

# Cullman High School Bearcat Band



**2025-2026**  
**Handbook**

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## Forward

The band program at Cullman High School forms a vital and important part of the total high school life. The band represents a large, colorful, visible, and highly disciplined segment of the school. The performance of the band at sporting events, concerts, parades, contests, as well as many community events, add a great deal of color and life to the Cullman High School community.

The main emphasis of the Cullman High School Band program is on musicianship. Achieved through hard work, it is the pride of a job well done that makes our efforts worthwhile. The success of the organization will lead to the success of the individual and vice-versa.

## Objectives:

1. To provide students with a pleasant, positive experience that increases and adds to their appreciation and enjoyment of music.
2. To increase the student's enthusiasm for the school experience, thus improving attendance and motivating students toward increased academic achievement.
3. To develop in students an enhanced aesthetic sensitivity for music as an art form by disciplined study and application of its various elements, both separately and as they are combined into a coherent musical whole.
4. To prepare students for careers in music.
5. To provide students with a healthy hobby or a vocation, which can be useful throughout life.

# **Cullman High School Band**

*510 13<sup>th</sup> St. NE  
Cullman, Alabama 35055  
(256) 734-3923*

Dear Bearcat Band Members and Parents,

It is a pleasure to have you as a member of the Bearcat Band family. You are part of an organization that, though the years, has earned a reputation of excellence on the marching field and the concert stage. We look forward to you helping this rich tradition continue.

As a member of this organization, you will have responsibilities and obligations to meet. We expect you to do your part -- be at rehearsals, practice individually, participate in fund-raisers, etc. Most of all, we expect that in everything you do, both inside and outside of our program, you will strive for excellence.

You will find a cross-section of the school in our band. We have leaders in virtually every club and activity in the school. Many of our members will earn scholarships to college, not just in music, but also in many areas. Since most of our members will not become professional musicians, this may be your best opportunity to be in the spotlight and be recognized as an outstanding performer. We want that once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be the best possible experience for you, so we do expect that you will give it your all in both rehearsals and performances.

Parents, support your children by attending concerts, football games, competitions, and any other performances of our band. Get involved in our fine band booster organization. Encourage home practice and help your child meet their commitments of a busy schedule. Be aware of the band's calendar of rehearsals and performances. Most dates will be given to you now. Additional dates will be provided to you at the earliest possible notice. Email notices will be sent to help you know what is going on.

This is a winning team with a rich tradition of which you are now a vital part. As with any activity, you get out of it what you put into it. We want the best for you, and that is the reason we demand the best from you. You have the opportunity to enjoy some great times as part of this band, and we look forward to sharing them with you.

Christopher Smith  
Director of Bands  
Cullman High School

# The High School Program

## The Symphonic and Concert Bands

Auditions are held each spring to determine which students are placed in the Symphonic Band and Concert Band. All brass and woodwind musicians in the CHS Band must be enrolled in one of these ensemble classes during the spring semester. These two bands perform together on the Christmas Concert. The bands perform separately at District and State Contest, as well as the Spring Concert.

## The Bearcat Marching Band

The most active of bands, the Bearcat Marching Band performs at all CHS football games and pep rallies, two marching festivals per year, the Fair Parade, and the Cullman County Marching Band Exhibition. All brass, woodwind, and percussion musicians, as well as visual ensemble members must be enrolled in this class during the fall semester.

## The Jazz Band

The jazz band is made up of 18 to 22 advanced high school students selected by audition. Specializing in swing and jazz music, this group performs regularly at the Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, Big Band Dance, Strawberry Festival, and for many other civic and community events.

## Percussion Ensemble

The percussion ensemble performs at multiple community events, school concerts, and regional competitions during the months of November through May. All CHS percussionists must be enrolled in this class during the spring semester. These students will also participate with the Symphonic and Concert Bands during concert season.

## Pep Band

The Pep Band is a student led group that performs at school activities during the fall and winter. Membership is by audition.

## Solos and Ensembles

Students at Cullman High School are encouraged to perform solos and in small ensembles. Ensemble playing is ideal for improving musical awareness, balance, intonation, phrasing, etc. Solos benefit the performer by increasing self-confidence and encourage good tone and style. The Alabama Bandmasters Association Solo and Ensemble Festival is held in the spring, usually at the University of North Alabama.

## All-State Band

The All-State Band Festival consists of four bands, three high school bands and one junior high band, made up of the best instrumentalists in the state. Nationally renowned conductors spend three days in April preparing the bands for a grand finale concert. The festival is held at different locations throughout the state each year. District tryouts are held in January and competition is fierce. Audition material is available in late August or early September.

## Cullman County Honor Band

The Cullman County Honor Band consists of students from the Cullman City and County band programs. Two bands, one senior high and one junior high, are conducted by outstanding school or college band directors. Tryouts for chair positions are held on Friday afternoon with the first rehearsal later that evening. The bands rehearse all day Saturday and present a performance on Saturday evening. The Cullman County Honor Band Festival is held in January on the campus of Wallace State College.

## Fall 2025 Marching Season Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Meeting Time</u>
Friday, August 22	Bob Jones – Home	5:45 P.M.
Friday, August 29	Mortimer Jordan – Away	4:45 P.M.
Friday, September 5	Athens – Away	4:45 P.M.
Friday, September 12	Jasper – Home	5:45 P.M.
Friday, September 19	Muscle Shoals – Home (Homecoming)	5:45 P.M.
Friday, September 26	Brewer – Away	5:15 P.M.
Friday, October 3	Hartselle – Away	5:00 P.M.
Saturday, October 4	Fair Parade	1:30 P.M.
Saturday, October 4	Band Exhibition – @CHS	5:30 P.M.
Friday, October 10	Columbia – Away	4:45 P.M.
Saturday, October 12	Bobcat Marching Festival	TBA
Friday, October 17	Decatur – Home (Senior Recognition)	5:25 P.M.
Saturday, October 18	Pell City Marching Contest	TBA
Friday, October 24	Buckhorn – Away	4:30 P.M.
Friday, November 7	Playoff Game	TBA
November 8-12	Washington D.C. Trip	TBA
Friday, November 14	Playoff Game	TBA
Friday, November 21	Cullman Christmas Parade/Playoff Game	TBA
Friday, November 28	Playoff Game	TBA

All CHS home games will begin at 7:00 P.M. this year.

### Home Games:

Students should arrive at the band room fully dressed and ready to warm-up at the meeting time.

