

Fossil Ridge High School Bands

Parent / Student Handbook

2023-2024



Brad Allen, Director of Bands
Gordon Janda, Assistant Band Director
Chris Martinez, Assistant Band Director
Chad Murray, Assistant Band Director
Marina Attaalla, Colorguard Director

Fossil Ridge High School
4101 Thompson Dr.
Fort Worth, TX 76244

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Fossil Ridge High School Band Program. As a member of the Fossil Ridge High School Band Program, you belong to one of the finest, most active organizations the high school has to offer. Because of the size and number of activities offered to our band students, there have been many rules and regulations that have evolved to ensure the success and safety of all students in the program.

This handbook has been developed to help students and parents alike understand policies, rules, regulations, and expectations of the comprehensive Fossil Ridge Band Program. It is essential that all parents and students read through the entire handbook. Students will be held accountable for the information presented in this handbook. This handbook should be kept as a reference.

The following information will be an invaluable aid to you in making your time at FRHS successful. The key to having a premier band program is a common vision. With this our program can attain levels of artistry and musicianship that are only found in the finest band programs across the United States. The skills and work ethic developed in the band program will help to prepare you for your future years as a student musician, member of the workforce, and as a human being.

Sincerely,

Mr. Allen
Director of Bands
Fossil Ridge High School
www.fossilridgeband.com
brad.allen@kellerisd.net
817.744.1885

About the Fossil Ridge Band	5
Staff Areas of Responsibility	6
Membership Guidelines	7
Membership Requirements	7
Behavior Expectations	7
Related Consequences	8
Travel Etiquette	8
Responsibilities Regarding Travel	9
Facilities	9
Participation Considerations:	12
Football Game Etiquette	13
Marching Band Uniform Guidelines, Performance Decorum, and Presentation:	13
Individual Member Presentation –	13
YOUR UNIFORM – A SYMBOL OF PERSONAL PRIDE	13
Uniform Care and Storage –	13
Appearance in Uniform –	14
Band Class Guidelines	16
Performing Ensembles	16
Fossil Ridge High School Band Marching Band Philosophy	17
Fossil Ridge Band Policies Regarding Marching Band Participation	18
Additional Information	20
Music and Supplies	20
All Region, All Area, All State Bands	20
KISD Solo and Ensemble Contest:	21
Private Lessons	21
Participation Expectations	22
Classroom Rehearsal Etiquette	22
Attendance (please refer to page 14 for marching band attendance information)	22
Class Period	22
Pep Rallies & Community Performances	23
Outside the School Day	23

Before / After School Rehearsals (including sectionals)	23
Performances –	23
Grading	23
ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY	24
Concert Band Uniform	24
Cell Phones	25
Attitude	25
Social Media	25
Annual Band Events	25
Financial Responsibilities	28
Miscellaneous Information	30
Letter Jackets	30
Letter Jacket Ordering	31
Presto Assistant	32
Band Boosters	32
2023-2024 Official Social Media /Communication listings	32

About the Fossil Ridge Band

The band program at Fossil Ridge High School serves more than 180 students, with 9th through 12th graders enrolled in one of three performing bands and colorguard class. In addition, the band program offers Marching Band, Jazz Band, Chamber Music Ensembles, AP Music Theory, Indoor Percussion Ensemble, and Winterguard.

History

Since the school opened in 1995, the Fossil Ridge bands have been consistent UIL Sweepstakes winners, and have been well-represented at Solo and Ensemble contest and TMEA All-Region Band auditions. The Fossil Ridge Bands have received numerous honors and awards at festivals in Texas. In 2002, 2007, 2008, and 2012, the marching band advanced to the UIL State Marching Contest. In 2016 and 2018, and 2019 The Fossil Ridge Wind Ensemble earned distinction as a National Wind Band Honors Commended Winner in the New Music Division. In 2019, the Fossil Ridge Band was a “Division Winner and National Finalist” for the William P Foster Award of Excellence presented by the Music Education Alliance.

School and Community Involvement

To improve their individual skills and musicianship, all students in the FRHS Band program attend weekly masterclasses or section rehearsals, and many students take advantage of the opportunity for private lessons through the KISD Private Lesson Program. The FRHS Band program also has a thriving chamber music program in which all students participate. In addition to their involvement in band activities, FRHS Band students are also active in other activities, including National Honor Society, Student Council, Leadership, Yearbook, Athletics, Art, Dance Team, Theater, and many more.

Through the dedicated work of many individuals, the program has built a tradition of success that has flourished within the school and in the community. Band members perform at concerts, all varsity football games, as well as pep rallies, and special send off ceremonies for students advancing to State level competition for other school activities. The band performs at the annual community Homecoming parade.

Staff Areas of Responsibility

In an effort to make our program run more efficiently, we have divided up some of the major areas of responsibility among the staff. The following list is provided as a convenience to help make parents and students aware of which staff members are responsible for each of the major aspects of the band program. Whenever you have questions or concerns, the director listed next to each area can best answer your questions.

Event	Director in Charge	Event	Director in Charge
AP Music Theory	Martinez	Lockers	Martinez
Banquet	Allen	Music Library	Janda
Booster Liaison	Allen	Percussion	Murray
Chamber Music Festival	Janda	Private Lessons	Janda
Presto / Communications	Martinez	Social Media Updates	Janda
Colorguard Liaison	Allen	Solo & Ensemble	Janda
Concert Band I	Martinez	Spring Trip	Allen
Eligibility	Martinez	Student Leadership	Martinez
Finances / Fundraising	Allen	Symphonic Band	Janda
Inventory / Instrument Checkout / Repair	Martinez	Transportation	Murray
Jazz Band	Martinez	Uniforms	Janda
Letter Jackets	Janda	Wind Ensemble	Allen

Membership Guidelines

Membership Requirements

The Fossil Ridge Band Program is open to all interested students at Fossil Ridge High School who demonstrate a combination of the following: a desire to participate in the program, a basic ability to perform, and a positive and cooperative attitude in rehearsal and performance settings. Membership is based upon a full-year commitment, from the beginning of summer band until the last day of school in May/June. Enrollment is maintained by means of an audition that demonstrates musical proficiency. These auditions are held twice annually in May and December. Students are placed into one of four performing ensembles according to audition results.

As with any co- or extra-curricular organization, membership in the band program is a privilege. Failure to meet the requirements of the campus and/or organizational requirements may result in removal from the program. Any band student who does not maintain enrollment in band through the fall/spring semester sequence may be unable to participate in the Fossil Ridge Band for the next school year. In the case of the color guard, membership continues through the spring semester in the form of winter guard. Alternative scheduling policies for members who participate in KISD sanctioned varsity sports will be handled on an individual basis. Such arrangements are at the discretion of the Director of Bands.

Behavior Expectations

Behavioral expectations are designed to create an environment that enhances student learning and performance. These expectations are based upon the premise that every student has a right to participate in the learning process without interference. *Responsibility for behavior lies directly with the individual student.*

These expectations could be summed up with the following two items:

A. "Respect"

For yourself, others, the organization, school, community, equipment, rehearsal, staff, facilities, rules, etc.

