

*CANTON ISD*  
*MIGHTY CANTON BAND*

*HANDBOOK*  
*2023-24*

**HE THAT DOES GOOD TO ANOTHER,  
DOES GOOD ALSO TO HIMSELF .....**

Seneca

# FORWARD

As a member of the Canton Band Program, you are a part of one of Canton ISD's most respected school organizations. ***The success of the Band will depend on the LOYALTY, COOPERATION, and DEDICATION of each and every member.***

The guidelines outlined on the following pages are simple, sound, and easy to understand and follow. They reflect years of experience and hours of careful thought and planning. In following them, you are meeting an obligation that you owe to your Band, School, community, and most importantly - ***TO YOURSELF!***

## BAND PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

- To teach an appreciation and understanding of the performing arts and how music influences and reflects history and culture.
- To teach the importance of self-discipline, cooperation, loyalty, and respect for others, as well as the importance of responsibility.
- To create in students a desire and appreciation for excellence in performance of any endeavor.
- To teach students how to set individual goals in life and how to accomplish those goals.
- To teach students the skills and tools needed to perform to the best of their ability.

# THE BAND MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY

- Be regular in attendance and account for all absences.
- Become responsible for and expect to assume the consequences of his/her actions.
- Be personally clean, neat, and dressed appropriately.
- Have the proper respect for those in authority.
- Be personally responsible for all information regarding the band, rehearsals, events, and schedules and be responsible for relaying such information to parents and/or guardians.
- Follow all classroom rules, school handbook, regulations, and travel instructions for trips.
- Be honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music, and school life in general.
- Cooperate with fellow band members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are part of the band program.
- Make a real effort to learn and improve daily, to read and play music with insight and expression.
- Know the Eagle Band Creed and demonstrate, by your actions, what it stands for.

## BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

***Exemplary behavior is expected of all band members at all times.*** Remember, you are a representative of your band, your band is a representative of your school, and your school is a representative of your community.

There is no way to list all the dos and don'ts of being a band member. Common sense must prevail. ***The Director of Bands reserves the right to exercise the authority to make the final decision regarding disciplinary action/removal from the band program.*** The following infractions are some of the more obvious that qualify for disciplinary action and/or immediate removal from the program.

- Any disrespectful behavior such as foul and or abusive language to teachers or students, including disruptive classroom behavior.
- Excessive tardiness or absences at rehearsals or performances.
- Any misuse or abuse of school property, or property of others.
- Alcohol, smoking, or drug use at any school function, or at any time, on or off campus. Alcohol, smoking, drug use, or any other illegal indulgence at any time or activity, school related or otherwise.
- Any action which dishonors or disgraces the Canton Band or the school in anyway.
- Other infractions of the rules as stated in the Canton I.S.D. Student Handbook, or as stated in the Canton I.S.D. Band Handbook.
- ***Repeated disregard of band member rules and or program philosophy.***

# BAND MEMBER RULES

- Be prepared for rehearsal on time (instrument, music, pencil, attitude, etc.).
- Be prepared for performances on time (all necessary items).
- Eating, drinking, or chewing gum is not allowed in the band hall at any time. (Due to workload and schedules, staff and Director of Bands are exempt.)
- Play your own instrument and no one else, unless with director approval.
- Instruments, cases, music, books, etc. should be kept in their proper places and properly cared for before, during, and after rehearsals.
- Give 100% effort during all rehearsals and performances. Do not disrupt or disturb rehearsals with inappropriate activities, comments, or questions.
- Play your instrument in the right way, time, and place.
- Always conduct yourself with honor and integrity. Horseplay and pranks are activities which are not allowed.
- Absences should be reported in advance (in writing if possible) to be excused. Notification of absence after an event is excusable under extreme circumstances such as emergencies or unexpected illness. Excessive absences are unacceptable, and will result in failing grades, students placed on alternate status, and ultimately dismissal from the program (Director of Band's discretion). Routine medical appointments such as physicals, dental, etc., should not be scheduled during band rehearsal times.
- All High School Band students are issued a band uniform and or tux for performances. Each student is responsible for the upkeep of that uniform. Fixing any damage to the uniform is the responsibility of the student.
- All students will provide black and white marching shoes, gloves, black and white socks, band shirts, Band Camp fees, and khaki shorts. Some of the above items do not apply to Percussionists or Guard Members. Most of these items will be paid through the band camp fees that are due in August.
- Always strive, persevere, and maintain a positive attitude toward achieving your goals as a band member during the tough times as well as the good times. Obviously, the CHS Band program is demanding, and directors will push each and every member very hard. The primary focus is for every member to achieve success. It is not the intent of the director of bands to "water down" expectations in order to accommodate students who lack the necessary work ethic. Remember, the more successful the band program, the more each and every member gains personally. DEMANDING ACHIEVEMENT DOES NOT MEAN LACK OF CARE OR LOVE FOR THE STUDENTS. A young adult's self-esteem is built on accomplishment.
- ***NO ONE IS EXPECTED TO BE PERFECT.....BUT EVERYONE IS EXPECTED TO GIVE THEIR ALL!***