### Trips:

Students should arrive in time to load instruments and equipment and be on the bus by the departure time. The loading crew should meet 30 minutes prior to departure time. Large instruments (tubas, bass drums, quads, etc.) should be loaded at least 15 minutes prior to departure.

## Cullman High School Band Travel Policy

When the Cullman High School band travels to any performance or activity, the students are required to ride the buses to the event and back home after the event. No student will be allowed to meet the band at the location nor will they be allowed to ride home with a parent. Once the buses arrive back at the band room, students will be dismissed after all equipment is properly stored. On a trip, students will not be released to parents, sibling, or anyone else regardless of the band member's age. This policy has been established for the protection of all the students in the band program. Anyone that cannot abide by this policy will not be allowed to participate in the Cullman High School Band.

Exceptions:

- 1.) The student has a medical emergency
- 2.) The student is participating in another school activity on the same day.
- 3.) Unusual circumstance (Ex. Death in the Family, Family Medical Emergency) that requires a student to meet the band at an event or leave with a parent after an event. This should be a **very rare circumstance** that will be approved on a “case by case” basis by the band director.



**Cullman High School Band**  
**Approved Instrument List**

**Instrument and Accessories:**

<b>Instrument</b>	<b>Brands</b>	<b>Required Mouthpiece and Accessories</b>
Flute Piccolos	Gemeinhardt Armstrong Yamaha Emerson	Soft polishing cloth Tuning Rod
Clarinet	Buffet Selmer Yamaha LeBlanc (No Plastic Clarinets Allowed) (Black clarinets only!)	Black or clear mouthpieces Reed guard Vandoren Reeds Reed Size – 2 ½ - 4 Swab Mouthpiece Brush
Alto/Tenor/Bari Sax	Yamaha Selmer LeBlanc Keilwerth Antigua Winds	Black or Clear mouthpieces Reed Guard Vandoren Reeds Reed Size – 2 ½ - 4 Pad Saver & soft cloth Mouthpiece brush
Trumpet	Bach Yamaha King Getzen Conn (Lacquer or Silver trumpets only. No other colors!)	Mouthpiece brush Al Cass Valve Oil Slide Grease Snake Soft Cloth
French Horn	Holton Conn Yamaha King Lacquer or Silver horns only. No other colors!)	Mouthpiece brush Al Cass Valve Oil Slide Grease Snake Soft Cloth
Trombone	Bach Yamaha Getzen King Conn Holton Benge Lacquer or Silver horns only. No other colors!)	Trombotine Mouthpiece brush Spray bottle that fits in case Tuning slide grease Snake Soft cloth
Baritone/Tuba	Yamaha Besson King Conn Holton Miraphone	Mouthpiece brush Al Cass Valve Oil Slide grease Snake Soft Cloth

Students must adhere to this approved list of instruments. Band directors reserve the right to not allow an inferior instrument to be used with any of the CHS Band ensembles.

## CHS Band Audition Minimum Requirements Brass & Woodwinds

- All students who wish to be a member of the CHS marching, symphonic, concert, pep, or jazz bands must audition for chair placement and entrance into the CHS band program. Students who choose not to audition will not be allowed to participate in the CHS band program.
- Brass & Woodwind students are required to demonstrate a minimum competency level during the audition process in order to be selected for participation in the CHS band program. The minimum requirements are listed below:
  - Students must successfully perform at least 3 major scales and their related arpeggios to continue the audition.
  - The scales must be performed in eighth notes, quarter note =120 metronome marking.
  - The scales must be performed with a characteristic tone quality of the corresponding instrument.
  - Students must demonstrate a basic understanding and performance of the prepared piece with characteristic tone quality of the corresponding instrument.
  - If a student is unable to successfully perform the minimum requirements, he or she will not be eligible to participate in the CHS band program until a successful audition has occurred. Any student not meeting the minimum requirements may re-audition each semester until the requirements are fulfilled.

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## CHS Band Audition Minimum Requirements Percussion

- All students who wish to be a member of the CHS marching, symphonic, concert, pep, or jazz bands, or percussion ensemble must audition for chair placement and entrance into the CHS band program. Students who choose not to audition will not be allowed to participate in the CHS band program.
- Percussion students are required to demonstrate a minimum competency level during the audition process on either snare drum or mallets in order to be selected for participation in the CHS band program. Extra points will be earned to those who audition on both. The minimum requirements are listed below:
  - Students who audition on snare drum must pass a minimum of three rudiments (long roll, buzz roll, paradiddle) Extra rudiments will earn more points
  - Students who audition for mallets must play a minimum of 3 major scales (2 octaves w/arpeggios) The scales must be performed in eighth notes, quarter note =120 metronome marking. Extra scales will earn more points
  - The scales must be performed with a reasonable amount of technique.
  - If a student is unable to successfully perform the minimum requirements, he or she will not be eligible to participate in the CHS band program until a successful audition has occurred. Any student not meeting the minimum requirements may re-audition each semester until the requirements are fulfilled.

## **CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS** **NO PASS/NO PLAY POLICY**

The Board of Education recognizes the value of athletics and other extra-curricular activities as they relate to the total education of students. The Board also recognizes and supports high academic standards and the necessity of developing a framework to annually assess each athletic and extra-curricular student's progress toward graduating from high school on schedule with his or her class. It also recognizes the Class of 2000 Education resolution to earn a minimum of 24 credits in Grades 9- 12, with four (4) credits each in science, mathematics, social studies, and English.

The Board prescribes the following regulations for student eligibility in the School System to participate in athletics and/or extra-curricular activities:

1. Students entering the 10th, 11th and 12th grades must have passed during the last three trimesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least six (6) new Carnegie units with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those six units.
  - (a) Four core curriculum courses must be included in those units passed and averaged. (English, mathematics, science and social studies are core curriculum courses.)
  - (b) Any student who accumulates more than four (4) units of core courses per year may earn less than the required four core courses during the next school year and be eligible as long as the student remains on track for graduation with her or her class.
2. Students entering the 8th and 9th grades must have passed during the last three trimesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least five (5) new subjects with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those five (5) subjects.
3. Students entering the 7th grade for the first time are eligible.
4. A new unit is one that has not been previously passed. A trimester is one-third of a school year as defined by the School System Annual Calendar.
5. Eligibility will be determined before the start of each new school year. A student who is academically eligible at the beginning of the school year remains eligible for the remainder of that school year so far as grades are concerned.
6. Students declared ineligible at the beginning of a school year may regain their eligibility at the end of the first trimester by meeting the academic requirements listed above during their last three trimesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable. The regained eligibility of any student may be determined any time after the end of the first trimester, but all course requirements used to determine the eligibility must be completed no later than the fifth day of the second trimester. A student that regains eligibility at the end of the first trimester may not participate in interscholastic athletics until 88 days of the school year have been completed.
7. Only one (1) unit (or subject) of physical education per year may be counted.
8. A maximum of two (2) units (or subjects) earned in an approved summer school may be counted. If a unit (or subject) is repeated in summer school, the higher numerical grade for that unit (or subject) will be used to compute the composite grade average.
9. Bona fide transfers will be dealt with according to rules of the Alabama High School Athletic Association for sports and rules to be developed by the Board as it pertains to other extracurricular activities.
10. Each eligible student must meet the definition of a regular student as defined by the Alabama High School Athletic Association.

