



Mariachi Juvenil Azteca

Edcouch-Elsa Mariachi Program Handbook 2024-2025

Facebook: @ Edcouch-Elsa Mariachi

Remind Codes:

EEHS Varsity : @ vazteca

EEHS JV : @ aztecajv

Truan Advanced : @ advdrk1

Truan Intermediate : @ intlght1

Ybarra Beginner : @ ybarramari

(Send a text message to the number **81010** with the appropriate class code)

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WELCOME

Congratulations on committing yourself to be a member of the Edcouch-Elsa Mariachi Family. The Edcouch-Elsa Mariachi Program is one of the most vibrant and culturally rich organizations in our district. As your directors, we are dedicated to providing you with the best music education possible, rooted in the traditions and excellence of mariachi music. We strive to instill in you life-long skills that will not only make you an outstanding musician but also a productive and successful member of society. We are confident that your experience with us will be rewarding and transformative. Once again, ¡BIENVENIDOS!

The Edcouch-Elsa Mariachi Program is a dynamic and active initiative dedicated to providing students with opportunities for growth in music, social skills, and academics. Through the art of mariachi performance, students learn to play and appreciate music across a variety of styles and levels of complexity. As part of an ensemble, they develop the ability to work collaboratively, fostering group discipline and mutual respect. The program emphasizes the importance of setting and achieving goals that extend beyond individual accomplishments, instilling self-discipline and a sense of community. By studying harmony, scales, rhythms, and other musical elements, students gain a deep understanding and appreciation of the foundations of music, enriching their overall aesthetic experience.

MARIACHI COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Edcouch-Elsa HS Mariachi Program is designed to promote and encourage students with a desire to learn, perform and enjoy music. This is done through a quality instructional and extracurricular experience, which will contribute to a responsible, mature person both intellectually and socially.

This handbook has been designed to provide a comprehensive view of the Edcouch-Elsa Mariachi policies in order to facilitate a better understanding of the program.

The policies contained within this handbook will pertain to all mariachi members (enrolled or after school). They will be enforced during rehearsal, all performances, trips, or activities in which the students represent the Edcouch-Elsa Mariachi Program

The Edcouch-Elsa Mariachi program consists of several performing groups. All members of the Mariachi program of Edcouch-Elsa are divided into the following:

Varsity Mariachi (High School)

Students selected for the Varsity Mariachi, Mariachi Juvenil Azteca, will be expected to perform at a level beyond their current capabilities. Admission into this ensemble is heavily influenced by a student's past record of personal discipline, teamwork, and commitment to after-school sectionals and private lessons.

Musical elements are introduced and developed through exercises that increase in complexity, offering students challenging, engaging, and enriching experiences. Competitive opportunities, such as solo and group contests, allow students to receive valuable feedback from external judges, fostering continuous improvement.

As a year-round commitment, attendance is mandatory for all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances. Students are required to maintain passing grades in all their classes to remain eligible for contests and performances. Those who consistently struggle to pass their classes or fail to meet rehearsal attendance expectations may be removed from the Varsity Mariachi and placed in a lower ensemble.

Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of performance, discipline, and dedication in line with an honors-level class. Any student unable to commit fully to the after-school requirements or maintain the necessary standards will be removed from the Varsity Mariachi at the directors' discretion.

JV Mariachi (High School)

This ensemble is focused on students continuing their preparation for higher levels of musical performance. Through a variety of progressively challenging exercises, students will explore key elements of music, making the experience both enriching and enjoyable.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in solo and group contests, where they can receive constructive feedback from experienced judges, helping them to grow as musicians. This is a year-round commitment, and regular attendance at rehearsals, sectionals, and performances is essential.

To remain eligible for contests and performances, students must maintain passing grades in all of their classes. Those who struggle to meet class requirements or who consistently miss rehearsals may be re-evaluated to ensure they are placed in an ensemble that best supports their growth and development.

We encourage students to fully commit to the rehearsal schedule set by the directors. If a student finds it challenging to meet the after-school requirements of this ensemble, alternative arrangements will be considered to help them succeed in their musical journey.

