

The Ropes Soarin' Eagle Band

Handbook



2019-2020

Directors:

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Dear Musician and Parents,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 Ropes Soarin' Eagle Band! We hope you had a restful summer, and that you are as excited as we are to start a fantastic school year with a World-Class Band!

One of our primary goals is always to work together through a continued commitment to excellence by each band member, director, and parent. The Ropes Band program has a growing history of performing and competing at a very high level, which requires dedication to and support of one another in our band family.

This handbook is designed to inform you of the foundational philosophies, general expectations, and organizational aspects that support the success of all Ropes music students. Should you have any questions, please contact a band director and we will be glad to assist you.

Musically,

Ashley Blount
Director of Bands

Scott Strobel
Assistant Director

Jay Sedberry
Director

The Ropes Soarin' Eagle Band

Class Organizations

The Ropes Eagle Band Program is organized into six groups:

3rd Grade Intro to Music:

Students are instructed in general music studies according to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills requirements with a focus on note recognition and rhythm reading. The class meets daily to build a love for music while connecting music pedagogy to all other subjects of learning and supporting classroom concepts.

4th Grade Music Applications:

Students are instructed in the application of music to begin sound production with small instruments such as the soprano recorder. Students need a recorder which is purchased through the band later in the school year.

5th Grade Band:

All 5th Graders are placed on a wind instrument after trying each type to find the student's best fit according to the directors. Percussion placements will be made by the directors at their discretion based on the group, students, and needs of the program. Band is a required course for Grades 3-8.

Beginning Band students learn instrument basics including how to make quality sounds, along with how to hold, carry, store, maintain, and generally care for the instrument. By the end of the school year, these students will be performance ready!

6th & 7th Grade Band:

6th and 7th Grade Bands will be challenged to further develop skills, enabling them to improve both technically and musically while accessing more difficult literature. These bands will participate in full ensemble competitions, All-Region Band Auditions, and several other performances throughout the year. Only students maintaining appropriate grade averages and meeting band expectations will be included in beyond-the-classroom competitions. All students are required to participate in concerts. *See the Attendance section for additional information.

8th-12th Ropes High School Soarin' Eagle Band:

The High School Band is comprised of Grades 8-12. A continued application of foundational knowledge will bridge with maturity of sound and technique to prepare every student for UIL and Solo/Ensemble Contests at the Region, Area, and State levels. During the Fall semester, students will prepare a show for exhibitions at football games and UIL marching band competitions. At the conclusion of marching season, the band will transition to concert band literature and individual performance and competitive opportunities for the remainder of the year.

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Requirements/Supplies - ALL Bands

Approved, quality instrument from the Ropes Approved Instrument list

Tradition of Excellence method book (**Beginning Band only**)

1" 3-ring, white binder including the following:

- Zippered pencil pouch
- Supplemental method books (provided)
- Music (provided)
- 5 dividers labeled:
 1. Warm-ups
 2. Scales
 3. Theory
 4. Auditions/S&E
 5. Concert Music
- 15-20 (non-glare recommended) page protectors
- Pencils with erasers
- Recommended but not required - tuner/metronome with mic attachment

****NEW FOR 2019-2020****

ALL Soarin' Eagle **High School Band** members are required by UIL to obtain a physical examination by a licensed professional. Marching band requires a level of physical fitness, unlike most arts activities, which means students' health and safety is critical. A "Pre-participation Physical Evaluation - Medical History" form is required. Please contact the school office or band director for questions regarding this practice and policy. Ropes ISD requires a new physical at the start of every academic year or upon entrance/enrollment to a UIL course requiring documentation of a physical exam.

