

# GREENVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

## Lion Pride Band Handbook

### Policies and Procedures

#### 2024-2025

## Welcome to Lion Pride Bands!

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Welcome to the Greenville High School Lion Pride Band!

Whether you are a returning member or are new to the high school music programs here at Greenville High School, we welcome you to the 93<sup>rd</sup> year of Lion Pride Band! Participation in the band program is fun, rewarding, and educational. It is our sincere hope that you find your time worthwhile and enjoyable, while making long lasting friendships and learning life skills that will benefit you in your future.

By accepting membership in the Lion Pride Band (“LPB”), you have chosen to join a **TEAM** that requires a level of commitment to yourself, your teammates, and the entire program. We are a highly visible and critical part of the Greenville ISD, as well as the entire Greenville community. It is imperative that all of our members know and understand the keys to our success.

*As part of our team, your behavioral Actions, Attitude, Attendance, and Academic eligibility are absolutely crucial to our program.* Our team cannot possibly achieve its full potential when you aren’t there. The policies outlined in this handbook lay out the expectations upon the members who all rely on each other in order to succeed. Membership on any team requires individual responsibilities and a commitment to the success of the group. Be prepared to do your part.

We are very excited about what is in store for the Lion Pride Bands in the upcoming school year, and we are very happy that you are a part of it. GO LIONS!

Sincerely,

Dr. Matt Ownby  
Director of Bands

Mr. Luke Dailey  
Assistant Director of Bands

Mr. John Grant  
Percussion Director

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## **Purpose:**

*“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.”*

- *Aristotle*

In order for our band program to achieve our potential for success, there need to be procedures and policies in place to help us ensure both safety and a positive public image. The LPB demands a culture of excellence in which we represent our band program, school district, and community with the highest degree of pride, respect, and dignity. This cannot happen without consistent and equitable expectations upon ourselves and our team members. Band is a rigorous and busy activity, but it is intended to be as much fun as it is educational. Band members must have positive behavioral Actions, positive Attitude, consistent Attendance, and maintain Academic eligibility. We take great **PRIDE** in our **TEAM**. We value our Traditions as much as our Progress.

### **Band Motto:**

***“PRIDE”***

#### **Perseverance**

You must give up giving up!

#### **Respect**

For yourself, for each other, for parents, and for teachers.

#### **Intensity**

Stay focused and keep your goals in mind.

#### **Desire**

To reach beyond your limits and help others reach beyond theirs.

#### **Excellence**

Not perfection! Just a personal commitment to doing your best every day.

## **Band Communications:**

It is intended that Communication from the band office be timely and accurate. Information and reminders will be sent out in **two official ways:**

1. **The Official Band Calendar:** at [www.lionpridebands.com](http://www.lionpridebands.com) there is a google calendar of band events for GISD that will be updated as needed.
2. **The Remind App:** The Remind App will be used for all official notices and reminders. *\*In case of conflict, the Remind App should take priority over information on the website.*

9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Graders Text:        lpb910 to 81010  
11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Graders Text:        lpb1112 to 81010

Out of respect for everyone's personal and family time, we will do everything we can to ensure that dates and times are accurate and communicated in a timely manner with as much notice as possible. We take date changes seriously as they impact your personal planning. However, there are a few events that can be subject to fluid scheduling (UIL performance times, solo/ensemble times, unavoidable calendar changes at the district level, etc.) These will be kept to a minimum to the extent possible.

## **General School Conduct:**

All rules, policies, and procedures from the GHS Student Code of Conduct will always remain in effect at all band events inside or outside of the school day, on or off district grounds. As a band member, you are expected to display exemplary conduct at all times! Failure to maintain exemplary conduct will result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the band director and school administration. **Students who have serious and/or continual discipline problems inside or outside of the band program may be dismissed from the Lion Pride Band program at the discretion of the band director and/or school administration.**

## **Online Decorum:**

As role models and representatives of the District and Campus, students and parents must maintain a high standard of online conduct regarding the District and the LPB. Any communications via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, emailing, texting, or other online forums, etc., appearing on the internet may become public, even if it is marked private. Student members of the LPB are responsible for their personal websites and postings, as well as their activity on other websites or platforms. Student members will not post on social media as official representatives of the LPB, school, or District. A student member may not engage in online conduct implicating the District or the LPB when the online conduct:

- may reasonably result in a material or substantial disruption to the school environment or program;
- infringes on the rights of others;
- could be interpreted as bullying, harassment, threatening towards District staff or other students;
- demonstrates poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other programs; or
- otherwise violates the Student Code of Conduct.

