

FORWARD

The Cushing Band handbook is dedicated to you, the band members of Cushing Independent School District. It has been prepared with the hope that it will become a guide through which you will become better equipped in the basic fundamentals of being an outstanding band member.

Read it carefully, know its contents from cover to cover, and keep it in a safe place for reference throughout this year.

PHILOSOPHY

The purpose of music education in the curriculum can be properly understood only as a part of an aesthetic education, and an aesthetic education can be properly understood only as a part of the education of the whole child.

The emotional, creative, social, and cultural expressions of people are common denominators in all of us. If education is devoted to the development of the whole person, it must be concerned with the aesthetic qualities of man.

The function of music education in the curriculum should therefore be clear as a requirement for the total development of all students. We must feel as well as think; we must create as well as discover, and as educators, we must cultivate in the child sensitivity to the world of sound, form, color, emotions, and spiritual involvement, just as we intellectually must make him aware of language, symbols, and other tools of thought.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

It is the responsibility of the music education program in schools to bring to every child the deepest possible understanding and realization of his full potential through awareness of self-expression, emotional well-being, and an appreciation through participation.

Increased pressures for scholastic excellence and individual accomplishment further increase the need for music education in the curriculum. Today, more than ever before, music education is important to the mental and physical stability of people.

One of the objectives of music education is the fostering of interest in the personal benefits of self-made music as a form of expression, a means of an emotional outlet, a wholesome use of leisure time, and a contributing factor in the development of mental awareness and a well-rounded character.

A prime objective of music in education is to develop students who can take the whole experience of the band program and apply these skills in the pursuit of their life goals. We also strive to produce musically sensitive, intelligent adults who fully appreciate the significant contribution that music can make to the individual, and ultimately to the community.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The success of any good organization is due mainly to the commitment of its participants to attend all functions that are scheduled. Therefore, attendance at sectionals, rehearsals, and performances is mandatory.

Students will be notified of all events in advance. Calendars are issued to students prior to each school year to circumvent potential conflicts with employers, other organizations, and/or family functions. We make every effort to keep you informed well in advance of an event. Playoff games cannot be anticipated, but we must have all band students at these games.

Any absence or tardy should be communicated to the director prior to the event. Absences will be excused and grades can be made up if you are absent due to an illness, or a death in the immediate family. You are expected to play your instrument if you are at school unless you have a note from your doctor. If at all possible, doctor and dental appointments should be scheduled as not to conflict with band. A student that is absent has an adverse effect on the whole group. All absences, excused or unexcused, must be reported to the band director prior to the absence if at all possible. Band hall telephone number – 936.326.4890 x227.

ELIGIBILITY AND TUTORIALS

To be in compliance with state law, students who become ineligible are not allowed to perform at events that are competitive or that charge admission. During marching season, these students will become alternates until they regain their eligibility. These students will work on marching fundamentals and playing. Eligible bandsmen will be worked into the drill as positions open. Remember, your success is our primary concern. Please take care of your education.

CONDUCT

Because of the many contacts a Cushing band member makes in public, he/she must act as a goodwill ambassador for the Cushing Independent School District. It is expected that each student act like a lady or gentlemen at all times. Loud and boisterous conversations do not convey to the public that which typifies the Cushing Schools, and are thus discouraged. Always conduct yourself as a person with true "class".

No band member shall knowingly possess, use, transmit, or be under the influence of any controlled substance while at any band function. A controlled substance includes marijuana, illegal drugs, alcohol, and inhalants.

Criminal activity conducted outside of the band class will not be tolerated. Students who have been convicted of crimes deemed significant by the director and administration could be subject to disciplinary action or potential loss of membership.

Students who use tobacco products while under the supervision of CISD band staff will be subject to disciplinary action at the discretion of the director within district policy.

All band members are obligated to note any act of misconduct and call it to the attention of the person involved immediately. If it becomes necessary to correct the same individual the second time, it shall be reported to a band director for immediate action.

Band members are encouraged to cultivate an attitude of good discipline and attention during rehearsal. Each rehearsal should be a musical learning experience for each student. Each performance will be as good as its best rehearsal. Constant disturbance by any band member in rehearsal shows a lack of interest and respect to the band.

Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated by any student toward any authority figure. Disrespectful conduct is identified as any verbal, physical, or visual inappropriate behavior.

Use discretion when changing into your uniform for a performance. Never expose undergarments in public, including on the bus or a parking lot. Use restrooms or other approved facilities if necessary.

Probationary period is defined as a designated span of time in which a student must comply with all behavior expectations as defined in the band handbook and the CISD student code of conduct. If at this time a student violates any policy, he/she will be removed from the band program immediately.

Disciplinary measures can include and are not limited to verbal reprimand, writing assignments, removal from class, isolation, after school detention, suspension of privileges, probation, removal from performances, removal from band, and other corrective measures deemed appropriate by the district and band director.

