



MGP
Band Handbook

2011-2012

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Purpose and Vision

Welcome to another fantastic year for Azle HS Marching Green Pride. You are now a member of a most exciting and quickly growing organization. There are several reasons to be proud of the past accomplishments of the Azle MGP, and this tradition of excellence challenges each of us to set the standard higher every year for ourselves and other band organizations.

This handbook has been developed in order to give the clearest possible understanding of the rules & regulations governing this organization, and all the opportunities provided to its members. In addition to opportunities listed in the handbook, there are also consequences outlined for noncompliance to the rules of this organization. These consequences are to ensure that all members are treated fairly and with respect, and that at all times members act like mature, young adults. We want to represent our school, band program, and community with pride.

Our goal is to work together as a team and raise the bar for marching bands, concert bands, drumlines, & colorguards alike. When your student signs up for band, you as parents also sign up to support the band in a variety of ways. We need each and every person's contribution to our program. The attitude, integrity, pride, enthusiasm, and dedication with which we approach our goals will surely guarantee success.

The profile of an MGP band member would be one that is courteous, supportive, respectful, spirited, competitive, hard working, dedicated, and has humble willingness to do what is best for the team.

We are excited about working together with the students and parents, and we have all the right ingredients to have a great year. Now let's make it happen!!!

Azle MGP Band Directors & Staff

Azle MGP Contact Info

Band Hall Numbers	Mr. Murphy	817-444-5555 ext. 5075	
	Mrs. Murphy	817-444-5555 ext. 5077	
	Mr. Kearns	817-444-5555 ext. 5076	
	Mrs. Oldroyd	817-444-5555 ext. 5078	
Mr. Murphy	Cell	903-948-7348	smurphy@azleisd.net
Mrs. Murphy	Cell	817-300-5178	kmurphy@azleisd.net
Mr. Kearns	Cell	903-453-4661	rkearns@azleisd.net
Mrs. Oldroyd	Cell	817-913-7663	doldroyd@azleisd.net

Band Calendar & Info:

Charms will be used as the main communication tool and band calendar. You can also sync the Charms Calendar to your iPhone. Click on Public Calendar and then on SYNC Calendar. Follow the instructions on how to set up the calendar on your iPhone. Currently there are no instructions for the Android, Blackberry, or Windows phones, but if you figure out how to do it, let us and the charms people know!

Charms will also be used to post fees, handouts, and other important information. You can login to the Student Area using your school student ID for the first time, and then you can change it to your own password so no one can access your financial & personal information.

www.charmsoffice.com

1. Click Enter or hold mouse over Enter
2. Then Parents/Students/Members
3. Enter School Code – AzleHSBand
4. Enter student ID if first time (change to your own password)

Azle Band Website – www.azlemgp.org

Azle Band Booster Board 2011-2012

The Boosters meet the 1st Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm in the AHS band hall.

Position	Name	Email	Phone Number
President	Robert Gunter	rdtgunter@yahoo.com	817-629-0720
1 st Vice President	Rick Stepp	rosteypp@verizon.net	817-343-1514
2 nd Vice President	Lisa Thomas	thejawz72@yahoo.com	817-995-4581
Secretary	Mary-Lynn DiCarlo	marylynnd@yahoo.com	817-821-4151
Treasurer	Kim Roberts	mgptreasurer@gmail.com	817-995-6030
Co-Treasurer	Kathy Carter	kcarter@morsco.com	817-538-4587
Treasurer (advisory)	Jana Pederson	jana1217@gmail.com	817-253-4398
Fundraising	M.J. Patrick	mjpatrick@gotbugs.com	817-875-9951
Band Concessions	Barbara Shugart	barbarashugart@yahoo.com	817-221-3450
Medic	Gary Goldstein	ggoldste@yahoo.com	817-808-6481
Events	Denise Mills	dmills@azleisd.net	817-938-7594
Communications	Diana Carrizales	azleband@att.net	817-807-0606
Props	Tom Schlueter	tom.e.schlueter@lmco.com	817-713-8664
Co-Props	Shawn Patrick	funduke@aol.com	817-602-6277
Webmaster	Michael Carrizales	azleband@att.net	817-807-0880
Video/Photography	Mike Allen	allenofqualtex@yahoo.com	817-903-7184
Merchandising	Winky Karnes	rkarnes@hughes.net	817-313-6998
Uniforms	Patience Frazier	patience_frazier@yahoo.com	817-504-2642
Chaperone	Kim Dunaway	kddunaway@verizon.net	817-312-4083
Co-Chaperone	Pat Clayton	pclayton1954@verizon.net	817-907-7612
Equipment/Transportation	Lee Lunsford	lee@llunsford.com	817-313-8664
Meals	Linda Gantt	lindagantt@charter.net	817-694-5084
Colorguard	Mary Morgan	marymorgan5@att.net	817-694-7187
Percussion	Carolyn Schlueter	cschlueter@azleisd.net	817-929-6190
Co-Percussion	Heather Matteson	hmatteson@azleisd.net	817-454-4484

MGP Leadership Team

Drum Majors

David Newton
Jenea Tschoepe
Anna Bailey
Christal Carter

Flutes

Haley Mills
Savannah Crabtree

Clarinets

Amanda Webster
Audrey McCambridge
Geena Thompson

Saxophones

Courtney Rivera-Serra
Emily Allen

Low Reeds

Courtney Meason
Mason Ballard

French Horns

Erin Stepp
Justin Massey

Trumpets

Nick Thompson
Chris St. John

Trombones

Stephen Karnes
T.J. Ford

Euphoniums

Drew Goldstein

Tubas

Joseph Stephens
Sam Hinckley

Drumline

Jonathan Schaeffer
Ryan Robertson

Colorguard

Captain – Heather Morgan
1st Lieutenant – Monica Weber
2nd Lieutenants – Katy Kluge & Jamie Cox
Social Officer – Brittany Anthony (Social Committee – Trisha Lingo & Shannon Kearney)