B. "There shall be no action that requires an explanation"

See #1 above

A few common examples of behavioral expectations for Fossil Ridge band students include:

1. Students are expected to participate in band activities with a supportive and positive spirit.
2. Students are expected to treat all directors, instructors, and clinicians with courtesy and respect. They are expected to respond appropriately to instruction with positive verbiage.
3. Negatively charged verbal displays or nonverbal actions are considered inappropriate. This policy also applies to the internet. Students are expected to maintain a mature level of decorum at all times while representing the Fossil Ridge High School Band.
4. Each student is expected to be in class, in the rehearsal setting, or present for travel or performances on time and with the required equipment and materials.

5. Cell phones and other mobile devices are not permitted during rehearsals or performances without permission from the director.
6. Gum, candy, soft drinks, and other food are prohibited in all band hall areas.
7. Students are expected to help maintain a clean environment in facilities and during travel scenarios.
8. Students are expected to take proper care of all band equipment, including band instruments, music, uniforms, and facilities.
9. Rough-housing / horseplay of any form is prohibited.
10. Students should refrain from public displays of affection during all rehearsal and performance situations. Additionally, displays should never exceed that of static hand-holding in any setting.
11. Students are expected to seek parental permission before riding in friends' vehicles to or from any band related activity.
12. Students are expected to refrain from the use of degrading verbiage, profanity, and/or obscene gestures. Harassment of any form will not be tolerated.
13. Any form of hazing is strictly prohibited.
14. Use of illegal drugs, tobacco products, alcohol, and unauthorized medications are prohibited. Please refer to the KISD student handbook and Extra Curricular Code of Conduct.

Related Consequences

Fossil Ridge Band students are amongst the best on our campus and in our community. However, should students exhibit behavioral concerns, consequences may include one or more of the following responses: verbal warnings, student and/or parent conferences, community service, deduction in participation grade, principal referrals, loss of role / placement in concert or marching band, or removal from the band program.

Any student who severely disrupts a rehearsal or performance setting may be dismissed from the setting and/or be sent directly to the principal for disciplinary purposes without warning or call to parents. Severe actions may also result in immediate disciplinary action and removal from the band program. The policy stated above applies anytime the band is convened for rehearsal, performance, travel, and social activities. It will also apply anytime the student is in the Fossil Ridge High School band room and/or marching field.

TRAVEL ETIQUETTE

Because of the nature of traveling with a large group, students should be aware of the following expectations for travel:

1. Silence in the parking lot
2. Remain seated at all times
3. You may listen to music through headphones only
4. Keep the talking volume at a reasonable level throughout the trip
5. Follow all chaperone and bus driver requests immediately the first time they are given
6. Do not spray cologne/deodorant spray on the bus

Disregard for these items will result in the inability of the student to travel with the band. All KISD policies are in effect when students are traveling with the band.

Responsibilities Regarding Travel

Students will be expected to use school transportation or official transportation provided by the Booster Club when provided. In the case where alternate transportation is permissible, a signed note must be submitted to the band directors at least 24 hours prior to the trip departure. Also, a Transportation Release form must be on file with the band director in order for a student to use non district provided transportation.

Transportation to and from rehearsals and some in-district events is the responsibility of the students and their parents. Riding in unauthorized vehicles to or from band activities is prohibited.

Charter busses utilized by the Fossil Ridge Band have been officially approved by KISD. They meet all liability requirements and perform extensive background checks on all personnel handling the busses.

Facilities

The band hall, equipment, and lockers are school property and must be treated in a manner consistent with campus policies. Specifically, please be aware of the following:

Band Hall – the band hall is an instructional facility and as such must be treated with respect at all times. All students, regardless of age or leadership designation, are responsible for cleaning and maintaining the band facilities. There is to be no gum, food, or drink at anytime in the band hall, hallway, practice rooms, or any other band hall area. These items are to be consumed in the cafeteria or offsite. Fossil Ridge campus policies will be followed in addressing this particular disciplinary concern.

Equipment – Chairs and music stands in the band hall are to be used for their intended purpose - seating musicians and holding music. The practice rooms are for individual student practice and for private lessons. Vandalism or misuse of any item or space will be considered a major behavioral infraction.

Lockers – Lockers for student instruments are assigned at the beginning of each year. Students should use their assigned lockers for instruments, music, drill books, flip folders, band binders, and water jugs during the marching season. School books and lunches may not be kept in the band lockers. **Students who bring food and/or drink into the band rehearsal areas are subject to campus discipline policies on the first offense.**

Personal Items - After each band rehearsal or performance, all personal items are to be removed from the band hall. Clothing items, water jugs, books, purses, school projects, cell phones, electronic devices, other valuables, etc. left in the band hall or hallway area are not the responsibility of the band or band staff. Fossil Ridge custodians are instructed to dispose of all loose items on the floors in hallways after hours.

Band Directors' Offices – Although the band offices are business areas, they are not totally off limits to students. When the door is open, students are welcome to enter with director approval. When the door is closed, students should knock briefly and wait for a response. Students should use common sense in regard to the timing and/or pertinence of their questions or concerns. If it is

obvious that a meeting or conference is taking place, students are asked to either refer their questions to student leaders or to wait and come back at another time.

Attendance Policy

"Becoming a team requires sacrifice." – Michael Jordan

All students in the FRHS Band are required to participate in the JV or Varsity Marching Band as well as a concert band/colorguard/percussion class and 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.fossilridgeband.com. Performances include but are not limited to football games, marching contests, parades, pep rallies, FRHS Meet the Regiment night as well as concerts and concert band, percussion, and colorguard contests.

Students and parents are responsible for checking the calendar and scheduling work, medical, dental, and other appointments, as well as trips, at times that do not conflict with scheduled rehearsals or performances. It is not acceptable for a student to miss a rehearsal or performance for non-emergency medical, dental, orthodontic, or other appointments. College visits, blood drives, work, club meetings, tutorials, or other non-school related activities and transportation problems will not be considered excused absences or tardies.

Teachers are required to provide before- and after-school tutorials. Ask your sponsor about alternate club meeting times. Private lessons, and conflicts with other UIL activities (choir, football, volleyball, etc.) will be evaluated on an individual basis and allowances may be made for missing a portion of a rehearsal for these reasons. Proper communication is expected in advance for these situations.

Any student who does not comply with the band rehearsal and performance requirements may receive a lower grade or be reassigned or removed from the program at the directors' discretion.

Consequences for excused and unexcused absences:

"There is no success without sacrifice." – John Maxwell

The Fossil Ridge Band is dependent on ALL its members. Unlike most other classes where individuals are accountable only for their own success or failure, band students' success is, in large part, dependent on the full participation of all the members. For this reason, unexcused absences will not be tolerated.

Absences are categorized as excused by virtue of these occurrences:

- Student illness rendering them incapable of observation or participation, or
- Family emergency
- Direct conflict with another school related activity that has been pre-arranged with a director. An absolute maximum of 4 hours per week of missed time in such circumstances will be tolerated..
- Court appearance or court ordered custody issue

All other absences are considered unexcused.

Preseason absences will affect students' initial assignment of roles and class placement.

