

EAGLE MOUNTAIN  
KNIGHT BRIGADE



**KNIGHT  
BRIGADE  
HANDBOOK**



EAGLE MOUNTAIN  
KNIGHT BRIGADE



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EAGLE MOUNTAIN  
HIGH SCHOOL

# Welcome!

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**We are happy to have you as part of our Knight Brigade Band program. Our band is on the pathway to become one of the premier programs in the state of Texas through community, academics, and musical excellence. We include woodwind, brass, percussion, colorguard and visual performers who work together towards a common goal.**

**In the Knight Brigade, EVERY member matters: students, parents, and directors.**

The band comprises approximately ten percent of the entire student body, and includes many of the most academically successful students on campus. Among our band will sit future Valedictorians and Salutatorians, National Merit Scholars, AP Scholars, athletes, top ten percents of their class, and student officers.

While in band, you will have access to impeccable facilities, equipment, and educational opportunities. Our goal is to develop leaders, performers, and critical thinkers in the visual and musical arts. Our band students will gain confidence, learn the value of collaboration, develop strong communication skills, learn time management and responsibility.

As a stakeholder in the Knight Brigade, our families will learn the importance of attitude, academics, effort, and accountability, and how all of these elements impact your success.

We believe all students, parents, and faculty deserve to have access to opportunities where they can learn new skills, be challenged, and grow into a successful member for the community.

Every student is involved in Marching Band during the Fall Semester, and an indoor ensemble (Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Winter Guard, Indoor Drumline, or Chamber Group).

This handbook will serve as a guide and contains information about the expectations and policies, along with information concerning academics, the University Interscholastic League (UIL), equipment, program offerings, private lessons, facilities, uniforms, attendance, communication, scheduling, and more.

#ArmorUp!

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# Knight Brigade Directors

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## **Alyson Holley - Director of Bands**

[aholley@ems-isd.net](mailto:aholley@ems-isd.net)  
817-847-2946 ext 58187



## **Sean Wright - Assistant Band Director**

[swright@ems-isd.net](mailto:swright@ems-isd.net)  
817-847-2946 ext 58186



## **Franklin Garza - Color Guard Director**

[fgarza@ems-isd.net](mailto:fgarza@ems-isd.net)  
817-847-2946 ext 58187



# Communication

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**We encourage effective communication, whether a student, parent, or director. You are strongly encouraged to contact the Knight Brigade Band Staff at school when needed.**

**There are many reasons for doing this: being late/absent to rehearsal, a family emergency, questions about upcoming events, etc. Matters that can be taken care of during the school day are requested to be done during the school day.**

**Please use the emails and phone numbers listed above. All directors have a brief conference period each day.**

**We also use the band and booster websites, Remind, Canvas, Presto Assistant, the band calendar, social media and our newsletters for the most up-to-date information**

- <https://www.emsisd.com/Page/49202> (Knight Brigade School website)
- <https://emhsknightbrigade.org/> (Band Booster website)
- Text "@knightbrig" to 81010 (Band Remind)
- Text "@kbcologr" to 81010 (Visual Ensemble Remind)
- @Eagle Mountain High School Knight Brigade (Facebook)
- @emhs\_knightbrigade (Instagram)
- <https://emsisd.instructure.com/enroll/4486RH> - Enroll in Canvas
- <https://app.presto-assistant.com> (Presto Assistant) - class code: emhsknightbrigade
- <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=emhsknightbrigade%40gmail.com&ctz=America%2FChicago> (Calendar)

**We utilize the mindset of "Chain of Command" in the Knight Brigade. Please utilize this whenever you have questions or require clarification, but always know the Directors and Booster executive board are available to assist as well.**





# Member Expectations

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## General Expectations

Membership in the Knight Brigade is open to all interested students at EMHS who demonstrate a combination of the following:

- a desire to participate in the program
- a positive and cooperative attitude in rehearsal and performance settings
- a background on their instrument from their prior campus (no background needed for color guard)
- academic integrity
- accountability
- respect

Membership is based on a full-year commitment. Our band season begins in mid-July and extends through May. Enrollment is maintained by means of an audition that demonstrates musical and/or visual proficiency. These auditions are held twice annually in the Fall and Spring. Wind and percussion students are placed into an ability based performing ensemble according to audition results. ALL wind/percussion students make the band! Color Guard candidates are placed in the Fall guard and Winter guard programs based on their auditions.

