

# CLAXTON MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK



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# A Letter to Middle School

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! I am so excited that you have chosen to be a part of the Claxton Middle School band program.

The ultimate goal of the band program is to provide our students with a lifelong understanding and appreciation for quality music and music making. Along with an appreciation for music, I hope your child will grow in discipline, maturity, and desire to be successful at any task. My hope is that they will feel a sense of pride and belonging in this band program. These life lessons are crucial to your child, and I am proud to use music as a tool to see students grow into lifelong learning adults.

It is my hope that this handbook will be able to answer most of the questions you may have throughout the school year. Please make sure you and your child read it fully, and carefully and refer back to it as needed.

I have included many of the dates and information that you may need. There is also information in parents as you are the backbone for the success of the program. Please be sure to read over the information and consider volunteering when you are able. We are a progressive program, so we will have events at the high school and middle school. Any help with either band is an investment in your child's time in the band program and is much appreciated.

I hope you will find this handbook helpful. Please read the information and let me know if you have any questions.

I am honored to be your band director, and I'm looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Melanie Grimes, Middle School & Assistant High School Director

# A Letter to High School

Greetings Parents and Students,

We are looking forward to the upcoming 2024-2025 school year and what it has to offer the students, our school, and our community. Whether you are part of the marching band, color guard, concert band, percussion ensemble, or all of them we are excited to have you here.

As we enter our second year as a staff we hope to continue to improve the quality of teaching provided to our students and help them to reach their full potential. We have a lot planned and are hoping to add a couple new events that will provide additional opportunities to the students we hope they will enjoy.

During their time in the program we hope to help and prepare students for life as they transition to young adults by teaching them discipline, teamwork, work ethic, perseverance, maturity, and leadership skills.

This handbook has been created as a guide to help parents and students in their journey through their program. A basic overview of what we will do throughout the year has been provided as well as rules, expectations, and what to expect in each ensemble. If you have any questions, please consult this document first. If you have any questions or need anything clarified after looking at the handbook, please reach out to one of us. While this handbook will provide a basic overview, additional information, as well as a more comprehensive calendar will be given to students.

This handbook will be a living document and will change throughout the year as we work to make it a source that will be helpful to parents and students. When we make changes, these changes will be given out and parents and students will be notified as well.

Parents, you are key to the success of the program. When you are able to assist, please consider volunteering. While we know no one can do everything, everyone can do something and any assistance helps to make the band program function properly creating a great experience for parents, students, teachers, and the community.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Cordially,

Alfredo Maruri, Director of Bands

Maurice Burney, Color Guard, Choir, & Dance Director

## Directors' Bio:

**Mr. Alfredo Maruri** grew up in Northwest Arkansas. Throughout middle and high school Mr. Maruri made numerous regional and all-state honor bands and received superior ratings for solo and saxophone quartet performances. Mr. Maruri was a member of the Van Buren High School Marching Band. While a member, the marching band placed in the top 3 at every marching competition and received the top music award for the state of Arkansas twice and won the gold medal at the Owasso Invitational once. Mr. Maruri was the principal saxophone for the Van Buren Jazz Band and the symphonic band, Van Buren's top concert group. As a part of the symphonic band, the group received superiors at festival every year.

Mr. Maruri attended college at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville. While there he was a three-year member of the Razorback Marching Band, spending one year on saxophone and two on baritone. Mr. Maruri studied saxophone under Mr. Stan Morris and was a member of the Arkansas Saxophone Ensemble, several Saxophone quartets, and multiple concert bands on soprano, alto, tenor, and baritone saxophone. Mr. Maruri graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor's in Music Education and a Minor in Mathematics in 2015.

Mr. Maruri marched with the 2014 Blue Stars Drum & Bugle Corp on Euphonium. That year Blue Stars placed ninth overall with their show Where the Heart Is.

Mr. Maruri student-taught at Union High School in Tulsa, OK in the summer and fall of 2015. While there, Union competed in the St. Louis Bands of America Regional taking second overall and in the Oklahoma Bandmasters Association State Competition taking second overall and winning the music caption.

After student teaching, Mr. Maruri attended Oklahoma State University-Stillwater studying under Dr. Jeff Loeffert, Dr. Kim Goddard-Loeffert, and Dr. Tommy Poole. While there, Mr. Maruri performed regularly in various ensembles. As a member of the Oklahoma State Saxophone Ensemble Mr. Maruri performed at the 2016 North American Saxophone Alliance World Conference alongside Mr. Joe Lulloff (Professor of Saxophone, Michigan State University).

In the Fall of 2016, Mr. Maruri transferred to the University of Tennessee-Knoxville to become the graduate assistant under Dr. Allison Adams. While at UTK, Mr. Maruri also had the opportunity to study with Mr. Brian Horner. As a graduate assistant, Mr. Maruri taught private lessons to freshmen and sophomores, taught the flute/saxophone methods class, and performed various other tasks. Mr. Maruri took part in various ensembles, including the New Music Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, and saxophone ensemble. Mr. Maruri was the alto player for the Tennessee Saxophone Quartet. The quartet performed at various events around the area, took part in the Navy Band International Saxophone Symposium College Series, and competed in the MTNA Chamber competition taking first in the Tennessee State round. Mr. Maruri graduated with a Master's in Music in 2018.

After graduation, Mr. Maruri became the director at Colonial Middle School in Memphis, TN. Under his direction the program grew from 30 to 180 students. The school regularly performed at WTSBOA events and received multiple excellent and superior ratings at concert festival. Mr. Maruri's ensembles also competed outside the state receiving superior ratings at Magic Springs Music Festival in Hot Springs, AR and superior ratings and a third-place finish at Music in the Parks in Six Flags-St. Louis, MO.

Mr. Maruri is excited to enter his second year as the Director of Bands for Claxton High School.

**Ms. Melanie Grimes** has been interested in music her whole life. As a child she was always singing, dancing, and drumming on the nearest object. Ms. Grimes grew up in Oglethorpe County, about 30 minutes outside of Athens, GA. She lived there until she moved to Statesboro in 2016 to attend Georgia Southern University.