One unexcused absence in a season will result in forgiveness and grace from the Directors.

After that...

Weekly Absences

One unexcused absence in a week may result in that students' inability to march on the field during the next performance; and community service; could result in loss of varsity spot;

Two absences of any kind during the week may result in that students' inability to march on the field during the next performance. (note that missing the rehearsal before a performance for any reason may result in that student's inability to march on the field during the weekend performances.)

Cumulative Absences

After the third unexcused absence (cumulative) the directors will have a conference with the student and parents if necessary and reevaluate the student's status within the band program.

Students who leave practice earlier than the designated end of rehearsal will also be counted absent. If you attend school that day, you are expected to come to marching rehearsal. Students that attempt to deceive the directors regarding the nature of their absence will be referred to their Assistant Principal for disciplinary action.

Procedures for reporting an absence:

All marching band attendance notifications must be communicated online via the absence request form. Students will be expected to communicate at least 24 hours ahead of time for absences that do not involve student illness or a family emergency. In these cases, we ask that students email the director of their band class as soon as possible.

Special note about club meetings and tutorials:

If a student must attend a club meeting during rehearsal time, they will be expected to make up the time missed the same day either before or after that day's rehearsal. If the time is not made up the same day, it will be considered an unexcused absence. Many clubs offer a choice of meeting times before or after school. Absences that could have been avoided with planning will be unexcused. Remember to communicate in advance of missing rehearsal time for a club meeting or tutorial.

PARTICIPATION CONSIDERATIONS:

Participation is expected during marching rehearsals. The students' health and safety during the outdoor rehearsals is paramount. Multiple precautions are taken to insure that students are able to participate safely in the Texas heat. If a student must sit out for any reason, they will be asked to call a parent to notify them of the situation. **Students with three consecutive days of disengagement due to any range of physical issues must present a doctor's note to be considered excused from participation, or they will be sent home.** Students with injuries that prohibit equipment or instrumental participation should continue to march their positions. Student with injuries that prohibit marching or standing should continue to play their instruments or manipulate their equipment. It is preferred that students be in attendance even if they cannot be on the field so that they might observe and absorb material covered. Students with chronic participation issues for any reason may be subject to additional physical requirements in conjunction with a campus physical education course in order to receive their PE credit for the semester.

Ineligible students are expected to participate in all class and after school rehearsals. However, they may not participate in any performance-related activity, be transported by the band to any activity, or appear in any portion of uniform for the course of the ineligibility period. Please consult the UIL website for additional information.

Students who are ineligible for 2 consecutive eligibility checkpoints will be placed on probation. If they do not become eligible the following eligibility checkpoint, they may be removed from the band program. This will allow the student to focus on passing academic classes during the next semester. Students wishing to be considered for reinstatement in band following this probation must bring documentation (report card) to a band director proving academic success during each grading period of the succeeding semester for all classes. 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. Please consult the enclosed eligibility calendar for specific dates and grading periods.

Football Game Etiquette

Marching Band Uniform Guidelines, Performance Decorum, and Presentation:

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER PRESENTATION –

As members of The Fossil Ridge Band, individuals are regarded as representatives of the entire band program and school district. When carrying the instrument or wearing identifiable Fossil Ridge Band attire, members are responsible ambassadors for the organization, both past and present. Uniformed members should always exhibit the utmost presentation of pride and dignity. They should not run, horseplay, or yell in a loud, boisterous manner when in the hot weather or formal marching or concert uniforms. A member should never sit on the ground in uniform, lean against walls, buses or cars, etc. Uniforms should be worn properly and in their entirety in public. No individual physical aspect should draw the attention away from the ensemble. Food and drink are not to be consumed in uniform with the exception of booster-distributed refreshments at football games. All uniform parts (including shoes and gloves) should be clean and in pristine condition for EVERY performance. Instruments and shako hats should be carried with great care when moving from one point to another. At no point should any part of the uniform be set on the ground. Instruments should always be perfectly polished and in working order before the performances, and, if necessary, horns and cases should be set down very neatly in GROUPS of instruments only. These guidelines apply to every public appearance of any member or group representing the Fossil Ridge Band, particularly in situations preceding and following performances (exiting the busses for games and competitions, watching other groups perform, awaiting scores or placements at a contest, etc.).

YOUR UNIFORM – A SYMBOL OF PERSONAL PRIDE

UNIFORM CARE AND STORAGE –

The uniform must be kept meticulously clean, and it should appear newly pressed at all times. The uniform must always be hung and stored in the proper manner:

- Pants must be draped halfway over the hanger rod with creases aligned.
- The uniform jacket and bag must be hung on the hanger in such a manner that the hanger hooks to the right when viewed from the front.
- The jacket must remain UNZIPPED to air out the uniform.
- After performances, the hanging bag should only be draped over the hanger, leaving the jacket and pants exposed.

The uniform should be cared for when traveling:

- Hanging bags should be carefully placed in the bus seats when traveling for away games, laid flat in the overhead bins, or underneath charter busses. Students should avoid putting other bags or instruments on top of them, as uniforms will wrinkle quickly.
- Surfaces such as stadium seats should be examined before sitting on them in uniform to avoid stains from dirt, grease, etc.
- There is to be no gum chewing or eating (including candy or soft drinks) in uniform.

NOTE: Students will be charged replacement costs for uniforms that are lost, damaged or stolen. Students are responsible for the uniform items that are distributed to them at the beginning of the school year.

APPEARANCE IN UNIFORM –

The uniform must fit each individual uniformly:

- Pant hem should be adjusted according to instructions provided at uniform distribution.
- Jacket sleeve should be at the wrist bone when the horn is in playing position (directors will determine need for alteration for pants – the sleeves on the marching uniforms have snap adjustments).
- Material should not be cut from the hem of the uniform! If material is removed, the student will be assessed the replacement cost for that garment.

Specific items are to be worn underneath the uniforms on all occasions:

- THIN, close fitting shorts, such as modest nylon shorts or bicycle shorts are highly recommended for the smoothest look under the bib pants. These are also recommended to enable you to change modestly in public situations (be prepared to change with no dressing rooms).
- The "practice tee" or "contest" t-shirt is always to be worn under the jacket. Inclement weather may call for alternate plans; these instructions will be given by a director.
- Only black socks may be worn.
- Shoes must be perfectly clean and polished.
- Gloves should be perfectly clean and should fit properly.
- Personal grooming is to be uniform throughout the band for all public performances, This includes but is not limited to: marching performances, concert performances, and community performances (parades, pep rallies, etc.)
- All hair must be cut or secured in such a way so as not to obscure the uniform collar or the performer's face. For ladies – the hair should be placed in a secured bun which fits into the shako hat. All stray hair should be secured back with spray or bobby pins. Short hair will be dealt with on an individual basis – please see a director. For gentlemen, hair should be short enough to clear the collar.
- Members should refrain from wearing any individualized accessories in uniform. This includes: ALL JEWELRY, WATCHES, HAIR ORNAMENTS, FINGERNAIL POLISH, etc.
- Gentlemen should be clean-shaven for every public performance.
- Ladies should refrain from wearing noticeable makeup in uniform. Foundation and light mascara are permitted if not visible from a distance.

