
2025-2026



STUDENT HANDBOOK AND BY-LAWS

FARMERSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BAND

Farmersville High School
499 State Highway 78 North
Farmersville, Texas
75442

The Farmersville HS Band

Student Handbook and By-Laws

2025 - 2026

Article I - Purpose

- Section 1 The Farmersville HS Band is a body of instrumental musicians within the educational bounds of Farmersville High School; its purpose is to further the musical education of its members.
- Section 2 The Farmersville HS Band and its various entities (Jazz Ensemble, Colorguard, solo and ensemble members, etc.) shall provide musical entertainment in its various forms for the Farmersville Independent School District, for the city of Farmersville, and for civic or church organizations as a means of serving the educational needs of the musicians within its membership.
- Section 3 The Farmersville HS Band and its membership shall help promote school spirit for school athletic functions; they shall help promote pride for various school activities such as concerts and graduation; and they shall help promote civic and community pride for the city of Farmersville.

Article II - Membership

- Section 1 Membership in the Farmersville HS Band is open to students in Farmersville High School given director approval.
- Section 2 The tryout material for membership in the band may include but may not be limited to the following:
- Wind players: The memorization and performance of four major scales (Bb, Eb, F, Ab). Octave considerations will be commensurate for the range of each instrument.
 - Wind players: The memorization and performance of a one octave chromatic scale appropriate to the instrument.
 - Percussionists: Performance of the following rudiments: 5 stroke roll, 7 stroke roll, 9 stroke roll, flam, and paradiddle.
 - Percussionists: Performance of three major scales (two octave minimum) and a two octave chromatic scale on a mallet instrument.
 - Colorguard: Acceptance by audition.
- Section 3 Active membership in the Farmersville HS Band will be continuous unless removal from band has been determined by other factors. (See Article V and Article VI).
- Section 4 Any student wishing to participate in marching band must be enrolled in the course.

- Section 5 In the event of two performing concert bands, the following factors will apply to determine placement in either band:
- Attendance at all previously required activities.
 - Eligibility for the previous grading periods
 - Any outstanding past discipline issues
 - Musical audition
- Section 6 Any student who drops band second semester WILL NOT be allowed to participate in marching band the following year. The only exceptions to this will be a student enrolled in marching band as “Colorguard only”(does not have any previous experience playing an instrument), an unavoidable schedule conflict, or director discretion.
- Section 7 Any student enrolled in band first semester will also be expected to be enrolled in band OR Colorguard class the second semester, unless permission is given in advance by head director. No student will be allowed to drop band second semester unless verbal consent is agreed upon from a parent/guardian with Mr. Cross.

Article III - Scholastic Eligibility

- Section 1 UIL rules and regulations shall be followed and enforced for eligibility and participation in the various activities involving the Farmersville HS Band and the missing of class during the regular school day. These do not always involve UIL sanctioned events.
- Section 2 Failure to maintain an “eligible” status causes a scholastic detriment for the student and results in problems for the band as an organization; therefore, continued ineligibility according to the state’s “no pass, no play” rule may result in removal from the band program.
- Section 3 Removal from band due to continued failing of class subjects will be considered when:
- The student fails the same class three times consecutively;
 - The student fails two or more classes in the same grading period;
 - The student fails two consecutive six weeks grading periods, but different subjects, and upon checking with both teachers, the student’s problem stems from lack of effort or lack of turning in homework materials.
- Section 4 Members are expected to participate in all performances and/or competitions except when scholastic eligibility (no pass/no play) prevents their attendance. Exceptions for personal or family illnesses/emergencies will be considered as necessary.
- Section 5 If a student is academically ineligible per UIL guidelines, that student will NOT be allowed to participate/perform in any band activity outside of the

school day including: games, contests, concerts, parades, evening pep rallies, etc. Performances that take place in district during the school day are allowed.

- Section 6 All playing grades are based on a “pass-off” system. A successful pass-off will result in the grade of a 100 for that assignment; an attempted pass-off will result in a lower grade no greater than a 90(or below). Any required music which has not been attempted for pass-off will result in a failing grade for that assignment. Pass-offs may be done in person for a director, or recorded and submitted to the director electronically. Examples of electronic submission of a pass-off include but are not limited to: posting in Google Class, email, flash drive, dropbox, text, youtube link.

