



L.D. Bell High School Band
2022-23 Handbook



L.D. BELL HIGH SCHOOL

Blue Raider Band

Philosophy/Purpose

The L.D. Bell Band is one of the largest service organizations at L.D. Bell High School. The band has a history of excellence on the State and National stages and prides itself on being the hub of Blue Raider pride and school spirit in the H-E-B community. There are a variety of activities, events, classes, leadership roles, individual and group performance opportunities and offerings for the band students to benefit from over their three years.

Every student in the band is considered a part of the L.D. Bell High School UIL Competitive Bands for the school year unless otherwise approved by the band directors. This includes Marching and Concert Bands. Additionally, students receive a PE waiver after completing four semesters of band.

Members of the LDB Band will maintain a higher standard of academic achievement and behavior both on and off campus. Students are expected to participate properly, be responsible for their own learning, and demonstrate both a desire for self-discovery and individual improvement, as well as a steadfast commitment and accountability to the **TEAM**.

Members of the L.D. Bell HS Band will:

1. Develop physical skills and learn about personal conditioning, good health habits, and safety.
2. Develop psychologically through increased self-confidence, self-esteem, and emotional maturity.
3. Develop socially through cooperation, competition, and appropriate standards of behavior.
4. Develop character, leadership, and commitment both personally and in a variety of group settings.
5. Develop effective time management strategies.
6. Be Good Will Ambassadors between L.D. Bell High School and the H-E-B Community.
7. Promote good relationships with other schools.

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Mission Statement of the L.D. Bell Band

Facilitating
Achievement
through helping
students realize their
full potential in
Band.



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General Individual Standards

The L.D. Bell Band has four simple standards that encompass what it is to be a part of the Blue Raider Band.

1) Be Prepared, In Place, On Time

(have all appropriate materials and be warmed up, ready to go at downbeat)

2) Participate Properly

3) Be in Full Uniform in Public

4) Show Respect for Others

(Your school, teachers, peers, and self)

General Requirements

- A. Band members and their families must agree to and be fully aware of the financial responsibilities of being in band and meet all financial obligations by the required due date as set forth by the L.D. Bell Band Boosters.
- B. Band members must be willing to compete in the L.D. Bell High School Competition Marching Band. This commitment will require members to attend rehearsals before or after school up to 8 hours a week, as mandated by the "UIL 8 Hour Rule" that begins the Tuesday after Labor Day. These rehearsals are considered co-curricular and are therefore part of the class requirement and PE Waiver, and will reflect in the participation portion of the band grade. Band members will travel out of town with the team, and compete at local competitions as well as UIL State and occasional Bands of America competitions. These performances (trips) are required, unless otherwise stated by the band director.
- C. A current physical will be required **by Band Registration** in order to perform as a member of the marching band. If a current physical is not turned in by that date, members will not be allowed to work out or perform until one is provided.
- D. Students must maintain academic eligibility. Additional information regarding eligibility is found below under "Academic Eligibility Calendar"

Band Communication

The L.D. Bell Band communicates via three official channels: the website, Band News, and Remind

- <https://ldbellband.org> is the official website of the L.D. Bell Band. Families should bookmark this site and check it often.
- Band News- is the weekly or as needed email sent out using Charms (our information management system) If you are NOT receiving Band News, fill out [this form](#) to have your email address added.
- Remind text messages- Remind is used for short news items that need to get out quickly. For example, changes to rehearsal time or location due to weather would be sent in Remind. Use these codes to join the appropriate Remind for your student(s)
 - Percussion- Text "@ldbperc" to 8-1010
 - Color Guard- Text "@ldbguard" to 8-1010
 - Brass/Woodwind Sophomores- Text "@ldbband25" to 8-1010



- Brass/Woodwind Juniors- Text "@ldbband24" to 8-1010
- Brass/Woodwind Seniors- Text "@ldbband23" to 8-1010

Attendance/Conflicts

The band website serves as the official calendar (ldbband.org/calendar). A year-at-a-glance as well as weekly updated week-at-a-glance will help to organize calendars; however, the website should be checked often for the most up to date calendar events.

