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Band Program Objectives

We have two main objectives for the band program at Chisholm Trail High School. Our first objective is the development of musicianship in every student that is a part of our program. Through marching band, concert bands, individual playing assessments, Solo & Ensemble participation, etc., we seek to help each and every child develop a love of music and develop their skills in the following areas:

- Tone
- Rhythmic Accuracy
- Note Accuracy
- Articulation
- Style
- Dynamics
- Expression

Our second objective is the development of character in every student that is a part of our program. Participation in any good school music program will naturally involve your child growing as a person in addition to developing specific musical skills and abilities. We seek to develop all the following aspects of character in our band members:

- Self-Discipline
- Teamwork
- Commitment
- Honesty
- Humility
- Responsibility
- Accountability
- Leadership

We believe that these objectives are a necessary part of fulfilling the mission of Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD: *“to foster a culture of excellence that instills a passion for a lifetime of continuous achievement in every student.”*

Ranger Regiment Marching Band

Marching Band is easily our most visible activity in the course of a school year at Chisholm Trail High School. At around 240-250 members, we are one of the largest groups of any kind on campus, and are the single largest performing group every year.

If you are new to our band, there is a lot to learn right away. Marching Band takes a lot of time and effort, but we believe that every minute we spend doing this activity is repaid in confidence, personal and musical growth, and in exciting musical and visual performances.

Summer Band

Every year, we have non-required enrichment activities such as Fitness Camps and Sectionals to help get your child ready for marching season. Our marching season officially begins each year around the beginning of August. You can count on 8am-5pm rehearsal days for at least the first two weeks of August each year (specific rehearsal days and times can be found on the official Ranger Regiment Summer Calendar). These rehearsal days are required for those students who wish to march in the competition show.

Varsity & Junior Varsity

All members who auditioned for band in the spring, who show up to Summer Band rehearsals, and who are registered for a band class during the current school year are considered to be members of the Ranger Regiment Marching Band. All members will attend and play at football games and pep rallies.

Each year during Summer Band, we will hold additional auditions for the varsity competition marching band show. Due to the large size of our band program, and the competitive nature of the marching band activity, it is necessary to select a smaller group that will be the *varsity*, or *competition group*. Again, it is important to point out that all band members are part of the Ranger Regiment, but each member may have a different *role* in the band based on this audition.

Those members who are part of the *junior varsity group* may not march and play their instrument in the competition show, but may have other responsibilities such as setup of props, guard blockers, or other equipment, or helping run the mixing board.

The audition for the *varsity competition show* will take place during Summer Band, and the Fitness Camps and Sectionals leading up to this audition can really help prepare your child for this audition, as well as for the entire season.

Marching Band Rehearsals During the School Year

Our weekly rehearsal schedule includes a Monday night rehearsal (6-8:30pm), and three morning rehearsals (Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday) from 7-8:30am. When there are changes to this schedule, we will do our best to communicate these changes (via email, Remind101, and Twitter) far in advance of any change.

Football Games

The Ranger Regiment is a big part of the “Friday Night Lights” experience at each of our varsity football games, whether home or away. We will attend each game, we will cheer on our football team, we will play in the stands and perform at halftime, and we expect that all of our students and parents will represent Chisholm Trail High School in an extremely classy way.

We do not allow students to eat food or drink anything other than water in the stands (there are very expensive instruments as well as the uniforms to consider), so we ask that parents and guardians do not buy food or drinks for their students to eat during the games. Also, students are not allowed to be on their phones during football games, so please do not try to contact them via phone call or text messaging at these times.

Marching Contests

As mentioned above, marching band at the high school is a competitive activity, and the Dallas-Fort Worth area is one of the most competitive areas for high school marching band in the entire country. Each year, you can count on your child participating in at least 4-6 marching contests (please see the Ranger Regiment Fall Calendar for specific dates and locations).

All Ranger Regiment members are expected to travel to and participate in each marching contest (the only exceptions to this would be students who are academically ineligible, who according to state law *cannot travel or participate with the group*).

We will typically have the opportunity to watch several other bands perform after we are done performing, and we expect everybody associated with our program to cheer those students on as if they were our own. *Every band student in the state of Texas works hard and makes sacrifices in the interest of creating art, and they deserve our applause!*

Though marching contests are (obviously!) competitive in nature, we want to encourage our students not to get so caught up in competitive results that we fail to see the bigger picture. The only group that we have any control over is our own, so our success is always *in our hands, and in nobody else's*. We can have a great performance and not win, or we can have a mediocre performance and win. What's important is that we always do our best to improve our show and put on a great performance every time we step on the field.