Varsity Mariachi (Middle School)

Selection for this ensemble will be significantly influenced by a student's prior record of personal discipline and their ability to work effectively as part of a team. Musical elements are introduced and developed through exercises that progressively increase in difficulty, providing students with challenging, engaging, and enriching experiences.

Participation in solo and group contests offers students the opportunity to receive constructive feedback from external judges, promoting growth and improvement. This is a year-round class, and attendance is mandatory for all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances.

Students are required to maintain passing grades in all their classes to remain eligible for contests and performances. Those who fail to meet the class requirements, or who do not uphold the performance standards or discipline expected of an honors-level ensemble, will be removed from the Jr High Varsity Mariachi at the directors' discretion.

Consistent attendance at all rehearsals scheduled by the directors is essential. Students unable to commit to the after-school requirements of the ensemble will be removed from the Jr High Varsity Mariachi at the directors' discretion.

Non-Varsity Mariachi (Middle School)

This group is designed for middle school students who are continuing to build their musical skills. Through a range of engaging and progressively challenging exercises, students will explore key elements of Mariachi music, making the learning experience both fun and rewarding.

Students will have opportunities to participate in solo and group performances, where they can receive helpful feedback from judges. This is a year-round class, and regular attendance at rehearsals, sectionals, and performances is important for the student's growth and success.

To participate in contests and performances, students are expected to keep up with their schoolwork. If students have difficulty meeting the class requirements or frequently miss rehearsals, they may be given additional support or alternative options to help them succeed.

We encourage students to do their best to attend all rehearsals as scheduled. If a student has challenges meeting the after-school commitments of this group, we will work together to find the best solution to support their continued musical development.

Beginner Mariachi (Ybarra)

This group is for students who are new to playing Mariachi music. No prior musical experience is necessary to join. In this class, students will learn the basics of reading music, playing their instrument, and working as a team.

This is a year-round class with mandatory attendance. Students will have the opportunity to perform in both fall and spring concerts, showcasing their progress and skills.

Regular attendance at rehearsals and performances is encouraged to ensure a successful and enjoyable learning experience. We look forward to helping each student begin their musical journey and develop their talents throughout the year.

DISTANCE LEARNING RULES & ETIQUETTE

Rules:

1. **Be Punctual:** Log into your Zoom class daily on time and ready to learn.
2. **Attend Classes:** All classes will be live, and attendance is mandatory every day.
3. **Be Prepared:** Have your instrument, music, and necessary materials with you at the start of every class.
4. **Use Google Classroom:** Check your Google Classroom daily for new music, information, and materials posted by your directors.
5. **Engage with the Class:** Grades will be based on daily work and tests conducted on Fridays.
6. **Follow Zoom Codes:** All music and Zoom access codes will be provided on Google Classroom. Make sure to use them correctly.
7. **Demonstrate Proper Etiquette:** Always maintain proper behavior and follow the rules of Zoom etiquette during class.

Zoom/Google Meets Etiquette:

1. **Keep Your Microphone Muted:** Stay muted unless instructed otherwise.
2. **Keep Your Camera On:** Your camera should remain on for the entire class.

3. **Position Your Camera Correctly:** Ensure your camera is positioned straight ahead, so you are clearly visible.
4. **Dress Appropriately:** Wear appropriate clothing and be presentable each day.
5. **Use Your Full Name:** Your Zoom/Google Meets name must be your First and Last name only—no nicknames.
6. **Maintain Good Posture:** Sit on a chair with good posture; do not sit on a bed or couch.
7. **Minimize Distractions:** Set up your workspace away from distractions, ideally in a separate room if possible.
8. **Be Prepared:** Have everything you need for the class ready before it starts.
9. **Participate When Called:** If instructed to answer, unmute yourself and respond out loud. Directors will be monitoring your responses.
10. **Follow Instructions:** Do not screen share or draw on the screen unless directed by your teacher.
11. **Manage Breaks Efficiently:** If you need to go to the bathroom, do so quickly without disrupting the class.
12. **Use Chat Responsibly:** Use the chat function only for class-related questions or when asked to respond. Avoid chatting with friends during class.
13. **Avoid Eating:** Do not eat during class—this is strictly prohibited.
14. **Behave Appropriately:** Disruptive behavior, foul language, or any inappropriate actions on camera will not be tolerated.
15. **Maintain Professionalism:** Remember that all classes are recorded and posted on Google Classroom. Be mindful not to do anything embarrassing or inappropriate on camera.

