

SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

YEGUA BAND

2020- 2021



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Director

Preface

The students in the Somerville High School Band Program display many exceptional qualities. Many of them are scholastically and musically motivated, superb athletes, outstanding leaders in the student body, hardworking wage earners, peer counselors, outstanding church workers, and the list goes on. How these young people find time outside of the hours required of them in band to be as successful as they are is simply amazing. There is no doubt that the strength of our program lies in several areas; however, none more important than the character of our fine students.

Many of them successfully participate in UIL, ATSSB, and TMEA activities. We have also earned the coveted “Sweepstakes” trophy for twenty-two of the last twenty-four years. This continued success is also evidence of the pride that the Somerville Band Students have in their program.

The Purpose

The purpose of this handbook will be to clarify most of the expectations of the Yegua Band Program. Fortunately, the University Interscholastic League (UIL), the Association of Texas Small School Bands (ATSSB), and the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) have already established a sequence of activities, which are designed to help the student to experience musical and inter-relational growth. As it stands, we have no problems in these areas because our kids understand the importance of competition.

Objective

In keeping with the expectations of the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the Somerville Independent School District, UIL, ATSSB, and TMEA, the following objectives have been developed for the Somerville High School Band program.

The Somerville High School Yegua Band is designed to:

1. Give all students an opportunity to grow musically through their participation in band activities. All students will be encouraged to participate/compete in groups and individual activities.
2. Treat each student fairly through prior statements of expectations, consistent judgment, supervised activities, and strictly enforced regulations.
3. Provide each student with opportunities for social growth through interactions, cooperation, and competitions with the group.
4. The Somerville Independent School District Band Program does not discriminate against any student based on race, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, or on any other basis prohibited by law.

Table of Contents

<i>Preface</i>	2
<i>The Purpose</i>	2
<i>Objective</i>	3
<i>Table of Contents</i>	4
<i>I. General Expectations</i>	5
<i>II. Practice, Rehearsal, and Preparation Sessions</i>	7
<i>G. Spring Sectionals</i>	10
<i>III. General Explanation of Officer Positions</i>	10
<i>C. Color Guard Captains</i>	12
<i>IV. Auxiliary Units and Support Group</i>	13
<i>V. Band Hall</i>	14
<i>VI. Uniforms</i>	14
<i>VII. Fundraising</i>	14
<i>VIII. Grading Policies</i>	15
Marching Band.....	15
Recordings Turned In On Time – 20%	15
Concert Band/Jazz Band	15
Extra Credit.....	15
All-State Band Clinic/Concert	15
<i>IX. Addendum</i>	15
Public display of affection	15
Letterman Jackets	16
<i>Band Calendar</i>	19
<i>Extracurricular Participation Guide</i>	17
State Game / Contest.....	17
Approved Board Meeting April 10, 2002*	17

I. General Expectations

Participation in the Yegua Band Program is not a right, but a privilege. No student is required to take part in the program. Therefore, it is imperative that all students taking part in the program understand the following codes and conform to the rules therein and that the director of the Yegua Band shall have every right to remove this privilege:

A. **General Conduct**

All students are to conduct themselves properly at all times. We expect all students to be young ladies and gentlemen. Temper tantrums, profanity, and flagrant violations contrary to the general expectations or any other act that is not conducive to good citizenship may include conferences, detentions, laps around the Gym and Band practice area, or BMC. Appropriate choices will be given where health is an issue.

B. **Eligibility**

All participants in Band must also be good students. It is the policy of the Somerville I.S.D. and the Yegua Band Program to follow the criteria set forth by the UIL Eligibility Committee for requirements of “**No Pass, No Play.**” Students will be required to maintain a minimum average of 70 in each class. Student eligibility will be checked at every reporting period.

Due to the “No Pass, No Play” rule, the band director has the right to remove a consistently failing student from the band program. All other rules as set forth by the UIL Constitution will, of course, be strictly enforced as well.

C. **In the Classroom**

A band member should give respectful attention to classroom activities and should always be respectful to student and faculty members. Poor behavior in the classroom will not be tolerated and may result in suspension from band if not corrected (See “General Conduct”).

Classroom Rules (The Band Hall)

1. Be on time.
2. Follow instructions the first time they are given.
3. Respect your teachers, fellow classmates, facilities and equipment at all times.
4. Have everything you need, ready to go.
5. No gum, candy, or food in the Band Hall.
6. Put things away properly.