All camps, rehearsals, football games, and competitions are mandatory. Being prepared, in place, on time, with the right attitude is the number one job and will make or break our success as a team.

In order for an absence to be considered approved, it must be cleared by the director PRIOR to that event, unless there are extenuating circumstances such as a death in the family.

Excused: Illness with a note excusable by L.D. Bell High School standards, death in the family, religious holidays, University Interscholastic League (UIL) game/match/performance (game/match/performance only, *not practice*), or school related meetings (with director approval) are considered excused. Absences related to UIL game conflicts, UIL game/match/performances, and school meetings must be brought to the directors' attention 5 days prior to said absence. All absences must be communicated by email to a Band Director.

Unexcused: Non-L.D. Bell HS activities and organizations, such as scouts, appointments, vacation, birthdays, family trips, club sports, church camps, work or other non-HEB ISD affiliated groups.

Academic Eligibility Calendar

Students may only LOSE eligibility based on a six weeks report card grade. Please note that it is the SIX WEEKS grade, not a Trimester grade, that determines UIL eligibility. Students who lose eligibility because of a failing grade on a six weeks report card may REGAIN eligibility if they are passing ALL classes (not just the class that was failing on the previous report card) at the progress reporting period.

Official HEB ISD Eligibility Compliance Calendar available in August

Enrollment- Course Offerings of the L.D. Bell Band Program

FALL TRIMESTER

Marching Band- All students are scheduled into first period Marching Band. The only exceptions are students with a scheduling conflict with another school activity.

Applied Music- This course is ideal for students who are working towards individual achievement goals on their instrument. Students become better prepared for All-Region auditions and college auditions by learning and implementing practice strategies and developing confidence performing.

WINTER TRIMESTER

Concert Band- All brass and woodwind students are assigned to a level-appropriate concert band class.



Percussion Methods- Percussion students are placed in level-appropriate percussion methods class. The focus of this class is preparing ensembles and improving individual technique.

Jazz Ensemble- This class is open to any student with any interest in learning Jazz. Students will learn Jazz style, improvisation and develop an appreciation and understanding of Jazz music.

SPRING TRIMESTER

Concert Band- During the Spring Trimester, all band students (including percussionists) will participate in a concert band class.

Discipline

The L.D. Bell HS Band is built on the pillars of self-discipline and accountability. Membership in the program is a privilege, not a right. We expect all Blue Raider Band members to Participate Properly in all things at all times. Members that cannot participate properly jeopardize the goals of the group as well as the reputation and honor that has been established by past Blue Raiders.

Failure to adhere to the policies set forth by the HEB ISD Student Code of Conduct or the L.D. Bell Band program will result in consequences ranging from a student conference with the Band Directors to removal from the program based on the severity of the infraction.



L.D. Bell HS Blue Raider Band-Specific Terms and Definitions

The following terms and definitions are meant to help describe important terms used throughout the year in the L.D. Bell Band Program. Please refer to this section of the handbook often for any of your understanding-level questions. More specific answers will be given through our communication outlets throughout the year.

All-Region/All-Area/All-State Band

The All-Region Band audition is a contest designed to improve the individual performance level of the students. Participation requirements are listed with descriptors for each performing ensemble. Students will be ranked competitively among like instrumentalists from other 6A high schools in TMEA Region 31. 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 Region Orchestra and/or 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.

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. Mock auditions with a L.D. Bell 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 are expected to participate in the resulting clinics and concerts.

Bands of America

Music for All's Bands of America--BOA--is a premier national organization for high school music students. Based in Indiana, BOA hosts many excellent contests and symposiums. BOA is probably best known for marching contests held each fall. There are twenty-plus regional contests held around the US with several held in Texas. Each year the directors choose locations to fit our busy fall schedule - most have been in Texas, but some may be in other states! You will know in advance so that you can plan accordingly. Some parents choose to follow the buses to these contests, while some parents make reservations and stay at a nearby hotel.

