

Celina High School
Bands
Student Handbook
2008-2009

Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to clearly communicate the expectations placed on the members of our band program so that we might be as successful as possible, while enjoying a pleasant and friendly environment in which to work and learn. This handbook is not all-inclusive, and additions and amendments will be made as needed. By their participation in our band program, students and parents agree to abide by these rules and guidelines, recognizing that the cooperation of all involved is imperative to our success as a group.

Course Offerings, Prerequisites, etc. . .

Concert Band

Concert Band is the core course of the High School band program. It's primary purposes are to complete the musical foundation begun in Elementary and Middle School, and to prepare the student for more advanced musical study at the high school or college level. In general, all incoming freshmen are placed in Concert Band, however exceptions may be made for students of unusually advanced ability at the discretion of the Symphonic Band Director.

Symphonic Band

Symphonic Band is a selective group which provides performing experience for students with advanced performing skill. Prerequisites for selection for this group are: a) successful performance on an audition *or* a rating of "I" on a Class B Solo or Ensemble at contest, *or* a "I" or "II" in Class A, *as well as* b) a consistent history of outstanding performance, preparation, conduct, and attitude in the Concert & Marching Band programs. Students are not selected for Symphonic Band based on seniority.

Marching Band

Marching Band is the portion of the band curriculum for all members for the first nine weeks of the school year. This group does numerous performances each year, and it's requirements and rules are noted elsewhere in this handbook.

Jazz Band

In order to be a member of the Jazz Band, students must be currently enrolled in either Concert Band or Symphonic Band, *and* have the approval of the Jazz Band Director. Non-band members may participate in the Jazz Band with the Director's approval on piano, bass, or guitar, however priority will be given to students who are enrolled in Concert or Symphonic Band.

Percussion Ensemble

The Percussion Ensemble is the course all percussion students take during the second semester of the school year. This class includes traditional orchestral percussion, drums set, hand drumming, and a wide variety of musical styles. The Concert and Symphonic Bands will draw their percussionists from this group. Non-percussionists may also take this class with the instructor's approval.

Grades

While the grading system for each course is different, and will be explained at the beginning of each course, grades will be based on the following:

- a) Mastery of assigned music or musical skills; music memorization (Marching Band).
- b) Attendance at all rehearsals and performances.
- c) Rehearsal skills - proper behavior, practice skills, etc....
- d) Attitude and conduct.

Rules and Guidelines

General/Miscellaneous

1. All school rules and policies are in effect at **all** times at **all** band functions.
2. Students are expected to be polite and pleasant towards anyone with whom they come into contact while with the band.
3. All chaperones and bus drivers are to be obeyed immediately and politely. While on the bus, students will remain properly seated, and all vocalization will be kept to a conversational volume level.
4. Food and drink are not permitted on school busses. This is state law, and we have no choice in the matter.
5. Students violating the school drug and alcohol policy may be suspended or removed from the program, in addition to punishment administered by the school's administration.

Attendance

1. Attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances. We do not schedule unnecessary rehearsals or performances. Students and parents are expected to respect the requirements of this course. Students are expected to be on time. Failure to be on time will result in a lower grade.
2. Each unexcused absence will result in a grade of "0" (zero) for that particular event, which will obviously have a serious effect on the student's nine-weeks grade. Repeated unexcused absences will result in removal from band with a grade of W/F.
3. Students will be excused from rehearsal for participation in **school-related** sports teams and activities in cooperation with their respective coaches and advisors. This arrangement will be a fair and equitable one; for example, we will allow students to come to band late if the coach will let them out a little early. We will try, whenever possible, to work with the coaches ahead of time so that the student is not placed in the middle. However, it is the student's responsibility to inform the band directors of any conflicts that may arise. Participation in a school activity does not lessen the student's responsibility for knowing their part, etc. They are responsible for finding out what they missed, and are expected to be model band members when in attendance.
4. Students will not be excused for non-school activities (e.g. club sports, rec. dept. sports, dance class, rock concerts, etc). Church and other rare and unusual events will be handled on a case by case basis at the

discretion of the director. A written request should be submitted at least two weeks in advance of such an event.

5. We understand that summertime brings vacations, family reunions, church group outings, and many other special events. Therefore, though we expect that all students attend all of our summer rehearsals when they are in town, we will excuse them for such things as long as we receive the standard two weeks written notice. Once we return from band camp, our normal school-year policy will apply.

6. Illnesses, sudden emergencies, etc. will be excused by a note upon the student's return.

Uniforms:

1. Students are responsible for proper care of school-owned uniforms while in their possession. Uniforms are to be hung neatly on the hangars provided, and stored in a garment bag when not in use.

2. The only accessories allowed with any band uniforms are watches and **small** stud earrings for those with pierced ears. Modifications to this rule will be made at the director's discretion in the event of inclement weather.

3. **Marching Band:** The Marching Band uniform consists of the coat, slash, vestee, trousers, hat, plume, white gloves, black marching band shoes and black socks. While traveling, and possibly at other times at the discretion of the director, students may remove their coat IF they wear the Summer Band T-shirt underneath. Long hair is to be worn "up" (off the collar) with the Marching Band uniform.

4. **Concert Band:** The Concert Band uniform will be the same as the Marching Band uniform, minus the gloves, slash, and hat.

5. **Symphonic Band:** The Symphonic Band Uniform will consist of tuxedo pants and coat (provided), a tux shirt and black bowtie (men), or a long (formal) black skirt or dress, with a white blouse (ladies), black shoes and black socks.

6. **Summer Uniform:** The Summer Uniform consists of band shorts, the summer uniform T-shirt, marching shoes and black socks. The shirt will be tucked in.

Band Camp

1. Attendance at Band Camp is mandatory for all students.

2. All school and band rules apply at all times while at band camp.

3. Students violating the school drug/alcohol policy will be immediately sent home. Parents will be expected to pick them up from camp. Additional disciplinary action will be taken upon the band's return.

4. There is to be absolutely no hazing of any kind at band camp.

5. Additional information regarding band camp will be provided at the first summer band rehearsal.

Conclusion

As stated earlier, this handbook cannot be all-inclusive, and will be amended and augmented as needed. Hopefully, it will serve as a guide which will enable us to achieve the success we all desire.

Celina High School Band

2008-2009 Handbook

Please read, sign, and return this form by Friday August 22.

Student's Name _____

By our signatures below, we indicate that we have read and understood the 2008-2009 Celina High School Band Handbook. We understand that, by our participation, we agree to abide by the letter and spirit of the rules contained therein.

Student's Signature _____

Parent's Signature _____