

# **Christian County High School**

## **Band Handbook**



**“the Pain of discipline is better than the pain of Regret.” – Ray Conklin**

**Christian County High School Band**  
**220 Glass Avenue**  
**Hopkinsville, KY 42240**

**WELCOME** to the Christian County High School Band Program! It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to work with not only the students, but the parents as well. I am confident that the experiences gained will be beneficial and worth all the work that this activity requires. If at any time you have a question, please do not hesitate to ask. We anticipate an exciting year closing out the last year of the Colonel Band.

The design of the following materials is put together as such to help answer and clarify any questions or concerns that may come up during the school year. While it may seem a little overwhelming at first, the memories developed in this setting will last a lifetime. We understand we live in unique times, and we are trying to adapt to adjust the best we can.

The discipline of the band program will develop **teamwork, cooperation, leadership, coordination, and self-discipline** that are not possible in other academic subjects. While the victories won and lost may seem to be the dominating desire, the main objectives of this band program are to encourage **individual ability, leadership, self-respect, and positive attitude.**

Finally, please realize that other students and parents were in the exact position as you, having the same thoughts and fears. Anxiety of what lies ahead usually diminishes through active participation. We are here to help and hope that we can do so.

Once again, welcome and enjoy being a part of an **OUTSTANDING** organization!

# **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

**PROGRAM GOALS:** Students will develop the following skills and concepts:

1. A high degree of music reading encompassing: correct rhythm, tempo, dynamics, precision, tone and the ability to be versatile to any given musical circumstance.
2. The ability to work cooperatively with others toward the performance of music in an ensemble.
3. The knowledge of a wide variety of band literature.
4. A high level of quality artistry through individual musical awareness, control and technical facility.
5. Self-discipline, self-confidence, responsibility, and dependable behavior.
6. Respect for others, loyalty to ensemble, and pride in the organization.
7. Respect for and proper use of equipment.

## **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

The Christian County High School Band shall include the following essential elements and students will be expected to master the objectives in each of the identified areas:

1. Care and handling of instruments.
2. Posture and playing position.
3. Instrumental technique:
  1. Develop characteristic tone
  2. Develop listening and intonation skills
  3. Develop rhythmic skills
  4. Develop ability to phrase musically
  5. Develop dynamic control
  6. Develop articulation
2. Musical reading skills-
  1. Understand and interpret printed musical symbols through performance on instrument.
3. Musical sensitivity
4. Evaluation of musical performance quality
  - a. Evaluate progress toward self-established musical goals.
  - b. Evaluate solo and group rehearsals and performances.
  - c. Recognize quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics and articulation.
5. Creative self-expression
6. Develop strong personal skills in the areas of teamwork, leadership, and communication.

The rules and procedures outlined in this handbook have been developed to accomplish these goals in the most efficient and productive manner, and to provide an accurate method of assessing each student's progress. It is the personal and musical progress of each student, which has traditionally been based on the concept of each student performing his or her assigned tasks to the best of his or her ability. Each student is capable of making a contribution to the group and growing in knowledge and appreciation.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

