

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.

CUSHING HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

As a member of Cushing High 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 Procedure in the Bandroom follows that which is outlined in the Student Handbook. In Band class, the most important aspect to remember is -

100% PARTICIPATION IS REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES.

In addition to the CHS Student Handbook, the following procedures define 100% participation in Band:

- 1. No gum, candy, food, or drinks are allowed in the bandroom.*
- 2. Have all necessary materials and supplies for class every day.
(reeds, valve oil, music copies, etc.)*
- 3. Have instrument, stand, and music ready before the director begins rehearsal.
Cases and all other materials will be in Instrument Lockers during rehearsal.*
- 4. Only Music and a pencil are to be on stand for all rehearsals.*
- 5. Air play and mouthpiece warm-ups only before the tardy bell.*
- 6. Raise your hand for permission to speak or leave your seat.*
- 7. Keep your hands, feet, and other objects to yourself.*
- 8. Instruments will remain assembled until rehearsal is over.*
- 9. All music and instruments will be returned to their proper areas when class is dismissed. Instruments are to be correctly disassembled with cases closed.
Instrument storage shelves are for band equipment only.*
- 10. Each student is responsible to keep their instrument in playing condition.*

Do Not touch any instrument but your own.

Students are reminded of the discipline policy that has been adopted by the school. This policy will be enforced in band class, in all rehearsals, and at all performances. Refer to the sections dealing with Student Behavior in the High School Handbook if you have any questions.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at all band performances is a class requirement as part of the performance grade. In the event that you miss a performance, your grade in band class will be lowered accordingly.

In preparation for major performances, early and/or extra rehearsals will be called for the entire band or sections of the band. Notification is given well in advance, and students are expected to attend. Failure to attend these rehearsals can result in the forfeiture of performance opportunities. Missed rehearsal time can be made-up on an individual basis.

With advance communication and documentation, partial credit can be earned for an absence from a performance. **Conflicts with other school activities are not considered absences. Students will have to make some choices based on the school attendance policy, and the importance of scheduled events.** Conflicts with work schedules, medical or dental appointments, or family travel are not valid reasons for an absence. Competition dates and times are not set by the director, and are usually impossible to change. Check with band calendar early and often, and communicate when there is a change in the schedule. Students with an excused absence will be required to complete an extra assignment to earn partial credit.

GRADING POLICY

Band students earn points for rehearsals and performances. Grades are a percentage of the total points available. The following scale will be used to determine grades at the end of each semester.

Performance Grade	50%
Concerts, Contests, Playing Tests, etc.	
Daily Participation Grades.....	50%
Participation in class time activities	

Violations in Classroom Procedures result in point deductions from Daily Participation Grades, for example:

Tardiness	Unexcused Absences
Missing Equipment	Inappropriate behavior
0 participation = 0 points	
(Students may have opportunities to earn additional points.)	

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

90% - 100% = A	-----	80% - 89% = B
70% - 79% = C	-----	60% - 69% = D

Although a specific point value is not assigned to minutes of practice time, at home practice is absolutely necessary for the improvement of the individual and the group. This is the general rule: **If you cannot play your part — practice!** Your performance in class will determine whether you are keeping up, need an extra practice assignment, or have a playing quiz for a daily grade.

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 each semester. 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 next 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.

BANDROOM HOURS

The bandroom will be open before school at 7:30AM to prepare for rehearsals. Warm-up and practice are strongly encouraged to be ready for rehearsals and performances.

The bandroom will be open after school until 4:00PM each day, except for special situations when the director cannot be there. The bandroom is open to get instruments, practice, or get extra help by appointment.

Since there are changes in the school district facilities, new procedures may be developed to work better for our new middle school.

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.

If supplies are needed immediately and the student is unable to pay, the director may allow to student to sign an account slip for the amount of the supplies, with payment due as soon as possible. A written statement will be sent for any overdue amounts at progress report and grading periods.

UNIFORMS

Each member of the band will be issued one or more the following uniform parts:

- 1 Uniform Coat (may include Baldric & Citation Cord)
- 1 pair of Uniform Pants
- 1 pair of Gauntlets
- 1 Uniform Hat
- 1 Marching Show T-shirt
- 1 Uniform Bag

Students must provide the following uniform parts:

- Solid Black Marching shoes (Can be purchased through the Band)
- Black Gloves (Purchased through the Band)
- Show Hat for specialty marching shows (Purchased through the Band)
- Solid Black Socks

Students must take care to keep all parts in their original condition. Uniforms will be stored in the bandroom and issued for each performance. Any damage will be repaired at the expense of the student.

The entire band will be in complete uniform, as instructed by the director, during all events in which the band participates. If you fail to wear your complete uniform, your grade will be lowered, and you may forfeit your right to perform with the band. The uniform is only to be worn at authorized band activities.

- Jeans or Denim shorts will not be worn under the uniform pants.
- Excessively long hair (both male and female) must be worn up in the hat or under the coat collar.
- Earrings, with the exception of studs, will not be worn while in uniform.
- The use of cosmetics should be kept to an absolute minimum while in uniform.

BAND SPIRIT

As a member of the Cushing High 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 with headphones are allowed.*
3. *Instructions for changing of clothes will be provided at the site.*
4. *Never go anywhere alone. Stay in groups of 3 or more.*
5. *Instructions given during the activity are to be followed exactly and are subject to change in a given situation.*
6. *You are responsible for any items that you bring.*
7. *Although there may 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.