

Directors:

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Phone: (865) 689-1400

Band website: [bobcatband.org](http://bobcatband.org)

Remind: Text @CHSBOB20 for seniors, @CHSBOB21 for juniors @CHSBOB22 for sophomores and @CHSBOB23 for freshman to the number 81010

## Welcome!

Ms. Kearney and Mr. Mink are excited to welcome you to one of the oldest high school band programs in Tennessee. Central High School has a long standing tradition of excellence in the band program. We take pride in that the Central High School band is woven into the very fabric of Fountain City culture. Our band is the first sound freshman will hear when they walk through the doors to begin their journey through high school, we are the anthem of Friday nights, we are champions at Saturday band contests, and we are the last sound students will hear when they walk across the stage and receive their diploma. Our alumni number in the hundreds and it is the utmost importance that we maintain the tradition of excellence in the Central High School Band. We are so happy to have you as part of our family. We hope you will make the most out of the short time we have together and take advantage of the many opportunities this program has to offer!

## Objectives of the Band Program

- To teach music through performance and composition
- To develop skills on the various wind and percussion instruments
- To teach a varied repertoire of music
- To develop an appreciation for varied music
- To provide the school and Fountain City with its musical needs
- To facilitate life skills such as: leadership, cooperation, accountability and responsibility.
- To provide a safe environment where every student is welcome and valued

# Band Courses

## Marching Band (Fall)

Membership in the marching band requires strenuous physical activity and the ability to play difficult literature simultaneously in the activity. All students enrolled in fall marching band are required to march AND participate in concert band performances during the fall semester with the exception of color guard members. The marching band performs most every Friday from August to November at morning pep rallies, football games and performs at competitions on some Saturdays. Performances are required as they are part of the curriculum.

Fall band is called “Marching Band” in the course catalog but also functions as a concert band. All members in fall semester band will participate in concert band performances such as JROTC Inspection and the Winter Concert.

## Concert Band & Symphonic Band (Spring):

The Concert and Symphonic Bands are the primary performing organizations in the instrumental music program. These bands train daily to build the skills to perform at a high level. Concert and Symphonic performances include but are not limited to, Pre-CPA performance, Concert Performance Assessment, Spring Concert, Senior Award Ceremony and Graduation. Students will be required to attend some after school rehearsals.

Chamber ensembles or small ensembles are formed during band classes. All band members will perform in a small ensemble during events such as Night of the Arts and Christmas Tree Lighting. Chamber ensembles include but are not limited to brass choir, woodwind choir, clarinet ensemble, saxophone ensemble, brass quintet etc.

## Honors Credit for band:

All students can receive an honors credit for band by fulfilling the requirements outlined by the Knox County Honors Contract. Honors credit requirements include but are not limited to attending two professional concerts per year, the competition of scales and an etude approved by the directors, prepare an audition for All East Honor Band and write a research paper in the spring. If you are interested in honors credit for band please ask Ms. Kearney or Mr. Mink for a contract.

### Instrumental Ensemble: Percussion (Spring):

All percussionists in the band program need to enroll in percussion class. Students learn basic fundamentals on all of the percussion instruments and explore many styles and genres. Percussion Ensemble plays music written especially for percussion and performs at events such as Spring/Winter Concerts and Night of the Arts. Students will be required to attend some after school rehearsals.

### Color Guard (Fall) and Winter Guard (spring):

Students who are interested in dance, choreography, and movement may choose to audition for our marching auxiliary unit. No experience is required and all are welcome. Auditions for the fall color guard are held in May and auditions for the indoor winter guard are held in December. Students interested in Color Guard should register for the “Marching Band” course in the fall. Students interested in winter guard should register for the winter guard class in the spring. Students will be required to attend some after school rehearsals.

## **Additional Opportunities:**

### After-School Chamber Ensembles:

The Central High Band also offers additional chamber ensembles that meet outside of normal class time. Depending on the year, this could include saxophone ensemble, clarinet ensemble, trumpet studio, or brass choir. These are additional opportunities for students to perform at a high level and develop essential techniques for success on their instruments.