Marching Band Uniform

For every football game and marching contest performance, we wear our custom-made Ranger Regiment marching band uniform. We take great pride in this uniform, as it is literally *like no other uniform in the world!* There are several items that each student will need to own and bring every week (sometimes twice a week) to wear with the uniform. These items are listed below:

- Black Compression Shorts
- Black Compression Shirt
- Long Black Socks
- Black Marching Band Shoes
- Black Gloves (for woodwind and brass players)

Each student needs to have these items *every time we wear the uniform, as these items are part of the uniform.* These items are included in band fees for all new members, and returning members have the opportunity to order them. If you still need one or more of these items, please contact Violet Bengé at <vabenge@gmail.com>.

Pep Rally Uniform

Whenever we have a pep rally at Chisholm Trail High School, we will wear what we call our “pep rally uniform.” This will include the show shirt for that particular year, our Ranger Regiment shorts, and tennis shoes. Wearing the pep rally uniform is a *requirement* for participating with the band at pep rallies.

Required Materials

For Summer Band and for marching band rehearsals outside the school day, it is essential that every student wear appropriate clothing that allows for full freedom of movement. Athletic shoes such as cross trainers or running shoes are best; absolutely NO FLAT-SOLED SHOES CAN BE WORN TO MARCHING REHEARSAL. Also, each student will need the following:

- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Water jug filled with water (doesn't have to be cold, just wet)
- Dot Book (this consists of spiral-bound Index Cards and a shoestring to wear around the student's neck)
- Pencil (to make additions or changes to dot book)
- Sidewalk Chalk (for marking sets on the grid)
- 3-Ring Binder with Sheet Protectors (for music)

Chisholm Trail HS Concert Bands

In addition to participating in the Ranger Regiment Marching Band, all students who play a wind (woodwind OR brass) or percussion instrument will also be placed into one of four concert bands. For wind players, the spring audition is used to place students in the appropriate band based on musical abilities such as tone, timing, tuning, and technical ability. Wind players will meet in classes based on their concert band placement starting at the beginning of the school year. Percussion players will be placed into concert bands *after marching season*, and will continue to meet in their separate percussion classes. Percussion players will rehearse with their concert bands primarily through rehearsals outside of the school day.

Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble is the top instrumental ensemble at Chisholm Trail High School. It is predominantly made up of upperclassmen. This ensemble performs at UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest as a 5A Varsity Band, and will pursue significant competitive opportunities such as the UIL State Honor Band process. The band regularly performs musical literature at the Grade 4, Grade 5, and Grade 6 level. Private lessons are required for all members of the Wind Ensemble, and all members are expected to audition for the Region 30 All-Region Bands.

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is the second instrumental ensemble at Chisholm Trail High School. It is a good mix of upperclassmen and underclassmen. This ensemble performs at UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest as a 5A Non-Varsity Band, and regularly performs music at the Grade 3, Grade 4, and Grade 5 level. Private lessons are highly recommended for all members of the Symphonic Band, and members are encouraged to audition for the Region 30 All-Region Bands.

Concert Band

The Concert Band is the third instrumental ensemble at Chisholm Trail High School. It is a mix of both upperclassmen and underclassmen. This ensemble performs at UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest as a 5A Sub Non-Varsity Band, and regularly performs music at the Grade 2 and Grade 3 level. Private lessons are recommended for all members of the Concert Band, and the highest chair members of each section are encouraged to audition for the Region 30 All-Region Bands.

Concert Winds

The Concert Winds is the fourth instrumental ensemble at Chisholm Trail High School. It is made up of mostly underclassmen. This ensemble performs at our

on-campus concerts such as the Winter Concert and Spring Concert, but does not compete at UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest.

Students who show uniquely high levels of determination, hard work, and musical improvement may have the opportunity to move up from one band to another between the Fall Semester and Spring Semester. However, this will be solely at the discretion of the band directors.

Concert Attire

Concert attire is the same for all four bands, and will be used at all on-campus concerts as well as any off-campus performances or concerts, such as UIL or the Bass Hall Showcase. Concert attire is as follows:

- Young men will wear a “musician’s tuxedo.” This can be an actual tuxedo, but at the very least must consist of nice black pants, a black formal jacket, white dress shirt, black dress shoes, long black socks, a bowtie, and either a black leather belt or a cummerbund.
- Young ladies will wear a long black dress that can be chosen from a selection that we will present to the students after marching band season is over.
- Young ladies that play tuba or percussion, as well as certain other “utility” woodwinds such as Contrabass Clarinet, may wear a solid black blouse and nice pants, as a long dress may lead directly to difficulties with the playing of their instruments. If this is you, discuss with directors ASAP.