AHS Band Officers

President – Erin Stepp

Vice-President – Katy Hosokawa

Secretary – Jenea Tschoepe

Treasurer – Lauren Rogers

Senior Reps – Christal Carter & James Shugart

Junior Reps – AJ Martinez & Haley Mills

Sophomore Reps - Mary Potts & Cody Beam

Freshman Reps – will be voted on in August

Librarians – undecided at this time

Equipment Manager – undecided at this time

Making a Commitment

In order to be a member of a performing group, each person must decide if he or she wants to make the commitment of time and dedication. For all school activities, the faculty and administration work together to make sure students have the opportunities to participate in multiple activities. However, non-school activities such as jobs babysitting, doctor's appointments, detentions, and other conflicts must not interfere with a student's commitment to the other members of the group.

General Information

Care of the building

Band members are to keep the band hall clean. Pick up trash and throw it away, even if it is not yours. We all have to work together! Keep chairs and music stands in the designated places. Band lockers are assigned in the fall. Our lockers are nice and anyone who abuses or "trashes out" his/her locker will not be allowed to use a locker. You will be issued a school lock for your locker. Use it. Use of the band office phone is by permission only. There is also no gum, food, or drink allowed in the band hall except for water. Pushups or consequence reports will be given for violations.

Non-Band/Colorguard Personnel

Due to the large amount of equipment and number of people in the program, it is impossible to secure all equipment and supplies. Much of this equipment is expensive and easily damaged if touched or moved incorrectly. To help with this, **any student not currently enrolled in band or colorguard will NOT be allowed in the band hall at any time before, during, or after the school day.** If you have a non-band friend with you, they must wait for you OUTSIDE the band hall.

Marching Band

The Marching Green Pride has a wonderful tradition of excellence. This tradition is built first and foremost upon consistent attendance. The Marching Band is a P. E. and Fine Arts credit and requires mandatory practices before and after school, and mandatory performances on designated weekdays & weekends. The band performs at football games, community events, school assemblies, pep-rallies, contests, parades, etc. The rehearsal & performance schedule will be provided with plenty of advanced notice so that arrangements can be made. During the spring semester, all members of the marching band must be enrolled in one of the concert organizations unless they receive special permission. Conversely, all members of the concert organizations must participate in the marching band unless they receive special permission.

Rehearsal Schedule

Just like the football team, drill team, and cheerleaders, the band needs to prepare before school starts to be ready for football season. During the summer months the band will have some mandatory rehearsals. We will be learning the show music and drill. These rehearsals are very critical and no one should miss! (Percussion & Colorguard will have extra rehearsals during June & July – see calendar on CHARMS)

The first 3 weeks in August before school starts, will be MGP Marching Band Camp. Attendance is mandatory. Exact times & schedule can be located on the Charms Calendar: www.charmsoffice.com

Please do not schedule any vacations, retreats, camps, driver's education, etc. during these August dates. These are the only times we will rehearse during the summer, so attendance is MANDATORY.

During fall marching season, rehearsals during school year will be:

Mondays – Thursdays 6:30am-7:30am – Full Band (no Fri mornings☺)

Monday Evenings 5:00pm-8:00pm – Full Band

Friday Afternoon Run-thru 3:30pm-4:00pm – Full Band

Colorguard Sectionals – Tuesdays 3:30pm-4:30pm

Percussion Sectionals – Wednesdays 4:00-5:00pm

*****Note - There will still be Monday Evening rehearsals on the Mondays that are School Holidays**

Materials required for every marching rehearsal

1. Shorts & t-shirt – jeans are NOT recommended
2. Socks & closed toe, closed heel athletic shoes
3. Water Jug (at least ½ gallon or bigger) with name marked on it
4. All music and instrument or colorguard equipment
3. Sunscreen
4. Hat or visor or bandana
5. 3-Ring binder with 50 sheet protectors to keep drill/music organized (we will supply this)
6. Pencils & Highlighters
7. Reeds – clarinet and sax players are to have at least 4 good reeds that they rotate daily
8. Valve oil – Brass players are to have valve oil at all rehearsals.
9. Flip Folder & Lyre for Woodwinds & Brass (percussion- flip folders only)

Marching Band Alternates

Since there is a no-pass/no-play rule in Texas, members of the band who fail one or more classes on the six weeks report card will not be able to perform with the band at halftime shows or marching contests. Ineligible students are not even allowed to travel with the band or sit with the band at football games. (This is state law.) **All eligible students** will get to perform, and may share a spot, or rotate.

The marching band is made up of many students with different responsibilities. When drill is written and formations defined for the show, we must have exact numbers & 100% attendance to be successful. An alternate is a member of the band who does not have a “contest marching show spot”. This means they still do everything just like the rest of the band; attending all rehearsals & performances, but they don’t march in the contest show drill. Alternates will perform at football games in their “alternate drill” as well as playing in the stands. If anyone is injured, quits, or fails, then a qualified alternate will get their contest spot. We have to assume that we will lose some students throughout the year, so we always start with alternates. If a student has unexcused absences, they may lose their spot and become an alternate.

All alternates will travel to the competitions as well. They are still a vital part of the band. We will utilize them to help move pit percussion equipment and other activities. In years where Props are utilized for the marching show, qualified alternates will be used to move, set, and manipulate props for the contest show. This will be a very important visual part of the contest show and alternates who have been working hard, showing up to practice on time, and passing classes will earn a position to do props.