### Leadership Workshops:

The leadership workshops prepare students to become effective leaders within the band program and beyond. Students may elect to attend leadership workshops lead by Ms. Kearney and Mr. Mink in the spring.

### Private Lessons:

Private lessons on a musical instrument are the best way to improve performance skills. The one-on-one approach allows the student to benefit from individual attention as opposed to being one in a class of more than sixty. Students

who study privately are more likely to study diligently, stay in band, make honor bands, receive scholarships and have more musical opportunities. Mr. Mink and Ms. Kearney are more than happy to assist in finding a private instructor for a student.

### Honor Bands:

Members of the band program are eligible to audition for the Knox County Honor Bands (by nomination in September), All-State East Honor Jazz Band (auditions in November), All-State East Honor Bands (auditions in January), Tennessee All-State Honor Bands and Tennessee All-State Jazz Band (must qualify at All-State East audition). Detailed information about auditions will be given at a later date, audition sites vary. In addition, there are additional year-round ensembles (Knoxville Youth Jazz Orchestra, Knoxville Youth Symphony, Knoxville Youth Sax Ensemble) that students can choose to audition for. For more information, contact a band director.

## **Attendance Policy/Schedule Conflicts with Band**

All dates and events on the website are required unless advised otherwise by a director. *The only excusable absences are prearranged school conflicts and those that would be excused by the school for regular attendance records, e.g., illness, a death in the family, or a religious holiday.* Unexcused absences will affect the student's grade. If the directors feel the student is not prepared due to chronic absence, the student will not perform.

If a student **MUST** miss a rehearsal or performance the following procedure must occur:

1. The directors must be informed **AT LEAST** two weeks in advance.
2. Each miss needs to be documented by filling out an Absence Excuse Form. Absence Excuse Forms can be found on the band website [bobcatband.org](http://bobcatband.org) on the drop down menu labeled "more".
3. For illness, a parental note or a doctor's note must be submitted.
4. In extreme cases or emergencies, please contact the band directors via Remind or Email.
5. Follow-up is the sole responsibility of the student!

The mere filing of an absence excuse form does not constitute approval. Please follow up with directors.

**Schedule Conflicts with Band:**

Resolving scheduling conflicts between band and other activities such as sports or tutoring is the responsibility of the student. Rehearsal schedules are given out in advance via the website bobcatband.org, the news board in the band room and Remind so that arrangements can be made. Students should have a calendar and be aware of all band dates well ahead of schedule. Conflicts will be handled in advance and on a case by case basis.

## **Academics, Grades, and Honors**

Rehearsals and Rehearsal Technique

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• After school rehearsal attendance</li><li>• Rehearsal etiquette and participation</li></ul>	25%
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Performances

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Concert and contest attendance/participation</li></ul>	50%
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Homework and assignments

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Smart Music assignments</li><li>• Playing tests</li><li>• Other homework</li></ul>	25%
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**Varsity Letters, Chevrons:**

Students who qualify will receive a letter of chevron by meeting the following requirements:

- 2 Semesters in band with an A average receive a letter with lyre
- 4 Semesters earns a Chevron
- 6 Semesters earns 2 Chevrons
- 8 Semesters earns 3 Chevrons

# Duties of a Band Member

- Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. **Early is on time-on time is late.**
- When you enter the band room, you enter a professional space. You must get your instrument, go directly to your seat and start to warm up.
- Keep our space clean and organized. ALWAYS pick up after yourself. Do not leave clothes, papers or equipment out. Please help maintain the organization and cleanliness of the band room. If there is paper on the floor, clean it up, even if you did not leave it there!
- Come to rehearsal with a good attitude. Attitude is infectious!
- There should be no excess playing. Students should not play each other's instruments for any reason. Students should never horse around with instruments or each other.
- Make an effort to improve every single day and establish a practice routine.
- At the end of rehearsal, put all equipment in its proper place and remove personal items such as clothing, water bottles, bags, sun block, etc. from the band room.
- Become responsible for your own actions and take pride in your work and your band room.
- Have proper respect for yourself, all band members and all adults.
- When an instructor is on the podium or addressing a group, all conversations both verbal and non verbal should cease.

# Central High School Band Values

## Responsibility:

Being a Central High School Band member comes with a great amount of responsibility. Central High School has the oldest high school band program in the state of Tennessee and every year since 1939, this program has had a huge impact on Fountain City. It is our responsibility to hold ourselves to high expectations and build on the legacy that has existed for almost 100 years.

- Responsibility to Ourselves:

You have the primary responsibility to develop your own abilities and be prepared for rehearsal every day. A quality instrument, supplies and private lessons can not be overestimated. What you put into it is what you will get out of it. Always remember your directors are here to help!

- Responsibility to the School:

The school provides us with resources for rehearsals, performances and support. The Bobcat Band Boosters provide a great deal of support for equipment, instructors and other fees that the Central High School Band program could not survive without. We have a responsibility to be especially kind, polite and to provide the best quality services we can for our school and community.

- Responsibility to Each Other:

Unlike any other activity or class you have ever experienced, band is 100% of students 100% of the time. Every single student in band is “first strain” and we are all evaluated as a whole by our audience. We must always do what is best for the welfare of the group. This includes being prepared for rehearsal by having all of your materials and knowing your own part. There can be no selfish acts solely for the benefit of a single section or individual. NEVER insult another band member’s integrity and if there are conflicts, give your best effort to resolve them. The word “band” implies that we are banded together without divisions.

### **Attitude:**

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any individual is attitude. The kind of person you are is uniquely based on experiences and values but the way you think of things is a choice you can make every single day. Band can be daunting and sometimes you may not understand the process immediately but the right attitude must be present along with sincerity, concentration, and dedication to reach goals. If we make the most out of every rehearsal (even when we do not necessarily want to), our band will go very far.

### **Discipline:**

Due to the nature of the organization, band discipline must be strict! Rules, procedures and discipline must be enforced to function at maximum efficiency and make the most out of learning opportunities. Each member must always be aware of good behavior and think for themselves. Misconduct reflects poorly on the student, the directors, the band, Central High School and Fountain City.

## **Financial Obligations**

**Band Fee (Fall) : \$250 due prior to the start of band camp unless fees need to be split into 3 payments which are due as follows: May 20 - \$75, June 25 - \$75, July 25 - \$100. Spring Semester Band fees of \$25 due prior to February 1st.** This fee is waived if the student was in band in the Fall semester. The band fee covers the cost of music, band camp, transportation, equipment and supplies. These fees can be made payable to *Central High School Band*.

**Booster Fee:** The boosters cover additional instruction, equipment, contest fees, social events etc. Booster Fees **do not need to be paid if the student and parent volunteer and fundraise!**

Please refer to the fee sheets for details.

At times the financial obligation may be heavy but no member will be denied opportunities of the Central High School Band due to financial difficulties. Please talk to Ms. Kearney and Mr. Mink.



# Rules and Procedures

- Shoes and socks must be worn at all times for all outside practices. Absolutely NO sandals, chacos, flats etc.
- NO food or drinks in the band room unless it is water.
- The band room is a professional environment. Students may NOT loiter, eat lunch, or hang out in our rehearsal space. Students may stay in the band room if they are practicing.
- Be in your seat, warmed up and ready to begin on time.
- Students are required to remain with the band after games and will be dismissed from the band room as a group.
- Band room upkeep is the responsibility of all band students.
- Uniforms (marching band full uniform, summer uniform or concert black) must be worn properly at all times.
- On trips, students must stay in groups and a chaperone must be present.
- Profanity is not part of our organization! Make sure your language is not offensive.
- Early dismissals from rehearsal or a performance must be approved in advance and documentation must be provided.
- Students will uphold the values of Central High School and the Central High School Band program. This includes being kind and respectful to everyone, all the time.
- Students are responsible for make up work and communicating with other teachers on the rare occasion that class time is missed for band.

# Marching Band

## **Camp:**

This year's band camp is scheduled for July 15-19 and July 22-26. Camp usually falls on the last two weeks in July. Camp is required of all students joining marching band; two weeks of band camp is the equivalent of about six weeks of rehearsal during the school year. A detailed camp schedule is provided in June. Absences from camp will be held on a case by case basis. Camp will conclude with a pool party and community performance of the fall production.