Article IV - Uniforms and Appearance

- Section 1 Marching performance uniforms and marching hats are provided by the Farmersville Independent School District; black band shoes and black socks will be provided by the student.
- Section 2 Spring Contest performance uniforms will be provided by the district, with the exception of footwear. Students will be expected to provide proper black footwear (shoes and socks, when applicable). Concert polos provided by FISD may be worn at director’s discretion.
- Section 3 Uniforms will be issued prior to the beginning of school and the band’s marching season and will be the responsibility of the student to abide by the following rules:
- Return the uniform for cleanings at the times required by the director.
 - The costs of uniform cleanings will be the responsibility of the FISD, however, excessive wear or abuse of the uniform will be the responsibility of the student and parents.
 - Uniforms are NOT to be taken home at any time unless prior approval has been granted by a director.
- Section 4 The student will be responsible for returning the uniform in good shape at the conclusion of every performance. Uniforms will be checked in, and students will not leave unless the uniform has been deemed acceptable by the designated student uniform leader.
- Section 5 The uniform will be worn at all times during the following performances of the Farmer Pride Band unless directed otherwise by the director: football games and halftime shows, parades, contest performances requiring uniforms; failure to do so is cause for removal from band.
- Section 6 Band t-shirts.
- A regularly used part of the band uniform will be a band t-shirts. At least two band t-shirts will be used during the school year.

- All members of the Farmersville HS Band will be required to purchase both band t-shirts.
- A designated band t-shirt will be worn at Friday pep rallies and under the band uniform, and at any other time deemed necessary by the director.
- Practice shirts-required at practices per demerit policy.

Section 7 General appearance.

- For practices and rehearsals, whether during regular school hours or during after school hours, the school dress code of the Farmersville ISD will be in effect and enforced.
- Visible jewelry will not be permitted during any marching performances.
- Students must wear their hair inside their hat during all marching performances.
- During performances, the appearance of the Farmersville HS Band will be the rule; nothing may be worn that will detract from the student's appearance as a member of the band, including caps, hats, jackets, etc.
- During extended trips, we will follow the dress code of the Farmersville Independent School District.

Section 8 Exceptions to the above outlined rules may be made to accommodate certain school groups such as varsity football players performing in a halftime show, cheerleaders or drill team members, etc. and will be made on an as needed basis.

Article V - Attendance Responsibilities

- Section 1 Members of the Farmersville HS Band shall be in attendance for all practices and rehearsals during our regularly scheduled band period. (See Article V, Section 5-6)
- Section 2 Members of the Farmersville HS Band shall be attendance for all practices and rehearsals needed outside the regular school day. (See Article V, Section 5-6) These shall include but not be limited to the following:
- Summer band practices during July and August.
 - Monday/Tuesday practices during the school year
- Section 3 Members of the Farmersville HS Band shall be in attendance and perform for all regularly scheduled halftime performances during football season; all members are expected to attend any post season performances that may occur due to football playoffs. (See Article V, Section 5-6)
- Section 4 Members of the Farmersville HS Band shall be in attendance and perform for all regularly scheduled pep rally performances that occur during the school day; all members are expected to make every effort to be in

attendance at extra pep rally performances such as night pep rallies. (See Article V, Section 5-6)

- Section 5 Members of the Farmersville HS Band shall be in attendance for all contests, concerts, and competitions.
- Section 6 Please see demerit policy in this document for attendance policy.
- Section 7 Consequences for not adhering to the above policy may be cause for
- A reduction in grade;
 - Removal from a performance;
 - Loss of privileges to attend an out of town trip;
 - Removal from membership in the Farmersville HS Band.
 - The loss of a spot in the marching show.
 - Marching make-up work.
 - Placement into Concert Band
 - Denial from participating in Winter Drumline
 - Denial from participating in Winterguard
- Section 8 All students should be picked up from the school after every practice/trip in a timely manner.
- After all evening practices, students should be picked up no later than 30 minutes following the scheduled conclusion of practice.
 - After all home football games, all students should have transportation available no later than 10:30pm.
 - After all out of town games/contests/functions, students should be picked up no later than 30 minutes after returning to Farmersville High School. In addition to being given an estimated return time for each trip, every student is expected to arrange for transportation PRIOR to arrival at FHS. If a student does not possess a phone to arrange for transportation, they may use a director's phone, or a school phone.