The BOA classifications are different from the typical UIL Classifications. BOA Classification Awards will be given out for class 1A, 2A, 3A & 4A. The L.D. Bell Band is classified as 4A.

In some instances the band goes to the contest and returns in the same day. Each year the schedule varies due to performance times. There is a preliminary performance and, hopefully, inclusion in the finals. There's plenty of time to purchase T-shirts, patches, videos, etc. We usually get home very late but it's well worth the opportunity to see other high-caliber bands. These contests require lots of parental involvement. The band is fed various snacks and meals during the day. Donations of snack items/beverages will be needed as well as help to serve and clean up.



BOA sells patches at all of these events that can be purchased and sewn on to students' letter jackets. This is a good way to commemorate the event and many parents purchase these patches for their students. The BOA web site, www.musicforall.org, is full of information regarding schedules, scores, recaps, etc...

Band Banquet

This event is one of the highlights of the entire school year. It is usually held in the month of May and is a celebration of band accomplishments. The location of the event is held at various local hotel convention centers to accommodate all that are in attendance. All L.D. Bell HS Band students who have participated properly throughout the year (including having band fees paid in full) are invited to attend this celebratory event. The night is filled with awards, food and dancing. Attire is dress-to-impress.

Band Yearbook

A band yearbook is compiled each year by parent volunteers to capture the band's activities in much greater detail than allowed in the high school yearbook. Families will receive information in the early part of the Spring semester on how to order the Band Yearbook. Students must have a zero balance on their band fees to receive their yearbook.

Before-School Marching Rehearsals

Once school officially begins, the L.D. Bell Band follows a consistent before-school rehearsal schedule that alternates rehearsal sites (Pennington Field, Raider Bowl). Students will be responsible for getting TO rehearsals in the morning. Transportation will be provided from morning rehearsal to school for the remainder of the school day.

Please follow the weekly schedule sent out via email or check the band website.

Typical Marching Band Rehearsal Schedule

Regular Rehearsal Schedule:

Monday: 7 am at Pennington

Tuesday: 7 am at Pennington

Wednesday: OFF

Thursday: 7 am at Pennington or Raider Bowl

Friday: 7 am at Pennington or Raider Bowl

Rehearsal schedules will vary slightly weekly based on weather, holidays, other major events, game schedules, etc. We will send out weekly "Band News" schedules via email (Charms) and post on the band website.

Charms

Charms is the database program we use to collect all student contact information, collect band fees and send out band news. It is important that every student/parent has access to their Charms Account to ensure all of their



contact information is current. The school code to access charms is “ldbellband” and the default password is your student’s student ID number.

Color Guard

All students selected to the color guard are members of the L.D. Bell High School Band program. This part of the band program is responsible for the enhancement and visual portrayal of our fall season productions. Selection is based on an audition in the spring with highly trained instructors providing choreography and equipment skill instruction specifically for this section of the band.

Auditions are open **first** to wind players who play instruments such as oboe and bassoon in concert season that are not used in marching band. Next, the unit is open to a limited number of wind players who play woodwind instruments of large sections (flute, clarinet). On a case-by-case basis, wind and percussionists playing other instruments will be allowed to audition. All members of the color guard are encouraged and expected to continue advancement on their primary instrument through such pursuits as private lessons, director listenings, and the All Region/State Band audition process. Finally, students from outside the band program, having demonstrated proper participation through attitude, technical achievement, and attendance during the guard audition process will, on a case-by-case basis, be permitted to join.

Concert Season

The concert season is the cornerstone of our band program, since it is where the majority of our musical training takes place. Students are challenged with performing pieces of the highest caliber that range from standard literature to more contemporary music. Students are placed by audition (see Spring Auditions) in one of four performing ensembles for the year. Concert performances are spaced throughout the year and include the Holiday Concert in December, Pre-UIL Concert in March/April, and the Spring Concert in May. In addition, selected bands may also participate in various local competitions during the months of April and May.

