

**Louis D. Brandeis Bronco Band**

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San Antonio, TX 78249  
(210) 397-8300

# **Band, Color Guard, and Field Dance Handbook**

**2019 - 2020**

## **1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the handbook is to set our expectations, guidelines, processes, and procedures for the Louis D. Brandeis Band. These include our ensembles of the program, admission requirements, attendance policies, and disciplinary guidelines.

## **2. ENSEMBLES**

### **Marching Band**

Marching band is open to all students who meet the admission requirements. Participation includes attendance at all rehearsals, performances, special events during the school year and summer, and enrollment in the required class. As a member of the marching band, the primary focus will be on instrumental performance and marching band movement. This ensemble involves a physical education equivalent curriculum that will earn students a .5 credit.

### **Color Guard**

Color Guard is open to all students who meet the admission requirements. Participation includes attendance at all rehearsals, performances, special events during the school year and summer, and enrollment in the required class. As a member of the Color Guard, the primary focus will be on dance in combination with flag work. The Director of Bands may incorporate rifle and saber work in the required skills for this ensemble as necessary. This ensemble involves a physical education equivalent curriculum that will earn students a .5 credit as it performs in conjunction with the Marching Band ensemble.

## **Field Dance Company**

The Field Dance Company is open to all students who meet the admission requirements. Participation includes attendance at all rehearsals, performances, special events during the school year and summer, and enrollment in the required class. As a member of the Field Dance Company, the primary focus will be on fundamental and advanced dance techniques. The Director of Field Dance may incorporate additional required skills for this ensemble as necessary. This ensemble involves a physical education equivalent curriculum that will earn students a .5 credit, as it performs in conjunction with the Marching Band ensemble.

## **Jazz Ensemble**

The jazz ensemble is open to all students who meet the admission requirements. Participation includes attendance at all rehearsals, performances, special events during the school year. Enrollment in the Stage Band course may be required by the ensemble director. Students focus on multiple music styles such as swing, funk, and Latin, in addition to other styles introduced by the ensemble director. This is a stand-alone ensemble but may perform in conjunction with other ensembles.

## **Winter Guard**

Winter Guard is open to all students who meet the admission requirements. Participation includes attendance at all rehearsals, performances, special events during the school year, and enrollment in the required class. As a member of the Winter Guard, the primary focus will be on dance in combination with flag work. The Director of Bands may incorporate rifle and saber work in the required skills for this ensemble as necessary. This is a stand-alone ensemble that does not perform in conjunction with other ensembles.

## **Concert Band**

The Concert Band ensembles are open to all students who meet the admission requirements. Participation includes attendance at all rehearsals, performances, special events during the school year, and enrollment in the required class. Concert bands are divided into 4 levels based on skill level: Varsity, Non-Varsity, Freshman Band, and Sub-Non-Varsity. The primary focus of these ensembles is on wind ensemble music styles and formats to further the study on the student's primary instrument. These are stand-alone ensembles but may perform in conjunction with other ensembles.

## **Instrumental Ensemble**

Instrumental ensemble is a class period designed to give instrumentalist students more one-on-one instruction, personal practice time, and prepare students for any assessments, performances, and/or auditions. This course must be taken in addition to a student's primary band course. A student of any grade may take this course with the approval of the Director of Bands.

## **3. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

### **Marching Band**

Students who wish to join the marching band must have at least 2 years of middle school band experience or be able to perform at the equivalent skill level, as determined by the Director of Bands. Should a student not meet the requirement, he/she is advised to take private lessons on an instrument of his/her choice and may re-audition the following May of the school calendar year.

All students will have an assignment in the marching band that is determined by auditions. Students will be tested on his/her quality of performance on his/her instrument, movement and marching, and coordination. The size of the marching band is determined by the Director of Bands and students will be notified of available performance positions, per instrument prior to auditions. These positions are called primary performance positions. Any student that does not place within the determined primary performance positions of his/her instrument, will be assigned an alternate performance position and may be utilized for the marching show production.

Students in alternate performance positions may ask to challenge a student for his/her primary performance spot. The Director of Bands will determine at his/her discretion whether a challenge request will be granted or denied. If the request is granted, the student challenging and the student being challenged, will perform an audition based on requirements set by the Director of Bands. Challenges will be scheduled based on an agreed date and time by a director, the student challenging, and the student being challenged.