Article VI – Conduct Responsibilities

- Section 1 It is the responsibility of the members of the Farmersville HS Band to conduct themselves in a manner that brings honor and pride upon the band, Farmersville High School, the city of Farmersville, and themselves.
- Section 2 It is the responsibility of the members to promote good sportsmanship and citizenship through cooperation with other members of the band and with the director(s). (See Article VI, Section 5)
- Section 3 It is considered the responsibility of the members to maintain passing grades in all subjects, and to conduct themselves accordingly with all teachers in Farmersville High School; failure of a subject will come under the school and state of Texas “no pass, no play” rules.

- Section 4 It is the responsibility of the student to conduct themselves according to all school regulations; placement into the school's In School Suspension Program (ISS) is simply unacceptable; after two school suspensions (ISS or School Suspension), students will be evaluated for possible removal from membership in the band.
- Section 5 It is the responsibility of the student to conduct themselves in a way that will help the progress of the Farmer Pride Band; this includes cooperation with:
- All other members of the Farmersville HS Band;
 - All student leaders of the band, such as Drum Major(s) and officers;
 - The band director(s) and colorguard instructor;
 - Any parents or chaperones.
- Section 6 It is the responsibility of all members to abide by rules governing our school and its functions both during the school day and outside the school day; participation *at any time* which includes the following will provide just cause for removal from the Farmersville HS Band, disciplinary consequences, as well as possible suspension from any and all extracurricular activities:
- Continuous use of improper or foul language;
 - Participation in illegal activities such as theft or vandalism;
 - Use of any form of tobacco products;
 - Use of alcohol;
 - Use of illegal drugs.
 - Inappropriate contact of a sexual nature with another student.
- Section 7 Failure to exhibit proper conduct as a member of the Farmer Pride Band may result in
- removal from out of school activities;
 - loss of privileges to attend out of town trips;
 - removal from the band program.
- Section 8 In the event of an overnight trip at a hotel, the following rules shall be in place:
1. Students may only enter assigned rooms
 2. No unassigned student may be invited or brought into a student room, for any reason.
 3. Students are not permitted to leave assigned room unaccompanied, or with another student, after curfew.
 4. Students are not permitted to use hotel phone, except in the event of an extreme emergency.
 5. Students are not allowed to order room service, or have any deliveries(food or otherwise) sent directly to their room.
 6. Students are not permitted to leave the hotel, unless with another director or director appointed chaperone.
- Failure to follow these regulations may result in
- *Loss of privileges to attend out of town trips, or removal from the band program.*

Article VIII-Letter Jackets

- Section 1 Letter Jackets will be awarded on a point system. A band student will receive a letter jacket when 100 points has been earned, or at the end of their fifth semester enrolled in the program.
- Section 2 Points will be awarded as follows:
- Participation in UIL Marching Competition:25 points
 - Participation in UIL Concert & Sightreading Competition:25 points
 - Participation in a season of Winterguard:25 points
 - Participation in a season of Winter Drumline:25
 - Audition for All-Region Band:15 points
 - Earn a spot in the All-Region Band: 25 points
 - Participate in UIL Solo & Ensemble:15 points
 - Earn a 1st Division rating at UIL Solo & Ensemble:20 points (1 event per year)
 - Audition for Area Band:30 points
 - Earn a spot in the All-State Band:50 points
- Section 3 Letter Jackets are awarded through the school twice a year, at the end of each semester.

Article IX-Drug Testing

- Section 1 Band is an extracurricular activity. All band students will be subject to the extracurricular activities random drug testing policy of FISD. **All ISD rules and regulations pertaining to drug testing will be enforced.** Please refer to the student handbook for policy information.

Article X-End of Year Trips

- Section 1 Each year the decision will be made by the director if/when a band trip is taken. All director decisions will be approved by the FHS Administration and FISD School Board. (Trips are typically taken every other year)
- Section 2 Trips will be paid for by individual students.
- Section 3 Trips are NOT mandatory for every student. While it is the desire that every student be involved, if factors such as cost, family conflicts, etc. prevent a student from participating, the student will not be penalized in any way.
- Section 4 All students must have a passing grade in all subjects in three(3) of the first five(5) "Six Weeks Grading Periods" in order to be allowed to participate in any band trip. In other words, every student must be academically eligible per UIL guidelines on three report cards. Students must have a passing grade in band every six week grading period.

