
CANYON HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK



Comal I.S.D. – New Braunfels, TX

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Updated: 2026 - 2027 School Year

Mission Statement

CANYON HIGH SCHOOL BAND

With integrity, teamwork, and pride, the members of the Canyon Band program are united with a passion for musical excellence.

Band Calendar / Website / CHARMS

Band calendar updates are posted throughout the year at: www.canyonband.org there is a full year calendar posted, an online google calendar, as well as regular updates.

Ensemble / Class Descriptions

Wind Ensemble: This is the varsity music performing ensemble for Canyon High School, and is made up of students in grades 9-12. Acceptance into this group is by audition only. This group performs advanced music and performs at concerts, football games, pep rallies, parades, and competitions throughout the year. This group has additional rehearsal requirements outside of the class day and individual competition requirements as well. Students in this ensemble are highly encouraged to enroll in private lessons and keep a routine practice regimen. Students in the Wind Ensemble are automatically a member of the marching band and will be expected to participate in TMEA auditions and UIL Solo & Ensemble. Chair placement is by an audition and challenge system.

Symphonic Winds: This band is an advanced ensemble made up of students in grades 9-12 and is open to enrollment by audition. This group performs several times throughout the year at concerts, football games, pep rallies, parades, and competitions. This group is considered the “Non-Varsity” ensemble at UIL Concert Contest. Participation in individual competitions and enrollment in private lessons is strongly encouraged. Please see the class syllabus for specific requirements. Symphonic Winds members are also automatically a member of the marching band. Chair placement is by an audition and challenge system.

Symphonic Band: This band is an advanced band made up of students in grades 9-12 and is open to enrollment by audition. This group performs several times throughout the year at concerts, football games, pep rallies, parades, and competitions. This group is considered a “Sub-Non-Varsity” ensemble at UIL Concert Contest. Participation in individual competitions and enrollment in private lessons is encouraged. Symphonic Band members are also automatically a member of the marching band. Chair placement is by an audition and challenge system.

Freshmen Honor Band: This band is made up of advanced 9th grade students and is open to enrollment by audition. Members of this group are eligible for placement as Varsity marching band positions in addition to their concert band placement. This group performs several times throughout the year at concerts, football games, pep rallies, parades, and UIL competitions. This group is considered a “Sub-Non-Varsity” ensemble at UIL Concert Contest. Participation in individual student contests and enrollment in private lessons is strongly encouraged. Chair placement is by an audition and challenge system.

Concert Band: This band is made up of intermediate level band students and is open to enrollment by audition. Members of this ensemble are members of the marching band as Cadet / J.V. members and typically will not be eligible for varsity performing position. Class focus is on developing skills and building confidence as a performer. This group will perform at concerts, football games, pep rallies and parades. However, UIL contests will not be a part of this ensemble’s developmental focus.

Color Guard: This is an active performing group that incorporates flags, rifles, and sabers as well as other equipment in combination with dance in an interpretive musical setting. This group performs with the marching band, and then has an independent competitive indoor season during the spring semester. Enrollment is based on audition and director approval.

Cougar Marching Band: The award winning “Pride of Cougar Country” performs at all varsity football games, pep rallies, parades, special events, and marching contests. Everyone is in the marching band unless there is an unusual extenuating circumstance approved by the Director of Bands. However, assignments will be made to determine “varsity” marching band members who will be assigned competitive marching band positions. Other marching band positions include J.V. and Cadet levels. The marching band rehearses exclusively outside of the school day between August and November.

Percussion Ensemble: All active percussion students are a part of a Percussion Ensemble class in the fall semester to concentrate on the variety of skills necessary to be a well rounded percussionist. Every member of this class is a part of the marching band during the fall semester, and most will have a schedule change at the semester to be part of their assigned concert band in the spring semester. Percussionists sometimes require additional rehearsals to be involved fully. Students in the marching battery percussion should plan on not being involved in other clubs or activities during the fall semester as the schedule with band will be very busy. Some percussionists will be part of the “Cadet Drumline” which are therefore Cadet Marching Band members and will not have a performance position in the competitive marching band. Percussionists also have special performance opportunities through percussion ensembles and optional steel drum band.

Jazz Band: This ensemble meets as a class to study and perform a variety of jazz literature. The ensemble performs at concerts and at festivals in the spring semester. Opportunities are also provided for students to learn to improvise. Instrumentation is usually limited to the traditional jazz band instrumentation of saxes, trumpets, trombones, and a rhythm section. Other performance opportunities may arise to perform in the community or for school functions. All performances are mandatory.

AP Music Theory: This is an advanced course for students with a music background that wish to pursue the study of music composition, construction, and fundamentals at a college prep level. Students will take the AP music theory test.

Applied Music: This class allows for individual study of advanced music and technique. A large focus will be on All-State audition material and solo/ensemble literature. Time will also be dedicated to the study of music theory. This is an excellent opportunity for students who wish to pursue a future music degree.

Twirling: Twirling is offered at Canyon H.S. as an auxiliary unit to the marching band. Twirlers must be a member of either the band (play an instrument), or a member of the color guard. Twirlers will perform on the track while the band plays songs in the stands. The twirlers will perform their primary instrument with the band during half-time performances. The twirlers showcase their skills along with the dance team during half-time shows. Twirlers may also be asked to perform at parades and pep rallies at the final decision of the band director. One twirling “Captain” may be named to help organize the line. Costuming expense and expense of twirling lessons is the responsibility of the student / parent. Costumes should be approved by the band directors prior to any decisions made.