The Knight Brigade is a co-curricular organization at EMHS. Membership is an honor and privilege. Our standards are high and we expect each member of the organization to meet and exceed those expectations.

Failure to meet the requirements of the campus and/or organizational requirements may result in removal from the program. Any member who does not maintain enrollment in band through the fall/spring full year semester sequence may be unable to participate in the Knight Brigade for the next school year.

In the case of color guard, membership continues through the Spring semester in the form of winter guard.

Alternative scheduling policies for members who participate in EMS-ISD sanctioned varsity sports will be handled on an individual bases. Such arrangements are at the discretion of the band director.

All students are expected to:

- Adhere to the Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD Student Code of Conduct
- Participate in ALL EMHS band, school and community activities with a kind, respectful, hardworking, and motivated attitude.
- Advance your musical and visual abilities by daily practice and equipment maintenance.
- Succeed in academics while a member of the band per UIL academic eligibility guidelines.
- Develop accountability and responsibility as it applies to personal and group guidelines, especially as related to attendance.



# Grading by Semester

40% Participation/Formative  
60% Performances/Summative

## Marching Band Participation

- Attendance
- Material Checks
- Citizenship

## Marching Band Performance

- All aspects of football game and contest performances, uniform inspections
- Marching fundamentals, skills (music and drill), and pass-offs/playing tests.

## Concert Band Participation

- All criteria in Marching Band Participation
- Sectional attendance
- Material Checks
- Evidence of musical progress
- Region auditions, clinics and concerts

## Concert Band Performance

- Music playing tests and pass-offs
- All Region auditions and tests
- Solo and Ensemble
- UIL
- other contests

# Academic Eligibility

A grade average below 70 in any class will cause a student to become academically ineligible, and deny students' competitive performance privileges and football game attendance for a majority of a six-week period until eligibility is regained. Academic ineligibility can destroy an unbelievable amount of individual and collective work. Parents, we ask that you carefully supervise your student's academic progress. Student's must understand that their classroom performance/grades have a direct impact on other students. Make sure that you take care of your academic responsibilities from the very first day of school. You are at EMHS first and foremost to earn an academic education - so pass your classes.

Here are some steps that will help you pass your classes:

- Remember you are in class to learn
- Review your class notes daily
- Complete and turn in ALL homework assignments. A zero averages horribly!
- Prepare for tests and projects well in advance.
- Ask for help.



# Physical Education Credit

Per the EMSISD Program of Studies, "all students involved in the band program are also required to participate in the marching band." In addition to the full-year fine arts credit that students receive when enrolled in band for the school year, students will also receive a 0.5 P.E. substitution credit waiver for each season of their participation in the marching band. Students are awarded this P.E. credit provided they have met the attendance requirements of the marching band, just as credit is awarded in all other academic courses in EMSISD. Students who miss more than the required amount of marching practice may be able to recover P.E. credit only after serving the required amount of "seat time."

# Behavior Expectations

As leaders on the campus, we are always "on the clock" and visible:

- Knight Brigade members will speak in a positive manner about our band, fellow band members, our staff, and our community. Please let our directors or the individual know if you have any questions or issues so positive outcomes can happen.
- Enter and exit all rehearsal areas in a quiet and orderly manner.
- Know your "Call Time" - Be on time (early) and prepared for all rehearsals, classes, performances, etc. Punctuality and preparation are critical! "Call Time" means arrival a minimum of 15 minutes prior. *"To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late. To be late is unacceptable."*
- When a director holds their hand and steps in front of a group, all playing, talking, and movement should end immediately. Full attention should be given at this time.
- Always perform your best. *"Practice the way you expect to perform. Perform the way you have practiced."*
- Always read and listen to announcements.
- Members are expected to maintain a clean environment in our facilities and while traveling. Leave every space looking better and cleaner than we found it.
- No food or drink (other than water), candy, or gum is allowed in the band hall or while in uniform at any time unless specific permission has been given by a director.
- Members are expected to take utmost care of all band equipment (instruments, uniforms, flags, music, facilities, audio gear, lockers etc.)
- Instrument and Locker Rooms are to be kept clean and neat at all times. Only band equipment is to be stored in the instrument lockers/locker room.
- Only band students are allowed in the Band Hall, Percussion, and Color Guard room.
- All cell phones should only be used with director's permission.
- Members always refrain from the use of degrading language, profanity, and obscene gestures. This expectation includes student use of social media. These behaviors will not be tolerated.
- Rough-housing/horseplay of any form is prohibited.
- Alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs will not be tolerated and will result in automatic removal.
- Students should refrain from public displays of affection during all rehearsal and performance situations. Additionally, displays should never exceed that of static hand-holding in any setting.
- Dress code must follow the EMS ISD Student Code of Conduct. No midriiffs, low cut shirts, torn pants, sagging pants, or shorts that do not reach the wrist of the wearer are to be worn/seen.
- Any form of hazing is strictly prohibited.



