

Columbia Central High School Band



Marching Band Handbook

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2022-2023

We are very excited that you have chosen to participate in one of the most successful band programs in the State of Tennessee. The Columbia Central High School Marching Band has a successful tradition of excellence spanning 80 years. This will be a unique and rewarding experience for both you and your family. This handbook has been put together to assist both the student and parent. The band and guard (flag) programs provide many great opportunities for your student. As with all great programs, there is a lot of preparation and support required to make everything work.

CHS BAND MISSION STATEMENT

Please memorize this statement. We will recite this at our marching band rehearsals:

We are a PRIDE!

We are a unified group of performers working to achieve a common goal.

By building a positive, supportive, and loyal environment we create a legacy for all who follow

We are the PRIDE of Columbia

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

POSITIVITY LISTEN FOCUS

PRIDE (ACRONYM)

P is for PASSION R is for RESPECT I is for INTEGRITY D is for DEDICATION E is for ESPRIT
DE CORPS

Objectives of the Band Program

- To teach music by its actual performance.
- To develop performance skills of the various wind and percussion instruments.
- To develop musical artistry through the performance of colorguard choreography and dance.
- To provide for the musical needs of the school and the community.
- To develop discrimination with regard to the selection of music.
- To acquaint the students with Music Theory and History and how history and musical composition relate to students' current life and musical experiences.
- To provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of their time, a means for self-expression, and a healthy social experience.
- To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of a group, enhance interaction, and develop Esprit de Corps.
- To foster leadership skills within each student.
- To develop students with the desire to positively contribute to society

Columbia Central High School Band Code of Conduct

The following information is to be used as a guide to be a great citizen and steward of the band program. Any member who casts discredit to the organization by his/her conduct or actions in band, in another class, or on a trip, shall be subject to dismissal from the band program, or may lose a privilege within the program. This may include loss of privilege to go on a trip. This decision will be at the director's discretion in consultation with the principal.

Marching Band Curriculum/Grading Procedures

Marching Band is an extra-curricular activity, meaning that it does not take place during the school day. Since marching band is extra-curricular, no grades are assigned. However, students who are failing any class will be ineligible to perform with the band at games, competitions, parades, or concerts until the grade is brought up to a passing level. Should this occur, students will not receive a refund.

Core Curricular- (primary, required to graduate) English, Math, Science, etc.

Co-Curricular- (in addition, electives) Fine Arts, NJROTC, CTE, etc.

Extra-Curricular- (after school) Marching Band, Sports, Clubs, etc.

Attendance Policy

The only excusable absences are pre-arranged school conflicts, illness with a doctor's or parent note, death in the family, pre-arranged wedding, religious holiday, or college visit. Special circumstances are up to director discretion.

Rehearsals

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals unless they have an excusable absence. An absence from rehearsal on a Thursday, regardless of reason, might render the student ineligible to attend the football game that week. This is because of the nature of Thursday rehearsals.

The focus of Thursday rehearsals is to learn drill for our show. Students who miss rehearsal on Thursdays will be a safety risk to themselves and other performers by attempting to march drill they have not learned. After two unexcused absences from rehearsals, a student is subject to dismissal from the activity without refund.

Performances

Students are expected to attend all performances. In addition, there is an expectation that students remain for the entire performance. Part of a student's education includes listening to the performances of others. One unexcused absence from a performance renders the student subject to removal from the activity without a refund.

Tardies

Three unexcused tardies will be the equivalent of one unexcused absence and as such will be subject to the same consequences.

“No Call No Shows”

A “no call no show” is defined as an absent student that cannot be accounted for due to lack of communication or simply cutting rehearsal. In such a case, the student may lose the opportunity to participate in the next performance by the band. The decision will be made by the directors based on what is best for the entire group.

For ALL absences, the following procedure must be followed by all students and parents:

- Directors must be notified in advance
- An absentee request form must be filled out and on file
- For illness, a parent or doctor’s excuse must be submitted
- Although cleared by the school office, absences from a band activity the same day must be cleared with the directors as well – please notify the directors.

If a student has been at school ALL day, he or she is expected to be at rehearsal that afternoon, or at the event that evening. The mere filing of an absentee request form does not constitute whether an absence is excused. The above policy is cut and dry with regard to what is excused. Please do not call and say, “Please excuse...” if the excuse does not fall within the policy.

Conflicts with Band

Conflicts with band and other activities or events are the student’s responsibility. Rehearsal and performance schedules are given out in advance so that proper arrangements can be made. When outside activities create hardships concerning band, the student will need to consult with the directors about alternatives that may be possible. It is the policy of the band to assist students when conflicts occur within the scope of the band policy. Students are reminded that band is a very demanding activity and that involvement by all in band is the best way to achieve at a high level. Work is not an excuse for missing any band activity.

