

2021 – 2022

Joaquin Ram Band Handbook



JOAQUIN HIGH SCHOOL
RAM BAND

Military Marching Band

Precision... Teamwork... Dedication...

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Introduction

The band program at Joaquin ISD forms a vital and important part of the total school life. This group represents a large, colorful, visible and highly disciplined segment of the school. School life, with its many programs and traditions, would seem dull without the band and its contributions. The band's appearances at sporting events, concerts, parades, and contests, as well as community and civic events, add a great deal of color and life to the Ram community.

The main emphasis of the band program is on musicianship and pride of accomplishment, followed closely by citizenship, tradition, moral, self-discipline, spirit and loyalty. **It is pride of a job well done and the accomplishments achieved that make the sacrifices worthwhile.** It is possible by setting your schedule in a reasonable manner to have a highly successful band career and still maintain a high standing. It is also possible to be a member of the band and participate in other extracurricular school activities. The success of the organization will lead to success of the individual and vice versa.

Goals of the Band

Mental and Physical Discipline. The student shall be provided opportunities to: develop powers of concentration; memorize music; prepare and practice individual parts; develop self-discipline and group discipline; and memorize marching drills.

Citizenship Through Group Endeavor. The student shall be provided opportunities to: develop leadership abilities; develop responsibility; develop the ability to cooperate with others and to work as a team member; and develop diligence.

Physical Conditioning. The student shall be provided opportunities to: develop strength, stamina, and endurance; and develop coordination.

Cultural Growth. The student shall be provided opportunities to attain knowledge of music history and band literature through performance.

Ability to Make Musical Value Judgments Through Critical Listening. The student shall be provided opportunities to recognize quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation.

Music Theory. The student shall be provided opportunities to: know and use note values and rests; know and use keys, key signatures, and scales; know and use musical terms, signs, and symbols; recognize and tune intervals and harmony; and train the ear.

Proper Instrumental Technique. The student shall be provided opportunities to: care for the instrument; assume correct posture and playing position; develop the embouchure; develop **good tone**; breathe properly; develop technical proficiency (fingering, articulation, etc.); and develop rhythmic skills.

Creative self-expression. The student shall be provided opportunities to: express oneself in every performance experience; and explore careers.

Each one of the above elements will be stressed throughout the year. **It is very important for daily home practice and for students to be present at all rehearsals and performances.** With this in mind, we will be able to build a winning tradition.

Band is a full year commitment, Marching and Concert Band

Joaquin Ram Marching Band

The marching band consists of students from grades 7 – 12. The object of this band is to serve as entertainment for football season including: pep rallies, parades, football games, and halftime. This band is also a U.I.L. competing ensemble that competes at U.I.L. Marching Contest, Area Marching Contest, State Marching Contest, and Invitation Contests throughout the fall semester. To be a member of the marching band students must successfully complete beginning band, and participate in Summer Band Camp each year.

Concert Band

Once marching season is over, the marching band will become a sit down performing band known as the concert band. The ensemble consists of students grades 7 – 12. The band performs at U.I.L. Concert and Sight Reading Contest, and Pre U.I.L Invitational Contest.

Other Activities/Opportunities

There are other opportunities that are strongly suggested to participate in as they will increase your ability as a musician and provide an excellent experience. These mainly include Region Band Auditions and Solo & Ensemble Contests.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Participation Expectations

A yearly band calendar is enclosed for your use in planning your family schedule for the 2021 – 2022 school year. Each band student is important to the success of our many activities. We must be able to count on 100% attendance at these rehearsals and performances. If a family emergency occurs unexpectedly, PARENTS, please call the band office at 936-269-3128 Ext. 427 (this is a direct line with an answering machine).

Occasionally, there may be family commitments (weddings, graduations, etc.); in which case we will try to be flexible and work with parents on an individual basis. This must be discussed in detail well in advance (a month or more!). Student's job commitments and "select sports" are NOT reasons for an excused absence from band performances or rehearsals! Many band students work and participate in "select sports" and participate successfully in band. We suggest that these students take a copy of the "Yearly Band Calendar" to his/her employer and/or coach and clear all band performances and rehearsals. Most employers are very understanding and are flexible if they know of band commitments well in advance, and they understand that band performances are a required and vital part of the course work. Work with employers to clear the Tuesday night rehearsals from 6:00 - 8:00 pm (We are glad to talk to employers to validate student commitment.)

If a band student has an unexcused absence from a performance/rehearsal, they are subject to disciplinary action. If this is an issue on more than one occasion, then it could lead to immediate removal from the drill or band program.

Rehearsal Expectations

In band rehearsals, we not only deal with a creative process, but with more students at one time than other classroom teachers. Because of this, it is imperative that band students be organized and prepared for every rehearsal. When an individual is not able to play his/her musical instrument during a rehearsal it hurts the GROUP as well as the individual.

