



**College Station High School  
Band Handbook**

2020-2021

## Foreword

The success of any organization is dependent upon the spirit, pride, leadership, teamwork, dedication, and cooperation of its members. Certain rules, policies, and procedures are necessary so that the overall goals of the group are met, and the welfare of each individual member is best served. By accepting membership in the College Station High School Band, you are agreeing to perform to the best of your abilities and to work together with the band staff in making this year's band the finest musical organization that our combined efforts can produce. In order for this to occur, students will need to be responsible, attentive, respectful, have a positive attitude, and exhibit the **CSHS Cougar Qualities**. It is important to remember that each member represents what is best about young people, our community, and involvement in our musical organization. The goal of the Cougar Band and Guard Staff is to provide students with the best music education possible while directing students to develop their character to the fullest extent through hard work, goal setting, cooperation, and responsibility. **At every rehearsal, we believe in pursuing perfection and achieving excellence.**

The College Station HS band staff has developed this handbook to familiarize each band member with the general operation and procedures of the Cougar Band and standards by which all band members are expected to conduct themselves. The handbook is not intended to be all-inclusive, as every possible situation and question cannot be predicted in advance; however, a thorough knowledge of these materials is essential to the smooth operation and success of the band this year. ***To achieve our goals we must be dedicated to our cause, determined to succeed, and maintain the discipline to work hard and make progress each day.***

With these words in mind, please read this handbook carefully and make sure you understand what is expected of you as a member of the College Station High School Band.

## **Goals and Objectives**

### Mental and physical discipline

- Develop powers of concentration
- Memorize music
- Learn techniques of preparation as they relate to group and individual performances
- Develop self and group discipline

### Citizenship through group endeavor

- Develop leadership abilities
- Develop responsibility
- Develop ability to cooperate with others and to work as a team member
- Develop diligence
- Develop mutual respect

### Physical conditioning

- Develop strength, stamina, endurance and coordination

### Cultural growth

- Provide opportunities to attain knowledge of music history through performance of various types of instrumental literature

### Value Judgments

- Develop the ability to make musical value judgments (as they pertain to a musical setting) through critical listening
- Practice recognition of quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation

### Music theory

- Know and utilize note values and rest
- Know and utilize keys, key signatures, and scales
- Know and utilize musical terms, signs, and symbols
- Recognize and tune intervals and harmony
- Develop ear training/listening skills

### Proper instrumental technique

- Learn proper care of the instrument
- Assume correct posture and playing position
- Develop the correct embouchure/stick grip/hand position
- Develop characteristic instrumental tone
- Develop proper breathing techniques
- Develop technical instrumental proficiency (fingerings, articulation, rudiments, scales, etc.)

### Creative self-expression

- Express oneself in every performance experience
- Explore careers

In addition to the State of Texas guidelines, the College Station High School Band will strive to:

- Provide any interested student with opportunities for musical knowledge, musical fellowship, and fun through participation in band
- Provide for the mental, physical, social, and emotional development of students
- Instill pride and discipline in each student
- Provide each student with solo and group endeavors to achieve personal goals and satisfaction
- Provide basic psychological needs such as recognition, belonging, self-respect, and a feeling of achievement

### **Conduct/Expectations**

Students in Band serve as representatives of both College Station High School and College Station ISD at many public extracurricular functions. Membership in this organization is a privilege, and it is within the right of any director to deny membership to a student if they believe that they would not positively represent the organization. Band members will observe all policies set forth by College Station ISD and College Station High School, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

- Any behavior, which is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the band program. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both public and private events.
- All students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and

ethical manner. Display of profanity, temper, flagrant violation of rules, etc., will not be tolerated. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection of the group.