Contest Day (Marching Band)

Contest days are essentially ‘all day’ adventures. We typically report to Bell in time for a rehearsal. Students will be provided 1 to 2 meals and 1 or 2 snacks on a contest day (included in band fees). It is always a good idea to pack sunscreen, take a small amount of extra cash for souvenirs or concessions, and hydrate and get good rest the night before.

Football Games (Marching Band)

Fridays in the fall trimester are pretty fast paced for the Bell Band. The students will be given a scheduled meeting time to be at the band hall - which may be VERY SOON after school ends (consider bringing items to school and staying there until call time). Warm-ups and inspections take place prior to boarding the buses for the games.

The buses leave the stadium as soon as possible after each game. Students need to have rides or a parent waiting. If you need to pick up your non-driving band member, you may use the Student Parking Lot (off Pleasantview), the Raider Bowl Parking Lot, or the Circle Drive (See “Pickup and Dropoff Locations”)



Golf Tournament

The golf tournament, which began in 2011, is another of our major fundraisers. The event is held on a Saturday at Texas Star in Euless.

Families can assist by recruiting sponsors, recruiting players, donating items for auctioning, and volunteering time on the day of the tournament. Students will receive credit in their individual fee accounts for sponsors and players they recruit for the tournament. It takes participation from all to make the event a success!

Graduation

One of the last performances we participate in every year is Graduation. Sophomores and juniors will be expected to perform for this ceremony. It is the L.D. Bell Band Department's responsibility to provide musical service for not only our graduating seniors, but also our school and community. Transportation will be provided. It is not necessary for parents to attend unless they desire.

HEB Marching Contest

We host our very own marching contest at Pennington Field! We are responsible for hiring judges and providing dozens of volunteers for many duties throughout the day. We need the help of every parent available at this crucial event. This contest raises funds for band operations. We hope to continue to attract many area high school bands to compete. Both the LD Bell and Trinity High School Marching bands perform in "exhibition" to entertain the attending bands - not for a score. This contest is based on operational systems used by BOA (described above) and UIL (described below).

HEB Drumline Contest

We also host our very own drumline contest, also at Pennington Field! We are similarly responsible for hiring clinicians and judges, and providing dozens of volunteers for many duties throughout the day. We like to ask for the support of percussion band parents as well as any other band parents who would just like to support our percussion section! This contest raises funds for percussion and band operations. We hope to continue to attract many area high school drumlines to compete. Both the L.D. Bell and Trinity High School drumlines perform in exhibition at this contest – not for a score. This contest is based on a clinic format where each drumline receives immediate feedback following their performance from our panel of clinicians. Each group is also ranked against other groups in their division and trophies are awarded at the end of the night.

Instrument Insurance

It is highly recommended that all personal instruments have proper insurance coverage. The Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District and L.D. Bell High School are not responsible for any damage, theft, or loss of student property. We stress the importance of every instrument going home daily, as the school district is not responsible for instruments left at school overnight. Some homeowner's policies may provide coverage of musical instruments in the case of accidental damage, fire, theft, etc. There are also some insurance companies that deal only with musical instrument insurance. To properly identify your instrument, keep your instrument's serial number and brand name, and model name on file. Please make sure your case also has a nametag.



Instrument Storage Room

All students will be provided with an instrument/equipment storage locker. Students are **strongly encouraged** to provide a lock for their locker. Instrument storage lockers are for band equipment only (instrument, binder, marching season-specific equipment). Instruments must be secured in cases inside the lockers. Uniforms are NEVER to be stored inside the locker or the instrument storage room. When uniforms are needed at school, hanging racks will be provided for this purpose.

Jazz Showcase

During the Winter Trimester, students have the opportunity to participate in Jazz Band. This class is open to any instrumentalist regardless of ability level. Students learn about jazz style, jazz music, and improvisation. The culmination of this experience is the annual Jazz Showcase concert, typically presented around the beginning of February. Typically these concerts also feature nationally recognized guest artists!