## BAND TRAVEL

Full instructions will be given before leaving for the destination. All band members will travel to performances, destinations, etc. on school approved transportation. Students may ride back from a performance with their parent or guardian if signed out (by parent or legal guardian) on location. No student is allowed to leave with anyone but his/her own parent or guardian unless arrangements are made prior to the trip, with approval from the principal and the band director. Only musical devices with headphones will be allowed on buses.

## BAND TRIPS

Traditionally, the High School Band attends a major festival/performance within the state, the nation, or on an international scale. Cost is shared by students and Band Boosters. Events/trips are announced one year in advance and are not regularly scheduled. There are scheduled payments that will need to be made throughout the year by the students. These payments need to be made on time as much as possible.

## GRADING

Grading at all levels of instrumental music classes (6th through 12th) are based on participation and skill development. The following are areas that students are subject to be graded in:

### PARTICIPATION

- **How** the student enters and leaves the band hall.
- **How** the student shows interest and desire to learn in class.
- **How** the student maintains his/her instrument, learning materials, and storage area.
- **How** the student and parent maintain practice record.
- **How** the student performs in concerts/contests and other extracurricular band activities.
- **How** the student shows respect for instructors, peers, and self.

### SKILL

- **How** the student progresses on instrument. (Tests/six-weeks projects via director evaluation)
- **How** the student participates in rehearsals and performances, and etiquette on dress, behavior, and promptness.
- **How** the student contributes to the ensemble in skill and attitude, as evidenced in performance.

**Do not expect a high grade in band if there is a deficiency in any of the above areas. Any student with a reasonable work ethic and a willingness to respect rules and authority will succeed in band, regardless of talent and or aptitude. Any student lacking respect or a good work ethic will not succeed in band, regardless of talent and or aptitude.** Chair placement is based on tests scores, and evaluation from directors, based on participation and skill. Director of Bands reserves the right to evaluate and adjust scores, up or down, based on fair and equitable assessment.

## ACTIVE ELEGIBILITY

Band students are EXPECTED to demonstrate (everyday) good character traits and acceptable academic performance. It is in each student's best interest to learn that an individual's success depends on overall group success. Students must know how to act in public, performance, traveling, at games, AT ALL TIMES. The public's perception of the CHS Band is important and dependent on this. Also, students must pass all academics for eligibility purposes. There is no time for the band program to pamper and tolerate students who have chronic discipline problems (students who are not in class and/or rehearsals due to detentions, suspension, or school disciplinary consequences) and/or chronic academic ineligibility. Students are given one chance per school year to correct a minor behavior issue or an academic issue. Failure to do so may result in suspension from the band program for the remainder of the same school year. The first minor behavior infraction will place a student on **BEHAVIORAL REVIEW** for the remainder of school year. Any additional infraction may result in suspension from the band. A nine weeks failing grade in any subject will place a student on **ACADEMIC REVIEW** for the remainder of the school year. Any additional nine weeks failing grade may result in suspension from band. **The ultimate consequence is at the Director of Band's discretion.**

Students placed on suspension will be placed into an available academic class. If that is not possible, the student shall be assigned to a writing improvement course supervised by an assistant band director.

