

Central High School of Clay County



Marching Volunteers **Band Handbook** **2025-2026**

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Public Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CHSVolunteerBand>

Private Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/453676017162971>

Google Classroom Code: 4zg4rg4l

Introduction and Purpose

At Central High School, we strongly believe that music can enrich every person's life in unique and powerful ways. Our primary goal is to foster the development of a lifelong relationship with music in every student and love and appreciation of music and music-making. Beyond the purely musical goals of the program, we also aim to develop student's interpersonal and intrapersonal skills. Teamwork is a requirement for everyone, at all times. This handbook serves as a guide for the expectations of the Central High School of Clay County Band students and parents. It is written in an attempt to answer any questions to situations that may arise. Parents and members are responsible for the policies outlined in this document. **The Band Director and/or Administration will decide on situations not covered in this handbook as the need arises.** Please review all expectations thoroughly before committing.

Rules and Regulations

The Marching Volunteers include members of the marching band, concert band, color guard, dance, the drum majors, and any other unit designated as part of the Marching Volunteers. The rules and regulations apply to all members of all units. Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in one or more of the following: grade deductions, suspension from a performance, alternate status (alternates will not travel with the band,) and/or suspension from the program.

I. Attendance

1. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required.
2. Rehearsals and performances are pre-conditional when a student elects to be in the Band.
3. Attendance is mandatory for interim breaks as well as regular school functions.
4. Any student who is absent during a Thursday rehearsal, or any final rehearsal before a performance will not be allowed to perform in performance(s) that week.
5. Any student who is absent two or more days in one week will not be allowed to perform in performance(s) that week.
6. Absence from a public performance that is not excused may result in dismissal from the Band or disciplinary actions set by the Band Directors/Administration.
7. When a member has been absent at least four times during the season, they are subject to being placed on alternate member status.
8. If a student is placed on alternate status they are still required to attend rehearsals and home games. Students on alternate status will have the opportunity to earn their way out with model attendance and behavior.
9. If a student is ill and/or absent during the week of a performance and cannot perform, but is able to attend the performance, the student must sit with the Band in full uniform.
10. Any instance of ISS or OSS will be considered unexcused. You may not attend rehearsal if under disciplinary action, ISS or OSS, from school.
11. After the start of school, five unexcused absences will result in removal from marching band.
12. Excused absences.

1. Death in the family
2. Sickness (Dr. Note required to be excused)
3. Absence approved by the principal (school trips, etc.)

II. Equipment at Rehearsals and Performances

Each student is required to have his/her instrument and/or equipment at all rehearsals and performances. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence.

III. Conduct and Behavior

1. Any act of disrespect to the Band Director is not acceptable and will result in immediate suspension from the band program until a conference with the Director, Administrator, student, and parent is held. The Band Director and Administrator will determine the consequences of such action.
2. An act of disrespect to a chaperone is not acceptable and subject to disciplinary action.
3. A student may be suspended for causing unnecessary or habitual disruptions within the Band Program.
4. The Drum Major, under the supervision of the Band Director, is responsible for the Band as a whole. Each student will cooperate and follow the Drum Major's instruction. If a student is uncooperative with the Drum Major, the Band Director will be notified immediately. Disciplinary actions will be taken.
5. The Band Captain, under the supervision of the Band Director, is responsible for the Band as a whole. Each student will cooperate and follow the Band Captain's instruction. If a student is uncooperative with the Band Captain, the Band Director will be notified immediately. Disciplinary actions will be taken.
6. The section leader, under the supervision of the Drum Major and Band Captain, is responsible for his/her section. Each student will cooperate and follow the instruction of the section leader. If a student is uncooperative with the section leader, the Band Directors will be notified immediately. Disciplinary actions will be taken.
7. As stated in the CHS Handbook, **tobacco, e cig/vape, alcohol, drugs, vulgar and/or suggestive language, suggestive and/or revealing clothing are prohibited.** Such violations will be reported to the Administrator for disciplinary actions which may include probation or dismissal from the Band. If the suspension occurs during a public performance, the student will not be allowed to perform, and points will be deducted from grade.
8. Anyone found guilty of stealing will be dismissed from the Band. The Administrator and parents will be notified.
9. No act of public displays of affection, horseplay, or any form of aggressive behavior will not be accepted.
10. CHS Marching Volunteer members will not use profanity in the presence of other students or adults while engaged in band activities.

Discipline Policy:

Failure to Pass Off Music or Routines:

Failure to pass off music or Routines will result in a student being excluded from the performance for the upcoming week. Students who have not passed off all show music before the third week of September (the week before the first competition) will lose their spot in the drill and will be removed from the show.