### **Color Guard, Field Dance Company, and Winter Guard**

Students who wish to join the Color Guard, Field Dance Company, and Winter Guard do not need any prior experience. However, these ensembles are audition-based and students must be able to execute required movements and skills determined by the Director of Bands and Field Dance.

All students will have an assignment in the Color Guard, Field Dance Company, or Winter guard that are determined by auditions. Students will be tested on his/her quality of performance on any of the following individually or in combination: equipment, movement, dance, and coordination. The size of the Color Guard, Field Dance Company, and Winter Guard is determined by the Director of Bands and/or the Director of Field Dance. Students will be notified of available performance positions per performance group, prior to auditions. These positions are called primary performance positions. Any student that does not place within the determined primary performance positions of his/her performance group, will be assigned an alternate performance position and may be utilized for the marching show production.

Students in alternate performance positions may ask to challenge a student for his/her primary performance spot. The Director of Bands and/or Director of Field Dance will determine at his/her discretion whether a challenge request will be granted or denied. If the request is granted, the student challenging and the student being challenged, will perform an audition based on requirements set by the Director of Bands and/or the Director of Field Dance. Challenges will be scheduled based on an agreed date and time by a director, the student challenging, and the student being challenged.

## **Jazz Ensemble**

Students who wish to join the jazz ensemble are required to audition. Auditions include the performance of fundamental instrumental skills set forth by the Director of Jazz studies. Students must also perform in the marching band and concert band ensembles. The only exception to this requirement is if a student plays the guitar, bass guitar/string bass, piano, or is a vocalist.

## **Concert Band**

Students who wish to join a concert ensemble must have participated in the marching band the previous summer and fall. A student who enrolls at Brandeis after the conclusion of the previous marching band season, must meet the 2-year minimum middle school requirement as outlined in the marching band ensemble requirements.

Concert Band placement is determined by the end of school year objectives or assessments set forth by the director of bands. The Director of Bands determines how many performers of each instrument is needed in each band class period. The Director of Bands may move any student from an ensemble period, into another ensemble period at his/her discretion based on the needs of each ensemble period.

Any student who earns All Area honors in the TMEA All State Region Band process, may be given the option to move into a more advanced ensemble. Any results from the District or Region level of TMEA All State Auditions do not have any influence on what performing ensemble class period a student is enrolled.

## **Positions Needing To Be Filled**

Any primary performance position that is not being fulfilled due to, but not limited to, performance, absences, eligibility, and/or injury may be filled by the Director of Bands at his/her discretion. A formal audition does not have to be held for these positions.

## **Requirements for All Members**

Each student who participates in Marching Band, Color Guard, or Field Dance must have a medical physical completed within the last two years. A hard copy of the physical must be on file with the Director of Bands. All students must have a medical physical completed and turned into the Director of Bands during May of the academic year they are completing his/her 8th and 10th grade year of school. Lastly, parent permission is required.

## **4. Leadership Positions**

### BAND COUNCIL

Band Council positions are determined by a student vote at the end of each academic year. These positions include President, Vice President, Secretary, Historian, and Librarian. Students will present a written document to his/her peers explaining why they should earn his/her vote for the position requested. Each student will submit one vote per position. Directors will count all votes. President, Vice President, Secretary, and Historian positions will be held by 1 student per position. The Librarian position may be held by multiple students at the discretion of the Director of Bands. The Director of Bands is not required to announce the number of librarian positions available prior to student voting. If a student is absent the day of student voting, that student forfeits his/her right to vote. The leader in votes per position will be determined the winner and holder of the position. Results will be posted with only the names of the candidates who have earned a Band Council position. Students may view his/her own vote count the day after the official results are posted but may not see another candidate's vote count. Vote counts will not be posted publicly.