Ms. Grimes joined the band in the sixth grade, as a clarinet student. It was her director's policy that everyone started band on a wind instrument. At the start of her second semester in sixth grade, Ms. Grimes switched to percussion. In the seventh grade, Ms. Grimes knew band was more than just a hobby and decided she wanted to be a band director. She joined the marching band as an eighth grader further solidifying her dream. Ms. Grimes marched bass one as an eighth grader and snare drum all four years of high school. As a sophomore, Ms. Grimes started learning the other instruments and began playing trumpet in the beginning band class and jazz band.

As a student at Georgia Southern University, Ms. Grimes was a two-year member of the Southern Pride marching band, performing in the front ensemble. During her freshman and sophomore years of college, her middle school and then high school directors passed away. It made it difficult for her to continue, but with support from her family and friends, as well as encouragement from mentors and other directors she pushed forward in their memory. Ms. Grimes graduated in the fall of 2020 from Georgia Southern University with a Bachelor's in Music Education with an emphasis in Instrumental education.

Ms. Grimes stayed in South Georgia for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year accepting a long-term sub position for choir at Ebenezer Middle School in Effingham County. She returned home to teach choir and general music at Russell Middle School and the Front Ensemble at Winder Barrow High School in Barrow County for the 2021-2022 school year.

Ms. Grimes has spent the last two years at Claxon Middle and Claxton High School. Under her guidance the middle school has seen significant growth in student interest while also increasing the performance ability of the students. The high school created its first percussion focused class for the 2023-2024 school helping to lead the Claxton Tiger Drumline and Front Ensemble to superior ratings at every competition as well as several second-place finishes.

Ms. Grimes is entering her third year as the Assistant Director of Bands and Middle School Director at Claxton and is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the community. She looks forward to being able to continue to grow the program while having a blast doing it.

#### **Teaching philosophy/Vision:**

*My philosophy of music education is to be a student-led educator. My goal is to form a strong bond with my students to help shape them to be responsible, creative, and independent people by showing them with the right tools and procedures, what music has to offer and what beauty they can bring to the world through music. Above all else for us to always keep reflecting and learning no matter what.*

#### **Tiger Middle School Band Mission Statement:**

*To provide students an environment where they can feel safe to learn and have a growth mindset. To give students an outlet to be expressive through music while learning who they are and who they want to be. To someday bring these tools and skills into their workplace and hopefully continue to share music with the world.*

**Mr. Maurice Burney** is a 2001 Graduate of Claxton High School and former band member of the pride of Evans County. Beginning his journey in the middle school band program as a trumpet player under the direction of the Late Mr. Steve Simmons. Mr. Burney later moved to the roll of drum major and played the xylophone in concert band. Mr. Burney was a nine-time superior rated drum major and received best in class and highest scoring drum major throughout the competition season. After high school, Mr. Burney was drum major at several universities, including Middle Georgia College in Cochran, GA.

In 2004, Mr. Burney was called back to assist the Tiger Band as the Marching Tech. He would teach marching fundamentals as well as help teach section leaders how to read coordinates and drill. In 2009, the Late Mr. Lamar Stewart, color guard instructor of the Tiger band, became ill and asked Mr. Burney to be his assistant instructor. After Mr. Stewart's passing, Mr. Burney took over the role as color guard instructor for the Claxton Tiger Marching Band. From that time, Mr. Burney has led the color guard to numerous superiors and best in class awards. In 2017, the guard set a school record with a score of 94 at Pierce County's Sound of Silver Invitational. In 2023, the guard set another record with seven superior festival and competition ratings, and three best in class awards.

Maurice found his love for color guard as a member of the Carolina Crown Drum & Bugle Corp. At the time, Carolina Crown was a small corp competing against other corps around the world. Now, Carolina Crown consistently places as one of the top ten corps and boasts one of the best color guards, regularly competing for or winning the George Zingali Best Color Guard Award at DCI World Championships.

What it takes to be a guard member: discipline, determination, and dedication. With those three qualities anyone can become a member of the Claxton High School award winning color guard.

Mr. Burney has taught dance for the last several years. He began teaching dance at a community summer camp entitled "Dare2Care". The camp traveled to multiple states and cities performing theater, dance, and vocals under the leadership of the late Pastor Teddy Williams. He continued teaching dance for another camp entitled "CAMP STARS" under the leadership of the Late Mrs. Doris Boggs and Mrs. Doris Tomblin. While at Camp Stars, Mr. Burney was the Finale Director. As Finale Director, Mr. Burney, with assistance from other instructors, put together a show for parents to watch what their kids had learned throughout summer on the closing day of camp.

Mr. Burney loves choreographing routines for church, color guard, and community events. As a young boy Mr. Burney was on the dance team The Alpha & Omega praise dancers. The group won numerous awards and traveled the United States with Doc McKenzie and the Highlights.

Mr. Burney is also a vocalist and has sung along the east coast. He is the choir director at the Church of God in Claxton, GA, as well as praise and worship leader. He has had the opportunity to sing alongside professional artists, Febe and Chosen one, Swanee Quartet of Augusta Ga, Doc Mckenize and the Gospel Highlights and many more.

In addition to graduating from Claxton High School, Mr. Burney is also a 2004 Graduate of Ogeechee Technical College with an associate in business office technology, a 2012 graduate of Beulah Heights University in Atlanta, GA with a Bachelor of Arts in Leadership Studies and a Minor in Theology, and received a Master's of Science in Human Resources Management with a Concentration in Human Resource Generalist from Strayer University in 2016.

Mr. Burney is excited to return for his seventh year in Claxton, fourth at Claxton High School as the Choir, Dance, and Drama Teacher, Color Guard Instructor, Varsity Football/Basketball Cheer team Coach, and the Middle School Track Coach.