Duties of the Band Member

- Come to rehearsal with a GOOD ATTITUDE.
- Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. EARLY IS ON TIME – ON TIME IS LATE.
- Upon entering the rehearsal setting, acquire your instrument and go directly to your spot.
- When a director or staff member steps on the podium or asks for your attention, all talking should cease.
- There is no excess playing (i.e. horsing around on the instrument); Only appropriate warm-up material.
- Read and play music with insight – have musical expectations.
- At the end of rehearsal, put all materials in their proper place.
- Maintain a strong academic standing in all course work.
- Make a real effort to improve on a daily basis and establish a good practice routine.
- Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions.
- Admit when you are wrong.
- Have a proper respect for yourself and those in authority.

How Parents Can Help

When a “band question” arises, it is important that you get factual information before discussing it with others. We do more harm to ourselves, the band family, when we talk about things that contain one or more “falsehoods” but consider them facts. If questions arise, it is important to remember this axiom: If it is a performance issue or anything dealing with the band proper, contact your band directors. If it is a fundraising question or anything dealing with parent volunteer issues, talk with the booster club president.

Here are a few other things parents can do to help:

- Show an interest in the music study of your child.
- Take woodwind instruments to the shop once a year for maintenance.
- Be supportive of their practice, and remember that improvement is a process.
- Find a quiet place where he/she can practice without interruption.
- Help the band through fundraising
- Come up with a reward system for DAILY practice.
- Keep the instrument in good repair and keep at least three reeds in the case; purchase a metronome and tuner!
- Be extra-careful with school-owned instruments. Repair costs are high!
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time to each rehearsal or lesson.
- Provide private instruction.
- Make faithful attendance at all band activities.
- Buy your child a personal planner for marking important dates.
- Keep the Handbook in a safe place and refer to it often.
- Notify the teacher if the student is to be absent for rehearsals or lessons.

- If a student is absent, make sure that their folder gets to school (if they share it with someone).
- Visit rehearsals occasionally.
- Attend booster meetings, concerts, games, and contests.
- Turn in fundraising money on time.
- If your child is a brass player, ask them when was the last time they gave their horn a bath!

Students' Responsibility to the Band

As members of this organization, you have a great deal of responsibility. It is essential to any program that if certain expectations are to be met that they coordinate with the privileges, rewards, and duties of the band program

TO OURSELVES

YOU have the primary responsibility of developing your own abilities. The benefits of a good instrument and private instruction can never be underestimated. What you put into it is what you will get out of it. The directors are ALWAYS available for your guidance and encouragement – just ask!

TO THE SCHOOL

Maury County Schools provides us with the resources for rehearsals, performances, and some equipment. The Band Booster Club also provides a support network, both financially and philosophically. We have the responsibility to provide the best possible service to our community.

TO MUSIC

Music has always been a part of our culture. We must take what we have and use it for the betterment of that culture. No one expects virtuoso musicians, only your very best! The great composer Gustav Mahler once said that only 10% of a piece of music is on the page. If that is the case, then we as musicians have the duty of creating and producing the other 90%. The joy of music is not in everything that is apparent. It must be discovered and created.

TO EACH OTHER

We must always do what is best for the WELFARE of the group. There can be no selfish acts solely for the benefit of the individual, but for all. Respect each other. If there are conflicts, find a way to resolve them. Never insult another band member's integrity. The word "band" means that we are banded together and that there is no separation or discourse. Sometimes, the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.

Marching Band Schedules

Rehearsal Schedule During School

After the conclusion of band camp, the school year rehearsal schedule will be as follows:

Monday 3:30-5:30 Sectionals
Tuesday 3:30-5:30 Full Band/Drill Rehearsal
Thursday 3:30-6:30 Drill Rehearsal

If a student is absent from school on the day of an after-school rehearsal, this does not automatically excuse them for that afternoon. Someone must contact the directors.

Performance Schedules

There will be a set itinerary for each performance, to include all games. The itinerary will be sent out via proper channels, prior to the event.

Weather

Rehearsals and performances will be canceled via director communication only. Do not rely on hearsay in these events- **wait to hear official word from a director**. Inclement weather does not automatically cancel a rehearsal or performance. Please check all forms of communication for these announcements.

Uniforms

Marching Uniforms

The band will provide the following with regard to the uniform: t-shirt, band jacket, shako, gloves, and plume.