- Students will follow directors' instructions.
- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area ready to work at the set rehearsal time with all equipment, including music, pencil, instrument, and all supplies (see detailed supply list for each instrument).
- Students will keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.
- Students will not use or play on equipment they do not own without permission from a director.
- Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings without permission from a director.
- Students should request permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that time will be utilized as efficiently as possible.
- When allowed in the band areas, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal that is in progress.
- Students will respect the property of others, and return their equipment to its proper storage place when not in use.
- Students should keep their equipment in their designated locker and keep their locker area clean and neat in appearance. Students who demonstrate great difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a locker in the band hall.
- Students will utilize their assigned storage slot/locker for instrument cases during rehearsals. Cases should not be brought into rehearsals unless requested by a director (exceptions: flute, clarinet, oboe, and bassoon).
- Students will not deface or mark on music stands, chairs, walls, etc.

## **Drugs and Alcohol**

No student shall possess, use, transmit, or attempt to possess, use or be under the influence of tobacco, a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or illegal drug as defined by law while on the school premises or off school premises at a school sponsored activity, function, or event. Doing so could result in your removal from the Band and Guard Program.

## **Digital Citizenship and Social Media Policy**

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that band member social media accounts are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication such as

Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, photo sharing, emailing, or texting, etc., appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Band and Guard members are responsible for their personal accounts and postings, as well as any posting they do from or on other students' accounts. The areas where appropriateness will be considered include but are not limited to profane, foul, or disrespectful language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, references to alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, and postings (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening toward CSISD teaching staff or band members, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude toward other bands. ***Any such incident will result in review by the Principal (or designee) and may lead to probation or dismissal from the Band program.***

Band members that violate the above social media guidelines shall be subject to the following:

- Upon confirmation of a first violation, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the social media platform(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal (or designee), directors, and band members affected. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior.
- Upon confirmation of a second offense, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the social media platform(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal (or designee), directors, and band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior. In addition, the student will be suspended from all band activities for a period of 3 days to 3 weeks. This will also, of course, result in a grade deduction.
- Upon confirmation of a third offense, the member will be removed from the Band and Guard program.
- Depending on the severity of the online behavior, the member may be removed from the program at the Directors' discretion during the 1st offense if deemed appropriate.

## **Bullying**

Bullying is when a student or group of students engages in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that occurs

on school property, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, or in a vehicle operated by the district. These behaviors are, but are not limited to:

**Physical:** hitting, kicking, grabbing, spitting

**Verbal:** name calling, racist remarks, put-downs, extortion Indirect: spreading rumors, wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice, exclusion from peer group, taking and hiding or destroying another's papers or other possessions

**Written:** expressing threats through email, notes, graffiti, or social media of any kind

**Coercion:** forcing other students into acts against their wishes

In the College Station High School Band, we treat each other with respect and we care for our fellow Band mates. All acts of bullying will result in consequences outlined in the CSISD Student Code of Conduct..

## **Marching Band Policies and Procedures**

Marching band activities include playing at all football games, community parades as designated on the calendar, marching festivals, and UIL marching contests. Students earn PE credit during marching band. Students are responsible for the following:

- Learning marching fundamentals
- Learning marching music
- Attending all rehearsals
- Taking care of uniform
- Taking care of instrument
- Attending to proper hydration, nutrition, and hygiene
- Earning passing grades in all classes to remain eligible to participate
- Making a constant and conscious effort to improve
- Attending summer band rehearsals
- Turning in the appropriate forms each year in order to participate
- Exhibiting excellence and dedication at every rehearsal

## **Dress Code for Outdoor Rehearsals**

For your own safety, all students should bring the following items to every outdoor marching practice:

- hat
- sunglasses

- thermos with water or sports drinks (no carbonated water drinks). See Band Specific Thermos.
- ALL STUDENTS MUST WEAR ATHLETIC SHOES. Low topped athletic shoes are best. Open-backed shoes, sandals, and flip flops are not allowed.
- The use of sunscreen is encouraged
- Cooling towels are encouraged.
- Clothing must be within the guidelines of the school dress code. Example: **No bare midriffs, sport bras, shirts off, etc. T-shirts must be worn at all times.**

