

College Station Middle School Band Hand Book 2016-2017

“The strength of any organization is based on the effort and interest of the individual members, and the member who profits most from joining is usually the one who contributes the most time and effort.”

James Middleton D.M.Ed.

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your choice to be a part of the CSMS Cub Band. This handbook has been developed by the band directors. Its purpose is to familiarize each band member and parents with (1) the general operations and procedures of band, and (2) the standards by which all band members are expected to conduct themselves. This handbook is not intended to be all-inclusive with every possible situation and question; however, a thorough knowledge of these materials is essential to the smooth operation and success of the band.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Honor Band:

The Honor Band consists of students with one or more years of playing experience who have achieved an above-average playing level on their instruments and scored well on the audition. Honor Band membership carries increased responsibilities and expectations. Emphasis is placed upon the continued development of fundamentals, technique, musicality, and ensemble skills. Students in the Honor Band will be expected to participate in All Region Band auditions and the College Station I.S.D. Solo and Ensemble Contest. The Honor Band will give several performances throughout the year. Some performances include the Veterans Day Ceremony, winter concert, the Pre-UIL Concert, the Elementary tour concert. Additional participation by the band will be the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluation, as well as at least one other contest or festival. Also the band will perform for a number of school-related functions such as school pep rallies, PTO Dinner, and various requests by Mr. Hadnot, Principal. Members will be required to keep a weekly practice record for a grade and also be expected to attend section rehearsals and a few clinics in March and/or April as we prepare for contest.

Symphonic Band:

The Symphonic Band is designed for students with one or more years of playing experience. Continued development of fundamentals, technique, and musicality are emphasized. In addition, ensemble skills will be developed through the rehearsal and performance of full band arrangements in a variety of styles. Students will have the option of participating in the auditions for the All Region band. Symphonic Band members are expected to participate in the College Station I.S.D. Solo and Ensemble contest as well as all Symphonic Band performances throughout the school year. The Symphonic Band will participate in the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluation in April and will also participate in an additional contest or festival. Members will be required to keep a weekly practice record for a grade and also be expected to attend a few clinic rehearsals in March and/or April as we prepare for contest.

Concert Band:

The Concert Band is designed for students with one or more years of playing experience. Continued development of fundamentals, technique, and musicality are emphasized. In addition, ensemble skills will be developed through the rehearsal and performance of full band arrangements in a variety of styles. Concert Band members are expected to participate in the College Station I.S.D. Solo and Ensemble contest two concerts during the school year. If the Concert Bands progress is quick and steady they can participate in the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluation in April. Members will be required to keep a weekly practice record for a grade and also be expected to attend a few clinic rehearsals in March and/or April as we prepare for contest.

Beginning Band:

The Beginning Band is taught in conjunction with the Concert Band and is designed for students no experience in music. The students will spend the year developing individual instrument skills and perform in two concerts, the Holiday Concert and End of the Year Concert. Beginning band students will be responsible for regular practice and will be required to keep a weekly practice record for a grade. Students who progress quickly have the opportunity to move into one of the three performing ensembles during the semester break.

GRADING

Each band member will be given a cumulative grade based upon two categories. These categories will be major grades (67%) and minor grades (33%).

Academic Practice: (Minor)

- Inspections (instruments, music, band books, pencils, reeds, valve oil, and other supplies)
- Punctuality to class, extra rehearsals, concerts
- Participation: Band is an effort and performance class. Students who do not perform or display sufficient effort and preparation will be graded accordingly.

Academic Achievement: (Major)

- **Chair Tests:** Chair tests will be conducted by a band director during the assigned class time. This will be based on their ability to perform a specific selection predetermined by the director. If a chair test is missed, the student will have one week to make up the test and chair. After one week, only the grade will be allowed to be made up.
- **Practice Records:** Practice records are intended to provide a student, parents, and instructor with a definite and systematic record of the effort expended in practice. This grade will be based on their efforts and graded accordingly to the amount of time spent practicing during the week. Practice records are DUE EACH MONDAY during class. Late practice records will be accepted at minus 10 points per day. During the spring semester, times will be 30 minutes higher for the same grade.
- **Attendance at public performances:** A student will receive a grade of 0 if they miss the concert without THREE DAYS prior written notice.
- Other written or playing assignments as indicated by the directors
- **Section Rehearsals:**

During the course of the year, students in the Honor Band and Symphonic band may be asked to attend section rehearsals once a week before or after school. We use this to monitor the progress of the individual and each instrumental section as well as to be tested over current materials.

