

# Handbook

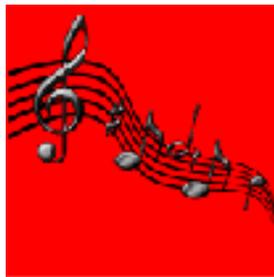
Director: Brandon Linkous

## **Introduction**

**Welcome to the band program at Cherokee High School!** We are excited that you have decided to become a member of the band program. The following materials will provide you with all the necessary information for you and your child to become familiar with band program.

I am excited for the opportunity to be able to make music with your students. Playing music is a great way for your student to have a creative outlet through the art of music. In music, we will apply all aspects of knowledge to educate your student into a well-rounded musician. Math, Science, History, Culture, and Art are just a few of the many aspects that can be engaged in while teaching music. Being a member of the band can provide many opportunities for your student, from performances, trips, and the social aspect of sharing time with friends making music!

The vision of the Cherokee Band is to inspire young musicians. We strive for a fun and interactive environment so that all can succeed and enjoy the art of music. We educate students in music, so that they may carry on this knowledge for enjoyment, or a possible career.



## **General Band Information**

### **The High School Program**

The school will provide at no cost, the instruction of all band instruments during regular and after school hours. If possible, it is best if the families can provide instruments, with exception of some of the larger instruments and percussion. Instruments that will not be provided by the school are: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, and Trombone. If your student is a percussionist, they are required to provide sticks and mallets, and other possible percussion related equipment. There are some instruments that will be provided by the school due to their high cost: Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, French Horn, Baritone(Euphonium), and Tuba. Families are also expected to provide the necessary instruction books and supplies needed to play the school-owned instruments.

## **Program Structure**

The band programs here at CHS consist of two main parts: Concert Band and Marching Band.

### **The Concert Band**

The foundation of the music education experience at Cherokee is established in the concert band courses. As a continuation from middle school band, the high school concert band takes the essential musical skills learned in middle school and combines them with advanced techniques, musical experiences, and performance opportunities. It is in this setting that music principles and fundamentals are taught, practiced, and developed. Therefore, participation in all other aspects of the band program is centered off the principles learned in this class.

### **The Cherokee Marching Band / Color Guard**

The Cherokee Marching Band, which includes the color guard, begins rehearsing in the summer and continues through the football season. Performances include all home and away football games, pep rallies, parades, and competitions. This ensemble is unquestionably the most visible performance group in high school.

The marching band is a curricular activity open to any current ninth through twelfth grade band student. Because the activity is a direct product of the skills that are developed in the band curriculum, only students currently enrolled in a band class and have paid the marching band fee are eligible to march. Students with scheduling problems should contact the band office. If a director determines that a student has a valid scheduling problem which can not be overcome through the cooperative efforts of the student and guidance office, the student may be allowed to participate in the marching band in an after-school capacity only, receiving no school credit.

The marching activity is a demanding activity, both musically and physically. All participants must commit themselves to maintaining high musical performance standards as well as good physical conditioning.

## **Musical Development**

### **Individual Practice**

This is absolutely essential to improving as a player with daily practice on your instrument. Your homework for band is to practice. It is important that you practice every day. Also when you are practicing you should pace yourself, do not rush; it will not be as productive. Instead, take breaks when you need to. It will help mentally and physically during your practice session to make it much more productive. Be sure that you establish yourself some type of warm-up. Try to have a set time you're going to practice so that it will become routine. Work on all aspects of playing your instrument along with whatever the assigned practice may have been for the day.

### **Private Lessons**

Private lessons are a great way to help your student achieve their highest potential on his/her instrument. There are numerous private teachers in the area for all instruments. If you or your child is interested in taking private lessons, please contact the band director for a list of appropriate instructors for your child's instrument.

### **Upgrading Your Instrument**

As you progress as a musician you will need better equipment to reach your full potential. The instruments that you started on could soon become the hinder to you being able to reach your full potential. If you cannot afford another instrument talk to the band director or staff to find out about other options such as: mouthpiece, reeds, ligatures etc. With any change you want to make be sure to consult with the band director.

## **Band Camp**

Band camp is during the summer months and is held at CHS. There will be a week in the early summer for the Freshman, Percussion, and Guard. This week is to get all involve up to the performance level that they should be at the start of band camp. Actual band camp is in July for one week. Students will be at the school Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 8am to 5pm, and Tuesday and Thursday 8am-9pm. The students will be given an hour and fifteen minute lunch break every day, and a two hour dinner break on Tuesday and Thursday. This is a very physically demanding week. It is important that you get yourself outside and used to being in the weather so that you can work at your full potential.