# Middle School General Calendar of Events

Specific dates will be provided each year

<b>July:</b>	<b>Band camp (8<sup>th</sup> graders)</b>
<b>August:</b>	<b>Back to school parent meeting First Monthly newsletter</b>
<b>September:</b>	<b>Middle school band night CMS Leadership visits CES</b>
<b>October:</b>	<b>Fall Concert</b>
<b>November:</b>	<b>After School Practices begin (Tuesday/Thursday) Afterschool Practice for district honor band (Monday) Recruitment Concert at CES Instrument Tryout Day at CES</b>
<b>December:</b>	<b>Winter Concert GMEA All-District Auditions</b>
<b>January:</b>	<b>After School Help (Tuesday)</b>
<b>February:</b>	<b>LGPE after school rehearsals (Tuesday/Thursday) GSU Pre-LGPE Festival Other Festivals TBD</b>
<b>March:</b>	<b>LGPE after school rehearsals (Tuesday/Thursday) GMEA LGPE</b>
<b>April:</b>	<b>Recruitment Concert at CES Fine Arts Extravaganza After School help (Monday) After School rehearsals (Tuesday/Thursday)</b>
<b>May:</b>	<b>Instrument Tryout Day at CES Instrument Rental Night at CMS Band Banquet</b>

# High School General Calendar of Events

Specific dates will be provided each year

<b>July:</b>	<b>Band Camp</b>
<b>August:</b>	<b>School Starts</b>
	<b>Football Games</b>
	<b>Marching Band Practice</b>
<b>September:</b>	<b>Football Games</b>
	<b>Competition Season Begins</b>
	<b>Marching Band Practice</b>
<b>October:</b>	<b>Football Games</b>
	<b>Competition Season</b>
	<b>Homecoming</b>
	<b>Homecoming Parade</b>
	<b>Marching Band Practice</b>
<b>November:</b>	<b>Football Playoffs</b>
	<b>Competition Season</b>
	<b>Veterans Day Program</b>
	<b>Winter Concert Practice</b>
<b>December:</b>	<b>Christmas Parade</b>
	<b>Winter Concert</b>
	<b>GMEA All-District Auditions</b>
	<b>Winter Concert Practice</b>
<b>January:</b>	<b>GMEA All-State Auditions</b>
	<b>GMEA High School Experience</b>
	<b>UGA Janfest</b>
	<b>MLK Day Parade</b>
	<b>LGPE Practice</b>
<b>February:</b>	<b>GMEA All-District Honor Band</b>
	<b>GMEA All-State Honor Band</b>
	<b>GSU Pre-LGPE Festival</b>
	<b>Black History Month Program</b>
	<b>LGPE Practice</b>
<b>March:</b>	<b>LGPE Parent Preview</b>
	<b>GMEA LGPE</b>
	<b>Rattlesnake Roundup Parade</b>
	<b>LGPE Practice</b>
<b>April:</b>	<b>Fine Arts Extravaganza</b>
	<b>Color Guard Auditions</b>
	<b>Drumline and Front Ensemble Auditions</b>
	<b>GMEA Solo and Ensemble</b>
	<b>Marching Band Spring Training</b>

**May:**                   **Graduation**  
                             **Marching Band Spring Training**

## **Claxton Middle School Concert Band**

In this class, students will embark on a musical journey that fosters a love for music, develops instrumental skills, and promotes responsibility, creativity, teamwork, and collaboration. The course is designed to accommodate students with varying levels of experience, from beginners to more advanced musicians. Through a diverse repertoire and targeted instruction, we aim to create a supportive and enriching musical environment for all students.

### **Middle School Objectives/Curriculum Standards**

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
3. Reading and notating music
4. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments
5. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music
7. Evaluating music and music performances
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture

### **Middle School Course List**

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band**

Once your child has tried out for/ rented their instrument they will be placed in either the brass/percussion class or the woodwind class.

This beginning band course is designed to teach students:

Instrument maintenance, proper posture, how to properly hold their instrument, how to make a proper sound, and how to read rhythm and notation.

Students will learn their first four scales and learn a variety of pieces to use the skills listed above.

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced Band**

This course is designed as a refresher course, allowing them to use the skills they learned last year in a full ensemble setting. They will continue to build on their musical knowledge by learning their next four scales.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Wind Ensemble

This course is designed to challenge students. They will build on what they learned in the previous years in addition to their last four scales and with a more challenging repertoire.

## Middle School Grading Policy

Student success in Band is dependent on a variety of factors. For this reason, a student's grade is NOT based solely upon his/her performing ability. They will be evaluated based off the factors listed below to assess each student. All parents can check their child's grade through Infinite Campus.

### Grades will be based on the following components

40% (formative assessments)

**Playing Assessments:** Individual evaluations of students' technical and musical progress on their instrument(s). This will be a quiz grade in the form of pass-off (playing test) assignments and reflect questions/conferences with Ms. Grimes during class. These performance opportunities are scheduled during the regular class day, and if a student does not pass the first time, they are welcome to try as many times as needed to achieve the desired result. Students will receive a grade based on their progress every nine weeks.

**Musicianship:** Students have the proper materials out and ready, participate in active engagement, attentiveness, and collaboration during class rehearsals. Students are expected to attend after school rehearsals as needed.

**Written Assignments:** Completion of music theory exercises, weekly worksheets that include the independent practice, and Friday feedback sheets, and quizzes.

**Practice:** Encouragement of regular individual practice to improve skills (practice records may be assigned if improvement is not evident).

60% (summative assessments)

**Written Assignments:** test and reflection essays.

**Performances:** Participation in the winter and spring concerts, and other musical events assigned throughout the year.

***Students not in attendance at concerts will need to make an appointment with Ms. Grimes to perform their concert music for a grade and will have a written assignment to complete as well. These assignments must be completed ASAP after the missed performance.***

## Middle School Course Materials

- Materials are to be brought to class daily-
  - o Instrument
  - o Band method book, sheet music and music stand (provided by the school)
  - o Pencil for music marking and taking notes.

- o Notebook paper
- o Highlighters
- o Sheet protectors
- o 3 ring binder (one is provided by the school that will stay in the classroom to house music and other materials, another is recommended to be used to practice and study at home.)