It is important that the student's musical instrument is in good working condition, that (s)he has a pencil to mark their music, and that (s)he has important accessories such as: music, reeds, and valve oil for EVERY rehearsal. It is also obvious that the creative process in which we are involved cannot take place unless there is a quiet, attentive atmosphere in the classroom and on the field. Students who do not live up to the high rehearsal expectations of the Ram Band will be counseled, and, if necessary, placed on probation to earn their spot/chair back.

- Students will wear proper attire to each marching rehearsal. Failure to do so the student will be deemed late, and will face disciplinary action (see Behavior).
Comfortable clothing, Tennis Shoes (or marching shoes) (no **flip flops**, no boots, and **no crocs**), A hat is suggested, Sunscreen.
- Students will arrive to each rehearsal on time (This mean that students will arrive at least 15-30 minutes before the start of each rehearsal)

Behavior

Band students will demonstrate an attitude of good discipline and attention during rehearsals. Each rehearsal should be a musical learning experience for each student. Each performance will be only as good as its best rehearsal. Disturbances by band students in rehearsal show a lack of interest and respect to the band.

Students should understand that if one of the policies is broken then there will be some sort of disciplinary action such as: forfeit of halftime break, visit to the principal, pushups/squat thrusts (the Ram Marching Band gives high school students a credit for physical education), lowered grade, removal from band. Here are the main policies of the Ram Band.

- Students must attend all after school rehearsals, contests, and football games. The only exceptions are family emergencies.
- Unexcused tardiness will lead to disciplinary action
- Damage to school property will lead to disciplinary action
- Arguing with a director, or speaking back to a director when asked to do something will lead to disciplinary action
- Causing distractions during rehearsals will lead to disciplinary action (talking, singing, laughing)
- Students must pass all classes every six weeks, and if a student is ineligible for more than one six weeks during the year they will be placed on probation. If a student is continuously ineligible they will be removed from the band program
- Students will play off ALL music that is performed at U.I.L. performances such as: Marching Contest, and Concert Sight Reading Contest

Attendance at Rehearsals and Performances

In order to have and maintain a high quality band program, attendance for all members is essential. Absences will be classified as excused for the following reasons ONLY:

- Student's personal illness – must be documented
- Death in the family
- School-related conflicts cleared by the director PRIOR to the absence
- Extreme circumstances (Band Director approval)
- All band members are expected to attend ALL rehearsals and performances unless excused by the band director. In case of an emergency, it is the responsibility of the student to contact one of the directors before the rehearsal or performance, (unless impossible) or the absence is unexcused. Please do not use the band program as means to punish your child by not allowing him/her to be at rehearsal. We are a team, and therefore depend on all members!
- Students absent during a marching band rehearsal, unless excused by their director in advance, may forfeit their place in the marching line-up, and may serve as an alternate.
- Punctuality is of vital importance in the band. The nature of the band's operation at football games, concerts, and travel away from home make strict adherence to a schedule very important. Students who are habitually tardy or absent will forfeit any position of responsibility or honor with the band.
- Students will be given an approximate time for a rehearsal or performance to be completed.
- Transportation should be present for the students when the event is over; we will not wait over 30 minutes for rides. In case of an emergency, call as soon as possible to make arrangements for transportation. If you have a problem with transportation, contact one of the band directors and let them make your name available for carpooling, etc.

Tardy/Absence

Absences and tardiness are detrimental to the success of any organization, our band included. Please use good judgment and the calendar to avoid schedule conflicts. With enough thoughtfulness and planning, 99% of conflicts can be avoided! A tardy or absence will reflect in the participation portion of a student's grade.

It is very important for ALL band students to be on time for all practices (full rehearsals or section rehearsals), meetings, and performances.

Being on-time means being ready on time. To be early is to be on-time.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL THE DAY OF AN EVENT WILL MAKE YOU UNELIDGEABLE TO PARTICIPATE THAT DAY!

Band Hall Rules

- Abide by all school rules, codes, and policies as established by Joaquin Independent School District, Board of Trustees, and school officials.
- All students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times. Display of profanity, temper, flagrant violation of band rules/school rules will not be tolerated. Individual behavior is a reflection of the entire band.
- Restrooms and drinking fountains are not to be used without permission during class.
- Stay out of office, practice rooms, uniform room and instrument storage rooms without permission.
- Music stands are provided for music; DO NOT use as a table; DO NOT lean on or play with stands.
- No food or drink in the band hall without permission.
- Do not run or play in the band hall, and at all times have respect for the equipment and property.
- Students will not deface or mark on music stands, walls, etc.
- DO NOT play any instrument other than your own unless it has been approved by the director.
- Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
- Be on time and present for all rehearsals and performances.
- Be in your proper seat with instrument and music and any other items needed for the rehearsal when the tardy bell sounds.
- Pay close attention in class and DO NOT talk without permission. Students should ask for permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that our time will be utilized wisely.
- Put your instrument in the proper slot in the instrument storage room. DO NOT put instruments on the floor.
- Keep up with your own music. It is your responsibility to come to class with your own music and supplies.
- ALWAYS DO YOUR VERY BEST JOB. A 1st division band has 1st division band students.
- Do NOT write or draw on the white board without permission.
- Do NOT get out of your seat without permission unless it is an emergency.
- Students will follow band director's instructions.
- Any behavior, which is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band director or staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the band program. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both public and private Events.