June Camp

This short three-day camp is designed to introduce basic marching skills, music fundamentals, and to establish the systems that help us to be successful throughout the year. In addition, students will learn the basic techniques used for the marching audition held during Summer Band Cap. Typically, this camp is held the week after school dismisses for the summer.

Leadership Opportunities

Students are provided opportunities throughout the school year to be a part of the student leadership team. In May, we have a formal leadership selection process for SLT's (Student Leadership Team) and Drum Majors. In addition, there may be additional opportunities for students to be placed in leadership positions, which are based on the overall need of the program.

Letter Jackets

Students can letter in Band by fulfilling all of the following criteria. This criteria has been set by HEB ISD:

1. The student must participate for three trimesters or one full year as a member of the marching band and concert band program or marching band and off-season guard program and been determined that he/she demonstrated proper participation, attendance, and preparation for performances as required by the high school band staff.
2. The student has participated with the assigned performance ensembles in all rehearsals, sectionals, UIL competitions, and other marching or concert events and festivals either as an instrumentalist, color guard or auxiliary member, or designated student leader such as drum major unless excused by the high school band staff.
3. Letter jackets will be ordered at the beginning of the 2nd year that the student is enrolled in high school band.



4. Students receiving letter jackets should indicate their intent to remain in the band program through their senior year.
 - *Students will be eligible to earn a jacket the beginning of their 2nd year of instruction provided that the above criteria have been completed.*

March-A-Thon

The March-a-thon has been one of the most successful fundraisers the band has ever undertaken. Each fall the band—and the parents—take to the streets in a daylong “parade.” The route varies each year but is generally six miles in length. During the march we stop at designated areas and perform. (We’ll even take special requests—for a fee!) The band is given rest stops and has a nice lunch break.

Each band member will be asked to solicit pledges. All money raised by the student can be turned in to cover his/her band fees. Many students have raised the entire cost of their band fees by using this fundraiser.

Many parents are needed to make this fundraiser successful. Some of the jobs include making and serving hot dogs or sandwiches, having water and snacks available at each rest stop and walking behind the band with our donation buckets.

Night of Drumming- Percussion Showcase Concert

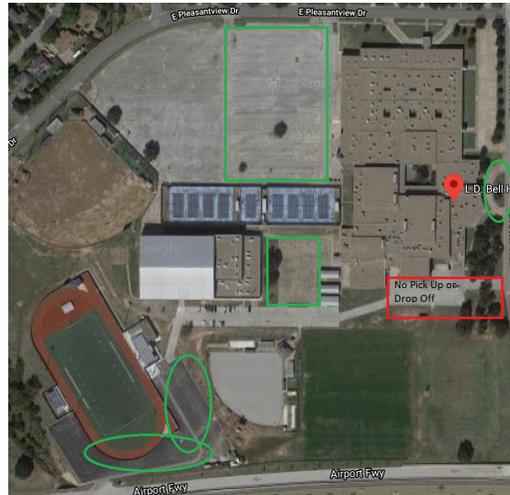
A special “Night of Drumming” is held each spring featuring percussionists from the entire L.D. Bell Cluster. This is a fun and entertaining evening where the students perform music that they have learned for Solo & Ensemble Contest and new pieces that they put together for the show. Some students write and perform their own work.

Pep Rallies

Pep rallies take place on game days during the football season. Parents are invited to attend and will be given a special seating area on the gym floor. You can call the school office for the exact start time, but plan to arrive early especially if you are videotaping. Parking is available in the student parking lot. More information is available through the front office.

Pick-up and Drop-off Locations

To maintain the safety of all students, parents and vehicles, we ask that you do not pick up students in the South parking lot at the back of the band hall after football games, rehearsals or competitions. Please pick your students up at any of the green highlighted locations. It will keep everyone safe, allow you to get out quicker, and give your students a little more cardio in their life... It’s a win-win for all! (See next page for map)



Pre-UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Concert and Assessment

This assessment/concert is open to the public and is used as a “test run” for all L.D. Bell Bands competition in the UIL C & SR contest. This assessment is usually held a few weeks before the UIL contest in March or April. We invite special guests from around the DFW area to provide comments and suggestions based on our performance. The assessment/concert mimics the process to which we will follow at the UIL Concert & Sight-reading Competition.