## **Middle School Expectations/Procedures**

- Do your Best!
- Be ready to learn.
- Raise your hand to speak
- Ask to move about the room.
- Be kind and respectful.
- Keep hands, feet, comments, and objects to yourself.
- Follow directions at all times.
- Do not touch items in the classroom, or open cabinets/drawers without permission.
- No vulgar or offensive language.
- Keep it clean and organized.
- Do your best and have fun!!!

### **Phrases we use in middle school band to succeed**

- Practice makes permanent, not perfect, because we have a growth mindset.
- Always be prepared and dependable.
- Always ask questions; that's how you learn.
- If it's not encouraging or inspiring, ask yourself these questions.:
  - o Is what I am about to say true?
  - o Is what I am about to say necessary?
  - o Is what I am about to say helpful?
- Don't touch it if it's not yours (other people and objects included).
- If you aren't sure of what to do: check the board, ask your section leaders, check the handbook, check the standards posted around the classroom, then ask Ms. Grimes.
- If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all – Thumper from Bambi.
- Leave it better than you found it; there always comes one after you.

### **Middle School Consequences**

- Verbal warning- Conversation with Ms. Grimes, name on the board.
- Loss of privilege – Thinking chair/writing assignment, silent rehearsal, Email home check on the board by your name.
- Parent contact- Silent lunch, call home to parent another check by your name.
- Admin contacted, and parent meeting.
- Office Referral

Several disruptions in one day will send the student down this list and to ISS

## Middle School Band Room Standards

Chairs:

- Chairs by rows
  - Chairs should be spaced out by the squares on the carpet. Lined up chair square chair vertically and horizontally.
- Concert arcs
  - Based on rehearsal – Ms. Grimes will have the number of chairs for each arc on the board, make sure the chairs are centered on the podium, and windowed so everyone can see.

Music stands:

- There are two types of stand carts in the band room.
- The stands must all be put on the rack in the same way, so they fit properly.

Binders/Books:

- All materials are to stay in your binders and put on your class's shelf.
- The books are to stay in the band room on the shelf on the proper label and by color (green, gold, blue).
- They are not to be written in under any circumstances.

Quizzes and test:

- Are to go in the black trays by class when you are finished.

Pencils: If you borrow one of Ms. Grimes' pencils, you must give her your planner or Chromebook until it is returned.

### Instrument Storage

- Always put your instrument in the same place in the correct cabinet
- Do not hang out in the storage room.
- Leave the door open unless a section is practicing in there with permission from Ms. Grimes

## Middle School Student Recognition

**Tiger Paws** - awarded by teacher

Students who are actively participating in class discussions, playing their instrument when asked and going above and beyond as a leader and team player will earn tiger paws on their sheet. At the end of the week the student in each class with the most paws will be awarded the golden stand to use in class the following week.

**Badges**- Awarded by peers.

Students can nominate their peers on google classroom for the following badges. Once a student has ten nominations, they get a sticker to put on their binder.

- Communication Badge - A student who is always willing to answer questions, self-reflects on their progress, talks with Ms. Grimes and their peers about music concepts and how to grow as a musician.
- Collaboration Badge - A student who takes the initiative to lead their section, works to understand the other instruments and other sections of the band. They bring music concepts into other classroom discussions and projects.
- Community Badge- A student who uplifts or inspires the other members of the band, helps them with a part, or says an encouraging word.
- Critical thinker/ Creativity badge - A student who brings new ideas and creative thoughts on how we can improve to master a part or skill as a class and does an outstanding job on composition assignments.
- Mr. Clean Badge- A student who is always straightening up the chairs, picking up trash, closing the storage cabinet doors, and checking that stands are put away properly.

Each badge also corresponds to the four C's

Communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking.

## **Band Banquet**

An event at the end of the school year where students are awarded for their accomplishments.

## **Rehearsal procedures:**

- After-school rehearsals may vary based on the performances ahead.
- Always check the monthly newsletter and emails for rehearsals updates.

## **Concert procedures:**

- Students have the option to stay after school, with their proper attire.
- Students must be signed out, and their instrument, music and stand put away properly before leaving the concert.

# Claxton High School Concert Band

All students enrolled in a band class are a part of the Claxton High School Concert Band. Concert Band is the primary ensemble of Claxton High School and the performance ensemble during the winter and spring. Concert Band meets during school and performs several concerts per year. Required performances include, but are not limited to, pep rallies throughout the year, guest performances at the middle and elementary school, Tiger Pride performances, Hispanic Heritage Month Program, Veteran's Day Program, Winter Concert, Black History Month Program, LGPE Preview, Georgia Southern Pre-LGPE Festival, LGPE, Fine Arts Extravaganza, and Graduation. After school rehearsals will be required once marching band ends in early November.

## High School Grading Policy

**Music (Formative)** – Students are expected to keep up with their music at all times. All music passed out should have the students name at the top and all measures numbered. Grades will be given periodically. Students missing music will receive a zero. Students with the music and no numbers will receive a 50. Students with the music and no name will receive an 80. If a student loses their music, it is their responsibility to get a new copy from a director or student leader.

**Performances (Summative)** – All required performances will be for a summative grade. For performances in Concert Black, proper dress will be included in the grade. Failure to wear appropriate dress shirts, dress pants, and dress shoes will result in a 10% deduction for each. Failure to wear appropriate socks, undershirt, or belt will result in a 5% deduction for each. Being tardy will result in a grade deduction. The deduction will be based on the amount of time the student is late.

**Written and Playing Tests (Formative and Summative)** – Written tests will be minimal, but may include music theory, vocabulary, etc. The majority of tests will be playing tests. Playing tests include but are not limited to:

- Concert Band Literature
- Scales
- Skills being worked on in class

**Pass-Offs (Formative and Summative)** – Pass offs are assigned material the student must demonstrate to the director. The goal of pass-offs is for students to learn the material properly and thus, students may make multiple attempts. Pass-offs are pass/fail (100/0). Students who fail to complete the pass-off by the due date may still make up the grade but will receive a penalty for a late assignment.

