



**HANDBOOK**  
**2022-2023**

# **Razorback Band Handbook**

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## HMS Band Faculty

Mr. David Sells is the Director of Bands for the Hogg Band Program. Mr. Sells teaches the following band classes

- Symphonic Band
- Concert Band
- Beginning Woodwind/Brass/Percussion Classes
- Jazz Band

How to Contact Mr. Sells

It is Mr. Sells's goal to return every message within 24 hours. You are encouraged to contact Mr. Sells in the following ways:

**e-mail:**            [dsells@houstonisd.org](mailto:dsells@houstonisd.org)

**written note:** Please include a phone number where you may be reached, a brief explanation of your need or concern and the best time to call. You may also include your e-mail address.

**Phone:**            713-802-4700, This is the school's number. They will take your message and relay it to the Band Hall before the school day is over.

**Website:**        Many questions such as event date and times, what to wear, and general information are answered on the Band's website.

**[www.hms-razorbackband.com](http://www.hms-razorbackband.com)**

## Schedule of Classes

### Red Day Time Class

HR-	8:30-9:05	
R1-	9:10-10:20	Office
R2-	10:25-11:35	Beginning
R3-	12:20-1:30	Beginning
R4-	1:35-2:45	Concert
R5-	2:50-4:00	Beginning

### White Day Time Class

HR-	8:30-9:05	
W1-	9:10-10:20	Office
W2-	10:25-11:35	Symphonic
W3-	12:20-1:30	Beginning
W4-	1:35-2:45	Beginning
W5-	2:50-4:00	Beginning

## Sectional Schedule

All Symphonic Band members are required to attend weekly practice for one hour after school (4:10-5:10). Sectional times will be focused on certain instrument groups on specific days. It will be during sectionals that playing tests will be administered and more individualized help will be given. If a member is not able to attend a sectional due to a school conflict (game/tutorials) you must reschedule for another day **during that same week**. It is important that students make every effort to participate on a regular basis. Failure to attend sectionals will affect chair placements and grade. Repeated unexcused absences may result in reassignment to another band.

**Parents, please do not schedule appointments during your students sectional time. The Hogg coaches and other academic teachers will help solve problems with scheduling, but you must communicate conflicts as early as possible.**

## After School Sectional Days

### Day

<b>Monday</b>	Jazz Band
<b>Tuesday</b>	Reeds
<b>Wednesday</b>	Brass
<b>Thursday</b>	Flutes
<b>Friday</b>	Percussion

# **Razorback Band Calendar of Events**

Detailed information about each event can be found on the website [www.hms-razorbackband.com](http://www.hms-razorbackband.com) - Dates are subject to change.

## **OCTOBER**

- 08- Band Social – Cidercade: **All Bands**
- TBA- All-City Auditions

## **NOVEMBER**

- 4/5- All-Region Auditions

## **DECEMBER**

- 2/3- Region Band Clinic and Concert
- 09- Band Lock-In: **Concert/Symphonic Band**
- 14- Winter Concert: **Beginning Band**
- 20- Winter Concert: **Concert/Symphonic/Jazz Band**

## **FEBRUARY**

- 11- Band Social – Delmar Lanes: **All Bands**

## **MARCH**

- TBA- HISD Festival: **Beginning Band**
- TBA- HISD Festival: **Symphonic Band**
- TBA- HISD Festival: **Concert Band**
- 29- UIL Contest Day 1: **Symphonic Band**
- 30- UIL Contest Day 2: **Symphonic Band**

## **APRIL**

- TBA- HISD Jazz Festival: **Jazz Band**

## **MAY**

- 06- Spring Trip: **Concert/Symphonic/Jazz Band**
- TBA- Beginning Band Festival: **Beginning Band**
- 16- Spring Concert: **Beginning Band**
- 18- Spring Concert: **Concert/Symphonic/Jazz Band**

## **Events Defined and Band Placement/Requirements**

### **Clinic**

A clinic is a band rehearsal held outside of normal school hours. Clinics are usually held in conjunction with the Symphonic and Concert band's preparations to perform in the various contests and festivals they attend during the school semester. A well-known, highly respected band director will be brought in to work with the band during a clinic rehearsal. This allows us to expose our students to some of the top people in the field of music education. Clinics are a very important part of our contest preparations and growth of each individual student. **Clinic attendance is required of all Symphonic and Concert band students.**

### **Concert**

A Concert is a non-competitive performance given as part of our curriculum. There is no admission charge and student family members and friends are encouraged to attend. The Beginning and Concert Bands will give at least two concerts per year while the Symphonic Band will give four concerts. Concerts are a state mandated part of our curriculum and attendance is required of all students in participating groups. Concert etiquette is also part of the curriculum. For that reason, all band members are expected to remain in the audience for the performance of all bands during the Winter and Spring concerts.