1. Every effort is made to avoid conflicts with sports. Please understand that students in sports have a responsibility to their team, and to the band.
2. Students who are not able to attend the regular scheduled rehearsals will need to find an ALTERNATE time to play for the director.
3. Here is a **SAMPLE** schedule we have used in the past is as follows

	<u>7:15 – 8:15</u>	<u>4:00 - 5:00</u>
Monday	Saxophones	Clarinets
Tuesday	French Horns	Flutes
Wednesday	Trumpets	Low Brass
Thursday	Percussion	

DISCIPLINE PLAN

The Bands discipline plan will follow the CSMS student Code of Conduct

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The CSMS band program will strive to:

1. Demonstrate an appropriate understanding of intonation, balance, technique, and blend within the ranges achievable by each performing group, while working for the continuous development of proficiency levels.
2. Perform a variety of literature within the capabilities of each group, which will motivate students to improve.
3. Demonstrate the behavior expected of all participating members.
4. Develop proper instrument care.
5. Develop and understanding of each student's responsibility to the group.
6. Develop in each student the character traits necessary for success, such as persistence, discipline, and cooperation.

CLASS MATERIALS PROVIDED BY STUDENT

Class Materials provided by student:

1. Pencil pouch with at least 5 sharpened pencils.
2. Mouthpiece, reeds, valve oil etc.
3. Tuner - WW and Brass Only
 - a. TM-50, TM-50TR, TMR-50 or TM-50C Tuner, or KORG TM-40, ~~***NEW***for smart phone —“**tonal energy tuner**”~~ will need an adapter (¼ inch to 3.5mm adaptor) go from the phone to the pick-up mic. If you already own the phone this a way cheaper way to go. Check it out on the App store. **After using this for one year, it was not a great idea. It DOES NOT work well in a full band setting and for phones with a case. We highly recommend the tuner above.**
4. Pick Up Mic – Korg CM-200 – WW and Brass Only
5. Kratt Master Key Pitch Pipe Music or comparable Smart Phone App - Percussionist only.

Please have the tuner and pickup mic or pitch pipe by September 16, 2016

Class Materials Provided by the Band Directors

1. Band Binder
2. Black Cumberbund and Bow Tie
3. All Method Book and Music
4. Extra Pencils and Batteries

ELIGIBILITY

You must pass your classes

To participate outside the classroom (football games, contests, field trips etc...) **the state of Texas** says that each student must pass all their classes in a given six week's period.

At the three week mark or progress report of the **next** grading period a student may regain eligibility by passing **all** their classes. A Student who passes the six weeks CAN NOT lose eligibility on the progress report.

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

Public Performance:

Band students participate in a variety of public performances and contests throughout the year. Any performance is an important cornerstone of putting to practical use materials worked on in the classroom situation and are references of prior learning and for future learning.

Concert Etiquette:

1. Remove all hats upon entering the performance hall.
2. Please NO food or drink in the performance hall
3. Turn off all cell phones, pagers and watch alarms.
4. Audience members are asked to remain quiet during the performance.
5. Recordings are made of most performances, so if bringing small children, please sit near an exit or on the aisle in case you have to leave suddenly.
6. Remain seated. Do not enter or leave the auditorium while a group is performing. If you must leave during a concert, please wait and do so only between selections.
7. Applaud the performers on stage after a selection but not between movements of a song. In a formal concert setting, whistling and shouting are inappropriate.

VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

Here at CSISD any person coming into the campus that will be interacting with children must have a **Volunteer Agreement Form** completed. Please visit www.csisd.org and fill out the form online.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Concert Uniform:

Honor and Symphonic Band students will be responsible for the following “**concert**” uniform:

1. Tuxedo shirt – ordered through the school
2. Black slacks (no jeans, or pinstriped pants), black socks and black shoes.

The band will provide a cummerbund and bowtie for each formal concert and contest.

(Please feel free to contact me with any concerns)

Pep Rally Uniform:

Student will be responsible for the following Pep Rally uniform:

1. Band T-shirt (all students will need a band t-shirt \$10 or \$15 for Dry Fit)

FUNDRAISING

The band has at least two fundraisers; one for the general need of the band and another to help students raise money for band camp or other student expenses.

TRIPS

When the band travels as a group, the following must be observed:

- Conduct – School sponsored trips are extensions of the school day with school regulations in effect for the duration of the trip.
- Bus Procedures – All members will travel to and from each event by bus. If another arrangement is necessary, this must be discussed with a director in advance and finalized in writing. Students WILL NOT be released to anyone other than his or her parents unless previously arranged.

PRIVATE LESSONS

All students are encouraged to take private lessons in order to improve their individual playing skills. While we, as directors, are skilled instructors on the various instruments in the band, there is simply no substitution for private instruction received from someone who is considered to be a professional performer on a particular instrument. Private lessons are a **must** for serious band students. Individual instruction from a qualified specialist on an individual musical instrument can make all the difference in a student's progress on his/her musical instrument, thus making for a more enjoyable experience in Band. Please check the band website for an updated list of available private lesson teachers or contact Mr. Montgomery or Mr. Dixon.

www.csmsband.com

MUSIC STORES

String and Horn Shop
119 N. Main
Bryan, TX
www.stringandhornshop.com

Thorn Music Center
404 University Drive East
College Station, TX 77840
www.thornmusiccenter.com

