

CMHS Band Department

2022-2023 Student Handbook



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Organizational Philosophy

The CMHS Band Program is composed of interested music students in grades 9 through 12 that meet the prerequisite skill levels on their instrument. Required ensembles of the program include the Marching Eagles, concert band, pep band, and smaller ensembles included during class time. Extra curricular ensembles include jazz band and chamber ensembles.

Students are expected to participate in summer band camp, before school/after school rehearsals, and performances. Students are also invited to attend special trips. Fundraising opportunities are available to assist in defraying the cost of these trips.

Members of the CMHS Band Department represent Civic Memorial High School and the community of Bethalto with positive attitudes and good sportsmanship. Our goal is to improve our skills while enjoying the many aspects that music gives to us in our daily lives. We take pride in our commitment to music and the excellence it brings to our lives.

Communication

Remind App: All important information and updates will be sent through the Remind: School Communication application. You can download it in the app/play store or click [here](#) to download.

Text @cmhsband22 to 81010 to be added to the CMHS Band Remind.

Band Website: This website is updated weekly by the band director and includes all important information. This is a useful site to save for quick reference.

cmhsbands.weebly.com

Band Facebook: We also utilize a band Facebook page that is managed by the band director. It is also a private page that you must be added to. Search for “Civic Memorial High School Band” and request to be added.

Band Guidelines

1. School guidelines apply both in the rehearsal room and at all performances. You represent the school and community of Bethalto – Go, Eagles!
2. Students must be in the room getting prepared for class/rehearsal BEFORE the tardy bell BEGINS to ring. Rehearsal time is limited and every second needs to be utilized efficiently.
3. PENCILS, MUSIC, INSTRUMENTS, SUPPLIES are **ALWAYS** required at rehearsals/performances.
4. Students are responsible for school-owned instruments, uniforms, and any other equipment assigned to them. A contract is to be signed and returned agreeing on the condition of each item on loan. If damaged, the student will be held responsible for repair costs.
5. Band uniforms WILL be worn properly in public. This is BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER performances (in the bleachers, on the field or sidelines). Black shoes/socks are **REQUIRED**. NO hat other than the band shako/tuba beret may be worn when in uniform. **We will always look the same!**

Behavior Policy

All members are expected to follow all Civic Memorial High School policies regarding appropriate student behavior. Violation of the following will be handled through existing school policy: use or possession of alcohol/tobacco products, fighting, profanity at a teacher, vandalizing, threatening others, possessing or being under the influence of a controlled substance, cheating, insubordination, stealing, skipping class, possession or discharge of fireworks, dress code violation, sexual harassment, verbal/physical assault on staff, and possession of a firearm and/or other weaponry.

Unless allowed by the instructor for special purposes, SODA, GUM, CANDY, and any other FOOD ITEMS will not be allowed inside the auditorium. Not only does this litter the area, but the sugar in such substances also increases the chances of horn deterioration and prohibits playing abilities.

Goals and Expectations

Instrumental music students in the CMHS Band will learn to

1. Make music alone and with others.
2. Care for and perform appropriate maintenance and basic repair on their instruments.
3. Tune the instrument with increasing accuracy.
4. Play the instrument with increasing technique concerning the following items:
 - a. Posture, tone, embouchure, breath control, extended range, complex articulations, agility, dynamic contrast, and stylistic fluency
5. Sight-read grade 3-3 ½ music with reasonable accuracy.
6. Play all major scales from memory. Understand and play natural minor, harmonic minor and melodic minor scales.
7. Understand and be able to perform more complex rhythms in simple/duple time signatures.
8. Follow the interpretative gestures of the conductor in the performance of increasingly advanced levels of musical composition.
9. Understand the vocabulary and notation of music at an increasingly advanced level.

On Being Late

It is the goal of the director to help instill lifelong practices in students. Being on time is one of those practices. To be early is to be on time, to be on time is late, and to be late is unacceptable. Communication if one is going to be late is a necessary skill to have. Start to build it NOW!

Disciplinary Plan

It is believed that each student has the ability to make choices: decisions on how they will live their life, and what they will make of it. The director feels that students should have the same chance to make decisions – or choices – inside the classroom. Each moment a student has to decide whether to follow the director’s wishes or to act in a disagreeable manner. Such choices from the student may be met with a reasonable reaction – or consequence – from the director.

- 1st Offense:** Verbal Warning
- 2nd Offense:** Loss of participation/rehearsal points for the day and contact with parent/guardian
- 3rd Offense:** Loss of participation/rehearsal points, asked to leave rehearsal and conference with parent/guardian
- 4th Offense:** Loss of participation/rehearsal points, asked to leave rehearsal, and conference with parent/guardian and principal.

