

CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

Handbook

Introduction:

As a member of the Clinton High School Band, you will have responsibilities and obligations to meet. I expect you to do your part – be at rehearsals, participate in fundraisers, practice individually, etc. ... Most of all, I expect that in everything you do, both inside and outside the band, you will strive for excellence. I want the best for YOU and that is the reason I demand YOUR best. You have the opportunity to enjoy some great times as part of this band and I look forward to sharing them with you.

Explanation of Handbook:

The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint all members of the Clinton High School Band with the policies and procedures of the organization. The policies included in this handbook are intended to promote respect and cooperation among the director, students, staff, and parents. All students and parents should read the handbook thoroughly in order to understand what is expected of each member.

Philosophy:

It is my goal to have every student in the Clinton High School Band develop a lifelong appreciation for the value of music. Since most of you will not become professional musicians, this may be your best opportunity to be in the spotlight and be recognized as an outstanding performer. I want that once in a lifetime opportunity to be the best experience for you, so I do expect that you will give it your all in both rehearsals and performances.

Through rehearsal situations, I hope to instill in each student a strong sense of self-discipline, self-motivation, and an inner drive for excellence in everything you do. The ability to excel at anything you choose to do in life is the most important thing you can take from this experience. I want you to gain the self-confidence to know that there is nothing you can't achieve if you are willing to utilize all your talents and work hard enough and long enough.

Through social relationships within the band, I hope you develop lifelong memories and friendships that are bonded by the adversities you will face and overcome together. In summary, I want you to be able to view band as an experience that had a positive affect on your life for years to come.

General Rules and Policies:

Because of my determination to make this a positive experience for all CHS band members, there are certain rules and guidelines that must govern each student's behavior, choices, and activities. Since this is not a required activity, band students will be held to higher standards than that which is expected of the general student body. All the policies found in the Clinton High School student handbook as well as other school or Board of Education rules and policies apply to all band functions. This includes all rehearsals, activities, and performances. The band is a reflection of the school and community so each of you will be held to high standards.

- Attitude:

One of the keys to being successful at ANYTHING is having a positive attitude. It is essential that all band members cooperate positively with the director, staff, parents, and students alike. Always be respectful; never attempt to resolve any differences you may have with a staff-member, parent, or student through non-compliance. See Mr. Jordan ASAP to discuss the issue and find a resolution.

- Attendance:

Band is unique in that it is both a course offered for credit as well as an extracurricular activity. Students and parents must understand that meeting the requirements of the course includes mandatory attendance at all after-school and in-school rehearsals and performances. The schedule for these rehearsals may vary according to weather, competition schedule, etc. ... However, every effort will be made to keep changes to the announced schedule to a minimum! Our schedule will be published in a calendar provided to students in advance. Parents should make note of this and request to see this calendar.

- After-School/In-School/Out-of-School Rehearsals, Camps, and Performances:

Rehearsals are a necessary part of every band program. The rehearsal schedule will be published before the end of the school year and provided to both students and parents. Attendance at ALL rehearsals is MANDATORY for membership and full credit in the course! Excused absences will of course be taken into account. Appropriate attire should be worn to all rehearsals... (Tennis shoes, socks, comfortable shirt and pants). No tight clothing, dresses, flip-flops, heels, or dress shoes! School dress code applies at all rehearsals.

- **Excused Absences:**

Excused absences include: Personal serious illness or injury, serious illness or injury of a member of the immediate family, or a death in the immediate family. Excuses must be in writing, signed by a parent or guardian, and may be verified by phone in certain situations. Family vacations are not acceptable excuses for absences from any band function!

- **Scheduled Appointments:**

Since the band schedule is available in advance, it is expected that every effort will be made to schedule necessary doctor or dental appointments around scheduled band functions. When unavoidable, these appointments will only be excused with a note from the doctor's or dentist's office provided notification was given to Mr. Jordan in advance.

- **Part Time Jobs/Other Extra-Curricular Activities:**

I understand that many students may hold part time jobs or participate in other extra-curricular activities in addition to band activities. I understand that there may be times when conflicts arise. Every effort will be made to work with those concerning schedules, but the integrity of the performing ensemble must be kept foremost in the director's priorities. If a job or other activity causes too many conflicts, the student may be asked to choose between the job/activity and membership in the band. This decision will be made at the discretion of Mr. Jordan, the principal, and the concerning parent(s)/guardian(s)!

- **Disciplinary Action:**

A successful band hinges on the self-discipline of each student involved. A strict adherence to rehearsal etiquette will be required of all band students due to the large class size and high expectations I have for you. Major disruptions and violations of Clinton High School policies will result in office referrals. Tardies and absences will also be reported to the office.