- 1. Marching Band** begins primarily in July and concludes in November. This group will perform at all home football games, hoptown/county football game, at scheduled competitions, Veterans Day Parade, Christmas Parade, and in exhibition at home competitions. Rehearsals are held consistently and are scheduled well in advance so that all students can avoid unnecessary conflicts. Calendars are available and have been distributed. If selected for any prestigious event, parades or additional performances could be added with advanced notice.
- 2. Concert Band** begins primarily in October and usually concludes in May. This group will be evaluated at the district and possibly state level. Rehearsals are held consistently and scheduled well in advance so that all students can avoid unnecessary conflicts. Performances include: Christmas Concert, Veteran Day Parade, Christmas Parade, Concert Festival Assessment, Spring Concert, and Graduation. Additional Performances could be added with advanced notice.
- 3. Jazz Band** begins in class when school starts and concludes in May at the end of school. This group will be rated at the Jamey Aebersold Jazz Festival at Murray State University in the spring. Rehearsals are primarily during the school day during class. We will perform at the Christmas Concert (depends on year), Jamey Aebersold Jazz Festival, Spring Concert, and various events in the community if ready. Any after-school rehearsals will be determined by the band director with advanced notice.
- 4. Percussion Ensemble** begins in class and concludes in May at the end of school. The students will perform at the Christmas Concert, the Western Kentucky Day of Percussion, and the spring concert. Rehearsals are primarily during the school day during class. After-school rehearsals and additional community performances will be determined by the band director.
- 5. Pep Band** plays at selected boys and girls basketball games (regular season and tournament) and at football playoff games. Students will be expected to play at the games assigned.
- 6. Color Guard** will learn basic fundamentals and routine maintenance techniques for guard. This class is not required to be in color guard. They will compose work, study advanced color guards, and perform maintenance on color guard equipment. We have opportunities for Winter Guard and Fall Color Guard.

# **ATTENDANCE POLICIES**

## **ATTENDANCE**

Absences affect performances and the success of performance-oriented activities such as band depends upon full participation. Each student's participation can change the group outcome and each student plays a valuable role in this process. Attendance guidelines have been developed to support the learning process for both the student and group. Attendance is related to both self-discipline and learning. If a student is not in rehearsal, he or she has missed that participatory portion of his or her educational experience and that experience cannot be made up. Students will be given a daily participation grade for all rehearsals and a performance grade for all performances.

**\*ALL ABSENCES MUST BE REPORTED TO MR. DARNALL\***

Absences will be excused in the following and/or similar cases:

- **Death in the family**
- **Medical emergency or illness**
- **Weddings (member of party or immediate family ONLY)**

Absences will be unexcused in the following and/or similar cases:

- **Family Trips, Babysitting**
- **Jobs**
- **Personal business or entertainment**

The list of examples above does not cover every situation. The director is ultimately responsible for determining if an absence is excused or unexcused. In the case of illness or family emergency, an explanatory telephone call from a parent or guardian prior to a rehearsal or performance is appropriate. **INFORMATION ABOUT A STUDENT ABSENCE IS NOT TO BE REPORTED BY ANOTHER STUDENT!**

**3 absences or failure to notify Mr. Darnall of one absence can result in a director/student/parent conference about the future involvement of the student with the CCHS Band.**

An unexcused absence that will result in a grade of **ZERO (0)** for the event. Members may be removed from performances if rehearsals are missed due to illness, lengthy school absences, and/or excessive tardiness.

## **SUMMER BAND REHEARSALS**

Summer rehearsal attendance is determined by the director. For a complete schedule of dates & times, please check your printed Christian County Band Calendar. Please remember to schedule vacations, doctor's appointments, summer camps, etc. around the band camp schedule. Know that all absences affect the ultimate success of the band.

**Required Attire for Summer Rehearsals:**

*Please don't wear tube-top, bikini tops, high top shoes, sandals, flip-flops or clogs. Avoid wearing clothing that is provocative, revealing, offensive, or that contains drug/alcohol related words or symbols.*

- Light-Colored Hat
- Light-Colored Short-Sleeve T-Shirt
- Light-Colored Shorts
- UV Protection Sunglasses/Sunscreen
- White/Light-Colored Socks
- Light-Colored Tennis Shoes

## **GRADING POLICIES**

### **STANDARD GRADING POLICY**

Students in band class will be graded according to the following plan:

**Rehearsals (30 pts. each week)**

- Students will be given a grade based on their attendance, attitude, preparedness, and participation at **ALL** scheduled rehearsals (both after school rehearsals and sectionals).

**Performances (50 pts. each event)**

- Students will be given a grade based on their attendance and participation at **ALL** performances (including contests, concerts, ball games, etc.).

