

Mighty Owl Band (MOB) Student/Parent Handbook



Garland High School
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Garland, TX 75040
www.mightyowlband.org

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Purpose of this Handbook

This handbook provides an introduction to the philosophy and policies of the Garland High School Mighty Owl Band (MOB) and important information about membership in the MOB and the Garland High School Mighty Owl Band Boosters Organization (MOB Boosters). We welcome parents and students to the MOB family and hope everyone will share our spirit and passion for excellence.

The directors are dedicated to making the MOB experience the best it can be. They believe in working hard, playing well, and having fun. Each is available by phone or email.

Welcome to the MOB

On behalf of all parents of the Garland High School Mighty Owl Band (MOB) members, the MOB Boosters Executive Board welcomes students and parents to the MOB family.

Band provides valuable experience in leadership, teamwork, and self-discipline that goes beyond what students learn in academic subjects. Ultimately, involvement in this band also provides rich rewards of friendship, fellowship and personal satisfaction. The MOB invites parents and students to jump right into this band experience and have fun.

Mighty Owl Band website: www.mightyowlband.org

Mighty Owl Band Directors

The Directors of your Garland High School Mighty Owl Band are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Bob Beshears	972.494.8492, ext. 60076	rebeshea@garlandisd.net
Jacob Ramirez	972.494.8492, ext. 60075	jramirez@garlandisd.net
Javier Rivera	972.494.8492, ext. 60075	jlrive@garlandisd.net
TJ Jordan	972.674.0084	

Above and Beyond

Above and Beyond is the MOB student leadership organization. Auditions for these positions are held each year in the spring. Membership in Above and Beyond requires a year-round commitment and willingness to adhere to scheduled events during summer break and during the school year. These students are committed to doing whatever it takes to make the MOB the best it can be.

MOB Boosters Organization

The Garland High School Mighty Owl Band Boosters Organization (MOB Boosters) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the growth and support of the MOB program. The goal is to make it possible for students to experience the highest quality of music education possible. Activities include fundraising to cover band expenses not provided for in the school budget, providing volunteers for band events throughout the year, and supporting the directors and student leaders in every way.

Every adult family member is encouraged to join MOB Boosters and get involved in the activities. The organization is made strong with parents. Please plan on volunteering for events and attending MOB Boosters meetings, games, contests, and concerts. The band welcomes ALL parents to the MOB family and looks forward to meeting everyone!

The MOB Boosters meetings provide opportunities to meet other parents and the MOB Boosters Executive Board. It is recommended to get phone numbers and email addresses to build a MOB support network.

Membership in MOB Boosters Organization

The MOB Boosters Organization supports the band program and its activities. Not all of the expenses are covered by the enrichment fees paid by every student. Joining the MOB Boosters helps cover these expenses. Depending on the membership level chosen, members receive a variety of benefits, and are listed on the MOB Boosters Honor Roll. Members can vote on important matters, and are eligible to run for the MOB Boosters Executive Board in the spring for the following school year. A complete listing of the MOB Executive board members can be located on our website <http://www.mightyowlband.org>.

Volunteer Opportunities

Parent commitment and involvement are crucial to the success of the MOB. A wide variety of volunteer opportunities exist to help students feel like a part of the MOB family. A [Volunteer Background Check Form](#) must be on file with the band director for parents to volunteer as a chaperone in any capacity. Following are some of the many opportunities for parents to get involved in as volunteers:

Bus Chaperones

Parents may chaperone bus trips with the understanding that chaperone duty is rotated so all parents have an opportunity to chaperone at least once.

Fundraising

Students are encouraged to participate in fundraising to defray the cost of the Spring Trip and help meet band financial needs not covered by the school district. Parent volunteers are needed to help with all of the band's fundraisers. Please contact any fundraising chairperson listed on the website for more details. If you have an idea for a fundraising event, please let Mr. B know.