GENERAL RULES

All school district policies found in the Edcouch-Elsa HS Handbook shall be in effect and penalties shall be consistent with the handbook unless otherwise indicated

1. Each student is to respect and care for school owned equipment and facilities as he/she would his/her own. Any carelessness, neglect, or abuse of school equipment or mischievous vandalism in the program will not be tolerated.
2. Only fine arts students shall be allowed in the fine arts building. This is for the protection of both school and personal property.
3. PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION IS NOT ACCEPTABLE AT ANY TIME.
4. Disrespectful language/defamation by any individual participating in the program is not acceptable at any time.
5. Defacing, losing, or destroying school property including instruments, uniforms, and other items associated with the Mariachi program will result in payment for damages and appropriate school action. This also includes lost instruments.
6. Students will keep their instruments in the appropriate designated areas.
7. Students will not interrupt anyone who is teaching, such as entering during a rehearsal or sectional.
8. Each student is expected to have all necessary equipment and materials for rehearsals/performances (i.e. music, instrument, tuner, rosin, valve oil, etc).
9. Students shall not remove school property from campus unless this property has been officially checked out from a Mariachi director.
10. Students will not complete other assignments or other work during rehearsals.
11. Students will not enter the Mariachi director's office without permission and only if a director is in the office unless specifically instructed.
12. Copy room & supply room is off limits to ALL students other than directors.
13. Cell phones are strictly off limits during rehearsals to attain effectiveness and success.
You may be allowed to record if given permission by the mariachi directors. If an

emergency arises where you must communicate with parents/students - please communicate through directors.

PROGRAM RULES & REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

1. **Director Communication:** If you need to discuss something with a director, do so before or after class, or during our conference period. If there is an ongoing issue/situation, it must be addressed to the directors immediately for resolution.
2. **Be On Time:** Students must be in their seats with their instruments in tune, pencils, music, and other required materials before the tardy bell rings. If you are not in your seat, ready to rehearse, when the bell rings, you will be considered tardy.
3. **Classroom Conversations:** Discussion of music/class topics is allowed during class time, but must remain positive/constructive.
4. **No Running or Horseplay:** Running and horseplay are strictly prohibited at all times in the mariachi room and surrounding areas.
5. **No Food or Drinks:** Food, drinks (including gum, candy, and sodas), are not allowed in the mariachi room at any time.
6. **Bring All Materials:** Always have your instrument, music, pencil, and accessories with you. If you have an instrument problem, see a mariachi director before school or after class.
7. **Store Belongings Properly:** Backpacks should be placed on the back of your chair, and your instrument case should remain under your seat at all times (exceptions apply for larger instruments like guitarrón and vihuela, which should be stored in designated areas).
8. **No Electronic Devices:** All cell phones and electronic devices should be kept in your locker/backpack. Devices may be permitted when using approved music apps.
9. **Proper Posture:** While playing, sit at the edge of your chair with your feet flat on the floor. Do not cross your legs or feet while playing.
10. **Respect Others' Instruments:** Do not touch or handle anyone's instrument or materials except your own. This includes percussion and string instruments.
11. **Use Music Stands Correctly:** Music stands are for holding music only. Do not lean on or misuse them.