# UIL Physical

Per the UIL and EMSISD guidelines, all students must submit a yearly physical between May 1 and August 1.

Additionally, all students and parents must complete the EMSISD Fine Arts RankOne release forms yearly (including Medical History, Authorization for Medical Treatment, UIL 8 hour form, extracurricular code of conduct and release forms).

## Attendance

All students must abide by the Eagle Mountain High School attendance policies. Attendance is required at all rehearsals, sectionals, clinics, and performances. Attendance counts toward your daily participation grade and your performance grade. Parents should attempt to schedule doctor's appointments so as not to conflict with scheduled practices or events. Scheduling conflicts may arise between school activities. Notify the directors and your school sponsor as soon as the conflict is known in order to allow the directors and school sponsors to work out the conflict in advance. It is the general policy of Eagle Mountain High School that school activities (including Band), take precedence over club or select activities outside of EMSISD.

**Excused Absences:** Absences are categorized as excused by virtue of three occurrences:

- Student illness rendering them incapable of observation or participation
- Religious Holiday
- Family emergency

Circumstances may justify an excused absence for reasons other than listed above. In the case of illness, religious holiday or family emergency, parent communication prior to the rehearsal/performance is required.

**Unexcused Absences:** All other absences are considered elective and are indicated as unexcused unless deemed otherwise by the band directors. Examples of unexcused absences include but are not limited to:

- Work
- Birthday party or other celebration
- Concert tickets scheduled on a required Band event
- Attending tutorials without notice for directors to arrange options with teacher
- Tutorials (Students are expected to use non-rehearsal day or times)
- Vacations
- Drivers Education Courses
- Scouts
- Non-school sponsored athletic events
- Testing i.e. SAT, PSAT, ACT, etc.

Notifying the directors of an absence is required, and appreciated. The directors will consult school policy and use their discretion to determine if the provided reason is considered excused or unexcused. ***It should be clearly understood that communicating an absence does NOT automatically mean that it is excused.***

***Do not communicate absences through a peer or student leader. Email the directors.***

Missed rehearsal time and materials must be made-up and learned outside of full rehearsal with a student leader and/or director either before or after school.

Performances and clinic absences cannot be made-up, so an alternative assignment may be offered at the director's discretion.



## Rehearsal Performance Participation

At the end of each marching rehearsal, the band performs a run through of the entire performance. This is to ensure that each student is evaluated on their ability to perform their assigned role at the next upcoming performance. If a student misses the run-through, the student may be removed at director discretion from the performance, whether the absence is excused or unexcused in reason. This is to ensure the safety of the other members, the proper preparation of the individual student, and the integrity of the Knight Brigade's performance.

## Football Game Etiquette

The Knight Brigade attends every Varsity football game. These events are highly visible and public performance venues for the Knight Brigade. It is imperative that students remain attentive and focused within the ensemble to help ensure the intended functions of the band at these games.

- To provide musical support to the Varsity football team
- To provide crowd energy
- To provide a quality and noteworthy halftime performance

Behavioral infractions are considered particularly serious in such a public setting. Therefore, the handling of disciplinary issues will be treated as such. As the ensemble is under the public eye, students must maintain a professional and dignified appearance at all times. Game time spirit in the form of verbal or physical encouragement should include the use of good judgement and taste at all times.