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Instrument Specific Materials (All Bands):

Flute	Clarinets	Saxophones
Tuning Rod	5 numbered, working reeds with guards	5 numbered, working reeds with guards
Swab	Cork grease	Cork grease
	Swab	Swab
Trumpet	Horn	Trombone
Mouthpiece	Mouthpiece	Mouthpiece
Valve Oil	Valve/Rotor Oil	Slide cream
Tuning Slide Grease	Tuning Slide Grease	Tuning Slide Grease
Baritone	Tuba	Percussion
Mouthpiece	Mouthpiece	Stick bag
Valve Oil	Valve/Rotor Oil	Required sticks*
Tuning Slide Grease	Tuning Slide Grease	(*Innovative Percussion pack)

****Marching band requires additional supplies. See the Marching Band section**

Approved Instrument & Supply List

*All Beginning Band students will purchase the Tradition of Excellence book for their instrument.

- Flute - Yamaha YFL 262
- Clarinet - Yamaha YCL400AD + mouthpiece
- Clarinet - Buffet E11 + mouthpiece
- Alto Sax - Yamaha YAS200AD + mouthpiece
- Trumpet - Yamaha YTR200AD
- Trombone - Yamaha YSL 200AD
- Percussion - Innovative Percussion kit

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Instrument Storage

Students are provided a locker, shelf, or "slot" in the band hall to store their instrument, music, and other equipment while they are at school. Locks are not provided, so students should store only band related items in these spaces and keep other supplies in their school locker.

School-owned Instruments & Provided Supplies

School equipment items and/or supplies are checked out in good working condition and are expected to be returned in the same condition. Band items that are lost or damaged beyond normal wear and tear are to be repaired or replaced at the expense of the student/parent. *This includes marching supply items (pouch, dots, flip-folder, lyre, shoe bag, shoes, etc. checked out by each student)*

Marching Band & Supplies (8th - 12th grades)

All marching band students are required to attend Summer Band Camp. The challenge to be "ALL IN" is extended with 100% attendance and on time! Students earning an "ALL IN" ranking earn additional privileges during the marching band season.

As a general rule, Summer Band Camp begins the first full week of August (some variations apply from year to year.) To avoid conflict, the coaches of all groups coordinate schedules. To learn the basics, 8th grade students attend a morning practice to learn the fundamentals along with the evening practice to learn with the whole group.

Instrument specific supplies and shoes are available for "purchase-to-own" (new) from Tarpley Music Company on-site in the band hall on Band Business Day at a reduced price or may be checked out from the school (used) if available.

Uniforms

The High School Band is the only group to wear a school-issued uniform for competitions. The complete uniform includes: hat and plume; 2019-2020 Ropes Band T-Shirt (worn underneath the band uniform jacket); black gloves; black band uniform pants; long black socks; polished black marching shoes.

With the uniform, students are given a garment bag, shoe bag, and hat box. These items are expected to be reasonably cared for and returned in satisfactory condition.

The high school band uniform is worn properly and with pride ***in its entirety*** throughout all performances unless otherwise instructed by a band director. The uniform is checked in, properly hung, and safely stored in the band hall between events to prevent damage. Any part of the uniform that is lost or damaged is required to be replaced at the expense of the student/parent. **DO NOT attempt to wash or clean the uniform unless specifically instructed to do so by a band director.**

For all other groups, the "uniform" is their respective band t-shirt, blue jeans, and tennis shoes. Any uniform attire must adhere to school dress code.

Attendance, Grading Policy, & Communication

All members of the band have an assigned location for all rehearsals and performances which is determined by individual assessments and band director discretion. Attendance is taken according to those assignments. Students are provided time to arrive at their assigned location with all supplies for class. Any student's failure to be in his/her location with all supplies within that amount of time is counted tardy (please reference our school's tardy policy).

Attendance is required for ALL rehearsals and performances of the Eagle Bands.

Failure to attend a performance results in a failing grade and possible removal from the band program.

6-Week Grading Policy:

Students earn grades for weekly classroom observation, concerts, contests, and written and playing assessments (including chair tests). All non-performance grades can be made up until they are finalized at the end of the respective 6-week grading period.

Memory Playoffs:

All high school band members are required to play off marching show music by memory. Playoff deadlines for each portion of the marching show are included in the Band Calendar. These playoffs are graded. Failure to complete these memorized playoffs may affect a student's position in the marching show.

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Please check the school sites regularly or sign up for communication for the band. Information is sent as much as possible!