12. **Authorized Access Only:** Only mariachi students are allowed in the mariachi room, and only when a director is present. Students should be either practicing or studying while in the room.
13. **Daily Instrument Checks:** Directors will check instrument storage areas daily to ensure students have taken their instruments and music home to practice.
14. **Stay in Class:** Do not ask to leave class to go to another room. Use the restroom and get drinks of water during passing periods. Emergency restroom breaks will not be allowed during the first and last 15 minutes of class.
15. **Rule Enforcement:** When a rule is broken, we will have a conference to clarify the situation and give both the teacher and student an opportunity to speak. If the problem persists, parents will be contacted for a conference. If issues continue, a meeting will be set with administration and all stakeholders.
16. **End of Class Procedure:** When class is over, remain quietly in your seat until you are dismissed by your mariachi director.
17. **No Alcohol or Drugs:** Alcohol or drug use will not be tolerated. Any student caught with either will be immediately expelled from the mariachi program.
18. **No Inappropriate Language:** Inappropriate language is not allowed in the mariachi room or at any mariachi function.
19. **No Inappropriate Affection:** Inappropriate displays of affection are not allowed in or around the mariachi room.
20. **Purpose of the Mariachi Room:** The mariachi room is for practicing music. There is no loitering or horseplay allowed.
21. **Respect Property:** Students found guilty of theft or destruction of school property, or the property of others, will jeopardize their participation in the mariachi program.
22. **ISS:** Any student assigned to In-School Suspension (ISS) may be prohibited from participating in out-of-class mariachi activities for the duration of their ISS term.
23. **Alternative School:** Any student assigned to an Alternative School will be prohibited from participating in the Edcouch-Elsa Mariachi Program.

DISCIPLINE

Mariachi, by its very nature, embodies unity, teamwork, ensemble, and a collective effort where everyone strives for a common goal. This comes at a pivotal time in a student's life when they are seeking to establish their individual identity. However, a small number of students may struggle to make the necessary sacrifices for the group and can become disruptive, posing discipline challenges for the Mariachi directors. Such students will not be allowed to compromise the quality of learning within the Mariachi program. Persistent issues will result in the student being moved to a lower-level group or another elective. Mariachi students must take responsibility for their actions, whether good or bad, and learn to move forward. All disciplinary issues will be handled on an individual basis.

The Edcouch-Elsa Mariachi Program enforces a Zero Tolerance policy regarding hazing. Students who engage in hazing will be removed from the Mariachi program and referred to the appropriate authorities.

Code of conduct rules will be enforced during all school trips. Students who cannot adhere to the code of conduct rules for EEISD will be dismissed from the Mariachi program.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Mariachi program will be followed as listed in the junior high/high school course catalog. A person not in the program previously may join once he/she has met a minimum playing proficiency. Once a student leaves the program, they may not re-enter. The only exception will be due to an academic circumstance. The student may be permitted to re-enter only with directors' approval at the beginning of the year. When applicable, a competing group will be determined by an audition held various times within the academic school year. If the student fails to abide by the student code of conduct the student may be removed from the program.

GROUP CONTESTS & COMPETITIONS

Students will be placed in an ensemble according to their ability level (Varsity, JV, Varsity MS, Non-Varsity MS). Students will audition with: chosen music materials, Google Classroom assignments, and performance-based assessments that take place during class/sectionals.

After the auditions, students will be placed into their appropriate groups. Please be aware that an analysis will be made by all directors. We will be observing/analyzing the student's practice habits, data collection through Google Classroom assignments, eligibility history, work ethics, and attendance record in mind along with audition results. Varsity, JV, Varsity MS, Non-Varsity MS placement is not guaranteed and subject to change as needed by the needs of your student and overall program. All students **MUST SING** and play an instrument as per our Mariachi and UIL expectations.

MARIACHI AUDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All Students must play a mariachi instrument. The mariachi directors will use rubrics to assess the following:

1. Play a musical selection provided by the directors.
2. Play selected Region Cuts/ All-State Etudes.
3. Sing a selection of their choice/assigned vocal parts.
4. Submit auditions through Google Classroom assignment.
5. Answer questions in a closed session with the Directors.

The decision of the mariachi directors will be final. The decision is based on the candidate's abilities, collaboration/communication, and how many members will be selected. Please be aware—the mariachi directors do not have to recommend selection of any candidate or number of candidates, should they feel that qualifications are not met.