## **Grading**

Grades in band are determined by passing-off music, scales, or audition material and attending all rehearsals and performances of the band. Students will receive a one-letter grade deduction for each unexcused absence from after-school and evening rehearsals. Unexcused absences from performances will result in two letter grades being deducted from the 9-weeks grade.

### **Daily Grades**

Daily grades are determined by the following:

Students start each grading period with a clean slate regarding point deductions from their daily grade requirements. They will keep those points as long as the following expectations are met.

1. Be on time to every rehearsal, sectional, or performance with instrument, music, equipment, etc.
2. Wear the uniform in the manner it was intended to be worn - clean and neat with clean shoes and gloves. Take proper care of the uniform when it is not being worn (hanging up in a garment bag.)
3. Store instrument, music, and equipment in the proper place.
4. Keep areas where their instrument is stored clean and free of garbage.
5. Wear the band shirt or pep rally outfit at pep rallies and other occasions designated by the band director.
6. Do not chew gum, use cell phones, eat, or drink in the band room or in the stands at games.
7. Follow all rules and regulations found elsewhere in this handbook.

When a student is found to be in violation of the above expectations, 5 points will be deducted from the student's 9-weeks grade in band.

### **Pass-Off Grades**

All members of the CHS band are required to pass-off music or routines for a section leader or a band director. Failure to pass-off music or routines by the required deadline will result in 15 points being deducted from the student's 9-weeks grade in band. Failure to pass-off can also result in the student being benched from performances until the pass-off requirements are fulfilled.

### **Failing Grade Policy**

Any student that receives a failing grade in any band class will not be allowed to participate in that ensemble during the remainder of their high school career unless the band director determines that the student should remain in the ensemble.

# Absentee Policy for Band

## Excused Absences:

1. Illness verified by a doctor's note.
2. Death in the Family.
3. Unusual circumstances verified by a note from a parent, such as
  - An illness that does not require a doctor's care, yet serious to cause an absence.
  - A family emergency.
  - A once-in-a lifetime opportunity.

The band director must be notified of any "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity one month prior to the absence. It is the band director's decision whether or not an absence is deemed a "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity and is determined on a "case-by-case" basis. Students are not allowed to miss band camp, marching competitions, the band exhibition, Music Performance Assessment, the Big Band Dance, percussion ensemble performances, the Christmas Concert, or the Spring Concert for "once in a lifetime opportunities". College visits, concerts, vacations, church camps, and family visits do not qualify as "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunities.

With any excused absence, a note from the doctor or parent must be turned in to the band director the following day after the absence. The student or parent must contact the band director prior to the absence to inform the director that the student will be missing from rehearsal. A voice mail or email is acceptable as long as it is received before a rehearsal or performance. If these two steps are not followed then the one letter grade deduction from the student's grade will still apply.

Each unexcused absence from a rehearsal will result in a one-letter grade deducted from the final grade for that 9 weeks period. This grading policy also applies to weekly sectionals. All students are expected to attend their section's weekly scheduled sectional rehearsals during the school year. Along with the letter grade deduction, students that miss sectionals or full ensemble rehearsals can be benched or removed from the performing ensemble.

An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a two letter grade deduction from the final grade for that 9 weeks; the student will be benched, and possibly removed from the band program.

**Excessive absences of ANY KIND (excused or unexcused) will not be tolerated!!!**  
Our program relies heavily on the attendance of its members. Students that are absent frequently, even with excused absences, hurt the development of the group and may be benched or removed from the program. Students and parents must make every effort to schedule doctor appointments, family trips, etc. for times that do not conflict with the band schedule.

Other activities in which the student may be involved must not conflict with the band schedule. Rehearsals and meetings with other school related or non-school related activities are not excused absences. However, students involved in other school activities may work out a schedule conflict with the band directors prior to the conflict. This will be determined on a "case-by-case" basis. Students that are employed cannot miss rehearsals or performances because of their work schedule.

## **Cullman High School Band**

### **Moral/Ethical and Public Appearance Conduct Policy**

Members of the Cullman High School Band are expected to represent the program in a responsible and positive manner. Students are required to adhere to a code of conduct in their everyday life. Band students must follow all of the policies of the Cullman High School Student Handbook and the CHS Band Handbook. Below are listed expectations that all CHS band members must follow:

- Students are not allowed to use tobacco products.
- Students are not allowed to use vapes, e-cigarettes, Juuls, or similar products.
- Students are not allowed to drink alcohol.
- Students are not allowed to use illegal drugs.
- Students are not allowed to use profanity.
- Students are allowed to wear one set of earrings as long as they are small and tasteful and do not distract from the uniformity of the ensemble when performing with the CHS band.
- Students are not allowed to have facial piercings, body piercings, or multiple ear piercings visible when traveling or performing with the CHS band.
- Students with long hair will pin their hair up underneath their shakos (marching hats) during all marching band performances.
- Students are not allowed to have any visible tattoos.
- Students are not allowed to dye their hair unnatural colors or wear their hair in any way (Mohawks, etc.) that could be considered by the directors as a distraction from the performance and perception of the band program.
- Students are not to wear any attire with questionable music groups, products, or words.
- Students must not be a discipline problem in any of their classes throughout the school year. Students that are assigned ISS or suspended for disciplinary reasons can be sanctioned within the band program or removed from the band program for an assigned duration of time or permanently. This will be decided by the directors and administration.
- Students should follow this rule of thumb: If there is a question as to whether or not a behavior is appropriate, then it is probably not appropriate, so....DON'T DO IT!!!

Sanctions for violation of the above listed expectations will be decided on a case-by-case basis by the Director of Bands; taking into account the severity of the infraction and its' effect on the reputation of the Cullman High School Band.