Alternates may challenge someone on a weekly basis to gain a spot in the contest show drill. The challenge will take place after school with the person he/she is challenging and Mr. Murphy. Challenge signups will be with Mr. Murphy and will take place on Wednesdays after school. Both the Challenger and Challengee will have to show up. If one person does not show up, then the person who did show up automatically wins the spot.

Games & Competitions

Football games are held on Friday nights during football season. The band participates in every varsity football game and all students are required to participate as a part of their grade. No one, except band personnel are allowed in the band section. (It is crowded anyway!) Former band students or special visitors are sometimes exceptions, but only by permission from the director. The band will be given a break during most of the third quarter. Any student who is not back in place ready to play at the end of his/her break may be penalized.

Rules of football games:

1. Band members are required to sit in their assigned seat in the band section the entire game. No unauthorized personnel are allowed in the band section.
2. We allow absolutely NO food or drinks in the band section; only water will be allowed.
3. There will be a break after halftime where drinks and a snack will be provided and must be consumed before re-entering the band section. This break is a time you can mingle with family & friends.
4. Only emergency cases will be allowed to go to the bathroom while in the stands. Band students will use the break after halftime to visit the restroom.
5. All band students are expected to be back in their places in the stands at the beginning of the fourth quarter.
6. All band members are required to stay for the entire football game. The band continues to support the football

team after halftime by playing stand tunes & cheering for them.

7. Band students are expected to follow band chaperone instructions under the supervision of the band directors.
8. Do not play your instrument in the stands unless the entire band plays together. No hacking!
9. No moving around – stay in assigned seat. It is too easy for expensive instruments to be damaged.

Competitions

The band will participate in several marching band and concert band competitions. The band will meet at the band hall at the designated time and will travel to and from the contest by bus. All contests will be posted on the calendar section of www.charmsoffice.com and an itinerary will be given out before the contest so parents will know what time the band will perform and what time to pick students up.

It is very important that the students act as mature adults at these competitions, as they are representing Azle High School. All students are to be graceful winners or losers whatever the case may be. Talking badly about other schools will not be tolerated; everyone participating in band works very hard!

Inspection

There will be an inspection block before every football game and competition. Everyone's uniform must be clean, presentable, and all articles in place to be eligible to perform. Make sure you remember your marching shoes, black socks & correct band shirt to go under your uniform.

Rules of being in uniform

1. While at a performance, students MUST ALWAYS be in full uniform (coat on) unless otherwise directed.
2. All hair must always be pulled back and ready to tuck under shako (boys and girls).
3. No jewelry will be worn in uniform.
4. There is no running or horsing around in uniform.
5. No colored finger nail polish is to be seen.

Concert Bands

The concert band is a performing arts group that requires mandatory practices and performances outside the school day and on some weekends. The bands use concert literature to develop the individual student's musicianship and develop the art of performance as a group. The bands perform at concerts, contests, festivals, community events, etc. There will be auditions for band placement in May for the Fall Semester, and November for the Spring Semester. Band students will be placed in one of the following four ensembles:

Wind Ensemble (1st Band)

Wind Symphony (2nd Band)

Symphonic Band (3rd Band)

Concert Band (4th Band)

After Marching Season, there will be required sectional rehearsals that will happen either before school (7am) or after school (3:30pm). Sectional schedule will be announced during concert season and will be a part of the class participation grade.

Concert Performance Attendance

When the Azle High School Bands give a concert, all band students must attend the ENTIRE concert. Learning to be a good audience member and supporting the other performers is an important part of the curriculum. Concerts are the equivalent of a semester exam, and students will have their grade lowered if he/she does not attend the entire concert. Absences from performances are excused only in the event of sickness or family emergency and must be approved **in advance** by the director. Excuses DO NOT include job conflicts, baby-sitting, transportation problems, or studying for tests.

Jazz Band

There will be Jazz Band(s) that will be taught by Mr. Chapman & Mr. Murphy after school. The Jazz Band is an important ensemble that performs at many community functions and concerts. Membership will be by audition. Please see Mr. Chapman to get information on auditions, rehearsals, and performance schedules. There will be 1-2 Jazz Bands depending on interest and auditions. Rehearsals will happen after school 1-2 days a week.

Individual Activities

Students are highly encouraged to audition for the All-Region Bands, and to participate in the UIL Solo and Ensemble Competition. All members of the band program will be given the All-Region music, and will be provided instruction on this material. Weekly section rehearsals will be scheduled for help on the All-Region music. Students will be tested on this music and will be encouraged to audition for All-Region in December. Also, all band students in every band will be given a solo which is suitable for performance at the UIL contest or our local contest. The UIL contest is always in late February. Our own local contest will be the first Saturday in March. The skills learned in these types of musical performances will carry over into the full band experience, and will help to improve the quality of the band's overall performance. **The student's successful participation (or lack of) in these individual activities will be weighed heavily during band auditions at the end of the year for placement into a higher ensemble.**

All-Region Entry Fee - \$12

Advancing from Area to State - \$15

UIL Solo & Ensemble Entry Fees - \$8.50 per person/per solo or ensemble (\$15 for late entry)

Piano Accompanist for Solo - \$25

Rehearsal Rules/ Band Hall Rules

For our organization to be successful and achieve great things, it is important that each and every individual participate 100%. It is the individual's responsibility to know their music, drill, and/or colorguard work. All students must have a pencil with them at all times on their stand for music rehearsal. Our rehearsal time is very limited; therefore, efficiency is of the utmost importance. You must be prepared at the beginning of every rehearsal. Talking will not be tolerated during rehearsal on the field, or in the band hall, unless you are a section leader giving instructions, or corrections.