## **Participation in Other Programs**

Students are highly encouraged to be involved in as much as possible in their high school years. While being a member of the band they can still be a member of sports teams, cheerleading, dance, and clubs if they choose. The teachers and coaches will negotiate terms that allow the students to fully participate in each activity. However, it is the student's responsibility to notify the teachers of any conflicts.

## **Band Related Expenses**

Once a member of the program you will be required to pay the Marching band fee once a year. You also will have to pay for any trips the band may travel on if you choose to do so. You will need to purchase the list of needed items presented later in this handbook. You will need supplies to have a correctly functioning instrument.

## **Instruments**

It is essential that you have a good quality well working instrument. If your instrument is in need of repair or is lacking the quality needed for you to succeed in band the repair or replacement must be done prior to the start of band camp.

Larger instruments: Tubas, percussion, etc, may be rented from the band for a small fee. This fee is used for maintaining the school owned instruments. If you choose to not pay the fee the student will be responsible for any damages or maintenance the instrument may receive while in possession of the student. If you have paid you will owe nothing!

## **Fundraising**

Students will be involved in one or two fundraisers per year. The funds will be used for new equipment, visiting instructors, office supplies, parties, newsletters, financial aid for students, etc. You may choose for your child not to participate in the fundraisers, and if so we highly encourage you to donate to the Cherokee band program.

## **Payment Information**

All checks for fees, etc. should be made out to the Cherokee High School Band Boosters. Checks should then be placed in a clearly labeled envelope and either be mailed to the Band Boosters P.O. Box or given to the band director for logging. Any monies given to the band director will be placed in a lock box in the band office for the treasurer to pick up. Receipts will be returned to the students after the treasurer has collected the money.

## **Parent Involvement**

Our parent organization is vital to the operation of the Cherokee High School Band program. We need everyone's participation in order to be successful. Even if your time is very limited, there are numerous ways in which you can help to make the Cherokee Band Program even better! Your talents and abilities are greatly needed and appreciated.

Band Booster meetings are on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00pm in the CHS Band room. The best way to stay informed and avoid confusion and/or miscommunication is to be at the booster meetings, hear the facts for yourself, and ask questions.

## **Band Policies**

### **Grading**

Most students in the band will receive an “A” as long as they follow the rules, practice, and show up with all necessary equipment to class. Most of your student’s progress will occur within your home. It is important that the parents take an active role in their student’s progress in practicing.

### **Participation**

In the music classroom, students learn through experience. In band, students learn and grow by playing their instruments and actively participating in classroom activities. This type of learning cannot be “made-up”. Thus, full participation in the classroom is essential for musical growth.

Students will be evaluated on their level of participation in the classroom on a daily basis. Active and full involvement in the rehearsal process is expected. Through observation the instructor will evaluate the individual student’s participation and preparedness. Failure to fully participate in class by coming unprepared or not actively participating will result in a lower daily grade.

### **Performance Tests and Projects**

Student performance will be periodically evaluated through both “live” and “recorded” performance tests. These tests will measure student progress towards attainment of specific musical goals. Material for these tests will include both musical examples from the literature being performed and fundamental exercises such as scales, arpeggios, technique exercises, etc.

The grades will be determined by the following breakdown:

Performances- 40% After-School Rehearsals- 40% Participation- 10% Test/Quizzes- 10%

### **Marching Band Pass-Offs**

Pass-offs is designed to insure that all players have memorized their music. All section members must play each piece of music by memory with few mistakes to pass it off. All musicians in the band are expected to pass-off show music, the Star-Spangled Banner, Chop, and any other piece assigned by the directors

The pass-off procedure begins with all section leaders passing-off by memory to the Drum Major. Once these students have passed-off they will then begin listening to students in their sections. Deadlines for the pass-offs will be announced in plenty of time for each student to memorize the parts necessary. Any student not passing off by the assigned deadline may not be eligible to perform in the upcoming half-time show until the necessary music is passed-off. Students are required to attend all performances even if they have not passed-off the music. Students with multiple performance issues due to pass-offs may find their participation in the ensemble modified. These students will stand on the sidelines during the show.

## **Attendance**

Each student is equally as important as another in a performing ensemble. It is very important that a student is at each rehearsal and performance to ensure the success of the given ensemble.