## DRUM MAJOR

Drum Major positions are determined by a combination of a student vote/live audition process and a formal live audition. On a specific date and time determined by the Director of Bands, Drum Major candidates will present themselves to the program members and state his/her intent to audition for the position. Prior to the determined audition date, all candidates will be offered training sessions held by a director and/or staff member. Training sessions will cover all material included in the audition. Candidates will also conduct a piece of music based on a random draw. Other Drum Major candidates will not be allowed in the room during any other candidate's speech or conducting audition. After each candidate completes his/her speech and conducting assignment, each student not auditioning for Drum Major will vote for one candidate who they feel will best fulfill the position. Votes are tabulated by a director. The candidate with the most votes will earn 10 points on his/her formal audition score. Students voting must see all drum major candidates. Any student who is absent or does not see all drum major candidates will forfeit his/her right to vote.

At a separate time determined by the Director of Bands, Drum Major candidates will then have a formal live audition for a panel of teachers that will include some or all of the Brandeis Band Directors. At least 3 additional teachers who are current, or former band directors at the high school level will make up the rest of the judging panel.

As a group, all candidates will perform marching fundamentals and conducting fundamentals. If there is a large number of candidates, the Director of Bands may create multiple groups to allow proper space to perform required skills. All candidates will stay in the same room during group performances. Judges may ask one or all groups to perform the skills multiple times to assess each person. Judges will score each candidate based on the quality of his/her performance.

After the group portion, students will individually display a drill performance and have an interview with the judging panel. Questions asked by the judging panel will be submitted to the Director of Bands prior to the interview process. Judges are allowed to ask non predetermined follow up questions based on candidate answers to a submitted question.

Following interviews, judges will tabulate scores putting the student with the highest score as 1st, and proceed in numerical order from there.

The Director of Bands will determine the minimum number of Drum Majors positions needed for the program. The Director of Bands may increase that number at his/her discretion at anytime without official notice.

The Director of Bands may announce the candidates who earn a position of Drum Major to all candidates simultaneously. Directors, judges, staff, and the candidates parents are welcome to

be present during this announcement but not required. Non candidates or any other adults other than those listed above may not be present for the announcements of Drum Major positions.

Candidates may see his/her own scores the following day of the auditions but may not see other candidate's scores. Scores will not be posted publicly.

### SECTION LEADERS

Students interested in a section leader position must submit a written application. Each candidate will also have to perform required musical skills as determined by the Director of Bands on his/her instrument for a director. Each student will perform the same skills based on his/her instrument family (Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion). Each candidate will also have to interview with at least 2 directors simultaneously. Candidates will be asked a predetermined set of questions. Directors may ask non predetermined follow up questions. Directors will score each candidate's performance of skills, and interview. Results will be posted with only the names of the candidates who have earned a leadership position. Students may view his/her own scores the day after official results posting but may not see another candidate's scores. Scores will not be posted publicly.

### FIELD DANCE & COLOR GUARD LEADER

Students interested in a section leader position must submit a written application. Students will also be required to perform a predetermined set of skills. These skills will be determined by the Director of Bands and the Director of Field Dance. Each candidate will also have to interview with at least 2 directors simultaneously or a judging panel as determined by the Director of Bands or the Director of Field Dance. Candidates will be asked a predetermined set of questions. Directors may ask non predetermined follow up questions. Directors will score each candidate's performance of skills, and interview. Results will be posted with only the names of the candidates who have earned a Field Dance or Color Guard position. Students may view his/her own scores the day after official results posting but may not see another candidate's scores. Scores will not be posted publicly.

### ALL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

To apply for any leadership position (Drum Major, Band Council, Section Leader, Field Dance or Color Guard leader), student must meet predetermined requirements as determined by the Director of Bands. These requirements are made available with the written application. Requirements may change each academic year as determined by the Director of Bands. Any changes will be made public to all candidates.

## **5. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

### **Scholastic Eligibility**

In order to be eligible to participate in an extracurricular activity following the initial six weeks of a school year, a student must not have a recorded cycle grade average lower than a 70.

A student who has a recorded cycle grade average in any course lower than a 70 at the end of a grading cycle shall be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity during a succeeding three week period until he/she regains eligibility seven calendar days after a three week evaluation period (must be passing **all** courses on the last day of that evaluation period). If the student continues to fail a course at the end of the three-week period, ineligibility continues until seven calendar days after the end of the next three-week period. At this time, a student may remain eligible if all course averages are passing. The campus principal or his/her designee may remove this suspension if the class is identified as an honors class via an academic waiver under the criteria stated in the Texas Administrative Code.