Canyon HS Bands

WIND ENSEMBLE – SYMPHONIC WINDS – SYMPHONIC BAND

FRESHMEN HONOR BAND – CONCERT BAND

Supplies (required everyday):

1. Instrument (In excellent working condition)
2. School provided lock on your locker
3. Black binder with sheet protectors
4. Assigned music, books, etc.
5. Pencil
6. Instrument supplies (reeds, oil, etc.)

Grading: (Please see band grading policy for detailed explanation):

The band follows the CISD grading policy and evaluates students on the Music TEKS:

45% Major / 35% Quizzes / 20% Daily work.

- **Major 45%:**
 - Performances (Demonstrated TEKS Proficiencies at Required Performances)
- **Quizzes 35%**
 - Objective Pass-offs (Objective Mastery Quizzes)
- **Daily Work 20%:**
 - Rehearsal Attendance and Daily Rehearsal Grades (Etiquette, Having Supplies, etc)

Class Requirements:

- **Marching Band:** Every student is a member of the marching band in one of three assigned capacities (Varsity, JV, and Cadet).
- **Concert Season Rehearsals / Sectionals:** These will be assigned per ensemble during concert season (November – April). Attendance is required at all sectional events. These may be assigned during before /after school based on your specific ensemble.
- **U.I.L. Solo & Ensemble:** Every CHS Band student will prepare a solo or an ensemble for performance. Students are encouraged to participate in *UIL* Solo/Ensemble, but will also have the option of performing for a recital to be hosted at CHS. Please limit ensembles to your class period so that help can be provided during class. Additional letter jacket points may be earned for participation and successful performance at UIL solo & ensemble.
- **TMEA All-District Auditions:** Every student will have the opportunity to prepare the music and audition for the TMEA All-Region Band. Some classes may be required to prepare all / part of this music as part of objective mastery. Additional letter jacket points may be earned for All-Region Band placement (see letter jacket policy)
- Private instruction is highly encouraged for students auditioning.

Jazz Band

Supplies (required everyday):

1. Instrument (In excellent working condition)
2. School provided lock on your locker
3. Assigned binder, music, books, etc.
4. Pencil
5. Instrument supplies (reeds, oil, etc.)

Grading Policy:

The band follows the CISD grading policy and evaluates students on the Music TEKS:

45% Major / 35% Quizzes / 20% Daily work.

- Major 45%:
 - o Performances (Demonstrated TEKS Proficiencies at Required Performances)
- Quizzes 35%
 - o Objective Pass-offs (Objective Mastery Quizzes)
- Daily Work 20%:
 - o Rehearsal Attendance and Daily Rehearsal Grades (Etiquette, Having Supplies, etc)

Class Requirements:

- **All-Region Jazz Music:** Everyone in this class may be assigned to prepare a portion of the All-Region Jazz Audition music for class. Auditioning for All-Region Jazz is optional but encouraged.
- **Objective Mastery:** Students will be expected to pass off fundamental skills for mastery as assigned.
- **Contests:** The CHS Jazz Band may perform at jazz festivals and UIL solo and ensemble as a medium ensemble. This will not count against the maximum number of events a student may participate in for UIL.
- **Gigs:** There will be the opportunity for “gigs.” If the group agrees to a performance and is scheduled for a gig, then attendance is required.

Color Guard

Supplies (required everyday):

1. Equipment as assigned
2. Assigned apparel / footwear

Grading Policy:

The color guard follows the CISD grading policy and evaluates students on the dance TEKS:

45% Major / 35% Quizzes / 20% Daily work.

- Major 45%:
 - Performances (Demonstrated TEKS Proficiencies at Required Performances)
- Quizzes 35%
 - Objective Pass-offs (Objective Mastery Quizzes)
- Daily Work 20%:
 - Rehearsal Attendance and Daily Rehearsal Grades (Etiquette, Having Supplies, etc)
 -

Class Requirements:

In *addition* to the standard band/color guard requirements as outlined in the handbook, the following additional requirements exist for this class:

Uniforms: Color guard uniforms (Fall and Spring) are typically purchased by the students and become the personal property of the students. Proper care and maintenance becomes the responsibility of the student to contribute their best to the group. Students are expected to have ‘natural’ hair color for performances as part of their uniform.

Fees: Color guard members are responsible for all fees as outlined on the CHS Color Guard Fee sheet. If there is a financial difficulty that prevents timely payment of fees, please communicate with a director.

Marching Band: All color guard students are required to participate in the marching band.

Winter Guard: All color guard students are encouraged, but not required, to participate in the indoor winter guard season. The rehearsal schedule and performance calendar will be announced at the conclusion of football season.

Auditions: Students may be required to audition for specific competitive groups or parts of groups. Students will be selected from auditions based on demonstrated skill mastery, ability to participate, and class etiquette.

Private Study: Private study in dance is always encouraged and appreciated!

Percussion Ensemble

Supplies (required everyday):

1. Black binder with sheet protectors
2. Assigned music, warm-ups, etc.
3. Pencil
4. Instrument supplies (Your own assigned sticks, mallets, etc.)

Grading Policy:

The band follows the CISD grading policy and evaluates students on the Music TEKS:

45% Major / 35% Quizzes / 20% Daily work.