It is the intent of this program to provide all means within our power to ensure every student's success. **However, ultimately the responsibility is on the student. CHARACTER COUNTS AND GRADES ARE IMPORTANT.**

## SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE

The Symphonic Wind Ensemble is the most advanced performance entity within the overall high school band program. Students are selected based on playing skills as demonstrated by audition, overall academic performance, and successful participation on the Region, Area, and/or State levels of ATSSB / TMEA / UIL. Students who are seated in the Symphonic Wind Ensemble represent up to the top 50% of the High School Band. This class requires total commitment at the highest level of musical performance and understanding.

## CONCERT BAND

The High School Concert Band is a less advanced performance entity geared to the intermediate level student. All High School band members are eligible with no pre-requisites. All students must audition and uphold the guidelines within this handbook and those set forth by the Canton ISD.

## AUXILIARY GROUPS

Junior high and high school bands shall each have a color guard. The Junior High guard shall not exceed 12 and shall be chosen by audition if necessary. The Canton ISD band staff will adjudicate the audition. Students must be at least entering their 2nd year of band for eligibility. The Junior High guard shall purchase one uniform, chosen by the director, to be used for pep rallies and home games (director's discretion). The total cost should not exceed \$250.00. Students chosen for the guard shall practice, as a group, one afternoon each week. Any student that does not perform his/her routine satisfactorily is subject to exclusion from the following performance. Any student that has unexcused absences is also subject to exclusion from the following performance, and possible dismissal from the group. All color guard members must be in uniform, head to toe, for any and every public performance. All band grading procedures apply.

High School band color guard shall be chosen by audition. One or more non-Canton ISD band director-adjudicators will score the audition. Students with 3 years of Canton high school band guard experience are not scored during audition. Placement in guard is automatic for those students with 3 years of CHS guard experience and are in good standing in the program. One/two Captain(s) shall be selected by separate audition and interview (after initial placement in guard is achieved). All captain auditions shall be scored separately. A student that has been a captain previously can be exempted from their audition based upon director decision. The Captain(s) will serve on the Student Band Council. High school color guard members shall purchase one show uniform and accessories which should not exceed \$400.00. Additional costs include June/July guard camp, which is \$150.00 due at the beginning of camp. All remaining money is due no later than the last day of August Band camp following spring auditions. Pep Rally uniforms are provided. Extra rehearsals are mandatory, thus making it impossible for guard students to be involved in other extracurricular activities during the Fall semester. All band grading procedures (previous page) apply. Rehearsal schedules shall be approved by the Director of Bands.

Drum majors shall be chosen by audition. No more than two drum majors shall be chosen each year. A student that has been a drum major previously can be exempted from their audition based upon director decision. One or more non-Canton ISD band director-adjudicators will score the audition. Drum majors must in no way jeopardize good standing with directors or staff. Any negative or questionable action or situation involving a drum major, which the director of bands deems to be a compromise of the program's integrity, may result in the immediate dismissal of that drum major from his/her duties. In that unfortunate event, the director of bands may use his/her discretion whether to replace that person or not, and the process by which a replacement shall be chosen. All band grading procedures (previous page) apply.

All students auditioning for an auxiliary position in CISD bands must first turn in an acceptance letter, signed and dated by student and parent/guardian. No student shall be allowed to audition without this letter on file.

High School Auxiliary members are not allowed to participate in any other Fall related school activities, such as cheerleading, mascot, sports, etc. This policy avoids placing undue stress on the student and the programs involved, since these areas of participation do require extra practice and commitment. Students are required to maintain eligibility at all grading periods. Any student displaying difficulty in maintaining his/her role in the band auxiliary, rehearsal schedule, routines, grades, etc. will be subject to removal by the Director of Bands (Director's discretion). Any student

who willfully or otherwise does not fulfill his/her tenure or commitment as an auxiliary member (once chosen) shall still be responsible for all fees and costs as described on previous page.