Band Hall Rules:

- NO food, candy, gum, or sodas are allowed in the band hall. ONLY CLEAR WATER.
- Always walk in the band hall.
- You must keep all belongings in assigned instrument storage. **Only instruments & music should be kept in your instrument storage – *school books will be kept in your school locker.*** Instruments should be stored inside the case, when not being used (this includes inside the band locker) Anything left out in the band hall will be thrown away.
- If you must enter the band hall during a rehearsal, please be respectful & courteous by remaining quiet, getting what you need quickly, and leaving.
- Play your own instrument. Get director approval before playing a different instrument.
- All band members are to treat each other with respect. Foul language will not be tolerated.
- Treat the band hall with respect by keeping it clean & tidy. If you see some trash, pick it up.

Discipline

It is expected that members act like mature responsible adults at all times. This includes rehearsals, performances, and any time in the band hall. You are representing the best of Azle High School and we want that to be a positive impression. All members are to arrive early to all practices/performances, have all instruments, music, and/or equipment required, and to work hard always. Disciplinary action will be at the discretion of the band directors and can include verbal warnings, detentions, pushups, laps, or receiving a disciplinary referral.

Examples of behavior that will merit disciplinary action include:

1. Tardiness
2. Unexcused absences
3. Using cell phone in rehearsal – at no time should a cell phone be visible. Texting in rehearsal will not be tolerated.
4. Bad attitude (Talking back to band directors, instructors, or chaperones.)
5. Unprepared (Not having all equipment, instruments, music, proper clothing, etc.)
6. PDA (Public Displays of Affection)
7. Having unauthorized food in the band hall.
8. Anything included in the AHS Code of Conduct

Attendance Policy

***It is very important that all band members attend all rehearsals. Band is a team sport and when members miss the information given at rehearsal, the entire band suffers. Unexcused absences can result in the loss of an assigned marching spot, assignment as an alternate, or in excessive circumstances being dropped from the group.

1. All students are required to attend all rehearsals and to be on time. (“To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late”)
2. If a student misses a rehearsal, whether it is excused or unexcused, the student is responsible for getting with another member of the band and learning what was missed PRIOR to the next rehearsal.
3. Absences must be excused by Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Oldroyd, Mrs. Murphy, or Mr. Kearns at least 7 days in advance. Please write a note or email explaining the nature of the absence and have it signed by a parent or guardian.
4. When school starts, anyone with an **unexcused** absence from practice during the week will not perform at half-time of the football game on the following Friday night. Students are still required to attend the game with the band and play in the stands.
5. If you are running late to practice, for whatever reason, make sure you call/text your section leader, Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Oldroyd, or Mr. Kearns to let them know.

Excused absences include:

1. School-sponsored activities
2. Emergency, death in family, illness (please try to call the day of the rehearsal, before the starting time)
3. Doctor, dentist, orthodontist, optometrist (please try to schedule around practices).

Unexcused absences include, but are not limited to:

1. Work (needs to be scheduled around rehearsal)
2. Sleeping in
3. Forgetting
4. Not having a ride (you need to always have that arranged) Ask your section leaders for help!

Grading Policy

Generally, students earn very high grades in the high school band (They deserve them!). A grade of 100 is clearly attainable. However, a “blanket” grade of 100 will not be given. It is important to realize that high expectations go hand-in-hand with a fine performing organization, and students who do the necessary work to be a contributing member will receive a high grade. The students will be grade on the following, but is not limited to.

1. Rehearsal attendance
 - 20 points off weekly participation grade for tardy or unexcused absence
2. Performance attendance (football games, contests, parades, concerts)
 - Unexcused absences will result in a 0 for the performance grade

- Tardies will result in 20 points off the performance grade
 - Inspection – not having all materials, uniform, etc – 20 points off participation per missing item.
3. Memorization of marching show/colorguard work
 4. Materials Checks (instrument/equipment, binder, music, reeds, pencil, etc)
 5. Effort, attitude, & behavior
 6. Playing tests (region tryout material, etudes, scales, exercises, warm-ups, band music, etc)
 - A student that consistently lacks preparation on playing tests may be assigned to another band.

Eligibility

The University Interscholastic League states that any student who fails a six-weeks grading period will be ineligible to perform with the band for 3 weeks. If **ALL** grades are passing at the 3 week grading period, then he/she is eligible to perform again. A student can gain or lose eligibility at the 6 week grading period, and can gain, but not lose eligibility at the 3 week grading period. If a student fails and is ineligible during marching season, he/she is immediately put on alternate status and a qualified alternate will take his/her place. All students who are ineligible must still attend all rehearsals, but not games, competitions, or parades. The only exception, according to the UIL rules, is the band winter & spring concerts, which are an extension of the classroom TEKS curriculum. Ineligible students are required to participate in these concerts.

EACH STUDENT MUST PASS EVERY CLASS EACH 6-WEEKS WITH A GRADE OF 70. A 69 OR LOWER IN ONE OR MORE CLASSES WILL MAKE A STUDENT INELIGIBLE FOR ALL MARCHING BAND ACTIVITIES.

Private Lesson Program

Private lessons are an important part of a successful band program and the individual growth of the band students. Private lessons are taught by a professional instrumentalist and give students the opportunity to receive additional support to their musical training. Private lessons are optional, but strongly encouraged. Those students who have private lessons are more likely to make the 1st Band, be successful with All-Region/Area/State Auditions/Solo & Ensemble, and earn college music scholarships.

Private lessons are \$16 per lesson and are to be pre-paid by the month. Lessons are taught at Azle HS once per week during their band period, or before/after school.

Financial Aid for a portion of each lesson is available to some students. Financial aid will be based on the student's free or reduced lunch status. Those who receive financial aid are expected to participate in band fund raisers to help raise money for their lessons.

Fundraising & Band Fees

The band booster organization plans fundraisers throughout the summer and school year. These fundraisers are to fulfill the needs of the band including, but not limited to instruments, instruction, music, props, guard equipment, percussion equipment, instrument repair, marching drill/music, contest entry fees, etc. To be able to meet the needs of such a successful and cutting edge program, a substantial amount of money needs to be raised. This requires the team effort of **ALL** parents and **ALL** students working together to achieve our common goal.