NOTE: the color guard and drum majors may be required to wear theatrical makeup for performance; separate guidelines will apply. Outerwear may be worn over the uniform in certain settings (in the stands, on buses, etc.) in the case of cold weather. These instances will be

delineated by staff members. Although absolute uniformity is not a reasonable expectation regarding personal outerwear, we ask that coats be neutral in tone and conservative in styling. Letter jackets are permitted in these cases as well. Audience spectators, competing organizations, and community members will form opinions based on the individual uniformity and collective presentation of the Fossil Ridge Band. The visual image of the band as a whole makes a huge impression on others!

Summer Uniform

All band students, including color guard, are required to have the Summer Uniform for informal and warm weather performances. This uniform consists of:

- FRHS Performance Shirt
- Black practice shorts
- Black socks
- Black Marching Shoes

Football Game and Pep Rally Expectations

Marching Band is the most publicly visible aspect of the band program and it is therefore crucial that students maintain focus to help the band move safely and efficiently, and fulfill the various performance responsibilities with excellence. Students should maintain a professional appearance at all times and provide musical support and school spirit for the fans and the team.

1. Each student must stay in his or her assigned section during the entire game. Students must maintain line of sight to the podium at all times.
2. Professional musical performance is expected at all times. Students should perform as part of the full ensemble only, and should make only characteristic sounds on their instruments.
3. All music is to be performed exactly as written with no exceptions.
4. Students should be ready to play at a moments notice, and should enter confidently following a count-off from a director or drum major.
5. Water is the only food or drink that may be consumed in uniform.
6. The uniform should be worn in its entirety at all times.
7. NO PHONES are to be used or seen at football games or pep rallies. Violators of this policy may have their phone confiscated by a director.
8. It is acceptable to socialize at some points during the game, but students should maintain some level of focus on the drum majors and the football game at all times.
9. Once students have left the stands for the halftime, no more talking is permitted. Focus should be turned to preparing for the upcoming performance, and respectfully watching the visiting band.

Band Class Guidelines

Performing Ensembles

The Fossil Ridge High School Band is comprised of four concert ensembles. Students are placed in one of these ensembles based on their musical proficiency and level of commitment. The directors reserve the right to reassign students within or between each ensemble according to student standing and compliance to course requirements. Auditions for the performing ensembles will take place twice annually, in December and May.

The **Wind Ensemble** is considered the top performing ensemble for the band program and is open to students in grades nine through twelve, although most students are grades 11 and 12. In order to be a member of this group, students must:

- demonstrate the highest level of musical maturity, technical proficiency, and commitment to performances, rehearsals, practice time, and private lessons (It is strongly recommended that each Wind Ensemble student take individual private lessons in order to maintain the technical demands of the course)
- pursue individual and ensemble goals on their instrument
- attend weekly region sectionals during the fall semester
- attend weekly sectionals held either before or after school between the months of January and May
- attend a full ensemble rehearsal once weekly outside of the school day as scheduled during the spring semester
- prepare and audition for the All-Region Band
- prepare and perform a solo and an ensemble at a KISD Solo & Ensemble competition
- attend additional performance opportunities specific to the Wind Ensemble

Wind Ensemble members cannot miss rehearsal from the beginning of school until the final performance for anything other than school-sponsored competition, illness, or emergency. Members of the Wind Ensemble are required to register for the corresponding section of Instrumental Ensemble. Performance Level 6 is required for placement in the wind ensemble (see Minimum Skills Chart and FRHS Grading Description).

The **Symphonic Band** is the second performing ensemble for the band program and is open to students in grades nine through twelve, although most students are grades 10, 11, and 12. To be a member of this group, a student must:

- demonstrate the highest level of musical maturity, technical proficiency, and commitment to performances, rehearsals, practice time, and private lessons (It is strongly recommended that each student take individual private lessons in order to maintain the technical demands of the course)
- attend weekly region sectionals during the fall semester
- attend weekly sectionals held either before or after school between the months of January and May
- attend daily extended rehearsals at 8:00am during the spring semester
- prepare and audition for the All-Region Band

- perform a solo and an ensemble at the KISD Solo & Ensemble competition in May (or FRHS recital with director approval)

Members of the Symphonic Band cannot miss rehearsal within 7 days of performance for any reason other than school competition, illness, or emergency. Performance Level V is required for placement in the Symphonic Band (see Minimum Skills Chart and FRHS Grading Description)

The **Concert Band** is the third performing ensemble for the band program and is open to students in grades nine through twelve. To be a member of this group, a student must:

- demonstrate the highest level of musical maturity, technical proficiency, and commitment to rehearsals and practice time. (Private lessons are highly encouraged)
- attend weekly sectionals held either before or after school between the months of January and May
- attend daily extended rehearsals after school until 4:10pm during the spring semester
- prepare TMEA All State etudes or designated Non-Region etudes to a level sufficient for an audition
- perform a solo (and an optional ensemble) at the KISD Solo & Ensemble competition in May (or FRHS recital with director approval)

Members of the Concert Band cannot miss rehearsal within 7 days of performance for any reason other than school competition, illness, or emergency. Performance Level IV is required for placement in the Concert Band (see Minimum Skills Chart)

The **Concert Band II** class is a non-competing ensemble. This class is open to students in grades nine through twelve. The goal of Concert Band II is to develop individual skills and/or give students with severe schedule conflicts or attendance issues a place to participate in band. This band does not compete at UIL Concert & Sight Reading Contest.

NOTE: For all students, the All-Region Band etudes will be included in the December auditions. Focused commitment to the preparation of the Region music is expected.

All four concert ensembles perform regularly and work for outstanding performance opportunities.

Marching Band

The marching band is an ensemble comprised of the entire band membership, including three concert bands, drumline, and colorguard. The marching band performs at all FRHS pep rallies, varsity football games, parades, and exhibitions. Participation in the marching band is required for all members in the band program, and P.E. credit is awarded to participants (maximum of 1 credit over 2 Fall semesters). There are required pre-season training camps that enable the group to put on public performances early in the school year. Each student is responsible for the annual band participation and materials fees to help pay for expenses necessary to put on a quality and competitive program on the field and concert stage.

Fossil Ridge High School Band Marching Band Philosophy

The Fossil Ridge Band, in alignment with the Texas Music Educators Association and Texas Education Agency, believes that music has an integral role to play in the education of Texas school

children. While instruction in concert band, solo, and small ensemble settings remains the core focus of our program, we believe the marching band serves to enhance instruction and delivery of the Texas Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) as an extension of the classroom. Each performance by the marching band provides students the opportunity to demonstrate musical artistry through the ensemble, individual music performance skills and techniques, marching performance skills and techniques, and critical thinking skills that include auditory, spatial, and visual awareness.

Furthermore, we value the opportunities for marching band students to serve in a position of leadership or learn to problem solve and thrive within a group setting. We celebrate group accomplishments and embrace failure as a chance to improve as individuals. We view the marching season as an opportunity to educate the whole child. As such, we require the participation of all band students in the marching band.