Dismissal from the Band

ANY STUDENT MAY BE DISMISSED FROM THE BAND BECAUSE OF LACK OF COOPERATION, REFUSAL TO CONFORM TO RULES AND REGULATIONS OR HAVING A GENERALLY POOR ATTITUDE.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT

- Be regular in attendance and to account for all absences and tardies. Remember, **"Early is on time and on time is late."**
- Be honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music, and school life in general.
- Cooperate with fellow band members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are part of the band program.
- Contribute positively to his/her music education and that of others by the best use of his/her talents.
- TREAT OTHERS AS YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED. TREAT THE DIRECTORS AS THEY EXPECT TO BE TREATED.
- Be on time to all practices and performances with all the proper equipment necessary to perform at the best of your ability.
- Always make sure that you carry your part of the load by properly putting up all your equipment, instruments, music, etc.
- Students should keep their designated storage area clean and neat in appearance. Students who demonstrate difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the Band Hall.
- **Responsibility is a vital aspect of the band program.** Students who do not fulfill the above responsibilities will be required to accept the consequences of his/her actions. This can include paying fines, losing 3rd quarter privileges, special assignments, forfeiting positions, etc.

Communication

Many problems can be easily avoided with communication. Students are expected to communicate to the band directors, IN ADVANCE, if a conflict arises. Any absence without official communication will be considered unexcused. Other factors to consider are:

- **Never communicate through another student regarding attendance – only you or your parents should contact the band director.**
- **Please do not ask the band directors to contradict band policies by asking to be excused for a reason that has been clearly defined as unexcused. Be committed!**

Work, homework, babysitting, driver's education classes, or transportation problems are never accepted as excuses for missing a rehearsal or a performance.

Football Game Rules and Conduct

Every student must attend each football game. The only excuses accepted for absence are death in the immediate family, contagious illness, or a doctor's note.

Football games are fun, and we are there to support the team. However, we must maintain professionalism at all times. Band members can stand up and YELL and SCREAM in support of the team throughout the game, but should always remain in his/her "spot." It is important to remain alert concerning all of the expensive equipment around the stands as well as the need to be ready to play at a moment's notice. Behavior in the stands includes:

- No food or drinks in the stand at any time. (Water is permitted and booster provided meals are permitted)
- **Students will refrain from accepting food or drinks from parents, relatives, or friends while in the stands during 1st, 2nd, and 4th quarters.**
- No visitors in the stands unless approved by a band director
- Students needing a restroom break must be accompanied. (7th & 8th grade)
- The band will only perform in the stands the tunes which have been rehearsed
- No playing on horn in stands unless instructed to do so by a band director
- Students will be expected to listen for and watch the directors and drum major during the game. Students will need to be prepared to perform at all times.
- Students will remain in the band setting at all times during the game.
- In order to keep uniforms and instruments in tact, students should keep movement in the stands to a minimum. Stay in your spot.
- Long hair must be put up under band shako during performances
- Do not spray perfume, hairspray, deodorant, etc. in the stands.
- All band students should be back in the stands after the 3rd quarter break with instrument, flip folder, etc., ready to play at the beginning of the 4th quarter. **If you miss the 1st note of the 1st song of the 4th quarter, you will miss the 3rd quarter privileges in the following week.**
- YOU are responsible for putting up all of your equipment after each game!
- Exit stands by going to the end of the row and down the stairs.
- The band directors will coordinate the times for student leaders to participate in the good sportsmanship procedures of officer meetings and introductions.
- Upon return to the band hall at the conclusion of a game, students will insure that all personal items, uniforms and instruments are placed in the proper storage areas.

OUT-OF-TOWN TRIPS

Normal school policy dictates that band member's ride to, and return from all off-campus performances as a group using transportation provided by the district. On rare occasions, an emergency or conflict with other school-sponsored events necessitates that parents provide transportation to or from an off-campus performance.

In such a situation a note signed by the parent should be presented to a director, and one of the directors must physically see the parent take the student. This protects both the student and the school. Any other types of releases from a performance must be cleared in advance through the office of the Joaquin high school principal.

