

# **GEORGE RANCH HIGH SCHOOL LONGHORN BAND**

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## **WELCOME**

Welcome to the George Ranch High School Longhorn Band! We are very happy you have chosen to be a part of our proud organization. The purpose of this Band Handbook is to acquaint students and parents with the policies, guidelines, and requirements of the George Ranch High School Band program. If at any time you have questions or concerns regarding the George Ranch Longhorn Band, please contact a Band Director.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The George Ranch High School Longhorn Band is an organization that will model the highest levels of musicianship through self-discipline, responsibility, fellowship, pride, loyalty to the school and district, and ultimately create a living example of music's important role in the development of the human spirit.

## **Music is a means of communication that plays a vital role in an individual's development. The George Ranch Longhorn Band:**

- Provides an environment that develops musical skills through individual and group performances
- Provides performance experiences which develop creative self-expression
- Provides an instructional music program, which provides opportunities for a personal vision with high expectations, development of mental and physical discipline, cultural growth, and citizenship through group endeavor.

## **MAKING A COMMITMENT**

In order to be a member of a performing group, each person must decide if he or she wants to make the commitment of time and dedication. For all school activities, the faculty and administration work together to make sure students have the opportunities to participate in many different activities. However, non-school activities must not interfere with the student's commitment to Band and to the other members of the organization. Please do not register for Band unless you are willing to make this commitment.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLINE**

Because of the nature of the organization, Band discipline is a must. Band students and parents must be willing to accept the ideals, principles, and rules of the organization. Because Band members are on display, each must be aware of the importance of good behavior. Students should remember that they represent the Band, the school, and the community whenever they perform publicly. Any misconduct casts a direct reflection on them, the Band, the school, and community, and may undo the good work of hundreds of loyal students. A good Band is built on discipline. **IN ORDER TO GIVE THE HIGHEST QUALITY PERFORMANCE, WE MUST ALL LEARN TO WORK TOGETHER, PRACTICE TOGETHER, AND GET ALONG WITH EACH OTHER.**

## **ELIGIBILITY and PARTICIPATION**

Eligibility to participate in the George Ranch Band program will be governed by regulations as set by the Texas Legislature, Texas Education Agency, the State Board of Education, the Lamar Consolidated Independent School District, University Interscholastic League, and the Texas Music Educators Association. LCISD Board Policy, UIL Rules, and TMEA Rules regulate the admission to the Band program at the beginning of any school year in accordance with state law. Minimum requirements for admission to the program include:

- Beginning of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year – have completed all course requirements for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year
- Beginning of the 10<sup>th</sup> year – at least 5 credits toward graduation
- Beginning of the 11<sup>th</sup> year – at least 10 credits toward graduation
- Beginning of the 11<sup>th</sup> year – at least 15 credits toward graduation

Any student not having the right number of credits at the beginning of each year will be deemed ineligible until the end of the first six weeks grading period. At this time, they must be passing **all** classes to become eligible for extracurricular activities.

## **PASSING ALL SUBJECTS**

In order to be eligible to participate in an extracurricular activity during a six weeks period, a student must not have received a grade lower than a 70 in any course for the previous six weeks. If a student fails a course they will be ineligible for six weeks. The earliest a student may become eligible is at the end of three weeks when progress reports come out. At this time they must be passing all courses, not just the courses they had failed. They may come back and participate seven days (grace period) after the end of the three or six week's ends. Being ineligible does not excuse a student from after school practice. They are still required to attend all rehearsals. Eligibility is not just one individual's problem. Each time we lose a student due to grades, it affects the entire group. Making a commitment to the Band Program also involves each student making a commitment to pass all of his or her courses.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICIES**

The greatest single factor in school success is regular and punctual attendance. This is especially true for success in our Band Program. Attendance is automatically a part of membership in the George Ranch Longhorn Band.