- Major 45%:
 - o Performances (Demonstrated TEKS Proficiencies at Required Performances)
- Quizzes 35%
 - o Objective Pass-offs (Objective Mastery Quizzes)
- Daily Work 20%:
 - o Rehearsal Attendance and Daily Rehearsal Grades (Etiquette, Having Supplies, etc)

Class Requirements:

In *addition* to the standard band and marching band requirements as outlined in the band handbook, the following additional requirements exist for percussion.

Concert Band Assignments: Regardless of a student's marching band placement, all percussion students have a first priority to their specific concert band assignment throughout the school year.

All-District Band Auditions: All percussionists are encouraged to learn and audition for the TMEA All-District Band. NOTE: Students who placed in the Wind Ensemble are required to prepare the audition material and encouraged to audition. Members of other ensembles are also encouraged to participate. Note: Additional letter jacket points can be earned from All-Region band participation (see letter jacket policy).

Solo & Ensemble: Every member of the Percussion Ensemble is required to participate in a Solo/Ensemble either as part of UIL contest or as part of a recital event. Ensemble participation may be required as part of the extension of classroom. Successful participation in Solo/Ensemble can earn you points towards earning a letter jacket (see the lettering jacket policy).

Night of Percussion: Students will be expected to participate in the "Night of Percussion." Preparation for this may include weekly sectional rehearsals in the spring semester as assigned.

Steel Drum Band: Percussion students have the option of participating in Steel Drum Band. Rehearsals will be outside of traditional class time, and additional performance times may exist.

Marching Band

Supplies (required everyday):

1. Musical equipment (In excellent working condition)
2. Proper apparel including rehearsal uniforms and athletic shoes as assigned
3. Working smartphone with provided UDB App OR paper coordinate sheets as assigned
4. Assigned music in a binder with sheet protectors.
5. Flip folder for marching stand music.
6. Personal water bottle / jug.

Grading Policy:

The band follows the CISD grading policy and evaluates students on the Music TEKS:

45% Major / 35% Quizzes / 20% Daily work.

- Major 45%:
 - o Performances (Demonstrated TEKS Proficiencies at Required Performances)
- Quizzes 35%
 - o Objective Pass-offs (Objective Mastery Quizzes)
- Daily Work 20%:
 - o Rehearsal Attendance and Daily Rehearsal Grades (Etiquette, Having Supplies, etc)
 - o

NOTE: Marching Band is an extension of the “Concert Band” classroom. Student grades from concert band assignments are carried over to marching band. Students also receive P.E. credit/waiver for marching band.

Calendar (Please see the full band calendar): Please understand that all events are mandatory as the “Pride of Cougar Country!”

Basic Rehearsal Schedule (All Rehearsals Are Mandatory) August – October:

Mondays: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Varsity / JV

Tuesdays: 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Varsity / JV Winds & Guard Only (Varsity Percussion 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.) **Wednesdays:** 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. ALL Band and Color Guard

Thursdays: 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Varsity / JV (Varsity Percussion 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.)

Uniforms: Uniforms are issued by the school and are to be checked out and checked in for each event. Under no circumstance is a uniform to be taken home without director consent. Students are expected to have ‘natural’ hair color as part of their uniform.

Fees and Apparel: There are a variety of needs that are required in the marching band. Please see the band fees page for an outline of the various fees and apparel needs. These will be ordered and paid for according to the fee sheet.

Marching Positions: Every member of the CHS Band is a member of the marching band unless otherwise stated. All academically eligible students will travel to games and play music in the stands, march in parades, play in pep rallies, and participate in pre-game activities. Marching positions will be assigned in three categories: Varsity, J.V., or Cadet. Only “Varsity” marching members will have a position in the competitive marching show. These levels are assigned based on student musicianship, physical coordination, academic standards, attendance, and rehearsal etiquette.

Student Safety / Hydration: Water is always provided during performance events and rehearsals. Student safety is monitored as per the Comal ISD Heat/Safety regulations. However, it is important to stress that students use good self management when not in rehearsal by eating good meals and staying hydrated when away from the band. Students will be required to bring the issued water bottle to performance events.

Applied Music

Supplies (required everyday):

1. Instrument (In excellent working condition)
2. Black binder with sheet protectors
3. Assigned music, books, etc.
4. Pencil
5. Instrument supplies (reeds, oil, etc.)

Grading Policy:

The band follows the CISD grading policy and evaluates students on the Music TEKS:

45% Major / 35% Quizzes / 20% Daily work.

- **Major 45%:**
 - Classroom Demonstration of TEKS as assigned.
- **Quizzes 35%**
 - Objective Pass-offs (Class Assigned Performances)
- **Daily Work 20%:**
 - Daily Rehearsal Grades

Class Requirements:

In *addition* to the standard band requirements as outlined in the band handbook, the following additional requirements exist for this class:

All-District Band Auditions: Every student in Applied Music must prepare and audition for the TMEA All-District Band. Successful participation can earn points towards a letter jacket (see the lettering section of the handbook)

U.I.L. Solo & Ensemble: Every student in Applied Music is required to participate in UIL Solo/Ensemble contest in either a small ensemble or a solo. Please limit ensembles to your class period so that help can be provided during class. Successful participation in Solo/Ensemble can earn points towards a letter jacket (see the lettering section of the handbook)

AP Music Theory

Supplies (required everyday):

1. Black binder with sheet protectors
2. Assigned music, books, etc.
3. Pencil
4. Blank staff paper as assigned

Grading Policy:

The band follows the CISD grading policy and evaluates students on the Music TEKS:

45% Major / 35% Quizzes / 20% Daily work.