## Stand & Pep Rally Expectations

- Remain in assigned seat during the entire game.
- Restroom visits are granted only by securing permission from a director.
- Play only YOUR instrument, not anyone else's.
- Band members must be ready to play immediately following a tune request. Students must pay attention to drum majors/directors for visual cues so that professional musical entrances are always achieved.
- The marching band uniform must be worn in its entirety, unless specific instructions from directors indicate otherwise. We will also look exactly the same.
- The marching band (and all sections within) should present only organized musical efforts. There should be no spontaneous "hacking," jam sessions, or outbursts by individuals or sections either in the stands or while walking to and from the performance.
- Students should play with their printed music at all times, and without exception. Parts should be played exactly as written.
- Water is the only drink to be consumed in uniform.
- Cell phones are prohibited any time while the band is in session. Attempted use will result in temporary confiscation.

Students should be polite to everyone in manner and in spirit. Visitors in the stands will only be allowed into the band with prior approval from a band director.

While watching other bands perform, members should remain silent, attentive, and should avoid visual or verbal criticism of any sort. When a band finishes a performance, enthusiastic applause and acknowledgement is always appropriate!



## Marching Uniform

- Appropriate conduct is expected of all Brigade members while in (and out) of uniform.
- Follow Uniform instructions at all times.
- Uniform parts must be worn correctly at all times.
- Bring all personal uniform pieces to and from school as needed. Do not leave socks, shoes, t-shirts, etc. in the band hall or in your uniform bag when not in use.
- No eating, gum, drinking (only water) while in uniform unless director approval is given. Do not accept food, drink, etc. from anyone other than band personnel during performance events.
- No running or horse-play while in uniform (or out of uniform).
- Band member hair must be completely off the collar and concealed when wearing the band shako. Hair must be ready at call time. The "hair class" demonstration will take place once school begins.
- No colored nail polish or visible jewelry while in uniform.
- Handle all pieces of the uniform correctly and store your uniform on the correct rack when not in use.
- Any damage or loss to the uniform may be the responsibility of the band member. Member may be required to repair or replace as necessary.

### Summer Band Uniform:

- Black Shorts
- Band T-Shirt
- Black socks and Neutral color tennis shoes
- Hair pulled back away from face

### Full Band Marching Uniform:

- All Uniform pieces
- Band T-Shirt
- Black compression shorts & shirt
- Long Black socks and Black MTX Marching shoes
- Hair pulled back away from face
- Cold Weather - Black Jacket or Letter Jacket (optional)

## Rehearsal Equipment

- Instrument
- Music/Flip Folder, pencil, highlighters, eraser, accessories
- Fanny pack with: sidewalk chalk, dotbook, lanyard, pencil
- Lyre for your instrument
- 1/2 - 1 gallon water jug, filled and iced daily
- Sunglasses, sunscreen, hat
- Light-colored, loose-fitting clothing
- Flexible tennis shoes (cross-trainers)
- Black 3-Ring Binder with Sheet Protectors
- KORGE Tuner with Tuning Pick-up clip
- 1/4" to 1/2" Breathing Tube (PVC Ball Valve) on lanyard
- All music and exercises - found in Canvas



## Brass Equipment

- Intermediate to Professional model instrument recommended
- Trumpet Bach 3C mouthpiece
- Horn Holton Farkas MDC mouthpiece
- Trombone/Euphonium Bach 5G mouthpiece
- Trombone large bore F attachment instrument
- Tuba Helleberg 120S mouthpiece
- Valve oil (or rotor oil) & slide grease
- Polish cloth

## Woodwind Equipment

- Clarinet/Sax - 5 reeds, rotated DAILY!
- Legere Transparent reed for marching band (Clarinet/Sax)
- Flute with B footjoint
- Clarinet 5RV mouthpiece & Bonade Inverted Ligature
- Saxophone Optimum AL3 mouthpiece & ligature
- 2-3 oboe/bassoon reeds
- Swab and polish cloth
- Cork grease

## Percussion Equipment

- 4 matching yarn Marimba mallets (IP240)
- 1 pair of Concert Snare sticks (IP-LD)
- 1 pair of Marching Snare sticks (PR2)
- 1 pair of Timpani mallets (GT-2)
- Mallet Bag with your name on it! (MB-1)
- Practice pad with snare stand

## Colorguard Equipment

- Flag Bag
- Flags (Practice, Spirit, and Show Flags)
- Rifles and Sabre (for Intermediate and Advanced students only)
- Gloves
- Tape (white & black)
- Dance Attire (athletic clothes, shoes, and headgear)
- Warm-up Gear (Yoga mat, Yoga blocks, stretch bands, foam rollers)



## Financials

Each year our band members will be required to pay Eagle Mountain High Knight Brigade fees that are due at Band Registration (typically held in April/May). Payment options are available. Any families experiencing financial hardship should consult the band director to discuss further payment options.