Publicity

Band activities and events are publicized in the Dallas Morning News Neighbors section and online at neighborsgo.com throughout the year. Send photos and/or stories to the band's publicity chairperson whose information can be found on the mightyowlband.org website. Stories can include activities outside of band including scouts, academics, athletics, church activities and other achievements.

Social Committee

The social committee coordinates events and activities throughout the year. They need parents to prepare or contribute food for functions including the Lock-in, STAAR breakfast, and UIL. This is a great way to help the MOB and not spend a lot of time doing it.

Senior Activities Committee

The Senior Activities Committee is composed of parents of Seniors and Juniors who are interested in putting together special treats for Seniors at Homecoming and the end of the school year.

Senior Scholarships

The MOB offers a scholarship opportunity for ALL graduating seniors in the amount of \$500.00. The John Philip Sousa Scholarship is for graduating seniors seeking to further their education in music. Information on the scholarship program and applications will be available on the MOB website. Applications are also available through the Directors and are generally mailed to all seniors of the MOB.

Communication

Students will receive a great deal of information from the directors to share with parents throughout the year. Sometimes students forget to pass on information, so parents are encouraged to ask questions and to update their contact information in the CHARMS Database.

Directors share information with parents and students via the CHARMS Database. To access the CHARMS Database, visit the band website (mightyowlband.org). Click on the CHARMS link in the column on the left. Your password is the student's ID number. At the bottom of the next page is a link to "Update Info." You can add email addresses, phone numbers, cell phone numbers, parental information, etc. If you include your cell phone service provider, you can receive text messages from the band. **MAKE SURE YOU HIT THE "UPDATE" BUTTON IN THE TOP LEFT OF THE PAGE TO SAVE ALL YOUR EDITS.**

Calendar and schedule information for the entire year is posted on the website. This calendar can be synced to a smartphone by following the directions on the CHARMS Calendar site.

If you have further questions, you can contact the MOB Boosters Executive Board members (listed on the band website), or you can ask one of the directors. Everyone is here to help!

Attendance

Attendance for many band events is mandatory. These events are often denoted on the CHARMS Calendar with an ®. Attendance at rehearsals and performances is essential for the MOB to accomplish its goals.

Attendance is taken via electronic scanners. **IT IS THE STUDENTS RESPONSIBILITY TO SCAN IN AT EVENTS IN ORDER FOR CREDIT FOR ATTENDANCE TO BE GIVEN.** You can check your attendance through CHARMS. Mistakes and adjustments can be made up to 3 calendar days after an event. Students are expected to arrive on time, ready to participate. Being on time means being in place with instrument, music, and a pencil in hand (concert season) five minutes before practice is scheduled to begin. MOB Directors' motto is: "If you are on time, you are late!" Also have a pre-arranged ride home from all events.

Summer Band Camp

Summer band camp begins before the first day of school. Please see the band website CHARMS calendar for dates. All students are expected to develop and demonstrate proficiency in marching and playing to march in the show. Band Directors select students to march in the UIL show based on the student auditions during summer band. This audition is clearly competitive and attendance at all summer band camp sessions is required for a successful audition. Students are expected to memorize the music they will play in the stands and on the field during sectionals and be prepared to “pass-off” or play the music from memory for their squad leaders.

Check the CHARMS Calendar on our website REGULARLY for schedule updates.

Please be aware there will be numerous texts and emails containing a lot of information.

Safety

Please make directors aware of any existing health conditions.

There is no “sitting out” of rehearsal. If a student feels bad, he/she can sit out of rehearsal for a bit to gather themselves. If a student needs to sit out longer than 15 minutes, they will be asked to leave. Please pick up your child in a timely fashion if he/she becomes ill.

Any outdoor activity in August and September can pose health risks to the students due to the heat and humidity. Make sure students take precautions to avoid heat illness. **Staying hydrated is extremely important. Students should bring to every rehearsal: a water bottle or camelback, hat, sunscreen, and other protective gear deemed necessary for their health and protection from the heat.** Students can refill their water bottles and camelbacks during rehearsals. Students are encouraged to **eat** breakfast and lunch and carry a snack with them to band practice so they are ready mentally and physically for optimal practice time for themselves and the entire MOB.

