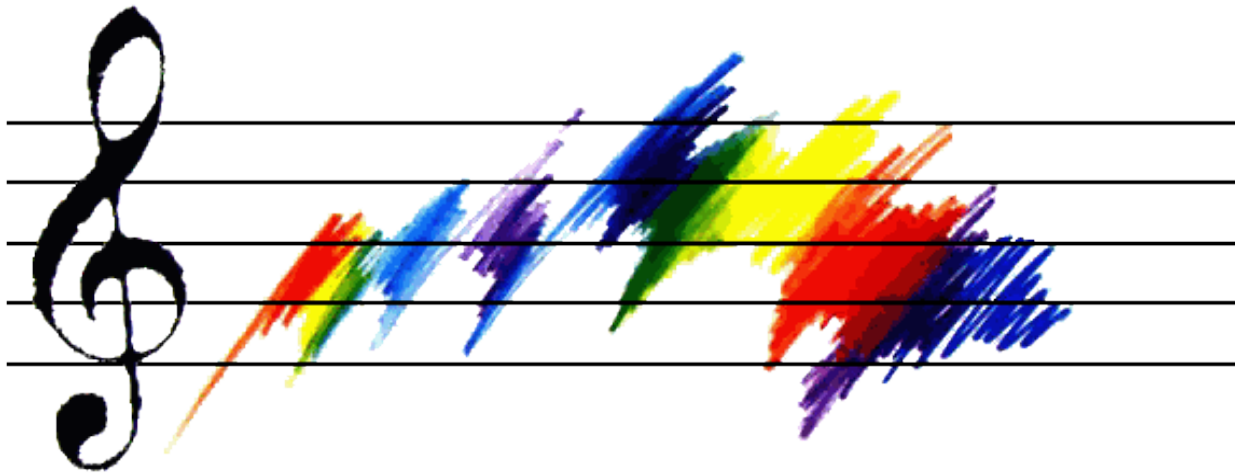


# Refugio Mighty Bobcat Band

Band Handbook

2021-2022



Band Director – Ted Buhrts

High School Principal – Brandon Duncan

Junior High Principal – Chris Hawthorne

Superintendent – Melissa Gonzales

# Refugio Mighty Bobcat Band

Mighty Bobcat Band Members,

Welcome to another exciting year of band at Refugio High School. Your membership in the band is a compliment to your talent, intelligence, and character. You will be rewarded through your experiences as an active member of the band well beyond your actual four years of High School.

There are many things that make up a band, one of which is tradition. Traditions that have value are based on one of three cornerstones:

- (1) Excellence in academic achievement,
- (2) Excellence in musical performance,
- (3) Excellence in social and leadership development.

Excellence is a product of PRIDE. Some traditions are timeless, and others wane as our society and values change. If you are proud of your traditions, they will last. As members of the Mighty Bobcat Band you have as much a right to forge new traditions of excellence as the students and directors who came before you. You also have a responsibility to maintain those positive qualities already present in your band program and to continue and firmly maintain the tradition of "Excellence" for your band. You have inherited a proud legacy, now accept the challenge to improve your organization. Practice and think excellence!

Sincerely,

Ted Buhrts  
Band Director  
Refugio ISD

# Refugio Mighty Bobcat Band

## Performing Groups

At Refugio ISD, we have three bands based on grade level.

- The Bobcat Marching Band and Wind Ensemble
  - All students in band in grades 8 thru 12 participate in both
    - You cannot participate in one but not the other
  - In the fall, the Mighty Bobcat Marching band represents the school at football games, marching contests, parades, and pep-rallies
  - In the spring, the Wind Ensemble represents the school in ATSSB region contests, UL Solo and Ensemble contest, and Concert and Sight Reading contests.
- The Bobcat Symphonic Band
  - Comprised of students in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Represents the school in ATSSB region contests and UL Concert and Sight Reading contests
  - Advanced students are invited to join the Marching Band for parades and pep-rallies.
- The Bobcat Concert Band
  - Comprised of students in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - Beginner students.
  - Performs at concerts.
  - Advanced students are invited to join the Marching Band for parades and pep-rallies.

## Concerts

Concerts (Public Performances) are a very necessary part of a music program. These are graded and count like grading period and semester exams. The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts (MS Rule 117.208, 209 and 210 and HS Rule 117.310, 311, 312, and 313) mandate that performance is a skill that has to be achieved by music students.

The dates for concerts are set well in advance and several weeks' notice is given to the students so as to avoid scheduling conflicts. Conflicts do come up in which case the student will be given an alternative assignment in two parts which will include playing in front of an audience and a written assignment. Successful completion of the alternative assignment will replace the missing grade.

# Refugio Mighty Bobcat Band

## Concerts (Cont.)

Unless the Director instructs the students otherwise, the attire for concerts is Business Casual. Males should wear a shirt with a collar and dress pants. Females should wear a shirt with a collar, a blouse, dress pants, skirts, or dresses. No t-shirts nor jeans with holes will be accepted. Students dressed inappropriately or against school dress code will be sent home. If there is question as to if something is appropriate, have the student wear the clothes to school the week prior. If they do not get dress coded, then that should be appropriate.

