

# ODEM HIGH SCHOOL



## **BAND HANDBOOK 2013 - 2014**

August 23, 2013

Dear Parents and Students:

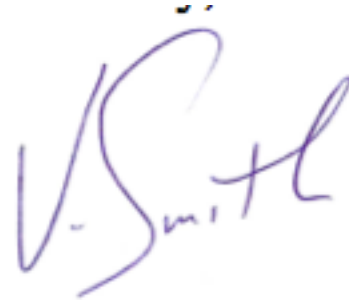
We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you into membership in the Odem High School Band.

This booklet is intended to inform you about our band and your responsibilities. The grading procedures, performances, challenges, eligibility, officers, and awards will be discussed, as well as trips and behavior. You should have no doubt about what is expected of you as a member of the Odem High School Band.

The most important part of the band is YOU, and your willingness to work to uphold the high standards and high ideals of the Odem High School Band.

In order to be a successful band member, you must develop self-discipline, dedication, hard work, cooperation, pride and spirit. Through these, you will be able to demonstrate your ability to learn and perform music and marching maneuvers, and the willingness to work and get along with the other members of the band.

It is hoped that the information in this handbook will be useful to you and that your membership in the Odem High School Band will be enjoyable and rewarding. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call me at the band hall (368-3401 ext. 257) or email me: [smithv@oeisd.org](mailto:smithv@oeisd.org).

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "V. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "V" and "S".

Thank you, and I look forward to another great year!

# BAND SCHEDULE

## 2013 VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

August	30	Orange Grove - Home	7:30
September	6	Taft - Home	7:30
	13	Ingleside - Away	7:30
	20	Robstown - Home	7:30
	27	Santa Rosa - Away	7:30
October	4	Aransas Pass - Home	7:30
	11	Falfurrias- Away	7:30
	18	San Diego - Home	7:30
	25	Mathis - Away	7:30
November	1	Bishop - Home	7:30

## MARCHING CONTEST SCHEDULE

Date	Contest	Site
October 5	USSBA Goliad Showcase	Goliad
October 12	Odem Instructional Session with clinician	Odem HS
<b>October 19</b>	<b>Region XIV UIL Marching Contest</b>	<b>Sinton</b>
<b>October 26</b>	<b>UIL Area South Marching Contest</b>	<b>East Central HS - San Antonio</b>
<b>November 4</b>	<b>UIL State Marching Contest</b>	<b>Alamodome - San Antonio</b>

## CONCERT CONTEST SCHEDULE

March 24	Pre-UIL Concert	Odem Cafetorium
<b>April 15-16</b>	<b>UIL Concert/Sight Reading Contest</b>	<b>H.M. King HS - Kingsville</b>

## ODEM CONCERTS / PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

December 17	Christmas Concert	Cafetorium	6:30 PM
May 16	Spring Concert	Old HS Gym	6:30 PM

## TRYOUTS/CLINICS (optional)

December 7	ATSSB All-Region Tryouts	West Oso HS
Dec. 13-14	ATSSB Region Clinic & Concert	H.M. King HS - Kingsville
January 11	ATSSB Area Tryouts	Orange Grove HS
February 12-15	ATSSB All-State Clinic & Concert	San Antonio
February ??	UIL Solo & Ensemble	TAMU-K or Mathis HS

*All dates are required for every Odem High School Band member, unless marked as optional. If there is conflict, please contact Mr. Smith immediately. Work, vacations, etc. are not excused absences. Please post this schedule!!*

*The Band Booster meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. at the hs band hall on the first Tuesday of each month. We would encourage all parents to take part in these meetings. If you have questions about our booster club please contact Mr. Smith.*

**Band Phone (361)368-3401 ext 257..... [www.oeisd.org](http://www.oeisd.org)**

Please email if you have questions at [smithv@oeisd.org](mailto:smithv@oeisd.org)

# Odem High School Band Rules and Guidelines

## 1. General Guideline

### **BULLYING**

At no time will bullying be tolerated in the Odem High School Band. If a student reports an incident of bullying, it will be turned over to the school administration immediately. If a student is found to be bullying other students, that student faces the risk of removal from band. A student found to bully other students more than once will be automatically removed from band and not allowed to return to the band program until that student has successfully completed an intervention program identified by school administrators.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

No student shall take part in band extra-curricular activities who is not passing all of their classes at the end of each grading period with a grade of at least 70. (Students wishing to try-out for Drum Major or color guard should check with the rules governing color guard try-outs.)