BAND REHEARSAL GUIDELINES

1. Gum, candy, food, and drinks are not allowed.
2. Horseplay will not be acceptable at any time.
3. Get a drink of water and go to the restroom prior to rehearsal.
4. Check your instrument before rehearsal and get it fixed at that time. Have necessary supplies (reed, valve oil, etc.) before rehearsal begins.
5. Get all notes signed before or after rehearsal.
6. Be in your chair with your instrument and everything you need (music, pencil, good reeds, etc.) before the scheduled rehearsal time. Do not have extra personal things at your chair or instrument cases. Leave these in your assigned instrument slot.
7. Do not get out of your chair for any reason after rehearsal begins unless it is an emergency and you have asked for and received permission from the director.
8. If your instrument will not work during rehearsal, wait until after rehearsal to get it fixed. Sit, finger the part and listen to instructions. When you realize that there is an instrument problem, report it to a director as soon as possible –before school- so he/she can try to get it fixed for rehearsal. If a woodwind is taken to the shop for repairs, make sure to remove the mouthpiece, ligature, and reeds. If you have these items, you can play a temporary instrument that a director issues to you.
9. When the director stops the band, it is to give instruction for the benefit of the band; give the director your undivided attention at all times.
10. Do not distract class during rehearsal for any reason, except to ask the director about the music or instructions that have been given. Most importantly, actively listen to the director.
11. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in a verbal reprimand, student/teacher conference, teacher/parent conference, loss of chair placement, assignment of a written report, or other behavior modification techniques at the discretion of the band director within district policy.

STADIUM GUIDELINES

1. All band members are required to perform at all games with the band. If you are at a game, out of uniform, and are eligible this act will be considered a severe violation of several policies. You will be subject to discipline at the discretion of the director, within district policy, which may include immediate dismissal from the band program.
2. You are performing as soon as you enter the stadium. People are watching you; therefore, image is important.
3. You will have assigned seats in the stadium. You will remain in your assigned area during the game.
4. When the band plays, everyone is expected to play. Always be ready to do your job. Do not stop playing until the band finishes.
5. Take your music and flip folder to the stands. A lyre is recommended to help you manage your music.
6. When the team scores, the band may celebrate after we play the "Fight Song".
7. There are to be no soft drinks in the stands. We will provide water if needed.
8. Do not eat in uniform unless instructed to. This eliminates the possibility of spills on uniforms and will keep foreign matter from being blown into your instrument.
9. Stay in complete uniform unless instructed otherwise by the director.

Failure to adhere to these policies will result in disciplinary action(s) to be determined by the band director. Your cooperation is of the utmost importance. Please remember, if you exercise self-discipline, the directors will never have to use any discipline.

BEARKAT BAND BUS BEHAVIOR

1. Follow instructions concerning what to wear for bus trips. (Full uniform, worn properly, is required at all times when off the bus unless other instructions are given by the director.)
2. Walk to enter any cafeteria or restaurant. Any specific order of loading or unloading will be announced at the appropriate time.
3. Leave the first seats on either aisle empty for chaperones.
4. Hang your uniform bag or lay it flat in a seat. The uniform bag will not protect a uniform from being wrinkled if it is not handled properly.
5. Silence is required during roll checks or when instructions are being given by the director, band officer, chaperon, or bus driver.
6. Stay seated while the bus is moving.
7. Keep hands, arms, and heads inside the windows. On charter buses, do not open any windows without the permission of the bus driver.
8. Do not try to communicate with anyone outside the bus. If it is necessary, you will be allowed to get off the bus to talk to parents or other people.
9. Small audio devices are permissible only with headphones, and the volume must be turned down so that only the user can hear it.
10. No singing, yelling or cheering is allowed on the bus. Save it for the stands and pep rallies.
11. Talking is allowed at mezzo forte levels, with the following exceptions:
 - A. While a bus is in town, volume must decrease to mezzo piano.
 - B. When the bus enters the parking area, all talking must cease so the bus driver can hear instructions.
12. Eating and/or drinking on a bus is a privilege that we enjoy as long as we meet our responsibilities in keeping the bus clean. Dispose of all trash in a garbage can. If you drop a food item or trash on the floor, pick it up. We want the bus to be as clean or cleaner after our trip is completed. The only drinks charter bus companies allow are screw top plastic bottles.
13. Be considerate of other people. Talk quietly.
14. When leaving a bus, be sure all windows are closed. After returning to school, double check to be sure you unloaded all of your personal belongings and instrument. These items should be put in the assigned areas or taken home to

practice. Charter bus windows are never to be opened unless directed by the bus driver or chaperones.

15. If you are not returning home with the band, you may be released to your parents. Your parents need to come to the bus and sign you out with a director or chaperon. If your parents want you to leave with someone else, they will need to send a note stating who you are to be released to one day prior to the trip. People to whom you may be released to are: other band parents, adult family members or other school personnel. That person will have to come to the bus and sign you out. Please do not ask the directors to vary this procedure.
16. Our parent chaperons are our guests, who are here to help. You should act in a positive, respectful, polite manner to them at all times.
17. As a representative of the BEARKAT BAND, you are judged by everyone all the time, wherever you are. Your actions reflect on the Bearkat Band, Cushing High School, and our community.