The success of a pass-off will be based on a student's ability to perform it correctly. For example, students will pass-off scales every year. While a freshman may make 3-4 mistakes and pass the scale, seniors will be expected to play the same scale without any mistakes.

Pass-offs include but are not limited to:

- Scales



- Warm-Ups
- Chorales
- Rudiments
- Pep Tunes

## High School Concert Band Rehearsal Procedures

- Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. DO NOT BE TARDY.
  - Tardy is defined as not in your spot, prepared to play the down beat of the warm up.
    - I.E. If class begins at 2:00, the downbeat will be given at 2:01.
  - Be in your seat or assigned area on time with all materials
    - Unexcused tardies during after school rehearsals will result in a punishment.
    - Students will receive punishments to be completed after practice based on the amount of time they are late.
    - Consequences will increase as we get later into the school year.
- Have instruments, all music, and any other concert related items as instructed by the directors.
  - Students will receive laps, push-ups, or other exercises as decided by the director or student leader placed in charge.
  - Consequences will increase for repeat offenders.
  - Students that lose music and/or drill may be placed on alternate status if failure to keep track of music and/or drill impedes their ability to learn the marching show.
- No hats or sunglasses inside the building.
- When the director, staff member, or student leader steps on the podium or asks for your attention, all talking ceases.
- Come to rehearsal with a good attitude.
- There is no horse playing or excess playing (ex. horsing around on instrument).
- At the end of rehearsal, put all materials in their proper place.
- Maintain a strong academic standing in all course work.
- Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions. Admit when you're wrong.
- Have proper respect for yourself and those in authority. They are there to help you!
- Check the board for assignments, times, announcements.
- Gum is not permitted in rehearsal or the band room.
  - Students will be held after to clean trash, lockers, or the band room.
- Food and drink are not permitted in the band room, unless instructed by the director.
  - Water is allowed at all rehearsals.
    - Students will be held after to clean trash, lockers, or the band room.
- Respect yourself, authority and others, including personal property.
- Drinking, smoking and drugs are STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

# **Claxton High School Tiger Marching Band**

Membership to the Tiger Marching Band is open to all band students grades 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. Membership in the marching band requires commitment and the ability to play difficult literature. The Claxton Tiger Marching Band is the most visible ensemble in the community. This group performs at all football games, band competitions, and parades. This includes, but is not limited to 5 home games at Tiger Town, 5 away games, playoff games, 3-4 band competitions, the Claxton High School Homecoming Parade, the Evans County Christmas Parade, the Evans County Martin Luther King Day Parade, and the Rattlesnake Roundup Festival Parade.

All Marching Band students are required to have an active physical to perform at all games, competitions, and parades.

Marching Band students are required to attend all rehearsals, including but not limited to after-school spring rehearsals, summer band camp the two weeks leading up to the start of school, all Monday, Tuesday, Thursday rehearsals, Friday rehearsals before home games, Saturday rehearsals before competitions, and any scheduled weekend or Friday night rehearsals.

Marching Band students are expected to maintain good health and stay in shape to be able to handle the rigors that marching, our schedule, and the South Georgia weather can present.

## **Claxton High School Color Guard – Marching Band**

Students in grades 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> who are interested in flags, rifle, saber, dance, choreography, and movement may choose to audition for our marching band color guard. Commitments regarding performances, rehearsals, and physical expectation are the same as marching band. In addition, color guard members are required to attend any additional rehearsals outlined by the color guard director. Students are required to be in the 7<sup>th</sup> block guard/dance class. Auditions will be scheduled by the guard director but are typically in April.

The Claxton High School Color Guard is an extension of the Claxton High School Tiger Marching Band. All students that are a member of the Claxton Color Guard are a member of the Claxton Tiger Marching Band.

## **Claxton High School Drumline and Front Ensemble – Marching Band**

Students in grades 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> who are interested in snare, quads, bass drum, mallets, or auxiliary equipment may choose to audition for our marching band drumline and front ensemble. Commitments regarding performances, rehearsals, and physical expectation are the same as marching band. In addition, drumline and front ensemble members are required to attend any additional rehearsals outlined by the percussion director or percussion tech. Students are required to be in the 6<sup>th</sup> block percussion class. Auditions will be scheduled by the percussion director or percussion tech but are typically in April.

The Claxton High School Drumline and Front Ensemble is an extension of the Claxton High School Tiger Marching Band. All students that are members of the Claxton Drumline and Front Ensemble are members of the Claxton Tiger Marching Band.

## **Band Officers**

Band Officers will be chosen each year. The position of band officer will be held for the full school year. Band Officers will be responsible for assisting directors and students during marching and concert band as well as assisting with other duties as needed. The number of students in leadership positions may change year depending on the number of students in band or the number of leaders needed. Student leadership positions will include, but are not limited to, Drum Major, Band Captain, Area Captains (Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, and Guard), Uniform, and Equipment Captain.

Band Officers will be selected by the directors. Leadership positions will be determined by your attendance, maturity, behavior, demonstration of leadership qualities, and position in the band. If needed, playing ability and seniority will also be taken into account. All Leadership applicants will conduct an interview in April or May. Drum Major candidates will conduct a portion of a piece as assigned by the directors.

## **Tiger Cubs (Band Aides)**

Two middle school 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will be selected each year to assist with the high school. Tiger Cubs will come to rehearsals as outlined by directors, typically before important football games, performances, competitions, and other events. Students will travel with the band to all games and competitions to help move equipment as directed. After performances and during parades, students will assist with passing out water and assisting band members in need. When able, students will perform in the stands at football games.

Tiger Cubs are members of the Claxton Tiger Marching Band.

## **Attitude**

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any individual or organization is ATTITUDE. The right attitude must be present along with sincerity, concentration and dedication as the basic foundation of our program. This will make the difference between a mediocre group and a winning organization. Make the most of every rehearsal and performance.