Precautions to avoid heat injury:

- Drink plenty of cool water. Always have a water bottle or camelback. Students can carry water with them as they are marching. The band also takes short breaks for water and sitting out to cool off.
- Eat breakfast and snacks for energy.
- Wear and reapply plenty of sunscreen.
- Wear sunglasses.
- Wear light, loose-fitting clothing, tennis shoes and a hat that allows ventilation.
- Avoid dairy products when experiencing extreme temperatures.

The MOB abides by the district's heat policy at all times.

Carpooling

The rehearsal schedule may create transportation issues. The MOB encourages networking and carpooling because it is easier and safer for everyone when it is possible. The New Parent and Booster Meetings are excellent times to meet and get to know other parents that may be able to help with carpooling. Parents and students can contact an Above and Beyond member for help.

Band parent life is much less stressful with carpooling. Many MOB students drive to and from rehearsal themselves and may be available to help if parents are comfortable with students being the passenger of other students. This is a matter of family preference, and it is very important to discuss and enforce that preference with students. GISD and the band directors are not responsible for students after they leave the stadium or school campus.

Rehearsal during marching season

A copy of the rehearsal calendar can be found on the CHARMS Calendar from the band website. A VERY GENERAL OUTLINE of after school band practices are:

- Monday - A Line Rehearsal 3:15-5:15 in the Band Hall
Contest Band Rehearsal 7:15-9:15 at Williams Stadium
- Tuesday - 3:30-5:30 Full Band Rehearsal at Williams Visitor Parking Lot

- Wednesday – 3:30-5:30 Full Band Rehearsal at Williams Visitor Parking Lot
- Thursday/Friday
 - NON GAME DAY 3:00-4:45 Full Band Rehearsal at Williams Visitor Parking Lot.
 - Game Day – CALL TIME as directed. See the CHARMS calendar on the website for details.

Please be advised that the district mandates some evening rehearsals that are not on Monday evening.

All students remaining at the stadium 10 minutes after rehearsal is dismissed will return to GHS on the school bus for safety reasons. **No student will be left behind at the stadium.** Students are not allowed to wait for parents outside the stadium gates.

On rainy days, marching practice is at the regularly scheduled time, but may be held in the GHS band hall. After school band practices may also be in the GHS parking lot. Please be sure parents know where (either Williams or GHS) the rehearsal is taking place so the student can be picked up on time after practice. **If dangerous weather hits at Williams Stadium after the rehearsal has started, the time lost may be added before call time on game days to keep the band’s quality and level on track. This will result in an earlier call-time.**

All students must wear white T-shirts during ALL rehearsals. Directors see the formations more clearly when all band members have on white shirts. White band t-shirts can be purchased for approximately \$5.00 from the band boosters at games or at other band events. Students are encouraged to bring shorts and a t-shirt to wear with tennis shoes for practice. The bathrooms at the stadium are open before, during and after practice for changing clothes.

Students must be picked up no later than 9:20 on Monday night. Ideally parents should plan to arrive at the stadium by 9:00 to watch the final run through. This is a great opportunity for a preview as the band makes amazing progress from week to week.

Uniforms

Marching

The MOB wears different uniforms on different occasions. The pep rally uniform is worn for the Labor Day parade and the first few football games of the season while the weather is hot. The marching uniform is worn for all other football games and marching competitions.

Marching uniforms are distributed during the first week of band camp. See the website for details.

Students must return all marching jackets and gauntlets to the band hall after each game. **Only** the hats and pants (bibbers) go home with the student.

If a student has long hair, it needs to be worn up and tucked under the uniform hat. Hat plumes will be distributed and collected at the marching event.