Participating in any great organization requires a financial commitment. Band students are required to pay their band fees on time and in full. Compared to other band programs across the state & country, these fees are some of the lowest in the activity. Fundraisers will be provided, and administrated through the booster program to assist students in raising money for fees, trips, etc. (There will be band booster fundraisers that students can use to help raise their band fees.)

Band Fees: (Checks made payable to AHS Band)

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Required Band Fee | \$150 (Winds & Percussion only; Colorguard see below) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Includes Hat, Shirt, Khakis, Uniform Cleaning, Binder, Mallets, Sticks, Heads, Contests, Gloves, Water, Snacks |

Marching Shoes **\$35** (do not need to reorder if you have the correct brand)

Booster Fees: (Checks made payable to Azle Band Boosters)

Optional Band & Colorguard Fees:

5 Home Game Meals	\$35
5 Away Game Meals	\$35
Graduation Cord	\$10
Picture Button	\$8
Boosters T-shirt	\$10
Booster Caps	\$10
Hoodie	\$20
Band Member Yard Sign	\$15
Car Decal - Small	\$12
Car Decal – Big	\$15

Required Colorguard Fee:

Colorguard Fee	\$180
Marching Fee	\$40 (t-shirt, hat, water, etc)

Optional Colorguard Fees:

Rifle	\$36
Bag (replacement)	\$22
Warm-ups (replacement)	\$65 (\$35 for jacket, \$30 for pants)
Rank Embroidary	\$5 (Officers only)
Gloves	\$12
Graduation Cords	\$10 (Seniors only)

Trip Fees:

When the band takes a spring trip, the student is responsible for paying or fundraising his/her own trip fees. There will be a payment schedule, and the information will be given out as soon as possible. **Trip fees are non-refundable. If a student fails a class and cannot attend the trip, they forfeit their trip and all money paid toward it.** Any student with a balance on their band/guard fees, will not be allowed to sign up for the trip until those fees are paid in full first. Each student going on the trip will sign a document agreeing to follow trip guidelines. If a student breaks this agreement, they may be sent home at the expense of their parent/guardian.

Additional Band Fee & Fundraising Information:

1. Band/Guard/Booster Fees

- a. The \$150 Band Fee covers many necessary items that are used by students for the marching season. Things like the Band T-shirt, khaki shorts, uniform cleanings, binders, sheet protectors, flip folders, lyres, gloves, water, snacks, contests, props, equipment, marching instructors, master class teachers, and many other items come out of these fees. These items are directly used by each band individual or the group as a whole.
- b. Marching Shoes -- purchased in addition to the \$150 if the student is new or needs a new pair.
- c. Meal Deals -- must be paid in full so that the food can be purchased to feed the students who bought the meals. The price was raised to \$35 for home games & \$35 for away games, because money was lost on food last year.
- d. Colorguard Fees -- Covers the cost of their uniform, silks, instructors, bags, contests, and many other items used by guard members.
- e. Our Azle HS Band fees are some of the LOWEST around and we make every effort to keep costs down on the items we purchase so that the money goes a very long way.

2. Paying & Fundraising Fees

- a. **ALL band and guard students must pay or fundraise their fees this summer and**

have their fees paid in full by the time school starts.

b. We will not order or pass out individual items (band shirt, khakis, shoes, meal deals, gloves, binder, clear sheets, flip folders, lyres, etc) to a student who has a balance due on their account.

c. If a student does not have their required items, then they will not be allowed to march at the games or contests.

d. All of the \$150 Band fee money is going through our school district band activity fund and therefore we cannot FLOAT students who have not made an effort to pay or fundraise their fees.

e. There will be MANY opportunities this summer to fundraise your fees. Any band student can easily raise all or most of their band fees with a little work. We are already setting up the Coke Sales & Car Washes & other fundraisers that will go directly to the students who do those fundraisers.

f. If your student is in need of financial assistance or you need to discuss a special situation then you will need to discuss payment/fundraising options with the directors/treasurers AND participate in the fundraisers. **We WILL work with anyone who needs help!!!** Please understand we are not trying to push anyone out of band that cannot pay for their fees, but this is what the fundraisers are for and there needs to be advance communication so that arrangements can be made privately by the directors and treasurers.

g. Payments can be brought to the band hall office during the summer (9am-5pm someone will be there).

i. Remember, checks/money orders are written out differently this year & please don't bring cash!

ii. The \$150 band fee & \$35 marching shoes check must be made to **AHS Band**

iii. The meal deals, colorguard, or booster items check must be made to **Azle Band Boosters**

iv. You can pay with a credit or debit card through PayPal! Go to www.azlemgp.org and look down at the left side for the links to make PayPal payments.

3. Booster Fundraisers

a. There will be many fundraisers throughout the year and different ones will be designated for individual accounts, general band booster account, or split. For example, the coke fundraiser is 100% for individual fees and will go directly to the student who sold the items. You will know exactly how much you raised based on what you sold. Example -- Sally nets \$50 in profit from coke sales, then Sally gets \$50 credited to her band fees. This will be posted in Charms and you will be able to see that it is correct.

b. There will be some big fundraisers that will be a team effort that will go 100% to the Azle Band Booster General Fund. Successful band programs have booster clubs that can raise money to help cover costs of many band items, props, fees, food, contests, instructors, master class teachers and much more that the school district account can't cover. Especially this year, as we have all seen in the news, school budgets are getting slashed, so this means that now more than ever, booster clubs have to step up their fundraising efforts to support their programs. This requires a team effort from all students and parents to help raise money not just for our individual fees, but for our general booster fund as well. The things that are purchased through the boosters have a direct impact on our entire band program and every individual student benefits from this money raised. Every top-notch, successful, State and National level band program has to have a successful booster club and this takes the dedication of our students and parents thinking more WE and less ME. **And we WILL be a State and Nationally recognized band program if we all pull together!**

c. There will be some fundraisers that will be split between those individuals that work it and the booster general fund. These will be fundraisers that are easy to track the workers and that make pretty big money for all involved. We will make these designations very clear before the fundraiser begins so you will know about how much you can expect to earn toward your individual account and how much will be going to the general fund.