# PERFORMANCE

## Band Lettering System

Band students earn a letter by participating in the activities listed below. Sixty points are required to earn a letter.

- Parent's Attendance Band Booster Meetings\*  
2 Points per meeting.....
- Parent's working in concession stand, pit crew, cleaning the stadium, or chaperoning events  
2 Points per event (12 point limit).....
- Percussion Ensemble.....
- Visual Ensemble.....
- Jazz Band .....
- Honor Bands 10 points each (limit 2).....
- Tutoring CMS Band Students (5 day min.).....
- Participation in a summer music or auxiliary camp.....
- All-State Audition (passing scales or rudiments).....
- Private Lessons (regularly, 3 to 6 months)
- District Honor Band.....
- All A's and B's (1<sup>st</sup> semester grades).....
- All County Band.....
- Band Council Member or Section Leader.....
- Loading Crew.....
- Practice Field Lining Crew.....
- Pep Band.....
- Private Lessons (regularly, over 6 months).....
- Perfect Attendance (band class and out-of-school) 5 points per semester.....
- All-State Band.....

Total points earned

Points Possible	Points Earned
2 Per Meeting	
Up to 12 points	
5	
5	
10	
Up to 20 points	
5	
10	
10	
5	
10	
10	
10	
5	
5	
5	
5	
5	
15	
5 Per Semester	
20	

\*At least one parent must attend the band booster meeting and sign in.

## **BAND CLASS RULES**

1. Be on time and ready to perform at the first downbeat.
2. Come to class prepared to play your instrument, not to do other class work. Laptops or other electronic devices should not be in the rehearsal area unless we are using them as a class.
3. Warm up intelligently. This means softly, in the lower register of your horn, and usually involves long tones. Warm up before the start of the rehearsal.
4. Tune! Not only at the beginning of the rehearsal, but all through the rehearsal. During the tuning period, only tune; do not practice.
5. Do not leave your seat after the rehearsal starts.
6. When the conductor gets on the podium, please be quiet. When he gets off the podium, you may talk quietly.
7. When the baton goes up, place your instrument in playing position and give the director your undivided attention.
8. Avoid playing between selections, except when tuning. Do not tune when the director gets back on the podium.
9. Do not chew gum or eat during rehearsal and do not bring food or drinks to class.
10. Take care of both personal and school equipment.
11. Do not leave the room without the instructor's permission.
12. If you are ill and feel that you cannot play, check in with the band director.
13. Do not clean your instrument or do other maintenance during band class. This is to be done outside of class time.
14. Play only your assigned instrument.
15. Play only your assigned part or part assigned by the band director.
16. Please give your full attention to whoever is conducting, whether it is your director, a student conductor, or substitute conductor.
17. After rehearsal, put your instrument into its' case correctly, then into the proper storage space. Also, put your music away in the proper slot.
18. Do not throw anything in the band room.
19. Stay out of other member's instruments and music.

# General Rules and Regulations

## In the Bandroom

- Be in your seat with the proper equipment (instrument, music, etc.) when the rehearsal begins.
- Get quiet immediately when the director or drum major steps onto the podium.
- No talking while the director or drum major is on the podium. If you have something to say, raise your hand for permission.
- Instruments should be stored in designated storage cabinets. Empty cases should be returned to the cabinet and not left on the floor.
- Do not play someone's instrument without his or her permission. This includes percussion instruments.
- Be prepared. Have extra reeds, valve oil, mutes, etc., as necessary.
- Do not wait until rehearsal time to buy reeds, valve oil, etc.
- No chewing gum, food, or drink allowed in the band room. Water is allowed in a closed container, but discard the bottle or cup when you leave.
- Cell phones are not allowed during rehearsals.

## In the Stands

- Sit in your designated area only.
- Always pay attention to the band director or drum major. Be ready to play the first note at a moment's notice.
- Non-band members are not allowed in the band section.
- No food, drinks, or chewing gum allowed in the stands. Water is allowed.
- Hats should remain on until after the National Anthem.

## Trips

- All students must travel to and from the event on the bus. (Please see the Cullman High School Band "Travel Policy" in this hand book for more information.)
- In the interest of safety, at no time should any part of the body (head or arms) be extended through the windows of the bus. Students are to remain seated when the bus is in motion.
- No stereos will be allowed on the bus. MP3 players or ipods with earphones are acceptable.
- Band students are expected at all times to show respect for those who give their time to accompany the band as chaperones and bus drivers.
- The use of tobacco in any form is prohibited while engaged in any band activity. This rule also applies to chaperones.
- As a band member, you represent the school, your parents, and the city of Cullman; therefore, proper conduct is expected in speech, dress, and general behavior.

# Responsibilities of Student Officers

Band President: A senior. The primary liaison between the band students and the directors. Chief contact for band directors, staff, and parents whenever student input or assistance is required.

Specific Duties:

- Preside over meetings of the band council.
- Represent the band at band booster meetings when requested by the band director.
- Select and present the bandsman of the week award.
- Assemble the field lining crew and keep the practice field lined for rehearsals.
- Assign representatives to meet with visiting bands.
- Lead delegation to accept awards at competitions.
- Organize the band election gala, band banquet, game night devotions, parties, etc.
- Assist the band directors as needed.

Vice-President: A senior or junior (One year on loading crew required). Assists the president with council activities.

Specific Duties:

- Assist the president in all his/her duties.
- Preside over the meetings of the band council in the absence of the president.
- Appoint and be in charge of the loading crew.
- Assist the Band President with assembling the field lining crew and keep the practice field lined for rehearsals.
- Represent the band at band booster meetings in the absence of the president when requested by the band director.
- Help with organization of special events (Pre-MPA, Big Band Dance, Band Banquet, etc.)
- Assist the band directors as needed.

Secretary: A senior, junior, or sophomore.

Specific Duties:

- Keeps records of meetings and activities.
- Order flowers or gifts when necessary.
- Writes notes or letters on behalf of the band.
- Organizes the bus list for trips
- Assign Bus Captains
- Help with organization of special events (Pre-MPA, Big Band Dance, Band Banquet, etc.)
- Assists the directors as needed.

Treasurer: A senior, junior, or sophomore.

Specific Duties:

- Collect student funds for flowers, parties, gifts, etc.
- Keeps accurate financial records of student funds.
- Assist the band directors in collecting solo and ensemble, all-county registration fees, etc.
- Pay bills from student funds (flowers, gifts, cards, etc.)
- Collect funds for special events as assigned by the band director
- Assist the band directors as needed.

Librarian: A senior, junior, or sophomore.