The desire to perform must be demonstrated. The desire, alone, is a beginning, not a qualification. The successful candidate will have demonstrated the ability to communicate effectively with other mariachi students and directors over a period of time, will have shown a

positive attitude throughout the school year, and effectively participate by submitting all assignments/attending performances.

The respect of the fellow mariachi members is of great importance, as well as the ability to show success in the working out of assigned tasks to a high level of achievement. Students are to respect and communicate effectively with all Mariachi directors as a demonstration of collaboration and effectiveness at the Varsity/JV/MS/Non-Varsity level. The person(s) selected as Mariachi Juvenil Azteca members will also be expected to attend all rehearsals and performances of Mariachi Juvenil Azteca. Even after competitions, the student is expected to participate.

SECTION LEADERS

Section leaders will be appointed by the Mariachi directors. You may earn a section leader position by being competent on your instrument, collaboration, and communication skills as a leader. Being an upperclassman does not necessarily mean you will be chosen as section leader.

GRADING POLICY

Students in the Edcouch-Elsa Mariachi Program will be graded as follows:

MAJOR TEST GRADES (60% OF STUDENT GRADE)

Performances (Major Test Grade) : Performances are the most critical aspect of the mariachi program and constitute the largest portion of your grade. To earn a grade of 100 for a performance, you must be punctual, equipped with all necessary materials, and exhibit mature behavior. A performance calendar will be provided at the beginning of the year, along with detailed information about each event approximately one week in advance. It is your responsibility to ensure no scheduling conflicts. If a conflict arises, notify the mariachi directors immediately so we can work together on a solution.

Playing Tests/Google Classroom Assignments (Major Test Grade) : These two sections evaluate the individual skills of each mariachi member. Playing tests may also be conducted in class, at home with a recording device, or in small groups. We will announce playing tests in advance to allow adequate practice time.

After School Lessons & Rehearsals (Major Test Grades) : All members of the advanced mariachi groups are required to attend mandatory sectionals after school. These weekly sectionals are essential to the success of the group. Missing sectionals will impact your grade and could result in being moved to a different ensemble. Additionally, all members must sign up for an individual lesson during the first week of school, choosing a day and time that do not conflict with other after-school activities. Attendance is required, and failure to attend lessons could lead to being reassigned to a different group. Occasionally, special rehearsals may be scheduled before concerts or competitions. Notice of such rehearsals will be provided in writing, posted on the door, shared on social media, and sent through the Remind app.

DAILY WORK GRADES (40% of STUDENT GRADE)

Inspections (Daily Grade) : Inspections, which may be announced or surprise, require you to have your instrument in working order, all music, and all required accessories, including a pencil, ready for each class.

Playing Quizzes (Daily Grade) : Playing quizzes assess the individual abilities of mariachi members and are administered in class. These quizzes may be conducted in front of the entire class and may be announced or unannounced.

Written Work (Daily Grade) : Written assignments are used to assess a student's understanding of note reading, rhythm comprehension, music theory, and music history.

Class Participation (Daily Grade) : Active participation is expected every day, contributing to a positive classroom atmosphere. This includes having all necessary items for full engagement in

rehearsal, such as your instrument, music, and any other required materials set forth by the mariachi director.

Locker Inspections / Taking Home Instrument After School (Daily Grade) : Students are required to take their instruments home after school. The mariachi directors will conduct locker checks to ensure compliance with this rule. Failure to take your instrument home will negatively impact your grade, and "Locker Detention" may be assigned. Persistent issues may result in the loss of locker privileges.

SEMESTER EXAMS

Fall and Spring Semester Exams : The mariachi program will perform concerts at the end of each semester, which serve as the culmination of all skills and TEKS covered. Semester grades will be based on concert attendance: the Holiday Concert (typically in December) counts as the Fall Semester Exam, and the End of Year Concert (typically in May) counts as the Spring Semester Exam.