## **Discipline**

Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must be strict. Band students and parents must believe in the ideals, principles and philosophy of the organization. Each member must always be

aware of good behavior and think for him/herself. Any misconduct casts a bad light on the school, community and band program. Any member that casts discredit to the organization by his/her conduct or actions in band, in another class, or on a trip shall be subject to dismissal from the band program or may lose a privilege within the program.

All Claxton High School and Evans County Schools policies are in force during any band activity. This includes but is not limited to all rehearsals, games, competitions, parades, and other events. All Claxton High School and Evans County Schools policies are in force while students are under the supervision of any Evans County Schools employee. This is in effect while on any Evans County school campus, on any bus, or at any off-campus function.

Students who have been assigned to ISS by an administrator will be suspended from one game or event. The event may be during the ISS assignment or the first event following the ISS assignment, but is the next event after assigned ISS.. The length of time assigned to ISS is irrelevant, i.e. one period, a ½-day or a full day of ISS will be treated the same. Students who have been assigned OSS will be suspended from all events/practices during the OSS AND one full event once the student returns from OSS. If the event is for a grade, the student will receive a zero.

## **Competition Award Ceremonies**

During Competition Award Ceremonies representation will be chosen from the Band Officers. This will typically include the Drum Major, Band Captain, and all Area Captains. Additional representatives will be chosen by the directors if needed. I.E. Some competitions ask for all seniors to be present.

## **End of Year Awards**

End of Year Awards will be presented at each band banquet. These awards include, but are not limited to

- John Philip Sousa Award - Top overall band student. Student demonstrates a high level of performance in marching and concert band and is a strong leader in the program.
- Steve Simmons Service Award - Top color guard and band members that volunteer their time to help the program.
- Marcher of the Year - Best overall color guard and marching band student.
- Musician of the Year - Best overall concert band student.
- Rookie of the Year - Best overall first year high school color guard and marching band student.
- Section of the Year - Section with the most accomplishments and/or best ability level from top to bottom.

## **High School Marching Band Procedures & Expectations**

- Be on time to all rehearsals and performances.
  - Be in your seat or assigned area on time with all materials

- Unexcused tardies will result in laps after rehearsal or other appropriate consequences as decided by the director or student leader placed in charge.
  - Students will receive laps or other appropriate consequences as decided by the director or student leader placed in charge to be completed after practice based on the amount of time they are late.
  - Consequences will increase as we get later into the season.
- Have instruments, all music, all drill, and any other marching related items as instructed by the directors.
  - Students will receive laps, push-ups, or other exercises as decided by the director or student leader placed in charge.
  - Consequences will increase for repeat offenders.
  - Students that lose music and/or drill may be placed on alternate status if failure to keep track of music and/or drill impedes their ability to learn the marching show.
- Have water at ALL rehearsals.
- Athletic shoes and socks must be worn for all rehearsals.
  - No crocs, open toed shoes, or non-athletic shoes will be permitted.
    - Students will receive laps, push-ups or other exercises as decided by the director or student leader placed in charge.
    - Consequences will increase for repeat offenders.
- Marching/dance shoes must be worn for all performances unless otherwise permitted.
  - Students that lose or damage (not normal wear and tear) marching/dance shoes will be fined to cover the cost of replacements.
- Wear the proper clothing for rehearsals and performances.
  - Students should be in athletic wear for all practices, NO jeans.
- No hats or sunglasses inside the building.
- When the director, staff member, or student leader steps on the podium or asks for your attention, all talking ceases.
- Come to rehearsal with a good attitude.
- There is no horse playing or excess playing (ex. horsing around on instrument).
- At the end of rehearsal, put all materials in their proper place.
- Maintain a strong academic standing in all course work.
- Become responsible for and assume responsibility for your own actions. Admit when you're wrong.
- Have proper respect for yourself and those in authority. They are there to help you!
- Check the board for assignments, times, announcements.
- Gum is not permitted in rehearsal or the band room.
  - Students will be held after to clean trash, lockers, or the band room.
- Food and drink are not permitted in the band room, unless instructed by the director.
  - Water is allowed at all rehearsals.
    - Students will be held after to clean trash, lockers, or the band room.
- Respect yourself, authority and others, including personal property.

- Drinking, smoking and drugs are STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

## High School Summer Band Camp

Camp is required for all Claxton High School Tiger Marching Band students. Camp is around the last two weeks of July at CHS from 8am-4pm. See Schedule for specific times. All Camp dates are required of all students in the band.

Students should arrive each day with enough time to get all equipment needed for rehearsal and be in place for the stretch block to begin promptly at 8 am.

Students who miss band camp will automatically be placed on alternate status for a field spot.

## High School Marching Band Practice

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals. After School rehearsal will be on Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays from 3:15-5:00 pm in August and early September and 3:15-5:30 pm beginning in late September until the end of the competition season. Rehearsal may be scheduled on Fridays and Saturdays before games and competitions and on bye weeks. See the calendar for more specific information. If a student has missed too much rehearsal, the director reserves the right to not let the student perform until they can learn the new material. Also, if too much rehearsal time is missed, students can be placed on alternate status.

If a student will be absent from rehearsal, 24-hour notice to a director is required. All appointments (i.e. doctor, dentist) should be scheduled for Wednesdays. Emergencies (i.e. sickness, death in the family, car trouble) will be handled on a case by case basis at the director's discretion. If a student is absent from school on the day of an after-school rehearsal, this does not automatically excuse the student for that afternoon. The student must contact a director. Messages left with another student will not be excused. Non-emergencies situations with less than 24-hour notice will not be excused.

## Alternates

A handful of students will be placed on alternate status. This helps to ensure that there are no open spots on the field for performances and competitions. In emergency situations, alternates will fill in for students that may be out during football games and at competitions.

Students may be placed on alternate status for reasons including, but not limited to missing summer band camp, missing too many rehearsals (excused or unexcused), too many unexcused absences, unexcused absences from required events, or failure to memorize drill or show music.

Students placed in alternate status may challenge for a permanent spot. Challenges will be limited to one per week and will be based on knowledge of drill, music, and attendance. In the event of a tie, the spot

will remain with the student originally placed in it. If a student with a spot is challenged and loses, they will be placed on alternate status.