Required Materials

Each instrument has its own particular requirements, such as mouthpieces, mutes, reeds, cork grease, valve oil, sticks, mallets, etc. These will be spelled out in greater detail in a later section of this handbook. The following are requirements that *all* students need to have at every band rehearsal, including at every class during marching and concert season.

- 2 Pencils (always have a backup!)
- Tuner and Microphone Clip
- Glasses (if needed)
- Music Folder with All Music

Grading

Students will be graded in the following areas:

- Individual Playing Tests
- Objective Pass-Offs (e.g., passing off particular scales by end of six weeks)
- Participation in Required Performances (such as games, contests, concerts)
- Classroom Engagement and Participation, including Self-Assessments

Additional Course Offerings

In addition to the concert band classes already mentioned earlier, we also offer the following additional courses:

Jazz Band

The Jazz Ensemble is an additional performing ensemble within the Chisholm Trail HS band program. All grade level students may join the jazz band class with prior permission from a director. The jazz ensemble consists of alto, tenor, and bari saxophones, tenor and bass trombones, trumpets, jazz guitar, bass guitar, drum set, and piano. Students playing all instruments excluding guitars and piano must be in a concert band class in addition to the jazz ensemble.

Within the jazz ensemble students will explore music throughout history including, but not limited to the following styles...

- Swing
- Bebop
- Funk
- Various Latin Styles

Students in the jazz ensemble will also be expected to explore improvisation techniques. Improvisation includes creating and performing music spontaneously using chordal guidelines.

The CTHS Jazz program performs several concerts throughout the school year and competes at numerous local and state festivals in the spring semester. The festival ensemble may be auditioned each year; it may not include all students enrolled in the class period, and it may be supplemented by other students from outside the class. All students are encouraged to audition for the Region 30 All Region Jazz Bands.

AP Music Theory

Like any other Advanced Placement course, this course is meant to replicate college-level music instruction, specifically the skills taught in first-year music theory and aural skills classes. Students must already have the ability to read music notation, and have at least basic performance skills in voice or one or more instruments.

The course seeks first to instill mastery of the rudiments and terminology of music, including hearing and notating:

- Pitches
- Intervals

- Scales and Keys
- Chords
- Meter
- Rhythm

Building on this foundation, the course will progress to include more sophisticated and creative tasks, such as:

- Melodic and harmonic dictation
- Composition of a bass line for a given melody, implying appropriate harmony
- Realization of a figured bass
- Realization of a Roman numeral progression
- Analysis of repertoire, including melody, harmony, rhythm, texture, and form
- Sight-singing

AP Music Theory is meant for upperclassmen music students who have already been in either high school band or choir for at least two years.

Color Guard

The color guard has its own class that meets 8th period each day. The class is *required* for any student wishing to participate in the marching band color guard in the first semester or the winter guard in the second semester.

In the color guard class, students will learn the fundamental techniques of dance, flags, and weapons (rifle and sabre), as well as rehearse show choreography specific to the competition season we are in.

Marching Band and Winter Guard are two separate seasons, and each student will have to audition for the upcoming competition team when the previous season ends.

Each member is required to have the appropriate hair, make up, and costume accessory. It is important that all students look uniform when we take the field, attend a pep rally, or have a public appearance. Each season the director will send out what the costume, hair, and make up will be. Students must have each of these things in order to perform with the color guard.

Master Schedule

1st Period – Front Ensemble Percussion Class & Wind Ensemble Class

2nd Period – Battery Percussion Class & Symphonic Band Class

3rd Period – OPEN (Conference)

4th Period – Concert Winds Class

5th Period – Jazz Band Class

6th Period – Open

7th Period – Concert Band Class

8th Period – Color Guard Class & AP Music Theory

Following the Ranger Regiment on Social Media

Twitter

- @RangerRegiment
- @CTHSPercussion
- @CTHSColorGuard

Facebook

- www.facebook.com/CTRangerRegiment

Remind101

- **Wind Ensemble** - @ctwinden
- **Symphonic Band** - @ctsyband
- **Concert Band** - @ctconcert
- **Concert Winds** - @ctcwinds
- **Percussion** - @ctperc
- **Color Guard** - @ctguard

CTHS Band Instrument Recommendations

In order for a student to make his/her best music, it is important to have good equipment. Therefore, we have put together a list of recommended instruments for both marching season and concert season (playing and marching outside can put a big strain on an instrument, so it can make sense to have two instruments). These are just recommendations, but we believe that they will set up your child for success.