Any such incident will result in review by the director or designee and may lead to probation or dismissal from the program. Student members found to have engaged in any of the above-mentioned conduct will also be referred to school administration for additional discipline, as necessary.

## **Penalty for Violation of the Drug/Alcohol Disciplinary Code:**

**DON'T.** The Band Directors will have **ZERO TOLERANCE** of any illegal substance issue. Any student found guilty of violating the GISD Drug/Alcohol policy (as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct) during the school day or at any school-sponsored activity will be suspended from all extra-curricular band activities for one calendar year from the date of first offense, and subject to all related consequences from school administration. A second offense will result in permanent expulsion from all extra-curricular Lion Pride Band activities. **ALL ISSUES, WHETHER PROVEN OR ALLEGED, WILL BE TURNED IN TO GISD ADMINISTRATION AND SUBJECT TO ALL APPLICABLE CONSEQUENCES ASSOCIATED WITH THE OFFENSE.**

## **General Band Student Conduct/Expectations:**

Band members will observe all policies set forth by the GISD in addition to observing these rules at any time while involved in the band setting:

1. Students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times. Displays of profanity, temper, flagrant violations of rules, disrespect, etc., will not be tolerated. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection of the entire group.
2. Students stay with the band at all times during performances/games etc., unless excused by a Director.
3. Food and drink (other than provided water/Gatorade) are not to consumed in uniform at any time.
4. Students will wear the uniform as appropriately assigned at any time by the Director.
5. Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area, ready to work at the set rehearsal time.
6. Students will bring all necessary equipment including a music binder, pencil, instrument, drill coordinates, instrument supplies to rehearsals daily. Books, backpacks, and non-related band classroom items will be kept out of rehearsal space. This applies to instrument cases as well.
7. Students will keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.
8. If it is not yours, don't touch it.
9. Food, drinks, candy, gum, etc. do not belong in the band hall during rehearsal times.
10. Students will not play on instruments or equipment to which they are not assigned, do not own, or do not have express permission to use from the band director.
11. When entering the band hall before/after school, do not disturb any rehearsal that is in progress.
12. Students are responsible to keep any assigned storage area clean.
13. The band directors and GHS school staff are not responsible for the safekeeping of any of your personal belongings.
14. Students will not deface any band equipment or facility, including music stands, chairs, walls, etc.
15. School owned instruments must be treated with care. Flagrant damage to a school instrument may result in monetary damages owed to the school at the discretion of the band director and school administration, up to and including replacement cost.
16. Instruments should never be placed on the floor, or on the floor in an open case. You will be liable for damages to any instrument you've set on the floor. (this excludes marching band).

**Failure to comply with any of these expectations may result in being dismissed from band at or before the conclusion of the current semester.**

## **Care of the Band Hall, Equipment, and Facilities:**

It is everyone's responsibility to keep the Band Hall clean. Please make efforts to eliminate clutter on a daily basis. Keep chairs and stands in their positions, and all instruments and percussion equipment orderly. Keyboard percussion instruments are not tables, so nothing should ever be placed on top of them.

All students will be issued a cubby. Please keep it clean and orderly. All instruments should be placed into cubbies with the cases closed. Locker cleanout will happen on a regular basis. Student members do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy in their cubbies.

There will be no food or drink in the Band Hall without the express permission of the Band Director. When we do have provided meals, please make every effort to be careful and dispose of all garbage must be thrown away in the proper receptacle. Students in repetitive violation of this rule will be issued a disciplinary referral.

***\*THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE IS NOT A PLACE FOR STUDENTS TO HANG OUT.*** EVER.

Students must knock and be permitted in prior to entering. Students are never allowed in the Directors' offices without the presence of a Director. Students will not use the Directors' computers, desks, office items, etc. without explicit permission from the Director.

## **Band and Color Guard Fees:**

There are several expenses related to participation in the Lion Pride Band, relative to your performance position. Specific information on necessary items, cost, and ordering will be given to the students during the Summer Band weeks. These costs are for required and optional items such as marching show T-shirt, white gloves, band marching shoes, school-owned instrument fee, flip folder, Color Guard shirt, CG jacket, CG uniforms and equipment, CG shoes, etc. For issues of financial hardship please see the Band Director for a confidential conversation. No student will be denied participation in the band program due to financial circumstances.

## Grading Policies:

### Band is a Co-Curricular Academic Course.

“Co-Curricular” refers to the fact that students enrolled in band will be accountable for, and graded in part by criteria and attendance at events that occur outside of the normal school day/hours. The course description for the Lion Pride Band program, as defined in the Greenville High School Academic Guide (page 25), states:

#### Band 1-4 (Grades 9-12) 1 Credit

“These full year courses consist of marching, concert playing, sight-reading, solo work, small ensemble playing and individual instrumental technique. Public performance is stressed and many appearances are made throughout the year. Included are concerts, pep rallies, football games, and marching and concert contests. All students are auditioned for classes according to achievement levels: Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band... **Students in Band are required to attend rehearsals and performance events outside school hours.**”

Grades in band class are based on three primary criteria:

- a) **Attendance (Weight 50%):** Attendance at ALL performances/rehearsals is not optional. A musical performance is a singular event and cannot be made up. **Attendance grade will be determined by being present and on-time for all scheduled events, in and outside of the school day. All absences must be excused by the director in advance.** Examples of excused absences are: illness, school absence, religious obligations, medical issues, bereavement, and other issues at director/school administration discretion. Students will be expected to make up for missed work/progress.

**Note: Absences related to a Part-Time Job WILL NOT be considered excusable from your curricular expectations for this class.**

**TARDY POLICY:** Timely attendance is essential to maintaining the learning environment and will not be accepted. Instances of tardiness at all scheduled events, both in and outside of the school day, will be recorded and monitored. In accordance with the GHS Student Handbook (page 94), “Repeated instances of tardiness will result in more severe disciplinary action, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.”

- b) **Daily Performance Observation (Weight 30%):** This includes, but is not limited to, Effort, Preparedness, Attitude, Behavior, and Class Participation.
- c) **Special Assignments (Weight 20%):** This covers music pass-offs, scales assignments, as well as other in-class assessments designed to increase learning and improve the overall band performance.



## **Private Lessons:**

**Private Lessons are the single most-important factor in developing a Superior band program.** Students are highly encouraged to engage in further studies on their instrument through taking private lessons. The band department will make the effort to provide high quality private instrument teachers to work with our band students individually at the option of the student/parent. The cost for private lessons is typically \$18.00 per private lesson. In case of a financial need, the Lion Pride Band Parent Association may subsidize a lesson scholarship on a case-by-case basis. Payment for private lessons should be made directly to the private teacher, not through the GHS band office. It is the goal of the LPB to have 90% of our band members enrolled in private instruction.

## **School Owned Instruments:**

Each student using school equipment (brass/woodwind/percussion) will pay a \$50.00 usage fee. This fee covers necessary expenses such as cleaning, repair, and maintenance of that instrument. Damage caused by misuse, dropping, stepping on, malignant acts, or theft of the instrument will be your responsibility as detailed in the rental agreement, up to and including total replacement cost. Dents and other such damage are not considered by the GISD as “normal wear and tear.”

School owned instruments include a limited number of: oboe, bassoon, tenor/bari sax, French horn, large-bore trombones, euphonium, tuba, and percussion instruments. There is a very limited supply of these instruments.