- Section 5 In the event that a trip is taken after the completion of a full school year (in the summer), graduated seniors must sign an agreement stating that should he or she violate a trip rule, that student will be sent home immediately at the student and/or parent's expense. All other students will be under FISD guidelines, a violation of which will result in disciplinary action the following school year including, but not limited to: ISS, AEP, removal from the band program.
- Section 6 Unless you are specified as "Colorguard Only", you must be enrolled in band the entire year in order to participate on the end of year trip. "Colorguard Only" are those students who only joined band in order to participate in guard, and do not have any playing experience. Those students may only be enrolled in band during the first semester in order to participate in a trip.

Article XI-Bus Rules and Etiquette

- Section 1 A school bus is an extension of the classroom; all FISD rules will apply and be enforced any time a student is a passenger on an FISD bus.
- Section 2 The Farmersville High School Band takes pride in adhering to a very high standard of behavior. As such, a band member riding on a school bus will conduct themselves with a higher standard in mind than a typical route rider. The following rules will be enforced which include but are not limited to:
- There will be no members of the opposite gender sitting in the same seat together.
 - Trash is to be disposed of properly, not left on the floor.
 - Students will remain seated anytime the bus is in motion.
 - Students will keep all body parts inside the bus at all times.
 - Students will not throw anything out the windows.
 - Students should refrain from yelling/screaming; voices should be kept at a reasonable talking volume at all times.
 - Music played where others can hear is not allowed. If a student wishes to listen to music, earbuds/headphones must be used.
 - Inappropriate language including cursing is not permitted.
- Section 3 Any infractions of the above stated guidelines may result in disciplinary action including but not limited to:
- Having a permanently assigned seat
 - Office referral
 - Removal from the band program

Article XII-Marching Contest Etiquette

- Section 1 Members of the Farmer Pride Marching Band will conduct themselves as outstanding representatives of FISD. The following guidelines should be observed at all contests before and after our performance:
- No students are allowed to remain on the busses after our performance is complete and equipment has been loaded.
 - Students should refrain from making negative comments about any other band, it's members, or it's supporters.
 - No one should enter or exit the stands during another band's performance.
 - Talking or making any noise or distractions during another band's performance is strictly prohibited.
 - Students should not lay down while in the bleachers; there are many people that would like a seat.
 - No food, ice, or any other object should be thrown or kicked at any time.
 - Trash should be disposed of in the nearest trash can, not left in the bleachers

Article XIII-Fees and Supplies

All students are asked to donate to the band at least one case of water (please no flavored water). Soft drinks/water will be used for pre-contest/game meals while water will be used at all football games and contests.

The following materials list is required of all students. With the help of sponsor donations, many of the clothing items are provided at no cost.

- Black marching shoes (\$30 new, or \$20 refundable deposit for used black marching shoes)
- 2 Band t-shirts-provided at no cost to students, replacement shirts or additional shirts are \$20 show shirt, \$10 spirit shirt
- Flip folder-\$10
- Lyre-\$5
- Marching band fee-\$75 (pre game and contest meals, snacks at all games/contest, marching band app, rain gear, etc.)
- Marching Band Gloves-provided by FISD, replacement gloves \$5 per pair
- Marching Band Shorts-student provided, ANY athletic style shorts are acceptable, within dress code
- (2) practice shirts-provided at no cost to students, replacement shirts are \$5 each

***If you already own an item and it is still usable, you will not need to purchase it again, such as shoes/lyre/flip folder. All students will be required to provide their own black socks, to be worn at every performance. Socks MUST cover the ankle with NO additional markings. Student provided athletic shorts are to be worn under the uniform at all performances. All money and drink donations should be turned in prior to the first performance. For students who already have shoes, lyre, and flip folder the total cost will be only the \$75 band fee. The marching band fee allows us to keep fundraisers to a minimum.**

All students are required to use the Band App. All group communication will be done through this app, and your communication to directors will utilize the app as well.