**Playing Assessments (Points will vary)**

- Students will be assessed periodically over any tested material
- Playing tests will be given over a variety of materials such as:

**Music Material**

1. Scales- Major &/or Minor
2. Arpeggios- Major &/or Minor
3. Marching Music
4. Memorization of Music
5. Concert Music
6. Etudes
7. Sight Reading

**Musical Content**

1. Tone Quality
2. Intonation
3. Style
4. Rhythmic Accuracy
5. Precision & Articulation

**Written Assessments (Points will vary)**

- Students can be given various small and large written assignments to make sure there is full understanding of basic terms and concepts.

# **CLASSROOM MATERIAL POLICIES**

## **MATERIALS REQUIRED**

1. All students are required to bring a pencil (not pen) to class daily.
2. All students must have and bring to class daily:
  - **Brass Players:** 3 ring binder with sheet protectors, instrument, music, valve oil (slide cream and water bottle for trombones), and appropriate mutes.
  - **Percussionists:** 3 ring binder with sheet protectors, music, appropriate sticks/mallets in mallet bag, drum pad. All Percussionists are required to purchase their first pair of sticks/mallets. The 2nd set will be provided. If you abuse, damage, or lose the mallets...it is your responsibility to replace them in a timely fashion.
  - **Woodwind Players:** 3 ring binder with sheet protectors, instrument, music, working reeds, cleaning swab as needed, and cork grease (double reed players need a small container for water).
  - **Color Guard:** Black and white electrical tape, Ever-Dri gloves, tennis shoes, athletic/dancewear attire, and all equipment needed (flag, rifle, sabre, etc.).
3. All Students are required to have their pep folders if assigned at rehearsals and performances.
4. Concert dress attire for performances (see dress code section)
5. Marching Band shoes

## **ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES**

Clinics, solos and ensembles are important opportunities for students to participate in musical experiences outside the Christian County High School Band. Students are encouraged to participate in solo and ensembles because it allows the student to perform in a setting that differs from large ensembles. The student and director will choose musical literature, which will best challenge the student's ability. Clinics enable all students to participate with band students from other schools. These are usually held on the weekend. These clinics are often held on college campuses and expose the students to other band directors in preparation for a concert to be held at the end of the clinic.

## **PERFORMANCE RULES**

1. Keep yourself to yourself at all times.
2. No playing of instruments in the stands unless directed by the Field Commander or Directors.
3. All students stay for the entire performance or dismissal by Directors.

## **BAND RULES AND CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

1. Be prompt—in class and your seat when the bell rings.
2. Be prepared – have all books, materials, assignments, and a mindset for learning
3. Be respectful—of yourself, your peers, your teacher and the classroom
4. Be responsible—for your actions and for following the established school rules and classroom procedures

### **OTHER NOTES:**

1. **Appropriate behavior is expected at all times! PROFESSIONALISM and RESPONSIBILITY** are required from every student. The directors hold the right to dismiss any member, at any time, who is representing the program in an inappropriate manner. You will represent yourself as a member of the CCHS Colonel Band always and never speak disrespectfully of another member, student, teacher, or other programs at any time—This goes for social media as well. School/Board policies apply, and dismissal from the ensemble can occur if rules are broken.
2. Inappropriate language will not be tolerated by ANYONE associated with the band.
3. **TAKE CARE OF YOUR THINGS!** Each student is responsible for his/her own music and equipment. Any repairs and/or problems with music or equipment must be taken care of before rehearsal.
4. **Taking care of the band room is important and should be a priority.**
5. **No public display of affection/inappropriate behavior!**
6. **Students will sit together at concerts, contests and at football games when not performing.**

## **BUS TRIP RULES**

1. The bus driver is in control of the bus and the chaperones will assist the driver.
2. Maintain two people to a seat.
3. Do not block the aisle at any time.
4. Do not yell out the windows or put any part of yourself out of the windows.
5. Use the restroom before we leave. We are on strict timelines and cannot always stop.
6. Leave the bus the way you found it, clean and with the windows up.
7. Don't forget to "THANK" the driver and chaperones for assisting in making your trip safe and enjoyable.
8. Do not ask to drive on any trips.
9. **Students must ride the bus to ALL school events.** Students may ride home with a parent ONLY if a written note from the parent is given to the director before leaving with the student. We are responsible for you and must know your whereabouts at all times.
10. No changing from one bus to another unless at the director's discretion.