Public performances are considered as a part of the classroom activities and are a part of the essential elements of the curriculum. All students are required to participate in all performances unless excused by the Directors.

Students charged with a felony may be placed in the Alternative Education Program and prohibited from participating in UIL and extra-curricular activities.

### **NOTIFICATION**

Students who cannot attend a performance or practice outside of school time must notify the Directors in advance. Students are asked to check the Band calendar and note the required performances. All competitions entered by the Band must be attended by all students.

### **PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

Each member of the Band will be expected to attend ALL PUBLIC APPEARANCES. Illness or death in the family will be the only accepted excuses, unless excused in advance by the Directors.

All members will report to the designated place with enough time to spare so that they can assemble their instruments and be ready to play at the designated time. All members are required to be present in full uniform. This includes going to and from performances where the general public might observe a band member. All rehearsal regulations are in effect during a performance. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in lowering the grade for the six weeks by 20 points.

### **REHEARSALS**

Time is one of the most valuable parts of rehearsals. If one person delays the rehearsal by one minute, each member of the band is forced to waste one minute. These minutes add up to a lot of lost man-hours.

The following regulations are the foundation of our rehearsal procedures:

1. When you get to the band room, you should get your instrument out of the case and put the case back in your storage area. Have all music and equipment necessary for the rehearsal.
2. Warm-up: Instruments should be warmed up softly by playing a warm-up exercise. Percussionists should get their equipment ready. Loud playing of scales, songs, or other exercises will do you absolutely no good.
3. When the tardy bell rings and the director steps onto the podium, all playing and conversation should stop immediately.
4. When the rehearsal is in progress, students should give their undivided attention to the director, even though the director might be directing his attention to another section of the band. Talking or playing while the director is speaking should not happen. Do not let your actions and behavior disrupt the rehearsal.
5. A student will be considered tardy if said student is not seated in the proper chair with music and music stand in the proper place. **DO NOT WAIT FOR THE DIRECTOR TO START MOVING TOWARDS THE PODIUM BEFORE MOVING TOWARDS YOUR OWN SEAT**
6. The rehearsal room should be kept neat and orderly at all times. Each student is expected to do their part keeping instruments in their respective storage areas and by keeping all areas neat and orderly. Do not throw trash on the floor and do not write on music stands or school property.
7. **DO NOT CHEW GUM, EAT, OR BRING DRINKS INTO CARPETED AREAS OF THE BAND HALL**
8. Every member of the band will be expected to attend all regular and special called rehearsals as well as public appearances.

### **GRADING SYSTEM**

The grading system will be based upon the OEISD and Odem High School Grading System. Grades will be determined as follows:

40% - Daily grades. This will consist of the following:

- Music for marching band (memorized)

- Marching fundamentals and maneuvers
- Technical Students (for the development of technique and dexterity)
- Solos
- Music for concerts and contests
- Rhythm exercises (written and playing)
- Musical terms
- Instrument Inspections (proper care and cleaning of the instrument)
- Class participation

60% - Test grades. This will consist of grades for performances and other major assignments

Projects. There will be 1 project grade per semester. This will count as 15% of the semester average. Grading for this will be based upon contest preparation and performance

Assignments are announced in advance of the due date for completion of the assignment. Students must do their best to be prepared for all grading times.

Six weeks averages can be lowered by unexcused absences from rehearsals and performances.

### **TARDIES**

Rehearsals begin promptly after the bell rings. A tardy to a regularly scheduled rehearsal will follow the OHS tardy policy. If a student misses evening rehearsal due to detention, the student will have make-up time after school. Students having to retest will need a pass from their teacher with a departing time. Students who have been retesting will not be required to make-up missed time. If a student misses a morning or evening rehearsal for an unexcused reason, that student risks losing their spot in the marching show and will be expected to make up missed rehearsal time.

### **GRADES IN ALL CLASSES**

Since grade requirements in all classes determine eligibility for participation in band activities, each student must do his/her best to be passing all of their classes at all times. Low grades in classes are generally the result of the student not being prepared for tests, not turning in home assignments, not understanding the material being presented, or excessive absences when the material is presented.