## **APPLIED MUSIC**

An Applied Music class is offered to any high school band student wishing to further explore different areas of musicianship. These students are expected to maximize their musical potential through performance, refining playing skills and synthesizing compositional theory. Students planning to further study music in college would be well advised to schedule this class each year. Grades are given based upon the same grading policy as in the regular band class. Students are accepted into this course by director's discretion.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

All graduating band seniors are eligible for college scholarship money. Several local Junior Colleges and many Universities consistently offer Canton High Band Seniors scholarship opportunities. Being an Eagle Band member continues to pay off every year. Students do not have to be music majors to qualify, and nearly all of our graduates are offered great discounts on tuition, out-of-state fee waivers, along with that once in lifetime chance to experience the excitement, fun, and newfound friendships as a member of a college band. The following colleges and universities have provided scholarships to past Eagle Band Graduates:

***University of North Texas, Stephen F. Austin, Texas Tech, UT Arlington, Oklahoma Baptist, A & M Commerce, Northwestern State University, LA., TVCC, A & M Kingsville, TJC, UT Tyler, University of Southwestern LA., Abilene Christian University, Henderson State, ETBU, SMU, University of Arkansas, Central Baptist College, Hendrix College, Howard Payne, Sam Houston State, Texas State, Harding University, and Oklahoma State University.***

Additional scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors at the annual High School Band Awards Night, held each year in the Spring. Each scholarship is in the amount of \$500.00 and may be used to further the student's education at the institution of his/her choice, regardless of the area of study. An award is granted to one boy and one girl, based on an interview process conducted by a committee of 3 band parents. The committee also awards one student athlete the Bonnie Martinez Memorial Scholarship, as well as awarding a future music major the Canton High School Band Booster Music Educators Award. The Robert Alvarado Memorial Scholarship is also granted to one student for their service to the band over four years. This student is chosen by the Director of Bands. A \$750.00 scholarship in association with the John Phillip Sousa award is also presented. All of these scholarships are funded by the band parents.

Band letter jackets are awarded to third year band students based on successful student participation, good standing in the program, and the student meeting the program's expectations. Students that enter the program later in their High School career will be considered for their letter jacket by the band staff based upon their credentials.



# **LEADERSHIP GROUPS**

The CHS Band hierarchy is set up to encourage student input in decision making and implementation of policy. The leadership begins with the highest level being drum major, followed by band president and vice-president, and then section leaders.

Drum majors (also on the Student Band Council) are responsible for all aspects of the program throughout the school year and must lead and implement those duties deemed necessary by the director of bands and/or assistant directors. All students must answer to the drum majors.

Captains are those students that lead by playing and marching skills, seniority, and proven leadership skills. They will lead their instrument family sections on music mastery, memorization, all aspects of marching band, and musicality. These students are responsible for the success of the band, positive attitude, and the quality of what those sections produce musically and visually.

It is an honor and a privilege to be part of the CHS Band Student Leadership Team. Any student who diminishes this responsibility becomes a liability to the program as a whole and is subject to removal from the position and/or disciplinary action (director's discretion).

# **BAND PARENT GROUP**

All band parents are encouraged to become a member of the band parent group. These parents are the band program's support group. The responsibilities are to service the band program through fund raising and support as needed. This group's primary goal is to help meet the financial needs of the students. Everything the parent group does is for the student. The band parent group does not participate in policy making or implementation within the CISD instrumental (Bands) music program. The Director of Bands serves on an advisory basis to better guide the parent leaders on the needs of the program.

***PARENTS WHO HAVE STUDENTS IN THE HIGH SCHOOL BAND ARE EXPECTED TO BE ACTIVE!!!***

***BAND PARENT MEETINGS ARE HELD EVERY FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:00 PM AT THE HIGH SCHOOL BAND HALL.***

## SUMMATION

Participation in the Canton band program is dependent upon **effort, good character from every student**, and an **HONEST DESIRE TO SUCCEED!** The rules stated in this handbook are easy to understand. The band directors and administration of the CISD feel these rules are fair, just and are in the best interest of the overall Eagle Band program, school, and each individual who participates. The final decision is yours. **Complacency is not acceptable in the Canton Eagle Band program!** An organization is only as strong as its weakest link. The Canton ISD Band program does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex or handicap.

