

V. SUE CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL

BAND HANDBOOK 2019-2020

This handbook describes the Cleveland High School Band Program and its policies, rules, and regulations. The high school band program includes grades 9-12 who are attending Cleveland High School and signed up for a band class.

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Cleveland High School Band Handbook

2019-2020

I. BASIC POLICIES *A positive, cooperative attitude is the most important quality for a band member. This attitude must become the collective spirit of the band.*

- 1) Depending on individual circumstances, the following rules may vary from situation to situation.
- 2) The Director of Bands retains the right to make exceptions from situation to situation.
- 3) Do not use band as an excuse to get behind in your regular class work, or to antagonize your teachers. Remember, low grades may make you ineligible (see section XII).
- 4) There will be no food, drinks, gum, horseplay, fighting, or screeching on instruments in the band room.
- 5) The room is not to be used as a throughway.
- 6) Because of safety and security concerns, only Band Members may “hang out” in the Band Room.
- 7) Your attitude should be one of cooperation no matter who is in front of the band.
- 8) The band room is for your benefit. Please do not damage the room with carelessness or immaturity.
- 9) Band is a yearlong, comprehensive activity. Students will not be allowed to drop out at semester. Students who quit band must audition to re-enroll, although auditioning is no guarantee the student will be re-admitted.
- 10) Parents are expected to keep their children enrolled in any band to which a commitment has been made. Marching Band carries an enrollment commitment of approximately 14 weeks in the fall. All other ensemble-classes carry a full year enrollment commitment.
- 11) Use or possession of alcohol, tobacco, or illicit drugs is prohibited during all band trips and functions, and may result in dismissal from the band program.

II. CODE OF CONDUCT *Students are expected to live up to certain standards of behavior that contribute to and foster a positive, constructive learning environment.*

- 1) Common Sense is the primary touchstone against which all actions will be judged.
- 2) Students are expected to be positive in both speech and actions.
- 3) Students are expected to follow instructions from the directors without question or discussion.
- 4) Behavior during rehearsals and performances should be exemplary.
- 5) Skipping rehearsals, ditching classes and missing performances are unacceptable and inexcusable behaviors.
- 6) Students are expected to respect all school equipment, the music rooms, and others’ property.
- 7) Attendance, attitude and behavior will be used as criteria for continuance in the band program. Students are expected to maintain certain standards in these areas in order to participate in band.
- 8) Students are expected to abide by the Student Code of Conduct as stated in the CHS Student Handbook.
- 9) Failure to abide by proper code of conduct may lead to demotion within an ensemble, demotion to another ensemble, or removal from the band program.

III. LOCKERS

- 1) Students will be issued a personal locker.
- 2) Students must use ONLY the lockers they were issued—no sharing unless assigned to share.
- 3) Only instruments, mutes, etc. are allowed in lockers.
- 4) Misuse of lockers may result in a loss of locker privileges.
- 5) Students MUST provide a combination lock (no keyed locks) for their locker. The lock’s combination must be submitted to Mr. Holmes.

IV. BAND FEES

- 1) We ask for a \$50 dollar deposit for all marching band students which is paid to the CHS Band Boosters.
- 2) This deposit will assist in costs for food, trip emergencies, and other misc. items not covered by RRPS.
- 3) Money for any fee may be fundraised.

V. MARCHING UNIFORMS

- 1) Marching uniforms will be issued to the student at the beginning of the season. Each student will be issued a complete uniform (to be kept at school) and accessories at the beginning of the school year. Students are responsible for proper care of all uniform parts assigned them, and may be charged for any damage or loss. Students responsible for causing any damage to any part of any the uniform may also be responsible for repair/replacement costs.
- 2) Students will need to dry clean their uniforms before turning them in at the end of the season. Failing to do so may result in a \$20 fee.
- 3) Students need to furnish the following items to be worn with the marching uniform:
 - a) Show shirt
 - b) Calf length black socks
 - c) Regulation black marching shoes
 - d) Marching gloves (except percussion)
 - e) Shorts

VI. CONCERT UNIFORMS

- 1) Girls will need to check out a school concert dress.
- 2) Boys will need to check out a school tux.
- 3) Students will need to dry clean their tux or dress at the end of the year. Failing to do so may result in a \$20 fee.
- 4) We may not have enough tuxes and dresses for the entire ensemble. If that is the case, we will issue concert uniforms to wind symphony students and ask symphonic and concert band students to dress nicely or dress in all black depending on the performance situation.