## **Physicals and Medical Authorization Forms:**

There are two essential forms that *are required for all participants:*

### **1) Medical Authorization Form**

\*Required for all students, every year.

### **2) Physical from Doctor (UIL Compliant)**

\*Physicals are good for two (2) school years after which they must be renewed. The Band Director will advise students as to whether a physical is needed this year or not.

\*\*If you have already completed a physical for the Athletic Department for the upcoming school year, please advise the Band Director, who will simply retrieve the form from them.

Student health and safety is of primary concern at all times during band activities, events, and trips. The above two forms are required for participation in band, so that we may be authorized to have your child seen by medical professionals if necessary. **THESE 2 FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE FRONT PAGE OF [WWW.LIONPRIDEBANDS.COM](http://WWW.LIONPRIDEBANDS.COM).**

**Please turn in BOTH completed forms to the Band Director.**

## **Academic Eligibility**

**\*UIL CONCERT & SIGHT-READING EVALUATION IN THE SPRING IS NOT SUBJECT TO NO PASS-NO PLAY RESTRICTION.**

**\*UIL MARCHING CONTEST IN THE FALL IS SUBJECT TO NO PASS-NO PLAY RESTRICTION.**

Participation in band is a PRIVILEGE that is governed by Texas State Law regarding academic eligibility:

1. At the conclusion of any 9-week grading period (and the first 6 weeks of the school year), a student **MUST NOT HAVE A RECORDED GRADE BELOW 70% IN ANY COURSE**. A student with a failing grade is suspended from participation in any extra-curricular activity, starting seven (7) calendar days from the end of the six weeks. During that suspension period, a student may practice/rehearse with other students for an extra-curricular activity, but **may not** participate in a competition or extra-curricular performance. Three weeks following each six-week grading period, grades are checked for all students who failed one or more courses during the preceding six weeks. If a student is passing **all** courses at the end of the three-week period, he/she may regain eligibility seven (7) calendar days after the three-week evaluation period. If the student is still failing one or more courses at the end of the three-week period, he/she remains ineligible until the end of the six-week grading period.
2. Advanced Placement courses, Pre-Advanced Placement courses, Dual Credit and other advanced courses as specified must not receive a recorded grade below 60%.

Examples of band activities subject to this rule are UIL Marching Band contest, football games, concerts, parades, parades through the building, pep assemblies, community performances, Floor Show, and all other band performance/social events (aside from UIL Concert & Sight Reading). If a student is missing a significant number of assignments in any course, the director may remove a student from rehearsals until they have completed missing work in those in other classes, to both earn their credit and to maintain eligibility.

The Lion Pride Band is a TEAM in which members depend on each other to succeed. Students who become ineligible make a **DIRECT IMPACT AGAINST THE SUCCESS OF EVERY OTHER STUDENT IN THE ORGANIZATION**. As a member of this team you have accepted this responsibility from other people who depend on you to succeed.

**GHS students who demonstrate chronic eligibility issues WILL be dismissed from the LPB program, until such a time when they have demonstrated a satisfactory and documented history of academic success.**

## **Daily Supplies and Expectations for Band Class:**

All students need to have on a daily basis (relative to the season/band activity we are in):

- Instrument and all supplies relative to instrument (ex. Reeds, mouthpiece, mallets, etc.)
- Band Binder containing ALL needed music
- Pencil
- Tuner/Metronome
- Be in your seat/assigned spot when the bell rings.

## **Marching Band:**

### **DAILY NEEDS:**

- Instrument in good working condition (report all problems immediately)
- Band Binder with all needed music
- Lyre/Flip Folder with all needed music
- Coordinate Cards on a lanyard
- Other specific equipment relative to your section
- Athletic Shoes are mandatory.
- **Sandals, Crocs, Hey Dudes, etc. are NOT PERMITTED**
- Water
- Hat/sunscreen as needed

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Attendance at ALL scheduled rehearsals and performances is mandatory, and a graded criteria of band class, whether during or after regular school hours. Absences and Tardies **MUST** be cleared **PRIOR** to the scheduled date. You are responsible for looking ahead for any potential conflicts and notifying the director accordingly. (See “Grading Policy” above).