## **Rehearsal:**

Students are expected to attend all marching band rehearsals and performances. If there is a conflict with rehearsals or performances, the student must notify the directors and fill out a Rehearsal Excuse form on the band website (bobcatband.org.) Rehearsals are after school on Mondays from 4:00-6:00 and Thursdays from 4:30-6:30 to accommodate tutoring sessions offered on Thursdays.

## **Uniform:**

The band will provide the following in regards to uniform:

- Shako and Plume
- Jacket
- Bibbers

The band does not provide:

- Shoes: Black Drill Masters approximately \$35 at Rush's or Lunsford's
- Black Socks and Black gloves
- Black "second skin" compression shirt
- Flip books
- Lyres

These items must be purchased before the community performance held at the end of band camp. Show hair must be worn properly for every performance.

### **Inspection:**

Prior to performances, the drum majors will call the band to attention and all band members will stand for inspection. During inspection section leads and drum majors will check for the following:

- Clean and wrinkle free uniforms
- Correct hems on bibber pants
- Hair correctly worn- all hair combed, off the collar and neatly kept.
- Cleaned shoes- no dirt, mud or scuffs
- Jewelry out of sight
- Clean, lubricated instruments- brass and percussion must clean and polish before performances.

*Please do not get your ears pierced during marching season!*

### **Football Games:**

- Report times for football games will be announced on or before each Thursday before football games.
- Each member must wear full uniform unless heat prohibits.
  - Summer uniform is show T-shirt, shorts, black shoes, black socks
- Students will be dismissed by the directors in the band room after each game. This is to ensure the band room is left tidy and organized and to communicate information as needed.
- When marching to the stadium, marching band members will remain at attention. No side conversations, no waving or communicating at audience members. *When you have class it shows- when you don't it shouts!*
- Only uniformed band members are permitted in the band section.
- All members are to remain in their section and no unapproved stands tunes are permitted.
- Our role at football games require us to play at a moments notice. Be ready to react immediately to instructions given by the drum major or director.
- If a student leaves the band section, another student must accompany them and both must have permission from the director.

### **Traveling:**

- If a conversation can be heard at the front of the bus, it is too loud!
- There will no hanging, talking or yelling out of bus windows.

- Please lower the volume considerably when in towns or stadiums. This is for your own safety, is courteous to the bus driver and is an act of class.
- Please keep the bus clean and check your area before exiting off the bus. Just like the band room, if you find a mess or debris please clean it up even if you were not the cause.
- Always thank your chaperones and bus driver.
- Students will be dismissed by the directors in the band room after each game. This is to ensure the band room is left tidy and organized and to communicate information as needed.

### **Hotel Situations:**

- Rooms are to be locked at all times.
- All school rules are enforced on trips.
- There will be no one of the opposite sex in your room unless accompanied by a chaperone.
- Do not play instruments in hotel rooms. Percussion practice pads are allowed before 8pm.
- No one is to leave the hotel.
- All band members are expected to be in the right place, at the right time, ready to go.

### **Marching Competitions:**

Competitions are special events where we get to perform in front of a special audience for highly competent judges. Competition dates can be found on the [bobcatband.org](http://bobcatband.org) calendar. At these contests, we are critiqued by a panel of judges that can give us insight in how to better our skills. All parents are encouraged to attend competitions as chaperones or as audience members to support the band. Information about competition days such as itinerary are given before the competition date.

- Bring a bag with a change of clothes (including band shirt) and money for food.
- If a student must leave the competition after the band performs, they must submit documentation and at least one director must see the student leave with the adult indicated in the document.
- When a student is a spectator, they will not speak negatively about any organization or person. Remember, you are ALWAYS representing the Central High School Band, Central High School and Fountain City.

# Concert Band

**Evening Practices:** After School Rehearsals will occur a few times when a concert draws nearer. Be vigilant about checking the bobcatband.org calendar and the paper calendar on the news board.

