


Trinity High School

Band Handbook

2022-2023



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Welcome

We are happy to have you as part of the Trinity Trojan Band. There are great things happening in the development of the program, and we take great pride in those accomplishments. Whether a student member, parent of a member, or just a friend of the band program, you should share in this pride and look forward with great excitement to the coming year.

The tradition in the Trinity Trojan Band is one of exceedingly high standards both as musicians and as citizens. Students and parents will be held to these standards as we constantly strive to improve the quality of music education at THS, build the reputation of excellence already associated with the program, and represent Trinity High School and HEB ISD.

This handbook should serve as a guide to you throughout your year with the THS Band. It is designed to help you understand how the program is run, your responsibilities as a member or parent, and the policies of the band program. It is extremely important that everyone associated with the THS Band has a working knowledge of the information and policies contained in this handbook. As with any successful organization, structure, communication and organization are key, and students and parents of the program will be held accountable for the information and policies that follow.

If you ever have questions that cannot be answered with the information in this handbook, please feel free to contact a director for clarification. We are here to assist you, and we expect you to come to us for help when needed. Email is the preferred method of communication for all of the directors, and we appreciate you using this line of communication when possible.

Again, welcome, and we hope you are ready for an outstanding year with the Trinity Band program!

Sincerely,

THS Band Directors

Chris Kanicki

Cris Garcia

Manny Flores

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Trinity High School Band has a rich history of excellence and are a valued part of the Trinity High School educational experience. The Trinity Band currently serves nearly 200 students who participate in marching band, three concert bands (Wind Ensemble, Symphonic, and Concert), chamber ensembles, Jazz Band, winter guard, and percussion ensembles.

Trinity's concert ensembles include multiple tiers of programs, including the top tier Wind Ensemble who are consistent Division I and Sweepstakes award winners. These ensembles consistently receive the highest possible ratings at local and regional competitions. The band program also includes the award-winning Trojan Marching Band. The Trojan Marching Band has been a top-contender at the Regional and Area 6A Marching Band competitions. The marching band also participates in numerous local and regional marching band competitions, parades, and community events. Extracurricular ensembles and activities for our members include the Trinity Winter Guard, percussion ensemble, and numerous small chamber ensembles that perform throughout the community and at the UIL Solo & Ensemble levels of competition. In addition, the Trinity High School Bands consistently place a large number of students in the Region, Area, and All-State Bands of Texas.

Among all of the outstanding programs at Trinity High School, the band program stands as the most visible on campus. We frequently have band students' graduate in the top ten of their class, achieve National Merit Scholar or Commended Scholar status, participate in Academic Decathlon, UIL Academics, and numerous other academic endeavors.

The Trinity Band students leave the program with a sound understanding of correct musical fundamental principles, musicality, and ensemble skills, as well as a strong sense of self-discipline, responsibility, dependability, and the ability to work in both large and small groups to achieve common goals. These skills all lead to success later in life for our graduates in both musical and non-musical endeavors. It is our goal to create lifelong lovers of music who will continue to support music education throughout their lives as a result of their experiences in the THS Band program.



Band Website: www.trinitytrojanband.com

The band website is one of our most important communication tools. It contains general information about the program, a complete yearly calendar and announcements regarding student successes and fundraisers. Students and parents are expected to visit this site often to stay informed about band activities.



Remind

These are one-way short, informative texts that come from the directors and are a great way to get messages quickly to the students and parents. Please make sure both students and parents are signed up under the group the student is in.

(To join, TEXT your class code to 81010)

Remind Group	Class Code
Woodwinds	@9gr4dv
Brass	@ecgghg
Percussion	@dakf2c
Guard	@8k22e7c

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Ensembles and Performing Groups

Our year is broken up into two main “seasons”, marching season and concert season. Marching season runs from the first week of August through the first week of November and encompasses the high school football season and the competitive marching band season. Concert season officially begins when marching season ends, but there is substantial overlap as we begin to prepare for concert season activities during the marching season, and vice versa. **All members of the Trinity Band program will participate in both the marching and concert band portions of the year and will be enrolled in a band class year-round.**

Marching Band: composed of winds, percussion, and color guard students. All of these groups will perform at all football games, pep rallies, and parades. Additionally, the marching band will perform at several competitions throughout the season. Marching band consists of after school rehearsals which are part of every student’s grade.