4. Spring Trip

- a. Corpus Christi 2012!!! The cost will probably be around \$400-500 and you can start fundraising now!
- b. Anyone with a balance on band or guard fees cannot go on the trip until all those fees are paid first.

5. CHARMS Access

- a. CHARMS will be used extensively this year to keep track of student data, send out emails, make announcements, uniform checkout, instrument checkout, locker checkout, & individual student accounts/fundraising.
- b. Please visit the CHARMS website to see what it is about! You can check your students information and make sure that it is correct -- you can even make changes! If a phone number or email address or something else changes, you can change it in CHARMS yourself. Pretty cool!
- c. You can check to see what fees need to be paid, how much has been paid, how much fundraisers have gone to your account. That way you know EXACTLY how much your student owes.
- d. Please give a few more weeks time before all the student fees/payments have been posted to CHARMS -- the treasurers are in the process of closing out the last year and posting everything for the new year -- this is quite time consuming with 250+ kids to keep track of! But they will have it done very soon and we will let you know when it has been completely updated with that info.
- e. To login to CHARMS go to www.charmsoffice.com
 - i. Click on ENTER at the far right tab
 - ii. Go down to PARENTS/STUDENTS/MEMBERS and enter our school code -- AzleHSBand
 - iii. To access your personal student account, enter your school ID number in Student Area Password and click enter. You should be in!
 - iv. To change your password so that it is not your school ID number, go down to the bottom right icon that says change password and click on that icon. You can then change your password to something that only you know.
 - v. **NOTE** -- if you have had trouble in the past getting in to CHARMS, this was because many ID numbers were WRONG in the system. I have cleaned up everyone's info and the ID numbers have now been corrected -- you should be able to get in with your correct ID.

Insurance of Instruments

All band members are encouraged to insure their own personal instruments. The cost is minimal, and worth the protection it provides. **All students should take their instruments home every day.**

Uniform and Instrument Check Out

Instrument Check Out:

Students who do not own their own instrument will be required to check out a school owned instrument. Students are to take care of these instruments and pay for any minor damage that occurs while the instrument is checked out to them. AISD requires that all students who perform on district-owned instruments (including percussion) pay a maintenance fee of \$50.00 per year for cleaning, and periodic maintenance.

Uniform Check Out:

All band students will be assigned a marching uniform at a specific time and date. The uniforms will be kept in the uniform storage room and must be checked in/out for each performance.

Uniform and Equipment Rules

Music, uniforms and equipment must be kept in good condition and be on hand as needed. During marching season there will be inspections prior to performances. During concert season inspections may be held also. The following is a list of instructions on care and use of the uniforms.

1. **Hat** - Hat should be worn straight on top of the head. Hair extending below the collar will be secured and worn inside the hat. Plumes are very delicate and are damaged rather easily. Treat them with great care.
2. **Coat** - The coat should be worn completely buttoned and fastened at all times when in public unless otherwise specified by the director. In hot weather we will take off the coat. The correct band t-shirt must be worn under the coat without exception.
3. **Bibbers** - are to be worn loosely, but not baggy. Suspenders are used to adjust the length. Bibbers should be worn without a break in the crease, not touching the shoe. Band Booster Parents will provide the alterations.
4. **Shoes** - Shoes will be black and clean. They must be purchased from the band to match. Solid black socks will be worn. Initials should be marked on the inside and the soles of the shoes.
5. **Gloves** - Gloves must be kept clean and should fit. Hats and gloves are usually not worn except during performances.
6. **Brass Instruments** - Valves and slides must work freely. Mouthpieces must be clean and horns polished.
7. **Woodwind Instruments** - Reeds should be clean and without flaws. Instrument should be free of dust and dirt under keys. Pads should be in good condition without frays.
8. **Percussion Instruments** - Drum heads should be clean and drum shells polished. Cymbals should be polished.
9. **Music Folders** - must be presented during inspection with ALL copies of required music in the proper order.
10. **Uniform Cleaning** - (marching only) since coats, bibbers, hats will not be taken home, the students will never have to clean them. The Uniform Fee of \$30 takes care of this. **However**, it is the student's responsibility to TAKE CARE OF the uniform. T-shirts, gloves and socks need to be washed each week.
11. Absolutely **NO "NON UNIFORM" CLOTHING** may be worn where it is visible. If it is cold, layers may be worn underneath the uniform coat and pants. Occasionally, permission will be given to wear a plain dark knit pullover hat and dark winter gloves in extremely cold weather. Walkman, video games, etc. are not allowed in the stands. Pom-poms, balloons, etc. are not allowed. We are a Band, not a nomadic tribe! If a SECTION LEADER wishes to bring gifts or snacks for their section, they need to bring this out during the 3rd quarter only. We suggest that students bring WATER and CRACKERS to the games (no chips, candy, cheeseburgers, etc.). They may eat during **the 3rd quarter only**. NO GUM, EVER (PLEASE.)
12. After performance events (football games, contest, etc.) students will usually be allowed to change out of their uniforms while on the bus (just prior to returning to Azle). Uniforms will be hung properly on hangars, baldric and gauntlets attached properly. No shoes are to be kept in clothing bags. Uniforms will be checked-in at the AHS band hall. Be patient and wait your turn. Section Leaders will be in charge of/responsible for their section turning in uniforms all together, correctly and calmly. Students who ride home with their parents must give the uniform to their section leaders prior to leaving the event.
13. **No uniforms will be issued without payment of fees.** Refer below for the total amount. Also, students who owe any fees from last year will not receive a uniform until they are cleared.