VII. SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

- 1) School-owned instruments are furnished and leased to the students chosen to play them for \$40.00 a year.
- 2) Students will assume full financial responsibility for the instrument(s) issued to them.
- 3) The school will issue instruments in proper working order.
- 4) The student will pay for any repair resulting from damages due to irresponsibility, misuse or neglect.
- 5) Students may need to supply their own mouthpieces.

VIII. SHEET MUSIC *The music that is distributed is part of our music library and should be treated as carefully as library books. Please take care of all parts so that future bands will be able to enjoy the same music.*

- 1) Take care of all music. This includes keeping the music in your folder when not using it.
- 2) Use only pencils when marking your music! No pens (even the erasable kind) are allowed.
- 3) Be sure not to fold, crumple or tear the sheet music.
- 4) Do not make any unnecessary marks on your music. Any marks should be made lightly (remember, you'll have to erase whatever you mark in).
- 5) Damaged or lost music may cost the student \$5 per piece. Damaged or lost etude books, solo & ensemble books, etc. may cost the student the current price of the item.

IX. ATTENDANCE-GENERAL *On-time attendance of all rehearsals and performances is necessary for the achievement of excellence within our band program.*

- 1) Because band participation is a matter of teamwork, attendance at after school rehearsals is required as part of all band classes. If you have transportation problems, we will be glad to help.
- 2) If you have to miss a performance for any sudden reason please email Mr. Holmes and Mr. Dumais. (daniel.holmes@rrps.net, and joshua.dumais@rrps.net)
- 3) Students who are excessively absent or tardy for any reason in the weeks prior to a performance may not be allowed to participate in that particular performance.
- 4) No ditching! Band students receive daily participation grades, therefore every unexcused absence from class may result in a lowering of the daily participation grade. After one tardy a student may be warned. After two tardies, a student may be referred and parents will be notified. After three tardies, a student will be referred, a parent conference may be called.
- 5) An unexcused absence from a performance may result in loss of credit for the performance. A second unexcused absence from a performance may result in a further loss of credit and may result in immediate removal from the performing group for the remainder of the semester. At semester's end the student will either be reinstated or transferred out of the class.
- 6) An unexcused absence from a festival or competitive performance may result in that student's immediate removal from that ensemble.
- 7) An unexcused absence is defined as an absence not excused by a director prior to the event. (emergencies excluded)
- 8) Out of courtesy to and support of all performers, students must remain for an entire performance in order to receive credit for that performance. Students may miss a portion of a performance or competitive event only with prior permission from a director, and only for extreme circumstances.

X. ATTENDANCE-MARCHING BAND

- 1) Marching Band students will be allowed three (3) absences from rehearsals for emergencies, appointments, etc.
- 2) Students need not submit an excuse to the director for any of these three absences. However, **their parents must call them in absent as per school procedures.**
- 3) If one of these three absences occurs one week prior to a competition, a written or emailed excuse from a parent must also be submitted no later than the day before the absence.
- 4) After three (3) absences, a student may lose his or her spot and may be made an alternate.
- 5) Students must attend all performances. Students who have an unexcused absence from a rehearsal or a performance may lose their spot.
- 6) Any student arriving late for a football game may not be allowed to participate in that game's performance, but will be required to remain with the band in uniform for the entire game.
- 7) At marching competitions, students are expected to remain at the event with the band through finals, whether or not our band is a finals participant. Students who leave a competition before dismissed may not receive credit for that performance. Please see Section IX.
- 8) Students are expected to travel and stay with the band as a whole.
- 9) The director retains the right to make exceptions, at his discretion, for extenuating circumstances.

XI. GRADING

The standard grading weights for all CHS band ensembles will be: 30% Practice and Participation, and 70% Assessment and Performances. They are also in line with the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards.

- 1) Practice and Participation - *Creating*
 - a) Weekly Rehearsal Participation Grades
 - b) Individual Practice Assignments

- 2) Assessments - *Responding*
 - a) Playing tests
 - b) Memorization tests (when applicable)
 - c) Objective Pass Off's
 - d) Other musical based assessments
- 3) Performances – *Creating, Responding, Performing*
 - a) Concerts
 - b) Contests
 - c) Music Performance Assessment
 - d) Any required performance

XII. ELIGIBILITY

- 1) In order for a student to be eligible to participate in NMAA Events, the following New Mexico Activities Association requirements must be met:
 1. A student must have a minimum GPA of 2.0 and NO F's in order to be eligible to participate in NMAA activities/athletics..
 2. Scholastic eligibility will be determined by the semester grades. Eligibility checks for those deemed unable to participate at semester will undergo checks at designated marking periods (6/9 weeks) during that semester. (Incoming 9th graders enter HS with a clean slate).

XIII. LETTERING

- 1) Students may earn a band letter for Marching Band.
- 2) Students who meet lettering standards after receiving their letter or patch will receive a band bar.
- 3) Points for lettering will roll over from previous years.
- 4) Students must apply for a letter or bar. Students must fill out and submit a lettering sheet by the date announced.
- 5) Jazz patches will be awarded for two years of participation in the jazz program, or as soon as a student makes Jazz All-State. Students will receive a bar for a third and fourth year in the jazz program or after every time making Jazz All-State.
- 6) Colorguard letters will be awarded for two years of participation in the colorguard. Students will receive a colorguard bar for a third and fourth year in the colorguard.

XIV. DISTRICT VI HONOR BAND AND ALL-STATE

- 1) All members of the Symphonic Band and Wind Symphony are encouraged to audition for District VI Honor Band. Participation is expected if a student is selected. The school will cover participation fees if a student is selected for All-State.
- 2) Members of the Wind Symphony will be expected to audition for All-State.

XV. AYS/AYO/SOLO & ENSEMBLE, ETC. *These activities are strictly voluntary, and are designed to encourage the student to set high goals in individual musicianship and achievement.*

- 1) Students are responsible for paying the entry fees for these events, and must do so by the deadline date in order to be entered.
- 2) Students who use piano accompaniments at solo and ensemble festival are responsible for the cost of paying the accompanist.
- 3) Ensemble members who do not learn their music, or who fail to attend rehearsals will be replaced. No refunds of money will be given if a student is removed from an ensemble.
- 4) AYS/AYO/All-State/Solo & Ensemble, etc. are considered commitments. No backing out at the last minute. Be prepared. You enter – you play.

XVI. COLORGUARD *Colorguard is visual enhancement of the Marching Band. Members should always consider themselves first and foremost members of the Cleveland High School Marching Band.*

- 1) Colorguard members will be chosen by audition.
- 2) Colorguard members will adhere to all policies of the CHS Band.
- 3) Colorguard members will be responsible for the cost of their game day/warm up attire and for their own riffle.
- 4) Colorguard will rehearse after school with the Marching Band and may also have rehearsals one or two nights a week.

XVII. INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS OF ENSEMBLES

- 1) Requirements and expectations for individual concert bands may be provided by the directors of those ensembles in their course syllabi.
- 2) From time to time, students may be required to purchase method books, equipment, etc. for class.