Woodwind Instrument Recommendations

This list contains brand and model recommendations for marching and concert instruments. This list is NOT all-inclusive, but a good guide to go by. To guarantee quality and to ensure that the instrument will last, please contact Mrs. Stephens (hstephens@ems-isd.net) before making any major purchases.

	Marching	Concert	Accessories
Flute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yamaha 221 or equivalent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yamaha 461 Yamaha 677 Miyazawa Miramatsu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuner Mic Clip
Clarinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buffet B12 or equivalent (Must be plastic!) Jupiter Legere Classic Plastic Reed Strength 3.0 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buffet E11 Buffet R13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuner Mic Clip D'Addario Reserve XO Mouthpiece Rico H-Ligature and cap D'Addario Reserve Classic Reeds Strength 2.5 or 3
Bass Clarinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legere Classic Plastic Reed Strength 3.0 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D'Addario Reserve Classic Reeds Strength 3.0 or 3.5

Alto Saxophone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yamaha 26 • Jupiter 767GL • P. Mauriat 57GC • Buffet • Legere Classic Plastic Reed Strength 3.0 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yamaha 62III • Yamaha 875EX • Yamaha 82ZII 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuner • Mic Clip • Vandoren Optimum Mouthpiece • Vandoren Optimum Ligature • D'Addario Reeds Strength 2.5 or 3
Tenor Saxophone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legere Classic Plastic Reed Strength 3.0 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D'Addario Reeds Strength 2.5 or 3
Bari Saxophone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legere Classic Plastic Reed Strength 3.0 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rico Reeds Strength 3.0

Brass Instrument Recommendations

This list contains brand and model recommendations for step-up instruments (the next level above a beginner horn) *and* professional-level horns for the most serious musician. This list is NOT all-inclusive, but a good guide to go by. To guarantee quality and to ensure that the instrument will last, please contact Mr. Marchand (tmarchand@ems-isd.net) before making any major purchases.

Instrument	Step-Up	Professional
Trumpet	Getzen 590S-S Capri Series Bb Trumpet Conn 52BSP CONNstellation Series Bb Trumpet Yamaha YTR-4335GII Intermediate Bb Trumpet	Bach LR180S37 Stradivarius Series Bb Trumpet Yamaha YTR-8335RGS Xeno Series Bb Trumpet S.E. SHIRES TRQ10S Q-Series Professional Bb Trumpet
Trombone	Yamaha YSL-448G Jupiter 636	Bach 42BO Stradivarius Series F Attachment Trombone Conn 88HO Symphony Series F Attachment Trombone S.E. SHIRES TBQ30R Q-Series F Attachment Trombone XO 1236L Professional Series F Attachment Trombone

Percussion Equipment Recommendations

Before 9th Grade*

- 1 pair Vic Firth SCM Colin McNutt Signature Marching Snare Sticks
- 1 Offworld Invader V3 Practice Pad
- 1 pair Vic Firth SD1 General Snare Drum Sticks
- 1 pair Vic Firth American Custom T3 Staccato Timpani Mallets
- 1 pair Vic Firth American Custom T4 Ultra Staccato Timpani Mallets
- 1 pair Vic Firth M134 Xylophone/Bell Mallets
- 2 pairs Vic Firth M212 Marimba Mallets
- 1 Kratt MasterKey F to F Pitch Pipe

To Be Purchased During 9th Grade*

- 1 Full-Size Mallet Bag:
 - Good:** Vic Firth Vinyl Stick Bag (SBAG2)
 - Better:** Vic Firth Concert Keyboard Bag (CKBAG)
 - Best:** Malletech Full Size Tour Bag
- 1 pair Vic Firth American Custom T1 General Timpani Mallets

To Be Purchased During 10th Grade

- 1 pair Vic Firth Signature Drumset Sticks (e.g., Steve Gadd, Dave Weckl, Jack DeJohnette)
- 1 additional set of 4 marimba mallets (determined by solo literature)

To Be Purchased During 11th Grade

- 1 pair Vic Firth Ted Atkatz Signature Snare Drum Sticks
- 1 pair Vic Firth M153 Ensemble Series Mallets