## Football Games

- File orderly to and from the stands before and after the game, and to the formation before the halftime show.
- Treat other guests, chaperones, and directors politely and respectfully at all times.
- Stay in your assigned seats at all times.
- Do not have any unauthorized food or refreshments during the game. Eating is not allowed in the stands while in uniform unless approved by a director. Water or clear gatorade are the only drinks allowed while in uniform.
- Do not play instruments unless the band is playing. You may only play with the full band or with the cheers unless otherwise authorized. Percussion must get the permission of a director to play.
- No one but band personnel is allowed in the band section or along the edges of the band. Permission from the directors is necessary to make any exceptions to the rules.
- Watch the director/drum major at all times. Find music rapidly when a selection is called, and always have the Fight Song ready.
- Watch director/drum major closely for musical cut-offs during the game.
- Stand and sit when you are told.
- Restroom breaks will be given at appropriate times with Booster Chaperones.

## Marching Show Placement & Assignments

All students participate in marching band and it is part of the curriculum for the school year. While all students participate in marching band, their various roles or assignments may differ.

During the course of summer band, students will be evaluated by director observations and a recorded marching audition. After this is complete, students



will be assigned a varsity marching spot or a non-varsity marching spot.

- Varsity Marching - these students have a competition spot, and are present at all rehearsals, games and contests.
  - Once given a varsity marching position, students still have to remain academically eligible to keep the position. Excessive absences or discipline problems could result in a loss of varsity status.
- Non-Varsity Marching - these students have a marching spot on the field, but not a competition spot. This means they will perform and march at most games, but they will not march at competitions.
  - When not marching, these students are still an integral part of the performance, and they will assist the directors with field equipment and organization needs. Non-varsity members will attend all rehearsals, games, and contests as part of the band.
  - Some non-varsity members might have the opportunity to move into a varsity spot during the season if the need arises and at the discretion of the directors.

It is our goal to include all band students in all performances. We will make every effort to see that this goal is met and that all students participate. However, each student is accountable for the quality of their own individual performance. Performance is judged based on each individual's work and how it affects the overall quality of work by the entire group.

## **Attendance**

In order to have and maintain a high-quality band program, attendance from all members is essential. While the CSHS Band follows all school and district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for our program. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held outside of the school day. Failure to participate in rehearsals or performances may result in student removal from the organization at the discretion of the band directors.

## **Tardiness**

Students not in their designated area at the appropriate time will be marked tardy. A tardy will be converted to a mark of absence 15 minutes after the rehearsal begins.

## **Excused Tardiness**

Tardiness may be excused at the discretion of the directors.

Tutorials, appointments, etc. will not be an excuse for tardiness unless prior arrangements, with written documentation, are made and approved by a director.

### **Unexcused Tardiness**

Students who have more than one unexcused tardy will make up missed time at a time to be arranged by the director. These students may also be subject to one of the following consequences at the discretion of the band directors: **\*\*NOTE: the consequences listed below also apply to misconduct in any band activity\*\***

- Loss of spot as a primary marcher
- Loss of marching privilege at one football game
- Loss of pep rally participation
- Loss of performing in stands with the band at a football game, during which student will sit with a chaperone
- Requirement to stay after rehearsal or report early to next rehearsal to make up lost time
- Requirement to make up 15 minutes of fundamental marching with his/her section leader

### **Absences**

Students not present at the appropriate time may be marked absent.

### **Excused Absence**

Absences will be excused at the discretion of the directors.

- Absence due to personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances (approved by a director) will be considered for excused status.
- Students who are continually ill may be required to provide a doctor's note releasing them from participation in order to ensure the well-being of the child, and to reduce concerns of the band directors.
- Two absences (even excused) within one week, may result in loss of performance status for that week, to ensure the safety of everyone and maintain the ultimate performance quality of the group.
- If in doubt, an absence should be checked with a director.
- Examples of absences that will NOT be automatically excused.
  - Scheduled Appointments
  - Drivers License Appointments

- Birthday's
- Tutorials
- Group Meetings
- Homework

### **Special note on Absences**

Students will usually have one or two mornings (Monday and Tuesday) and also one or two afternoons (Wednesday and Thursday) free per week during the normal marching band season. These days should be used for appointments, routine professional visits, and tutorials, rather than missing an outside of the school day rehearsal for those reasons.