Students should make every effort to attend all classes, be on time and devote their energies to learning to the best of their abilities. Tutorials are offered to help students catch up on classes that are giving them problems. The Band Directors, as teachers, are also available to help students do their best. The teachers at Odem High School are vitally interested in helping the students to learn their subjects and the students should seek help from them when necessary.

Students should set up a schedule that will enable them to prepare their work for all of their classes. Have homework done on time and turned in on time. Study for tests early so that you will understand the material being tested. Start assignments as soon as they are given so that you will be fully prepared.

Younger students will find that the pace of the schedule at Odem High School may be quite different from what they are used to and they will need to adjust their schedules so that they can keep up. Don't be afraid to ask someone for help in order to be a good student and make good grades.

Keep track of the work you are doing in all of your classes. Average your grades daily or weekly so that you know before the end of the six weeks grading period what your grades will be. Ask yourself each day: AM I PASSING ALL OF MY SUBJECTS TODAY?

## **2. Marching Band**

### **MARCHING BAND**

It is recognized that there are educational values in marching bands that are not to be found in any other organization. It is also recognized that the marching band has a decided service and entertainment value for the community, exerting a cohesive force in unifying the school and community.

The marching band serves two main purposes. First, it serves as an instrument in teaching a vital phase of music education that cannot be taught elsewhere. Besides being a unique organization as a marching musical group, it employs a music repertoire all of its own. In addition, it teaches all the fundamentals that the concert band teaches plus an even greater emphasis on the development of coordination, rhythm, organized thinking, and self-discipline. It affords a great opportunity for the development of leadership qualities and abilities. Second, the purpose of the marching band is to serve as a public relations and entertainment media in providing half-time programs at football games and other school and community functions.

The marching band must maintain the highest standards of excellence as it is on public display at many functions. It is the responsibility of each member of the band to maintain these high standards of excellence established by the Directors and former band member. This will allow the school and the general public to continue to enjoy the pride and traditions that are part of the legacy of the Odem High School Band.

**The following procedures are used for the Odem High School Marching Band:**

1. During the marching season, rehearsals will be held Monday and Wednesday nights from 6:15 p.m. until 9:15 p.m. and during the designated band class , unless changed by the Directors. It is important that rehearsals begin on time so that they can end on time.
2. Students should have comfortable shoes suitable for marching practice. Tennis shoes are the preferred kind of marching shoes for rehearsals and they should fit properly. BACKLESS SANDALS AND SLAPS ARE UNACCEPTABLE.
3. If it is necessary to schedule medical appointments, it is recommended that these be scheduled on Tuesday or Wednesdays. Mondays are usually the days that new material is introduced and Thursdays are the final polishing rehearsals for performances.

### FOOTBALL GAMES

The band has become an integral part of our football games. Band members should take every effort to make the band's part of the game an outstanding one.

The following regulations will be in force at all football games:

1. Check the board each day as information concerning the games may be posted. Also listen to the Directors' instructions given throughout the week for bus schedules. Loading times, leaving times and returning times are announced and will be closely followed. Returning times are given so that parents will know when to pick up students after trips.
2. At home games, the band will meet in the band hall for a warm-up time together and will march in formation into the stadium. Each member is to have all equipment ready and be in full uniform at this time.
3. As we march into the stadium, we want people to stop and watch. Do your best to give a favorable impression at all times.
4. Allow yourself plenty of time to be at the proper places with the right equipment and in the proper uniform.
5. Students will be given an assigned seat in the stadium and the same assigned seats will be used for the entire season. Students are to stay in their assigned seats and not move about during the games. Instruments are to be held except for percussion and tubas to keep the instruments from being damaged.
6. DO NOT TAKE UNAUTHORIZED REFRESHMENTS AT ANY TIME DURING THE GAME. If the Director decides to do so, the band will be given the third quarter off to buy refreshments. Be extra careful while wearing the uniform to avoid spilling drinks on the uniform. Take care of restroom needs before the band leaves for the stadium. This avoids a lot of confusion and problems with moving in and out of the band seating area.
7. Do not chew gum at any time while participating in a band activity and while wearing the band uniform.
8. Do not play your horn when the band is not playing.
9. No one but uniformed members, designated helpers and sponsors are allowed in the band section.
10. WATCH THE DIRECTORS WHEN THEY ARE IN FRONT FACING YOU. GET MUSIC UP QUICKLY AND BE READY TO PLAY AT THE PROPER TIME.
11. Be completely and properly uniformed at all times unless specified by a director.
12. Treat guests with respect and courtesy.
13. Each student is responsible for his/her own instrument and music at all games. A music lyre is required for holding the music while playing in the stands.
14. All band members should help promote school spirit and participate with the cheerleaders on cheers.
15. All rules and regulations concerning school-sponsored activities will be in force before and during all games and trips.
16. Cell phones may not be out except for the 3rd quarter

