

STONY POINT HIGH SCHOOL BAND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is block scheduling? What is single blocking? What is double blocking?

Block scheduling is a term used to describe how classes are scheduled in RRISD high schools. You will have eight classes on your schedule, but you will only attend four each day. Each class period is one hour and twenty minutes long. The classes alternate each day. For instance on Monday, you will have 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th periods and then on Tuesday you will have 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th periods. Wednesday would be 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th again, etc. A single blocked class is a course that only requires one of your periods (blocks), such as academic courses. Double blocked classes require two periods from your schedule. Most athletic teams, band and some HST (Health, Science and Technology) classes require multiple blocks.

2. Can you be in athletics and band?

Band students are required to double block their freshman year. Likewise, many of the team athletic courses require students to double block. Students receive the lowest number of elective opportunities their freshman year. Both athletics and band require significant time commitments from their participants. Layering these time commitments and acclimating to the new high school culture combined with a much more rigorous academic agenda (especially if the student is in advanced placement courses) is far more than most students can handle their first year. While it may be difficult to do band and another activity at the same time, we are 100% willing to work with you in the event that a student is in 2 activities.

3. Can you participate in the IB (International Baccalaureate) program and band?

YES! Although it requires some creative scheduling from our terrific counselors, we have many students in band that successfully participate in both band and IB. It is important to note however that IB has a much more rigorous academic requirement than regular and AP courses. Students must be highly motivated and be successful at organization and time-management.

4. Do you have to march?

Yes. In RRISD, any student enrolled in band is in the marching band. Certain exceptions can be made by the director on an individual basis. Marching band is an amazing experience, and students will benefit greatly from it.

5. Is it hard to march?

It might seem hard at first, but you quickly get the hang of it. The technique is not something you're used to, but the directors and staff are very helpful and supportive and want nothing more than you to be successful. Our members are more than willing to help new students pick up marching, and we want no member left behind.

6. Do you perform at every game?

Yes! We are there to support our football team and entertain the crowd but while we are doing our job, we're also having a great time, creating friendships that you can't find anywhere else!

The only exception to not going to games is injuries, or in certain events, if a student doesn't turn in their weekly pride sheet, they will not step on the bus.

7. What band class will I be in and what determines that?

There are three performing ensembles at SPHS: Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band. These three ensembles are seated by student ability, Wind Ensemble being the top performing group. Through an anonymous audition that occurs during the Spring and Fall semesters, each student will be placed in one of the three ensembles that will be their band class for the year.

8. How much time does it take to be in band?

Marching season (August–Beginning of November) requires more time in preparation than concert season (November–May). All rehearsals are published in the band calendar, so your family can plan accordingly. Although we do rehearse quite a lot, the time spent with your friends working for a common goal brings you closer together and teaches you leadership skills, determination, persistence and patience. Band students learn many time management, organizational, and efficiency skills.

9. Will being in band adversely affect my grades?

Although you would think that the amount of time spent rehearsing and performing would have a negative effect on your grades, actually the opposite is true. Every year, several of the top 10% of the graduating class are band students with many valedictorians and salutatorians. Band students usually carry the highest GPAs (Grade Point Averages) in the school. This is due to many factors:

- Due to the state of Texas No Pass/No Play rule, band students are required to pass all of their classes in order to be eligible to participate in the band activity. This is great motivation to work hard in your academic classes.
- The Band Council (student representatives) organize peer tutoring for students experiencing academic difficulties. Their goal is to have everyone academically eligible!
- The band directors check grades consistently and work with teachers and parents to anticipate difficulties and correct any issues before they become a problem.

10. Are older students mean?

NO! There's nothing to be afraid of. The older students know that their success is determined by your success and they are always willing to help you – not only with marching and playing, but academically as well. We are one band – one family and everyone contributes equally and is equally important. Older members may seem scary at first, but they are nicer than they may seem. Upperclassman want all underclassman to succeed, as they want to leave a strong band behind when they graduate. Don't be afraid to speak up!

11. Can I earn a letter jacket in band?

YES! Most students will earn their letter jacket by the end of their sophomore year. However, there are ways to earn it even sooner! Information about earning your letter jacket as well as our

end-of-the-year awards can be found in the SPSHS Band Handbook. We hold 2 fittings a year, one in the fall, and one in the spring.

12. How much does it cost to be in band?

As with any activity at Stony Point High School, there are required fees and supplies that must be purchased in order for students to participate. We make every effort to keep our fees as low as possible and no student is ever turned away due to financial hardship. Freshman fees will be in the neighborhood of \$500 and will vary student to student. Help is available through the band boosters to families experiencing financial difficulties. The band registration forms will cover all the required and optional fees. These forms will be distributed in February. Please do not let the band fees be the determining factor to band participation.

13. What are some of your best memories of being in high school band?

- Football games – it's fun to play and dance in the stands, it's exciting to cheer on our Varsity football team and performing at halftime is awesome!
- Band Lock-In – a super-fun social event that celebrates the end of marching season. You get to stay up all night at the school, eat, participate in a talent show, watch movies, play video games, and spend the night with all your friends!
- Spring Band Trips – overnight trips to great places! We've been to Orlando, Branson, Chicago, Dallas, San Antonio and Colorado! The spring trips always include performances, great food and lots of fun activities!
- Band Banquet – a formal event to celebrate the year. After dinner, we enjoy our end-of-the-year awards ceremony, followed by the announcement of the new band officers and drum majors. The evening ends with a dance. The event is a great way to remember the current year and welcome the year to come.

14. What are the leadership roles of band?

In band, we have 2 different types of leadership: Instructional, and Social. Instructional leadership consists of Drum Majors, Section Leaders and Squad Leaders. Drum Majors are the students on the podiums on the front, sides, and back of the field during performances. They lead the band throughout all of marching season, and conduct the show. Section Leaders are in charge of a specific section such as flutes, clarinets or saxophones. Squad Leaders assist section leaders in all their responsibilities and help get the job done. Social Leadership consists of the President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Historian, and Representatives. These positions are extremely crucial in organizing all the fun events for the entire year, such as Band Lock in, Banquet, and all fundraisers.

Any further questions can be directed to either:

matt_greene@roundrockisd.org

Or

thomas_tomczuck@roundrockisd.org

We look forward to seeing your student in band!
Have a Terrific Tiger Day!