Bus Conduct

Rules are for safety and student safety comes first. Band students are expected to follow all rules and regulations established and approved by the school district in the "Student Handbook" and "Code of Conduct." Behavior on the bus includes:

- On band trips, all band members will ride to and from the destination on designated buses.
- Everyone is to remain seated.
- No food or drinks on bus without permission.
- Do not put heads and arms out windows while traveling.
- Uniforms must be hung and transported properly.
- No hitting or banging on bus or seats.
- No initiations. (such as decorating faces with makeup, shoe polish, etc.)
- No shoe polish writing on buses. (ours or anyone else's)
- No exit through rear door except in an emergency.
- **Do not get off the bus until the director has given instructions to do so.**
- No switching buses – PERIOD.
- No squealing or unnecessary shouting.
- Chaperones or student leaders will be in charge of checking the roll each time the bus departs.
- Chaperones have the authority to reassign seats.
- At the end of each trip, the student is responsible for unloading his/her own equipment.
- Do not play instruments on the bus.
- When the bus comes to a halt, all talking, noises, and other distractions shall cease until the bus is in motion or permission is given.
- All school rules and policies should be observed at all times.
- Electronic devices are permitted only if the student uses headphones (no speakers).
- Do not spray perfume, hairspray, deodorant, etc. on the bus.

- Students should refrain from public displays of affection.
- Bus assignments will be posted so that students will know which bus to ride.
- Male and female students will be separated on the bus throughout the entirety of every trip, in accordance to school policy.
- When the band travels, it is considered an extension of the school day, thus all JISD Policies and Procedures apply.

Adult chaperones are a great asset for the band program. Proper respect will be shown to all adults associated with the band program at all times.

Band Trips

Students who represent JISD on out-of-town trips are expected to maintain very high standards in every respect at all times. They are expected to attend and be on time for all sessions and activities scheduled for them

In the event of overnight trips, they are expected to be in their rooms at the times designated by their chaperones. Each student will be responsible to one or more chaperone who will supervise the activities of the students for the trip. Negligence in attending sessions, in meeting curfew requirements, or in failing to maintain our standards of conduct may make it necessary for the sponsor to send the student home at his/her own expense.

Self-discipline is the key element for a pleasant experience for both the sponsor and the student when the student is on a school-related trip. Students who are involved in a serious disciplinary offense on a school-related trip, such as the use, possession of, or being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol, stealing, fighting, going in the room of a member of the opposite sex, or some other serious offense will face disciplinary action which may include one or more of the following:

- The student will be sent home from the trip at the parents' expense.
- The student will be held liable for damages to property
- The student may be removed from this school activity as well as other school co-curricular activities
- The student may be placed in In-School-Suspension (ISS), Off-Campus-Suspension, or Alternative Education Placement

Dress Code

Students' attire during school activities outside the school day should be in good taste. If there is any question of taste, the director's decision is final. All adults on trips serve as sponsors. Students will be expected to treat them with respect at all times. In the event a parent sponsor gives needed supervision, band students must honor that with utmost respect.

GENERAL - Even though students will not always have a band shirt on, people will find out where they are from. Students have the opportunity to make a tremendous name for Joaquin and for themselves. Be courteous and polite at all times. There is no way we can anticipate every possible scenario, so we ask for good judgment. Please use common sense.

RULE OF THUMB: If there is any question in one's mind as to whether one should do something or not ... DON'T DO IT! It is better to be safe than sorry.

WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEMS. IF WE ANTICIPATED A PROBLEM, WE WOULD NOT TRAVEL.

BAND GRADING SYSTEM AND ELIGIBILITY

Grading in band is based upon participation and playing evaluations. Grades for band students are usually higher than the norm which is understandable, since we have the "cream-of-the-crop" of the student body in the band program. Students belong to our program because they "want to," not because they "have to!" Band students receive a grade for each performance attended such as: football games, concerts, competitions, etc. Students will receive additional grades based on daily participation, sectionals, & music playoffs. Students must have equipment in good working order and be present at all required rehearsals and performances for their participation grade. If these expectations are not met, the participation grade will be affected.

A student's attitude can be best assessed in terms of willingness/ability to handle normal day-to-day responsibilities and expectations. Points will be deducted from a student's grade for the following Infractions:

- Being tardy to rehearsals, band classes, sectionals or performances
- Not having all materials and equipment at each rehearsal or performance
- Bringing drinks, gum, food, or candy into the band hall or band lockers
- Talking or creating distractions during rehearsals/class
- Not properly storing all personal materials
- Not following teacher's instructions or school policies
- Leaving instruments out on the floor

An unexcused absence from a marching or concert contest will result in a failing grade for the 6 weeks grading period of the missed contest performance.

High School Band

Participation/Attendance – 80%

Music Pass-Offs/Contests and Performance – 20%

Academic Eligibility

Scholastic eligibility requirements are based upon UIL rule and regulations and TEA House Bill 142 Rules and Regulations.

All music organizations adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and JISD. Any student whose recorded six weeks' grade average in any course is lower than 70 at the end of a six-week period shall be suspended from participation during the next six-week period. However, a student may regain eligibility seven calendar days after the three-week evaluation period if the student is passing all courses on the last day of the three-week period. A one-week grace period follows each grading and progress period. Students who are Ineligible will continue to rehearse during his/her band class, and participate in curricular performances to earn his/her band grade.