Students who are ineligible from an extracurricular activity may participate in class or be given alternate assignments. Students who are ineligible are not required to attend practices outside of the school day. Students who are ineligible may not travel, compete, or perform as a member of the program at any extra-curricular function.

Suspension from participation in extracurricular activities becomes effective seven days after the last day of the grading period during which the grade(s) lower than 70 was earned. The seven-day interim period begins with the close of school on the last day of the grading period and ends seven days later. For example, if the grading period ends at 4:15 p.m., Friday, April 12, the suspension would take effect at 4:15 p.m. on Friday, April 19.

Academic ineligibility for two consecutive grading cycles may result in removal from the organization. If the member is allowed to remain in the organization and becomes ineligible for a third grading cycle, then the member will be removed from the organization.

### **Citizenship**

Directors may develop and enforce standards of behavior that are higher than the District-developed Student Code of Conduct and may condition membership or participation in the activity on adherence to those standards. Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time, on or off school property.



Each band, Color Guard, or Field Dance member is expected to exhibit a high standard of citizenship and behavior, both on and off-campus, that will be a credit to the program, school, community, and district.

Most discipline problems will be handled in a manner specified in the school's Student-Parent Handbook. These include any issues occurring due to the use of social media platforms whether for personal use or program use.

The Director of Bands may recommend to the principal removal of leadership position, probation, or dismissal of a student if the student's problems have not been resolved through the following steps:

- Student-director conference
- Student-parent-director conference
- Student-administrator conference
- Student-parent-administrator conference

Any of the above steps may be utilized at any time as deemed necessary by the Director of Bands and/or administration.

## **Removal**

Any member who does not meet the academic or citizenship requirements listed above may be removed from the program.

Any violation of the NISD Student Code of Conduct resulting in placement at the NISD Alternative School may result in dismissal from the band program for the remainder of the school year or permanently.

A student may be removed from participation in extracurricular activities for violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Once membership is terminated, students may not regain entry at any point in the future.

## **Resignation of Membership or Leadership Positions**

A member of the program who quits from his/her membership position at any point during the school year will immediately cease all activities with the program.

A member of the program who resigns from his/her leadership position at any point during the school year will continue activities with the program as required, but not in a leadership position.

Any officer or designated leader in the band program who violates the NISD Student Code of Conduct resulting in the placement at the NISD Alternative School shall lose his/her office or leadership status.

If a member in good standing resigns his/her membership, he/she may submit in writing, a request to return to the organization. It is at the discretion of the Director of Bands to allow membership into the program.

If a member in good standing quits and is allowed re-entry into the program, any position or title held previously will be returned or withheld by the Director of Bands.

The Director of Bands has the right to assign any title that is forfeited or removed, without a formal audition, as he/she sees fit.

### **Additional Notes Regarding Removal or Resignation**

Former program members, who are current Brandeis High School students are not allowed in the band classrooms, practice rooms, or practice field.

Former program members, who are current Brandeis High School students may not attend band functions with the program, or separately to associate with the program in any way other than a spectator, separate from current members.

Former program members who completed their senior year in good standing may help at program functions at the discretion of the Director of Bands.

### **Financial Obligations**

Each member's financial requirements are on an individual account basis. All members of the program are required to pay yearly fees to participate in the program. Fees are set on a yearly basis by the Director of Bands and may fluctuate from year to year. Fees can be paid in a one or two payment schedule, as chosen by the student's parents at band registration prior to the start of each academic school year.

Any student who receives fundraising products will be responsible for the determined total value of the products received. Should a student fail to turn in monies required for fundraising products received, that amount will be added to the student's individual account balance. The student will be responsible to pay the balance of his/her account in full immediately.

All student fees must be paid in full prior to any out of state trip, that is not mandatory as part of the curriculum of the program. Any monies paid towards a non mandatory curriculum-based trip will be used to pay against any outstanding fees owed.

Students who fail to meet financial agreements as agreed upon may jeopardize their membership in the program.

Students who are removed or resign their membership are responsible for any outstanding fees unless otherwise stated by the Director of Bands.

## **6. ATTENDANCE & GRADING POLICY**

Attendance for all program activities is required.

Any student who misses 1 or more day of rehearsal in a week, may be held out of any performances that same week at the discretion of the Director of Bands.