Specific Duties:

- Assist the band directors in assembling music folders for marching and concert season.
- Organize the collection and filing of music.
- Replace missing parts.
- Pass out new music.
- Maintain the band library in a neat and orderly manner.
- Make copies of music for directors and students and collect money for these copies
- Assist the band directors as needed.

Class Representatives:

- Represent each class as a voting member of the band council.
- Organize class projects such as fundraisers, special events, etc.
- Volunteer to assist with special events (Pre-MPA, Big Band Dance, Band Banquet, etc.)
- Assist the band officers as needed.
- Assist the band directors as needed.

We can only continue to build on the successes of the past if we continue to have outstanding student leadership. Section leaders are selected based on musical accomplishment, service, dedication, and loyalty. These appointments are made by the directors and are not a popularity contest.

Student leaders are expected to be the first students to arrive and the last to leave. Good leaders look for jobs that need doing. They don't wait to be asked. Good leaders know that respect comes from peers only when it is earned. Therefore, the leadership team should strive to always set an example by their behavior.

It is an obligation of the leadership team to keep directors and staff informed about any situation that might hinder the progress of the band. Members of the leadership team never ask a member of their section to do anything they are not prepared to do. You should be the first to rehearsal, the first on line, the first to have music memorized... in short; you should be first at everything.

The man at the top of the mountain did not fall there. Leaders must set the right example every day. Immaturity will often encourage us not to push ourselves to achieve our personal best until the week of a major performance. Unfortunately, that is too late. Success is built a small piece at a time, every day. Lead your sections this way.



## Student Honor Band Participation Requirements

1. Students are limited to participating in two honor bands that involve missed school days. (ABA Events Excluded)
2. Students may not participate in honor bands that require more than two days missed from school.
3. The directors will not be able to travel with students to most honor bands. Parents are responsible for the supervision, transportation, and monetary needs of the students during the honor band festival.
4. Students must seek approval to miss school for an honor band through the Director of Bands and school administration.
5. Honor band schedules cannot conflict with any part of the Cullman High School Band Calendar.
6. Students may only participate in honor bands that have been approved by the Director of Bands.
7. Students are responsible for all application deadlines and submitting proper forms to the Director of Bands for review and recommendation before the deadline.
8. Students must be in good academic standing in all of their classes in order to participate in any honor band.



# **Marching Fundamentals**

1. Posture
  - a. Eyes – focused
  - b. Chin – up
  - c. Shoulders – back
  - d. Gut – in
  - e. Feet – together
2. Step Style
  - a. Mark Time
    - i. Pat step 1 inch off the ground.
    - ii. Flat footed.
    - iii. Bend knees slightly.
  - b. Glide Step
    - i. Heel down, toes up.
    - ii. Roll foot forward (rocking chair)
    - iii. Lead with hips, not foot.
    - iv. Feet in front of each other (almost)
    - v. Upper body smooth.
  - c. Backward step
    - i. Stay on toes
    - ii. Keep foot close to the ground.
    - iii. Upper body smooth.
    - iv. Lead with hips, not foot.
  - d. Slide
    - i. Turn upper body to the side while keeping feet forward.
    - ii. Shoulders (instrument or equipment) should be parallel to the sideline. Pull the right shoulder back during a left slide, left shoulder back during a right slide.
    - iii. Keep feet pointed straight (90 degrees) the direction you are going.
3. Turns
  - a. Always start with left foot.
  - b. Uniform turning rate (do turns in airplane position to check turning rate).
  - c. 2 count turn to the right or left – 90 degrees.
  - d. 4 count turn to the right or left – 180 degrees.



## **Cullman High School Band Visual Ensemble**

*Drum Major, Color Guard, and Majorettes*

1. Students trying out for drum major must be a member in good standing of the Cullman High School Band and must be entering the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grade (next year).
2. Students trying out for visual ensemble must be entering the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grades (next year), and all band fees must be paid before a student can audition.
3. All students trying out for a visual ensemble position must have and maintain a “C” average or above, and must meet the Cullman City School Board’s “No Pass, No Play” guidelines.
4. Students trying out for a visual ensemble captain position must have favorable recommendations from two teachers that have taught the student during the current school year.
5. Visual ensemble students are members of the CHS band and are expected to abide by the same rules and regulations of all band members. These rules and regulations may be found in the CHS Band Handbook.
6. Visual ensemble members are expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances of the Cullman High School Marching Band. In addition, extra rehearsals will be scheduled on a weekly basis for each visual ensemble group.
7. Visual ensemble members have expenses (uniform, equipment, pep rally outfit, etc.) in addition to the costs of band. Candidates and their parents must be willing to assume this extra expense. The band director will make every effort to keep costs down for all students and parents.
8. Tryouts will be judged by two or three qualified, impartial judges. Candidates and their parents must accept the judges’ decision as final. If you are not prepared to not be selected – don’t try out.
9. Visual ensemble captain positions will be determined by the band director and announced the day of tryouts. This decision will be based on leadership, attitude, experience, cooperativeness, skill, dependability, and seniority.
10. The number of drum majors and visual ensemble members will be determined by the judges based on the number and the performance level of those trying out and a number appropriate for the size of the overall band.
11. Visual Ensemble positions require a great amount of work and the ability to work well with others. A positive attitude, dedication, and ability to learn from constructive criticism are all traits that will ensure success as a visual ensemble member.
12. Visual Ensemble captain candidates must be instrumentalists (brass, woodwind, or percussion) during the spring for the Cullman Band and must have been a consistent member of the Cullman Concert Band or Cullman Symphonic Band as an instrumentalist for at least two concert seasons to be eligible for captain. They must continue as an instrumentalist after they have been selected as captain.



## **Cullman Bearcat Band Fees and Expenses (2025-2026)**

The Cullman Band fee is used to offset the cost of the many things that are necessary to operate a band program. The fees are used to cover the following costs:

**School Expenses** – Items such as music, small repairs, supplies, equipment, office supplies, audition judges, contest/festival registration, telephone expenses, audio/video equipment, etc.

**Band Camp Expenses** – Instructors at band camp: color guard, percussion, and other section instructors.

**Uniform Expenses** – Purchase, replace, clean, and repair marching uniforms and formal attire.

**Transportation Expenses** – Cost of our school buses for every trip, plus costs for drivers as well as gas and repairs for the band truck and trailer.

**School Instrument Expenses** – Cost of purchase, maintenance, and repair of school-owned instruments. This only applies to students that use school-owned instruments.