### **Unexcused Absence**

Students who have an unexcused absence may be subject to one or more of the following consequences at the discretion of the directors:

- Make up missed time (if possible)
- Loss of spot as a primary marcher
- Loss of marching privilege for one game
- Sit with a chaperone during the game instead of performing in stands
- Loss of attendance privilege at one game
- Receive a zero in the gradebook for that event
- Removal from the marching band and loss of physical education waiver

Parents will be notified via email in the event that any of these events and consequences should be applied.

### **Outside of Class Rehearsals**

Follow the Band Calendar for lists of outside of school rehearsals and performances. Participation is required as part of the grading for band classes. Calendars with dates of all band rehearsals and performances are posted on the band's website which is located at <http://www.cshsbandandguard.com>

### **Communication and schedule conflicts**

Many problems can be easily avoided with proper communication. Students are expected to communicate with the band directors IN ADVANCE if a scheduling conflict arises. When possible, please provide two weeks of advance notice in the event of a conflict. Any absence without official communication will be considered unexcused. ***Please use the [CSHS Band Absence Form](#) as the***

*first step of communication.*

## **Other School Functions (Sports, Clubs, etc.)**

The directors will continue to work with other teachers, coaches, and the sponsors of other activities to give each student every opportunity to be a part of other groups. Please ask to receive a complete semester calendar from all of your activities so that you can have the maximum amount of time to resolve potential schedule conflicts. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the most current calendar of band activities. In some cases, the student may need to be moved to a non-varsity marching position to fully participate in multiple activities without jeopardizing the success of the overall marching band.

## **Care of the Band Facilities**

- Refreshments – No gum, food, or drinks are allowed in the band areas except when authorized by the directors.
- Litter – All trash (paper, broken reeds/drum sticks, etc.) is to be deposited in the trash cans provided. If you see litter in our areas, take the initiative to clean it up.
- Vandalism – Acts of vandalism or the willful misuse of school property will be dealt with severely and appropriately. Every band member is responsible for helping the directors monitor the facility and control vandalism, which includes writing or carving on walls, destroying music, or breaking school property.
- Practice & Ensemble Rooms – These rooms are designed for practicing, ***not social gatherings***. Band students will be expected to practice and prepare their band music at home. However, at certain times, students will be permitted to utilize one of the practice rooms in the band hall. Students may use the band hall practice rooms under these conditions:
  1. They must check in with a director.
  2. No more than one student may use a practice room unless a director grants specific permission.
  3. Students **MUST** be actively practicing their instrument. No reading, sleeping, homework, or use of illegal drugs, etc.

## **Band Classes**

College Station High School is pleased to be able to offer multiple ensembles for our students all year long during the school day. Please read the information below describing auditions and the ensembles that are available.

## **Auditions**

All students are required to audition for select performance ensembles. Students will audition at the end of each school year for band placement for the upcoming fall semester. The band directors will determine audition requirements, and directors will notify students of audition dates, requirements, and results. Directors will serve as evaluators during auditions. Audition material will reflect the directors' anticipated performance level for the students, and the selections will be based on prior learning. Auditions may be live or taped at the directors' discretion. Students will be re-evaluated periodically for participation in select performance ensembles. Students will also be evaluated over the course of the fall semester on a series of playing assessments. These assessments will be made up of select cuts from the All-Region band music, as well as a selection of scales and various techniques as determined by the directors. Students will be evaluated on tone, pitch accuracy, musicianship, articulation accuracy, pulse, and rhythm. The results of these assessments will serve as the student's audition for spring semester band placement.

## **Wind Ensemble**

Selection into this group is by audition, director recommendation, and demonstration of musical and academic proficiency. Members in this ensemble will participate in the TMEA Region Band process, UIL Marching Contest, and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. Members of this ensemble are highly encouraged to study privately with local private lesson teachers. The Wind Ensemble will give numerous performances throughout the year both on and off campus. A one-hour section rehearsal may be scheduled weekly from January-March. In addition, extra rehearsals and clinics are occasionally scheduled during competition time; however, you will be given a complete calendar in January for all spring rehearsals and events. In UIL activities, this group will be designated the "Varsity" band. Typical literature for this Ensemble would be Grade 4 or 5 in difficulty.