## **Football Games and Band Competitions**

- Uniforms will be worn properly at all times. No ball caps, other headwear, etc. Standard sized sunglasses may be worn in the stands during football games, but will not be allowed on the field.
  - Directors will decide if full or partial uniforms will be worn. Partial uniform will only be worn if ALL band members are wearing the appropriate band shirt.
- Long hair will be worn up to be hidden in the shako when performing on the field.
- Band members will wear no exposed jewelry while in uniform. Small earrings, nose ring studs, and class rings are acceptable.
- Before football games, students are to report for pre-game rehearsal and dinner unless otherwise stated.
- Before competitions, students will report to the band room. If time allows, we will rehearse before leaving for competition.
- Students are to remain with the band after games and competitions until dismissed by the directors.
  - For home games, students will be dismissed from the band room after clean up and announcements.
  - For away games and competitions, students will be dismissed after all unloading of equipment has occurred and announcements are made.
- After games, home or away, and competitions each student is responsible for making sure their uniform and equipment make it back to the band room and are put away correctly.
  - It is not the job of another student to put away other people's equipment and uniforms.
  - Students who leave their equipment or uniform with other students will receive laps at the next rehearsal.
  - Repeat offenders will not be allowed to use designated storage spaces during the game and will be expected to keep up with ALL of their belongings.
- When marching to and from the stadium, the band will remain at ATTENTION. When you have class, IT SHOWS! – when you don't, IT SHOUTS!
- When in uniform, always behave with class.
- Only uniformed band members are allowed in the band section at football games.
- Alumni and family may visit but not stay within the block of the band during football games.
- Stay in your section of the band and do not move around.
- Be ready to play your instrument when a tune is called out.
- All members are to remain in their section. No music will be played unless approved by directors.
- During football games, members will have the 3rd quarter off. All food and drink must be consumed during this time. No drinks, except water and Gatorade/Powerade, or candy will be allowed in the block during performance times. Students will be back in place with 1-minute remaining in the third quarter. It is the student's responsibility to watch the game clock.

- If students are late from break, there will not be a break during the following game. The second offense will result in missing a break for two games. The third offense will result in missing a break for the remainder of the season.
- Always be ready!
- No one leaves the band without permission of the directors.

## **Marching Band and Color Guard Uniforms**

All marching band and color guard students will be assigned a uniform. For marching band students this will include a bib, jacket, shako, plume, and gloves. For color guard, uniform will be decided on and assigned by the Color Guard Director.

- Students are expected to keep up with all parts of the uniform for the full school year.
  - Loss of parts will result in a fine to cover the cost of replacement.
- Students will wear the uniform correctly at all times.
  - Failure to do so will result in a consequence at the following rehearsal decided on by the director or student leader placed in charge.
- Students will store uniforms correctly at all times when not in use. Students will be taught proper procedure to store, hang, and fold uniforms.
  - Failure to do so will result in a consequence at the following rehearsal decided on by the director or student leader placed in charge.
  - Consequences will increase for repeat offenders.
- Normal wear and tear is expected and will be repaired by the band.
- Damage caused by negligence will be repaired at the cost of the student.
- Uniforms will be dry cleaned periodically. Students are expected to take care of uniforms in-between cleanings.

## **Middle School and High School Concert Band Dress**

All Concert Band students are expected to wear Concert Black for all performances unless otherwise told. The Marching Uniform is NOT Concert Black. For men or women, Concert Black will be a black button up shirt (not a polo), a black undershirt, black slacks, a black belt, long black socks, and black dress shoes or loafers. For women, Concert Black can also be a black dress, black skirt, black blouse, black heels, black flats, and black dress shoes. Open toed dress shoes are acceptable. Black jeans, black khakis, and black tennis shoes will not be allowed. Failure to wear the appropriate clothing will result in a grade deduction. Failure to wear the appropriate clothing for larger events, like LGPE, may prevent the student from being allowed to perform, resulting in a zero for the grade.

A good rule: If you think an adult will question your wardrobe choices, you may want to reconsider.



## **Pladd Dot**

The Claxton Band Program works closely with Pladd Dot. If renting an instrument, Pladd Dot is the preferred for Claxton Bands. Pladd Dot will work closely with you and your student to make sure they get a good quality instrument. They make weekly visits as well to repair instruments on site to make sure that all students are always playing on working equipment.

## **Purchasing an Instrument**

Many students who are in band long term will look to purchase instruments. If interested in purchasing an instrument for your student, please contact a director for assistance. It is NOT recommended to purchase any equipment without the assistance of a director. We are here to assist students and parents to make sure they get good quality equipment for an appropriate price.

## **Middle School and High School Instruments and Equipment**

Students are encouraged to purchase their own equipment, however, any student that cannot is welcome to use a school owned instrument. Any student using ANY schooled owned equipment must have a rental form on file with the director. Students will not be allowed to use any school owned equipment without a rental form.

- Students who check out instruments are responsible for the care of the instrument.
- The instrument should be used properly at all times.
- Students should not be chewing gum while playing an instrument.
- For Woodwind and Brass, students should wash their mouth out with water before playing.
  - Students should not play immediately after eating food or drink.
- Instruments should be stored in cases when not in use.
  - Cases should NEVER be left open and always be closed properly.
- Music and books should NEVER be stored in the case, unless the case is designed for storage.
- Standard wear and tear and maintenance will be covered by the school.
- Any damage caused by negligence will be paid for by the student.
- Any damage caused by a failure to follow the rules and procedures will be paid for by the student.
- Any vandalism to instruments, purposely or not, will be paid for by the student, and may result in dismissal from the band program at director's discretion.
- If the instrument is lost, the student will be responsible to cover the cost to replace the instrument.