Any student who misses 2 or more performances in a year may be subject to demotion or removal from the program at the discretion of the Director of Bands.

All students who know of a schedule conflict must have a parent notify the Director of Bands in writing. The Director of Bands will determine if a student's absence will be considered excused or unexcused.

Out of town trips, vacations, work, or other "special events" are not excuses for missing required activities.

Each student in a symphonic band course (marching band or concert band), instrumental ensemble, or band flags will have 2 formative assignments per week labeled "Rehearsal Technique" and "Participation".

Rehearsal Technique is a weekly grade, based on the student's daily individual performance of protocols and procedures set forth by the Director of Bands.

Participation grades are based on the student's individual performance level of preparedness and quality of work as expected by the Director of Bands.

At least 6 summative assignments will be graded every 6 weeks grading period for each student. Summative assignments include but are not limited to assigned objectives, performance attendance, contest attendance, or special appearances that require attendance during the school day or outside of the school day.

A student who is not present for a rehearsal may have points deducted from his/her Rehearsal Technique and Participation assignments.

A student who is not present for a performance, contest, or special appearance may have points deducted from any summative assignment, up to the entire value of the assignment.

A student may request an opportunity to improve an individual grade to a director. This request may be approved or denied by the director who is listed as the student's teacher of record on his/her Brandeis High School schedule.

Assignments and grades for Jazz Band & Field Dance Company will be based on course outlines discussed and presented to students by his/her teacher of record.

## **7. District Uniforms & Instruments**

All Marching Band students will be assigned a district uniform.

All Concert Band students will be assigned a concert tuxedo or dress.

All Color Guard students will receive a uniform as determined by the Director of Bands.

All Field Dance students will receive a uniform as determined by the Director of Bands.

The Director of Bands may determine the use of a custom uniform that each student would be responsible for purchasing, separate from his/her program fees.

Any student who does not own an instrument will be assigned a school owned instrument. A rental fee of \$30 per academic year and \$30 per summer will be assessed and due at the time of instrument check out. Students will be fiscally responsible for any abnormal maintenance and/or repairs as deemed by the Director of Bands. This includes but is not limited to the loss of the instrument, parts, or damaging the instrument or parts.

Color Guard and Field Dance will be provided equipment to use owned by the district and/or band program. Students are responsible for the care of that equipment. The cost of any repair or replacement of equipment damaged or loss due to negligence will be the student's responsibility.

## **8. Activites**

All program activities, either individual or group, must be approved by the Director of Band and Principal. This includes, but is not limited to travel, outside appearances fund raising, summer camps, contests, clinics, etc.

## **9. Hazing**

There is to be NO HAZING of any kind allowed during any initiation procedeeding into any part of the program. Hazing is defined in the Student-Parent Handbook.

## **Acknowledgement Form**

Must be signed and returned to the Director of Bands

I have read and understand the 2019-20 Louis D. Brandeis High School Band Handbook and agree to abide by the procedures and policies contained herein.

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Student ID:\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Student Name:\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Parent Name:\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number:\_\_\_\_\_



**Daniel Asgari • Director of Bands**

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

## **MEDIA RELEASE FORM**

We would like to showcase your child's achievement, award, honor, scholarship, recognition and/or participation in the Brandeis Bronco Band via web posting, social media, video training resources, or news release. Your child may be interviewed, photographed and/or videotaped. The NISD Staff Development department may also wish to videotape effective teaching strategies in your child's classroom for educational purposes.

In doing so, your child's image and/or full name could appear in a Northside ISD/Brandeis/Brandeis Band official publication, such as *Inside Northside Weekly* or *Lessons*; in other social media communication methods that the District uses, such as Facebook and Twitter; on the NISD website ([www.nisd.net](http://www.nisd.net)); or on an NISD YouTube channel. In addition, NISD/Brandeis/Brandeis Band may also provide this story, image, classroom video and/or name to news media. Video training resources could be presented at a local, state or national conference.

Please indicate your preference by signing and returning this form.

\_\_\_\_\_ You have my permission to use my child's image and/or full name as described above and I give permission to my school to share the information with the Northside ISD/Brandeis/Brandeis Band.

\_\_\_\_\_ You do **not** have my permission. By not allowing permission, students may be removed from certain performances and/or events due to privacy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date