## **Symphonic Band**

Selection into this group is by audition, director recommendation, and

demonstration of musical and academic proficiency. Members in this ensemble are encouraged to participate in the TMEA Region Band process. Members will participate in the UIL Marching Contest, and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. Members of this ensemble are highly encouraged to study privately with local private lesson teachers. The Symphonic Band will give numerous performances throughout the year both on and off campus. A one-hour section rehearsal may be scheduled weekly from January-March. In addition, extra rehearsals and clinics are occasionally scheduled during competition time; however, you will be given a complete calendar in January for all spring rehearsals and events. In UIL activities, this group will be designated the “Non-Varsity” band. Typical literature for this Ensemble would be Grade 3 or 4 in difficulty.

### **Concert Band**

Selection into this group is by audition, director recommendation, and demonstration of musical and academic proficiency. Members in this ensemble can participate in the TMEA Region Band process, UIL Marching Contest, and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. Members of this ensemble are encouraged to study privately with local private lesson teachers. The Concert Band will give numerous performances throughout the year both on and off campus. A one-hour section rehearsal may be scheduled weekly from January-March. In addition, extra rehearsals and clinics are occasionally scheduled during competition time; however, you will be given a complete calendar in January for all spring rehearsals and events. In UIL activities, this group will be designated the “Sub Non-Varsity” band. Typical literature for this Ensemble would be Grade 1, 2 or 3 in difficulty.

### **Jazz Ensemble**

Jazz Ensemble class will meet each school day. Ensemble participation will be determined by an audition in May or June during the preceding school year. Multiple performances will be given throughout the year on and off campus as the schedule allows. In the spring, the Jazz Ensemble will typically participate in one or more invitational jazz festivals.

### **Full Orchestra**

Select students in the band program may be given the opportunity to perform with the CSHS Full Orchestra. In order to be eligible for Full Orchestra, a student must participate in marching band, and be concurrently participating in the Wind Ensemble, unless specifically invited by a director. Full Orchestra will

not be available every year; it will only occur during the years that the schedule allows.

## **Performances and competitions**

College Station High School bands perform at UIL events, TMEA events, invitational events and festivals, and community events. We also perform at special events and school district concerts during the year. Students will be given a complete calendar of events. The Calendar is also kept up-to-date on the band website.

## **TMEA Region Band**

Students may get information from a director and at [www.tmea.org](http://www.tmea.org). Students may ask for individual help on region music in the mornings or afternoons. The school will pay the entry fee for those attending. Students may advance to Area and State if chosen by the judges. Students who make a Region Band MUST participate in the Region Clinic/Concert. In order to participate in Region Band and All-State auditions, must be an active and eligible participating member of the parent organization, CSHS Band. See the band calendar for dates. Students are encouraged to use the Smart Music program and to pursue private lessons. Student subscriptions for Smart Music are available. See a director for more information.

## **Eligibility**

The Band program takes pride in the fact that band students are among the highest achieving students academically in the school, and are also among the most active in other organizations.

The CSHS Band will follow eligibility guidelines set forth by UIL/TEA and CSISD. [UIL and TEA Side by Side Document](#)  
[CSISD Student Handbooks](#)

## **Academic Requirements**

In order to participate in extracurricular activities, a student must have been in attendance and have passed the number of courses required by state law and by rules of the State Board of Education (TAC Section 97.113).

- Extracurricular Activities - most of the activities that are associated with marching band are extracurricular, including football games, some parades, pep rallies, and contests. An activity is extracurricular if:
  - Admission is paid
  - The event is inter-school competitive
  - The event is not held at a CSISD site
  - The event is associated with another extracurricular activity
  
- Curricular Activities - most of the work that our students do outside of marching is considered curricular and NOT SUBJECT TO ELIGIBILITY. Free concerts, section rehearsals, concert rehearsals, and private lessons are all considered curricular. Events that are considered curricular are:
  - Campus performances such as winter and spring concerts
  - Community performances where admission is not charged
  - Student recitals

Band students who are ineligible for extracurricular functions will still be eligible for curricular events. All students must attend all rehearsals and concerts. Students who are having problems academically are required to take part in tutoring and peer tutoring.

