



CUSHING BANDS

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK



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INTRODUCTION

This handbook has been compiled to give students and parents in the Cushing Instrumental Music program an understanding of the policies, rules, and regulations enforced in the band classes. This handbook does not address every issue, but acts as a general guideline to better inform the students and parents. Please keep this information for reference throughout the year.

PHILOSOPHY

The Cushing Public School's band program forms a vital and important part of the total school life. This group represents a large, colorful, visible, and highly disciplined segment of the school groups. School life and many of the programs and traditions of the school would seem dull without the presence of the band. An appearance by one of the bands adds a great deal of color and life to the Cushing community.

Students in the Cushing Public Schools are given the opportunity to participate in the band program, and to learn and progress musically as far as their abilities and desires permit them. If a student accepts the challenge, has the self-discipline required, and feels responsibility toward the band, then success will undoubtedly follow.

The Cushing Instrumental Music Department strives to provide a well rounded band curriculum for each student. Students at the lower levels are provided with fundamental instruction on their instruments. A variety of opportunities become available as the student progresses. Students at the secondary level have the opportunity to participate in marching band, concert band, and stageband. Students also have an opportunity to compete and excel in individual competitions such as honor bands and various solo and ensemble contests.

CLASSROOM RULES

As a member of Cushing Middle School, you are expected to follow all the rules and regulations that have been established as a school-wide discipline program. Disobedience to the school rules will entail the consequences of the school administration.

Classroom Rules in the Bandroom follow those which are outlined in the CMS Student Handbook. These Bandroom Rules are posted in the band areas:

BE RESPECTFUL TO EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING.

**This includes directors, students, instruments, and the Bandroom.
Respect rehearsal time by not talking or playing out of turn.**

ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOURSELF, YOUR ACTIONS, AND YOUR LEARNING.

**Pick up after yourself, pay attention, and work hard.
Participate in class and practice often.**

NEVER TOUCH THINGS THAT DON'T BELONG TO YOU.

**Keep your hands off other instruments,
other equipment, and other students.**

DO YOUR BEST EVERY DAY.

**Be prepared with your instrument, pencil, and music.
Set up quickly, and Pack up correctly.
Always give your best effort.**

Violations of classroom rules will be grounds for enacting the discipline policies accepted by the school. Consequences will be enacted in the Band classes in this order-

Each Violation: Point deduction from participation grade

Recurring Violations: Alternate assignment given

Excessive Violations: Parents contacted and Detention assigned

These policies will be enforced in band class, in all rehearsals, and at all performances.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

BEFORE REHEARSAL

Have a working instrument and all necessary materials and supplies for class.

Take care of restroom and water fountain needs during passing period.

Enter east bandroom door. Place gum in trash can. WALK - DON'T RUN!

Go to instrument shelf and get case, pencil, music and band materials.
Leave other classwork and belongings in instrument shelf.

Assemble instrument at assigned seat. Close case and place under chair.
Large instruments and percussion will have specialized assembly instructions.

Woodwind airplay and brass mouthpiece buzz warm-ups only.

DURING REHEARSAL

No gum, candy, food or drinks allowed in the bandroom.

100% participation is required at all times. Do Your Best - ALWAYS!
Parent communication is necessary for situations that may affect participation.

Raise your hand for permission to speak or leave your seat.
Do not ask to leave the classroom.

Instruments will remain assembled until rehearsal is over.

AFTER REHEARSAL

Properly pack up instrument, music and materials when instructed to by director.

Leave your work space clean and neat. Pick up after yourself.

Take other classwork with you.
Only band materials should stay in instrument storage shelf.

Use south door exit. WALK - DON'T RUN!

GRADING POLICY

Band students earn points for proper rehearsal techniques, playing skills, and performances. Grades are a percentage of the total points available. The following categories will be used to determine grades at the end of each semester.

Concerts and Other Performances

(As a performer and as an audience member)

Playing Assessments and General Music Skills

(Playing Tests, Written Tests, Worksheets, etc.)

Daily Class Participation

(Rehearsals and class time activities)

The following grading scale will be used to determine letter grades:

90% - 100%	-----A
80% - 89%	-----B
70% - 79%	-----C
60% - 69%	-----D
0 - 59%	-----F

PERFORMANCES

The CMS Bands will have opportunities to perform outside of the classroom and display all that they have learned in class; from making the right kind of sound on their instrument to blending that sound with other musicians in a live performance. Some of the most important lessons taught in the band class - responsibility, dependability, accountability, respect, teamwork, concert etiquette, reaching a goal - are accomplished when the band performs at a concert or contest. In band, each student contributes to the success of the group as a member of the team. Although the band performance is a reward in itself, participation in the Christmas concert, Spring Concert and/or Spring Contest along with classroom participation will be used as criteria for the Spring Activity, traditionally a trip to Frontier City.

Concerts and/or Contests are part of the performance grade for band. A make-up assignment will be required to earn partial credit for a performance missed with an excused absence.