Ineligible students may not travel with the band or participate in extracurricular performances. An example of a **curricular performance** would be a spring concert and an **extracurricular performance** would be a football halftime or any type of contest. Be advised that excessive absences from school may also result in a student being declared ineligible.

The directors work hard to assist and encourage band students to perform up to their potential in ALL classes. Since both Marching Band and Concert Band are group activities, each individual band student plays an important part in the success of the group. The band directors consult with both teachers and students for strategies on improving individual student performance. Obviously, we cannot be successful as a band unless our students are successfully passing ALL classes.

Students who are ineligible for two consecutive six week grading periods will be put on probation. If they do not become eligible the following six week grading period, they will be removed from the band program. This will allow the student to focus on passing academic classes during the next semester.

Academic success is defined as passing all subjects during every grading period. Students must also maintain a clean discipline record with the school. This process is set up to help the academic success of the individual student.

Chair Placements

Chair placement in all bands is determined by auditions held on each instrument. Chair placements for the high school band will happen at the end of the school year and at the beginning of concert season. This is done so that chair order is already set before summer band camp. Beginning band chair placements will happen on a weekly basis up until the last month before the spring concert. Students are placed in chair order only on the basis of "how they perform" the audition music. The classification of a student is no factor, unless the students play equally. In that case, the student in the higher grade will be placed ahead of the younger student. All chair placements will be recorded and kept on file.

7th Grade Lessons

7th grade band students will be required to have one 15 minute lesson per week during the 1st Six Weeks to assure that they are progressing on their instrument, music, and to help them handle the transition into High School band. When school begins there will be a sign-up sheet for time slots both in the morning and after school so that I may accommodate every student's schedule. **It is not required of me, the director, to do this, but I do it out of care for the student's musical and personal growth and their contribution to the program.**

FACILITIES

Students are welcome to use the band hall practice rooms for practice either before or after school (Only one student in a room, unless permission granted by director.). However, the number of available places is limited, since both sectionals and private lessons take place before and after school. Due to the expense of the musical instruments that are in the band hall, **ONLY** band students are allowed into the band hall during the school day and before or after school. **Students must ask their friends who are not in the band to wait for them either in the school hallway or outside.**

These are your facilities and you should treat them respectfully and keep them clean.

Band Hall

Band members are to keep the band hall clean and neat. Keep chairs and music stands in place. Use the trashcan before or after class. Use all equipment such as chairs and stands as they are intended to be used. Leave all food and beverages outside of the band hall and do not bring chewing gum into any band room, practice room, or office area.

The Band Hall is a "safe haven." We stress to all band students to be responsible and keep their equipment in their lockers at all times. The lockers are meant for band equipment and needs only, and are not to be used as personal storage space. Many times "clean-up" duty is assigned to those "untidy" housekeepers to help develop orderly skills.

Practice Rooms

To be used for practice or study only. Keep practice rooms clean and neat. No food or drink in the practice rooms. (Only one in a room at a time.)

Instrument Storage Rooms/Shelves

To be used for instrument storage only. All other items are to be kept in the student's locker. Keep the storage area clean and neat. Instruments are to be put in their cases and closed while in the storage room or on the shelf. **DO NOT CLIMB THE SHELVES. DO NOT HANG OUT IN LOCKER ROOM.**

Uniform Room

This room will be off limits to everyone except the quartermaster, section leaders, and director.

Office Areas

Please respect the office as a work area. We all enjoy visiting, but when it is time to work, please recognize this time as work time. Please refrain from entering the office when a band director is unavailable.

MATERIALS

School Instruments

JISD provides instruments for all students that are a part of the band program. Because of this, students are held accountable for the care and maintenance of the horn. If a horn is severely damaged or lost in a student's care, then they are responsible for fixing/replacing that instrument. We expect the instrument to be returned in the same condition as when issued. This equipment is purchased by the school district for student use because of its extremely high value and cost. Thus, all school owned equipment must be handled with care.

Students failing to care for, or take care of their school issued instrument will lose the privilege to use such instruments. The following is a list of general procedures for school owned instruments:

- Students/parents will be held responsible for school owned instruments issued to them. This responsibility will include any damages including fire, theft, accidental damage, abuse and general maintenance.
- Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition. Students are expected to maintain their instruments accordingly.
- All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.

If these instruments are damaged or destroyed by misuse or neglect, the student is responsible for the cost of repairs or replacement. Any problems encountered with an instrument

should be reported to the band director as soon as possible. If a parent would like to go through a retailer to buy their child an instrument we ask that you please speak with a director about what horns to buy, and where to get them from. Sometimes the cheap horns are the worst horns, and don't give students the opportunity to succeed.