- **Major 45%:**
 - Major grades and projects
- **Quizzes 35%**
 - Quizzes and CA's
- **Daily Work 20%:**
 - Daily work

Class Requirements:

In *addition* to the standard band requirements as outlined in the band handbook, the following additional requirements exist for this class:

AP Test: All students in the class should plan to take the AP Music Theory exam at the end of the course in May. Registration for all AP tests will be announced at school through the counseling office.

Aural Skills: Students in AP Music theory will be expected to demonstrate a level of proficiency in recognizing and vocalizing pitches melodically and harmonically.

Text Books: Students may be assigned a text book(s) which will become the financial responsibility of the student should there be any damage.

Instrument: If a student currently plays an instrument, he/she may be asked to bring their instrument to perform some of the materials reviewed in class.

Attendance Policy

1. Attendance at all band events is mandatory unless otherwise stated.
2. In the event a student must be absent from a rehearsal or performance, the director should be notified in writing or via e-mail at least two weeks prior to the event whenever possible. This notice does not necessarily assure that the student's absence will be excused.
3. Absences will automatically be considered unexcused if no written communication is received from a parent/guardian.
4. Student employment cannot interfere with scheduled rehearsals or performances. Work is not an excused absence from an event and is not an excuse to leave an event early or arrive late.
5. School sponsored conflicts (athletic, club, or other school program) must be cleared at least two weeks ahead of time with the director. In most cases of rehearsal/practice conflicts with another organization, a compromise should be reached between the group director(s) and student(s). If a student chooses to participate in multiple school organizations, they must be willing to share their time equally between the groups. Absence from a band event due to an unapproved school sponsored conflict will be counted as unexcused. Absence due to a pre-approved school sponsored conflict will be excused.
6. Illness or death in the family are usually the only acceptable excused absences that do not require pre-approval.
7. No excuses, either written or verbal, will be accepted after the event in question unless it applies to number (6) of this policy.
8. Unexcused absences will typically result in a grade reduction due to the student's inability to meet specific TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) for the course related to the event missed.
9. Unexcused absence(s) may result in loss of performance privileges on a temporary or permanent.
10. In the event of an absence, a student may be given a make-up assignment if applicable.

Grading Policy

The band follows the CISD grading policy and evaluates students on the Music TEKS:

45% Major / 35% Quizzes / 20% Daily work.

- Major 45%:
 - o Performances (Demonstrated TEKS Proficiencies at Required Performances)
- Quizzes 35%
 - o Objective Pass-offs (Objective Mastery Quizzes)
- Daily Work 20%:
 - o Rehearsal Attendance and Daily Rehearsal Grades (Etiquette, Having Supplies, etc)

Notes:

- o Note: Attendance is mandatory at events in order to meet the TEKS for the course. Performances and rehearsals are "Major" grades. Unexcused absence(s) may result in the student's inability to successfully meet the TEKS for the course and the student's grade being lowered accordingly.
- o Objective Pass Offs are evaluated using the Canyon Band Music Performance Standards for an objective evaluation.
- o Failure to complete objectives at a mastery level may result in loss of performance privileges on a temporary or permanent basis as determined by the director(s).

MUSIC PERFORMANCE STANDARDS - CANYON BANDS; COMAL ISD

RAW

BOX 5 100% DIV 1 +	100	This performance challenges the listener's concept of the ideal performance. Professional in all aspects, the performer and the presentation may be compared to the finest musicians on the instrument.
	98	
	96	
	94	This performance distinguishes itself as among the best of high school or college level, worthy of selection to an All-State ensemble. The technical execution is perceived as flawless. Articulation and tone quality are clear and never a distraction, and the performance has the qualities of a mature musical performance.
	92	
	90	
	88	The technical demands are all executed fluently. Minor inconsistencies in tone, technique, or musicality may be rarely present, but only in extreme ranges or at extreme dynamic levels. Moments of artistic expression are frequent, as all elements of a well-prepared performance are in place. This could be considered worthy of TMEA Area recognition.
	86	
	84	
	82	
	80	
BOX 4 90% DIV 1	78	The music is performed correctly and confidently. This would qualify for a UIL First Division Rating or membership in a TMEA Region Ensemble. Slight errors, if they occur, are handled without stopping. Tempos are appropriate for the music being performed and for the skill level of the performer. Breathing is natural and rarely if ever causes a distraction.
	76	
	74	
	72	
	70	
	68	
	66	
	64	
	62	
	60	
BOX 3 80% DIV 2	58	Comprehension is demonstrated, as technical errors are very minor. Any stops or hesitations if they occur are also minor and recovered-from quickly. Rhythms are performed correctly, but may be uneven or have a tendency to change tempo. Musical elements such as phrasing, dynamics, and proper intonation are clearly apparent but not fully refined. Correct articulation is present although it may be inconsistent. Tone quality is characteristic throughout most of the performance, although tone may suffer in more technical passages. The performance is only occasionally elevated beyond the mere notes.
	56	
	54	
	52	
	50	
	48	
	46	
	44	
	42	
	40	
BOX 2 65% DIV 3	38	Technical errors appear frequently, although an awareness of key signature is present. Tone is developing properly though inconsistencies may exist outside the comfortable register of the instrument. Tempos are constant, but may be significantly slower than those required. There is only minor evidence of musical expression.
	36	
	34	
	32	
	30	
	28	
	26	
	24	
	22	
	20	
BOX 1 50% DIV 4 - 5	18	Only a superficial level of preparation exists. There are frequent technical errors, and tone quality may be considered uncharacteristic. Musical expression is essentially non-existent. This is not the first reading of the selections, however, it is clearly not prepared to a level worthy of performance.
	16	
	14	
	12	
	10	
NO CREDIT	8	An attempt may be made to play some portion of the music, but the assignment is incomplete and does not have musical merit.
	6	
	4	
	2	
	0	