It is the student's responsibility to clean and care for the uniform during the marching season. The marching uniform can be turned in dirty at the end of the season. The uniform manager takes all the uniforms at one time to be dry-cleaned. **Do not eat chocolate or consume any food or drinks that will permanently stain uniforms!**

The garment bag, hanger, and hatbox issued to students are considered part of the uniform and must be returned at the end of marching season to avoid payment of a fine. Fines must be paid before the end of the school year for your child to receive final grades at the end of the school year.

When a student is wearing the official band uniform he/she is representing Garland High School, the GISD Fine Arts Magnet Program, and the Mighty Owl Band. In keeping with the pride the band has for these institutions, students will show respect for the uniform and what it represents.

When in uniform students will:

1. Not have colored hair that will bleed into the uniform.

2. Not wear accessories other than those supplied with the uniform (i.e. bandannas, scarves, etc.) on the field for performance.
3. Not wear large earrings. Studs are acceptable.

A complete marching uniform consists of:

Pep Rally Uniform

- Band T-Shirt
- Band Shorts
- Marching Shoes
- Solid, Black Socks (Crew or longer length.)

Marching Uniform

- Band Jacket - Band T-Shirt underneath
- Band Pants (Bibbers) - Band Shorts underneath
- Marching Shoes
- Solid, Black Socks (Crew or longer length.)
- White/Black Band Gloves (except Percussion and Guard)
- Marching Hat (Shako) and Hat Box
- Rain Poncho
- Plume - will be issued at the game.

Concert

The concert uniform is worn for all concert performances. Each band has specific uniform requirements that will be shared by the band director prior to the first performance. The band has some concert tuxedos and black dresses available for students to check out, IF needed. Mr. Ramirez distributes concert uniforms. Students must return them on a designated date after the final concert performance in the spring. Students are fined if the concert uniform isn't returned or is returned late.

Football Games/Marching Season

The MOB schedule and football schedule are on CHARMS Calendar via the band's website.

Tickets

Season tickets for home games cost approximately \$50.00 and can be purchased at the athletic office on the home side of Williams Stadium (the side by the field house entrance) or online at www.garlandisd.net/departments/athletics/tickets. Check their website or contact them for dates and office hours. **Season tickets are for home games only.** Band parents generally buy tickets for seats in the reserved seating section next to the band. Discounted tickets are available at the athletic office until noon the day of the game for games where we are the visitor at Williams Stadium. Tickets for district games in which Garland High School is the visitor generally go on sale the Tuesday prior to game day at school. You can call the ticket sales office at 972.494.8588 if you have questions. Tickets for away games outside of the district must be purchased at the site of the game. If Garland progresses to the football play-offs in November, the band directors inform the students and parents as soon as dates, times and tickets are available.

Game Days

On game days, the entire MOB meets at the Garland High School campus in the auditorium at the designated call time. At the conclusion of the inside rehearsal, students will single-file line into the band hall to check out their uniform jacket. All percussionists and larger instrument musicians load their instrument first, and then get their jacket.

The band rides buses to all games. All members of the MOB share a clear expectation of efficiency. Students should use the restroom before loading the bus. The band provides a small snack and drink for band members before loading buses, but students need to eat dinner before the game since band members do not eat dinner at the stadium. They are required to be playing music in the stands or on the field at all times. **Students do not go to concession stands nor may parents bring them food in the stands.** When the band arrives at the destination, everyone remains on the bus until Mr. Beshears comes to each bus with further instructions.

During the game, students will continue with the great traditions we have shared during the past few years. Always be ready to play. Watch and enjoy the game. Play well in the stands and especially at half-time. After the game

the MOB remains in the stands until dismissed. The buses leave immediately after the game. Do not delay.

All students return to GHS. Students must remain for 100% of the game. Students who cannot remain for the entirety should not attend. The MOB is a large group, and needs to move efficiently. In order to do this, everyone must abide by the same expectations (rules).

Call Time

Call time is the time the student needs to be at the meeting location in uniform with his or her music and instrument. Students should arrive at this location at least 15 minutes prior to call time. Call times are set by the band directors and depend on where the game will be played. The call time for each game is announced in band classes, included in the weekly email, and posted on the announcement board in the band hall.