1. Facebook—“Official Ropes Soarin’ Eagle Band Page”

2. Remind—

Send this text message: @ropesso

To this number: 81010

3. We will begin using the “Band” app this year too!!

*As soon as it is ready, we will send out information to join.

Students who are involved in other school activities that may conflict with band rehearsal times must effectively communicate ***ahead of time*** with the band directors so that appropriate exceptions can be made. Inadequate communication may affect a student’s status within the band program.

All performances are graded. Excused absences may be granted only for extenuating circumstances, such as serious illness or a death in the family. The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for music require music educators to involve our students both in live performance and in evaluating live performances. Therefore, it is the policy of the Eagle Band program for students to attend all concerts in their entirety. For example, at a concert in which multiple groups are playing, students must perform their part of the concert and stay to listen to the other groups. This fulfills the state required standards.

A calendar is available from the beginning of the school year with all known dates for band events that happen both inside and outside of the school day. This calendar is online, posted in the band hall, and hard copies are available for families upon request. Changes to this calendar may be made by the directors as needed, at which time the students and parents will be notified. Every attempt is made to communicate the needs of the band program, and the same is asked of musicians and parents. **Schedule conflicts should be communicated no later than one week before the conflicting date to determine the steps for resolution.** Whether or not an absence is excused is the discretion of the band directors.

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The Band Hall, Practice Rooms, and Rehearsal

The Band Hall is open early most mornings and most days after school for students to practice, and may be available during the tutorial periods with teacher permission. Only band students are allowed to be in the band hall during those times. Students who choose to take advantage of these times are required to stay in the band hall unless given a hall pass to go elsewhere. Abuse of this privilege through misconduct, misuse of the building or equipment, unnecessary noise, leaving the band hall without permission, etc. results in a loss of this privilege and, if determined necessary by the band director, school discipline including a phone call to parents/guardians.

Band Hall and Rehearsal Expectations:

1. World-class is world-class **ALL** the time, in **ALL** ways!
2. Do the right thing because it is the right thing to do.
3. Take care of your stuff, and help others do the same.
4. Don't do something permanently wrong because you are temporarily upset.
There will be 0 tolerance for foul language or violent behavior.
5. Talking during rehearsal must be kept to a minimum (including the marching field).
6. The SOARIN' BAND CREED - written by the students!
7. Above all, have fun! Say and do things that will make this organization enjoyable for you and those around you.

Behavior Requirements

During any Eagle Band activity (rehearsals, concerts, trips, etc.), all students and sponsors will follow normal school and World-Class band rules, including dress code. The Eagle Band represents ourselves, school, family, and community with dignity and respect. Disrespect toward adults or students, foul language, or disregard for proper authority is not tolerated. Any student or sponsor who fails to respect these guidelines is subject to discipline, including potential removal from further participation in the band program.

Loyalty, pride, and honor are characteristics shown by World-Class businesses and organizations. It is the Soarin' Eagle Band's expectation that all members exhibit such qualities at all times in regard to the program, students, staff, and community.

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Practice/Homework

Students have homework in band, as is expected in any other class. The daily homework assignment is material from that day in class. The Band Director may choose additional assignments, but the students should always know what to practice at home—whatever is worked on that day! This homework may not be graded regularly, but is subject to daily assessments and playing tests. Students who feel there is mastery of everything from the day should work on additional music, concepts, or challenges provided in their band binder to continue to improve.

**Remember, only practice on the days you breathe!
...AND...
When you aren't practicing to improve, someone else is! ...
like Whiteface!!**

Academic Eligibility

Due to the "No Pass, No Play" law, students must pass **ALL** classes at the end of a six weeks to participate in band or any other extra-curricular activity. Failure to pass **ALL** classes at the end of a six weeks grading period results in a student being ineligible to compete for a period of at least 3 weeks. The Progress Report then determines if the student regains eligibility. Excessive tardies and/or absences from school may also result in a student being declared ineligible. The band directors regularly encourage band students to be diligent about grades and attendance.