## **GENERAL NOTES REGARDING ATTENDANCE**

1. All Band students are required to attend all rehearsals and performances. (Repeated absences from rehearsals and performances may result the Band student being taken out of certain Band activities and being moved to another Band)
2. Lack of attendance will have a major effect on the students Band grade.
3. Attendance and reliability will be considered when the directors make chair placement, officer selections, and Band placement.
4. **Work is not an excuse for missing a Band rehearsal or a performance.** If you have a conflict with your job it is your responsibility to fix it.
5. **Please check your Drivers Education schedule.** The summer is an excellent time to take this. Check the Band calendar before signing up.
6. Certain extra-curricular activities that you might be involved in may coincide with Band activities. If this happens, please notify the Band Directors immediately, there is a solution to every problem. That solution starts with the student coming in and communicating with the Directors.
7. Every Band member must comply with all LCISD and UIL attendance regulations in order to attend official Band functions.
8. If you have an excused absence from school, then you have an excused from official Band activities. (Please check the LCISD student handbook for what the LCISD School Board deems acceptable)
9. All absences from Band functions require a written note from the Band student's parent or legal guardian following the Band function.

## **POLICIES FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN BAND**

1. BAND is a participation activity. Everyone participates.
2. All students enrolled in the George Ranch Band program are required to participate in the Marching program.
3. All students are required to participate in all Band activities.
4. Students will receive grades for participation in all curricular/extracurricular performances, which take place inside/outside the school day.
5. Band calendars go on line in August. This will be all Band activities for the entire year. This calendar is what we hold the Band student accountable to. Please check this calendar from time to time, this will help avoid conflicts.
6. Each student enrolled in Band will be provided a copy of this letter and an acknowledgment to be signed by his/her legal guardian and returned to the Directors.

## **BAND GRADING POLICY**

The grade in Band a student receives is directly affected by the student's level of participation and performance. The Band Grading policy is as follows:

### **DAILY PARTICIPATION – 40%**

Calculated daily based on these observable behaviors to your class level.

Attentiveness Effort/Enthusiasm

Involvement On Task Behavior

Instrumental Skills Musicianship

Attendance at all After-School Rehearsals

### **PERFORMANCE – 60%**

Attendance at all Band Contests, Concerts, Football Games, Pep Rallies, Run-Thru prior to the Game, Parades, Co-curricular and Extra-curricular Band performances

Music Memorization, Performance Examinations

## **GEORGE RANCH HIGH SCHOOL BANDS SYMPHONIC, CONCERT, and CADET**

1. All Bands are performing ensembles.
2. Symphonic and Concert Bands are competitive at UIL and other festivals/competitions.
3. Placement in the different Bands is based upon the student's musical ability, their academic status, attendance, participation, attitude and desire to be a part of the George Ranch High School Longhorn Band program.
4. Attendance is required at all scheduled Band activities.
5. Auditions for Band placement will be at the end of each semester. This will give each Band member an opportunity to move to a higher or lower Band.
6. All Band members are encouraged to participate in Region Band and Solo and Ensemble Competitions.
7. All students are required to obey all rules and regulations stated by the George Ranch Longhorn Band, George Ranch High School, and the Lamar Consolidated Independent School District.

## **MARCHING BAND**

1. Every member in the GRHS Band program participates in the GRHS Marching Band.
2. All Band members are required to obtain Black Marching Shoes, Black Socks, Black Gloves, and a Band T-Shirt (these items will be obtained through the Band or the Band Boosters)
3. All Marching rehearsals are from 4:15-5:45, Monday through Friday. Please see the Band calendar for a daily schedule.
4. The Marching Band performs at all Football games, parades, and pep rallies.
5. The GRHS Marching Band is made up of the Symphonic Band, the Concert Band, and the Cadet Bands.
6. Each Band Student will audition during Summer Band for one of two positions in the Marching Band.

A. Primary Marchers are students who:

1. Demonstrate high quality marching skills.
2. Exhibit outstanding playing fundamentals.
3. Are punctual in all report times.
4. Are present at all rehearsals and performances.
5. Maintains academic eligibility.

B. Alternate Marchers are students who:

1. Meet the same requirements as Primary Marchers.
2. Display difficulty in mastering the performance and the marching fundamentals required to have a Primary position.
3. Alternate marchers will be given various opportunities to march in both rehearsals and performances during the Football season.

