

BROWNWOOD ISD BAND SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

Dear Brownwood ISD Student-Band Member:

The Brownwood ISD Board of Trustees has approved the following social media and networking guidelines for the BISD Band Department. Brownwood ISD and the Band Department recognize and support the student-band members' rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks. In this context, however, each student-band member must remember that playing and competing for the Brownwood ISD is a privilege. As a student-band member, you represent Brownwood ISD and the community of Brownwood and you are expected to portray yourself, your band, and the School District in a positive manner at all times.

- Everything you post is public information – any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online – even if you limit access to your site. Information (including pictures, videos, and comments) may be accessible even after you remove it. Once you post a photo or comment on a social networking site, that photo or comment becomes the property of the site and may be searchable even after you remove it.
- What you post may affect your future. Many employers and college admissions officers review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant. Carefully consider how you want people to perceive you BEFORE you give them a chance to misinterpret your information (including pictures, videos, comments, and posters).
- Similar to comments made in person, the Brownwood ISD Band Department will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online, such as:
 - Derogatory language or remarks that may harm my teammates or directors, other Brownwood student-band members, teachers, or coaches, and student-athletes, or representatives of other schools, including comments that may disrespect my opponents.
 - Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence, hazing, sexual harassment, full or partial nudity, inappropriate gestures, vandalism, stalking, underage drinking, selling, possessing, or using controlled substances, or any other inappropriate behaviors.
 - Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.
 - Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation – regardless if the violation was unintentional or intentional. In short, do not have a false sense of security about your rights to freedom of speech. Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. The online social network sites are NOT a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions. The information you post on a social networking site is considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image of which you can be proud for years to come.

We ask parents/guardians to refrain from posting disparaging comments about students and employees as well. Any disagreements will be handled by following the Brownwood ISD School Board policy. (Employees have signed a similar Social Media agreement.)

Each student-band member and their parent or legal guardian must read and sign the agreement below before competing for Brownwood ISD:

"I have read, understand and agree to follow the Brownwood ISD Band Social Media policy. I also understand that as a student-band member, it is my responsibility to not use any form of social media (text messages, Facebook, Twitter, Skype, etc.) to be critical of teammates, directors, game officials, school administrators, opponents, opposing schools, or any other personnel involved in the band program. Furthermore, I understand that a violation of this policy could be cause for suspension or removal from the Brownwood ISD band department."

Student - Print Name

Student – Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian – Print Name

Parent/Guardian – Signature

Date