## **Student Grades**

Students grades are grouped into 2 major categories

- Academic Practice - 33%
  - Attendance at rehearsals, class daily work, etc.
- Academic Achievement - 67%
  - Performances
  - Individual playing assignments/auditions, etc.

## **Band Student Supplies**

Having the appropriate supplies for class each day will constitute a major portion of each student's class work grade. Points will be deducted each day these supplies are not brought to band class or rehearsal. You will need the following supplies/accessories for your instrument each day:

Brass:

- Straight Mute (concert only as needed)
- Oil appropriate for the instrument
- Black flip folder (Marching Band)



- Pencil
- Music
- You will be given a band binder

#### Woodwinds:

- Cleaning swab
- 4 or more reeds in good condition
- Black flip folder (Marching Band)
- Pencil
- Music
- You will be given a band binder

#### Percussion:

- Percussion students are expected to have mallets/sticks.
- Each percussionist is responsible for his or her own music.
- In addition, students are to have flip folders during marching season with music being arranged as taught in class. These are to be brought to class every day.

On the marching field, students need to have a pencil. Each student should have his or her own folder of music. Lost music parts can be replaced by seeing a director outside of class time.

Students using personal instruments and equipment are responsible for the proper maintenance, care, and storage of that equipment. The band department provides reasonable storage on a daily basis only. It is recommended that private instruments be insured.

### **District-Owned Instruments**

CSISD will provide a limited number of instruments for student use. These instruments include highly expensive instruments such as bassoon, oboe, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, french horn, euphonium, tuba, and general percussion equipment. This equipment is purchased by the school district for student use because of its extremely high expense. Thus, all district-issued equipment must be handled with optimum care. Students failing to take proper care of their district-issued instrument may lose the privilege to use such instruments.

The following is a list of general procedures for instruments owned by the district:

- Order of distribution will be done based on chair order or seniority. If possible, students who play large instruments and are dependent upon CSISD buses may be issued one instrument for home use and one for school use. This will be at the discretion of the directors and will be based on instrument availability and transportation needs.
- CSISD does not provide insurance for individually owned or district-owned equipment. It is required of all students utilizing district-owned instruments to provide insurance coverage for the instrument that has been issued to them. Students will be held responsible for all district-owned instruments issued to them. This responsibility will include fire, theft, accidental damage, abuse and general maintenance not incurred through normal use.
- Students and parents must sign an instrument checkout form before the student can use the instrument.
- Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition. Each issued instrument will be checked and cleaned prior to issue. Students are expected to maintain their issued instruments accordingly.
- The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him or her.
- All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.
- CSISD will assess a fee for routine (end of year) cleaning and maintenance of district-owned instruments. This fee will be collected near the middle of each school year through College Station High School InTouch Program. (This fee does not cover removal of dents or other student-responsible repairs).

***Special Note*** - District-owned instruments are not to be treated as "free" instruments. Basic supplies must still be purchased and repairs must still be made just like personally owned instruments. Please strive to treat these instruments as if they are your own. Most district-owned instruments exceed \$3,000 in value.

## **Band Uniforms**

Our official marching band uniforms will be worn at most events. It would cost more than \$500.00 to replace one of our marching uniforms. Students are expected to keep their uniforms neat and hung up properly at all times. Uniforms are cleaned at appropriate intervals throughout the year. No uniforms may be taken home at any time.

When in uniform (either with the band or elsewhere), the uniform should be worn with dignity and pride. Your personal actions represent not only you but your band, your school, and your community. When in uniform, the entire uniform will be worn as directed. Students may not walk around with an unzipped jacket, for example. All parts of the uniform are to be worn correctly.