MAKE-UP WORK FOR MISSED PERFORMANCES OR REHEARSALS

Academically Eligible Students : Students who pass all classes but miss a mariachi event (e.g. parade, concert, competition) will have an opportunity to make up the grade. A playing test will be given using the music required for the missed event, with the highest possible grade being 70. This grade will be based on good fundamentals and the ability to perform in public, including posture, breathing, rhythm reading, and other essential skills.

Academically Ineligible Students : Students who miss a performance due to academic ineligibility must complete a make-up assignment to earn a maximum grade of 70. This involves writing a two-page typed biography of a composer from a provided list. The report must include the composer's birth and death dates, music era, significant events, and a list of five musical works. A third page should list the sources used.

Note: If a student misses multiple events, each report must focus on a different composer. Repeated use of the same composer within the same academic year is not allowed.

Grading policy will be in accordance with the EEISD policy.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory for all rehearsals, lessons, and public performances of the various performing groups within the Edcouch-Elsa Mariachi Program. A primary objective of the mariachi program is to prepare for and participate in public performances and competitions.

Public Performances:

Advance Notice: Most public performance dates are announced weeks, if not months, in advance. These dates are typically listed in the back of the mariachi handbook. Students and parents are responsible for being aware of these dates and planning accordingly.

Excused Absences:

Excused absences from public performances will be granted only in cases of genuine emergencies, such as serious illness of the student or a death in the family. In the event of such an emergency, please contact the mariachi directors immediately. Non-emergency situations, such as jobs or family trips, do not justify an absence. If a student believes they have a valid reason for an excused absence, they must discuss it with the director before the performance. Failure to do so will result in the student being automatically moved to a lower-performing ensemble.

Unexcused Absences:

An unexcused absence from any public performance is considered a serious matter and will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Consistent attendance is crucial, and any student who is unfaithful in their attendance may no longer be permitted to participate in the performing

mariachi group. An unexcused absence will result in the student receiving an incomplete grade. If the absence is excused, the student will be expected to complete a make-up assignment as determined by the director.

LETTERMAN JACKET POLICY

Letterman jackets will be presented to mariachi members who have actively completed the Mariachi program. Any student who completes all 4 years of high school within our program will receive a letterman jacket. Any student who transfers into our program from out of district must qualify for the EEHS Varsity Mariachi in order to receive a letterman jacket. Jackets will be ordered the summer before beginning the students' senior year, to receive the jacket by Fall of that year.

TRAVELING OFF CAMPUS

All off-campus travel by the Edcouch-Elsa Mariachi Program is subject to the travel guidelines established by the Edcouch Elsa Independent School District. Throughout the year, the mariachi group will travel off campus for performances, contests, auditions, and other events. As a member of the Edcouch-Elsa Mariachi, you represent not only your school but also your community and directors. You are expected to uphold the highest standards of behavior and professionalism while representing the Mariachi program.

Key Expectations:

- **Ambassadorship:** As representatives of the Edcouch-Elsa Mariachi Program, students are expected to conduct themselves with integrity and respect during all off-campus activities. Your behavior reflects on the entire program and its reputation.
- **Privileges:** Participation in off-campus trips, performances, and activities is a privilege, not a right. These activities are contingent upon your adherence to all expectations set

forth in this handbook, the EE Mariachi Student Handbook, the EEISD student code of conduct, and all applicable Local, State, and Federal laws.

- Compliance: Students must follow all lawful instructions given by the Mariachi Directors during any Mariachi-related activities. Failure to comply with any of the requirements or instructions may result in the loss of privileges, including participation in future trips or performances. These decisions will be made at the discretion of the Mariachi directors.

LOCAL TRAVEL

All members are expected to ride buses on local trips, as they will travel to and from all performances as a group. Students shall not be permitted to drive themselves to performances unless there is parental consent. Parents must communicate with the Mariachi director prior. If there are extenuating circumstances in which a student is going to leave an event early, parent

OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRAVEL

When on out-of-district trips, Mariachi Juvenil Azteca will maintain the vision of the program by honoring the mariachi tradition. Students are required to attend group performances as scheduled by directors. They will respect the uniform by wearing it fully and properly. When on trips, meals will be provided by the school district or EE Mariachi Boosters. Choices may be limited due to budget. Keep in mind that you may also bring your own money to supplement meals. Parent attendance of contests/competitions is highly encouraged.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

Permission for participation in Solo & Ensemble Contest or TMEA All-Region Contest can only be granted if the student is eligible for these contests.