D. **Non U.I.L. Rules**

1. **Major Infractions On and Off Campus**-Violations of any school rules, which address fighting, theft, vandalism, smoking, gambling, drinking, narcotics, etc. will result in suspension or expulsion from the band. This will be in addition to school punishment and may involve a law enforcement agency. **Major infractions of this sort may also result in the removal of the student from all extra-curricular activities (i.e. Sports, One Act Play, U.I.L. Academic events, etc).**
2. **School Equipment** - The band member is financially responsible for all equipment checked out to him/her. Equipment must not be abused. It must be kept in its case in the proper place. **Each student who is assigned a school owned instrument will be assessed a \$25.00 usage fee to help defray the cost of repairs at the end of the school year.**
3. **Attendance Regulation** - Directors must be consulted ahead of time if any band members must miss or be tardy to a practice, activity, or performance. The excuse must be valid and in writing. If an absence or tardy is totally unavoidable on the day of an event, a valid written excuse must be presented immediately upon the return of the student. Missing a performance without a valid excuse will result in detention time, a thirty-point reduction from your grade, or removal from band (See "General Conduct").

E. Travel

All Yegua Band Members represent the community, school, and directors. Therefore, it is expected that all will dress in an acceptable manner on trips and conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with codes of conduct. Violations will result in detention or suspension from the next activity or contest, and any incident of a serious nature will result in suspension or expulsion from the band program.

1. Be respectful to your chaperones and bus drivers.
2. Follow directions correctly the first time. Always listen.
3. Be on time, all the time. To be early is on time, to be on time is late, to be late is to be sorry.
4. Dress appropriately.
5. No screaming, loud talking, loud laughing, jam boxes, or any other noises.
6. No glass containers on the bus.
7. No hanging out of the bus windows.
8. Be mannerly in restaurants, stores, and hotels.
9. All band members making the trip on the bus will return on the bus, unless the directors are informed before hand, given a note, and you are seen leaving with one of your parents or person designated in the note.
10. The buses must be clean when we return.
11. Each band member is to return his/her equipment (school owned or personal) to the proper storage area when we return.

II. Practice, Rehearsal, and Preparation Sessions

Each student is expected to participate in all scheduled practice and preparation sessions (where applicable) as specified by the Yegua Band Schedule (Appendix A). The following is a list of these sessions and a brief explanation of them.

A. **Summer Band Camp**

Each Yegua Band Member will be given an opportunity to apply for the partial scholarship to a reputable Summer Band Camp. The Somerville Band Boosters will provide these scholarships. Additional scholarships may be secured from Citizens State Bank and other community entities.

Applications for scholarships will be passed out no later than the latter part of March. A deadline for their return will be set by the latter part of April. Those who are selected to receive a scholarship will be announced by the first week of May. After the student has chosen a camp, a letter and a check will then be sent to the camp that the student will attend in the name of the University. However, the student (parents) may wish to pay the camp fees in full, in which case the Somerville Band Boosters will reimburse the amount to the parents with proof of payment.

Note: If a student decides not to attend a camp after Somerville Band Boosters has forwarded a check and will not be reimbursed by the University, that student will owe the Somerville Band Boosters.

B. **Summer Band (Yegua Band)**

Each Yegua Band Member who expects to march in the first two halftime drill formations is expected to attend all of the August Summer Band activities (where applicable, see Appendix A for an example). If a student is absent from Summer Band, they must make up the time missed by attending make-up sessions or march as an alternate for up to three games. If an illness occurs while the student is in attendance and it causes the student to miss more than two days, the student will automatically become an alternate for at least one game unless the time is made up. These rules are not designed to function as a punishment for those who do not attend all of the sessions, but as a reward for those who attend all of the sessions. This also helps the director in writing the drill.

C. **After School Rehearsals**

The Yegua Marching Band will rehearse every Monday from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. Students who miss an after school session will receive a 2 ½ hour detention and become an alternate unless a valid written excuse is

presented on the day of the student's return. However, the student may still lose his/her spot in the halftime formation regardless of validity of the excuse if a qualified alternate is available to take his/her place. Excuses such as work or vacation will not be accepted. Second time dental and doctor appointments thereafter will also not be accepted.

D. Pre-game Rehearsals

Each student is expected to attend a pre-game rehearsal before every home game. Students who miss this rehearsal will automatically receive a one-hour detention. Those who are tardy will serve an automatic thirty-minute detention. Excuses must be presented prior to the absence or immediately upon their return for no detention time. However, a student may still lose his/her spot if a qualified alternate is available.

E. Clinics

The Yegua Band Directors will occasionally invite well-known music adjudicators in to clinic our band. Clinics will be scheduled as early as possible to avoid conflicts with work schedules, dentist appointments, etc. The attendance of these clinics is mandatory. They are designed to enhance the effectiveness of contest performances in all three areas of our program (i.e., Marching Band, Concert Band, and Jazz Ensemble). Other clinicians will occasionally come in to work during class, and before and after school. The Yegua Band Directors will not schedule any before and after school clinics unless the students can and will be given two to three weeks notice. Clinics during classes may occur at any time.

F. Extra Rehearsals

The band directors may occasionally call extra rehearsals before performances, contests or clinics. These may occur at any time within two weeks of a performance. Since it is hard to predict how well our groups will be performing at that time, it is impossible to say how many of these we may need. An extra rehearsal could be called the day before a performance. However, I can assure you that these will be called only on the basis of need. In most cases a show of hands will indicate that the students do not mind coming in and those who have a prior commitment will be excused with no deduction of points. Otherwise, attendance is mandatory. In the past, we have had no more than three of these a year. It probably will not change.

G. **Spring Sectionals**

The second semester marks the beginning of preparation for UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. One of the ways we prepare is through section rehearsals. These are held once a week for each section either at 7:15 to 7:35 a.m., 3:30 to 4:15 p.m., or 4:15 to 5:00 p.m. The attendance at these sessions is mandatory.

H. **Help Sessions**

The Yegua Band Directors will in most cases provide times for individual help on music for region try-outs, solo and ensemble contests, region jazz try-outs, all-state try-outs, band selections and try-outs, etc... These sessions are usually scheduled on a first sign-up, first come basis. They are normally thirty minutes in length. While they are not designed to take the place of a private lesson, they are very useful to the students, band, and directors.

I. **Try-outs for All Units**

Try-outs will be held for all units of the High School Band Program (i.e., Marching Band, Concert Band, and Jazz Ensemble). While try-outs for most positions involve a decision to admit a student to a program, our try-outs will primarily render chair results. The marching band is made up of members of the concert band and most of the members of the jazz ensemble. Additional auditions will be held for marching percussion, flag corp., and twirlers. Officer try-outs will be held for drum major, band captains, and auxiliary captain positions.

III. General Explanation of Officer Positions

The success of our program depends, in many ways, on the quality of our student leadership. The following is a brief description of each of our student leadership positions.

A. **Drum Major (Head and Assistant)**

Drum Major is the highest student office of the Yegua Band. The student(s) who are selected to this (these) position(s) must be exemplary of the “ideal” band member in every way. (In rare cases a head drum major and assistant will be chosen. There are responsibilities that distinguish the two; however, both will share responsibilities that require head drum major skills. The head drum major, however, will assume command in the appropriate manner and at the appropriate

times). Not only must they live up to the awesome responsibilities, but also they must perform their duties in a way that does not come across as arrogant to the band they serve. There should never be conflicts between the roles of the drum major and band directors or the roles of the drum major and captains. Major decisions and/or disagreements should be handled in a professional manner, on and off the field. The drum major(s) are required to meet with the directors on a frequent basis during the marching season for pre-planning. The following is a list of specific duties of the drum major:

1. Direct halftime performance.
2. Give vocal commands at performances and rehearsals.
3. Direct selections in the stands at football games and pep rallies.
4. Supervise the teaching of halftime, contest drills, and inspections.
5. Lead the band in parade and marching processions.
6. Assume teaching responsibilities when needed.
7. Serve as the student representative of the Yegua Band when needed.
8. Serve as a model during a teaching session.
9. Aid the directors in evaluation procedures (will not give grades).
10. Perform various tasks deemed necessary by the directors.
11. Serve as a model band student at all times.

B. Captains

The captains of the Yegua Band are the drill instructors. These students are responsible for teaching their squad (sections) marching fundamentals, halftime and UIL Contest drills, and conducting music “play-throughs” before the directors give playing grades. Needless to say, these students play a very important role in the success of our marching performances. They must be model players and marchers. Like the drum major(s), they must perform their duties without coming across in an arrogant manner, yet with confidence. The captains must

also be able to discipline their squads to be the best in the band. It is their duty to make sure that all of the members of their squad are on time, prepared, pass all inspections flawlessly, are the best marchers and players, etc. The following is a list of specific duties of the band captains:

1. Teach fundamentals and drills.
2. Give vocal commands to their squads at performances and rehearsals.
3. Enforce various disciplinary procedures.
4. Inspect the uniforms and instruments of their squad members.
5. Conduct play-throughs of the music selections in their squads.
6. Serve as models during teaching.
7. Aid the directors in evaluation procedures (will not give grades).
8. Serve as model band students at every function, in every way, at all times.

C. Color Guard Captains

Color guard captains are the student leaders of the flag corp. These students are responsible for teaching their units the marching fundamentals. They will be held accountable for teaching and perfecting halftime, UIL Contest, Winter Guard, and Marching Auxiliary Drills. This is also the only student position in which the duties include writing performance drills. These students will normally spend countless hours preparing equipment, making sure everyone has their horn and music for class rehearsals and in the stands, and making sure that their appearance is as a unit. It is most important that captains perform their duties without coming across in an arrogant manner, yet with confidence. They must be “model” marchers and equipment handlers, organized and able to discipline their units.