OVERNIGHT TRIPS

Some band activities require overnight stays. The following guidelines, in addition to the student code of behavior, apply.

1. Boys are not allowed to enter girls' rooms and girls are not allowed to enter boys' rooms at any time. No one from outside of our group is allowed to enter any student room.
2. Curfew means to be in your room and to remain there with the door closed until a designated time. If there is a problem, contact the band director or chaperon, but do not leave your room.

TRIP DEPARTURE & ARRIVALS

All band students will travel with the band to band events. Written notification of trip departures and estimated time of return to Cushing will be given to your child the week of the activity. Please make arrangements to pick up your child in a timely manner.

PERFORMANCE POLICY

All students will be given the opportunity to perform with the band. However, there are circumstances under which a student may not be allowed to perform:

1. Failure to perform music or marching fundamentals at acceptable levels.
2. Students who miss or are tardy to rehearsals.
3. Ineligibility (No Pass, No Play state law).

MARCHING ALTERNATES

It is the desire of the band department to include all students in every marching performance and every effort will be made to do so. However, since the adoption of the "No Pass, No Play" rule, it has been necessary to chart marching drills for fewer players than are on the roster, thus, not all students march at every performance. Students may be chosen as alternates if they have difficulty in academics, have difficulty marching or playing or if they have absences/tardies. Alternates can earn a spot in the marching drill as positions become available by demonstrating playing/marching improvement, maintaining a passing status, maintaining good attendance habits and maintaining a good attitude. Alternates are valuable band members and are expected to participate in all rehearsals and performances.

EXTRA REHEARSALS

Like many extra-curricular programs, to be successful, we must rehearse outside of the designated class room time. During marching season, the band has evening rehearsals on Mondays from 5:00pm-8:00pm, Tuesdays from 5:00pm-8:00pm, and Thursdays from 5:00pm-8:00pm. These rehearsals are mandatory and end after UIL marching contest.

Extra rehearsals may be scheduled in addition, especially the closer we get to contest dates. Parents and students will be notified well in advance of these rehearsals so the appropriate arrangements can be made to be in attendance.

All students are required to attend all rehearsals. Refer to the Attendance policy for more information. Failure to attend rehearsals could result in a loss of chair placement, marching placement, grade reduction, and other consequences within policy.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone:

CHS Band Office (936) 326-4890 x227
Mr. Applegate (940) 367-8662

E-Mail:

Mr. Applegate – dapplegate@cushingisd.org

We reserve the right in our sole discretion to make changes from time to time and without notice as to ensure that appropriate measures regarding policy can be made which are overlooked or not included within the specific constraints of the aforementioned policies. This disclaimer is written only for director flexibility for actions that need to be taken for the health of the program and for the sake of each student respectively (as it pertains to behavior issues, disciplinary measures, and unforeseen events). It is intended to be exercised only in situations that need to be addressed and corrected which are not included in the handbook.

Parent/Student UIL Marching Band Acknowledgement Form

No student may be required to attend practice for marching band for more than eight hours of rehearsal outside the academic day per calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). This provision applies to students in all components of the marching band.

On performance days (football games, competitions and other public performances), bands may hold up to one additional hour of warm-up and practice beyond the scheduled warm-up time at the performance site. Multiple performances on the same day do not allow for additional practice and/or warm-up time.

Examples of Activities Subject To the UIL Marching Band Eight Hour Rule.

- Marching Band Rehearsal (Both Full Band And Components)
- Any Marching Band Group Activity
- Breaks
- Announcements
- Debriefing And Viewing Marching Band Videos
- Playing Off Marching Band Music
- Marching Band Sectionals (Both Director And Student Led)
- Clinics For The Marching Band Or Any Of Its Components

The Following Activities Are Not Included In The Eight Hour Time Allotment:

- Travel Time To and From Rehearsals And/Or Performances
- Rehearsal Set-Up Time
- Pep Rallies, Parades and Other Public Performances
- Instruction and Practice for Music Activities Other Than Marching Band And Its Components

NOTE: An extensive Q&A for the Eight Hour Rule for Marching Band can be found on the Music Page of the UIL Web Site at: <http://www.uil texas.org/music/>

By signing the Bearkat Band Handbook acknowledgement Form, you agree to: “Read and understand the Eight-Hour Rule for Marching Band as stated above and agree to abide by these regulations.”

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This acknowledges receipt of the Cushing Bearkat Band Handbook. The handbook should be kept for reference throughout the year for both parents and student. In accepting this band handbook, I state that I will comply with the guidelines and policies as laid out in the Band handbook and accept the privileges and responsibilities as a member of the Cushing Band Program and promise to uphold in my actions and attitudes those qualities which will honor the band and school.

Student Name (Printed): _____

Signed: _____
Student

Signed: _____
Parent/Guardian

Date: _____