Every student in the band program performs in uniform under the lights at every football game. At contests, some students will have different roles where they assist with props or getting on and off the field. The success of the program relies on having all-hands-on-deck for every contest. Once the competitive season is over (typically beginning of November), the marching band will learn a spirit show that they will perform for the remainder of the season.

The **Color guard** is a visual ensemble that adds to the pageantry and dynamic of the on-field performance of the marching band. These students earn membership in this group by participating in an audition process in the previous spring semester. They receive special training to develop the skills that they use to enhance the marching program. Membership in this group is open to both students enrolled in band and the general student population.

The **Drumline** is the collective group of percussionists who make-up the battery and front ensemble (or pit) which add pulse, impact, texture, and effect to the performances of the marching band. Membership in the drumline is open to percussion students who are enrolled in year-round band classes.

Classes Offered

All members of the Trinity Band will also participate in a band class during the day. Placement in each ensemble is by audition and is solely at the discretion of the band directors.

Wind Ensemble: The most advanced performing ensemble at THS. This band performs the highest-level literature and is comprised mostly of upperclassmen. This band competes at the Varsity level in the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest. Members of this ensemble are required to participate in all steps of the All-State audition process, spring semester sectionals and extended class time, concerts, contests, solo and ensemble contests, and additional festivals or recording sessions. Wind Ensemble students will also perform at graduation.

Symphonic Band: The second performing ensemble at THS. In this ensemble, students perform masterworks that are geared toward preparing them to handle the literature demands of the Wind Ensemble. This ensemble is generally comprised of students in all grades. This ensemble performs at the Non-Varsity level in the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest. Members of this ensemble are strongly encouraged to participate in the All-State audition process, and required to participate in spring semester sectionals, concerts, and solo and ensemble contests. Symphonic Band students may be asked to perform at graduation.

Concert Band: The third performing ensemble at THS. This ensemble is generally comprised of students in all grades. The primary goals of this class include expanding and perfecting all fundamental aspects of ensemble and individual playing as well The director reserves the right to make any necessary changes to this handbook to compensate for unexpected circumstances which may occur throughout the school year. Updated 8/10/22

as allowing the students to gain greater confidence by playing music that is comprised of multiple moving parts. This ensemble performs at the Sub-Non-Varsity level in the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest. Members of this ensemble are encouraged to participate in the All-Region audition process and solo and ensemble contests.

Percussion: Percussion students are placed in their own class. In the fall semester, all percussion students meet at the same time. In the spring, percussion students are placed into a full band class on one day and a percussion ensemble class the other day. In the fall, percussion students are required to participate in all drumline rehearsals, contests, and extra performances. In the spring, these students will have extra rehearsals in conjunction with the Percussion Bash, a concert designed to showcase their skills. Percussion students who have previously made Wind Ensemble or Wind Symphony are strongly encouraged to audition for All-City and All-State. All percussionists are encouraged to participate in the solo and ensemble contest.

Color guard: Overseen by the band directors, this class is taught by a Mr. Horton. In the fall, members perform with the marching band. At the conclusion of the marching season, they transition to Winter guard which practices both during and after school and compete in local and national level contests. Instrumentalists are eligible to participate in color guard as well.

Jazz Band: This band meets once a week after school during the spring semester. Members of this ensemble are the hardest working and most talented saxophones, trombones, trumpets, drummers, bassists, guitarists, and pianists in the school. Admittance into this band is at the discretion of Mr. Kanicki. This ensemble focuses on big band jazz tunes as well as improv and theory.

Class Schedule

Period	Class
1 st Period – 8:45am-9:58am	Wind Ensemble
2 nd Period – 10:05am-11:19am	Symphonic Band
3 rd Period – 11:26am-1:22pm	JH campuses
4 th Period – 1:29pm-2:42pm	Concert Band
5 th Period – 2:49pm-4:02pm	Colorguard

Marching band rehearsals are after school and listed on the band calendar on the band website, www.trinitytrojanband.com. Most weeks they are on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. However, this is subject to change during weeks with holidays, or weeks where a rehearsal is cancelled due to inclement weather.

Private Lessons

The single most important factor in the development of a truly outstanding band program is the development of the individual players. Private lessons are the most valuable tool we can offer our students to aid in their progression through the program. All students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons.