### CONDUCT

Students should conduct themselves as young ladies and gentlemen at all times. This also includes conduct in all other classes in school. Students who cannot abide by the rules will keep the band from functioning as it should. Students should behave in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, their families, and their school.

If a band student is placed in ISS or AEP, he/she will not participate in practice or games until he/she has been released from ISS or AEP.

### **3. Concert Band**

#### **CONCERT BAND**

The Band will be split into two performing groups in the spring semester. Both groups are expected to go to contest and perform at the highest level. Available positions for the top performing group will be determined before auditions begin.

#### **AUDITIONS**

Placement in the top performance group can be earned through two ways:

1. Trying out and making the ATSSB or TMEA All-Region band and performing in the All-Region Concert.
2. Band try-outs to be held in November or early December. This music will be passed out by the directors and will be music selected from the All-Region Band audition music for their instrument. Tryouts will be recorded and judged without knowing the students' identity.

#### **CONDUCT**

Students should conduct themselves as young ladies and gentlemen at all times. This also includes conduct in all other classes in school. Students who cannot abide by the rules will keep the band from functioning as it should. Students should behave in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, their families, and their school.

If a band student is placed in ISS or AEP, he/she will not participate in practice or games until he/she has been released from ISS or AEP.

### **4. Band Equipment**

#### **CARE OF EQUIPMENT**

Storage space in the band room will be provided to each student as a place to keep their instrument, marching music, and marching clothes. This space will be tagged with the students' name and should be kept neat and clean. All unnecessary items should be cleared out so that the band hall presents a neat appearance at all times. This storage space is not to be used to keep school books, as all students have a school locker for this.

All instruments should be tagged with the students' name and Odem High School Band for easy identification. Tags will be provided at the band room. All cases should be completely closed while in the storage space with all latches fastened.

Students are not allowed to open other students' cases or play on instruments other than their own instrument without permission from the Directors.

All marching music folders should be labeled with the students' name and instrument part. Students are responsible for all music that is issued to them and must take proper care of all music parts. Students will be responsible for paying for all lost music and folders that are issued to them.

Students are encouraged to bring comfortable marching clothes and shoes and socks to school to use during marching rehearsals. Time to change will be given and storage areas may be used to keep them in the band room. These clothes should be taken home frequently to be washed and cleaned.

#### **INSPECTIONS**

Regular inspections will be held on all instruments used by the students and grades will be given. Instructions on proper care and cleaning of instruments will be given by the Directors. Dates for inspections will be posted well in advance.

Students must check with the Directors, immediately, if a school instrument assigned to them needs repair. Repairs will be paid for by the school unless the damage is a result of negligence on the part of the student, in which case, he/she will be required to pay the repair bill.

#### **SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS**

Since the Odem Independent School District provides the best possible instruments available, extra care must be taken to insure that they are kept in good condition. Each student using a school instrument will complete an Instrument Checkout Form.

#### **INSTRUMENT RENT**

Students who play school owned instruments will be required to pay rent for the use of those instruments. An annual maintenance fee of \$25.00 and must be paid by the end of the first six weeks of the school year.

#### **MARCHING FOLDERS**

During marching season, each student is assigned a marching music folder that will contain all music used during the marching season. Each student is responsible for this folder and any music that is missing from the folder should be reported immediately so that a replacement can be made. Lost folders will be charged at the replacement cost for the folder and the music windows.

#### **CONCERT FOLDERS**

No more than two students will share a concert folder and each student is responsible for the music checked out during concert season. All concert music and method books will be turned in at certain times during the year and students will be charged for any missing parts or books according to the replacement cost.