Uniform Replacement Costs

Coat	\$190
Bibbers	\$60
Bag	\$15
Hat	\$50
Cords	\$19
Plume	\$18
Hat Box	\$16

Concert Uniform Attire

Band Concert and Contest Uniform attire will consist of All-Black Dress clothes and dress shoes provided by the student. Males should wear a black dress shirt, black dress slacks, black belt, black socks and black dress shoes. Females should wear a black blouse with black slacks, black skirt, or a black dress and black dress shoes. Dresses and skirts should go to at least the knee and blouses can be short or long-sleeved, but no spaghetti straps. This uniform will be worn at all concert band performances including the Holiday Concert, UIL Concert and Sight-reading, Spring Trip Concert, Spring Concert, and other performances that any of the concert bands have.

Leadership Positions

- A. Equipment Managers/Loading Crew**
 - 1. Appointed
 - 2. In charge of loading crew and equipment
- B. Librarians and Aides**
 - 1. Appointed
 - 2. Maintain Music Library
 - 3. In charge of filing, passing out, and cataloging music
- C. Drum Majors**
 - 1. Auditions are in the spring
 - 2. Assist directors in teaching drills, inspections and teach marching fundamentals
 - 3. Represent the marching band in all activities
 - 4. Must be a Junior or Senior
 - 5. Help take attendance
- D. Colorguard Captain & Officers**
 - 1. Auditions are in the spring
 - 2. Help set up for rehearsals
 - 3. Work closely with Colorguard directors & instructors
 - 4. Help take attendance
- E. Drumline Captain & Officers**
 - 1. Selected by the band directors
 - 2. Responsible for seeing that all equipment is available and in proper working order
 - 3. Work closely with the drum instructor and directors
 - 4. Help take attendance
- F. MGP Section Leaders**
 - 1. Auditions are in the spring
 - 2. Help prepare music and marching charts and painted sets
 - 3. Help conduct inspections for proper music and care of uniforms and instruments
 - 4. Help conduct music memory playoffs
 - 5. Provide leadership through musicianship
 - 6. Help take attendance

Band Officers

The band will not be any stronger than its elected officers! Officers should set examples with their actions worthy of the Marching Green Pride Band and should assume a degree of responsibility for encouraging other band members to do the same. Officers should also encourage members of the band to maintain a high performance level. All officers must be members of the marching band. All Officers shall assist the director and chaperones in every way possible.

- A. President**
 - 1. Must be a senior
 - 2. Student representative of the band
- B. Vice President**
 - 1. Assists the president
 - 2. Must be a junior or a senior
- C. Secretary**
 - 1. Handles band student correspondence
 - 2. Must be a junior or senior
- D. Treasurer**
 - 1. Assists with financial matters
 - 2. Must be a junior or a senior
- E. Class Representatives**
 - 1. Elected to represent their classes (2, 3 or 4 per grade level)
 - 2. Assist in band office duties

Letter Jacket Award Requirements

To earn a Letter Jacket in band, a student must be a full participating member of the band or colorguard program for 2 full semesters. The student would then receive the jacket the following Semester, if they are signed up for band. If a student quits band prior to the end of their Senior Year, they may be required to forfeit their jacket.

Full participating members must participate in at least 3 of the following events to qualify: UIL Marching Contest, UIL Concert & Sight-reading Contest, All-Region Band Auditions, Solo & Ensemble Contest, or Winterguard Contests.

Other Awards

Special individual awards are based upon the following:

1. Loyalty, dependability, spirit, and outstanding contributions to the Azle Band.
2. Outstanding service as a member of the band
3. Active participation in solo & ensemble competitions
4. Positive leadership in band rehearsals, section rehearsals, and all band activities
5. Consistent and thorough preparation of concert & contest music
6. Faithful attendance at special section rehearsals
7. Being selected to All-Region, Area, or All-State Band

John Philip Sousa Award - Most outstanding musical students in the entire band

P.R.I.D.E. Award - Student with outstanding leadership and devotion to the band

Director's Awards - Awarded to the outstanding member of each band class

Jazz Awards - Outstanding jazz musicians

Section Awards – Outstanding musicians from each section

Percussion Awards – Outstanding Percussionists from Fall & Concert Season

Colorguard Awards –Outstanding colorguard members

Scholarship

Azle Band Boosters may award scholarships to graduating senior band members. All requirements will be included in an application packet available in the spring. Scholarship monies awarded will be sent directly to the college on behalf of the recipient.

Travel

Since the band is a portion of Azle High School, and Azle ISD, we will operate within the rules set by the school district with a few additions of our own. Respect for chaperones, and for the other members is expected at all times. Disrespect or disregard of instructions given by chaperones will result in penalties being issued to the student. All school rules apply when traveling with the band. Transportation will be provided to and from all band events. All transportation rules must be followed. Those who break any of these rules will receive appropriate punishment as deemed by the director(s).

1. Hands and arms must stay in the bus at all times. Never throw anything out the window.
2. Quiet talking will be allowed on the bus. No yelling or loud singing – this distracts the driver.
3. All students must stay seated while the bus is moving, and until instructed to exit the bus.
4. Before exiting the bus, students are to pick up ALL trash, whether it is theirs or not, and to thank the bus driver when exiting.
5. Remember that we are representing Azle wherever we go and first impressions are critical. It is important to make a strong and lasting GOOD impression on our audience.