Participation in All-Region Mariachi is **REQUIRED** for all HS Varsity and Varsity MS. It is also **STRONGLY** encouraged for JV and Non-Varsity MS members to participate.

EE HIGH SCHOOL MARIACHI TRAJE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Mariachi Traje Code of Conduct (MTCC) is designed to create an accountability system for the mariachi program as well as define what is acceptable behavior in uniform.

WHEN IN UNIFORM

- You are not allowed ANY public displays of affection.
- You are not allowed to chew gum, eat food or drink anything unless the meal is provided by the director.
- During a concert or performance, it is customary for students to drink water as needed in between songs.
- There will be NO cursing. When in uniform, you represent your school, your parents, your directors, your community, and most importantly yourself. You do not want to do anything that will compromise the integrity of the organization.
- No horseplay of any kind.
- No hats or headgear will be allowed when in uniform.
- Females: All medium-long hair will be required to be in a ponytail. Black/Brown hair bands only. No hair will be allowed to be down in uniform.
- Males: Hair must be neatly trimmed, gelled and styled appropriately. For any males that might have long hair, options for styling the hair back must be determined and approved by the Mariachi directors.

FEMALE DRESS CODE

The first woman to ever play mariachi was in 1903. It has been over a hundred years of breaking barriers and paving the way for future female Mariachis. Besides representing our program, you are also a part of an honorable lineage. Therefore, it is crucial that you maintain the image in both uniform and all outside performances. The following is to be implemented by the student and parent:

- Makeup is required for ALL contests/competitions & performances. The director will inform the student what colors/shirt they will be using days before the event. Makeup must be done prior and a tutorial will be provided for those who are not familiar with

putting on makeup. However, they will need to be able to do it on their own after their tutorial.

- Students must purchase eyeshadow brushes, foundation, blush, and a sponge for foundation.
- Eye shadow palette will be designated by the directors for all females to purchase
- Earrings must be uniform and will be selected by the directors.
- Hair bows are required for the uniform and will be made for the student.
- Hair length must be past the shoulder to pull back for all performances (pulled back, combed, and parted). No braids or other styles are permitted during events.
- Hair color must be natural (brown, auburn, blonde, black) for contests/competitions.
- Lipstick is required and must be visible from the stage. Lip stain for trumpets is optional.
- False eyelashes are optional.

UNIFORM MAINTENANCE

- Students must purchase a black long sleeve shirt with a thick collar. It must be fitted and have buttons all the way up to the collar. The director must approve of the shirt prior to competitions. Sheer or see through shirts are not allowed.
- Black shirts must be washed and brought back to school the day after competitions/performances. It is to be in their uniform bag at all times (hung up).
- Uniform is to be hung properly and checked days before performances/competitions. It is your responsibility to check for tears, broken pieces, and stitching.
- Moños (necktie) are to be cleaned and hung with the uniform.
- Boots are to be cleaned with a wet rag before performances/competitions.

REQUIRED PURCHASES

Students must purchase the following uniform items:

- 1 pair of black botines de charol (patent leather)
- 1 pair of black long sleeve socks
- Black long sleeve button up shirt (Must button at the neck)

CONSEQUENCES

The level of infraction determines the consequences. If a student does not comply with the rules of the MTCC- he/she will NOT be allowed to perform. The rules are clearly defined within this handbook to ensure your success as a young adult and Mariachi. If there is a constant infraction of the rules, the student will be removed from the Mariachi program.

We are trying to promote pride and unity through uniformity. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS. If you cannot follow these simple rules of uniform etiquette, then be prepared to forfeit the right to perform as a member of the Edcouch-Elsa Mariachi Program.