## **JAZZ BAND**

1. All members must be enrolled in one of the George Ranch Longhorn Bands. (Symphonic, Concert or Cadet) – (the only exception would be if the student played piano, guitar, bass guitar, or was a vocalist)
2. **Band Placement is based upon audition only.**
3. If student cannot be in the class due to academic conflicts, they must attend **all** extra rehearsals.

## **DRUM LINE**

1. All percussionists are scheduled into one class during the school day.
2. At the end of each semester, each percussionist will audition and be placed into a performing Band. This will be the group that they perform with during concerts and full Band competitions. Percussionists are expected to attend ALL of THEIR full Band rehearsals competitions, and performances.
3. Each percussionist will pay a \$75.00 percussion maintenance fee at the beginning of each school year. This fee covers the cost of specific sticks and mallets required during the course of the school year.

## **COLOR GUARD**

The GRHS Color Guard is a part of the GRHS Marching Program. This program is open to every one at George Ranch High School, whether they play a musical instrument or not. They will have to be scheduled into the Color Guard class during the school day and will participate in all after school rehearsals and activities. The purpose of the Color Guard to the Marching Band is to visually complement the music and add color to the drill in our marching show. Each member must go through an audition process to be selected into the Color Guard. The approximate cost for being in this activity will vary from year to year depending on the costuming and equipment that we will use that year.

## **WINTER GUARD**

The Winter Guard program at GRHS is an offshoot from the Color Guard. This is a totally separate activity that is open to everyone at George Ranch High School whether he or she plays a musical instrument or not. All rehearsals and practices take place after school. There is no separate class period for Winter Guard during the school day. Each member must go through an audition process before being selected into the Winter Guard. The cost for being in this activity will be based upon the costuming and equipment needs for the show that season. The Winter Guard season is in the spring semester.

## **BAND UNIFORMS**

It should be considered an honor to wear the Band Uniform of George Ranch High School. In order to insure that the uniform remains an item of respect, we have come up with the following uniform guidelines:

1. Band Uniforms will be sized during the first part of Summer Band. Students will be notified during the first few days of Summer Band on what the schedule of checkout will be.
2. There is NO eating or drinking in Uniform. The only exception is water.
3. Uniforms are checked out through our Band Booster Uniform Committee. These committee members are the only individuals who do the check-in/check-out procedure.
4. Jewelry such as watches, earrings, bracelets and necklaces are not to be worn while in uniform. This also includes sunglasses (other than prescription) and hats.
5. If a Uniform needs to be altered at checkout, our Uniform Committee will handle it.
6. All Band Uniforms are stored in the Uniform Room. The Uniforms are not to be kept at home.
7. Band Shoes, Band Shirt, Gloves, and Black Socks are the required items each Band member must be responsible for obtaining. These items will be purchased through the Band program and the Band Boosters.
8. Band students will checkout their Uniform before each Band function and check in their Uniform after the function is over.
9. The Band Student is responsible for any lost, stolen, missing, or damaged pieces of their Uniform. The Band student will be monetarily responsible for the replacement cost of the items.
10. The Band program will be responsible for getting the Uniforms dry-cleaned.
11. Students that fail to show respect for the Uniform, will lose the privilege of being able to wear it.

**STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT PROPERLY UNIFORMED FROM HEAD TO TOE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PERFORMANCE OR ACTIVITY.**

## **SCHOOL OWNED EQUIPMENT**

The Lamar Consolidated Independent School District goes to great lengths to make sure we have the very best school equipment for our Band Programs. It is a privilege to be able to use this equipment. If a student shows a lack of responsibility in the care and maintenance of the school equipment checked out to them, they will lose that privilege. The guidelines for the use of School Owned Equipment are as follows:

1. Every Band student using a school owned instrument must check-in their equipment at the end of each year. At this time, it will be determined whether the instrument needs summer repair. If not, it will be reissued to that student for the summer.
2. We make sure the instrument is in excellent operating condition when we check out the instrument to the Band student. It is the Band students' responsibility to keep the instrument in excellent operating condition while it is in their care. This instrument should be treated as if it was the students' personal property.
3. It is the responsibility of each student using school owned instruments to obtain their own mouthpieces and ligatures. Please check with the directors as far as what brand each individual instrument will need. This can be a major expense, but a small price to pay considering the student is playing on an instrument that costs thousands of dollars that you the parent did not have to buy.
4. Please notify the Band directors immediately if there is a problem with your school owned instrument. We need to get it serviced ASAP and back to the student so they will lose as little time as possible away from rehearsal.
5. Please check with a director before taking your instrument to the repair shop.
6. All school equipment must be stored in its case at all times.
7. All cases will be labeled with GRHS and the instruments serial number on the outside.
8. Reeds and accessories are not provided. The student must obtain these items.
9. The Band student is monetarily responsible for the repair of the instrument checked out to them. The Band will send each instrument in to a repair shop at the end of each year (if needed) and have the horn checked and get any normal wear and tear issues taken care of (pads replaced, brass horns flushed out, etc). This cost is assumed by LCISD. The Band student will be responsible for dents, scratches, slides being stuck, keys being bent, etc. These are things that can happen when the student shows lack of responsibility. Instrument care and maintenance is a major responsibility that the directors treat very seriously.

## **FACILITIES**

We have a great Band Hall at GRHS. It will stay nice from year to year if we keep it that way. The Band Hall rules are:

1. NO food or drink in the Band Hall at any time. The only exception is water.
2. NO gum in the Band Hall.
3. NO running or horseplay allowed. As soon as this starts, someone or something gets hurt or broken.
4. DO NOT sit on the backs of the chairs.
5. DO NOT lean or bend the music stands, they are made for music not bodies.

6. All instruments and school owned equipment are to be kept in the Band student's locker. This locker comes with a lock supplied by LCISD. If you lose the lock, there is a \$10.00 lock fee. These locks are to be used for Band lockers only. Any other lock used will be cut off.
7. Practice rooms are just that, for practice only. Not for instrument and backpack storage. Please make sure you keep all practice rooms neat and orderly.
8. All Band Uniforms are to be kept in the Uniform Storage room.
9. The Band Hall copy machine is for MUSIC copies only. **ONLY** a music librarian or a director may use this machine.
10. The Band Hall phone is for Band business only. **NO** personal calls. Band students can use the phone after Band functions to call their parents.

## **PEP RALLIES and Spirit Parades**

1. Pep Rallies and Spirit Parades are usually held during 7<sup>th</sup> period on the day of the game.
2. Participation is not an option; this is a graded performance.
3. You must wear your Band shirt to the pep rally and spirit parade.
4. Make sure you have all of your stand music with you.

## **FT. BEND COUNTY FAIR PARADE**

1. Fair Day is the last Friday in September.
2. Everyone must participate in the Fair Parade. The only exemptions are those Band students involved in the showing of livestock for the Fair that morning and students who are running for Fair Queen.
3. Our Uniform for the parade is our Band shirt, blue jeans, marching shoes, black socks.
4. No hats or sunglasses (unless prescription).

## **BAND TRAVEL**

Traveling to and from activities is a necessary part of the Band program. Transporting a large number of students and equipment can become a monumental task. To insure the safety and sanity of all involved, a few guidelines have been set:

1. Follow all LCISD rules and regulations regarding transportation. Always be on your best behavior.
2. **ALL STUDENTS** must travel to a Band activity with the Band. Students may return from the activity with their parent or legal guardian **ONLY**. - **NOT** older brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, grandparents, next-door neighbors, friend's parents, parent's friends, etc. This is LCISD policy and not up for discussion.
3. All students must have a note signed by the principal prior to the trip to ride home from a Band function with their parent, again, LCISD policy.
4. Students **may not** travel to Band functions in their personal vehicles.
5. The Band always travels with Band chaperones. Their business is to help with the loading and unloading of Band students and equipment and helping with student problems that arise during our trip. Please listen and obey all chaperones.

6. Never leave the bus without the permission of the director and chaperones. At all stopping points, you will be given specific instructions on unloading, meeting, and departure arrangements.
7. Whether we are traveling on charter buses or school buses, we will always have a bus list. Each student will have an opportunity to ride the bus of his or her choice. Once you have signed up for a certain bus you may not change. All changes must take place through Mr. Jordan.
8. You may bring iPods or Mp3 players, **with Headphones (NO external speakers)**. The Band student is solely responsible for these items. The chaperones or directors will not be held responsible.
9. On any trip, always be sure you have everything you need. Don't be in a hurry to get that favorite seat and forget your instrument. It is very embarrassing to see someone out on the marching field at half time performing hornless. Do not expect to obtain uniform parts, black socks, equipment and other items just before we leave. Be prepared and start early.