Students are expected to abide by all rules. Failure to abide by the rules may result in disciplinary consequences or loss of participation privileges with the band.

Classroom/Rehearsal Rules

1. All students are expected to be on time to class. There may be a specific tardy policy assigned for your specific class.
2. Students are expected to remain quiet and focused during all rehearsals.
3. In marching band rehearsals, students are expected to be in rehearsal uniform at all rehearsals. At other rehearsals, students are expected to follow the standard CHS dress code.
4. There is to be no food/drink in the band hall with the exception of water.
5. There is to be no storage of books, notebooks, papers, personal items, etc. in the band hall with the exception of band/music related items that are necessary for rehearsals. The CHS band staff assumes no responsibility for things that are left unattended in places where they should not be.
6. The band hall is not a playground. Act in a mature and responsible manner when inside the band facility.
7. Have a pencil readily accessible at all indoor rehearsals.
8. Cell phones are not to be used during band rehearsals unless assigned for a specific purpose (Tuner / UDB app)
9. All rules/regulations/consequences addressed in the "Canyon H.S. Student Code of Conduct" apply to all CHS Band classes and events.
10. The three "I's...Nothing Illegal, intoxicating, or immoral will be tolerated!

Travel Rules

1. All students must stay on the same assigned bus for both the to and return trip.
2. Students must ride to and from an off campus performance event in provided school district transportation unless a completed and approved Alternate Travel Form has been received by the directors.
3. Students must have all necessary equipment, supplies, apparel, and grooming before "Inspection." Failure to have all of the necessary items may keep the student from traveling with and performing with the band.
4. Music may only be listened to with headphones while on a bus.
5. Noise must be kept at an appropriate level.
6. Students should not put any part of their body out of the bus window.
7. Any food, drink, or trash must be disposed of properly in a trash bag.
8. Chaperones should be treated with the same respect as a director.
9. The three "I's...Nothing Illegal, intoxicating, or immoral will be tolerated!
10. All conduct rules as outlined in the Canyon H.S. Student Code of Conduct apply on band trips.
11. Failure to abide by travel rules could result in loss of travel privileges via school transportation.

Performance Rules

1. Arrive and report to designated area with proper equipment and attire **EARLY!** ("To be on time is to be late")
2. Students must remain in attendance for an entire performance event.
3. Observe general rules of concert etiquette during performances.
4. Failure to have all the necessary items for "Inspection" prior may keep the student from performing with the band.
5. Students are expected to strive to make every performance the very best and a memorable event.
6. The three "I's...Nothing Illegal, intoxicating, or immoral will be tolerated!
7. All conduct rules as outlined in the Canyon H.S. Student Code of Conduct apply on band trips

and performances.

Student Behavior Standards

Students in the Canyon H.S. Band Program are expected to follow all outlined rules of the organization and rules in the Comal ISD student code of conduct at all times. The Canyon H.S. Band represents CHS, Comal ISD, and the community of New Braunfels, TX. If a student is assigned disciplinary action by a school administrator such as ISS, OSS, or Alternative School Placement, the student's actions will be reviewed by the band staff for potential further consequences as outlined below:

Discipline & Consequences

Part A

1. Failure to abide by classroom / rehearsal rules, performance rules, or travel rules may require a disciplinary consequence(s).
2. Consequences may include:
 - Student conference
 - Parent Conference
 - Loss of performance position (marching band)
 - Loss of chair or band position (concert band)
 - Grade reduction (per rehearsal etiquette)
 - Band Demerit (See Part B below)
 - Office Referral
 - Removal from band on a temporary or permanent basis.

Discipline & Consequences

Part B

Demerit System

A demerit may be issued for tardiness to rehearsal, missing equipment, unfinished assignments, or any outlined rule infraction during a band rehearsal or performance. Each demerit consists of a 30-45 minute 'reflection period' in which the issued student attends and participates in work that may benefit the band, community, or him/herself. The final reflection activity is decided upon by a director. Multiple demerits may affect a student's position in the band.

*Failure to attend a "Reflection Period" may result in loss of the student's performance position with the band and potential loss of travel privileges for the week.

**Repeated demerits may result in more permanent revised placement within in the band or out of band.

Discipline & Consequences

Part C

Probationary Contract

Students may be assigned a probationary contract with the band program. This might result from disciplinary concerns, attendance concerns, or academic concerns that affect participation with the band. A probationary contract lists areas for improvement, dates that must be met for improvement, and consequences if improvement is not met. This can lead to removal from an ensemble, or removal from the band program, if improvement is not made.