Transportation

Students will ride buses to ALL football games. No exceptions. Call times are posted on the calendar. Students will always meet at the GHS Band Hall for football game call times. During the week prior to an away game or competition, the band directors will announce the approximate time the buses will return to the Garland High School Fine Arts parking lot after the game. **Parents are expected to make appropriate transportation arrangements to and from practice, games, and other band events.** Students are also encouraged to call home from the buses when returning to school so authorized drivers are there to meet them when they return.

Parents should park in a parking space in the parking lot so the buses and equipment truck can pull through the driveway to unload.

It is critical that a parent, or another designated driver, be there to pick up the student when the buses return to GHS. It is dangerous for students to wait outside of the school at night without adult supervision or protection. Chaperones will depart 15 minutes after the trailer is unloaded. *If the student has not been picked up by that time they may be penalized. Penalties might include being moved to A-line or not participating in the show.* Your courtesy and cooperation is appreciated.

Marching Contest(s)

Each year the band participates in multiple Dallas-area marching contest. Contests are likely to last all day as the band progresses through the levels of competition. The band directors will set the call time the week before the contest, and students will be transported by bus to and from the event. Families and friends are encouraged to attend contests to support the band and help maintain order and discipline in the stands. Arrangements for food will be announced.

UIL Grade Eligibility Procedure—No Pass, No Play

If a band student has a failing grade at the end of a grading period, that student is not eligible to participate in band performances for the next grading period. Exception: If the student is passing **all** classes on the progress report following the report card with a failing grade, they can be eligible to perform from progress report date until the end of that grading period.

Academics are a high priority for the band directors. Teachers notify them if a student is failing, and they urge that student to participate in the individual teacher's tutorial periods either before or after school. Parents should take advantage of the [GISD Online Gradebook](#) to stay informed of your students' classroom grades and performance and maintain regular contact with their teachers.

There is NO reason for any MOB student to fail a class. In addition to classroom tutorials provided by every teacher at GHS, MOB upperclassmen are available to tutor students. Just ask them.

Spring Band Trip

Each spring the band takes a trip to spend some time relaxing, performing and having fun as a group. Each student must meet the UIL eligibility requirements on the report card preceding the band trip to be allowed to take the band trip. Each student signs a trip contract that outlines the specific details of the trip including dates, location, and schedules for payments and refund deadlines.

Parents will receive a detailed trip packet including itinerary and chaperone information at the parent meeting prior to the trip departure date. Parents can volunteer to chaperone this trip by contacting Mr. Beshears.

Events throughout the school year

Band Show-Off: The band presents a show-off performance at Garland High School to give family and friends a preview of the showmanship they have developed in Summer Band Camp.

Band Party: The MOB Directors sponsor this fun-filled event to give the band an opportunity to relax, play games and have fun together before the school year begins. The Band Party is at GHS Band Hall.

Garland Labor Day Parade: All GISD High School bands participate in the annual Labor Day parade which begins at the downtown Garland DART station at the corner of Walnut and Fifth Streets. Volunteers are needed to walk the parade and help keep the band cool with misters and drinks of water.

Winter Concert: To conclude the first semester of school, all bands will perform at the winter concert featuring a variety of musical styles. All concert performances are in the Garland High School auditorium.

Chamber Percussion Show: The Chamber Percussion show is a one-of-a-kind performance and will be held in April at the Plaza Theater. Tickets sell out very quickly, so they should be purchased as soon as the Band Directors announce availability.

Spring Concert: The spring concert is the formal musical ending to the school year. All bands perform.

Band Banquet: This is an evening the entire family may attend. Typically, the band has a theme, and students are encouraged to dress for the theme. The directors present awards, seniors read their wills - willing items to underclassmen, and we show a video retrospective of the year. The evening is full of fun, laughter, and a few tears as well. Parents are welcome to attend.