## VERY IMPORTANT:

**PLEASE PRINT, FILL OUT, AND SIGN THE NEXT THREE PAGES. THEN RETURN THEM TO THE CHS BAND HALL BY THE END OF THE AUGUST BAND CAMP.**

# **CANTON HIGH SCHOOL BAND**

**My child and I have read the Canton ISD Band handbook and understand fully the content contained and the spirit of intent by which it is written. We also understand that if at any time, and/or for any reason, my child cannot follow the policies and guidelines set forth by the director, classroom teachers, or school administration, he/she shall be subject to consequences as stated in this handbook, as well as the CISD High School Handbook.**

**Furthermore, I acknowledge the past accomplishments of the Eagle Band program and realize the responsibility my child assumes and the profound educational benefits my child is granted as a member of this outstanding school organization.**

**We also acknowledge our intent to contribute positively, as parent and student, to the Canton ISD Band program.**

Parent/guardian signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

**\*THIS FORM IS TO BE KEPT ON FILE BY THE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT\***

## **MEDICAL RELEASE FORM**

**NAME OF CHILD** \_\_\_\_\_

**STREET ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP CODE** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME PHONE ( )** \_\_\_\_\_ **WORK PHONE( )** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME/PHONE OF BLOOD RELATIVE** \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME/PHONE OF PHYSICIAN** \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**INSURANCE CARRIER** \_\_\_\_\_

**POLICY NAME AND NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT MEDICAL INFORMATION (ALLERGIES, ALERTS, MEDICATION, ETC)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**IN THE EVENT OF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY AND IF I CANNOT BE CONTACTED, I HEREBY GIVE PERMISSION FOR MY CHILD TO RECEIVE APPROPRIATE MEDICAL TREATMENT. I ALSO HEREBY RELEASE SCHOOL OFFICIALS, TRAVEL OFFICIALS, CHAPERONES, RESORT PERSONNEL AND EVENT/FESTIVAL OFFICIALS FROM LIABILITY FOR ANY ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF THEIR DUTIES.**

**SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT/STUDENT UIL MARCHING BAND  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

*Updated 2018*

No student may be required to attend a marching band related practice for more than eight hours outside the academic school day per calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). This provision applies to students in all components of the marching band. **Exception:** For schools that begin instruction prior to the fourth Monday in August the limit of eight hours of rehearsal outside of the academic school day per calendar week shall begin on the Tuesday immediately following Labor Day. Schools under this exception shall be limited to eight hours of rehearsal outside of the academic day per school week (12:01 AM on the first day of school of the calendar week through the end of the school day on the last day of instruction of the school week) until the Tuesday immediately following Labor Day.

On performance days (football games, competitions and other public performances) bands may hold up to one additional hour of warm-up and practice beyond the scheduled warm-up time. Multiple performances on the same day do not allow for additional practice and/or warm-up time.

Examples of Activities Subject to the UIL Marching Band Eight Hour Rule.

- Marching Band Rehearsal (Both Full Band and Components)
- Any Marching Band Group Instructional Activity
- Breaks
- Announcements
- Debriefing and Viewing Marching Band Videos
- Passing Off Marching Band Music
- Marching Band Sectionals (Both Director and Student Led)
- Clinics for The Marching Band or Any of its Components

The Following Activities Are Not Included in the Eight Hour Time Allotment:

- Travel Time to and From Rehearsals and/or Performances
- Rehearsal Set-Up Time
- Pep Rallies, Parades and Other Public Performances
- Instruction and Practice For Music Activities Other Than Marching Band And Its Components

NOTE: More information about Marching Band practice limitations can be found at:  
[www.uiltexas.org/music/marching-band](http://www.uiltexas.org/music/marching-band)

We have read and understand the Eight-Hour Rule for Marching Band as stated above and agree to abide by these regulations.”

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# **WE THE MEMBERS**

OF THE CANTON HIGH SCHOOL MIGHTY  
EAGLE BAND, IN ORDER TO BECOME A  
MORE SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZATION,  
SHALL STRIVE TO OUR VERY BEST TO  
BECOME A GROUP THAT WILL NOT SETTLE  
FOR SECOND BEST. WE ARE A GROUP  
WITH HONESTY, DIGNITY, STRENGTH AND  
PRIDE.....

ONLY THROUGH HARD WORK SHALL  
WE ACHIEVE OUR DREAMS!