The student will provide the following:

- Band Shoes
- Band Shorts (athletic shorts that are school appropriate)
- Black Socks (**must be black, crew length or longer**)
- Bibbers

Behavior at Football Games

Report time for all games will be announced the weekend prior.

- Students should wear the full uniform at all times, unless otherwise specified by the directors.
- Following all games, students will be dismissed following announcements from the band hall. For away games, students are expected to come back with the band. IF a parent wishes to take their student home, the early dismissal procedure must be completed.
- When marching to and from the stadium, the band will remain at attention. When you have class IT SHOWS – when you don't IT SHOUTS!
- ***Only uniformed band members are allowed in the band section.***
- All members are to remain in their OWN section.
- Any stands cheers/tunes will not be played unless rehearsed and approved by the directors.
- There will be no eating or drinking in the stands. Students may eat around the periphery of the band section. Any stains from food that appear on the uniform will be removed at the student's expense. The band will have the majority of third quarter off and must be back in their seats when there are 2 minutes left in the third quarter. (return time pending game flow and half-time length)
- If a student must leave the band section, all students are to be reminded to use the BUDDY SYSTEM. No band student shall be seen wandering alone. Those who choose to do so will not be allowed to leave the stands unless accompanied by a parent chaperone.
- All school rules and policies are in effect at all band functions.
- Any band member possessing or using any controlled substances, which include tobacco and alcohol, during any band function is subject to immediate removal from the organization, referral to school authorities, and if applicable, the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- Band members will not play on or play with the equipment of others. This practice can lead to potential damage and a general lack of respect for the property of others. If you see someone picking up an instrument or equipment that is not theirs, remind them.
- Destructive activity will not be tolerated, whether it be something as seemingly innocent as playing on a wall, locker, or door with drumsticks, or bumping things with horns or equipment, or something more overt as deliberately damaging equipment, throwing objects, writing on walls or leaving trash around. An organization with class, mature members, and pride will not permit acts such as this. It is the responsibility of everyone to see that these types of things do not occur. If you see it, stop it. If they refuse to stop, notify a director, staff member, or chaperon immediately.
- Band members should not remove, play with, hide, or take all or part of the uniform of others. The uniform is obviously an essential part of the performance. If you have a problem with your uniform, don't take someone else's. See the uniform people for assistance. Take care of your own uniform.
- All students travel to any off - campus activity on the bus. If you wish to ride home from an event with your parents, they must follow the student check-out procedure. Students

will be released only to parents or guardians. Only directors may release students, not chaperons or staff. Please be aware of this policy -- it is for your protection as well as ours.

- Band members are expected to use good judgment and show respect for others in displaying affection.
- Any time there is a critical incident involving our people, our people and other band members, our people and “civilians”, or any incident involving police or other authorities, the directors are to be notified immediately.
- Any injury that occurs during a band function should be reported to the directors without delay.
- At any band contest, festival, trip, or other function, band members should move from place to place in a group. Do not go off by yourself, especially after dark. To leave the site, you must have permission from the directors.
- When we march in formation, we are observed by the public and by other bands, and a tradition of success demands that you exhibit the highest level of personal and ensemble discipline at all times. You are “performing” whenever you are in public, whether you are getting off the bus, marching to the stadium, or on break. Do not embarrass yourself and your friends by acting in an immature manner. Always behave with CLASS!
- Following any football game or competition, it is your responsibility to ensure that all your equipment is put away correctly. Non-band personnel should wait outside the band room to help limit confusion and expedite dismissal.

Competitions

Competitions are special events where we get to perform for a sophisticated audience and very competent judges. We are there to do our best – not to win! If we do our best, then everything else will take care of itself. Specific information, such as directions, departure, and anticipated return time, is given prior to competitions the weekend before the event. All parents are encouraged to attend competitions and support the band. Students will call from the bus fifteen minutes prior to arrival. PLEASE BE PROMPT upon picking up your student

Bus/Travel Tips

1. Whenever we travel, whether to a football game, a competition, or an overnight trip, band members are to be at the right place, at the right time, with the right equipment.
2. Follow all instructions of the directors or chaperons. If you don't understand, ask.
3. No unnecessary moving around on the bus. No standing in seats, sitting on backs or arms of seats on the bus. Do as the bus driver asks when on the bus.
4. If a conversation can be heard in the front of the bus, it is TOO LOUD!
5. There will be no hanging out of or talking out of the bus windows