## **MARCHING BAND DRESS CODE**

All students wearing a band uniform must wear **under the uniform:**

- **LONG BLACK SOCKS**
- **COMPRESSION SHORTS-** lightweight without extra pockets on the sides.
- **SHOW SHIRT-** Given to every marching band member will be used on competition days.
- Long hair will be pinned up and secured under the uniform hat or a hairstyle will be defined (there are many parents who will help with this.) Refrain from coloring hair colors that could clash with the show theme.

Students will remain in **FULL UNIFORM** at each contest until otherwise instructed by the band director. **DON'T WALK AROUND IN HALF UNIFORM** (unless specified by director)!

## **CONCERT BAND DRESS CODE**

Male Students:

- Black button down long-sleeve shirt and black undershirt
- Black dress pants
- Black socks & shoes
- Black belt

Female Students:

- All Black Dress- Full Length
- Black dress shirt/blouse with sleeves
- Black skirt (past knee when sitting) or black dress slacks
- Black panty hose (if wearing a skirt or dress)
- Black shoes (closed toe, no tall heels)

## **ALL PERFORMANCE ATTIRE MUSIC ABIDE BY SCHOOL DRESS CODE**

## **YEARLY BAND AWARDS**

Band Members have the opportunity to earn a varsity letter for participation. Letters will be awarded at the Spring Banquet at the end of the year. Students lettering for the first time will receive a letter. Returning students will receive one chevron for each additional year. Students may letter in band no more than once a year.

Additional recognition will be given for participating in solo & ensemble festival and various other ensembles. Additionally, outstanding students will be recognized at the Banquet for exceptional merit as shown throughout the year as a band student. Students who successfully participate in band are eligible for other awards such as the John Phillip Sousa Award. These and other awards are presented to outstanding students at the annual banquet. Senior members will receive a pink stole for graduation upon completing their senior year. Stoles will not be given to students who do not complete their senior year.

## **BOOSTER ORGANIZATION**

Our Band Booster Organization is vital to the operation of the band program. We need everyone's participation in order to be successful. Even if your time is very limited, there are numerous ways in which you can help to make the band program even better. Your talents and abilities are greatly needed.

## **YEARLY CONTRIBUTIONS**

Band Fee is \$300 students on Free and Reduced Lunch can contact their school bookkeeper to see eligibility for next year's band fee.

## **COLOR GUARD SPECIFICS**

- Band App
  - "CCHS 2025 COLONEL COLOR GUARD"
  - Band app is our primary source of communication. It is mandatory for students to have this app downloaded on their devices, have the notifications on, and check it frequently for updates.
  - Parents/Guardians are welcome and encouraged to join this page as well.
- Equipment
  - All students will be provided with assigned practice flags and show flags throughout the season.
  - Equipment must ALWAYS be sufficiently padded and taped to protect each other and our facilities. Destruction of school/rehearsal/performance facilities or guard/band property will not be tolerated. You will be charged to replace anything you damage.
  - Students will need to purchase their own rifle if spinning weapon.
  - Sabre: 39" Excalibur Sabre
  - Rifle: 36" King Kong rifle, black bolt, black strap.
- Uniform/Hair/Makeup
  - Students will be provided a uniform. Specific undergarments needed for the uniform will be responsible to the student.
  - As per any pageantry organization, hair and makeup are required as part of the student's uniform. Staff will pick the desired hairstyle/makeup look, and students will be responsible for presenting themselves as such for competitions. Products to achieve these styles will be the student's responsibility.