Individual Practice

Practice is sometimes fun, sometimes drudgery, but always necessary. The best way to make practice times more enjoyable and more productive is to get in a regular habit of practicing every day. Look for improvements, don't just "put in your time". When you're playing improves, then all the time spent will seem worthwhile. **A good practice routine should be allotted in the following manner:**

long Tone study (Long tones) 5-10 minutes

Warm up scales, flexibility (lip slurs)/Arpeggios 5-10 minutes

Solo work (Pass-off music, All region, Solo and ensemble, etc.) 20 minutes

Warm down (low notes) 3 minutes

Concentrate on getting a good sound. It makes no difference how fast or loud you can play, you must have a good tone to be enjoyable to listen to. Focus and center all pitches!

Never sacrifice accuracy for speed. Practice the parts you can't play. It makes no sense to spend all of your practice time on the spots you can already play well. Add to the band's sound, not detract from it. **Practice does not make perfect; perfect practice makes perfect.**

Band Uniforms

It is a privilege to wear the Joaquin High School Band uniform. We have two separate types of uniforms here at Joaquin. We have the informal summer uniform, and the traditional performance uniform. Make sure you have all parts of the uniform at each performance. If your uniform does not meet the high standard required in the Joaquin Ram Band, you are subject to being removed from a performance or not traveling with the band. This uniform is a symbol of pride and will be worn accordingly.

- The informal summer uniform consists of the band polo t-shirt, khaki shorts, a belt, white socks, tennis shoes. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE! The band polo must be tucked in at all times while in public. Inside the band hall, on a bus, or unloading are the ONLY exceptions to this rule.
- The traditional performance uniform is the most important and most expensive uniform that will be worn. Students will need to have their uniform inspected by leadership, or a director prior to checking it out. While in this uniform students will need: their band t-shirt, white socks, and some sort of athletic shorts to be worn under the trousers. NO BLUE JEANS! Students that do not have their band t-shirt or white socks will forfeit their halftime break and sit in the stands during that break.
- After each performance or football game the band uniform needs to be checked in to the quartermaster or leadership. If a student fails to turn in their uniform as required, then they will receive \$10 fine.

Here are some dos and don'ts that will help you and your uniform look great at all times:

DO: remember your band T-Shirt, white socks, and marching shoes each time you will be wearing your uniform.

DO: transport your uniform in a garment bag, Every time!

DO: take extra time and care when hanging up your uniform. Pants: **hang folded on the crease, not the seat.**

DO NOT: remove any material from the uniform if alterations are necessary.

DO NOT: forget to turn your uniform in after every performance (If you ride home with a parent after an away game it is YOUR responsibility to give your uniform to a responsible student to turn in for you).

Students out of uniform in any fashion will not be permitted to make a public appearance. Any band student in public view is required to wear the entire uniform, unless given permission by the director to be otherwise dressed.

ANY UNIFORM THAT IS LEFT IN THE BAND HALL, OR IN AN INSTRUMENT LOCKER WILL BE CONFISCATED AND THE STUDENT WILL FORFEIT THE NEXT 3rd BREAK AND RECEIVE A 10 DOLLAR FINE.

Inspections

Inspection of uniforms and instruments may be held at any time by the director. Uniforms and instruments should be kept in good condition at all times. Uniform trousers at proper length, shoes\ shined, correct socks, proper cross belt position, clean cross belts, all buttons on uniform, instrument clean, mouthpiece clean on inside and etc. are all things that will be looked for in an inspection. **Instrument slots should be kept clean with no trash, books, dirty clothes, shoes etc. in the slots.**

Expenses

Students and parents will be responsible for the following expenses:

- Summer Band Fee (Band T-Shirt, Band Polo, Marching Shoes) - \$85 or \$45 without shoes
- Metronome – Tonal Energy (\$3.99), Soundcorset (Free and provided on chromebook)
- Reeds – \$3 a piece
- Box of Reeds – \$25 (Should always have 4 working reeds)
- Students are recommended to buy a box for themselves to save money
- Uniform Fees – TBD
- Damage or abuse to school equipment – TBD
- Private lessons (if applicable) – TBD

BAND TRIPS

Major band trips are scheduled for the Joaquin Band. These trips are scheduled by the band directors and are provided as awards for a job well done and as an educational experience. The number of trips and the destinations will be determined by the band directors, school officials, and Joaquin Band Booster Club. These trips are funded by various fund raising activities, parents, and the Joaquin Band Booster Club. Please be aware that every student must be eligible as dictated by the University Interscholastic League.

A band student must be a member in good standing of the Ram Band in order to participate in these trips. It is important that all students conduct themselves in an appropriate manner as representatives of our school and community. If a student violates any major school policy, such as drinking alcohol, smoking, drug use, damaging property, or stealing, he/she will be sent home at the parent's expense, and will be subject to removal from the organization and all penalties set forth in the Joaquin ISD Code of Conduct. **Band students are required to follow ALL school rules and policies as set forth by the Joaquin ISD Board of Trustees.** Trips are considered an extension of the school day.

Individual Student Accounts

Every other year the Ram Band will take an out of state band trip to compete in various concert festivals. These trips are very expensive and need a lot of effort in fundraising to afford these trips. Students are responsible for paying anywhere from \$100-500 for their seat on the trip. Students will have multiple opportunities to raise money for their seat throughout the school year.