XVIII. CHALLENGES

- 1) Challenges may be allowed within bands.
- 2) In order to challenge, a player must:
 - a. Obtain a challenge form
 - b. Have challengee sign the form.
 - c. Submit the form to the director of the ensemble in which the challenge will occur.
- 3) The director of the ensemble will pick the challenge music from either the All-State etudes or class literature.
- 4) A player may challenge a maximum of once a week.
- 5) Challenges are subject to close two weeks before a band concert.
- 6) A challengee must accept a challenge.
- 7) Players may only challenge up one chair at a time.
- 8) Challenges will be heard on a first-come, first-served basis.
- 9) Secondary marchers (see XXIII) may challenge primary marchers for primary marching spots.

XIX. JAZZ BANDS

- 1) The Jazz Bands are voluntary organizations. Members will be selected by audition.
- 2) Concurrent enrollment in a concert band is requisite for participation in the Jazz Bands, with the exception of bass, piano, and guitar players.
- 3) Jazz Bands will rehearse during zero hour.
- 4) A class fee may be applied. Members must provide some uniform parts.
- 5) Jazz Band members who do not regularly attend rehearsals and performances may be replaced or dismissed.
- 6) Jazz Band is a class that carries with it an earned grade.
- 7) Jazz Band is a yearlong, comprehensive activity. Students may not drop at semester.

XX. MARCHING BAND

- 1) Marching Band is a voluntary, competitive ensemble.
- 2) The Marching Band is open to all 9-12 graders who are concurrently enrolled a concert band at the High School.

- 3) Colorguard members do not need to be members of a concert band; however, any member of a concert band who fails to continue may not participate in colorguard.
- 4) Out-of-town travel to competitions is an integral part of Marching Band and is required of all members.

XXI. PEP BAND

- 1) Pep band is a voluntary activity.
- 2) Pep bands will perform at selected boys' and girls' home basketball games.

XXII. BAND LEADERSHIP

- 1) There are many opportunities for leadership. We have many positions that serve the marching, jazz, and concert bands.
 - a) Instructional Positions – Drum major, drill instructor, section leader, squad leader
 - b) Logistical Positions – Librarian, equipment, uniform,
 - c) Advisory Cabinet – President, Vice President, Cabinet Member
- 2) Every band will have leadership positions.
- 3) Student leadership will meet once a week during lunch.
- 4) Student Leaders should be model citizens whose behavior, attitude, and effort set a positive example for other band students to follow and emulate.

XXIII. MARCHING BAND POSITIONS

- 1) Primary Marchers - Students who earn a primary position in the marching band will carry the designation of primary marcher. A primary marcher is a student who:
 - a) Successfully completes the audition requirements by the appropriate time.
 - b) Demonstrates high quality marching skills
 - c) Is punctual in report times
 - d) Is present at rehearsals and performances
 - e) Represents the school, school district, band program and themselves with the highest possible decorum and behavioral standards.
- 2) Secondary Marchers – Students who are secondary marchers will “shadow” another marcher or perform in the secondary marching block.
 - a) Secondary marchers perform at all football games and may perform at an early season contest.
 - b) Secondary marchers will meet the same attendance, rehearsal, memorization, academic, and performance requirements of primary marchers.
 - c) Specific drill may be written and music may be edited for those students who are not yet able to achieve the physical and musical demands required of primary marchers. This will help improve their individual skill level and will prepare them for future performance opportunities.
 - d) As a band staff, we are committed to providing performance opportunities for all students. However, the level of performance participation may be limited by eligibility and individual performance ability.
 - e) The band directors will keep the number of secondary marchers to a minimum; however, they are a necessary and vital aspect of our program so each student can be put in a position to succeed and so we can prepare for possible substitutions due to injury, sustained illness, eligibility etc.

The Band Directors shall have the authority to suspend or amend any band policy at any time deemed necessary in the best interest of the overall band program

PLEASE PRINT AND RETURN
THIS PAGE TO MR. HOLMES
BY AUGUST 30th, 2019

I have read, and agree to abide by all rules and regulations.

Student
Name_____Signature_____Date_____

I have read, and agree to hold my student accountable to the above rules and regulations

Parent/Guardian
Name_____Signature_____Date_____