**Excused** absences will only be granted for certain unforeseen conflicts. Excused absences include illness, death in the family, an important religious observance, and potentially some other circumstances. Personal conflicts such as doctor's appointments, jobs, homework, etc. are not excused. If a student wishes to receive an excused absence, the student needs to inform the band director prior to the absence. Failure to do so will automatically result in the student's absence being unexcused. Submission of a request does not guarantee approval.

In the event that a student must be absent due to an unforeseen emergency such as personal illness, the student is required to call the band office to inform the director of the absence. If a student is well enough to attend classes during the school day, the student is expected to attend rehearsal and will not be granted an "excused" status for missing the rehearsal without advance permission from a director. Additionally, the student is required to bring a parent note to the director on the day of his return to school. Failure to do so will automatically result in the student's absence being unexcused.

An **unexcused** absence is one that does not satisfy the requirements listed previously for excused absences. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance will result in the student not being allowed to perform in the next performance. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in the student forfeiting any awards that he or she would have been eligible for that year and may also alter his or her participation status in that ensemble. Two unexcused absences from rehearsals will similarly result in forfeiture of awards. Multiple attendance issues may also

result in an alteration of the student's participation status. Any student who finds their participation level altered due to attendance issues or behavioral consequences will not be refunded or excused from any financial fees and responsibilities due for participation in the activities/events

**All performances and concerts** for the ensemble that you are a member of are **mandatory**. A grade will be given for each and if you are absent it is not something that can be "made-up".

Alternate assignments will be given to students missing practice or a performance in the form of a written essay. Students will have one week to complete the assignment and the topics will be posted in the band room.

**If a student has three or more unexcused absences from rehearsals and/or performances their spot in the field show could be taken away. It is imperative that we have everyone at rehearsals and the performances for safety.**

## **Conduct**

### Specific Behavior Guidelines

1. All Cherokee High School disciplinary guidelines are in effect at all band functions.
2. No use of alcohol, tobacco, or illicit drugs will be permitted at any time. Possession or use of any of these will result in disciplinary actions in accordance with school policy. This may include action by law enforcement authorities. It may also result in expulsion from the program.
3. No abuse of school facilities or equipment. This includes uniforms, instruments, music, or the physical structures. Students will be charged for any damage to the above.
4. No unauthorized use of school instruments.
5. Absolutely no hazing, bullying, or harassment of students.
6. No profanity will be tolerated.

7. No disrespect of authority. This includes all student leadership, administrators, teachers, staff, band parents, and anyone else connected with the program.

8. No one is permitted to leave designated areas without permission. A director or chaperone must know where you are at all times.

Students who do not abide by these guidelines may be subject to administrative referral and participation in extracurricular events may be modified or suspended. Continued behavior issues or extreme matters may result in the student being dismissed from extra-curricular events or the program.

## **Bus Trip Rules**

1. Each student is responsible for his or her own instrument and uniform. If you forget something, you may have to sit out the performance.

2. Any instruments that are not school owned are not covered under the schools insurance policy. It is recommended that any personal instruments be added to the owner's home owner's policy.

3. All school owned instruments need to be placed on the equipment trailer. All other instruments can be placed there at your own risk and the band boosters are not responsible for the items if something happens to the equipment trailer.

4. Unless told otherwise, the complete uniform is to be worn at all times.

5. Keep the buses clean.....in words and actions as well.

6. All county and coach bus rules apply as well as specific rules of the individual driver.

7. Buses will be loaded in the following order: chaperones, then leadership and staff, then seniors, juniors, sophomores, then freshmen.

8. All students are required to ride the bus to the event. Students may ride home with a parent ONLY if a written note from the parent is given to the chaperone on the student's bus PRIOR to leaving the school for the event. We are responsible for you and must know your whereabouts at all times. Students that do go home with their parents must return their uniform to the equipment trailer before leaving. Students must sign out at the trailer before leaving with a parent.

9. All students must stay for the entire game or event unless prior permission is gained.

10. No changing from one bus to another without director's permission.

## **Football Game Rules**

1. All students must remain in full uniform and must stay in their places in their sections throughout the game.
2. No non-band members in the stands during the game.
3. Only people of authority (directors, police officers, administrators, etc.) may break rank.
4. No playing of instruments in the stands unless directed by a Drum Major or director.
5. Students may only leave the stands with a chaperone

## **Uniform Use Regulations**

Band uniforms represent a very large expenditure of band funds. Part of the band fee every year goes to cover the cleaning fees for each uniform and to offset the costs of normal maintenance, replacement, and periodic cleaning of the uniform parts. This amount does not begin to cover the full cost of these items, so uniform use regulations have been established to prevent unnecessary wear and tear on these garments. We need for these uniforms to last for many years.

