

# An Exemplary High School Band Robert E. Lee - Midland, Texas

**Randy Storie, Director; Bryan Patterson and Daniel Balkema, Assistant Directors**

The Robert E. Lee High School Rebel Band in Midland is a product of hard work, passion and tradition. At Lee High School, we face many challenges including lack of financial resources and an unusual middle school configuration. The staff that we have at Lee and our feeder schools are the first reason that our program is able to be successful: Lee Freshman High School (Brian Collins), Alamo Junior High School (Geoffrey Elsner, Mande Gragg) and Abell Junior High School (Jay Derington, Robert Simmons). As a staff, we work extremely hard to team teach to the fullest extent possible. Our teachers travel from school to school all day to assist with beginner classes, rehearsals and sectionals. The private lesson staff that we have is also a major contributor to our success.

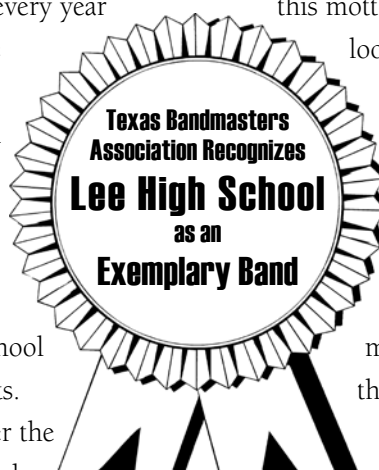
Every year, we try to bring in the greatest musical minds possible to help our staff and students. This past year we had the pleasure to work with some of the best directors in the state. The experiences that we are able to share with these wonderful people are vital to the motivation and passion for us as a staff as well as instill in our students.

We are also blessed to have a group of parents who are strongly dedicated to our program. They work as hard on their contributions as we do on our teaching. Also our program could not continue to do what we do every year without supportive administration, especially Principal Patrick Jones.

The greatest reason for the continued success of the Lee High School band is the students. We have a sign over the entrance to the band hall that states "The world's greatest kids pass through these doors!" We truly feel that way about our students. We try to motivate the students to continue the great tradition that has been at Lee High School since long before any of us arrived. Our staff stress fundamentals, All Region Band, solo and ensemble contests, and great music. We challenge the students to their limit and sometimes beyond that, but the students put in amazing effort to achieve our goals. They work before and after school in the band hall practicing and helping each other. The more advanced students work with others until they are

successful. The students take on a great deal of responsibility in maintaining the standard. The band motto is "Nothing we have done in the past will ever be good enough again." Our students take this motto very seriously and look back at all of the achievements that the band has enjoyed over the years and do everything they possibly can to maintain and surpass that high standard.

We encourage our students to continue their band careers after they leave Lee and are proud that many do. We are even more proud that the Lee Band has produced many outstanding band directors who continue to inspire their students to love band and music. To sum up the success of the Lee Band in a few words, we would say: hard work, tradition, passion, motivation, and a lot of heart.



**The Exemplary Band Program award is given by the TBA Board of Directors to a band program and director that have proven to have been a consistently exemplary performing band program in Texas for a long period of time.**