Check out procedures

Everyone must ride the bus to and from the event. No one may ever drive to an event on their own. Only in special situations will a student be allowed to leave early – must discuss with director beforehand. A student may ONLY leave with his/her parent or guardian. (NOT OTHER STUDENT'S PARENTS)

***The student must sign out with the director so that the director SEES both the student and the parent/guardian. The director must have a signed note from the parent/guardian.

Colorguard/Winterguard Information

The colorguard is the part of the marching band that uses dance, flag, rifle, and sabre skills to develop the individual student and the art of performance as a group. The colorguard is not a separate organization, but a vital part of the marching band. Colorguard is a yearlong commitment, just like band. For the spring semester, the Colorguard members will audition for one of the Winterguards. Only by director approval will someone be allowed to be enrolled for ONLY Fall Colorguard each year. Winterguard is an important training ground that improves our Fall Colorguard, so it is expected that the majority of Colorguard members participate in a Winterguard organization.

***Current JH & HS band members ARE allowed to audition for the colorguard or Winterguard. Students CAN be in band and colorguard at the same time. They can sign up for both a band class and the colorguard class – it will not conflict. Those in band and colorguard will be expected to stay current with their instrument practice time – they will need to have good time management skills, but it is very achievable to participate in both groups at the same time. Dual band/guard students may be required to memorize the marching show music & stand tunes for grades in the band class, even though they are performing with the colorguard during the marching show.

Uniform

The Colorguard has a separate uniform from the band. It is designed by the director to depict the visual aspect of the marching show. The Winterguard will also have a separate uniform that is different than the marching uniform. All colorguard members are to wear their hair and makeup as decided by the director. **The uniform is to be hand-washed & laid flat to dry. NEVER wash it in the washing machine or dry in the dryer.**

Rehearsal

During rehearsal there are simple rules to follow to ensure success. They are as follows:

1. Do not talk during rehearsal.
2. Wear appropriate rehearsal attire – no jewelry, hair pulled back out of face, no jeans. Dance or workout clothing and gloves.
3. Practice on your own what you learn in rehearsal.
4. Must be prepared with ALL equipment at all times.
5. Have water jug/water bottle.
6. Have a good attitude & take correction graciously.

Eligibility

It is crucial that every colorguard member keep their grades above passing at all times. Whenever a member is failing it creates a hole in the drill if there is no alternate to fill that spot. This hurts the impact of the colorguard's performance and makes us look very weak. If a colorguard member fails a 6 weeks, then they may NOT be allowed to try out for the Varsity Winterguard. They will be eligible to try out for the JV Winterguard.

Rehearsal Schedule

Each student will be given a calendar several months in advance so that they can schedule events around the colorguard rehearsals and performances.

Colorguard Officers

Colorguard Officers are the highest-ranking members in the colorguard. Applicants must have been in the guard for at least 1 year, fulfill all the requirements set by the directors, and cannot have failed any class in any six weeks within the previous year. Officers will be chosen at the end of the school year, for the following year. Officers are expected to lead by example, keep the guard on task, assist the director in certain activities, help set up for rehearsals, and many other duties.

Winterguard

The winterguard performs in the spring semester at winterguard competitions as a separate unit from the band. The winterguard will have after school rehearsals and weekend performances. There will be both a Varsity and JV Winterguard. There will be auditions for both groups.

Any guard member who fails during the fall will NOT be allowed to audition for the Varsity Winterguard.

NTCA Solo & Ensemble

Also, during winterguard season, any member of the guard may participate in the Solo and Ensemble competitions. The solo or ensemble can be from 1.5 to 2.5 minutes. The categories to compete in are Flag solo, Weapon solo, Mixed solo, or Ensemble. The ensembles can be from 2-4 members. Each person is responsible for their own entry fees which are \$15 per person.

Azle Band Boosters

The Azle Band Boosters Club is a non-profit organization open to anyone with an interest in supporting the Azle bands. It takes a great deal of parental support to maintain a program of this size and quality. Volunteers are needed to help with equipment at games and contest, as chaperones, officers, committee members, photographers, and workers. Your help is greatly needed and will be greatly appreciated!

Parental Help Needed

An organization the size of the Azle Band cannot function without the help and support of the parents. Parent volunteers are one of the major reasons for our success. Each MGP band member's family is expected to help in at least two of the areas below. Please contact one of the band directors or the MGP booster president to sign-up.

Drinks, water & ice for all Games and practice
Meal Deals
Loading Crew at games & contests
Pit Crew for games/contests
Chaperones for games/contests
Percussion Bash/Drum-a-Thon
Drumline Contests
Winterguard/Colorguard Contests
WG/CG Props/Equipment
Jazz Dinner/Dance
Fitting uniforms, alterations for uniforms
Friday night post game help
Issuing & collecting uniforms for all games/contests
Spring Trip help, organization, food, chaperoning, etc.
Fundraisers (for MGP Boosters)
Building Props
Other (prior approval needed)

Azle HS MGP

2011-2012

Band Handbook Agreement

PLEASE READ THE BAND HANDBOOK CAREFULLY AND COMPLETELY.
RETURN THIS FORM TO THE BAND OFFICE AFTER SIGNING.

The band handbook is available online on CHARMS and will be printed by request only.

I have read the Azle MGP Band Handbook and understand all of the policies and procedures listed therein. I agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Azle High School Band Program. I will act as a responsible, committed band member and citizen while representing our school and community.

I understand that all eligibility rules and the no-pass/no-play rule is in effect at all band activities unless that activity is designated as an extension of the classroom (*ex: school concerts are a TEKS extension of the classroom, therefore eligibility won't affect participation*).

I understand the responsibilities as well as privileges of membership in the Azle MGP Band and by signing below I agree to uphold the high standards set by the Azle High School Band program.

Student's Name Printed

Student's Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Date