## **Practice**

As with any activity, you get out of it what you put into it! Band will not be rewarding unless you practice! Students are expected to practice 30 minutes a day, six days a week. Any student that plans to continue music in college (on scholarship, marching band, etc.) should practice 45 minutes a day. Any

student that plans to major in music should practice an hour a day. Just like working out, practice helps to build the muscles used to play an instrument. Because playing an instrument requires the use of muscles, we must allow these muscles to rest one day each week. Just like studying, practice helps to reinforce what is being taught. Consistent practice also helps to teach students important life skills, including how to study and learn correctly and how to avoid procrastination. It is important to be consistent with practice. Some weeks this will be 30 minutes a day, others it will be 15 minutes one day and 45 minutes the next.

When practicing, students should focus on their weaknesses or things they are bad at and not spend the entire time working on their strengths or things they are good at. For example: if a student has 20 minutes and is looking at one piece of music they know all of the notes too and one piece they don't know any of the notes too, they should spend 5 minutes on the piece they know and 15 minutes on the piece they don't know.

Rehearsal is NOT practice time. Practice is where a student learns their part. Rehearsal is where all individual parts are put together. If one student does not know their part, the band will not be able to have a proper rehearsal as parts will be missing.

## **Middle School and High School Parent Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of every parent and guardian to see that the policies outlined in the HANDBOOK are followed and that the form in the back is signed and returned. This states that you UNDERSTAND the policies and any questions are to be directed to the director. Each parent IS responsible for the attendance of their child at all band functions. It is the responsibility of each parent to see that their child practices daily. The hands of the directors are tied without the support and help of parents.

## **How Can Parents Help**

When a "band question" arises, it is important that you get factual information before discussing it with others. We do more harm to ourselves, the band family, when we talk about things that contain one or more "falsehoods" but consider them facts. If questions arise, it is important to reach out to the directors.

- Show an interest in the music study of your child
- Arrange time for your child to practice
- Stay current on your "fair share"
- Be extra careful with school owned instruments. Repairs are expensive
- Teach your child to be responsible and on time
- Set the example
- Come support your child at performances
  - They notice when you are not there!
- If a student is going to be absent, give 24-hour notice to directors.
- Visit rehearsal

- Be a member of and attend booster meetings
  - Attend booster meetings the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each Month
- Participate in fundraisers
- Assist with events and performances

No one can do everything, but everyone can do something. The more parent involvement we have, the less everyone has to do!

Volunteers should complete a volunteer request form through the main office of your child's school. Volunteers should be working under the direct supervision of an Evans County BOE Employee. If a volunteer is responsible for working with students in an unsupervised setting, he/she must complete a background check through the Evans County Schools Department of Human Resources and Student Services. If the volunteer is going to be supervised at all times by a staff member, the sexual offender background check performed at the school office will be sufficient.

Per the Volunteer - Visitor Form

*"Volunteers provide valuable services to our schools and are much appreciated. This form must be completed and signed to ensure that volunteers and visitors may continue to work in our classrooms and schools. In order to avoid distracting students from their work and also to comply with the legal requirements for privacy, we establish the following guidelines:*

1. *To safeguard the welfare of ALL children, no person, including parents, has permission to visit any classroom unannounced and without first contacting the principal/assistant principal.*
2. *Visitors should contact the school principal/assistant principal at least one week prior to requested formal visit and will be vetted through CheckMate.*
3. *The principal should notify the teacher and arrange a day and time or have the parent contact the teacher AFTER discussing with the principal.*
4. *The principal or his designee will accompany the visitor to the room.*
5. *Visitations shall not exceed one time per week and each visit shall not exceed fifteen minutes.*
6. *Under NO circumstances can there be any videoing or audio recording of ANYTHING in the classroom due to FERPA stipulations. The privilege to visit a classroom is a courtesy, not a right.*

*Permission to visit can be denied at the discretion of the principal and/or central office administration.*

*As a volunteer/visitor, I am aware of the right of confidentiality afforded all students. If I should have knowledge of any information of a confidential nature due to my visiting at a school, I will honor that confidentially. I understand that failure to do so will result in discontinuation of my services or right to visit. If there are any questions, please ask a school administrator before signing this document."*

## Parent Behavior

Student behavior begins with parent behavior. It is important that all parents exhibit good behavior at all times and expect their students to do the same. Parents involved with the band must set the example for students at all times. Students and parents will be held to the same high standard expected when representing the Claxton Tiger Marching Band.

Students will be expected to show respect to all adult volunteers. Adults are encouraged to assist students and other adults to make sure the band is represented positively at all times. If a student or adult exhibits continued poor behavior, parents should bring the matter to a director. It is not the role of adults to correct or punish a student or adult. At no time should parents be arguing with another parent or child.

If a parent exhibits behavior that is not representative of the program they may be asked to leave the event. For repeat offenders or extreme cases, parents may be barred from attending band events.

## Dismissal from Band

Student can be dismissed from the band program by the band directors for the following:

- Drug/substance use or abuse with the band
- Excessive attendance issues, chronic absenteeism
- Absent from performance
- Defiance towards directors/staff/chaperones
- Verbal disrespect towards directors and others
- Cyber bullying
- Fighting
- Intentional destruction of property

All decisions are made by the band directors to ensure the general welfare of the band program, safety of the students, and promotion of Claxton High School and Evans County Schools.

## Student Insurance

ECCSS has a group accident insurance policy for all afterschool interscholastic athletes/band members at no cost to the parent/guardian. This policy will act as a secondary insurance policy if the student has other insurance, and if they do not, the policy will act as the student's primary insurance. This policy is in effect during all after school practices, events, and travel to and from an athletic/band event (not during the regular school day unless competing/traveling to an interscholastic events). In addition, ECCSS offers the opportunity for parents/guardians to purchase insurance for their students during the school day and summer (*click [here](#) for more information*). It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that their child is adequately covered by insurance for any potential injuries that may occur during school-sponsored activities. ECCSS and its staff will take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of students during school-sponsored activities. However, it is understood that accidents and injuries may still occur despite these precautions. By enrolling their child in ECCSS, parents/guardians acknowledge and accept that ECCSS and its staff are not liable for any injuries sustained by their child during school-sponsored activities.