6. Please lower the volume level considerably when crossing railroad tracks, entering towns, or stadiums. This is for your safety, is courteous to the bus driver, and an act of class!
7. Please keep the bus clean; pick up after yourselves and always thank the chaperones and driver!
8. Each bus will have a first aid kit on board. Ask chaperones for help.
9. Be quiet and cooperative during roll call on buses.
10. No alcoholic beverages, or any controlled substances (which includes tobacco and alcohol) are to be taken, bought, or consumed during the trip. All prescription and non-prescription drugs you need to take must be listed on your medical release form. All prescriptions must be given to a chaperone before departure.
11. No changing buses without directors' permission.
12. During travel at night, ensure phone brightness is set to dim as a courtesy to the driver and other members.
13. Leave non-essential valuables at home or in the band room.
14. Watch your belongings. If you put something down unattended, there is an excellent chance it won't be there when you return.
15. Profanity is not a part of this band! Make sure your language is never offensive.
16. Personal music devices (e.g. headphones only...no speakers) are allowed on the bus, but for your own good the volume level should not be loud enough to be heard outside your head.
17. Student Behavior will be exemplary at all times. There is no excuse for rude, obnoxious acts.
18. All school rules are in effect throughout the duration of any trip.
19. Kindness and courtesy work miracles in almost every situation. Remember that PLEASE and THANK YOU cost nothing, and are highly valued, especially when received from a teenager.
20. PDA - when you travel with the band you are a representative. Leave your personal relationship out of band business at all times. PDA is not allowed at band functions (yes, games too)
21. Couples may sit together provided they are sitting in the first 4 rows of the bus.
22. There Shall Be No Action For Which An Explanation Is Necessary. (Translation: If you think someone might ask you "Why did you do that?" then don't do it.) Usually abbreviated TSBNAFWAEIN!

Violations of these rules will result in disciplinary action that could include removal from the organization or being sent home. Detailed information sheets, showing reporting, departing, and estimated arrival will be sent out no later than the weekend before the event

Student Check-Out Procedures and Form

Students **MUST** ride the bus when we travel to an off campus event. If you wish to pick up your student from the event, ensure that the guidelines are followed,

- The student and parent must read, sign, and submit this form no later than three days before the event
- The family is to know that **ONLY** a parent, who is present at the event, is allowed to check out their student. **NO OTHER PERSONS** may take your child home. We do this for the safety of your child, your family, and the band program.
- The student must be aware that his or her equipment/uniform must be returned to its proper storage place in the band room.
- The student must arrive with the band, and remain present for the amount agreed upon by the directors and the family. Students **MUST STAY** for the duration of any and all performances.
- Upon checking out the student, the **PARENT** is to bring their student to a director. Once the parent has checked out with a director, they are allowed to leave with their student.

I, _____ understand and will adhere to the guidelines for picking up my child from an event. I understand that this is for the safety of all parties involved. I understand and have communicated that my child is responsible for all of his or her belongings returning to their correct place in the band room. By signing below, I am stating that my child will be riding home with me from the event.

Print Parent Name

Parent Signature

Print Student Name

Student Signature

Print Director Name

Director Signature

ABSENCE FORM

This form must be completed and turned in to the box one week in advance of any anticipated absence by a band student (Excluding extreme emergencies).

Student Name _____ Today's date _____

Date of anticipated Absence _____

Reason for absence:

*Please be specific! The policy is quite simple – if the school will excuse it, we will excuse it. If the school will not, we will not. “Important matters” or “family matters” are not considered excusable by the school.

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Director Signature

Signature Page

Expectation Sheet

I have read, understand, and will comply with all behavior guidelines, procedures, expectations, and etiquette stated in this handbook. I believe that we are all responsible for making rehearsals run smoothly. I am willing to do my part

Uniform Contract

I understand that I am personally responsible for the uniform items assigned to me, and that I will be charged for any parts that are lost or damaged due to neglect or abuse. I also agree to take care of the uniform as directed. At the end of each game or competition I will see that I have all uniform parts assigned to me properly stored in the garment bag. I will personally get the bag checked off and will not assume responsibility for another band member's uniform. I will report any missing or damaged items immediately. I understand that failure to follow these rules will result in immediate disciplinary action

Letter of Mutual Consent

I, the undersigned student, accept membership in the Columbia Central High School Band and understand that I am responsible for all the policies as set forth in the Band Handbook. I fully agree to carry out my responsibilities to the very best of my abilities.

Printed Student Name

Student Signature

Date

I, the undersigned parent or guardian, have read and understand the policies as set forth in the Band Handbook. I also grant full permission for my child to be an active member of the Columbia Central High School Band. In addition, my child has full permission to attend all band functions. Furthermore, I understand that I must meet all financial obligations.

Printed Parent Name

Parent Signature

Date