**Band T-shirt** – It is worn at pep rallies and trips, and it will be worn under the uniform. This only applies to instrumentalist fees.

**Band Shoes and Gloves** – Each instrumentalist receives a new pair of shoes and 2 new pairs of gloves each school year. This only applies to instrumentalist fees.

**Percussion Expenses** – Mallets, sticks, drum heads, and maintenance of school-owned percussion equipment. This only applies to percussionist fees.

Total: (Brass & Woodwinds) \$280.00 (Students that own their instrument)

Total: (w/ School Instrument) \$310.00 (Students that use a school-owned instrument)

Total: (Percussionists) \$345.00 (All Percussion Students)

Total: (Visual Ensemble) \$150.00 (Students that are members of our Visual Ensemble)

All Band Fees will be due when uniforms are distributed during band camp at the times listed below:

10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades – Thursday, July 17 A-G - 2:00 P.M., H-N - 3:00 P.M., O-Z - 4:00 P.M.

Freshmen – Friday, July 18 A-G - 2:00 P.M., H-N - 3:00 P.M., O-Z - 4:00 P.M.

**Checks should be made out to Cullman Band Boosters, Inc. Fees can be paid using cash, check, or credit card. We are not accepting online payments this year.**

When bought in large quantities, items such as shoes and gloves can be bought at significant savings over the price each parent or student might pay individually. Therefore, the boosters will supply those items listed above for our students at these greatly discounted prices. In addition, all of our students will be wearing the exact same shoes, etc. in order to be more uniform.

# Uniform Care Instructions

## Band Uniforms:

1. **Professionally dry clean** the uniform jacket and pants. Remove the gauntlets before sending to the cleaners.
2. Do not cut the fabric during alterations. We have parents that will volunteer to hem pants if you need assistance. Pants should not drag the ground!
3. Always hang up the uniform in a dry place after a performance to allow moisture to escape properly.
4. Always carry the uniform in a labeled garment bag and the hat in the hatbox.
5. Never wear coats, jeans, or other outer garments under your uniform.
6. Do not tumble dry or heat in any manner, such as hand ironing, blow-drying, or over a hot stove, a wet uniform garment. Hang properly and allow to air dry in ambient conditions. Follow-up promptly after air drying with professional dry cleaning and/or pressing.
7. Examine the uniform after each use for soiling, stains, etc. Abnormally stained uniform garments should be cleaned as soon as possible after the staining occurs. Do not attempt to hand clean.
8. Do not store the uniform wet. Follow-up as in no. 7 above.
9. Do not store stained uniform garment for long periods of time such as at the end of the current band season until the next season. Time tends to set stains.
10. Do not hand press for touch up. Professionally press only.

## Hats:

1. Keep in a dry place to allow the sweatband to dry. This prevents mildew and deterioration of the interior.
2. The exterior of vinyl hats can be cleaned with mild soap and water. Do not immerse in water. Do not use bleach.
3. Never wear plumes in the rain. Plume colors will run, as dye on the feather plumes will bleed when wet.
4. Be careful with the hatboxes. They are made of plastic and will crack or break easily.

## Formal Wear:

1. Girls: dresses may be washed in cold water. DO NOT PUT THEM IN THE DRYER!
2. Boys: tuxedo coat and pants must be professionally dry-cleaned. You may wash and iron the shirt or dry-clean.
3. At the end of concert season, all tuxes and dresses must be dry-cleaned before returning them to the band. This ensures that the formal attire will be clean for the next season. Anyone that does not have their formal wear dry-cleaned before returning it must pay a \$20.00 cleaning fee to the band boosters.

## Uniform Inspections

At a designated time before performances, inspections will be held to determine the appearance and readiness of each band member to perform. Items to be checked during inspection include:

1. Student is ready for rehearsal at designated time.
2. Uniform is properly worn.
3. Shoes are regulation and are cleaned. Socks must be tall and black.
4. Gloves are clean and Black.
5. Student has the proper music, accessories and equipment.
6. Mouthpiece is clean. Reed instruments have good clean reeds.
7. Instrument is shined and in good working order.
8. Visual Ensemble group members have proper make up and hair.

Failure to successfully pass all of the above items will result in 5 points being deducted from the student's 9-weeks grade. Students may also face disciplinary action, or in some instances dismissal from the game or performance until proper standards are met. If a student cannot perform because of failing inspection and not correcting the problem before performance, then that student will receive a one-letter grade deduction from their 9-weeks grade in band.



# Cullman Band Boosters Officers 2025-2026

<b>President</b>	Amber Howe
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	Stephanie Lambert
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	Jessica Akins
<b>Secretary</b>	Amanda Williams
<b>Treasurer</b>	Carole Emond
Assistant Treasurer	Amanda Corley & Jennifer Kreps
<b>Band Exhibition Coordinator</b>	Ricky Browning & Leeanna Smith
<b>Concessions</b>	Jeremy and Jessica Norris
Assistant Concessions	Ramona Evans
Assistant Concessions	Amber Allcorn
Assistant Concessions (North Stand)	Amber Howe
<b>Band Card Fundraisers</b>	Leeanna Smith & Britani Ristine
<b>Equipment/Pit Crew</b>	Ricky Browning
<b>Transportation</b>	
Assistant Transportation	Heather Livingston
<b>Chaperones</b>	Stephanie Lambert
Assistant Chaperone	Amanda Williams
<b>Uniforms CHS</b>	Britani Ristine, Leeanna Smith & Amber Howe
<b>Big Band Dance</b>	Leeanna Smith
<b>Hospitality</b>	
<b>Public Relations</b>	Ricky Browning
<b>CHS Band Handbook</b>	Christopher Smith
<b>Webmaster</b>	Christopher Smith
<b>Visual Ensemble Representative</b>	
<b>CMS Liaison</b>	

# Cullman High School Band Band Council Officers 2025-2026

**Band President**  
Dylan Tisdale

**Vice-President**  
Deytan Ristine

**Secretary**  
Jonah Browning

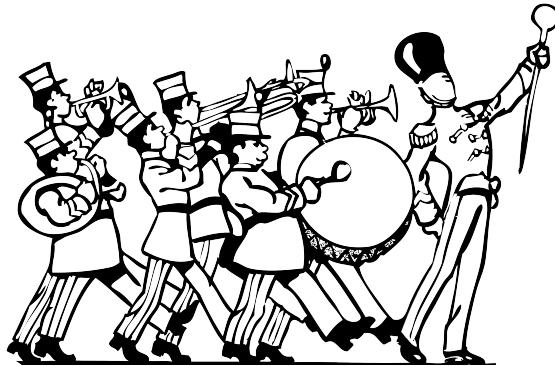
**Treasurer**  
Sophia Lambert

**Librarians**  
Sadie Chalkley  
Lexi Chadwick

**Senior Rep.**  
Valerie Hill

**Junior Rep.**  
Zarybeth Flores

**Sophomore Rep.**  
Colton Pipes



## CHS Band Calendar August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Institute Day Performance 8:00 AM	5 Rehearsal 6:00-8:30 PM	6 First Day of School	7 Rehearsal until 5:00 PM	8 Packets Due	9
10	11 Rehearsal until 5:00 PM	12 Rehearsal until 5:00 PM  <b>Band Boosters Meeting 7:00 PM</b>	13	14 Rehearsal until 5:00 PM  1 <sup>st</sup> Trip Installment Due	15	16
17	18 Rehearsal until 5:00 PM	19 Rehearsal until 5:00 PM	20	21 Rehearsal until 5:00 PM	22 Bob Jones – Home	23
24	25 Rehearsal until 5:00 PM	26 Rehearsal until 5:00 PM	27	28 Rehearsal until 5:00 PM	29 Mortimer Jordan - Away	30
31						

## CHS Band Calendar September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day No School	2 Rehearsal until 5:00 PM	3 Rehearsal until 4:30 PM	4 Rehearsal until 5:00 PM	5 Athens – Away	6
7	8 Rehearsal until 5:00 PM  Percussion Trip	9 Rehearsal until 5:00 PM  Final Trip Installment Due  <b>Band Booster Meeting 7:00 PM</b>	10	11 Rehearsal until 5:00 PM	12 Jasper - Home	13
14	15 Rehearsal until 5:00 PM	16 Rehearsal until 5:00 PM	17	18 Rehearsal until 4:30 PM  Bonfire – 6:45 PM	19 Muscle Shoals – Homecoming Halftime and Post-Game Performance	20
21	22 Rehearsal until 5:00 PM	23 Rehearsal until 5:00 PM	24	25 Rehearsal until 5:00 PM	26 Brewer - Away	27
28	29 Rehearsal until 5:00 PM	30 Rehearsal until 5:00 PM				

## CHS Band Calendar October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Hartselle – Away	3	4 <b>Cullman County Fair Parade and Band Exhibition</b>
5	6 Rehearsal Until 5:00 PM	7 Rehearsal Until 5:00 PM  <b>Band Booster Meeting 7:00 PM</b>	8	9 Rehearsal Until 5:00 PM	10 Columbia – Away	11 <b>Bobcat Marching Festival</b>
12	13 Fair Day – No School	14 Teacher Workday – No School	15 Rehearsal until 4:30 PM	16 Rehearsal Until 5:00 PM	17 Decatur – Home (Senior Rec.)	18 <b>Pell City Marching Contest</b>
19	20	21 Symphonic/Concert Band Rehearsals begin during 7 <sup>th</sup> on select days	22	23	24 Buckhorn – Away	25
26	27	28 Individual Band Picture Day	29	30	31	

## CHS Band Calendar November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 <b>Band Booster Meeting 7:00 PM</b>	5	6	7 Playoff Game	8 <b>Band Trip to Washington D.C.</b>
9 <b>Band Trip to Washington D.C.</b>	10 <b>Band Trip to Washington D.C.</b>	11 <b>Band Trip to Washington D.C.</b>  Veterans Day – No School	12 <b>Band Trip to Washington D.C.</b>	13	14 Playoff Game	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Playoff Game  Cullman Christmas Parade	22
23	24 Thanksgiving Holiday – No School	25 Thanksgiving Holiday – No School	26 Thanksgiving Holiday – No School	27 Thanksgiving Holiday – No School	28 Thanksgiving Holiday – No School	29
30						

## CHS Band Calendar December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Combined Sym/Con Rehearsals until 4:15 PM	11 <b>Christmas Concert 7:00 PM</b>	12 <b>Jazz Band Performance for School</b>	13
14	15	16	17 Semester Exams	18 Semester Exams	19 Semester Exams	20 Christmas Break Begins
21	22	23	24 Christmas	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## CHS Band Calendar January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Christmas Break – No School	2 Christmas Break – No School	3
4	5 Teacher Workday – No School	6 Classes Resume  <b>Band Booster Meeting 7:00</b>	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Cullman County Honor Band	16 Cullman County Honor Band	17
18	19 MLK Day No School	20	21	22 AMEA	23 AMEA	24 AMEA
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 All-State Auditions at Muscle Shoals High School

## CHS Band Calendar February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 <b>Band Booster Meeting 7:00</b>	4	5	6 <b>Big Band Dance 7:00 PM</b>	7
8	9	10	11	12 Visual Ensemble Organizational Meeting 3:30 PM	13 District Honor Band at Russellville HS	14 District Honor Band at Russellville HS
15	16 Presidents Day – No School	17 Sym. WW's 3:20-4:20 PM	18 Sym. Brass 3:20-4:20 PM	19	20	21 <b>Jazz Band Performance for the Lions Club</b>
22	23	24 Sym. Band 3:20-4:45 PM	25	26 <b>Symphonic Showcase Concert 7:00 PM</b>	27	28

## CHS Band Calendar March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 <b>ABA-MPA Band Contest</b>	4 <b>ABA-MPA Band Contest</b>	5 <b>ABA-MPA Band Contest</b>	6 Students Dismissed at 11:30 AM	7
8	9 Band Auditions	10 Band Auditions <b>Band Booster Meeting 7:00</b>	11 Band Auditions	12 Band Auditions	13 Band Auditions	14
15	16 Visual Ensemble Practice 3:30-5:00 PM	17 Visual Ensemble Practice 3:30-5:00 PM	18 Visual Ensemble Practice 3:30-5:00 PM	19 Visual Ensemble Practice 3:30-5:00 PM	20 Visual Ensemble Practice 3:30-5:00 PM	21
22	23 Visual Ensemble Practice 3:30-5:00 PM	24 Visual Ensemble Practice 3:30-5:00 PM	25 Visual Ensemble Practice 3:30-5:00 PM	26 Visual Ensemble & Drum Major Auditions 4:00 PM	27	28
29	30 Spring Break	31 Spring Break				