### **UNIFORM GUIDELINES AND NORMS:**

The uniform is the most visible symbol that represents our team to the community, and must look professional, clean, and complete at all public displays.

- Treat the uniform with **PRIDE**.
- Black socks and the designated marching shoes are **REQUIRED**. Absolutely **NO** white or colored socks.
- Hats are not worn backwards.
- The coat remains zipped while worn, and folded neatly when allowed to take off.
- Do not place uniform on the ground or on the floor of the bleachers.
- Jewelry and nail polish are **NOT** appropriate with the band uniform.
- Long hair must be put up under the hat.
- Blatant mistreatment of uniform may result in fees charged for repairs/cleaning.

**STUDENTS ARE TO WEAR THE UNIFORM AS ASSIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR AT ALL TIMES DURING GAMES and/or PUBLIC APPEARANCES.**

### WARM WEATHER PERFORMANCE ATTIRE:

On hot weather performance days an alternate uniform will be used. This will be comprised of the following:

- Required Marching Show T-shirt
- Khaki shorts with a belt
- Black socks
- Required black marching band shoes (student will sit out if not wearing the required shoes).

### Leadership Positions

Band is a great place to begin learning leadership skills. Leaders are formed out of those who are willing to 'go the extra mile' or do just a little bit more than expectations call for. There are many opportunities within the band to volunteer (examples are taking the water coolers out, cleaning up after others, loading crew, prop crew, helping with rehearsal set up, moving chairs and stands, helping move front ensemble equipment, etc.

Leadership positions within the band are available through an audition process that includes an application, essay questions, consideration of past service, and an interview. Drum Major auditions will also include a conducting audition. Leadership positions are formalized under our Band Leadership Team (BLT), and include:

- Drum Major
- Band President
- Brass Captain
- Woodwind Captain
- Percussion Captain
- Color Guard Captain
- Color Guard Lieutenant
- Loading Crew Chief
- Uniform Captain
- Spirit Captain

## **Travel Guidelines:**

Student Health and Safety are of primary importance on any band trip. For all out-of-town performances, remember that we represent our organization, our school, and our entire community. All expectations listed above (under the section “General Band Student Conduct/Expectations”) will be observed and enforced. Students will be transported by district school busses, as such students will adhere to the school district policy concerning the riding of busses.

- Do not distract the driver in any way.
- Follow directions from any adult supervisor.
- Students remain seated at all times, facing forward whenever bus is moving.
- Students may not be in or obstructing the aisle when bus is moving.
- Food, candy, gum, and non-water drinks are not allowed on the bus unless specifically directed otherwise.
- Hands, arms, and other objects do not go out the windows.
- Flash pictures are not allowed.
- Hair spray, perfumes, or other aerosols are not to be sprayed on the bus.
- Audio players are allowed with headphones/earbuds.
- No singing, yelling, screaming on the bus. Talk at normal conversational volume.
- Do not touch the emergency exit handle unless you are directed to do so.
- Students MAY NOT be transported to or from a band function with anyone other than their Parent or Legal Guardian, without the express and prior written consent of that student’s Parent or Legal Guardian.

Greenville ISD sets travel expectations for all groups to ensure the safety of all involved. All band students are to ride the bus to and from all out-of-town band events. Parents who wish to drive their child home from an event must provide a written and signed notice to the Band Director prior to the event. Students who commit serious and/or repeated violations of any GISD travel policy will receive a disciplinary referral.

## **Letter Jacket Award System:**

Earning a letter jacket in an activity represents a significant accomplishment. As such, a process will be put in place to define criteria that makes one eligible for the jacket: After two (2) full years of participation in the GHS Lion Pride Band, students can become eligible to receive a Letter Jacket. **Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year and forward** the jackets are earned and awarded based on a point system as outlined below.