Fossil Ridge Band Policies Regarding Marching Band Participation

At Fossil Ridge, we have four levels of participation. A student's level of participation is determined by the band directors through an audition process:

Participation Level (as assigned by director)	Description	Details
Varsity Member	Attends all rehearsals and performances (parades, pep rallies, football games, and contests, etc.)	Approximately 80% of band students Students are evaluated for positions based on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical ability • Musical ability • History of Attendance/Attitude • History of Academic Eligibility
JV Member	For students who are still developing their skills. These students attend all rehearsals, all football games, parades, pep rallies, and contests, etc.	Approximately 15% of band students
Medical Waiver	For students who cannot participate in marching for medical reasons. A doctor note is required if a student is to receive a medical waiver.	

Participation Level (as assigned by director)	Description	Details
Non-Compliant	Students who do not fall into one of the three areas above or do not show up to band rehearsals will be considered non-compliant members. These students will be placed in a “non-performing” band class until a time when their schedule can be changed to another elective that does not require active participation.	

Assignments of Marching Band Roles

The Fossil Ridge Marching Band is the largest and most visible program on campus. The group performs at halftime of varsity football games and represents Fossil Ridge High School at various community events year-round in addition to competing nationwide. Being prepared for all these performances requires advanced planning and preparation that begins in January of the previous school year. In order to design a specific musical or visual effect, a competitive marching show is written for a specific number of students. Decisions must be made well in advance concerning the number of students that will be involved in the design of the show each year. As a result, roles in the competition show are limited and based on estimations of current and prospective enrollment in the band program. During the months leading up to summer, students will preliminarily be assigned to one of two categories based on the following factors:

1. Projected number of students in the program.
2. Eligibility history of each student.
3. Basic musical proficiency of each student.
4. Basic physical conditioning necessary to march without risk of injury to self or others.

By the beginning of August, band members will be assigned to one of these groups:

Varsity Member -or- JV/Prop Crew Member

ALL band members will have the following privileges and responsibilities:

- Rehearse as a unit in band class
- Rehearse as a unit during marching fundamentals and music ensemble rehearsals
- Perform at all pep rallies, parades, and in the stands at football games
- Perform during the Sun Dancer feature and the Spirit Shows
- Maintain “Performing Status” in regards to eligibility
- Attendance and good standing at all marching band trips and events

Varsity Members will be the principal marchers that will perform in the Competition Show at marching contests and select football games. JV Members may be called upon to fill an auxiliary role in the Competition Show. This role will vary for each student based on what is needed by the group, but may include:

- Filling an open spot left by another marcher’s injury or ineligibility

- Assisting with visual effects
- Assisting with logistical needs

As educators, one of our responsibilities is to honestly evaluate our students and put them in situations where they will be successful, and where they can make the greatest contribution to the band as a whole. Decisions about a student's level of participation will be made by the directors only. The directors reserve the right to change a student's level of involvement during the season based on musical and visual ability, ability to attend all rehearsals (including pre season rehearsals and camps), and/or ability to maintain academic eligibility.

The **Percussion ensemble** works together toward competitive festivals with the band and as a separate ensemble as well. All Fossil Ridge percussionists are placed into one of the three concert bands or percussion class. Percussionists are expected to be enrolled in the band program for the entire year.

Colorguard is a class during the fall semester, and Winter Guard is a class in the spring semester. This group works as a unit with the marching band to visually enhance the field show. Auditions will be held in the spring and are open to any current or incoming FRHS student. In addition to their color guard audition, any student who has been an instrumentalist in any band program in the FRHS cluster will be expected to audition on their instrument and play in their assigned concert band class during the Spring semester or lose colorguard membership privileges. They are expected to maintain a high level of performance on their instrument throughout the year. Auditions will be held for a competitive Winter Guard during the fall semester. This group has extra costs associated with membership and is a supplemental but important part of the band program. A special instructor is hired to work with the Colorguard students for the year.

Grading

Since marching band is a part of the academic band course and therefore, part of the graded curriculum, students in marching band are responsible for assimilating the academic aspects of the band elective as found in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Attendance at rehearsals and performances is mandatory and will be integrated into the student's grade for band in accordance with TEA/UIL guidelines.

Additional Information

Music and Supplies

All music must be kept in a binder or flip folder at all times. Students will be expected to have certain supplies at all rehearsals: pencil(s), drill and coordinate charts, binders, tuner, instrument specific maintenance items such as valve oil, cork grease, slide grease, etc.

All Region, All Area, All State Bands

The All-Region Band audition is a contest designed to improve the individual performance level of the students. The audition entry fee is \$12 per student (non-refundable in the case the student

does not audition for any reason). Students will be ranked competitively among like instrumentalists at Fossil Ridge and from other 6A high schools in Region 30. Please see the band calendar for mock audition and region audition dates. Students who place among the top chairs in the Region Band audition process may be certified to participate in the All-Area Band audition. All-Area auditions take place on a Saturday early in January. Students advancing past Area will be named to the Texas All State Band.

Transportation will be provided for these events. Once the student has entered this process, they will be required to complete their audition. Failure to do so will be considered an unexcused absence from a performance and will result in a grade deduction. Barrier (mock) auditions with a Fossil Ridge band director must be completed before a student is allowed to audition for the All-Region Band. All students gaining All-Region and All-State honors will be expected to participate in the resulting clinics and concerts. Failure to fulfill this obligation may result in band reassignment.

KISD Solo and Ensemble Contest:

Solo and Ensemble is a contest designed to improve the individual and small group performance level. Students earn a rating for their performance(s). The process is not competitive and does not rank or rate students against one another. The rating is determined by a performance standard and musical difficulty. The Solo & Ensemble contest will be held in May. Transportation is not provided for this event. Students are responsible for paying entry fees of \$10 per entry and an accompanist fee for solos. Accompanist fees are \$40 and up, depending on the length and difficulty of the solo, and are paid in advance of the event. The Fossil Ridge Band Department will secure a selection of qualified piano accompanists for the students. Students may elect to use accompanists of their own, at the discretion of the directors.

Detailed information will be distributed closer to the event. Please remember that this contest is part of the lettering process. Once the student has entered this contest, he or she is required to complete the performance. Failure to do so will be considered an unexcused absence from a performance and a grade deduction will result.

Private Lessons

It is the goal of the Fossil Ridge High School Band Department to provide the very best learning experience for each student. One important aspect of a student's musical growth includes the opportunity to study privately with a professional instrumentalist. This enrichment opportunity is available to all band students. The private lesson program allows interested students to receive personalized instruction on their instrument. This individual interaction generally improves the performance level of the student and also has a positive effect on the band in which the student participates. Students interested in excelling in the All Region /All State process will benefit tremendously. One of the greatest contributing factors to the success of the Fossil Ridge Band is the active involvement of our students in the private lesson program.

The fee for lessons will be \$19.00-\$22.00 for a 30-minute lesson with a degreed teacher.

All fees will be paid directly to the teacher. Each teacher will have policies and guidelines that they will cover at the student's first lesson. Students and parents can find contact information for the private lesson staff online at www.fossilridgeband.com. Any additional questions regarding the private lesson program should be directed to Mr. Warren at blake.warren@kellerisd.net.