There are many opportunities in the area for student musicians to study privately with professional teachers. We prefer that student's study with director-approved teachers and avoid lessons at music stores, churches, etc. where values and standards may differ. We have at least one private teacher on each instrument who can teach either during the school day or outside of school hours. Lessons are \$20 per 25-minute lesson, once a week. Information on how to enroll will be discussed during band classes.

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GENERAL INFO, GUIDELINES, and POLICIES

Grading

Students receive grades in two different categories: major grades and participation. The **major grades** category includes all marching band and concert performances throughout the year, as well as any marching band pass-offs, concert band pass-offs, or playing tests assigned by the directors. The **participation** category includes attendance to all mandatory rehearsals, and supply checks.

General Rules/Behavior Expectations

There are several different sets of rules and expectations for the different scenarios that apply to the THS Band. In general, all rules in the HEB ISD Student Code of Conduct will apply at all THS Band events from the classroom to out-of-state travel. In addition:

- Be kind to one another.
- Show and give respect to one another.
- Respect the band facilities and all equipment within the band program.
- Early is on time, on time is late, and late is unacceptable. 10 to 15 minutes is fine.
- Represent the band program, Trinity High School, and the community with pride and dignity at all events, public or private.
- Attend all rehearsals, events, and performances.
- Communicate any conflicts in a timely manner.

Substance Abuse: Any student found to be in violation of the school substance possession/use policy will be referred to their assigned Assistant Principal and subject to strict disciplinary action from the school. Additional disciplinary actions may be taken by the directors including immediate removal from the band program.

Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to do their own work. Relying on unauthorized sources for answers on exams, quizzes, or other class projects is cheating. Copying the work of others and attempting to pass it off as your own is plagiarism. You will receive a zero grade for that exam, quiz, or project. You may also be subject to further disciplinary action.

Social Media: Trinity Band members are expected to be responsible for their personal websites and postings on all social media. The areas of appropriateness will include but are not limited to profane, foul, or disrespectful language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, references of alcohol/drugs/tobacco, and postings (either text or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening toward HEB ISD teaching staff or band members, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude toward other bands and/or their members. Any such incident will result in review by the band directors and school administration and may lead to disciplinary action including but not limited to probation or dismissal from the band program.

Attendance Policy

All students in the THS Band are required to participate in the marching band as well as a concert band/colorguard/percussion class. Students must attend all required rehearsals and performances for each group in order to maintain membership in the band program. All rehearsals and performances are listed on the band calendar posted at www.trinitytrojanband.com. Performances include but are not limited to football games, marching contests, parades, pep rallies, as well as concerts for concert bands/jazz band/percussion and color guard contests.

Excused Absence- Our attendance policy mirrors the current HEB ISD attendance policy. Excused absences from band activities are defined as absences due to illness, injury, or family emergency.

*A written note or email **from a parent or guardian** explaining the reason for your absence is due before any absence or upon your return if the absence is an emergency.

Unexcused Absence- Unexcused absences from band activities are defined as any absence due to reasons other than those stated above. Examples of unexcused absences and tardiness include but are not limited to:

- Any work-related conflict
- Over-sleeping
- Transportation not arranged
- Scheduling conflicts with other activities or events that are not communicated with the band directors
- Anything deemed unexcused by school policy
- Absences that are unreported according to band guidelines

Tardies: Any unexcused late arrival (tardy) or early departure will result in loss of points from the students Participation grade. Multiple tardies or early departures can result in loss of performance status. A late arrival/early departure of 30 minutes or more will count as an unexcused absence.

Consequences of Unexcused Absences

Marching Rehearsals:

First unexcused absence- Loss of attendance/performance privilege at that week's pep-rally

Second unexcused absence- Loss of attendance/performance privilege at that week's football game

Third unexcused absence- Conference with parents with potential extended loss of performance privileges, loss of Varsity performance spot, or potential removal from band.

Unexcused absences and tardiness from rehearsals will also result in reduction in participation grade.

Performances:

Unexcused absences from performances will result in a zero entered for a major grade, and immediate conference with students and parents.

Students that attempt to deceive the directors regarding the nature of their absence will be referred to their Assistant Principal for disciplinary action, and have an immediate conference with directors and parents.