In most cases a flag corp captain and assistant will be chosen. There are responsibilities that distinguish the position; however, both will share

responsibilities that require head captain skills. The head captain, however, will assume command in the appropriate manner at the appropriate times.

The following is a list of specific duties of the color guard captains:

1. Teach fundamentals and drills.
2. Write drills.
3. Give vocal commands to their units at performances and rehearsals.
4. Enforce various disciplinary procedures.
5. Carry out inspections.
6. Serve as models during teaching.
7. Aid the directors in evaluation procedures (will not give grades).

8. Serve as model band members at all times.

***** Major infractions of school rules such as drugs, alcohol, use of tobacco products, flagrant disrespect to administrators and faculty, excessive use of profanity, fighting, and cheating will in most cases warrant the removal of an officer from his/her position. It may also include removal from band. These rules also apply to the following section: Auxiliary Units and Support Groups.**

IV. Auxiliary Units and Support Group

The following information is a brief description of the functions of the auxiliary units and support groups of our band program.

A. Flag Corp

A well-rehearsed and good-looking flag corp can greatly enhance the effects of a halftime or contest show. Many hours are spent on choreography and synchronized flag movement. The flag corp members should strive to be the best marchers in the band. It is also important that the flag corp remember that they are band members first. At the same time, there is plenty of room for the development of a very close knit unit. The flag corp will rehearse every Wednesday from 3:30-4:30 p.m. during marching season. Being late or missing an entire

rehearsal will require the member to make up the time missed. Excessive absences could lead to removal from the flag corp. Extra rehearsals may be called.

V. Band Hall

We are fortunate to have one of the finest 2A facilities in the State. It is every student's responsibility to take care of it. Each band (H.S., Jr. High, Fifth and Sixth Grade) will have student leaders who will help the directors make sure that you are doing your part to take care of the Band Hall, your equipment, and your uniform (where it applies). If Directors detect blatant disobedience, your parents will be contacted and the appropriate disciplinary measures will be taken. Obviously, destruction of property will warrant removal from the program and a fine (misdemeanor).

VI. Uniforms

The care you take of your band uniform will reflect the pride that you do or do not have in the program. Each student is expected to hang his/her uniform up correctly and keep it as clean as possible between professional cleanings (dry foods and Sprite only). Missing parts by check-in time will be the responsibility of the person it is checked-out to. This will more than likely require a monetary compensation. Mishandling the uniform could also lead to detention, a suspension from a performance, or removal from the band program.

VII. Fundraising

Each student in the Somerville Band Program (5-12) will have the opportunity to raise funds for specific activities and purchases (trips, reeds, instruments). The fundraisers may be brochure sales, candy sales, car washes, or Aggie Game Concessions, for example. Each student will have a personal account in which these funds will be kept. If the student withdraws from the band program, the only money that can be reimbursed to them are the funds which were personally deposited in cash or personal (family) check. The funds collected for the fundraiser will remain in the general band account and used for the benefit of the program. Participation in the fundraiser and maintaining a personal account is not mandatory; however, it is convenient for you and the directors.

VIII. Grading Policies

Marching Band

The following information represents a formula which may be used during each 6 week period to arrive at each student's grade:

Daily Participation – 50%
Playing Test and Memorization Work -15%
Marching Test – 15%
Recordings Turned In On Time – 20%

Concert Band/Jazz Band

Daily Participation -- 60%
Class Playing Tests--15%
Recordings--25%

Extra Credit

All-Region Try-outs
All-Region Clinic/Concert
Area Try-outs

All-State Band Clinic/Concert
Solo & Ensemble Contest
Attendance of pre-approved concerts

IX. Addendum

Public display of affection

No public display of affection (holding hands, hugging, kissing, etc.) shall occur between band members while representing Somerville ISD at any time. Violation of this rule will result in detention, laps, push-ups, and/or restricted traveling privileges. Repeated offenses will warrant removal from the program.

Letterman Jackets

A student must be classified as a junior and have completed three (3) high school years of marching band to be eligible to receive a letterman jacket. The student must also not have been previously awarded a jacket in another activity or sport.

Extracurricular Participation Guide

State Game / Contest

Regional Game / Contest

Area Game / Contest

Bi-District Game / Contest

Regular Game / Contest

Scrimmage Warm up / Practice Game / Contest

Practice / half time show

Unscheduled or extra practice or school activity

Manager of another sport

Other/Job/Appointments/Non-school organized sports/etc.

If you see that you are going to have a conflict, please let all coaches or teachers involved in the conflict know. This should be done 5 days prior to the conflict.

Agreement Form

I, _____, hereby agree to the terms and
(Print student's name)

conditions as specified by the Yegua Band Handbook. I understand what is expected of me and will uphold my responsibilities.

(Student's signature)

(Date)

(Parent's signature)

(Date)

(Director's signature)

(Date)