Minor Infractions:

In the band program, we use various forms of discipline as a means to pursue excellence. Minor infractions, such as moving at attention,, and not having supplies will result in physical activity-based punishment. (Examples: push-ups, laps around the practice field, standing at attention for a timed period) Student leadership may issue minor punishment in these forms with the director's approval. **If a student feels they are being unfairly punished or harassed by a member of leadership, they should bring it to the director's attention immediately.**

Moderate Infractions:

Moderate infractions such as tardiness to an event, failure to bring supplies to rehearsal or performance, failure to adhere to uniform policies, etc. **See the Intermediate Infractions listing in the Clay County Code of Conduct.**

Major Infractions:

Any student committing a behavior classified as a major offense according to the code of conduct for Clay County Schools during any band-related event will be dismissed from the band immediately - this includes possession of any product labeled as illegal for minors. (Vapes, cigarettes, alcohol, etc.) **See Major infractions listed in the Clay County Code of Conduct.**

Anyone found guilty of stealing will be dismissed from the Band immediately and cannot return for one full academic year. Administrators and parents will be notified.

Social Media Policy

As a member of the Marching Volunteers, you represent the group at all times, including on social media platforms. Our behavior online and in social media content reflects not only on the individuals associated with the account but on the greater image of the band and the school. It is expected that you hold yourself and the group to the highest of standards.

The following policy gives guidelines on unacceptable behavior online.

Unacceptable Content/Behavior

- Foul, inappropriate, crude or violent speech online; includes language and references to any inappropriate subject material in any postings online.
- Any content that refers or infers to any violation of the policies and procedures of Central High School (use of tobacco/drugs/alcohol, inappropriate sexual behavior or language, hazing, stalking, references to violence or bullying in any nature, etc.)
- Photos, videos, or postings that reflect poorly on the marching band or the school
- Inappropriate emoticons, gestures, signals
- Posting in a negative or defamatory way about bandmates, staff, directors, or any affiliated organizations including opposing teams/programs/schools.

IV. Band Trips and Performances

Selection of Band trips, performances, and functions is the decision of the Band Director. Students will not participate in the selection unless asked by the Director.

The CHS Band functions as a unit. Each Band member is expected to conduct himself/herself as a lady or gentleman at ALL times. We represent ourselves, band, school, and community. We do everything with PRIDE!

1. Students will remain on the bus or in the stands, etc. until directed.
2. Unorganized, individual playing is prohibited.
3. No food or drink is allowed unless the whole Band participates.
4. Throwing of food, drinks, or ice is prohibited.
5. When the Band leaves an area, the area must be clean.
6. Restroom trips must be supervised by chaperones.
7. Friends, relatives, or parents of band members are NOT allowed to sit with the Band unless the Band Director gives permission or they are designated chaperones.
8. Students will leave the stands, buses, etc. in an orderly manner
9. Each student is responsible for his/her instrument, uniforms, equipment, and personal belongings.
10. Friends, relatives, or parents of band members are NOT allowed to sit with the Band unless the Band Director gives permission or they are designated chaperones.
11. The directors and band staff will decide restroom use/concession stand on a case-by-case basis.

V. Uniforms

1. The uniform is a source of pride for our band. All parts will be worn at all performances and functions unless a spirit uniform, travel attire, or other apparel is specified by the Band Director. **Black socks and white gloves as required.**
2. Each Band member is responsible for the safety and upkeep of all parts of the uniform. **Should any part be lost, stolen, or destroyed, the student is responsible for the replacement cost. Replacement costs are estimates and can vary year to year.**
 - a. Marching Band
 - i. Shako – 45.00
 - ii. Jacket – 220.00
 - iii. Bibbers – 85.00
 - iv. Cords- 22.00
 - v. Shako Box – 10.00
 - b. Concert Band
 - i. Bow Tie – 5.00
 - ii. Tux Jacket – 150.00
 - iii. Tux Pants – 100.00
 - iv. Cummerbund – 20.00
 - v. Formal Dress – 80.00
 - c. Auxiliary
 - i. Replacement cost – Determined by uniform cost each year.

VI. School Owned Equipment

1. Any items purchased or donated, or monetary funds contributed to the Band become the property of Central High School and the Clay County Board of Education.
2. The student is responsible for the replacement cost of an instrument if it is lost, stolen, or damaged outside of normal wear and tear.
3. A fee of \$50/semester for use of school owned wind instruments. This is to help offset maintenance and upkeep costs.
4. When the instrument is returned, it will be in good playing condition, or the student will be billed for the repair charges.
5. No insurance is provided on the instrument or equipment.
6. Any student who has been designated to use auxiliary equipment is responsible for the use, care, and replacement cost if it is lost, stolen, or damaged.
7. A contract shall be signed by students who use school-owned instruments and the band director. This will be accomplished during band camp, but no later than the first week of school.

VII. Auxiliary Units

- Please see Auxiliary Information Packets

VIII. Leadership

1. Leadership is chosen by a director or a panel of judges based on musicianship, leadership ability, posture, self-discipline, and the ability to react in a performance situation
2. After selection, leadership will complete training by attending a leadership training camp. Student leaders who fail to complete this training to the satisfaction of the director will be removed. Any leader, regardless of position, may be removed at any time for failing to abide by expected behavior as deemed appropriate by the handbook, band director, or administrative staff.
3. Heads of Auxiliary units will be chosen through try-outs, judged by a panel of judges not affiliated with the Central High School of Clay County Band Program*.
 - *In the event it is necessary, the auxiliary sponsor, as well as clinic instructors can be used for judging purposes.