Uniforms will be returned in the same condition that they were issued. Neglect will result in the following fines:

- \$300 for pants or skirts
- \$300 for jackets
- \$100 for vests

Each student will be issued uniform accessories: belt, boots, moño, sombrero and hair bows.

Failure to return the assigned uniform accessory will also result in a fine of:

- \$50 for belts
- \$50 for boots
- \$25 for moños
- \$200 for sombreros
- \$40 for hair bows

ELIGIBILITY – EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY

According to district policy, based on House Bill 72, Section 1, Subchapter Z, Chapter 21 of the Education Code:

Sec. 21.920 (b) states: “A student enrolled in a school district in this state shall be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity sponsored or sanctioned by the school district

during the grade reporting period after a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than the equivalent of 70 on a scale of 100 in any academic class.”

Extracurricular activities for the Mariachi Program include UIL Contests, All-Region Mariachi, Area Mariachi, All State Mariachi, Solo & Ensemble Contests, Mariachi festivals, and certain special performances. All students are eligible to participate in performances that are held on school grounds throughout the school year.

PERFORMANCE ETIQUETTE

Performance is a key aspect of the Mariachi Program, and proper concert etiquette is essential:

- While in the audience, please remain seated until the end of the performance. Moving around is distracting to both the performers and other audience members.
- During a performance, please refrain from talking to allow others to enjoy the music.
- Applaud at the end of each selection. Shouting or whistling is not appropriate.

OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

The official sources for updates and information about the Mariachi Program are our designated Instagram and Facebook pages. It is the responsibility of both mariachi students and their parents to regularly check these pages for updates, important information, program curriculum, and upcoming events.

All stakeholders are to maintain professionalism while upholding the integrity of the Edcouch-Elsa Mariachi program when posting content. Failure to do so can lead to reprimand/removal from delegated duties. Those who are assigned these roles must attain approval by the Mariachi directors prior to posting.

MISUSE OF TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES & THE INTERNET

In accordance with the district's Student Code of Conduct, the following actions are classified as General Conduct Violations that may result in removal to an alternative education program.

Mariachi Program students found engaging in the following behaviors will be reported to district authorities and the administration:

- Violating policies, rules, or agreements signed by the student or parent regarding the use of technology resources.
- Attempting to access or bypass passwords or other security-related information of the district, students, or employees, or uploading/creating computer viruses, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Attempting to alter, destroy, or disable district technology resources, including computers and related equipment, district data, the data of others, or other networks connected to the district's system, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Using the Internet or other electronic communications to threaten district students, employees, or volunteers, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational program.
- Sending, posting, or possessing electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, or illegal, including cyberbullying and "sexting," either on or off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- Using email or websites to engage in or encourage illegal behavior or threaten school safety, including off school property if the conduct causes a substantial disruption to the educational environment.

PERMISSION AND MEDICAL FORMS

The Mariachi program will be traveling for various events throughout the year. All students are required to have a permission slip and medical form on file with the Mariachi directors. These forms must be signed and returned by the designated date set by the directors. It is the

responsibility of the parent and student to inform the Mariachi staff of any changes in the student's medical condition as stated in the medical form submitted at the beginning of the year. No student will be allowed to travel with the Mariachi group if these forms are not on file with the directors.

ITEMS NOT COVERED IN THIS HANDBOOK

You are expected to follow all lawful directions given by the Mariachi directors and the Edcouch-Elsa administration. If you have any questions, please ask. Any items not covered in this handbook will be handled as the head mariachi director and the principal see fit, in accordance with the policies of the district.

**Acknowledgement of Receipt of the
Edcouch-Elsa High School Mariachi Juvenil Azteca
Parent-Student Handbook
2024-2025**


We have received and read a copy of the Edcouch-Elsa Mariachi Juvenil Azteca Parent-Student Handbook which sets forth the rules and regulations governing students who participate in the Edcouch-Elsa Mariachi Program.

Printed Name of Student _____

Signature of Mariachi Student _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ **Date** _____

Signature of EE Mariachi Director:  _____

Signature of EE Fine Arts Director:  _____

Signature of Principal: _____