You are responsible for maintaining your uniform in pristine condition. Any replacement or repair costs incurred through loss of parts, excessive damage, or other negligence **WILL BE BILLED TO YOU**. If you fail to pay these the school can withhold your report card and/or diploma.

## **Marching Band Uniform Rules and Regulations**

1. You must wear your entire uniform to perform. Prior to each performance, the student leaders will perform a dress inspection. Neatness and correctness of appearance will be assessed. This will include band T-shirt underneath the jacket, uniform shorts under pants, black socks, and cleanliness of gloves, shoes, and instruments. Students that do not pass inspection must correct all violations – possibly including the purchase of missing or soiled items – in order to perform.

2. All band members must remain in full uniform with jacket and hat on unless told otherwise by the director or drum major.
3. No jewelry is to be worn other than post earrings. This applies to males and females.
4. Hair that is long enough must be worn up inside the shako. This applies to both males and females.
5. When boarding the bus, students must be in the uniform specified by the director for the trip.
6. In colder weather, students will be permitted to wear Under Armor (or something similar) underneath their uniform to help provide extra warmth. Students will not be permitted to wear blue jeans with the uniform at ANY time.
7. After each use the uniform must be hung neatly on the correct hanger, with creases aligned according to the instructions given by the uniform room volunteers.
8. All uniforms should be turned in following every performance and also needs to have the garment bag hung on the hanger with the uniform.

## **Concert Band Apparel Rules and Regulations**

1. You must wear your entire uniform to perform. Prior to each performance, the student leaders will perform a dress inspection. Neatness and correctness of appearance will be assessed. This will include white T-shirt underneath the white dress shirt, black socks, black shoes, and instruments. Students that do not pass inspection must correct all violations in order to perform.
2. All band members must remain in full uniform.
3. When boarding the bus, students must be in the uniform specified by the director for the trip.
4. After each use the uniform must be hung neatly on the correct hanger, with creases aligned according to the instructions given by the uniform room volunteers.
5. All uniforms should be turned in following every performance on the correct hangers as assigned by the uniform committee.

# **Student Leadership Positions**

## **Drum Major**

1. Direct all field rehearsals and performances of the marching band.
2. Set standards in attendance, punctuality, attitude, musicianship, and loyalty that the members of the band can and should try to follow.
3. Act as a liaison between band members and the directors and staff.
4. Responsible for keeping the student leadership working together as a team.
5. Coordinate bleacher activities for football games, oversee behavior and maintain proper discipline.
6. Inspect section leader uniforms prior to full band uniform inspections.
7. Have the band in the correct place at the correct time for rehearsals and performances. 8. Show patience, consideration, and understanding in dealings with the band while not compromising standards.
9. Assist the directors and staff in administrative and organizational tasks.
10. Exhibit and demand discipline within the band.
11. Organize and supervise clean-up of the band room and practice field after rehearsals and performances.
12. Conduct for band performances as needed.
13. Assist in the teaching of the drill during marching rehearsals, if needed.

## **Section Leaders**

1. Learn all parts for your particular section.
2. Run efficient and effective sectional rehearsals throughout the marching season.

3. Tutor all students in your section that need help with music and/or marching.
4. Enforce the rules and regulations of the band.
5. Refer disciplinary issues to the directors.
6. Conduct uniform inspection of section and report any infraction against dress code.
7. Assume any extra assignments deemed necessary by directors, staff, or chaperones.
8. Serve as a positive role model for the members of the band in conduct, musicianship, and dedication to the band.

## **Band Awards**

**John Phillip Sousa Award** – This national award is presented to the graduating senior who is deemed to represent the best in musicianship, leadership, and dedication to the band program.

**Patrick M. Gilmore Award** – The award honors additional students in the high school band. Because only one student per year can receive the Sousa Award, and more students may deserve recognition, the Gilmore award allows directors to honor the same qualities of musicianship and dedication in other deserving students.

**National School Marching Award** – This award is presented to a Senior Marching Member for outstanding marching band participation and performance.

**Director's Award** – Like the Sousa award, this award is presented to a high school junior who best represents the qualities of musicianship, leadership, and dedication to the band program.

**Participation Certificates** – All band members that participated in the ETSBOA Senior, Junior, or Jazz Clinics during the school year will be awarded with a participation certificate.

**Most Outstanding Certificates** – A certificate will be awarded each year to the most outstanding student in each section throughout the entire school year.

**Most Improved Certificates** – A certificate will be awarded each year to the most improved student in each section throughout the entire school year.