### **Contest/Festival**

A Contest is a competitive performance. The Beginning Band will participate in one Contest while the Symphonic and Concert Bands will participate in three.

- HISD Festival: Symphonic and Concert Band
- Beginning Band Festival: Beginning Band
- UIL Concert and Sight-reading: Symphonic Band
- HISD Solo and Ensemble: Symphonic and Concert Band
- South Texas Music Festival: Symphonic and Concert Band

### **Band Requirements for Spring Trip**

#### **Concert Band**

- Winter Concert
- HISD Festival
- Spring Concert
- Grade Eligibility
- Conduct Eligibility

#### **Symphonic Band**

- One sectional rehearsal per week
- Winter Concert
- HISD Festival
- UIL Contest
- Spring Concert
- Grade Eligibility
- Conduct Eligibility

# Course Objectives

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

### To develop...

- Self and group-discipline through the preparation and practice of individual parts.
- Leadership skills, responsibility, diligence and an ability to cooperate with others as a team member.
- Strength, stamina, endurance and coordination
- An ability to make musical value judgements through critical listening. The student shall be provided opportunities to recognize quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics and articulation.
- Skills in using and understanding note values, rests, key signatures, scales, musical terms, signs and symbols.
- The ability to recognize and tune intervals, unisons, harmony and training of the ear.
- Proper instrumental technique, care of instrument, correct posture and playing position, embouchure, good tone, correct breathing, technical proficiency and rhythmic skill.
- Music reading skills and hand-eye coordination.
- Musical sensitivity through performance and listening. The student shall be provided opportunities to internalize generally accepted, authentic performance styles and techniques in music played and heard.
- Creative self-expression in every performance experience.

### To interpret...

- Sound, musical symbols and terms from the printed page.

### To evaluate...

- The quality of musical performance. The student shall be provided opportunities to evaluate progress toward self-established musical goals, evaluate solo and group rehearsals and performances and recognize quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics and articulation.

# **Grading Procedures**

A student's grade in band is a balanced reflection of musical achievement, technical skill on an instrument, participation in band activities, and effort both within class and at home. The grade is made up of three different factors: Assessments, Class Work and Practice Charts.

## **1. Rehearsal Grade (Class Work) 50%**

Each week you will receive a rehearsal grade that is based on the following:

1. You are prepared for the day.
2. You have your instrument and all materials
3. You are in class and are performing or engaged in critical listening skills.

## **2. Tests/Quizzes (Summative/Formative Assessments) 40%**

Playing Tests and Concerts will consist of students playing music on their respective instruments for grades. These are done to chart your musical progress on the instrument. There will be at least 1 major playing test and 2-3 quizzes a cycle.

## **3. Practice Charts (Homework) 10%**

Practicing is the most important thing you can do to improve your musicianship. Through practice, you will gain confidence, learn the importance of self-discipline, and eliminate weaknesses in your playing. Practicing is a necessary part in the development of our Band.

# Attendance Policy and Academic Eligibility

## Attendance Policy

Any activity which is included in the course objectives is considered curricular. Sectionals and performances are part of the course requirements and are, therefore, graded activities.

Unlike other core classes, it is not possible to make-up most of the activities which occur throughout the year. Attendance at all rehearsals, clinics and performances are mandatory. All absences must be approved in advanced by Mr. Sells. **Advanced notice includes at least three school days for clinics and two weeks for performances.** Unexcused absences will have an adverse effect on the student's grade. If you must miss an activity due to an unavoidable conflict or family emergency, a written request by parent or guardian will be needed. Please submit the request in a timely manner. Requests will be reviewed and excused at Mr. Sells's discretion. Unexcused absences may result in the reassignment to a different part or role in the rehearsal or performance.