PRACTICE HABITS

Instrument practice is strongly recommended to properly develop the muscles used in playing the instrument and to reinforce the skills learned in the classroom. A little practice time each day is better than a long session once or twice in a week. Make a schedule for practice time with other homework. A general rule to follow is: ***If you cannot play the classroom work, then practice on it.*** - The better you practice - the better you perform. Even though practice time is not counted as part of your grade, regular practice will improve your performance scores.

ELIGIBILITY

Student participation in a music contest or a competitive activity is governed by OSSAA regulations. Passing grades must be maintained in all classes to be able to participate. Grades will be checked each week beginning with the 3rd week of school. If a student is failing a class, he/she is placed on probation for one week. If still failing at the end of that week, the student is ineligible until the grade is brought to a passing level. If a student has a failing grade at the end of a semester, he/she is ineligible for 6 weeks of the following semester.

If a student is academically ineligible to participate in a required event, no grade will be earned for that event. Students that are academically ineligible may lose the privilege to participate in any or all band activities.

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

To develop properly as a musician, it is necessary to have a quality working instrument and the needed supplies for rehearsal every day.

New instruments are available from area music dealers at affordable rental and lease-to-own prices. Used instruments are also available, but must be certified by an instrument repair professional. School-owned instruments are available for specific needs, dependent on financial need and the instrument selected.

Other supplies needed daily include a personal band method book, pencil, and specific items depending on the instrument played: reeds, cork grease, valve oil, slide grease, etc. These supplies can be purchased at local and area music stores or ordered through the band department. Supplies ordered through the band will be paid on delivery to the student.

BANDROOM HOURS

The bandroom will be open immediately before school to place instruments in the storage areas. Students may also use this time for practice and testing. The bandroom is open at the end of each school day for students to take their instruments home. The bandroom will be open many days after school for individual practice time, testing, and also for special situations (tutoring, section rehearsal, etc.). Details will be given by the director.

CONTEST UNIFORMS

Band students that are part of a contest performance group will be issued a Uniform Shirt for the contest performance.

When the **Honor Band or Advanced Band** performs in a competition (2nd semester), students must wear ***Solid Black Pants, Solid Black Shoes, and Solid Black Socks*** to complete the uniform.

When the **Intermediate Band or Beginning Band** performs in a competition, students must wear ***blue jeans without holes or other special markings*** to complete the uniform.

For a contest event, each band student will be issued a uniform shirt. The uniform shirt will be returned at the end of the event. The student will be responsible for any damages or loss.

The entire band will wear the uniform as instructed by the director. If you fail to wear the uniform properly, you may forfeit your right to perform with the band and your grade will be lowered accordingly. The uniform is only to be worn at authorized band activities.

When in uniform, you represent not only your band, but the city of Cushing and every member of your school. Take pride in the wearing of your uniform and display the highest standards for all to see.

BAND SPIRIT

As a member of a Cushing Middle School Band, you represent your classmates, your school, and your hometown. For this reason, you are expected to behave as ladies and gentlemen whenever you can be identified as being in the band. There will be no use of tobacco, drinking alcoholic beverages, or use of foul or unbecoming language at any time while in uniform or during rehearsals and performances. In order for our band to be successful, you must first take pride in this organization and its actions. If you do not respect yourself, no one else will.

ACTIVITY / BUS RULES

Many activities require the band, or individuals from the band, to take school sponsored trips using the school transportation. All policies for classroom behavior apply and will be enforced while on a bus or at a site other than Cushing schools.

The following are additional rules for these special occasions:

- 1. Regular transportation rules apply on trips and will be enforced. Violations will be reported by the driver to the Transportation Office.*
- 2. Personal listening devices are allowed provided headphones are used.*
- 3. Cell phones/electronic devices will be turned off during organized band activities.*
- 4. No changing of clothes on the bus. Proper facilities will be provided.*
- 5. Never go anywhere alone. Stay in groups of 3 or more.*
- 6. Instructions given during the activity are to be followed exactly and are subject to change in a given situation.*
- 7. You are responsible for any items that you bring.*
- 8. Although there will be a team assigned to load the instrument trailer, you are responsible for your equipment on a trip.*

CUSHING BAND BOOSTERS

The Cushing Band Boosters are very active throughout the community in their support of the school band program. Each fall the boosters operate concessions for the high school varsity and junior-varsity football games. Through these and other fund raisers, the boosters have contributed thousands of dollars in equipment and activity funds. The boosters also have a scholarship fund used to reward outstanding band students in their college pursuits.

The Cushing Band Boosters have quarterly meetings on the second Tuesdays of September, November, February, and April. Meeting times and locations will be announced in the band classes.

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HIGH SCHOOL DIRECTOR

DANNY WHITE

MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR

DANNA WHITE

ASSISTANT BAND DIRECTOR

RYAN WINTERS

ASSISTANT

ROBIN BUCKLES

CHS BAND • CMS BAND
1700 E. WALNUT • 521 S. HARMONY RD
CUSHING, OK 74023 • CUSHING, OK 74023
OFFICE: (918) 225-0759 • HOME: (918) 225-6382
cushingbands@mac.com
www.cushingbands.com