To Be Purchased During 12th Grade

- 1 pair Vic Firth Jazz Brushes
- 1 pair Vic Firth M140 Orchestral Series Bell Mallets

At each grade level, students may need additional sticks and mallets as necessary for solo and ensemble literature.*Policies & Procedures**

General Policies

- Chewing gum is not allowed at any event where you will be playing your instrument (e.g., rehearsal, football game, concert), or in uniform or in the band hall.
- Respect authority and others, including their personal property.
- Drinking, drugs, tobacco, and vaping are strictly prohibited; all school district policies regarding these are in force during any band activity regardless of location.
- All Chisholm Trail HS and Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD rules, including dress code, will be enforced during all band activities, regardless of location.
- If you need to turn in money to the Band Boosters, write a check to CTRRBB (Chisholm Trail Ranger Regiment Band Boosters), put the check in an envelope with the student's name on it, as well as what the money is for, then put the envelope in the Boosters' Box at the front of the Large Band Hall. This is a locked safe on the wall, and your money will be safe there.
- Students shall not damage equipment, facilities, or the property of others.

Travel Policies

- Bus lists will be posted before each trip; *you may only sign up for yourself, and never for another student*. For marching season, we will retain the same bus lists for the entire season.
- Students must have filled out their travel permission form in order to travel with the band.
- There will always be at least one adult on each bus when we travel; students will respect the authority of that adult, regardless of who it is, as a person designated by the band directors to supervise them.
- We want our group to maintain a reputation among our bus drivers of being the most well-behaved students in the school district. For this reason, the following bus rules will *always be in effect*, regardless of the nature of the trip:
 - Band students are expected to follow all rules laid out in the school district's Student Handbook and Code of Conduct.
 - Students will remain seated, and facing forward, at all times.
 - Do not put heads or arms out the windows.
 - Uniforms must be either worn or carried on hangers.

- No hitting or banging on bus seats (this includes drumming).
- No shoe polish writing on buses (ours or anyone else's).
- No exiting through the rear door of the bus, except in case of an emergency.
- Do not get off the bus when we arrive until the adult on your bus has given you specific exit instructions.
- No switching buses.
- No group singing or chanting, and no playing of instruments (practice pads on the percussion bus are an allowed exception).
- No music of any kind is allowed, unless you are wearing headphones.
- No squealing or unnecessary shouting.
- Adult chaperones will check roll each time the bus departs.
- Adult chaperones will have the authority to assign seats if they feel that it becomes necessary, even in the middle of a trip.
- At the end of each trip, each student will be responsible for unloading all of his/her own equipment; nothing should be left on the bus.
- Males and females are not allowed to sit together after dark.
- *When the bus is departing, all students will remain silent until we can no longer see the location from which we departed.*
- *When the bus comes to a halt (at any point in the trip), all talking, noises, and other distractions shall cease until the bus is in motion again or permission is given.*
- *When we arrive at our destination, all talking and other noises will stop once we can see our destination (e.g., when we can see the lights of a football stadium where we are going to perform).*
- When we return back to CTHS after traveling for a football game or other performance, there will *always* be equipment and/or uniforms to put away. Students will be dismissed as a group *only when all equipment and uniforms have been put away properly and locker rooms are clean.*

Band Hall Policies

- Please maintain respect for the band hall facilities and the equipment in those facilities at all times.
- Do not run or horseplay in the band hall at any time.
- When a rehearsal or class is over, put your instrument away *in your instrument locker*, and lock the locker. *CTHS, and the Ranger Regiment*

band program, accept no liability for instruments that disappear from unlocked lockers!

- Do not leave your instrument in the boys' or girls' locker room, unless it is a flute or clarinet and you leave it *in your locker*.
- Do not leave your instrument on the floor of the upstairs storage room.
- Food and drink are not permitted in any band hall spaces (including both band halls, practice rooms, color guard room, etc.), *unless specifically advised by a band director*.
- No hats or sunglasses are allowed inside, *unless specifically advised by a band director*.
- Music stands are to be used for your music; do not use them as tables, and never play around with a music stand.
- Do not play an instrument that is not yours at any time, unless specifically given permission by a director.
- Do not write on the dry erase board unless specifically given permission by a director.
- Practice Rooms are to be used for practice or for private lessons *only*; the practice rooms are available for practice before school, after school, and during your lunch (with a pass). They are *not* available for practice during any of your other classes, *even if* you receive a pass from your teacher.