## **STADIUM PROCEDURES**

1. As we arrive at the stadium, please remain seated and listen to the bus chaperones for any last minute instructions.
2. You must be fully dressed when you get off the bus. You must have your hatbox with you.
3. Please allow the Loading Crew time to get your instrument off the bus or truck. When you do get your instrument together, make sure you put your empty case on the bus or truck. We do not take cases into the stands; the only exception would be for the Woodwind players (flute, clarinet, sax) if the weather were questionable.
4. After you have instrument and hatbox, line up by section. We march as a Band into the stadium before the game and out of the stadium when the game is over.
5. Once up in the stands, make sure you stay in your sections. Flutes with flutes not flutes with trumpets. Only percussionists play on percussion equipment.
6. Be properly dressed at all times. **NO** open uniforms.
7. Restroom breaks will be given to individuals as needed. When you leave, take care of business and return quickly. There are other people waiting.
8. Band members are **not** allowed to visit the concession stands **OR** have people bring them food or drink during the game. **WE DO NOT EAT OR DRINK IN UNIFORM.** The only exception is water.
9. **NO** one except Band students, Band staff, and chaperones are allowed in the Band section during the game. **NO** friends or family please, it gets very crowded as it is.
10. Do not play your instrument except when the Band plays.
11. Watch Directors and Drum Majors at all times when they are standing in front of the Band. Get music up quickly when it is announced. Watch closely for cutoffs.
12. Please make sure every time you move up and down the stands, be careful. Don't get in a hurry.
13. Cheer with the cheerleaders, yell and scream for the team, show your spirit and pride. Unsportsmanlike, discourteous, or immature behavior will not be tolerated. Use common sense and conduct yourselves with pride and spirit that reflect a first-class, Division One Band.

## **BAND LETTER JACKETS**

The UIL (University Interscholastic League) of Texas states that each student may receive one jacket for participating in the different activities at George Ranch High School. The criteria for obtaining a Band Letter Jacket is as follows:

1. A student must acquire six (6) points to receive his/her letter jacket.
2. The student must be a participating member of the Band program when they order and receive their letter jacket.
3. These points are obtained by participation:
  - a. Each student receives 1 point for each semester they are enrolled in Band (points are awarded at the **end** of each semester, **not during**)
  - b. A student receives 1 point for auditioning and making:
    - Region Band
    - Freshman Region Band
    - Region Orchestra
    - Region Jazz Band
  - c. A student receives 2 points for:
    - Advancing to Area Band
  - d. A student receives 4 points for:
    - Making All-State Band
    - Making All-State Orchestra
    - Making All-State Jazz Band
  - e. A student receives 1 point for:
    - Making a Division I on a Solo or Ensemble at UIL
    - Solo/Ensemble Contest
  - f. A student receives 2 points for:
    - Making a Division I at UIL State Solo/Ensemble Contest
4. After a student has earned their 6 points and receives his/her Band Letter Jacket, they can still earn additional letters by receiving another 6 points.
5. If a Band student moves into the George Ranch Band program from another school or school district and HAS NOT received a Band Letter Jacket from that organization, they will be given credit for participation and their points can be transferred into our program.
6. Remember, **ONLY** one jacket can be earned per student, **NOT** one jacket per activity.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Fundraising is a necessary evil. It takes a lot of time, effort, parental involvement, and eagerness by the student to participate. Without fundraising we would not be able to have Band Trips, Band Banquets, extra transportation and entry fees to Band events, Color Guard costumes and equipment, and additional Band equipment.

1. First of all, if you have any sure fire moneymakers please attend the Band Booster meetings and share your thoughts.
2. Most of the fundraising profits raised by the students go into their own account set up by the GRBBC.
3. There will be a few fundraisers that will go to the GRBBC general fund. This will help pay for Band Banquet and other GRBBC needs during the year.