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All-State Audition Commitment

All students in the Wind Ensemble students are required to learn the All-State music and audition for a place in one of the bands as part of their curriculum. Symphonic Band and Concert Band students are highly encouraged to enlist in this audition process as well. By auditioning for All-State, students are committing to participating in the following events:

- All-Region Auditions (Phase I and Phase II, when applicable for your instrument)
- All-Area Auditions (for students who advance to the Area level)
- All-Region Band Clinic/Concert (required for all students who earn a place in the ensemble)
- All-State Band Clinic/Concert (a very special event for students who earn a place in the All-State Band)

SAT/ACT

Every effort is made to ensure that a student can be academically competitive while fully contributing to the band program. However, many of the band's major contests exist on SAT and ACT testing dates. For the convenience of parents and students, the band calendar located at www.trinitytrojanband.com contains recommended ACT and SAT testing dates that do not conflict with band events. Students and parents are expected to consult this guide when selecting their testing dates.

Eligibility

According to the UIL rules that govern all UIL activities in the state of Texas, students must be passing all classes with a 70 or higher (60 or higher for advanced classes) at the UIL designated checkpoints throughout the year in order to participate in marching band performance events. In HEB ISD, these checks occur at the end of every six weeks. It is the student and parent's responsibility to monitor the students grades to ensure that the student remains passing. Students that lose eligibility will not be allowed to participate in ticketed performances (such as football games), contests (including All-Region Band, Solo and Ensemble, and Marching/Concert Band Contests), any trips taken in the fall or spring, pep-rallies, or various other performances. Ineligible students must attend all rehearsals and are still eligible to participate in non-ticketed concerts, such as school concerts, or UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluation. In the event that a student becomes ineligible, a band director will inform them of their expected performance involvement. Any student who becomes ineligible may be reassigned to another at the discretion of the band director.

Policies for Facilities and Equipment

- **Water Only:** There is to be no food, gum, candy, or drinks (other than water) in the band hall at any time unless specific permission is given by a director.
- **Abuse of School Property:** Do not abuse or misuse any THS Band equipment including, but not limited to: instruments, chairs, stands, risers, podiums, tuners, lockers, etc. Any student found doing so may be required to purchase replacement equipment or pay to repair the equipment at the directors' discretion.
- **Horseplay:** The band hall is full of top-quality instruments and equipment that we are lucky to have in our possession, and that many students will need to use after you're left the program. Horseplay will not be tolerated.
- **Instruments:** Instruments are to be kept in their cases (closed correctly) and in the correct cubby at all times when not