Class/Rehearsal Policies

- Always be on time! You must be in the band hall, seated with your instrument, ready to play at the beginning of class. The teacher-of-record for each class will communicate specifics regarding what constitutes a tardy in that class.
- When you enter either band hall for class, do so silently. This way, you can hear whatever instructions the band directors need to give that day.
- Always come to class with all required materials, or borrow from another student if possible. For most classes, this includes music, your instrument (sticks and mallets for percussionists), a tuner with microphone clip, and a pencil.
- Remain on task at all times; do not talk or otherwise interrupt the focus of rehearsal.
- Be a good team player! When the director is working with a different section, use your time wisely to study or finger through other parts of your music.
- Ask good questions!

- If you *need* a drink of water, get up out of your chair and go get a drink from the water fountain. We trust you not to abuse this.

Uniform Policies

- Band members will always wear the uniform with pride in oneself, and with respect for the organization. This means wearing the uniform properly, and with all required items.
- A band member will wear no exposed jewelry while in uniform; this includes earrings.
- Gum chewing while in uniform (even partial uniform) will never be allowed.
- The only hats we will ever wear with the uniform are the uniform shako and your black CT ball cap. Do not wear any other hat with the uniform, even while getting dressed.
- Every time we change out of the uniform, we will hang it up properly so that it continues to look great and does not get wrinkled.

Football Game Policies

- We will meet in the band hall immediately after school on any day where we have a football game. Do not make the group wait for you!
- If we have an away game, it is important that every student pitches in and does *their job* to get the band trailer loaded as quickly as possible.
- No food or drink other than water will be allowed in the stands during a football game.
- Keep your phone put away during the entire football game.
- Students are required to stay with the band after football games, and will be dismissed as a group when all equipment and uniforms have been put away and the locker rooms are clean.

Social Media Policies

- We believe that social media gives our students a great opportunity to celebrate our program, our school, and our community, and we encourage our students to engage with us via social media.
- Negativity on social media will not be tolerated, whether toward other students in our band program, members of other band programs, or anybody else. Let's stay classy and remember we are always representing our program and the rest of Chisholm Trail High School.

- Cyber-bullying is an especially serious offense, and will be grounds for the band directors to consider removal from the band program. Don't do it!

Attendance Policies

The success of any ensemble is dependent on all of its members being present, on time, and prepared at every rehearsal. Prompt attendance at every *band function* is mandatory and a part of your commitment to the program and to your teammates. Punctuality is also an important habit that students will use for the rest of their lives! A *band function* is defined as any rehearsal, sectional, performance, trip, or event scheduled by a director.* This includes, but is not limited to football games, marching contests, parades, pep rallies, the annual EMS-ISD Band Expo, as well as concerts and concert band, percussion and color guard contests. The following policies apply to all band functions year-round:

Each member is expected to be at the required location, properly attired, with the necessary equipment, before the scheduled start time of the event. Attendance will be taken in attendance block during marching season, or in the concert band setup during concert season. Tardiness (arriving to an event after the start time) will not be tolerated. Students less than 15 minutes late will make up that time immediately after rehearsal. Students more than 15 minutes late to rehearsal will be counted as absent and will face the same consequences as absent students.

Excused Absences are limited to:

1. Medical Emergency (with a doctor's note)
2. Medical Appointments (with a doctor's note) – please do everything you can to avoid these during rehearsal times; with 200 students in band, absences for medical appointments can easily get *out of control*.
3. Death in the student's immediate family
4. Academic/CTHS Athletic Conflict (conference with teacher or coach required)

Examples of **Unexcused Absences** include:

1. Personal business
2. Shopping
3. Car trouble/difficulty finding a ride
4. Non-medical appointments
5. Non-subpoena court appointments
6. Missed bus
7. Illness other than immediate family

8. Work
9. Detained by train
10. Vacation

Parents/students should e-mail a Band Director no later than 24 hours prior to any missed rehearsal, but please keep in mind that band directors are not required to excuse an absence simply because a parent has communicated the absence ahead of time. We realize that emergencies sometimes arise, such that 24-hour notice is impossible to provide. In this case, do your best to contact a director as soon as possible, and please provide a doctor's note upon return.

Students and parents are responsible for checking the calendar (posted at <http://emsisd.com/Page/13702>) and scheduling work, medical, dental, and other appointments, as well as trips, in times that do not conflict with scheduled rehearsals or performances. CTHS teachers are required to provide before and after school tutorials. Ask your sponsor about alternate club meeting times.