SAMPLE: Canyon HS Band - Student Probationary Contract



Name: **Date:** **Probationary Dates:**

Concerns for improvement:

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Probationary Terms:

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Director Signature: _____ Date: _____

Auditions

Students are placed in their perspective sections by audition. Students must audition each year for placement in the CHS Band. Additional auditions are often held for supplemental sections in the band including drumline, color guard, twirlers, and the drum majors. Auditions are evaluated by outside adjudicators whenever possible. A student's academic record, attendance record, and band record may be a percentage of the audition score.

Failure to complete the audition process may forfeit the opportunity to participate in band. All audition decisions are final.

Challenges

Challenges are available within the concert band placements at assigned times throughout the year. Challenges are handled by completing a challenge form which is available in the band office. These forms are to be turned into the assigned director on the day that both the challenger and challenged have signed the form. Music played for the challenge will be chosen by the director. You may only challenge one chair at a time. Movement is possible between bands by winning 3 consecutive challenges. However, movement between bands is dependent upon class schedule allowance. This should be cleared with your specific counselor and directors before beginning the challenge process. Challenges during the contest season may be postponed to not conflict with performance priorities. When challenging you must play the part (1st., 2nd., etc.) of the person in the upper chair. Refusing to play a challenge forfeits the chair. Challenge winners are chosen using the Canyon Bands Performance Standards. Challenges are only available for chair placement within the band and are not available for specific instrument placements in the band (ex. front ensemble to battery percussion, or flute to piccolo, etc). Challenges are also not available for officer positions in the band. A person may only challenge an individual (5) times. If they have not won the challenge after five attempts, then they may no longer challenge.

Eligibility

Band/Color Guard students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic achievement. U.I.L. policy mandates that any student that has a failing grade after the first (6) weeks of school, or any regular grading period after that point, loses eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities for a minimum of three weeks. They may resume participation if they are passing all classes after the three week progress report (plus grace period) issued after the failing grading period. If the student is not passing all classes after three weeks, they must wait to regain eligibility for another three weeks. An eligibility calendar is available at the beginning of every school year with specific dates. There is one exception per UIL, students are no longer required to be eligible to participate at Concert & Sight-Reading evaluation.

Band Program Fees

Band / Color Guard Fees are necessary to operate a competitive program and to acquire the various personal supplies that each student needs. The Canyon HS Band program monitors area program fees and maintains a level of family financial responsibility that is consistently one of the lowest in the area. Please see the separate Band / Color Guard fee sheets for specific fees.

Additional Fees: If a student damages or loses school owned property, there may be additional replacement expense for these item(s) if applicable. Students that are missing any personal apparel items may also be charged a small rental fee for use of apparel if applicable.

Lettering in the CHS Band Program

Students may earn a varsity letter jacket their senior year in the Canyon HS Band program if they are enrolled in band / color guard through their senior year.

A student may earn their letter jacket *before* their senior year if the student earns (5) points from the following:

- Perform as a “Varsity” marching band member = (1) point
- Perform in the “Varsity” concert band, the Wind Ensemble = (1) point
- Serve as a student leader in the Band / Color Guard program = (1) point
- Perform as a “Varsity” twirler = (1) point
- Earn recognition as All-District Band = (2) points
- Earn recognition as All-Region Band or Higher = (3) points
- Perform a solo / ensemble at UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest = (1) point
- Earn a 1st Division on a solo / ensemble at UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest = (1) point
- Advance to the UIL State Solo & Ensemble contest = (2) points
- Earn a 1st Division on a solo / ensemble at UIL State Solo & Ensemble contest = (3) points
- Perform in “JV” or “Cadet” Winter Guard = (1) point
- Perform in “Varsity” Winter Guard = (2) points

School Owned Instruments and Equipment

Students may be issued instruments / equipment that is the property of Comal ISD. When this equipment is issued to a student, it becomes the financial responsibility of the student / parent. If the instrument / equipment is damaged, lost, and or stolen, the student / parent may be financially responsible. Please see the Comal ISD Instrument / Equipment usage contract for specific guidelines and usage fees. Band uniforms are also the property of Comal ISD and are the responsibility of the student to care for when issued to them. It is encouraged that families have additional insurance coverage on school owned equipment in their possession (ex. Large school instruments, etc).

Student Leadership

President - The President is the student representative for the entire band program. He/She is in charge of speaking for press releases and band announcements. The President schedules meetings, activities, and presides over other officers. This person strives to be in direct communication with directors as a student spokesperson.

Drum Majors - The Drum Majors serve as the primary student leaders and conductor of the marching band. He/She assist with conducting during marching rehearsals, teaching marching drill, and conducts the band at football games, parades, and pep rallies. The drum majors assist as marching band librarians throughout the year. This person(s) may be assigned back field conducting duties during the contest show. The drum majors have a variety of leadership roles in the band that include assisting rehearsal set-up, tear down, and organization of facilities. The directors reserve the right to name a Head Drum Major / Asst. Drum Majors if needed.

Vice President(s) – The Vice President assists the President with communications and organizes special events for the band. Also may serve in a secretarial / treasurer role if needed and assists in attendance monitoring as needed.

Secretary – The band secretary assists with administrative duties as assigned including attendance monitoring, collection of music, flip folders, and internal band correspondence.

Historian(s) - Duties include photographing band events, collecting newspaper articles pertaining to the band, saving band programs, etc. to put together a comprehensive scrap book and powerpoint / movie of the band's history for the year.

Librarian(s) – The librarian(s) assist with distribution and collection of music.