IX. Fund-Raising

Any funds or monies that are donated or raised in the name of the CHS Marching Volunteer Band Program to purchase any type of equipment, uniforms, etc. become property of the CHS Band Program. These funds cannot be used for the purchase of personally-owned apparel or equipment, etc.

X. Communication

1. Email
2. Sections, Band chats
3. Facebook
4. School Band Page

XI. Fees: 50% of the fees are to be paid up by the first day of band camp. If this is not feasible a payment plan will be instituted. This is set up between the band director and the family of the student. A good faith effort will need to be made to pay fees. Students will be notified at the end of school of their current balance and at band camp if there are any remaining monies owed. All fees or up to date payments must be made by the first football game, August 22, 2025.

****Students not paying fees or having a plan in place to pay fees by the beginning of the football season will be sidelined until fees are paid upon.**** Fees will vary from season to season for each member depending on their section and years in band. Every effort is made to account for all items needed for the season. Occasionally items may arise when items will need to be purchased or repairs made. These instances will be taken on a case-by-case basis. Below is a breakdown of fees for each member. These are for someone who is in their first year of marching band. If a member doesn't need anything replaced, the basic fee(s) will be placed on their account.

1. Winds: \$200- Band Fee, \$35- Marching Shoes
2. Percussion: \$200- Band Fee, \$100- Percussion Fee, \$35- Marching Shoes

3. Auxiliaries: Please see auxiliary
- ****If accounts are not paid off by the end of the regular season, student(s) will be sent to the debt list until they are paid off.****

CHECK-OUT PROCEDURE

1. **Prior to any students being able to check out, loading equipment must happen first.**
Students must be signed out by signing the roster with the chaperone of the student's bus. The student and parent/guardian must report to their respective bus and sign out with the chaperone after the game or event.

**CHS Marching Volunteer
Band Member Contract**

I, _____ understand that Band is an elective and, therefore, choose voluntarily to join the organization. To participate in the program, this form must be turned in by the first day of band camp to maintain my membership in the program. I agree to adhere to the guidelines within the CHS Marching Volunteer Handbook and to pay all fees. I understand that I am part of a whole, and without my full cooperation, the band as a unit and family will suffer. I also understand that if I choose not to follow the guidelines set forth, I will receive the consequences for the said infractions which will incur probation or suspension from the program. Lastly, I acknowledge the checkout procedure detailed in this document.

Please email Mr. Arline with the following information:

Student Name, Parent(s) Name, Student Email, Parent Email, and Phone Number

This will serve as your acknowledgment of the handbook and its contents.

Thank you!

2025 Band Camp Schedule

6	7 Auxilliary/ Percussion 8:00-5:00	8 Auxilliary/ Percussion 8:00-5:00	9 Auxilliary/ Percussion 8:00-5:00	10 Auxilliary/ Percussion 8:00-5:00	11 Auxilliary/ Percussion 8:00-5:00	12
13	14 Band Camp 1:00-5:00	15 Band Camp 8:00-5:00	16 Band Camp 8:00-5:00	17 Band Camp 8:00-5:00	18 Band Camp 8:00-5:00	19
20	21 Band Camp 8:00-5:00	22 Band Camp 8:00-5:00	23 Band Camp 8:00-5:00	24 Band Camp 8:00-5:00	25 Band Camp 8:00-5:00	26
27	28 Band Camp 3:00-6:00	29 Band Camp 3:00-6:00	30	31	1	2 Watermelon Festival 8:00AM

July-August

***Band Fee Deposit (\$100) is due on Monday, July 14th. The remaining balance of \$100 will be paid on August 22nd.**

Rehearsal Schedule: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Lunch from 12 – 1:00. You are responsible for your own lunch.

Once school starts we will rehearse after school on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 3:-5:30

Essentials:

- Instrument
- Tennis shoes with socks
- Sunscreen
- Water Bottle
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Lunch/Lunch Money
- Eat Breakfast Every Day
- Each student is asked to bring at least one case of bottled water

2025 CCHS Football Schedule

August 22	Handley	Home
August 29	Benjamin Russell	Away
September 5	Valley	Away
September 12	Marbury	Home
September 19	Sylacauga	Away
September 26	Scottsboro	Home
September 27	Possible Marching Contest (Leave This Date Open)	
October 3	Elmore County	Home
October 4	Possible Marching Contest (Leave This Date Open)	
October 10	Holtville	Away
October 17	Beauregard	Home
October 18	Possible Marching Contest (Leave This Date Open)	
October 24	Pell City	Away
October 25	Possible Marching Contest (Leave This Date Open)	

We will also be participating in at least two marching competitions. Once the regular football season is over we will be dealing with playoffs, and that is on a week by week basis on where we will be and who we will play. We will need parents to work in the concession stand for home games.

Students please dress with light colored, loose fitting clothes and closed toe shoes (no sandals, flip flops, or crocs). Start laying off soft drinks and start spending time outside in the sun! Also, go ahead and start dusting off that instrument if you haven't already! You can be working on scales, as well as stand tunes, to ensure we have a great start!