Yearly membership fees are subject to change and will be paid to the EMHS Knight Brigade Band Boosters.

A direct link to pay can be found on the Booster website, and from the Booster Treasurer.

\*Color Guard and Percussion members are responsible for additional fees for Winterguard & Indoor Drumline.

## Concert Season Uniform

- All Black professional concert attire - arms and legs covered.
  - Black "Tuxedo" look - black suit jacket with black suit pants, white tuxedo shirt, black bow tie, black socks, and black dress shoes
- Concert Black
  - Solid black dress pants, black dress shirt, black belt, black socks, black shoes.
  - Black ankle-length skirt (no slit higher than knee), black slacks or black dress
  - Black blouse or sweater with sleeves.
  - Black hose, tights, or trouser socks
  - Black close-toed shoes
  - No excessive jewelry

## Marching Season Expectations

At the end of each marching rehearsal, the band performs a run through of the entire performance. This is to ensure that each student is evaluated on their ability to perform their assigned role at the next upcoming performance. If a student misses the run-through, the student may be removed at director discretion from the performance, whether the absence is excused or unexcused in reason. This is to ensure the safety of the other members, the proper preparation of the individual student, and the integrity of the Knight Brigade's performance.

## Marching Band Schedule

- Band/Drum/Guard Camp will begin mid July and extend to the start of school in August.
- The weekly schedule will be 7-8:30am daily, with evening rehearsal on Tuesday 5:30-8pm
- In event of a Thursday night football game, the Friday morning rehearsal will be moved to Friday after school from 5-6:30pm.
- All students attend every football game and contest. These are both day long events.
- Occasional Wednesday night and Saturday rehearsals may be scheduled in order to get extra time in the Knight Stadium prior to contests.
- Contests run from the last Saturday in September to the first Saturday in November.



## Private Lessons

Learning to play an instrument does not end after the sixth grade, but continues as a lifelong study, which requires individualized practice and instruction.

Lessons are available to all our Knight Brigade members and will aid in progression through the program. All members are strongly encouraged to take advantage of private lessons with our professional teachers.

Lessons begin at \$21 for a private 30-minute lesson. Information will be provided during the first week of classes.

Private lesson teachers work on musical fundamentals as well as preparation for All-State auditions and the Solo and Ensemble Contest.

## Letter Jackets

A student can earn only one letter jacket from one activity.

The district does not provide letters or jackets to eligible students. Purchases of these items are at the discretion of the student/family. Once eligible, students will receive purchasing information from their campus director.

Students must complete 5 Major events. They are limited to the following:

- UIL Region Marching Contest
- UIL Area Marching Contest
- Receive a 1st division at UIL Region Solo and Ensemble contest
- Receive a 2nd division at UIL State Solo and Ensemble contest
- UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest

\*Students must have been academically eligible during the event for it to count.

Automatic Letter Jacket award:

- Making any HS All-Region Band
- Earning a 1st Division at the UIL State Solo & Ensemble contest
- Starting of their 4th year in band (if not previously earned in another activity)
- Qualifying for the UIL Texas State Marching Contest

Color Guard Criteria:

- Completing 2 seasons of Color Guard and 2 seasons of Winter Guard
- Placing in Finals at Winger Guard International Regional Competition
- Medaling at Championships
- Qualifying for the UIL Texas State Marching Contest



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# Band Boosters

**The Band Boosters Organization is operated as a cooperative effort between parents, Band Booster board members, and the Band Directors.**

**The Boosters assist in many aspects of the Band program.**

**Parents are highly encouraged to attend the meetings, volunteer, and be an integral part of their student's Band experience.**

An informational meeting for prospective students will take place in the spring of your child's 8th grade year.

Also, a parent meeting will be held at the end of May and at the end of Band Camp in August.

During Registration, you will be signed up to receive the Band Booster newsletter. This newsletter is sent electronically to your email. It will list all the band activities, along with details regarding dates, times, and locations.

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