While academics remain the number one priority for all students, you must learn to manage your time wisely. "I had a lot of homework last night..." will not suffice as an acceptable excuse for missing rehearsal. It is up to students to learn to balance their responsibilities! Directors will help with this, but planning is key!

Unexcused Absence Consequences will be as follows:

1st Offense: Loss of ability to play in the stands at the next football game (or to perform at halftime for color guard members)

2nd Offense within a Month: Parent Contact and Show Spot will be opened up to competition from others

For persistent unexcused absences: Removal from the program

For unexcused absences from any band performance: A grade of Zero

Communication is the key whether the absence is excused or unexcused. Clarification of facts is very important in many situations as we progress through marching season. Students that attempt to deceive the directors regarding the nature of their absence will be referred to their Assistant Principal for disciplinary action.

**Occasionally, section leaders may call sectionals to help students. The section will be given at least 24 hours notice for any sectional and attendance is recommended, but such rehearsals are not governed by this attendance policy.*

Band Fees

Membership Fee - \$520

The band fee is the same for all members, but some members (especially new members) may need to purchase more additional items than others. Examples of these additional items include compression gear to wear with band uniform, marching shoes, CT ball cap, etc.

These fees cover the following:

- **Required Uniform Items** (show shirt, shorts, compression gear, etc.)
- **Food** (when we have a game, contest, etc., we feed students!)
- **Instruction** (this partially covers the cost of bringing in outside help)

It is important to note that band fees only *help cover* the true cost of a season of band. The total cost of instruction, marching band show design, flags, guard uniforms, props, etc. is far more than we bring in through the band fees. The deficit is made up in fund-raising each year.

This is why fund-raising is so crucial to our success, and why you will be asked to participate in fund-raisers throughout the year. If you get asked to help with a fund-raiser, and you're able to do it, *please help out!* Every fund-raiser we do is focused on helping our band students have the best possible experience!

EMS ISD High School Band Letter Jacket Requirements

Students may be awarded only one letter jacket from one activity. For example, a student who has previously been awarded a letter jacket for swimming will not be awarded another jacket for band. The district will provide only one jacket, one time.

Letter jackets are awarded on a point system. To be awarded a letter jacket, a student must earn five points by completing prescribed activities for which they are academically eligible.

A student may be awarded a letter jacket upon completion of any combination of five of the following activities:

- Participate in UIL Region Marching Contest — **one point**
- Participate in UIL Area Marching Contest — **one point**
- Earn a First Division rating (solo or ensemble) at UIL Region Solo & Ensemble Contest — **one point**
- Earn a Second Division rating (solo or ensemble) at UIL State Solo & Ensemble Contest — **one point**
- Participate in UIL Concert & Sight Reading Contest — **one point**

A student may be awarded a letter jacket for completing any one of the following activities:

- Earn a chair in any high school All-Region Band — **five points**
- Earn a First Division rating (solo or ensemble) at UIL State Solo & Ensemble Contest — **five points**
- Participate in marching band for four years (if a letter jacket has not been previously awarded for another activity) — **five points**
- Qualify for UIL Texas State Marching Contest — **five points**

A Color Guard member may be awarded a letter jacket for completing any one of the following activities:

- Participate in marching band for four years (if a letter jacket has not been previously awarded for another activity) — **five points**
- Complete two seasons of Color Guard and two seasons of Winter Guard — **five points**
- Place in Finals at Winter Guard International Regional Competition — **five points**
- Medal at Championships — **five points**
- Qualify for UIL Texas State Marching Contest — **five points**

How Parents Can Help

You may be asking how you, as a parent, can help your child to be musically successful while he or she is participating in the CTHS band program, or how you can assist with the needs of the program yourself. Below are a few suggestions:

- Show an interest in the musical study of your child.
- Help your child arrange a regular time to practice.
- Find a quiet place where he or she can practice without interruption.
- Listen to performances of practice material when asked to do so.
- Help your child keep a daily record of practicing.
- Come up with some kind of reward system for daily practicing that fits your family.
- Keep the instrument in good repair, and keep at least three reeds in the case (for reed players, of course); invest in a metronome and tuner!
- Encourage your child to be extra careful with school-owned instruments; repair costs can be very high!
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time to each rehearsal or lesson.
- Provide private instruction!
- Emphasize the importance of faithful attendance at all band activities to your child.
- Buy your child a personal planner for marking important dates, or teach them how to do this with their smartphone, if they have one.
- Keep the handbook in a safe place and refer to it often.
- Notify the appropriate teacher if your child is to be absent for rehearsal or lessons.
- Visit rehearsals occasionally!
- Attend booster meetings, football games, concerts, and contests.
- Sign up to be part of a band booster committee (Hospitality, Sales, Fund-Raising, Equipment Crew).
- Make payments of band fees on time.