COMMUNICATION

We want to keep students and parents informed. In addition to this handbook we provide activity calendars. Many times the problems that arise simply stem from a misunderstanding or a bit of information that does not get home through the student. If you have ANY questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail. Also, the band has a web site with information and a calendar. You can access it at:

www.csmsband.com

Greg Montgomery	CSMS	764-5545	gmontgomery@csisd.org
Michael Dixon	CSMS	764-5545	mdixon@csisd.org
Eric Eaks	CSHS	694-5800	eeaks@csisd.org
Jon Seale	CSHS	694-5800	jseale@csisd.org
Kelly Montgomery	Cypress Grove	694-5600	kmontgomery@csisd.org

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHARMS

“Charms” is a database that we use from Intermediate school to Middle school to High school. The great part is that once you enter your information, it will follow you from school to school and all that needs to be done is updating from year to year. To access charms please follow the steps listed below:

1. Type www.charmsoffice.com
2. Click on “enter/login” at top of page
3. Type in code of “**csmsband**” – this will get you to a public calendar, handouts, emails, as well as a link to the school website.
4. For your student’s individual information, type their student ID# in the student area password box. This will give you access to all their personal information that you can update at will. Occasionally passwords need to be reactivated. If this happens please email one of the directors.

“REMIND”

Remind is a texting program that allows teachers to communicate reminders about assignments, tests and concerts, to parents and students throughout the course of the year.

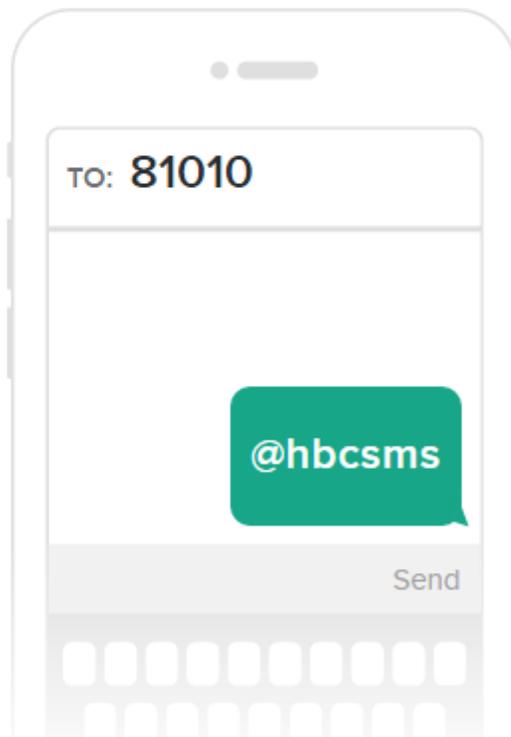
We have set up Four different reminds for students in the CSMS Band. One for each class at CSMS. The texting number is the same for all classes, but the “message” is different for each.

Type	@bbcsms	for Beginner Band (at CSMS)
Type	@csmscb	for Concert Band
Type	@symcsms	for Symphonic band
Type	@hbcsms	for Honor Band

Tell people to text @hbcsms to the number 81010

They'll receive a welcome text from Remind.

If anyone has trouble with 81010, they can try texting @hbcsms to (281) 547-6385.



Band Handbook Confirmation

Page 2016-2017

Please initial each item as you complete it, then sign and return only this page (front and back) to your band director by **Friday August 26, 2016.**

1. _____ I have read the Band Handbook and have an understanding of the band procedures, discipline plan, and how my child is to receive his or her grade.
2. _____ I have received my calendar for the 2016-2017 school years and placed it on the fridge
3. _____ I have gone to **www.csmsband.com** and explored the band website.
4. _____ I logged into Charms and updated my personal information.

QUIZ – Yes, this part is a grade!

1. How many days prior notice does the director need to excuse someone from a concert? _____
2. What is the address of the band website? _____
3. What date does the student need to have their tuner/pick-up or pitch pipe? _____
4. What information did you need to log in to the charms website? _____
5. What four items do you need for your "Concert" uniform?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
6. What is the pep rally uniform?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

***Student Signature** _____ **Date** _____

***Parent Signature** _____ **Date** _____

CSISD Middle School Band Travel Waiver

Student Name: _____

Parent Name(s): _____

General Travel Waiver

The student named above is my child and is in my custody. I give permission for him/her to participate in band trips and activities for the 2016-2017 school year. I understand the students will be chaperoned during these activities and that normal precautions will be taken in the interest of safety and well being. In the event of an accident or a medical emergency in my absence, I authorize the CSISD organization sponsor to: 1) Represent me before any medical institution where my child may be taken for treatment; 2) Give, in my name, the necessary authorization for medical treatment or emergency surgery deemed indispensable by medical personnel; 3) Represent me while my child is under the supervision of school authorities.

Parent or Guardian Signature:

Date:

Medical Information

Student's date of birth:

Health conditions of which we should be aware:

Allergies to medications (i.e. penicillin, insulin, etc.):

Regular medications the student is taking (anti-convulsive, antihistamine, insulin, etc.):

Medical Insurance Company:

Policy Numbers:

Name of family doctor:

Address and phone number:

Parent or guardian emergency phone numbers: