

Canutillo Middle School

Beginning Band Hand Book

2018-2019

Canutillo Independent School District
Canutillo Middle School Band Handbook
2018-2019

Dear Parents:

Welcome to one of the most exciting organizations available to your child! The band program at Canutillo Middle School offers many varied performance opportunities and gives members the chance to learn with each other and grow closer to one another. We strive to offer the best available instruction and the widest array of events for our members.

We strongly believe that there is a place for everyone in the band. We have hundreds of success stories. Many times, members who thought that they were not interested have become some of the most dedicated members once they have been part of the experience. If you choose to participate, you can reap a variety of rewards. In addition to all of this, you become a member of a very active, multifaceted family.

The band program at Canutillo Middle School has established itself as one of the finest anywhere, with superb performing ensembles in concert and percussion activities. We hope that you share our excitement in creating these phenomenal opportunities for our students. We encourage parents to be active supporters of our efforts through PTO, assistance in fundraising, and through volunteer work such as equipment crew and or as a parent leader. We also hope that you will be visible supporters of the students by attending as many performances as possible.

This handbook should help orient you and your child to the many different aspects of the band program. Attendance at band parent meetings is still advised. The band program produces a calendar kept on our website www.canutilloband.org; you'll want to keep it nearby.

Rarely do you see such a large group of students assembled in one organization with such a strong focus on achieving excellence. Take the opportunity to get to know the instructor, other parents, and the members who make our success a reality. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me through email, chrodriguez@canutillo-isd.org, or at my office at (915) 877-7909.

Sincerely,

Christian E. Rodriguez
Director of Bands

****Para obtener una versión en español, favor de comunicarse con
Mr. Rodriguez, Director de Bandas****

Objectives, Expectations, and Consequences

To Band Members

What is the middle school band experience?

Unlike most other classes, band offers a wide variety of opportunities for the student. Band is one of the few classes where excellence is not only expected, but also essential to success. Imagine if an English teacher graded everyone in the class to the level of the weakest student! In band, everyone **MUST** perform at the highest level of excellence or a performance will sound terrible. Even one person making a grade of 60% on a piece of music means 40% of the notes were played in error...not pleasant to hear!

In addition to teaching performance skills, band teaches the student to be an active, thinking person. For each note played, there are numerous considerations and instantaneous decisions to make. How loud or soft? How fast or slow? How does the note start? How does it end? Who else play it? Am I in-tune? Nowhere else on campus is the demand for active thought any stronger.

Band also teaches life skills. Communication is the main component of music. The rehearsal and performance schedule of the band demands planning and time management...skills that will be valuable all through life. Goal setting, problem solving, peer interaction...all of these develop quickly as a part of the band experience.

The Band Program at Canutillo Middle School has established itself as one of the finest in the Nation. Students here have had experiences of which others can only dream of. Few other activities offer the travel opportunities, the chance to meet and interact with the legends in the concert hall, and the satisfaction of knowing that your time, talent, and effort have paid off through the highest levels of achievement. One of our nationally renowned evaluators this past year wrote that we were "One of the finest middle school bands he's heard." What an honor!

Objectives of the Band Program

The CMS bands form an integral part of school life and are recognized as an all-school activity. Band is one of the largest and most active voluntary student organizations and its members form an active group.

The primary objectives of the band program are:

- **Cultural:** To foster the continued development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of the best in music.
- **Educational:** To develop interested and discriminating listeners, provide a well-rounded musical education and prepare members for musical activities beyond high school.
- **Service:** To lend color and atmosphere to certain school and community affairs while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of Canutillo Middle School at all appearances.
- **Citizenship:** To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of the group, to enhance the member's ability to interact with others in a positive manner, and to develop the ability to function as a responsible member of the community.
- **Recreational:** To provide all members with the opportunity for worthy use of leisure time, and emotional outlet, and good social experiences.

Band Class is an Actual Class

The CMS Honor, Intermediate, and Beginning Bands are graded class. It is NOT an extra-curricular activity (i.e. sports or clubs), which are not graded. **Students are expected not to drop and/or skip class, concerts, and/or competitions (only through very special occasions like a death in the family, serious illness, etc...).**

CMS Band Expectations & Classroom Rules

1. Be in the class **before** the tardy bell rings. Walking in the door while the bell is ringing constitutes being tardy. Be on your seat ready to go before the tardy bell rings. **No Exception!**
2. No gum, food, candy or drinks in class. Bottled water is permitted.
3. Come to class prepared.
4. Have instrument and supplies at all times.
5. Respect all instruments at all times.
6. Observe all off-limit areas (podium, percussion and storage room, & band director's office).
7. Don't talk when the teacher or another student is talking.
8. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
9. Keep hands and feet to yourself.
10. Don't get out of seat without asking.
11. Respect your environment.
12. Have a positive attitude toward learning music.
13. Non-band students are not allowed in the band room **unless the band director allows it**.
14. Follow Canutillo Middle School policies and procedures at all times.

Consequences

For students who choose not to follow the expectations and procedures, the following consequences will apply:

1. Verbal warning
2. Instrument put away and Detention (Lunch/Afterschool) and Parent contact
3. Referral to Administration

Note: If at any time a student is caught drinking alcohol, smoking or chewing tobacco, or using any type of illegal drug, **the band director will refer the student to the administration and local authorities will be contacted. The student will be dropped from the band program automatically.**

Classroom Procedures

A structured classroom environment is crucial to the success and efficiency of a band rehearsal. Members of the CMS Band are expected to demonstrate good behavior during their classes, concerts, public performances, and field trips. All expectations and procedures will be enforced whether the band is on or off campus.

1. Enter the room quietly.
2. Woodwinds and brass set up instruments. **Only flute and clarinet players may keep their cases underneath their chairs.** All other cases should be left in their lockers.
3. While winds are setting up, percussionists should be sure to have all needed equipment **before** rehearsal starts.

4. Objectives and rehearsal order will be on the board. All music must be in order before a downbeat for warm-up is given.
5. If band director yells: “**Band ten-HUT**” all students must stop whatever they are doing and answer “**Pride.**” “**At-Ease**” means that you are free to return to your previous task. This is non-negotiable!
6. When the conductor steps onto the podium, all attention must be directed to him/her. Immediately stop other activity and stand and wait for instruction.
7. No talking or playing while the conductor is tuning or rehearsing the band or an individual section. Other sections are expected to listen, finger through their parts or participate as directed.
8. **Pack up only after the conductor has dismissed the class.** Be sure all music and equipment is put in its proper place at the end of rehearsal or performance. The floor and set-up tables are not appropriate places for equipment.

Restroom/Water

Do not make the use of it a daily occurrence, but do not be afraid to ask to use it if necessary. Please remember to use the designated hand signals to receive permission to use the restroom or get water. You **must** sign out & in after using the band restrooms. We are responsible for the neatness of our restrooms, keep them clean. If you see vandalism, please report it right away.



RESTROOM



WATER

Lockers

Lockers will be assigned by the band director. It is the responsibility of the student to keep the locker clean, and in good working order throughout the year. Any damage done to the locker will be the responsibility of the student. Since lockers are property of the school, the band director will keep every combination of every lock on file. Only combination locks will be allowed to be used on lockers. Locks must be taken off the locker prior to summer break. Any locks left behind will be cut off. Lockers will be available to band members only.

Practice Rooms

Practice rooms are solely for practice purposes. This is not negotiable.

Copies

All CMS band students will receive only one copy of each piece of music we will be performing. If any student loses their copy, there will be a \$1 charge per page to replace their lost music. Please encourage your son/daughter to save all of their music in their binders.

Instruments, Materials and Equipment

Daily Class Materials

Please note being prepared is a part of your daily class grade. All students are required to have the following:

1. Working Instrument
2. Method Book
3. Pencil and “practice pencil”
4. Black one inch three ring binder with sheet protectors & pencil bag

Method Books

The following method book will be used in class and for practice purposes. Please select the method book that is appropriate for your instrument only. This method books can be ordered online or at Olivas Music Store **only**. Please keep in mind that ordering through a music store will cause the books to arrive at a much later time.

Woodwind & Brass Instruments

- **The Yamaha Advantage 2000 for (Name of Instrument) Book 1** by Carl Fisher (book 1)

***Note:** Please make sure you select the method book that is appropriate for your instrument*

Percussion

Same method book as above but for the name of the instrument is: Combined Percussion

Instruments

An instrument in good, working condition is necessary to be in band. Yamaha is the recommended brand of instrument but it is not the required brand. If you are planning on purchasing an instrument on EBay please talk to Mr. Rodriguez about it before you purchase it to see that you are getting a good instrument/deal. There are instruments available at many “Big Box” and “Warehouse” stores. The prices are very affordable but please be aware that these instruments may not be repairable by local music stores. Your great deal could become a big expense if you have to replace it. In the case of musical instruments you really do get what you pay for. Musical instruments are expensive and require care and maturity on the part of the student owner/user. **All instruments must be marked with a luggage tag with the owner/user’s name, home address and phone number.**

School Owned Instruments

School owned instruments are defined as instruments which belong to Canutillo Middle School. These instruments include flutes, clarinets, bassoons, oboes, saxophones, trumpets, cornets, trombones, baritones, tubas, and percussion instruments. **Students playing these instruments most sign a rental agreement form.** The signing of this form **does not** include supplies such as reeds, oil, mouthpieces, etc. Misuse or abuse of a school owned instrument will result in the loss of the instrument and fees for repairs made and or full value of the instrument. Forms for the use of School Owned Instruments will be given out at the beginning of the school year and must be signed and returned before School Owned Instruments can be taken home. **These instruments are limited and are given out on a first come first serve basis.**

Student Owned Instruments

Student owned instruments are defined as instruments that do not belong to Canutillo I.S.D. Although they do not belong to the school students are expected to use proper handling and take good care of their instruments. An instrument is an investment and should be treated with respect. School insurance does not include personal items or student owned instruments. Because of this, students will need to be responsible for their items and instruments. The school is not responsible for the loss of a student's instrument.

Student Instrument Accessories

The following is a list of items that is needed to go along with your instrument every day. Mouthpiece and reed brands are highly recommended for success but not required.

Flute: Cleaning rod, cotton cleaning rag/polishing cloth, solid silver head joint suggested.

Clarinet: 4 Reeds (**Rico Reserve**) size 2.5, cork grease, and cleaning swab, cotton cleaning rag/polishing cloth.

Sax: Neck strap, 4 reeds (**Rico Reserve**) size 2.5, cork grease, cleaning swab, cotton cleaning rag/polishing cloth

French Horn: Rotor oil, slide grease, polishing cloth, C8 mouthpiece.

Trumpet/Cornet: Valve oil, slide grease, 3C or 5C mouthpiece, cleaning kit, polishing cloth

Baritone: Valve oil and slide grease, polishing cloth, cleaning kit.

Trombone: Slide cream or grease, bottle spray, polishing cloth, cleaning kit.

Tuba: Valve oil, slide grease, polishing cloth.

Percussion

All percussion students must sign a rental agreement form. Repairs and replacement of school owned percussion equipment that is mistreated will be the responsibility of the student. The school does not provide sticks and mallets for percussion students. All percussion students will need the following percussion equipment:

Practice pad, a stick bag, Vic Firth 2B snare sticks/or similar brand

Practice pads must be kept at home to use for practice unless noted otherwise. The stick bag with all sticks and mallets will be used at home and at school.

*****PLEASE LABEL YOUR BAG AND ALL STICKS/MALLETS!!!*****

SMART MUSIC

SmartMusic is interactive practice software that gives your child instant feedback while they practice at home - and a way to have fun while doing it! SmartMusic not only makes your child sound better, it gives them a sense of accomplishment and confidence that can change their view of themselves and their potential. The cost for the software is \$40 per year. More information will be given at the band parent meeting.

Accessories

The following accessories is a require equipment in honor band. Practicing with a **Metronome** is very important for helping students develop a steady rhythmic pulse and good technique. You will find it easier

to use your practice time efficiently if you are using a metronome. **Tuners** are another tool that can help student's success. Tuners help students obtain the desired tone quality on their instrument. Metronome and tuner applications can be downloaded into their smartphones for free.

Grading Procedures

This grading system has been designed to take the subjectivity out of the band grade – in other words, most of the grade is not based on the director's opinion. Testing is based on the student's ability to prepare assigned musical passages/music theory knowledge and participation in daily classroom activities. Students will be graded through a variety of tasks and will be based on a point scale. Please be aware that the winter, spring concerts, and band competitions are considered part of the student **final exam grades**.

Grade Percentage Breakdown

75% Daily Work
25% Test/Projects

Grading Scale

A = 90 – 100%
B = 80 – 89%
C = 70 – 79%
D = 60 – 69%
F = 59% and below

75% Daily Work (SmartMusic, projects, classroom participation, etc.)

- In class participation is vital in obtaining the skills students will need to be successful in band. Participation can be defined as the following: active engagement in classroom activities, bringing materials to class daily, and completing any written assignments. Practicing is considered homework for band. Without practicing, adequate progress will not be made on your instrument.

25% Test/Projects (Performance and Written Tests)

- Performance Assessment of student progress will consist of, but is not limited to, demonstration ability to perform/demonstrate improvement on assigned musical passages, scales, sight-reading exercises, and/or any performances other than winter and spring concerts, and band competitions. In other words, performance exams in class or thru SmartMusic. Winter and Spring concerts are considered performance test.
- Written Assessment of student progress will consist of, but is not limited to, demonstration of understanding of vocabulary, multiple choice tests, essay questions, written critiques of live performances, or music composition assignments. In other words, Written Test.

Extra Credit

Can be obtained by participating in any of the following activities:

Auditioning for All-Region Band, participating in Solo and Ensemble, taking private lessons, music camps or attendance at a musical activity, or performance you are not performing in. The above extra credit opportunities must be properly documented by the student. Please see band director for further information.

Attendance

A successful band must have extra rehearsals outside of the regular school day. **Grades will be given for these rehearsals & performances.** Both the parent and the student need to understand that band requires time commitment, which are different from other classes.

Unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances will result in a zero. Absences with written, advance notice from the parent for illness or family emergencies will result in a written assignment to make up the zero. Assignments are due within 5 days of the missed event or the student will receive a ZERO. It is the student's responsibility to ask for and return the assignment to Mr. Rodriguez. **Parents will receive ample notice to plan for these rehearsals and/or events.** Other rehearsals may be called with ample notice prior to performances. The band is a team on which everyone is a first string player. Just as you would not miss a ball practice, do not miss band rehearsals. Please make plans to attend **all** rehearsals.

Eligibility

Band activities occurring outside of class are considered co-curricular.

Co-curricular - an activity that is an extension of classroom instruction. Band concerts are an example of such an activity. All students expected to participate in co-curricular activities only if they are passing **all** their classes.

Extra-curricular - All-State Band, Solo and Ensemble MPA, and field trips are considered extra-curricular activities.

The CMS Band operates under the guidelines set forth by Canutillo I.S.D., the Texas Music Education Association (TMEA), and the University Interscholastic League (UIL). These require that students meet minimum standards of academic eligibility for extra-curricular activities. These standards are:

- Must have at least an overall grade in all classes of 70% by end of the 6th Weeks.

Band students who do not meet these standards at report card time are ineligible for the entire 6th weeks. Students will not become eligible again until progress reports are distributed at the end of the 3rd week of the next 6th weeks and show proof of eligibility.

- During the 3 or 6 weeks of ineligibility, the student must:
 1. Participate in all rehearsals to obtain a daily grade
 2. Take all performance tests
- During the 3 or 6 weeks of ineligibility, the student may not:
 1. Participate in concerts or competitions

To make up for graded missed functions, students will have the opportunity to turn in written reports or other approved projects, within 5 days of the event missed. Failure to turn in assignments within the allotted time will result in a grade of zero.

Performance Expectations

Band is a performance based class that is taught during the school day. Public performances, however, are held **outside** of the school day. All band students will be required to attend all performances. **In the event of a schedule conflict please contact Mr. Rodriguez immediately.** As a school function, it is expected that

a band performance will take priority over all other activities, including group meetings, rehearsals, sports practices, school sporting events, non-school sporting events, parties and social activities. Exceptions are made for family emergencies (death in the family, serious illness). A performing group depends on all of its members to attend; it can be detrimental to our performance if even one person is missing. **Unexcused absences will result in a zero.** Unexcused absence means that you did not attend the concert and did not discuss it with Mr. Rodriguez before the fact. Students who are excused will be given the opportunity to make up the points by submitting an alternative assignment as assigned by Mr. Rodriguez. It is the student's responsibility to ask for and turn in the alternative assignment to Mr. Rodriguez by the specified date. Excused absences are rare but Mr. Rodriguez understands that there are things that sometimes can not be controlled. **Please Communicate!**

Uniforms

All band members must wear proper concert attire at all public performances. All band members must have the following:

- **Boys & Girls:** Solid black dress pants/dress, solid black dress shirt/blouse, black belt, black dress shoes

Performance Etiquette

Talking, sleeping, laughing, reading, ringing cell phones, and/or any electronic devices are considered rude during a performance and will not be tolerated. If you are on stage, your behavior determines how the audience reacts. If you are quiet, the audience will be as well. If you are in the audience, your quiet, polite behavior tells the performers that you respect their performance. **All band members must stay for the entirety of our concerts.** Everyone works very hard for their performance and deserves a polite, full audience.

Helpful Information

Local Music Stores

Olivas Music
125 Thunderbird, St. H
El Paso, TX. 79912
(915) 833-0346

White's Music Box
7040 N. Mesa
El Paso, TX. 79912
(915) 833-0909

Online Music Stores

Woodwind Brasswind www.wwbw.com 1 (800) 348-5003
Musicians Friend www.musiciansfriend.com 1 (800) 391-8762
OnBoard Research Corporation www.onboardresearch.com 214-239-4005

Sheet Music Suppliers

Sheet Music Plus www.sheetmusicplus.com 1 (800) 743-3868
J.W. Pepper www.jwpepper.com 1 (800) 345-6296

Music Advocacy Websites

Texas Music Education Association www.tmea.org
University Interscholastic League www.uil.utexas.edu
National Association for Music Education www.menc.org

List of Materials for Beginning Band

-Instrument

-Instrument Accessories

Flute: Cleaning rod, cotton cleaning rag/polishing cloth, solid silver head joint suggested.

Clarinet: 4 Reeds (Rico Reserve) Size 2.5, cork grease, and cleaning swab, cotton cleaning rag/polishing cloth.

Sax: Neck strap, 4 reeds (Rico Reserve) Size 2.5, cork grease, cleaning swab, cotton cleaning rag/polishing cloth

French Horn: Rotor oil, slide grease, polishing cloth, C8 mouthpiece.

Trumpet/Cornet: Valve oil, slide grease, 7C or 5C mouthpiece, cleaning kit, polishing cloth

Baritone: Valve oil and slide grease, polishing cloth, cleaning kit.

Trombone: Slide cream or grease, bottle spray, polishing cloth, cleaning kit.

Tuba: Valve oil, slide grease, polishing cloth.

Percussion: Practice pad, a stick bag, SD2 Bolero snare sticks or similar

-Method Book

Woodwind & Brass Instruments

- The Yamaha Advantage for (Name of Instrument) Book 1 by Carl Fisher (book 1)

Note: Please make sure you select the method books that are appropriate for your instrument

Percussion

Same method books as above but for the name of the instrument is: Combined Percussion

- SmartMusic Software \$40 per year (www.smartmusic.com)

- Sign-Up for Remind 101 (text messaging service/free of charge)

- Black one inch three ring binder with sheet protectors

- 2 Pencils/Mechanical Pencils

- Combination lock (no other kind of locks will be accepted)

- 1 Nylon Pencil Bag for three ring binders

-Uniform

- Plain black dress shirt/blouse
- Plain black dress pants
- Plain black dress shoes and socks
- Black belt

Canutillo Middle School

Band Parent and Student Agreement Form

Due Friday, September 7, 2018

I have read the CMS Band Handbook and have a basic understanding of the band policies, procedures, instrument, supplies, responsibilities, uniform needs, and that I will receive a grade in this class.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____ Band _____ Period _____

I have read the CMS Band Handbook and have a basic understanding of the band policies, procedures, instrument, supplies, responsibilities, uniform needs, and that my son/daughter will receive a grade in this class. Emails and text messages will be send to inform parents about upcoming events, due dates, etc...

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Please provide the parent & student cell phone number for Remind 101

Parent Cell Phone Number: _____

Student Cell Phone Number: _____