Attendance

EXCUSED ABSENCES: This may be granted only with prior notification in writing, by phone, email, or by meeting with the parent/guardian. Communication must be received from a parent/guardian for an absence to be excused.

SCHEDULED PERFORMANCES: Students are expected to attend all scheduled performances. Students will be excused for illness (with note or call from a parent/guardian during next class attendance), death in the family, or a “once in a lifetime event.” Excused absences are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

A project will be assigned, such as a report, to assist the student in making up points lost due to the excused absence (100 points). This project will be due within **five (5)** school days after the missed performance.

School-related activities such as sporting events, PSAT, ACT testing, academic competitions, or trips will be worked out between directors/coaches.

SCHEDULED REHEARSALS: Students are expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals, as it is part of the grading average. Students will be excused for the same reasons that apply to the above in *Scheduled Performances*. There will be no make-ups for missed rehearsals, however students are expected to learn what they missed on their own time by meeting with the band director, student leader, or peer.

Unexcused Absences

WORK: Student employment is seen as a choice. Students that must work should inform their employer of their obligation to the band – especially for performances and trips. In most cases, the employer will be happy to work around the band schedule. Upon request, I can provide students with a letter for their employer validating the band's scheduled commitments. Each case will be held individually by the director.

REHEARSALS: If a student has an unexcused absence from a rehearsal, they will receive a zero for the rehearsal. If this rehearsal is prior to a performance, they will not perform. Significant changes can happen at a rehearsal and if the student is unexcused, that results in a performer being unprepared. This could be harmful to other students on the field marching.

SCHEDULED PERFORMANCES: Students that have an unexcused absence from a scheduled performance will receive a zero for that performance. Band is a team sport. It is not fair for the others who are relying on you if you do not attend the performance.

SCHEDULE CHANGES: In the event a change is made in a scheduled performance or rehearsal, students are encouraged to make every effort to adapt to that change. If ample notice of the change is not possible, the policy on absence will be adjusted accordingly. It is the policy of the band director to **inform students at least two (2) weeks in advance**, or ASAP if given short notice, of any events that will be added or dropped. Students should likewise notify the director at their earliest convenience – at least two (2) weeks in advance of absences.

Grading

Grades are based on the following assignments:

- Daily Points (5 per day)
- Playing Assignments (up to 25 points per assignment)
- Playing Tests (100 points per test)
- Music Theory worksheets/assignments (up to 25 points per assignment)
- Listening Journals (up to 25 points per assignment)
- Performances (100 points per performance)

Extra credit is offered throughout the year, typically in a volunteer of time form.

Marching Band Uniform Expectations & Care

What **you** should have:

1. Shako (hat) or beret
2. Show shirt
3. Black marching pants
4. Band jacket w/buttons
5. Black Drillmaster shoes
6. Tall, black socks (extra pair)
7. Black marching gloves

2. Pants can be hemmed to accommodate the student.
3. Keep mud and dirt swept off of pants after first allowing it to dry out, then brush the dirt off.

If your uniform becomes wet due to rain or extra moisture, **DO NOT PUT BACK IN GARMENT BAG.** Let the uniform air dry first.

TOP TO BOTTOM:

The hat is called a “Shako”:

1. Long hair neatly arranged to fit inside shako.
2. Brim of hat level at the eyebrows, not tipped back.
3. Chinstrap to rest under the chin, not across mouth.
4. Plume is straight.

The Gloves

1. Gloves are to be uniform and purchased from the director. More than one pair is recommended.
2. Clarinetists should cut off the fingers of the gloves to ensure proper finger placement on the instrument.

The Jacket:

1. The current year’s show shirt must always be worn underneath the jacket. We must all be uniform!

Shoes and Socks

1. Black marching shoes are purchased through the director and should be cleaned before and after every performance.
2. Tall, clean, black socks must be worn. More than one pair is recommended.

The Pants

1. Pants should touch the back of the heel when standing up straight. Do not let them touch the ground.

CARE TIPS

Shako: You should wipe the inside and outside of the hat often with a damp cloth using a mild soap. Be sure to dry with a soft cloth and air out the hat before you put it away. Sweat can make your hat smell very bad. Plumes should be kept in the plume case. If they get damp or wet be sure they are air-dried to get rid of the moisture.