## CHS Band Calendar

**April 2026**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Spring Break	2 Spring Break	3 Spring Break	4
5	6	7 <b>Band Booster Meeting 7:00 P.M.</b>	8	9 <b>Dinner with the Drum Line 6:30 PM</b>	10 <b>Jazz Band Trip</b>	11 <b>Jazz Band Trip</b>
12	13	14	15 Drum Line Audition Clinic 3:30-4:30 PM	16 All-State	17 All-State  Deadline for Senior Baby Pics and Plans	18 All-State
19	20 Class Instrumentalist Auditions	21	22 Drum Line Audition Clinic 3:30-4:30 PM	23	24 Band Banquet Money Deadline  Band Banquet Video Picture Deadline	25
26	27 Visual Ensemble Fitting 3:15	28	29 <b>Band Election Gala 3:20-4:20 PM</b>	30 Sym. Band 3:20-5:00 PM		

## CHS Band Calendar

**May 2026**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 State Track Meet – No School	2
3	4	5	6 Sym. Band 3:20-4:45 PM	7 <b>Spring Concert 7:00 P.M. at CHS Auditorium</b>	8 Cullman Middle School Band Spring Concert 7:00 PM	9
10	11 Marching Percussion Auditions	12 Middle School Band Banquet at Charlie's Vineyard at Frost Farm 6:30 PM  Marching Percussion Auditions	13 Jazz Band Rhythm Section & Vocalist Auditions 3:30 PM	14 <b>Band Banquet at Charlie's Vineyard at Frost Farm 6:30 PM</b>	15 Jazz Band Rhythm Section Auditions 3:30 PM	16
17	18 Semester Exams	19 Semester Exams	20 Semester Exams	21 Semester Exams  Last Day of School	22 Teacher Workday  Graduation	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## CHS Band Calendar

June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	31 Brass & Woodwind Music Pick-Up Week				

## CHS Band Calendar

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Brass & Woodwind Music Pick-Up Week	2 Brass & Woodwind Music Pick-Up Week	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Battery Rehearsal 8:00-Noon  Front Ensemble Rehearsal 1:30-4:00 PM	10 Battery Rehearsal 8:00-Noon  Front Ensemble Rehearsal 1:30-4:00 PM	11
12	13 Percussion Camp Majorette Camp  Leadership Team Meeting 6:00 PM	14 Percussion Camp Majorette Camp  <b>Band Booster Meeting 7:00</b>	15 Percussion Camp Majorette Camp	16 Percussion Camp Majorette Camp	17 Percussion Camp Majorette Camp	18
19	20 Full Band Music Camp 8:00-Noon  Color Guard Camp  Percussion Camp	21 Full Band Music Camp 8:00-Noon  Color Guard Camp  Percussion Camp	22 Full Band Music Camp 8:00-Noon  Color Guard Camp  Percussion Camp	23 Full Band Music Camp 8:00-Noon  Color Guard Camp  Percussion Camp	24 Full Band Music Camp 8:00-Noon  Color Guard Camp  Percussion Camp	25
26	27 Band Camp Freshmen – Uniforms & Fees  <b>Kickoff Card Sale</b>	28 Band Camp 10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grade – Uniforms & Fees	29 Band Camp	30 Band Camp	31 Band Camp  Performance for Parents in the Stadium 7:30 PM	

♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪ QUOTES ♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪

Without music, life is a journey through a desert --**Pat Conroy**

Music creates order out of chaos: for rhythm imposes unanimity upon the divergent, melody imposes continuity upon the disjointed, and harmony imposes compatibility upon the incongruous. --**Yehudi Menuhin**

It takes a lot of devotion and work, or maybe I should say play, because if you love it, that's what it amounts to I haven't found any shortcuts, and I've been looking for a long time. --**Chet Atkins** (June 20, 1924 - June 30, 2001) Mister Guitar in Zen Guitar

It is only by introducing the young to great literature, drama and music, and to the excitement of great science that we open to them the possibilities that lie within the human spirit -- enable them to see visions and dream dreams. --**Eric Anderson**

You are the music while the music lasts.--**T.S. Eliot**

"The life of the arts far from being an interruption, a distraction, in the life of a nation, is close to the center of a nation's purpose-and is a test of the quality of a nation's civilization." --**John F. Kennedy**

"It occurred to me by intuition, and music was the driving force behind that intuition. My discovery was the result of musical perception." (When asked about his theory of relativity)

-- **Albert Einstein**

## The Value of Music Education

For centuries, music and art have been recognized as disciplines, on equal footing with mathematics, language, and the sciences as regards to the development of mental process. More recent research has shown that the study of music and in particular performance actively involves more of the domains of the brain than any other discipline. Instrumental music, particularly in an ensemble such as band or orchestra, is the purest form of mental activity. It requires more of the brain to be utilized, both right and left-brain functions, than any activity we experience in formal education. Dealing with the demands of ensemble performance and individual performance simultaneously requires that the performers manipulate visual symbolic information, interpret visual instructions from a conductor, analyze and synthesize aural information being received constantly, exhibit manual skill with the instrument, regulate their volume level and style of playing in concert with several other performers, and many other factors that all combine to become "making music."

PLATO: "Music training is a more potent instrument than any other, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul."

SHAKESPEARE: "The man that hath no music in himself...let no such man be trusted."

ERNEST BOYER (President, Carnegie Foundation): "Music gives us a language that cuts across the disciplines, helps us to see connections and brings a more coherent meaning to our world."

PAUL HARVEY (Broadcaster/commentator): "Our schools tend to refine intellects but neglect to discipline emotions. For anyone to grow up complete, music is imperative."

GREGORY ANRIG (President of Educational Testing Service): "The things I learned from my experience in music in school are discipline, perseverance, dependability, composure, courage, and pride in results. Not a bad preparation for the work force!"

JOSEPH M. CALAHAN (Director of Corporate Communications, Xerox Corporation): "Arts education aids students in skills needed in the workplace: flexibility, the ability to solve problems and communicate, the ability to learn new skills, to be creative and innovative, and to strive for excellence."

CLIFFORD V. SMITH (President of the General Electric Foundation): "GE hires a lot of engineers. We want young people who can do more than add up a string of numbers and write a coherent sentence. They must be able to solve problems, communicate ideas and be sensitive to the world around them. Participation in the arts is one of the best ways to develop these abilities."

SHIRLEY YOUNG (VP, Consumer Market Development for General Motors): "The Japanese consider the study of music important for their engineers. Playing a musical instrument involves discipline, creativity, and conceptualization. These attributes, added to engineering talent, help produce results that are not only functional but also harmonious in every way. Music reaches across cultures and needs no translation."

MUSIC is not only important... it's ESSENTIAL