Participation Expectations

A yearly band calendar is provided for use in planning your family schedule for the 2023-2024 school year found at www.fossilridgeband.com under events. 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 email or call the appropriate director. Occasionally, there may be family commitments (weddings, graduations, etc.); in which case, we will try to be flexible and work with you on an individual basis. This must be discussed in detail well in advance (a month or more!).

Student 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 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 if they understand that band performances are a *required* and vital part of the course work. Work with employers to clear all band rehearsals and performances. (We are glad to talk to employers to validate student commitments.) ***If a band student has an unexcused absence from a performance/rehearsal, they are subject to immediate removal from the band program.*** In addition, it should be clearly understood that communicating an absence does NOT automatically mean that it is excused.

Classroom Rehearsal Etiquette

A professional and orderly classroom stimulates thinking and lends itself to high achievement by all students. Class will begin two minutes after the tardy bell rings, giving students ample time to be in their seat with all materials, instruments assembled, and ready to warm up. The Fossil Ridge High School tardy policy will be enforced at all times. During rehearsals, students are expected to be engaged in the task at hand. A student may be removed from the ensemble setting at the director's discretion if talking or inattentiveness becomes a consistent distraction. Insubordinate behavior will result in a conference with student and/or parents. Consistent insubordination will result in role reassignment or removal from the program.

Attendance (please refer to page 14 for marching band attendance information)

CLASS PERIOD

Students who are absent during the school day have no additional formal responsibility to contact the band directors once the appropriate steps have been taken to notify the campus attendance

office. However, it is very much appreciated if the parent or students could email their respective class director prior to or on the date of the classroom absence.

PEP RALLIES & COMMUNITY PERFORMANCES

Pep Rallies & Community performances included on the annual band calendar are required performances. All students are expected to participate in Pep Rallies, parades, and other community events.

OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL DAY

BEFORE / AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS (INCLUDING SECTIONALS)

In the case of sudden illness or emergency, the student or parent should notify the band director(s) via email as expediently as is reasonable. Other absences must be submitted at least 48 hours prior to the rehearsal if an excused absence is to be considered. Band students and parents are respectfully asked to make a concerted effort not to schedule doctor's/dentist/ driver's license appointments during band rehearsals except in case of emergency. Absences will be excused at the discretion of the band directors, provided that a written request via email by a parent or guardian has been submitted and approved 48 hours in advance.

Missing a band rehearsal with an unexcused absence, or missing a band rehearsal with a good excuse but without advance notice may result in a student being reassigned to a different role in rehearsal and performance.

NOTE: Absences due to avoidable, elective conflicts or as a result of poor planning will not be excused. Students should stay familiar with the band calendar and communicate with parents, siblings, employers, friends, etc.

PERFORMANCES –

All performances are required. Unavoidable circumstances that cause absences from performances must be approved in advance at least 2 weeks prior to the performance. In an effort to positively represent the Fossil Ridge Band at all times, the directors will ensure that the missing part or spot will be covered for performances. Any student who misses a performance, regardless of reason, may have their role replaced by another band student. Unexcused absences from performances may result in a student's removal from the band program.

The quality of the Fossil Ridge Band Program is directly proportional to consistent attendance. Absences hurt the student and the overall team goal. Everyone plays a vital role as a team member in the organization. Clubs, organizations, tutorials, and make-up work is to be completed outside of band time. Students should communicate with teachers in advance to avoid double booking.

In most cases, students are given schedules for the semester well in advance. Referring to the band schedule can greatly assist in preventing scheduling conflicts. Punctuality is essential for all rehearsals and performances. If problems are persistent, disciplinary action will result.

Grading

Grading is based upon participation and performance. Band students will typically have four playing tests each nine weeks and nine weekly participation grades. All playing tests are graded according to the FRHS band grading rubric (online). The participation grade is based upon tangible skills that a musician is expected to possess. For example, students must have

equipment in good working order and be present and on time at all required rehearsals and performances. If these expectations are not met, the participation grade will be affected.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

All music organizations adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA/UII and KISD.

The Fossil Ridge Band Staff will enforce all eligibility rules and regulations. Students who are ineligible will continue to rehearse during his/her band class, before and after school, 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. Students should always check on an event if there is a question of their participation. Be advised that excessive absences from school may also result in a student being declared ineligible.

The band staff and Fossil Ridge High School staff 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 staff consults both with teachers and students for strategies for 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 2 consecutive eligibility checkpoints will be placed on probation. If they do not become eligible the following eligibility checkpoint, **they may be removed from the band program.** This will allow the student to focus on passing academic classes during the next semester. Students wishing to be considered for reinstatement in band following this probation must bring documentation (report card) to a band director proving academic success during each grading period of the succeeding semester for all classes. 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. Please consult the enclosed eligibility calendar for specific dates and grading periods.

Concert Band Uniform

The Fossil Ridge Band wears traditional concert attire for all formal indoor concert performances. The school district provides tuxedos for students boys, however students are expected to purchase or secure additional components. Boys must also purchase or secure the necessary components for their concert attire.

Boys

- White tuxedo shirt
- Solid Black socks
- Solid Black shoes (no tennis shoes)

Girls

- Black pants and black shirt

- Black shoes / hose

Cell Phones

We recognize the extent that cell phones have become a part of today's society and we embrace the use of technology in music education. Therefore, we permit the use of smart phones in limited use in rehearsal. They may be used as tuners or other necessary tools during rehearsal during times when they are explicitly approved by the director. At all other times, cell phones should remain off and out of sight. *Use of cell phones is prohibited during marching band rehearsal and any time in uniform, except in an emergency situation.* Students using cell phones in any other manner during rehearsal will have their phones taken up according to KISD policy. Refer to the KISD student handbook for more information. Cell phones may never become a distraction to rehearsal.

Attitude

Those who have pride in themselves will generally project a positive attitude. Those who have a positive attitude, regardless of their individual skills, will always have a place in the Fossil Ridge High School Band Program. Regardless of your ability, if your attitude is not positive, and if you are not doing your personal best to make the group successful, you should not be a part of this band. In fact, students who do not project an attitude that is positive and cooperative will be given the opportunity to change their personal perspective or thereby choose to leave the band the band program.

Characteristics of a positive attitude generally include a cheerful outlook towards rehearsals and performances, cooperation in the preparation and maintenance of equipment and facilities, and an eagerness to do what is necessary to be successful. In short the ideal band member is one who is always willing to give their best for the good of the organization.

Social Media

We are attempting to teach our students to post responsibly to social media sites. Students will be expected to adhere to the following guidelines when posting on all social media including the band Facebook group:

- 1.) Refrain from negative posts about other organizations or schools.
- 2.) The FRHS Band social media sites are a place for positive interactions among members. Inappropriate or negative comments will not be tolerated.
- 3.) It is not appropriate to share personal grievances or complaints publicly through social media. Instead, please address the person(s) involved directly through other communication.
- 4.) T.H.I.N.K before you post. Consider whether your post is True? Helpful? Inspiring? Necessary? Kind?