Demerit Policy

Farmersville High School Band

Late to rehearsal-1 demerit

Late to home game warm up circle-1 demerit

Unauthorized use of cell phone during rehearsal-1 demerit

Excessive use of foul language-1 demerit

Not in proper uniform (game or practice)-1 demerit

Demerit Balance at end of week-1 demerit

Missed Rehearsal with notification-2 demerits

Missed Rehearsal without notification-3 demerits

Missed Performance with notification-3 demerits

Missed performance without notification-5 demerits

*Mr. Cross may issue demerit(s) for any behavior as warranted, even if not listed above.

**Any student with unresolved demerits at the end of the season will not be placed in Symphonic Band.

-Any student who has any accumulated demerits will be required to earn at least 1 merit at each rehearsal day, until the demerit total is zero.

-Students will earn "merits" to wipe away any accumulated demerits.

-Merit sheets will be filled out and submitted by drum majors.

-Merits may be earned by doing the following:

One Merit:

@ Stadium Practices-2 laps around the track

@ Practice Lot-5 laps around lot

-Demerits will NOT be issued if a student misses rehearsal/performance due to a SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITY, as long as proper advance notification has been given to a director.

-All other absences/tardies must be made up regardless of reason, just as all work in academic classes must be made up regardless of reason for absence. Exceptions MAY be made for absences under extreme or emergency circumstances. The final decision on demerits issued will be made by Mr. Cross.

-proper uniform includes:

Black marching shoes

Tall black socks

No jewelry

Gloves (if applicable)

Correct length of pants

Shako

Correct practice t-shirt

Proper shorts under uniform (no jeans)

Handbook Signature Page

Please read carefully, sign, and return this complete page to the High School Band Hall. An electronic copy of the handbook is available on the FISD Band website. A paper copy of the handbook is available upon request.

Thank you.

Band Student Name (please print)

I have read carefully and agree to abide by and follow the rules as set forth in the “Farmer Pride Band Student Handbook and By-Laws 2025-2026.”

(student signature)

I (we) have read carefully and we agree to abide by and follow the rules as set forth in the “Farmer Pride Band Student Handbook and By-Laws 2025-2026.”

(parent/legal guardian signature)

Permission to Travel

The Farmersville High School Band is a performing organization in which travel is a regular part of a student’s musical and educational

experience. This permission slip will serve for most of the travel done by the Farmersville High School Band.* For all events a trip itinerary will be sent home with your student, or posted online/in BH prior to making the trip.

Travel will include but is not limited to the following:

- Friday night football games/halftime performances (includes playoff games as well as regular season games)
- Marching Contests
- Special parades that may involve other areas of our community
 - Old Time Saturday Parade
 - Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade
- All-Region tryouts and clinic/concerts
 - All-Region Jazz tryout and clinic/concert
 - All-Region Band tryouts and clinic/concert
- UIL performances
 - Marching Contest
 - Solo & Ensemble Contest
 - Concert and Sightreading Contest
- Concert performances at other campuses
 - Tatum Elementary
 - Farmersville Intermediate School

*During years when an overnight/extended band trip occurs, more information and itineraries will be sent home with additional permission slips.

I give my permission for _____ (student's name) to travel with the Farmersville High School Band during this school year.

Parent's name: _____

Parent's signature: _____

**PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMIT
And
MEDICAL RELEASE FORM**

Student Name (please print): _____

Student Date of Birth: _____

Name of School/Organization: **Farmersville High School Band**

I hereby give my consent for the above student:

- 1) to participate, compete, and perform with the Farmersville High School Band in any of its performances including University Interscholastic League events, non UIL competitions, and band trips*
- 2) to travel with the director(s) or other representatives of the school on any trips necessary for these purposes.*

If, in the judgment of any representatives of the school, the above student needs immediate care and/or treatment as a result of injury or sickness while participating with the Farmersville High School Band, I do request, authorize, and consent to such care and treatment as may be given to said student by any first responder (paramedic, etc.), physician, trainer, nurse, hospital, or school representative; and I do hereby agree to indemnify and save harmless the school and any school representative from any claim by any person whomsoever on account of such care and treatment of said student.

Print Name of parent/guardian: _____

Signature of parent/guardian: _____

Emergency contact number: _____

Date: _____

Please list any pertinent medical information below, including allergies and medications taken: