

W. Charles Akins High School Band

2023 - 2024 Handbook



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Akins Eagle Band
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Akins Eagle Band Course Syllabus

Course Goal:

To stimulate musical and personal growth in a safe and positive environment.

Course Objectives:

- To learn advanced techniques of playing in an ensemble.
- To learn advanced techniques of marching and body movement. (Fall)
- To represent and serve the Akins community through quality musical performances.
- To develop qualities of leadership, citizenship, and pride in performance.

Course Requirements:

- Participate in all rehearsals, concerts, contests, and other official class activities.
- Respect and maintain the Band Hall area and all school-owned equipment.
- Give your best effort at all times.

Course Grading Policies:

AISD band programs have instructional objectives that relate to the mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for grade level subjects or courses. These objectives are aligned to address the academic skills needed for successful performance in the next grade or next course in a sequence of courses. Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, and other instructional activities are designed so that the student's performance indicates the level of mastery of the instructional objectives. The student's mastery level of these objectives is a major factor in determining the grade for a subject or course.

Students will be expected to meet the responsibilities for each band class as determined by the director. Since band is an academic music class with some extra-curricular activities attached, the band student's grade will reflect achievement in both curricular and extracurricular areas.

A band member's six weeks grade will be determined from the following items: student's daily preparation and participation, individual testing, performances, and extended classroom activities such as sectionals and before/after school rehearsals. For more specific information pertaining to how a student's grade is determined, please consult the director.

Attendance Policy

In order to have and maintain a high-quality band program, attendance from all members is essential. While the Akins HS band follows all school and district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the Akins HS band. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held outside of the school day.

Attendance

Roll will be checked and documented promptly at the start of rehearsal.

Tardiness

Students not in their designated area at the appropriate time will be marked tardy. A tardy will be converted to a mark of absent 10 minutes after the rehearsal begins.

Excused Tardiness

Tardiness may be excused at the discretion of the directors with appropriate and timely communication.

Unexcused Tardiness

Students who have more than one unexcused tardy shall make up missed time at a time to be arranged by the director and may be subject to one of the following consequences at the discretion of the band directors:

- Requirement to make up 15 minutes of fundamental marching with his/her section leader
- Requirement to stay after rehearsal or report early to next rehearsal to make up lost time
- Loss of marching privilege (for one game) at a football game
- Loss of spot as a marcher

Absence

Students not present at the appropriate time may be marked absent.

Excused Absence

Absence may be excused at the discretion of the directors with appropriate and timely communication.

Unexcused Absences

Unexcused student absence will result in the inability to perform during the week in which they are absent. Frequent unexcused absence will result in the loss of a marching position.

Band Rehearsal Guidelines and Student Conduct

Band members will observe all policies set forth by AISD, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

Any behavior, which is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the band program.

- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area ready to work at the set rehearsal time with all equipment, including music, pencil, instrument, and all supplies to rehearsals daily.
- Students will not use or play on equipment they do not own without permission from a director.
- Students should not enter the Band Hall unless a director is in the vicinity.
- No unauthorized students or visitors allowed in the bandhall.
- The Band Department is not responsible for personal items stored anywhere in the Band Hall. Students are advised to lock all valuables in their assigned school locker.
- All instruments and equipment are to remain in their cases, with shut latches, when not in use.
- Students will be held responsible for any damage to the instrument or equipment, outside of the normal wear and tear.
- Take proper care of your band uniform. All parts should be returned to their proper place and be hung correctly. Uniforms should never be laid on the ground! Uniforms are to remain stored in the Uniform Room when not in use.
- Instrument lockers shall remain clean. No food should be left in the locker! Marching shoes and rehearsal clothes must be stored in your band bag during marching season.
- Students should not enter the directors' office without permission. Please knock and wait for a response. No student is to use the band office computers/phone/copier without permission.
- There will be NO CHANGING in ANY band facility. This includes practice rooms, band hall, ensemble room, the percussion room, and guard room.

Private Lessons

In order to achieve a high level of excellence, the Akins Band *actively encourages* (but does not require) all students to secure private instruction from a specialist on their instrument.

Akins High School offers a full staff of private lesson instructors. These highly qualified teachers are specialists on their particular instruments. Private Lessons offer the students the opportunity to study at their own pace. If they need extra assistance on fundamentals, the private lesson instructors help to supplement their daily assignments. If the student feels they would like to push forward to upper level studies, the instructors will help in this process. In either case, individual instruction can only help! If there is a financial hardship, please speak with the Director of Bands. We do not want money to be a barrier to any student getting the instruction they desire.

Private lessons are usually 25-30 minutes long, once a week. Most lessons are scheduled during band class period although some lessons will be before school or after school. If a student is unable to attend a lesson, they are expected to communicate with the private instructor 24 hours in advance. If advanced notice is not given and the student does not show up for the lesson, payment for that lesson is still required.

REQUIREMENTS FOR LETTERING IN BAND

Students may earn a letter jacket when they have met either of the following criteria:

- The student has completed three years of band/color guard and is enrolled in band/color guard their senior year.
- The student is an underclassman that earns a position in the Region Band.
- The student receives a “1st division” at the UIL Solo and Ensemble Festival.
- The student applies, interviews, and receives a leadership position within the band.

Once a student has earned their jacket, they will be given permission to purchase their jacket. Fittings will be done in the Fall Semester of each year. Payment is due at the time of the fitting. Jackets are traditionally presented to students the following in late Fall.

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

It is the intention of the Band Directors to provide a safe and positive musical experience for every band student. Some behaviors, which include but are not limited to theft, sexual misconduct, possession of tobacco, illegal drugs or alcohol would constitute immediate removal from the Band program. In the event of other inappropriate behaviors (such as flagrant and/or repeated insubordination or persistent student misconduct in or around the Band Hall, or at band events), the directors will follow the guidelines below.

1. Director- student conference
2. Director- parent conference (with or without the student)
3. Student behavioral contract
4. Removal of student from Band Program

I/We have read and understand all of the information from the Akins High School Band Handbook and agree to abide by the stated policies.

Student's Printed Name:

Student Signature:

_____ Date _____

Parent(s) Signature(s):

_____ Date _____