4. After each fundraiser, there will be an account status sheet posted in the Band Hall. This will keep the student and the parent up to date on the students' account.
5. All fundraising accounts are to be paid in a timely manner. This is very important. Non-payment of fundraising money is a serious problem. The student not only jeopardizes their participation in a Band activity, but their debt is handed over to the school administration for collection. This becomes a MAJOR problem for all parties involved. PLEASE PAY ON TIME!

Our philosophy on fundraising is very simple. We will offer enough fundraising activities so every Band student will have the opportunity to raise the money needed to attend and participate in extra Band functions. The choice to fundraise or not, is up to the Band student and parent.

## **BAND BOOSTERS**

The George Ranch Band Booster Club, the GRBBC, is made up of parent volunteers with one goal in mind, to help support the George Ranch High School Band program.

## **BAND COUNCIL and MARCHING BAND LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The student leaders of the George Ranch High School Band are the Band Council. These leaders are elected by the Band student body. The Band Council consists of Band President, Band Vice-President, Band Secretary, Class Representatives (Junior, Sophomore, and Freshman), Chief Librarian, Head Quarter Master, Loading Crew Captain, and Drum Majors.

### **Responsibilities of President**

- Chair all Band Council Meetings
- Represent the Band at all public functions
- Head "Cheerleader" for the Longhorn Band
- Advise the Directors on all student-generated topics

### **Responsibilities of Vice-President**

- Assist the Band President in execution of his/her duties when necessary
- Chair the Band Social Committee with aid from the Band President
- Other duties as assigned by the Band Directors and Band President

### **Responsibilities of Secretary**

- Maintain minutes of each Band Council Meeting
- Be responsible for putting together the **Band Scrapbook** for the year
- Other duties assigned by the Band Directors and Band President

### **Responsibilities of Class Representatives**

- Represent the interests/ideas of your class on the Band Council
- Report periodically to your class on the happenings/activities of the Band Council

- Other duties as assigned by the Band Directors and Band President

**Qualifications:**

- Candidates for Band President must currently be a junior
- Class Representatives must be in the class they wish to represent
- Member in good standing of the Longhorn Band
- Demonstrate a good academic record

**To Apply:**

Please submit a one page, type written statement addressing your qualifications, experience, and describe why you feel you should be elected to the job. Please include statements as to how your work in this position would enhance the Longhorn Band. All applications will be reviewed by Mr. Jordan. The Marching Leadership Team consists of Drum Majors, Marching Leaders, and Section Leaders (1 per section). Section Leaders will be chosen by Mr. Jordan. Marching Leaders must attend practice sessions and try-out. They must also attend Freshman Band Camp.

**Responsibilities:**

- Be a positive role model for all band students
- Assist the Directors in teaching Marching Band fundamentals
- Assist the Directors in teaching and rehearsing Marching Band rehearsals
- Assist the Directors in supervising Band members during Band activities
- Other duties assigned by the Band Directors

**Qualifications:**

- At least one year membership in the Longhorn Band
- Member in good standing of the Longhorn Band
- Demonstrate a good academic record
- Demonstrate good decision making skills and problem solving skills
- Be able to demonstrate excellent musicianship, superior marching aptitude, outstanding teaching ability, and a positive attitude. Marching Leaders are encouraged to attend Leadership Camp along with the Drum Majors, Color Guard officers and the Drum Line Captain.

## PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are an excellent way for all of the Band students at GRHS to experience additional one on one private instruction on their instrument from a qualified instructor. We are very fortunate to have an outstanding staff of private instructors who can help your student develop their playing skills. Lessons are done on a weekly basis and handled through each of our private instructors. Lessons require a commitment from the parent as well as the student. If you are interested in taking private lessons, please fill out the information at the bottom of this form and return it to one of the Band Directors.

**Private Lesson Information**

Student Name's \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**BAND HANDBOOK SIGNATURE PAGE**

Please sign and return this page to your Band Director.

I have reviewed and understand the policies and guidelines in the George Ranch High School Band Handbook. I further agree to abide by the procedures set forth.

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

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

I have reviewed the George Ranch High School Band Handbook.

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_