Whom Do I Ask for Help?

For Parents

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 presented as facts. If questions arise, it is important to remember these guidelines:

- If it is a question about rehearsal, performance, or anything else dealing directly with a band activity, contact the band director.
- If it is a fund-raising question, a question about band fees, a question about volunteering, or anything dealing with parent issues, contact the booster club president.

For Students

Our band has well over 200 students in it, and those students often have many questions, especially on gamedays and contest days. In order to make sure that the directors can focus on the needs of the entire group, please follow these guidelines when you have questions or need help with something, *especially on performance days!!*

First, ask an upperclassman!

If they don't know the answer to your question, or can't help you, ask a leader!

If they don't know, or can't help you, ask a drum major!

If they don't know, or they can't help you, ask a parent!

If they don't know, or they can't help you, ask a tech!

If they don't know, or they can't help you, ask an Assistant Band Director, Percussion Director, or Color Guard Director!

If they don't know, or they can't help you, ask Mr. Doyle!

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. My daughter did not get a spot in the varsity competition show; is she still in band?

A. Thanks for asking! Yes! Your daughter is still in band. She will have a different role in the show, and she will still fully participate in the stands at football games, and at all pep rallies.

Q. My son wants to be in band, but he doesn't want to do marching band because he doesn't know how to march. Is that okay?

A. Thanks for asking! Unfortunately for your son, our policy is that no student can participate in the CTHS band program without participating in marching band. The music for the marching band show is 90% of our curriculum for the first 1/3 (twelve weeks) of the school year, so not participating in marching band is not an option. *Fortunately for your son, we teach kids how to march all the time; we assume no marching knowledge or ability from our incoming students.*

Q. I would like to pick up my child from a marching contest and take him home with me. Can I do that?

A. Thanks for asking! Yes, you may pick up your child early from an event. However, you need to send us an email at least 24 hours in advance, and you and your child together need to check out with a band director before leaving.

Q. My daughter needs to take the SAT, and we'd like to miss one of the scheduled marching contests to do it. Is this okay?

A. Thanks for asking! We ask that you *please* refrain from scheduling SAT or ACT tests on the same day as marching contests. This year, there is an August date and a December date that do not conflict; please choose one of these dates.

Q. My son is taking the SAT tomorrow morning; can he leave the football game early tonight?

A. Thanks for asking! Yes! If your child is taking the SAT early on a Saturday morning, you may take your child home *after our halftime performance* Friday

night. You must email in advance, then check in with a director, and we must see you and your child together before releasing them into your care.

Q. My daughter tells me she keeps getting asked by her section leader to go to sectionals; what is a section leader, and what are sectionals?

A. Our band is large enough that we rely greatly on the work of student leadership; a section leader is one of the most important leadership roles in the band. Sectionals are student-led outside section rehearsals where students get extra help with music and marching.

Q. If my child becomes academically ineligible during marching season, will we receive a partial refund of band fees?

A. Thanks for asking! Unfortunately, we cannot offer refunds for this reason, as by this point in the season, we have already spent most of the money we have taken in for the year.

Q. My child wants to continue playing their instrument, AND participate in color guard. Is that possible? How does that work?

A. Your child will have to be in two classes (the 8th period color guard class and whatever concert band class your child has made).

Q. I've been asked to work a fundraiser; if I do it, will my child's band fees be reduced?

A. Thanks for your question! Unfortunately, this is not possible for two reasons:

1. The fund-raisers that we do are intended to make up for the difference between what we bring in through band fees and what band actually costs for a year; to reduce band fees based on fund-raiser participation would defeat the purpose.
2. Working a fund-raiser that benefits an individual by providing a reduction of band fees could endanger our non-profit status. See below:

“If a booster club confers a benefit on a participant in return for their fundraising activities, such as by crediting amounts raised by a participant toward that participant’s dues requirement, or by crediting amounts raised against the cost of a trip, the booster club is providing a private benefit to that participant. Consequently such practices could result in the organization failing to be described in § 501(c)(3).”