Travel

All performing groups of the Ropes Band are proactive in promoting and maintaining a positive image. Ropes Band members represent not only themselves, but also their families, the entire band, Ropes ISD, and the entire Ropesville community. Ropes band members will follow itineraries and be at the right place at the right time.

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Students and sponsors will adhere to bus lists and acceptable bus behavior, as well as bus cleanliness. Behavior will be such that it reflects a world-class organization.

ALL Ropes ISD policies pertaining to conduct, alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and dress code will be in effect at ALL Ropes Band events.

Students are required to use the transportation provided by the school to school events unless prior arrangements are made between the band directors and a legal parent/guardian. Students who travel home with parents are released after the scheduled event has concluded. Students are released and signed out ONLY to the legal parent/guardian unless the legal parent/guardian has made PRIOR arrangements **IN WRITING** with the band director. Please know that this is for the safety of our students, and that any deviation from this policy may result in police being notified of a missing student. The safety of our students is an absolute priority.

Parents are always welcome, invited, and sometimes required to attend and travel with the band to games, contests, and concerts from beginning band through the high school levels. **Involvement as a student sponsor or chaperone with the band requires the same qualifications as stated in the Ropes ISD handbook.**

Fundraisers

Several fundraising opportunities are provided to not only save money for individual students and families, but to take the show "on the road"! Travel is very expensive, but a fun benefit of membership and loyalty to the band!

Fundraising may include working the concession stand during basketball season, concert dinners, play-a-thons, etc. Information is sent home with students as well as posted on social media/technology outlets to communicate important opportunities and dates/information concerning each fundraiser.

Money raised for the Soarin' Eagle Ropes Band may only be used for the Ropes Band. Individual accounts are kept for each student. Once a student graduates or is no longer a member of the Ropes Band for any reason, that money becomes part of the general fund of the Ropes Band. Students may, however, leave a "legacy" to another student's individual account by making those wishes known to a band director.

Band Booster Club/Donations

The Band Booster parent organization is a separate entity from the Ropes Band. To get involved, please contact a director.

Donations and sponsorships are welcomed by local businesses, professionals, families, or individuals. To become a financial sponsor of the Soarin' Eagle Band, please contact a band director.

Other Amazing Opportunities

Private lessons are proven to help students progress at a faster rate than large ensemble instruction. Being so close to colleges and universities, we have a great resource of private teachers for each instrument in the band. Anyone interested should contact the band director for a reference to one of these fine teachers.

All-Region Band is available to 7th Grade Band and High School Band students who work to audition. The dates for the All-Region Bands are listed on the Band Calendar. Students who audition will be competing against other students from schools all around our region, and those who make the band will be given the opportunity to perform with the best in the region under the direction of an esteemed conductor. High school students have the opportunity to audition on the State track, for which they can advance to Area and State level auditions. State qualifiers are highly considered for college scholarships and generally outperform the nation's average for ACT/SAT scores.

Band Camp is offered for all Eagle band members who have completed a full year of instruction. EVERYONE should consider going to a band camp during the summer! This is a great opportunity to put skills to use in a fast-paced and fun environment. South Plains College offers a fantastic camp that is geared toward middle school bands and high school leadership. Texas Tech, West Texas A&M and many other great colleges and universities provide options for band camps. Talk to a band director for more info! The very serious musician could consider many other camps depending on individual interests (music writing, singing, etc.) to expand their musical learning and performance. Please visit with Mrs. Blount to discuss these life-changing experiences and opportunities!

Handbook Acceptance

Thank you for reading the 2019-2020 Ropes Soarin' Eagle Band Handbook. Your acceptance, acknowledgement, and support of these expectations and philosophies provided for the success of yourself (the student) or child (as the parent) should be indicated on the 2019 Eagle Band Information sheet filled out at Band Business Day. If you have not yet filled out that form or indicated your acceptance of the terms of this handbook, please contact a band director for assistance. You are appreciated and we look forward to working with you to make this a phenomenal year for the 2019-2020 Ropes Soarin' Eagle Band Organization!

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