Private Lessons

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 from lessons. One of the greatest contributing factors to the success of the L.D. Bell Band is the active involvement of our students in the private lesson program.

The fee for lessons will be \$20 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 ldbellband.org/private-lesson-staff/.

School-Owned Instruments

Every student will be expected to either provide his/her own instrument or to check out a school-owned instrument. *HEB ISD provides school owned instruments for students playing the following instruments: Oboe, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Tenor & Baritone Saxophone, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba, and Percussion.* Students playing school-owned instruments are expected to care for them as if they were their own. Students are not allowed to play instruments that they do not own or personally have checked out. All instruments must be stored in a case when not in use.



Any damage (dents, lost attachments, accidents, etc.) other than those caused by “normal use” will be assessed to the student. Students and their parents assume the responsibility for keeping it safe. Any signs of abuse, dents (accidental or otherwise), etc. will be the financial responsibility of the student/parent. For example, repairs stemming from: a lack of oiling or greasing or from the effects of leaving an instrument in a car for an extended period of time will not be paid for by L.D. Bell Band or HEB ISD.

Social Media Safety and Digital Etiquette

There are many social media outlets to keep us constantly informed of events, happenings and celebrations. In addition to the many positives associated with social media, there are also some aspects that we must all be aware of. First and foremost, you must assume that anything that is posted online is public and permanent. Not only can this affect you personally, it can also tarnish the reputation of organizations that you associate with. Please refrain from participating in any online conversations that can be considered negative, derogatory or inflammatory. All HEB ISD rules and regulations will be followed and strictly adhered to concerning negative social media contributions.

Before you post, THINK (Is it TTrue? Is it Helpful? Is it Inspiring? Is it Necessary? Is it Kind?)

Spirit Wear

Each year, the L.D. Bell Band Boosters offer a selection of Blue Raider Band spiritwear to our students, parents and fans of the program. We have many different shirts, sweatshirts, caps, etc. available throughout the fall season. You will have opportunities to view the products for sale at band parent meetings, Pizza Feast and at some football games. It is a great way to show your support for the band and all proceeds support the L.D. Bell Band Boosters.

Spring Auditions

At the end of each school year, all returning high school students and incoming 10th grade students are required to audition for placement in one of our concert bands. Audition components include scales, a couple of short etudes, and sight-reading. Materials for these auditions are distributed a few weeks in advance of the audition date, and audition results are generally posted in late May.

Summer Band Camp

The last full week of July going into the first weeks of August begins our busy marching season. Due to the 8-hour rule which begins for us after Labor Day, it is essential that we learn as much of the marching show as possible during Summer Band Camp. Each day of rehearsal is equivalent to one week of rehearsals during the school year, so please make every effort to be at every rehearsal. A typical rehearsal schedule involves meeting 8+ hour days for most of the week. Please plan vacations and other events accordingly.

Comfortable tennis shoes, light colored clothes, and a cap are the best type of attire. It also will be helpful to have a water jug, sunscreen, and sunglasses.

Some of the things happening during this camp include:

- Audition for primary and challenger spots



- Learn over half of the music and drill for the competition show
- Learn stand tunes for football games and pep rallies
- Take full band photo used for the yearbook and all advertising of the Blue Raider Band
- Host Band Registration Event where parents can fill out required paperwork, size for uniforms, pay band fees, purchase spirit wear, etc.
- Develop long-lasting comraderies essential for the overall health and function of the organization

Supplies

Students are expected to have their supplies at all times during rehearsals, sectionals and class periods. Supply sheets will be provided to all students during the beginning of the school year. The L.D. Bell Band Supply List can be found [HERE](#).

Testing Dates (SAT / ACT)

Please follow the Blue Raider Band calendar while planning for SAT & ACT testing dates. There are usually some conflicts that occur with performances and competitions that can be avoided with proper planning. All conflicting test dates are notated on the Band Calendar.

UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest

During the spring semester, all concert bands will focus on preparing several pieces of music to be performed later in the semester. Essentially the “final exam” for concert bands in the state of Texas, the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest is our end-of-year assessment during which we perform for a set of judges and receive ratings. Similarly, to the other UIL events we participate in, these ratings are on a scale from 1 to 5 with a division 1 being defined as “superior.” Receiving a first division from all three concert judges and all three sight-reading judges is commonly referred to as “sweepstakes.” This contest requires us to be excused from half of a school day, as it takes place off campus and is normally hosted at a nearby high school. Preparing for this contest requires a series of weekly before-and-after-school rehearsals known as “sectionals” that take place in the spring semester, during which we address specific section needs within the ensemble.

UIL Region, Area and State Marching Contest

Every year, marching bands will perform at the UIL Region level and receive an overall rating. In even years, schools classified in classes 2A, 4A, and 6A have the opportunity to advance to the Area Marching Contest if they received a division “1” rating at the Region level. The Area level combines local regions together in a prelims / finals format with the top groups in finals advancing to the State level. Area will advance one band for every five bands in the contest. Those top groups will advance to the UIL State Marching Contest, which is also a prelims / finals format. In odd numbered years, only 1A, 3A, and 5A schools will have the opportunity to advance to the Area and State levels. The L.D. Bell Band is classified as a 6A high school.



Uniforms (Marching Band)

Individual Member Presentation

As members of the L.D. Bell Band, individuals are regarded as representatives of the entire band program and school district. When carrying the instrument or wearing identifiable L.D. Bell Band attire, members are responsible ambassadors for the organization, both past and present.

Audience spectators, competing organizations, and community members will form opinions based on the individual uniformity and collective presentation of the L.D. Bell Band. The visual image of the band as a whole makes a huge impression on others!

Uniforms should be worn properly and in their entirety in public, including traveling to or from a performance. No individual physical aspect should draw the attention away from the ensemble. 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 unless instructed by a Band Director..

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 formal marching or concert uniforms. A member should never sit on the ground in uniform, lean against walls, buses or cars, etc. 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 L.D. Bell Band, particularly in situations preceding and following performances (exiting the buses for games and competitions, watching other groups perform, awaiting scores or placements at a contest, etc.).

Uniform Care and Storage

The uniform must be kept meticulously clean, and it should appear newly pressed at all times. *Instructions regarding the cleaning of the uniform will be provided at uniform distribution and are available on the band website, www.ldbellband.org*

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 buses. 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.



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 sleeves should be at the wrist bone when the horn is in playing position (directors will determine the need for alteration for sleeves – the pants 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.

Additional Uniform Guidelines

- Black or navy athletic/wind shorts must be worn under the uniform. These will also allow students to change modestly in public situations (be prepared to change with no dressing rooms).
- The official dry-wick shirt (provided to every new member and available for purchase from Spirit Wear) is always to be worn under the jacket. Inclement weather may call for alternate plans; these instructions will be given by a director.
- Only LONG black dress socks may be worn.
- Shoes must be perfectly clean and polished and laced properly.
- 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. Hair must be of a natural color.
- 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 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.

Uniforms (Concert Band)

Concert tuxedos and dresses will be fitted during classes around January. Only silver / gold / black / white small accessories can be worn only with the concert uniform. Headbands (if worn) must be a neutral color.

School Provided (male): Tux Jacket / Tux Pants Long Black Dress

Student Provided (male): white undershirt / Tux shirt/ Black bowtie/ long black dress socks/ black dress shoes



School Provided (female): Formal concert black blouse and trousers

Student Provided (female): sheer or black hose (if worn) / black close-toed dress shoes (flat or comfortable heel height)

Concert Uniform Return: All items must be dry-cleaned prior to return at the end of the school year in plastic packaging with the receipt attached OR returned with \$5 to cover the cost of cleaning. Students must return concert uniforms at designated uniform turn-in times.