When students fundraise on band trip years the money that they earn individually will be deposited into the activity account under their name. This is to help ALL students afford to go on the out of state band trip. For example: if a student raises \$150 during fundraising and the trip cost \$200 per student, then that student will owe only \$50 because of the money that was raised during fundraising. If a student doesn't put forth the effort to raise money, then they will be forced to pay the full amount of the trip. Parents will be allowed to attend the trip, but only by following these guidelines: volunteer for AT LEAST two separate events (concession stands, public fundraising, etc.), pay the amount for the trip in full. Parent seats on the trip are on a first come first serve basis.

Fundraising

Periodically fund raising activities are sponsored by the Joaquin Band. All band students are expected to participate in fundraising activities throughout the school year. Money raised by students goes directly into the Activity Fund which is used for student related activities such as meals for away games, contests, and any other trips in which students need to be fed. Fundraising money raised will also be used to co-fund the band trip every other year with the band boosters.

BAND JACKETS

The presentation of a band letter jacket is an honor at Joaquin High School. To earn a letter jacket, a student must be a high school student and have achieved one of the following requirements:

- Qualify for region band
- Earn a 1st division on a class I solo/ensemble which results in qualifying for the state contest.
- Students must have participated in the band program from the time of their enrollment in high school band to their sophomore year, and must participate through graduation of their senior year.
- Students will attend all performances and U.I.L. activities. Exceptions will be granted at the discretion of the band director (illness, deaths, etc.).
- Students not adhering to written disciplinary policies of the school and band will forfeit their eligibility for the award jacket.
- Any violation of these rules during the years following the sophomore year may result in the forfeiture of the jacket.
- The student must uphold the goals and standards of the band.
- It is understood that withdrawal or dismissal from the band prior to graduation of his/her senior year results in forfeiture of the jacket.
 - In the event that a jacket is forfeited by a student, all accessories paid for by the student will be returned.

Students who have already earned a jacket in any other area may earn a band letter only.

UIL permits only one award, like a jacket, during the total high school years.

STUDENT AND PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

Leadership

We are extremely fortunate at Joaquin High School to have outstanding student leaders. These students are invaluable to the success of the band program. The band staff selects Drum Majors and Section Leaders for the following school year. These appointments are subjective and based on a holistic evaluation of a student from every aspect of their band experience including, but not limited to, playing ability, attendance/promptness, citizenship, academic achievement, discipline, initiative, and leadership skills/potential as it relates to the band environment.

While all students have an opportunity to be considered for one of these appointed leadership positions, it should be understood that only a limited number of positions can be filled and will vary from year to year. As a member of the Ram Band there is an expectation for ALL students to foster and develop positive leadership skills regardless of title.

DRUM MAJOR & MAJORETTES

These positions are considered to be an honor and are to be treated as such. They exist only because there is a band, and an attitude of band first should always be kept in mind.

All drum majors and majorettes should follow all rules as established by the Student Code of Conduct, the Extracurricular Code of Conduct, the majorette handbook, and the Joaquin Band Handbook. Punishment for a violation of a policy or rule will be in accordance with the established codes.

The auxiliary sponsors and the band director have the final decision where auxiliary units are concerned. Disciplinary action against twirlers is a sponsor and band director decision. The sponsor/band director reserves the right to decide who will be allowed to perform, whether due to inability of the student to perform the required routine, discipline problems, or absence from practice or performance.

All auxiliary members are expected to learn appropriate conflict resolution skills while they are a member of the unit. Problems will be dealt with outside of class time. (No classroom or public confrontations will be tolerated)

Drum Major

The Drum Major is the elite member of the band, and serves as the model band student for the rest of the band. There are two Drum Majors positions in the Ram Band and they are: Head Drum Major, and Assistant Drum Major. Both are appointed by the Head Director and ALL decisions are final. The Head Drum Major is a student in grades 11, 12 and is determined by many factors throughout the student's band career. The Assistant Drum Major is a student usually around freshman or sophomore year that will serve as the Head Drum Major after the original head has graduated. Both Drum Majors are expected to attend summer Drum Major Camp that is paid for by the band program.

Majorettes

Majorettes perform at pep rallies, halftime, and U.I.L. Twirling Solo and Ensemble contest. Majorettes are expected to be some of the elite students in the band, and should act as such at all times even outside of band. Before a student can audition to be a majorette, they must show that they are proficient on their instrument.

BAND BOOSTER CLUB

The Ram Band has a very active, supportive parent organization known as the Ram Band Boosters. The booster association includes parents of band students. Without the hard work and dedication of the parents, the band program at Joaquin could not be as successful and productive as it is. There are numerous areas in which interested parents can be involved in supporting the activities of the band. General meetings of the boosters are held throughout the school year usually on Monday evenings. However, numerous committees do most of the booster organization planning.

We ask that all parents consider being a part of the band booster organization. The success of the program depends not only on the hard work of the kids, but the hard work and support of the parents as well.

Band Booster Scholarship

Every year, as of 2019, the Band Boosters will offer a one-time scholarship to all students that have participated in band from 6th grade all the way through graduation. The scholarship amount is dependent upon how many students are in the graduating band class, and is rewarded after proof of enrollment at their college institution.

A Champion's Creed
(It's all in the state of mind)

If you think you are beaten, you are;
If you think you dare not, you don't;
If you think you'd like to win, but you can't
It's almost a cinch you won't.
If you think you'll lose, you've lost;
For out in the world you'll find
Successes begin with a fellow's will;
It's all in the state of mind.
For many a race is lost
Before even the race is run,
And many a coward fails
Before even his work's begun.
Think big and your deeds will grow,
Think small and you fall behind.
Think that you can, and you will;
It's all in the state of mind.
If you think you are outclassed, you are;
You've got to think to rise;
You've got to be sure of yourself
Before you can ever win a prize.
Life's battle doesn't always go to the
Stronger or faster man;
But sooner or later, the man who wins,
Is the fellow who thinks he can!

A Special Note to Parents.....

Parent involvement and interest in their child's musical growth can be the single most important factor in their total musical education. When parents are actively involved in their child's musical endeavors, the chances for success are exponentially greater than for the student whose parents show little or no interest.

It is important that through your actions, you show your child that you care about their musical development. You can show your support by attending concerts and contests and by attending civic and community or professional performances with your child. As much as possible, try to provide equipment and accessories that they may need and give them a productive place to practice. Praise your child when he/she practices regularly and offer encouragement when they don't. Ask your child how things are going in band class and have them play for you. Parents do not need prior musical experience to effectively support their child's development.

Band is not just about music. Like athletics, the band experience is about learning, performance, goal setting, competition, achievement, camaraderie, and most of all – learning life skills that will help every one of our members grow to be a successful adult. If we neglect important concepts such as accountability, responsibility, integrity, honesty, diligence, perseverance, and the ability to put others before self, we would be ignoring the MOST important character traits that a person can have. These are not traits that just “happen” or that you are simply born with. We must all nurture and develop these traits within our organization.

Thirty years from now, your son or daughter may forget some of the techniques of playing a musical instrument, but what he/she learns in regard to character and integrity, will be with them for life.

Joaquin Ram Band Staff

Band Director – Wade Hull

Office: 936-269-3128 Ext. 427

Majorette Instructor/Sponsor

Amber Graves

APPENDIX

ADDENDUM A

2021-2022 BAND CALENDAR

The attached calendar for the 2019-2020 school year stretches from July 2019 through Summer Band 2020. This information is given to you to help you avoid scheduling conflicts. All of our rehearsals and performances are required, as attendance and participation is directly proportional to the success of the program.

We are aware that circumstances may arise that will create conflicts. Communication with the band directors is critical. Hopefully you will understand that some of our dates may change, be added or deleted due to circumstances out of the band staff's control.

If we work together, and communicate effectively, we can problem solve most scheduling conflicts. Your understanding and cooperation is appreciated.

ADDENDUM B

Music Pass–Off Explanation

Students must pass off music as part of his/her grade. An assignment will be made with a due date. The student needs to pass off his/her music by that due date. A number grade will be given based on preparation, performance, and memory, if applicable. After the student plays and receives a grade, the director will instruct the student on what to work on and fix in order to make a higher grade. The student then has until the end of the Six Weeks Grading Period to make as many attempts to re-pass off the music for a higher grade as possible. As the music and performance improves, so will the grade.

If a zero has been inputted into the computer for an assignment, that zero may be made up for full credit until the end of the Six Weeks Grading Period, or until a different deadline has been set.

The goal of music pass off is to put responsibility on each individual to learn and memorize his/her part, so that the band will improve and experience success. This grading policy rewards effort and improvement. Also, to be successful, everyone has to play their music.

Most Six Week Grading Periods will contain at least one piece of music that needs to be passed off. If you are not hearing your child play at home, then your child is most likely getting behind on his/her pass off grade.

ADDENDUM C

Social Media Clause

Social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) must be treated with great respect to your position as a highly visible member of your auxiliary unit. You not only represent yourself, but also your family, school, and community. As a member of a highly visible auxiliary unit, you shall not post images that expose your body in a distasteful or sexually enticing/explicit manner. You shall not post images of yourself displaying hand/gang signs, even if in jest. Furthermore, bullying is strictly prohibited in any way, including, but not exclusively through words or images. Please be aware that violations of this clause are subjective to the opinions of sponsors and administrators. You are expected to practice good judgement in the content that you post. Violations of this clause will result in punishment in accordance with the JISD Student Handbook.

Student/Parent Acknowledgement Form

Student Name: _____
(Please Print)

I have read and understand the Joaquin RAM Band Student Handbook for the 2021-2022 year.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Please return this form to the director.