## Attendance

For out-of-the-classroom practices, students are expected to be at all practices. There is a schedule. It is extremely rare that a practice is called without at least a week's notice. If you are going to miss a practice, the student is expected to notify the director a week in advance in writing. Whether or not the absence is excused or not depends on the reason. The only acceptable excuse is doctor appointment or school related activity.

For in-the-classroom practices (during the school day), students need to be in the band hall when the tardy bell rings. They will be given an additional 5 minutes to put their instrument together, prepare their music, oil their valves or keys, and be in their seat with a pencil ready to play. After the 5 minutes, students not ready are counted tardy. Students not in their seat after 10 minutes are considered absent.

- You can be in the band hall and still be counted absent if you are not in your chair playing.
- Extended restroom visits (10-15 minute) may be counted as an absence unless accompanied by a doctor's note.

The halftime performance at a football game is considered a performance. If you are going to miss a football game, it is the students' responsibility to notify the director so that an alternate can take their place. Failure to do so will result in the student losing their varsity spot.

# Refugio Mighty Bobcat Band

## Varsity Contest Band

This group of students will march every week at football games and at marching contests. It requires traveling long distance to games, sometimes getting back well after midnight. This group represents the school and community and should be the most outstanding representatives we have.

### NOT ALL STUDENTS MAKE THE VARSITY BAND!

Students make varsity because they know their music, attend practices, know their marching spots, demonstrate a positive attitude, and are well-behaved. Having one or two of these characteristics is not enough.

If a student does not make Varsity band, the student will perform at home football games, pep-rallies, and local parades. They will still need to come to practice to learn their marching spots, and they will still need to learn their music. These students can possibly move up to the Varsity roster at any point during the season. Reasons a student moves up includes that they have worked to improve their playing and marching skills, fill in for missing students, or an additional spot opens up in the show. Based on their positive behavior and attitude, they may also be offered alternative duties for the show like moving props and equipment or joining the color guard.

## Grading

There are 2 types of grades in band. Major grades are worth 60 percent and minor grades are worth 40 percent.

Major grades include:

- Concerts, football games, public performances, and contests

Minor grades include:

- Classroom participation, equipment quizzes, and playing tests
  - If you are getting less than a 100 in class, it is because you are not participating!

# Refugio Mighty Bobcat Band

## Instrument Care

Students are welcome to use school-owned instruments without charge. However, students who lose or damage any school equipment, including instruments, will be charged a replacement fee.

## Bus

Students will be given a seating assignment for the buses when we travel. Students are expected to remain in their seats. Do not stand up or move around when the bus is moving. Students are expected to obey and respect the chaperones on the bus. Students are to leave the bus clean and remove all of their materials and belongings before they are dismissed.

## Loading/Unloading

Students are responsible for making sure their instrument and equipment (flip folder, sticks, etc.) is loaded prior to leaving and they are responsible for making sure their instrument and equipment is unloaded when we return.

## Traveling with Parents

Sometimes students want to ride with someone else rather than riding the bus.

- Students must travel with the band on the bus to games and contests
  - Only exception is the volleyball players that have a game
- Students must make arrangements for their own instrument, equipment, and uniforms
- Only a parent can sign out a student
- Must sign the student out with one of the chaperones
- Must see parent to be checked out

## Physicals

As per UL rules, all marching band students are required to have a physical prior to participating in band in any way.

# Refugio Mighty Bobcat Band

## HANDBOOK VERIFICATION

Please sign below indicating that you have read the handbook, and that you understand the expectations outlined and agree to follow the guidelines and policies stated within this handbook. As always, should you have any questions or need further information, please contact the director for assistance.

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Work # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Work # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

# Refugio Mighty Bobcat Band

## PARENT/STUDENT ULM MARCHING BAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

No student may be required to attend practice for marching band for more than eight hours of rehearsal outside the academic school day per calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). This provision applies to students in all components of the marching band. On performance days (football games, competitions and other public performances) bands may hold up to one additional hour of warm-up and practice beyond the scheduled warm-up time at the performance site. Multiple performances on the same day do not allow for additional practice and/or warm-up time.

Examples of Activities Subject to The UL Marching Band Eight Hour Rule: • Marching Band Rehearsal (Both Full Band and Components) • Any Marching Band Group Instructional Activity • Breaks • Announcements • Debriefing and Viewing Marching Band Videos • Playing Off Marching Band Music • Marching Band Sectionals (Both Director and Student Led) • Clinics for The Marching Band or Any of Its Components

The Following Activities Are Not Included in The Eight Hour Time Allotment: • Travel Time to and from Rehearsals and/or Performances • Rehearsal Set-Up Time • Pep Rallies, Parades and Other Public Performances • Instruction and Practice for Music Activities Other Than Marching Band and Its Components

"We have read and understand the Eight-Hour Rule for Marching Band as stated above and agree to abide by these regulations."

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_