## **Additional Rules and Procedures:**

- Students have three minutes to be in and out of the instrument room, set up their instrument and set up their chair and stand.
- Please check the class agenda on the board to ensure you have appropriate materials (proper instruments, music in order, etc.) before warm up.
- At your seat, you will need: a pencil, your warm up book, a tuner, your music, your instrument and other supplies (i.e., valve oil, reeds) before warm-up.
- Phones are not permitted unless they are being used as a tuner. If phones are being used for anything else, they may be confiscated.
- Ms. Kearney and Mr. Mink may do a materials check for a grade. If a student does not have the proper materials for rehearsal, their grade may be lowered. This aligns with our value of *responsibility*.
- Be prepared. The purpose of rehearsal is to learn each other's part and how they fit together not learn your individual music.
- In your individual warm up, you should cover long tones, slurs, scales and parts of the music we plan to play in class.
- Be familiar with how you play and what you need in your warm up. Some musicians need longer to warm up than others.

## **School Owned Instrumental Rental:**

Each student who borrows a school owned instrument is completely responsible for the instrument. If an instrument is damaged due to negligence, the student is responsible for the cost of repair or replacement. An instrument check out form must be completed and filed with one of the directors in order to take the instrument home.

# Band Room M100

The band room is a professional learning environment and must be treated as such every time anyone walks in. The use of the band room before, after and during school hours is a privilege. Students who abuse the facility will be disciplined accordingly. Any abuse or damage to the facility or property in the band room will be treated as vandalism. **No outside (non band) students are permitted in the band room, unless they have business with the director.** There will be no horseplay, no throwing objects, no food and no redecorating in the band room. Do not handle equipment unless it belongs to you or you have been specifically instructed to. Students whom are not percussionists may not handle percussion equipment. Students whom are not in color guard may not handle color guard equipment. Do not store personal items in the band room- the band room is not your locker!

## **Practice Rooms:**

Practice rooms will be used for practice or private instruction only. Keep the rooms neat and stands put away properly.

## **Library, Band Office, Phone:**

The Library and Band Office are private and are to be used only by staff. Materials such as solos or books may be checked out by the librarian. The Director's Office is private and may not be entered unless a student has permission. Please keep in mind, the Director's Office is a place of business. If the door is shut please knock first. Ask permission before using the phone.

# How Can Parents Help?

*Band Parents make the world go 'round!* Our band exists today because of the love of parents and dedication from teachers and administrators. When a band question arises, it is important that parents get correct information before discussing with others. We do much more harm to the band family when we talk about things that have one or more falsehoods. Ms. Kearney and Mr. Mink are more than happy to clear up misinformation via email, remind or private meetings. If you have questions about band proper, rehearsals, performances etc., please ask the directors. When it is a question about fundraising or anything dealing with social events, please contact the boosters.

- Show interest in the musical study of your student. Ask them what they are playing in band. Do they enjoy it? What do you/they enjoy? What skill are they trying to work on as an individual?
- Ask your student for information. What's coming up in band this week/this month? Do you have a hand out for me? Do we need to get supplies from the music store?
- Allow/arrange a regular place and time for your student to practice.
- Recognition is a great motivator "I heard you playing downstairs! You're getting better!"
- Keep instruments in good condition. Instruments in poor condition are hard to play on and may discourage the progress of your student.
- Double check that your student has all materials for rehearsal. We all have busy lives, it's easy to forget something!
- Attend band performances and activities.
- Volunteer with the band boosters! Volunteering with the boosters models good leadership for your student and allows you to earn booster points for your account!
- Keep the handbook in a safe place and refer to it often.
- If you have questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to ask. Ms. Kearney and Mr. Mink can be reached via email ([krista.kearney@knoxschools.org](mailto:krista.kearney@knoxschools.org) , [alex.mink@knoxschools.org](mailto:alex.mink@knoxschools.org)) or you can directly message us on Remind!

Contract of Mutual Consent

I, \_\_\_\_\_, accept membership in the Central High School Band and I understand I am responsible for all policies set forth in the band handbook. I fully agree to carry out my responsibilities to the very best of my ability.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the policies as set forth in the band handbook. I also grant full permission for my student to be an active member of the Central High School Band. In addition, my student has full permission to attend all band functions. Furthermore, I understand that I must meet financial obligations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent email

\_\_\_\_\_