Annual Band Events

Below are the descriptions of some of the important band functions, both performance based and social, that take place each year. This is by no means all the events that will take place in a given year, but it represents the core events that will take place every single year.

August Camp

August Camp refers to the first three weeks of August leading up to the first day of school. The schedule will vary week to week, but some weeks will include 3-a-day practices in which students will learn all of their music, and a majority of the drill for the Spirit and Competition shows. August Camp is required for all band members.

Freshman Induction

Freshman Induction is a ceremony and social event that commemorates all freshman students becoming members of the Fossil Ridge Band family. This event usually takes place at the end of August Camp and is also a celebration of all the hard work put in by students throughout the summer. All students are required to attend this event and welcome the freshmen into the band program.

Fan-Pledge

The Fan-Pledge event is the band's largest fundraiser during the Fall semester, usually in August. All students are required to attend this community event in which the band reaches out to donors for support. Leading up to the event, all band members seek out sponsors who will pledge money to support the band program.

KISD Mock Region Auditions

In preparation for the TMEA all-region audition, this event is held in November at one of the KISD high schools and allows students to perform for a judge and receive feedback about their performance. Students will also receive their ranking against other KISD students. This is a required prerequisite performance for all students entering the TMEA All State audition process.

The TMEA All-State Audition Process

The All-State Audition process is a system for selecting the state's best high school musicians to participate in the All-State Band at the Texas Music Educator's Convention in San Antonio. The process begins in July when specific etudes are chosen for each instrument. The first round of auditions, or All-Region auditions, take place in early December. Some students who make the All-Region Bands are also selected to audition at Area in early January, and winners of those auditions are selected for the All-State Bands. Entering this process is required for some band courses at FRHS.

Winterguard

The Winterguard season begins with auditions in early November where color guard students will earn a spot in either the Varsity or Junior Varsity winterguard. Each group will prepare an indoor colorguard show and compete in the North Texas Colorguard Association Circuit starting in February and ending in April. The Varsity Winterguard may also participate in the Winter Guard International Circuit. The Winterguard rehearses during class and after school in preparation for these performances. Please refer to the color guard director and the Winter Guard Handbook for more information.

Winter Concert

The Winter Concert is the band's first public performance as separate concert ensembles and usually takes place shortly before the winter break. This is a required event for all students. This concert also includes an alumni band in which all FRHS graduates are welcome to participate.

Cluster Concert

The Fossil Ridge Band Cluster concert is an annual event involving all band students in the Panther Pride cluster (Grades 7-12). Students will spend the evening rehearsing and socializing with other band students. The evening ends with a concert combining the students into three separate ensembles (combined wind ensemble, combined symphonic band, combined concert band).

KISD Pre UIL Contest

This event usually takes place the week following Spring Break. Each of the performing concert ensembles will perform their UIL Concert Program for judges that offer critique and evaluation of the band's performance. The event is held at one of the KISD high school auditoriums and is open to the public. This is a required event for all competing ensembles.

UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest

Taking place in early April, the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest is the main focus of the band's preparation during the Spring semester. Each concert ensemble performs three pieces of appropriate difficulty level on stage for three judges. The band then proceeds to the sight reading room to perform an unrehearsed piece for three more judges. The bands are given a division rating by each judge, with a division 1 being the highest possible rating.

Chamber Music Festival

Fossil Ridge will host a chamber ensemble competition and concert each year. Students will form small ensembles and perform in a concert setting. This event is required for some band courses at FRHS.

KISD Solo and Ensemble Contest

This event is a district wide contest in which students perform a solo or small ensemble for a judge and receive a division rating and constructive feedback on their performance. This event usually takes place in early May. Entering this contest is required for some band courses at FRHS.

Spring Concert

The Spring Concert is the band's final public performance for the school year and usually takes place in late May. This is a required event for all students. This concert features all concert ensembles and may include selections from the bands' UIL programs.

Band Banquet

The Fossil Ridge Band holds an annual awards banquet in the latter part of the Spring semester for all "members in good standing". The purpose of the banquet is to reflect upon the year's accomplishments, to honor those who have realized special achievements, to acknowledge special individuals who have volunteered their time, and to recognize graduating seniors for their four years of service to the band.

Should a student's membership cease during the academic year prior to the banquet, he or she will no longer be eligible for organizational awards, honors, scholarships, or other member benefits. However, former members are welcome to attend the band banquet as guests of current band students.

Senior recognitions are reserved for students who maintain active membership in the band program for the duration of their enrollment at Fossil Ridge High School.

Ticket prices for the annual Band Banquet are established by the Band Council in late Spring.

Financial Responsibilities

General Membership Fees

The money collected through the payment of fees is funneled into two different accounts. Please note which account collects your fees and make payments accordingly.

Fees paid to KISD may be submitted on the KISD webstore at <https://tx-keller.intouchrecepting.com>. Fees paid to the Panther Regiment Boosters may be submitted via a link provided by the Boosters.

If you would prefer to submit checks, please put your student's first and last name on the memo line. Place your payment in an envelope and label the envelope with your student's name and what payment you are submitting. Have your student place the envelope in the large grey lockbox located on the wall beside Mr. Allen's office. Please allow up to two weeks for check deposits to be completed.

Participation Fee (payable to KISD) \$300-\$375

Payment Options	Deadline	Price	Total Fee
Panthers Pounce (\$75 discount)	pay in full on or before August 1	\$300	\$300
Early Bird (\$25 discount)	pay deposit on or before August 1	\$100	\$350
	Balance due on or before September 1	\$250	
Full Fee	pay deposit on or before August 1	\$100	\$375
	2nd payment due on or before September 1	\$125	
	Balance due on or before October 1	\$150	

The participation fee helps to cover expenses for Band Camp/Summer Band, uniforms, show creation and design, instructional staff, equipment, props and flags, music copyright, etc. Please note that many expenses have already been incurred on behalf of each student at the time the participation fee is paid.

Fees below are estimates only based on prior years and are subject to change.

Meal Program Fee (payable to Boosters)

\$100, "Feed the Regiment" Gameday meal program (optional), Due August 1
 \$35, Contest Meals, Due August 1

New Member Expenses

Students new to the FRHS Band program will be expected to purchase the following items. Most of these will be a one-time purchase.

Marching shoes – approximately \$40
Practice Shorts – approximately \$15
Performance Shirts - approximately \$30
Flip Folder/Lyre – approximately \$15 purchased from Bell's Music
Panther Regiment Water Jug - approximately \$10

Individual Fees

NOTE: Certain fees are not required of all band members.

KISD School-Owned Instrument Maintenance Fee (payable to KISD)

\$100, due at Band Registration in May

All-Region Auditions (payable to KISD)

\$15, due in November

KISD Solo and Ensemble Contest (payable to KISD)

\$40 paid directly to accompanist
\$10 per solo entry, due in April
\$5 per ensemble entry, due in April

Private Lessons

\$20 per half hour, paid directly to lesson teacher

Winds Only

tuner & wire clip – approximately \$25-\$35 (can be purchased from Bell's Music or Amazon)

Winter Guard

\$350-\$500, paid in three installments in November, December, and January

Indoor Drumline

\$350-650, paid in three installments in November, December, and January

Supplemental Expenses

In addition to band fees, the following is a list of additional expenses that may come up throughout the year. This is not an all-inclusive list.

