the price of everything and the value of nothing?

WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT THE BAND EXPERIENCE

From the Harvard University Admission Department:

“We always consider extracurricular talents and personal strengths when we evaluate a candidate’s credentials. We look for students whose previous participation in the arts shows that they can make a substantial contribution to our community.”

and from the Admissions Department at Johns Hopkins University:

“Participation in the performing arts during the pre-college years is a clear indication to our admission committee that a student is dedicated to, excited about and engaged in the educational journey.”

and this from The College Board concerning SAT takers:

“Students with course work in music performance scored 51 points higher on the verbal portion of the SAT and 39 points higher on the math portion of the SAT than students without music course work. (Further)...those who studied four or more years scored 59 points higher on verbal and 44 points higher on math portions of the SAT than students with no experience.”

and this from Thomas Meyers - Director of Investor Relations, TRW, Inc:

“I view the instrumental music program as leadership development. One of my tasks is to find new employees who will become the company’s senior leaders in ten to twenty years. Most of the students we hire have impressive grades, good business experience with major companies, and the leadership, character, and skills they acquired while being a member of their high school band.”

and this from “An Evaluation of Achievement in Reading and Arithmetic”:

“Music students always out perform non-music students on achievement tests in reading and math. Because of their study of music, their skills are better at reading, anticipating, memory, listening, forecasting, recall and concentration.”

and this from Dr. F. Rauscher and Dr. G. Shaw of the University of California:

“Music lessons have been shown to improve a child’s performance in school. After eight months of keyboard lessons, preschoolers showed a 46% boost in their spatial IQ, which is crucial for higher brain functions such as complex mathematics.”