## MUSIC LIBRARY

The Odem High School Band Library consists of complete arrangements and transcriptions for band. There are also method books, solos, and ensembles, and recording of band music. With the cost of music being extremely high, we ask students to take good care of their own music. Students are to stay out of the library unless they are given permission by the Directors. Ask one of the Directors to get you the needed music.

Students are not to use the school copy machine without permission.

Any writing or marking on music must be done in pencil so that it can be erased if corrections are needed.

## **5. Uniforms**

### PROPER CARE OF THE UNIFORM

There will be a brochure passed out dealing with the proper care of the uniform. Please keep this in a handy place when washing the uniform.

### HANGER

The hanger should have the same number on it as the uniform. Memorize your uniform number. Always carry your uniform on a hanger.

### BIBBER PANTS

When hanging the pants take special care to make sure the seam is aligned.

### COAT

Hang the coat on the hanger so that the curved side of the hanger is to the back of the coat. Snap the coat together so it does not fall off the hanger.

### HAT

Store the hat in the hat case. The hat case will be carried into the stadium, so this is a very important piece of equipment. The case can be used to store gloves, raincoats, and plumes.

### SHOES

Each student will have a pair of black marching shoes issued to them. They are responsible for returning the shoes in condition at the end of football season.

### REPLACEMENT COST FOR UNIFORM PARTS

The students will be charged the following replacement fees for loss or damage to uniform parts caused by student neglect.

COAT	\$150.00	PLUME	\$25.00
PANTS	\$ 80.00	HAT	\$75.00
SHOES	\$25.00		

*Take Care of YOUR Uniform- It is expensive not to do so!*

## **6. Awards and Special Positions**

### FLAG & DRUM MAJOR TRYOUT RULES

Each Spring, tryouts for Flag & Drum Major tryouts will begin. The tryouts will be judged by a Director from a neighboring school district. Any student, currently enrolled in band, between grades 8-11 meeting the following requirements may tryout.

1. Students must be academically eligible to attend tryout practices.
2. Any student who displays a poor attitude by refusing to cooperate with instructions will not be allowed to tryout or to attend practices.
3. There will be a column on the tryout sheet for past band performance such as making All-Region, Symphonic Band, Solo, or Section Leader.
4. All students interested in tryout out for drum major the following year MUST tryout for ATSSB all-region band or perform a solo at the UIL Solo & Ensemble contest.

Color guard is a year round organization. Returning members will be required to re audition.



# **2013-2014 Medical Release/Information Form**

**Please Print**

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

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Father \_\_\_\_\_ Mother \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Adult Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Adult Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Insurance Coverage** – (You may copy the front and back of your insurance card and attach to this space rather than printing this information.)

Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Group in Name of: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent who is the Policy Holder: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. List allergies to food, medications, other. (If none, so state.)**
- 2. List pertinent medical information applicable to heart trouble, diabetes, epilepsy, allergies, etc. (If none, so state.)**
- 3. Does student carry medication? (If none, so state.)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of medication(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Purpose:** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Name of family physician:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Additional medical information or comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby grant permission for : \_\_\_\_\_ (name of student) to attend all applicable extra-curricular activities. I understand that a sufficient number of sponsors will be present and that the aforementioned student must obey the sponsors and all school rules. I also understand that the ODEM-EDROY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, its employees, and/or sponsors, are not liable for injuries suffered by students while on any school sponsored trip (Article 2757, Texas School Law). The parent/guardian herewith grants permission for the employees to secure needed medical services for the above named student if necessary. Said parent or guardian agrees to be financially responsible for the medical services.

The form must be signed and returned to the Odem Band Directors before the student will be permitted to participate in any off-campus activity.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Dear Parents and Students,

Please read through this booklet together. When you have finished, please sign the bottom of this page and return it to the Band Directors. If you ever have a question about the band, please refer to the Handbook first, then contact the Directors. Also, please understand that it is impossible to include everything about our Band in this handbook, but we feel that this booklet will certainly answer most questions.

Please return this signature letter and all other documents to Mr. Smith by Thursday, August 28th.

Sincerely,

Vincent Smith, Director

Odem High School Band

368-3401 ext.257

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

-

**PARENT/STUDENT UIL 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 UIL 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

NOTE: An extensive Q&A for the Eight Hour Rule for Marching Band can be found on the Music Page of the UIL Web Site at: [www.uil.utexas.edu](http://www.uil.utexas.edu)

“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 \_\_\_\_\_