Spirit Items

Show your Fossil Ridge spirit! Items such as shirts, hats, yard signs, car decals and magnets, etc. will be available to purchase at specified times throughout the season. Visit www.fossilridgeband.com to link to the Spirit Store.

Photo Button

Show off your student with pride! Each student will be photographed in uniform and the photos will be mounted inside large photo buttons to be worn at football games and contests. Pre-orders will be taken for photo buttons. They typically are \$5 each.

Show Shirts and Section Shirts

Show shirts will change each year to fit the theme of the show. They are typically around \$20 and are worn throughout the contest season. Wearing a show shirt is a great way to let others know what band you are supporting!

Individual sections often design a sectional shirt for their members. This is separate from the show shirt sold by the Panther Regiment Boosters. Section shirts are typically \$15-\$20 and will be paid to the section leader.

Letter Jackets

Letter jackets are earned on a cumulative points system that begins in 9th grade. If a student meets the requirements for lettering, a jacket can be purchased for the following year. Students who earn letter jackets will be fitted at school and will be given instructions on how to purchase them. Letter jackets cost approximately \$275.

Patches for Letter Jackets

Some patches are provided by the school. Other patches may be purchased with the jacket. Contest patches are best purchased at the time of the competitions. If your student is considering getting a letter jacket, you will want to purchase the patches for their freshman year in anticipation of using them for their jacket (purchased sophomore year). Patches typically range from \$7-\$15.

Miscellaneous Information

LETTER JACKETS

A student must earn 10 points in a school year to letter. Points will be awarded for the following:

Wind Players and Percussionists

- 4 pts. – TMEA Region Band membership
- 3 pts. – TMEA Area Band membership
- 2 pts. – TMEA All State Band membership
- 2 pts. – Participation in Mock All Region
- 2 pts. - TMEA Jazz Region membership
- 4 pts. – First Division on Class One Solo at KISD Solo/Ensemble Contest
- 4 pts. – First Division on Class One Ensemble at KISD Solo/Ensemble Contest

Color Guard Members

- 4 pts. - Marching Band Participation
- 4 pts. - WGI-NTCA Winter Guard Participation
- 2 pts. - First Division on Class One Solo at KISD Solo/Ensemble Contest (Class will be determined by Guard Instructor)
- 2 pts. - First Division on Class One Ensemble at KISD Solo/Ensemble Contest (Class will be determined by Guard Instructor)

*At the discretion of the campus director and the Director of Fine Arts, each band student that has not receive letter jacket by the end of their 11th grade year, and who has remained a member in good standing every semester of their 9th, 10th and 11th grade years, will be awarded a jacket at the beginning of their senior year.

*All appeals to lettering decisions, and all special circumstances, will be heard and dealt with on a case-by-case basis by a committee comprised of the Director of Fine Arts, the appropriate campus director, and another committee member appointed at the discretion of the Director of Fine Arts.

*Each campus director will be responsible for ensuring that a student does not receive more that one major award.

Caveat

To eliminate the need for a system of point transfer and archival record keeping, lettering points will not carry over from one year to the next. Each year the student must begin anew in the accumulation of points.

LETTER JACKET ORDERING

Jackets will be measured only on the 3rd week of school and distributed in early November. Seniors earning 10 points during their senior year will be measured whenever they achieve the 10 points. Students must be a current member of the organization to measure and receive letter jackets. KISD policy states that students must purchase their own letter jackets. Fossil Ridge Band Directors will provide a list of eligible students to the letter jacket company and set up a date for students to be measured at FRHS. This shall be the extent of the involvement of the directors in securing a letter jacket for the student. All transactions are handled directly between the student and the district approved vendor.

RECOMMENDED INSTRUMENT LIST

We recommend that students not continue to use their "beginner" instruments past the 8th-grade, unless an advanced model was purchased initially. Better quality instruments enable all students to learn more quickly and with greater ease. The instruments listed below are recommended by the FRHS staff as the best quality:

Flute - Miyazawa – BR-402, Muramatsu – EX, Yamaha – 600 Series

Clarinet - Buffet R-13 (the "Festival" model is not recommended)

Alto Sax - Yamaha Pro Model or Selmer SA-80

Trumpet - Bach Stradivarius 180-S, Yamaha YTR Xeno Series

Trombone - Bach 42-BO

These can be purchased at many retail stores. These "pro-model" instruments are often heavily

discounted for cash purchases. Parents are encouraged to seek the help of a private instructor or director before purchasing one of these instruments.

PRESTO ASSISTANT

www.presto-assistant is the official record-keeping tool for all students in the Fossil Ridge Band program. It is an all-encompassing management system to help music teachers and booster clubs organize student contact information, manage inventory, assign uniforms, track attendance, and work with trips, fees, fundraisers, form collection, and lots more. Students and parents have direct access through the use of a username and password. This will allow you to access and update your information from anywhere in the world at anytime. Presto Assistant will work with any computer that has internet access regardless of platform. Students and parents can receive instructions and access information at band registration or www.fossilridgeband.com.

BAND BOOSTERS

The Fossil Ridge Band has a very active, supportive parent organization known as the Panther Regiment Boosters. The booster association includes parents from band and color guard. Without the hard work and dedication of the parents, the Fossil Ridge band program would not be as successful. 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; however, numerous committees do most of the organizational planning.

The mission of the Fossil Ridge Band Booster Club is to enthusiastically support the students and directors of the Fossil Ridge High School Band in their goal to achieve the highest standards of music education and music performance; facilitate the musical enrichment of the student membership of Fossil Ridge High School; promote the place and value of music in our community and the significant role music plays in the cultural, intellectual, and social lives of our children; and foster fellowship and goodwill among its members and provide its membership with opportunities for personal growth and leadership. More information about the Band Boosters can be found at www.fossilridgeband.com.

2023-2024 OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA /COMMUNICATION LISTINGS

Website – www.fossilridgeband.com

Presto Assistant – www.presto-assistant.com

Twitter - @FRHSbands

Instagram - @FRHSbands

“Band” App – Join the parent group at <https://band.us/n/a4a451Wd35Y7x>

Handbook Agreement

This handbook contains a wealth of information that will help both students and parents successfully navigate participation in the FRHS Band Program. It is important to refer back to this information often as you complete the four years of band at FRHS. The experience will be incredibly rewarding because of our uncompromising high standards for achievement.

The Directors reserve the right to change information in the handbook if a situation warrants.

Please understand that violations of the handbook may result in being removed from the program.

We believe that students will receive much more than a music education through our program. The expectations are in place to help students to grow and mature into excellent citizens of the World. The policies exist to allow all students to get the most out of their experience in a safe and caring environment.

Please sign and return this page to document your understanding and willingness to adhere to the policies in place.

We, the undersigned, have read and understand the expectations of the FRHS Band Program Handbook. We will uphold our responsibilities.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Printed Name