## Excused Absences

- Major illness in family home
- Hospitalization of student or immediate family
- Home disasters (car crash, loss of home, etc.)
- Death in family or funeral

## **Disciplinary Consequences**

1. Redirection
2. Conversation
3. Reflection Pass
4. Lunch Detention
5. Parent Contact
6. After School Detention
7. Healing Circle
8. Parent Meeting
9. Office Referral
10. Behavior Tracker
11. Suspension (ISS/OSS)
12. Behavior Contract

## **Band Hall Procedures**

### **Band Office**

Although the band office is meant for business it is not off-limits to students. Students may use the band office for practice if they have permission from Mr. Sells.

### **Before-After School Policies/Instrument Storage**

Students arriving at school who are not practicing must store their instruments and go directly to their grade level morning area.

To avoid congestion, students are not allowed in the Band Hall at any time unless they are practicing in Mr. Sells's office or attending a sectional rehearsal. Every effort should be made to not disturb the rehearsals going on in each of the band rooms when dropping off or picking up instruments.

### **Instrument Rental Policy**

It is recommended that students rent-to-own an instrument from a music store. Music stores offer insurance from damage, loss, theft and store instruments are in new or like-new condition. The music stores in our area include:

Fort Bend Music:

281-580-8000

4010 Richmond Ave, Houston, TX 77027

Music and Arts:

281-540-7260

234 FM 1960 Bypass Rd E, Humble, TX 77338

Hogg Band also has instruments available to rent from the school. All school instruments are in playing condition but are not new. If you choose to rent from the school, there is no rental fee, but the student is responsible for any repairs needed or loss of the instrument. If damage occurs that would cost more than the instrument is worth, the student will need to pay an equivalent amount.

## **Trip and Event Etiquette**

### **Razorback Band Image**

It is very important to maintain a positive image at all times as you not only represent the band, but the faculty and student body of Hogg Middle School as well. As representatives of our school and community, always strive to be ladies and gentlemen. **You will never get a second chance to make a first impression!**

While wearing the concert uniform in public, students must remain **completely** in uniform: Shirt tucked in and buttoned. For Solo and Ensemble events, students must dress appropriately – slacks and dress shirt for boys; dresses, skirts or nice slacks for girls – **NO JEANS OR SHORTS!**

### **Concert Dress**

When the band performs in public, all students must wear the following:

#### **Gentlemen**

White Collared Shirt  
Black Slacks  
Black Socks  
Black Shoes/Boots

#### **Ladies**

You may wear what the boys wear, or...  
Solid Black Dress  
White Blouse with a Black Skirt  
Black Flats/Heels/Boots

### **Bus Procedures and Behavior**

1. Students may only ride on their assigned bus. Roll will be taken by either Mr. Sells or a parent sponsor before each departure and will not leave until every student is accounted for.
2. Each bus will have a Band Director or parent sponsor. The sponsor is to be obeyed without question and treated with respect, as is the bus driver.
3. Failure to obey instructions given by the band director, bus driver or parent sponsor will be considered a major disciplinary offense and may result in referral to a principal and/or exclusion from future band activities.
4. Always stay in your seats.
5. Keep the bus clean. (All buses will be cleaned by students upon return to Hogg – pick up your trash!
6. No food, gum or drink on the bus unless you have permission from Mr. Sells.
7. Keep language clean and refrain from loud and obnoxious behavior throughout the trip.
8. When the bus reaches its destination, remain seated and wait for instructions from Mr. Sells.

## Razorback Band Parent Volunteers

Parents play a very important role in the success of the middle school band program. Those parents that assist and support the school's program develop a closer relationship with their children, meet and work with other supporting parents and share in the experience of a quality band program.

Parents may choose to help in a variety of ways. I want to encourage all parents to become involved with the band program by being available to assist with various activities. It will be rewarding for you and your child.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with your child's band experience and would like to meet other band parents, we encourage you to become a Razorback Band Volunteer. Please complete and return the following Volunteer form. You will be contacted throughout the year as needs arise.

Volunteer's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I would be willing to help with the following band activities:

- Chaperone contests, festivals, lock-ins or trips (must be VIPs approved)
- Haul Equipment (must have truck or van)
- Supervise Students at the Winter/Spring Concert (must be VIPs approved)

I have received the 2022-2023 Razorback Band Handbook. I have read and understand the policies and requirements outlined. I will do my best to uphold the standards and principles of the Razorback Band and fulfill my commitment to the organization of which I am a part.

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Student's Name (printed)

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Student's Signature

I have read and understand the Razorback Band policies and guidelines outlined in this Handbook. I understand the requirements and needs for my child's participation in band activities and acknowledge that the events in the calendar are required as part of the graded curriculum for this course.

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Parent's Signature

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Date