Uniform Jacket & Pants: The uniform should always be hung up after every performance. When uniforms get wet, hang them to dry as soon as possible OUTSIDE OF THE garment bag - try to use plastic or a good wooden hanger for your uniform. Metal will rust on the uniform. You can brush the dirt from your uniform with a garment brush. Do this after every performance. The band will dry clean the uniforms at the end of each year. If your uniform is in need of minor repairs or mending, bring it to the attention of the director. Do not attempt to repair the uniform yourself. **DO NOT WASH OR DRY-CLEAN YOUR UNIFORM ON YOUR OWN.**

Concert Band Uniform

Students of the concert band may wear uniforms, or all black, as instructed by the director. If in all black, the following guidelines are expected to be followed:

Females

- Option 1: Black blouse, black slacks (NOT leggings/tights), black socks, black dress shoes (short heel and no open toe)
- Option 2: Black blouse, black skirt (at least knee length), black tights/leggings underneath skirts, black dress shoes (short heel and no open toe)
- Option 3: Black dress (at least knee length), black tights/leggings underneath the dress, black dress shoes (short heel and no open toe)

Males

- Option 1: Black shirt, black tie, black slacks, black socks, black dress shoes
- Option 2: Black polo, black slacks, black socks, black dress shoes

Although not a rule, please be considerate of the fact that bands have to breathe deeply; when applying perfume or cologne, a little will go a long way!

JEANS AND TENNIS/CASUAL SHOES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED FOR ANY PERFORMANCE. YOU CAN ALWAYS USE YOUR MARCHING BAND SHOES IF YOU HAVE NO OTHER OPTION!

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. You are not permitted to wear jewelry on any visible part of your body when in uniform.
2. No one other than yourself is responsible for your valuables. DO NOT WEAR THEM.
3. Make-up should be understated/not worn when in uniform.
4. Nail polish should not be visible when in uniform.

Transportation

Students are expected to travel with the band to and from all activities. In the event a parent finds it necessary to drive a student to/from an activity (where group transportation is provided), the following policy will apply.

1. Students may not drive themselves to and from school-sponsored activities where bus transportation is provided.
2. Students may not drive other students or ride with other students.
3. Parents/guardians picking up their own child(ren) must communicate with the director BEFOREHAND.
4. Students who are riding with a friend's parent must give the band director a note from both parents/guardians BEFOREHAND.

Student Leaders

There is a hierarchy in the band program, especially at the high school level. The chain of command starts with the directors and adult staff. Auditioned and selected student leaders are next. Following are the general duties of each position of leadership within the band program.

Drum Major(s): The Drum Major(s) are responsible for conducting and leading the band during marching season. They will take their direction only from the director during this time. All drum majors must understand that no matter what other activities they may be involved in, the band must be their primary concern during the fall semester. Drum Majors must also agree to attend a drum major camp the summer before their term. Auditions are held in the spring before the upcoming fall and those auditioning must have one year of marching experience.

Equipment Managers: Two/three people – one/two equipment – one uniform – to check that each student has the correct uniform/equipment before any performance. (any grade.)

Student Leaders: Any interested person of a section will apply and interview for this based on playing skills and application. These leaders will be given the responsibility for the playing/marching ability of their respective sections. It will be their duty to ensure that every member of their section is doing his/her best as a member of the group. Student leaders will be appointed for marching band and principal players will be appointed by playing tests for concert band.

CMHS Band & Choir End-of-Year Banquet

There will be an End of the Year Band and Choir Banquet held in May of every year to recognize our student musicians. At this banquet, the following awards will be distributed:

All first-year members of the band will receive a Certificate of Appreciation.
All second-year members of the band will receive a letter and their instrument pin.
All third-year members of the band will receive a Service Plaque.
All four-year members of the band will receive a CMHS Band Blanket.

All first-year members of the color guard will receive a letter.
All second-year members of the color guard will receive a flag pin.
All third-year members of the color guard will receive a Service Plaque.
All four-year members of the color guard will receive a CMHS Color Guard Blanket.

John Philip Sousa Award: The John Philip Sousa Award will be awarded to the top senior for outstanding skills in musicianship, performance, leadership, and quality of commitment. It will be awarded in the spring and the director chooses only one senior.

Arion Award: The Arion Award will be awarded to the most outstanding junior for growth in skills in musicianship, performance, leadership, and quality of commitment. The director will award it in the spring. Only one junior will be selected and is asked to perform a concerto with the concert band the following year as a senior in the spring concert.

Louis Armstrong Award: The Louis Armstrong Award will be given to the top jazz performer the year. Only one student may be chosen. It is based on improvisational skills, performance, leadership, and quality of commitment. The student of choice may be of any academic grade level.

Arion Award: The Arion Award is a student-voted award given out to a junior musician. This junior musician will show integrity, musical ability, and skill, and has contributed to the band in a positive and meaningful way. The student receiving this award as a junior will perform an instrumental solo with the band at their senior spring concert.

Other Awards

Other awards will be distributed as Most Outstanding Freshman, Most Outstanding Sophomore, Most Outstanding Junior, Most Outstanding Senior, Most Improved, and Most Spirited.