Grading Policy:

Memorizing and passing-off music or guard choreography will be a large part of your grade during the fall semester. Failing to pass-off even a portion of the music or guard choreography could result in a low or failing grade in band. Attendance at rehearsals, camps, football games, competitions, Band Day, parades, and concerts will be part of your grade as well. Unexcused absences to any of the before listed could result in a low or failing grade.

Performance Opportunities:

- Football Games:

The marching band will be present at all home football games and possibly some away games. Attendance by all band members at football games is mandatory as the band does perform during pregame, in the stands, and at halftime. The marching band's presence at away football games will be determined by the importance of the game, availability of funds, travel distance, and by the request of administration. All football game dates and call times will be listed on the band calendar.

- Band Competitions:

The marching band will participate in three to five band competitions during the fall; attendance by all members is of course mandatory. Band competitions are always on Saturdays, usually begin with an early Saturday morning rehearsal, involve a great deal of travel via activity buses, and are usually all-day AND all-night events! Band competition times and dates will be scheduled in advance and listed on the band calendar.

- Clinton Band Day:

The CHS band will host our own band competition in October. The band will perform in exhibition after the competitive band performances. This event requires a lot of people to work voluntarily. Band students and band parents will be needed to operate different jobs around campus that day. This is typically an all-day AND all-night event; attendance is mandatory for all band members! Dates and times for Band Day will be posted to the band calendar.

- Parades:

The marching band will perform in the annual Clinton Christmas Parade and may perform in others as the schedule permits. Band member attendance is mandatory. All parade dates and times will be listed on the band calendar.

- Winter Concert:

The winter concert will be held in December prior to winter break. Rehearsals for this concert will take place during band class on school days once the traditional marching band season is over in November. Attendance at the concert for band students is mandatory. Dates and times for the winter concert will be listed on the band calendar.

- All-District and All-State bands:

CHS band students are encouraged to audition for the Southeastern All-District band clinics. Students who are accepted into the All-District Band with high enough placement in their section will be eligible to audition for the North Carolina All-State Honors Band. These clinics are rewarding musical opportunities for students! Audition and clinic dates will be posted to the band calendar.

Section Leaders:

Student leadership within the band is extremely important and can directly affect the degree of success that you all will achieve. Student leaders in the band are expected to assume some extra responsibilities separate from the given responsibilities held by them and the general band population. Responsibility should not be confused with authority! These leaders are expected to carry out their duties in a professional and positive manner and will be held to the highest standards, as they are the role models for the rest of the band. If a problem arises with the way a leader is conducting their office, it should be reported to Mr. Jordan at the first available opportunity. There will be no tolerance for abuse of these positions! Student leaders can be removed from their position for any discipline infraction listed in the Clinton High School discipline policy, handbook, or band handbook.

Color Guard:

Although the color guard students meet during a different class period and often rehearse separately from the brass, woodwind, and percussion sections they are still considered band members and will be held to the same high standards. Color guard members will abide the same general rules and grading policies listed in the band handbook.

Uniforms, Band Attire, and School Instruments:

Uniforms for the instrumental members of the band are provided through the school. Students will not take these uniforms home except on rare occasions. They will be stored at the band room and students will dress for performances upon arrival. Students will be required to purchase standardized shoes, gloves, and a band t-shirt to be worn with the uniform. Color guard members may have different uniforms from year-to-year that may not be covered by the school or booster organization. Appropriate black or white socks will be worn with the band uniform. No jewelry will be worn with the band or guard uniform. All band uniforms, instruments, and equipment will be registered to each student during the semester of use. All items will be returned for inventory at the end of the semester. All items not returned or damaged will become the financial responsibility of the student.

Fundraisers:

It is necessary every year to hold fundraisers to supplement the band's normal budget from the school board in order to maintain the level of activity the program is accustomed to. Every band member will participate in all fundraisers approved by the administration and band boosters.

Parental Involvement:

I understand that all parents want what is best for their child. In order to provide the best experience possible for your child, we need to have a strong booster organization. It is hoped that all parents will actively participate in this group. It is impossible to provide the best opportunities for the students when only a few people are available to help. The band booster organization meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM in the CHS band room. Your attendance at meetings is important, but your participation in the booster activities is vital!

Closing:

It is my hope that everyone involved in the Clinton High School Band: staff, students, and parents, have a positive experience. By pulling together for the overall good of the band, this will be easily attained. I look forward to making some fantastic memories with all of you!

Sincerely,

Mr. Jordan