Quarter-Master(s) – Usually a *minimum* of four to five students that are elected to share the quarter-master responsibility with one to be possibly assigned the head quarter-master/facilities manager position. Duties include: Assisting parents with organization of the uniform room, fitting, distribution, and collection of uniforms and their parts,

Captains: Brass, Woodwinds, Percussion, Color Guard, Twirling, Loading Crew: These officers help oversee the learning process in their larger sections, assist younger students in need, and relay any difficulties back to the directors. They also serve as liaisons between sections leaders and assist with learning of drill / music as needed. These students are selected through the student leadership application process and interview.

Lieutenants - These are students in the band who are selected by the directors based on demonstrated leadership ability, musical ability, and marching ability. This is typically not an elected position, though students may have input by vote. There may be more than one section leader per section as decided upon by the director. Duties include setting an example for others both musically and academically, and making sure that their section is meeting the expectations of the band program. This leader is to be in direct contact with directors and captains regarding issues within their section.

Color Guard Officers – Students in the color guard must have minimum of one year of experience in field and indoor guard to hold an officer position. These students will typically be asked to handle warm-up exercises with the full group, help with record keeping, organization, and help assist younger students when needed. They also serve as student liaisons to instructors to aid in communication and problem solving. There will typically be one student assigned as the “Guard Commander.”

All officers in the band are expected to set the highest example both musically, academically, and personally both in and out of the band rehearsal setting. Students selected as officers should come to leadership camp in the summer as assigned on the band calendar.

The band directors reserve the right to remove a student from an officer position and replace him/her with a director appointed student if deemed in the best interest of the band program.

CANYON H.S. BAND PROGRAM TRAVEL & HEALTH FORM

_____*(Student Name)* has my permission to travel on all Canyon High School Band / Color Guard functions for the **2024 - 2025** school year via Comal Independent School District transportation. I understand that I am releasing Comal Independent School District, its trustees, its employees, staff, booster club, and / or consultant staff of any liability in case of injury or property damage that might result during student travel related in any way to the Canyon H.S. Band Organization. This release expressly extends to all claims or causes of action of any origin, including those arising as a result of negligence of Comal ISD or any other person or entity, whether by act or omission. We further agree to indemnity and hold harmless Comal ISD, its trustees, its employees, staff, booster club, and / or consultant staff from any damages. I also understand that my student must travel via C.I.S.D. transportation both to and from a performance event unless pre-approved written permission has been received by the Director of Bands from a supervising administrator.

I hereby authorize any Comal I.S.D. employee to seek whatever medical attention may be necessary for my student if he/she becomes in need while participating with the Canyon H.S. Band/Color Guard. I understand that the cost of services provided by medical professionals remains the responsibility of the parent / guardian and shall not be assumed by the Superintendent, a designee, or Comal I.S.D.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Please Print Clearly:

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ Height: _____ Weight: _____ Eye Color: _____

Sex (M/F): _____

Student ID # _____

Parent(s) Name (s) _____

Home Address: _____

Phone: Cell (student): _____ Cell (parent): _____ E-mail (parent): _____

Emergency Contact Information:

Name: _____

Phone Number(s): _____ ; Relationship: _____

Insurance Information (Please complete all information available):

Insurance Provider:

Insured / Subscriber Name:

Policy # / ID #:

Insurance Phone #:

Group #:

Network #:

Medical History:

List any known medical conditions: _____

List any serious allergies to foods, insect stings, medications, etc.:

Has the student had any surgeries: Yes or No (Circle)

If Yes, please list what type and date: _____

List any prescriptions medications taken regularly and the time(s) and dose(s) taken:

Personal Physician: _____ Phone #: _____

Band Policy Commitment and Band Participation Form

Student Name (Print): _____ *Grade:* _____ *ID #:* _____

- ▶ I have read the CHS band handbook for the **2024 - 2025** school year, and I understand the rules/policies as outlined.
- ▶ I understand that by committing to the CHS Band, I agree to have full participation for a full school year with the terms outlined in the band handbook and class syllabi.
- ▶ I understand that participation in band / color guard, and particularly marching band, is an outdoor physical activity that can be strenuous and may require students to occasionally be in somewhat extreme weather conditions (heat, rain, cold, etc). I verify that my student is in a healthy state, capable of physical activity, and been cleared for activity by a medical physical examination.
- ▶ I understand that the Canyon High School faculty, staff, and consultant staff will always do their absolute best to maintain student safety while students are under their direct supervision. However, I am releasing Comal ISD, its employees, and contracted staff of any personal liability in regards to any injury that could occur while participating in a band related activity.
- ▶ I have read the band and color guard fee schedule as outlined. I agree to pay assigned fees, or have discussed with a director any potential alternatives that might exist.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date _____

Private Lessons

Canyon High School Music Enrichment Program

Independent study with a professional on one's instrument is an extremely valuable resource. Private instructors offer students the opportunity to study advanced techniques, solo literature, get help with band music, and much more. Active private instruction on an instrument is part of what makes a young musician successful and is of great benefit to the student in gaining advanced skills. Most lessons are ½ hour lessons once per week, and the CHS Band staff can assist in arranging a qualified private contracted instructor for your student. The cost is variable depending on the instructor, however, most average \$18 - \$20 per week for a ½ hour lesson, or \$30 - \$35 for a full hour/class period depending on the degree level of the private instructor. All of our approved instructors are experienced educators that will work to provide a valuable service at a very reasonable rate. Most lessons are arranged to take place in the CHS band facility.

**If you are interested in setting up lessons for your student,
please complete and return the private lesson interest form below:**

PRIVATE LESSON INTEREST FORM

Student Name: _____ Instrument: _____

Grade Level: _____ Campus: _____

Parent Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Parent Cell Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Do you have a preferred private lesson teacher already? _____

Best time for student's lessons (Circle One): 1. Band Class Time 2. Before School 3. After School

PARENT / STUDENT UIL MARCHING BAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

No student may be required to attend practice for marching band for more than eight hours of rehearsal outside the academic school day per calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). This provision applies to students in all components of the marching band.

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 at the performance site. 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
- Playing 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: An extensive Q&A for the Eight Hour Rule for Marching Band can be found on the Music Page of the UIL Web Site at: www.uil.utexas.edu

“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_____



Secondary Band/Orchestra Equipment Usage Agreement

This Secondary Band/Orchestra Equipment Usage Agreement ("Agreement") is made this _____ day of _____, 20____, by and between the Comal Independent School District ("District") and _____ ("Parent or Legal Guardian") of _____ ("Student").

District will loan a District-owned _____ ("Instrument / Equipment") for the Student's use while participating in the District-sponsored Band or Orchestra program during the _____ school year. The use of the Instrument/Equipment by any other person or for any other purpose is not permitted. **A non-refundable eighty dollar (\$80.00) user fee will be charged for the use of the Instrument/Equipment and included accessories, if any, for band/orchestra rehearsals, performances, and the Student's practice, as well as for annual basic routine maintenance.** Students in the free lunch program qualify for a fifty dollar (\$50.00) reduction, and students in the reduced lunch program qualify for a twenty dollar (\$20.00) reduction, for a total user fee of thirty dollars (\$30.00) and sixty dollars (\$60.00), respectively. The Instrument/Equipment user fee must be paid prior to receiving the Instrument/Equipment. A payment plan may be considered at the discretion of the Director of Bands/Orchestra.

At the conclusion of the school year, or upon the termination of the Student's involvement in the program, the District issued Instrument/Equipment must be promptly returned to the District in satisfactory condition. Any damage to the Instrument/Equipment, or any included accessories, that is deemed beyond normal wear and tear by the Director of Bands/Orchestra or the District's Director of Fine Arts will be the responsibility of the Student and/or Student's Parent or Legal Guardian. A fee will be assessed for the repair or replacement of damaged Instrument/Equipment based on an estimate from a District- approved vendor.

Basic routine maintenance does not include repairs for Instrument/Equipment damage. All repairs or replacement of Instruments/Equipment or accessories must be coordinated through the Director of Bands/Orchestra. Under no circumstance should a Parent/Legal Guardian attempt repairs or contract for repairs through a third party. Any unauthorized repairs or modifications made to an Instrument/Equipment will deem the Instrument/Equipment unusable, and the Parent/Legal Guardian will be responsible for its full replacement cost. Further, the Parent or Legal Guardian is responsible for the full replacement cost for the loss of the Instrument/Equipment, including by theft or accident.

Tips for Instrument / Equipment Use and Care:

- From time to time, issues with the Instrument/Equipment may occur. Please notify the band director immediately if the Instrument/Equipment is lost, damaged, stolen, or with any other concerns.
- Never leave any Instrument /Equipment unsecured.
- Store the Instrument/Equipment in its case when not in use.
- Please do not leave the Instrument/Equipment in vehicles or exposed to extreme temperatures or damaging elements.
- It is highly recommended that Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s) carry private insurance coverage, particularly for expensive Instruments/Equipment issued to a student.

Parent Signature: _____ Student Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____ Printed Name: _____



Canyon Cougar Band Boosters

The Canyon Cougar Band program is a very accomplished and recognized program in the State of Texas due to the hard work, dedication and talent of outstanding students and teachers. But they can't do it alone.

The Band Boosters help the entire band program, both at the middle school and high school level to include Canyon Middle School, Churchill Middle School, Danville Middle School and Canyon High School. Funding the activities of the Canyon Cougar Band is critical to helping our students reach their maximum potential on the field and in the concert hall.

Your Band Boosters membership helps:

- Purchase and repair thousands of dollars worth of instruments, equipment, and props
- Manage the non-profit program for our band students
- Provide meals for students
- Hire professional clinicians to prepare students for competitions and assessments
- Supplement/cover entry fees for events
- Award Canyon Band Booster Scholarships to students attending college
- Much More!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

General Membership: \$15 – Family Membership

- Make checks payable to: Canyon Band Boosters
- Members may vote at band booster meetings on any business decisions.

*If you have a business and are interested in a corporate sponsorship, please contact
canyoncougarbandboosters@gmail.com

CANYON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT REQUEST FOR ALTERNATE TRAVEL

****This Form Should Be Submitted Per Event / Request****

Date*: _____

I request that (student) _____ be allowed to ride with

(adult) _____ after (activity) _____

on (date) _____.

Reason for this request is: _____

I understand that I relieve the school and its employees of any responsibility for my son / daughter once he / she has been released by the sponsor to the adult providing alternate transportation.

Sponsor's Signature

Parent / Guardian Signature

() Approved

() Disapproved

Approval Signature

Reason for disapproval: _____

** This form should be submitted at least 48 hours prior to the date/time of the event.*