1. Students must participate in the GHS Lion Pride Band for two full school years.
2. Students must accumulate 10 points per year, both years. Points will not carry over from the previous year to subsequent school years.
3. Points are easily obtained through things students most likely already do relate to Band service and performance.
4. Points will be kept on file (*but students will be responsible for requesting updates to their record for each point(s) earned!*)
5. Points are awarded at the discretion of the Director, and not limited to the list below:

### **POINTS ALLOTMENT:**

Earn a 1 <sup>st</sup> Division rating at Solo Ensemble	4 pts
Audition and earn a position in the All-Region Band	4 pts
Audition for (but not make) the All-Region Band	3 pts
Attend all scheduled band performances in 1 year	3 pts
Participate as a member of the BLT	3 pts
Take private lessons for minimum of 3 consecutive months	3 pts
Full attendance at Summer Band weeks	3 pts
Earn a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Division rating at Solo Ensemble	2 pts
Participate in the Sponsorship Fundraising Drive	2 pts
Participate on Loading or Prop Crew	1 pt
Attend a GMS or T6 Concert	1 pt
Service to Middle School or 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band	1 pt per event
Participate in a volunteer non-required band event	1 pt per event
Other services to the LPB awarded at director discretion	1 pt per event

**Note:** Each student that has not received a letter jacket by the end of their 11th grade year, and who has remained a member in good standing every semester of their 9th, 10th and 11th grade years, may be awarded a jacket in the fall of their senior year. This will be at the discretion of the Band Directors. All appeals to lettering decisions, and all special circumstances, will be heard and dealt with on a case-by-case basis. In all cases, the awards are based on the recommendation of the directors. Student conduct and cooperation will be a considerable factor. Students who are qualified may not be recommended if conduct or cooperation has been a problem.

### **Honor Cords:**

Students who participates in the Lion Pride Band for the duration of their 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Year will receive honor cords for graduation. Conduct and cooperation will be considered at the discretion of the directors prior to awarding the cords. Honors cords will be awarded at the annual year-end band banquet.

### **Dismissal:**

Any student may be dismissed from the band due to conduct requiring principal or law enforcement intervention (whether or not you are with the band at the time of the conduct infraction), lack of cooperation, refusal to conform to rules and regulations, a general poor attitude, or unexcused absences from rehearsals or a performance.

### **Misc. and/or Issues Not Specified in this Handbook:**

Each year it is common for situations to arise that are unique, or that directors have not previously encountered. When such an issue may arise, the directors will follow the principles in the handbook, teaching philosophy, mission statement, and consideration of what is in the best collective interest of the student and the LPB program. The directors are more than happy to discuss concerns and always assume positive intentions, as we are all interested in the best possible experience for the students of the Lion Pride Band.

**\*Items in this handbook are subject to change based on guidelines set forth by GHS Administration, GISD Policy, TEA, UIL, or TMEA governance.**

## Acknowledgement

PLEASE SIGN, DATE, AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO THE BAND OFFICE.

I, the undersigned student, as a member of the Greenville High School Lion Pride Band, understand that I am responsible for the policies as set forth in this Band Handbook. I fully agree to carry out my responsibilities to the very best of my ability. As the student member of the LPB, I will:

- Recognize that these policies exist for my safety and the safety of others;
- Recognize that these policies exist for the success of the entire LPB program;
- Always be prepared to learn;
- Always respect fellow students, teachers, and adults associated with the LPB;
- Make every effort to attend required rehearsals and performances;
- Make every effort to maintain Academic Eligibility;
- Practice daily;
- Maintain a positive demeanor and always represent our program with the highest degree of respect and dignity;
- Represent Greenville ISD and Community with the highest level of dignity, respect, and professionalism; and,
- Adhere to all of the policies and procedures set forth in this handbook.

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Student Signature

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Date

I, the undersigned parent or guardian, have read, understand, and acknowledge the policies set forth in the Greenville High School Lion Pride Band Handbook. I also grant full permission for my child to be an active member of the GHS Band Program and understand that my child's participation in the Band does not confer a right, but rather a privilege.

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date