- Hats are to be worn straight on top of the head. Hair extending below the hat must be placed inside the hat. Hats should never be worn backwards.
- Jackets should be worn completely zipped.
- Trousers are to be worn correctly. Suspenders are to be on shoulders at all times. Trousers should hang straight with no break in the crease. Pants must be the correct length, using the hem snaps. Safety pins and tape could damage the uniform.
- When in uniform, all students must wear the specified band shirt under the jacket. Black socks and black band shoes are worn with the uniform.
- NO jewelry may be worn.

Students must purchase a pair of black Viper marching shoes. No other brand or style of shoe is permitted. Please contact the directors for information about fitting times. In addition, students must purchase a band shirt and long black socks. Refer to the band calendar for the dates of ordering. Color guard items will be purchased on a yearly basis. These uniform items are custom and may change from year to year.

Uniform shorts and band t-shirts are provided for each student and paid for through the assessment fee. Students will be told what will be worn under the Band Uniform each year. Typically, this is the Band Shirt or Show Shirt, Compression Shorts. Warm Weather Uniforms will typically be the Band Shirt or Show Shirt and the Band Shorts.

We will carefully monitor our marching uniforms during the school year. Uniforms are to be turned in hanging properly after each performance. Any face paint or temporary hair color is not permitted when in uniform. Hair sprays and perfumes should not be used when wearing the uniform. It is the responsibility of the student to keep up with uniform parts. The student must pay for lost or unreturned parts of the uniform.

### **Rides and Student Pick Up Before and After Band Events**

When the Cougar Band travels to an out of town performance, ALL students will

follow the district transportation guidelines. Please do not ask for exceptions to the transportation arrangements set by the directors. Students will not be allowed to ride to and from a band performance in a private vehicle except in the case of a conflict with another school activity or an urgent family emergency. This must be approved in advance.

Students are expected to arrange for a ride home from the school after ALL scheduled band events and performances. This is an issue that directly impacts the safety of our students. The band staff will comply with all school policies regarding this subject.

At the conclusion of an out-of-town event, students may travel home with their parents. Students must make arrangements for their uniforms to be turned in and instruments to be stored properly. Parents must meet the directors at the bus. The school district policies concerning transportation will be followed.

Please be sure you do not block the bus drop off area. Parents are asked to park only in the designated parking spots and not on the curb. Please be careful in the parking lot when students are being dropped off. Safety is everyone's responsibility.

Every effort is made to stay on schedule, but please be understanding when things don't go according to plan. All students should be picked up no later than 30 minutes after the group returns.

### **Traveling Student Conduct**

At performances/trips, it is important to remember that each student represents our school and community and is expected to act accordingly. Inappropriate action or behavior will not be tolerated. Students are expected to follow these guidelines that pertain to performances and trips:

- Be courteous and polite to everyone, especially other school groups.
- When on bus trips, students will sit in seats appropriately, speak at a conversation level only, and keep all objects (including feet, hands, arms, etc.) inside the bus.
- Students may not use the exit at the back of the bus except in case of emergency.
- Once the final bus list for a trip is posted, students may not change buses.
- Seating on buses will be done according to CSISD policy. Normal singing on buses is acceptable, but no loud singing or yelling is permitted.

- Be quiet while going through towns. Students listening to music must use headphones.
- Be considerate of others in bus ventilation. The front seats are always reserved for directors/chaperones.
- Be quiet and listen to instructions at all times. Students should stay seated when the bus is moving and keep the center aisle clear. File off buses in an orderly manner.
- Do not push or shove. Do not leave buses until a director instructs you to do so.
- The entire band is responsible for the condition of the buses. No one may exit the bus until the director/chaperone/driver is satisfied that the bus has been cleaned properly. When we return to the school, the bus should be clean and all windows should be closed.

## **Student Letter Jackets**

Most Students will be eligible for letter jackets at the end of their junior year. Fliers and forms will be made available around April of each year with instructions on how to qualify for a letter from the band.

## **Private Lessons**

Private lessons improve the overall quality of individuals playing in the program. Parents interested in private lessons should contact a director. A list of available lesson teachers can also be found on the band website.