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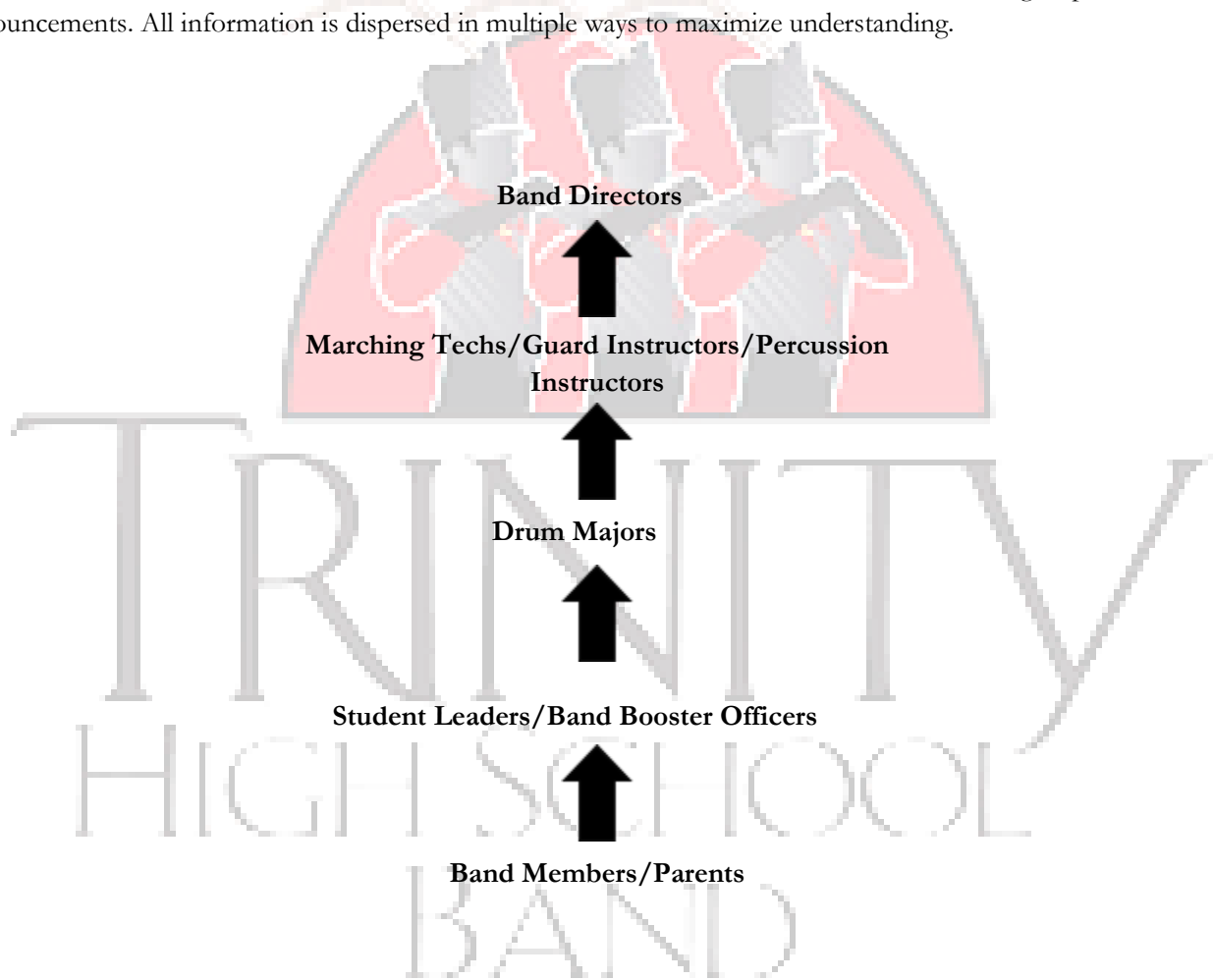
in use or at home. Do not leave instruments or cases sitting out in anywhere in the band hall at any time.

- **Locker Storage:** Students will have a locker for their instrument in the band hall. This is for storage of the instrument (in its case) and music binder. Lockers are to be kept neat and clean at all times. Any locker that is found dirty and has items other than an instrument and/or music binders will be cleaned out and will be put in the lost and found or the trash.
- **Instrument Cleanliness:** Instruments are to be kept clean and in correct working order at all times. Failure to do so by a student using a school-owned instrument may result in a fine and/or loss of the privilege of using the instrument. Failure to take proper care of a school-owned instrument (handling, storage, etc.) may also result in fines and/or loss of use of the instrument.
- **Percussion Instruments:** Non-percussionists should never touch, play, or move any percussion equipment without specifically being told to do so by a director or percussion section leader.
- **Other Instruments:** Do not play on or handle another student's instrument unless specifically asked to do so by a director.
- **Practice Rooms:** Practice rooms are for practicing, pass-offs, and private lessons or help sessions only. Priority is given to those students and teachers having private lessons. Do not create unnecessary noise or disturbance in the practice rooms or practice room hallways at any time. Follow all posted signs in the practice rooms
- **Only Band Students:** Only band students are allowed in the band hall. Do not bring people who are not in band in with you, and if you see someone who shouldn't be in the band hall, politely ask them to leave or to see a director.
- **Don't Interrupt:** We have limited space for the many ensembles and groups who rehearse throughout the day. Facilities are being used before, after, and during every period of the school day. Students are expected to be respectful of the rehearsals being conducted and avoid interruption.
- **Office:** The directors' offices are private. Do not enter unless asked to do so by a director. Always knock on the door and wait to be waved in before entering.
- **Take Pride:** It is each band student's responsibility to maintain our facilities. Take pride in our space; clean-up after yourselves (and others if necessary); and don't wait to be asked to help.

TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL BAND

Chain of Communication

In any large organization, structure is the key to success. The “Chain of Communication” exists to help everyone understand the structure of the administration of the program. It is important for all members and parents to understand the “Chain of Communication” as it is in effect throughout the year. However, due to the incredibly busy schedule and large number of people involved at one time, the “Chain of Communication” is especially important during marching season. Although the directors would be happy to deal with each individual’s issues personally, they could not possibly answer the questions of 200 students and their parents each time they should arise. This is especially true on performance or event days. **Students and parents are expected to use this tool whenever possible to convey information, seek clarification on certain topics, or to have questions answered.** Additional resources include the band website, Charms emails, our Facebook group, Remind texts, and aural announcements. All information is dispersed in multiple ways to maximize understanding.



Policies for Rehearsals

- **Attire:** All students must wear appropriate loose-fitting shorts, short-sleeved plain white shirts, athletic shoes, and socks. Students should also bring a brimmed hat and sunglasses to wear at every rehearsal. Long pants or long sleeve shirts will not be allowed unless “athletic” in nature and are at the discretion of the director(s). Heavy clothing such as sweatshirts, sweatpants, or jackets etc... will be permitted on the marching field during weather where the high temperature for the day will reach 80 degrees or higher.
- **Hydration/Nutrition:** Every student is required bring their Trinity Band water jug to each rehearsal. Water breaks are given as hydration is the key to having a successful marching season in the Texas heat. Students should also drink water frequently throughout the day both before and after rehearsal in order to maintain proper hydration. Students should avoid sugary drinks/soda, as well as processed greasy/sugary food. Eating well and often will increase the student’s ability to cope with the extreme heat.
- **Preparedness:** All rehearsals will begin and end at the scheduled times. Any student not completely ready for rehearsal when it begins will be given a reduced Participation grade. The consequences for lack of supplies or tardiness are explained in the Marching Band Attendance Policy.
- **Arriving Late/Leaving Early:** Students are not permitted to arrive late or leave early from rehearsal unless specific permission is given by a director at least one week in advance.
- **Supplies:** All students are required to have the following supplies at each rehearsal: drill sheets, pencil, necessary music, instrument, water jug, and all related equipment/supplies.
- **Behavior:** All students are expected to demonstrate correct rehearsal etiquette at all times when rehearsing with the THS Band. Students who consistently talk, fail to pay attention, or disrupt/prevent the learning of other students will not be allowed to participate in rehearsal and will be counted as an unexcused absence.

Policies for Performance Days

- **Behavior:** Any appearance of the THS Band in public constitutes a performance and reflects on Trinity High School, HEB ISD, and the community. It is important to remember that the appearance and actions of individual members will directly affect the image of the THS Band, and all members should strive to project a favorable image at all times.
- **Times:** For any performance, students will be notified of a “call time”, location, uniform requirements, required materials, and an approximate end time. Students should arrive 15-20 minutes early to posted call times.
- **Attire:** For football games and marching contests, students will be expected to report to the pre-performance rehearsal in the rehearsal uniform (designated band shirt, athletic shorts, long black socks (must come up to half way up the shin), black marching shoes, correct hair styling and at times, the band shako.) It is the student’s responsibility to plan and manage time correctly to be on time to call time (it is recommended that you arrive 15 minutes before call time to ensure that you are ready and counted on time). Students are also responsible for making sure they have the required uniform parts and materials for each performance (or pre-performance rehearsal).
- **No Uniform, No Play:** Any student who does not have all of the correct uniform parts or required materials may not be allowed to participate in the performance. Students will be counted absent until problems are corrected and this may negatively affect the student’s grade in their band class or status in the marching band.
- **Pep rally attendance:** Pep rallies are a privilege and students who are not eligible for the current grading period are not allowed to go to the pep rally. This rule applies even before long calendar breaks and everyone is considered eligible in the eyes of UIL.
- **Released Together:** A performance is not over until students are released from the band hall following

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announcements, etc. Students are not permitted to leave early from performances without specific permission from a director. The request to leave early must be submitted through the website or email from a parent or guardian one week in advance and must be approved by a director prior to the event. No member should leave until their duties have been fulfilled.

- **Cold weather policy:** When either travelling with the band, or when the band is not wearing the full uniform, students are allowed to wear either a Martin club branded sweater, or a plain, Trinity colored (red, white, black, or gray) zip/button-up jacket with no large branding or words on it. No other sweatshirts or jackets will be allowed in the stands, or in public when travelling in or out of the state.

