

Cheyenne Band Handbook 2025-2026



Dear Parents and Students,

Cheyenne Band Faculty

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Stay Connected

Because our directors teach at more than one school each day, email is the best way to reach us. When you email, please include your child's full name and which band class they are in so we can respond quickly and clearly.

Welcome to the Cheyenne Mustang Band! We are excited to make music and memories with you this year. This handbook will help students and families understand how band works, what we expect, and how we can work together for success.

Our Mission

At Cheyenne, our mission is to pursue excellence by helping students grow as musicians and even citizens through music, teamwork, responsibility, and respect.

B.A.N.D. Expectations

We are B.A.N.D.:

- **Bring your best.** (Be ready, on time, and prepared to try.)
- **Act like a team.** (Help each other and stay focused.)
- **Never quit and always respect.** (Never give up. Respect people, time, and our space.)
- **Decide to grow.** (Own your effort. Mistakes are part of learning.)

Follow these and you're on track to succeed! If expectations are not followed, students may

receive reminders, parent contact, or other consequences depending on the behavior in support of the Cheyenne Middle School's policies and practices.

Musical Objectives

Here's what we focus on in band class to grow as musicians and people:

- Build a strong, beautiful sound (tone production)
- Hear and adjust pitch with a musical ear
- Improve playing technique and confidence
- Read music and sight-read with ease
- Practice with discipline and personal pride
- Take care of instruments responsibly
- Use a posture and position that supports growth
- Perform with expression and teamwork
- Explore music from many cultures and styles
- Grow in leadership, character, and love for music

Required Materials (Daily)

- Instrument in good condition
- Tradition of Excellence Book (Book 1 for 6th, Book 2 for 7th, varied for 8th)
- Pencil and stocked band binder with sheet protectors (10+)
- Working required materials: reeds, oil, swab, etc. (based on instrument)
- 2025–2026 Cheyenne Band T-Shirt (based on event need)

Ask if you're unsure what you need for your instrument!

Musical Instruments

Individual-owned instruments

Upon beginning your band study, students are given a list of suggested approved models and brands of instruments. These instruments are of a standard that should prove adequate throughout middle school for the majority of students. However, those students who excel at band may opt for an even higher standard of instrument as they progress in instrumental music.

School-owned/issued instruments

After learning the basics of music and achieving an exceptional level on that instrument, some students will switch to a secondary/specialized instrument within their instrumental family (assessed during the 6th-grade year, first semester). These instrument changes are based on aptitude, dedication, and likelihood of success. In addition, it is based on the need for balanced instrumentation for the ensemble. Cheyenne provides a limited number of

secondary instruments. These include instruments such as the bassoon, oboe, bass clarinet, contra-alto clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, horn, euphonium, and tuba.

**Special Note*

School-owned instruments are not to be treated as “free” instruments. Basic supplies must still be purchased and repairs must still be made just like personally owned instruments. Please strive to treat these instruments as if they were your own. Most school-owned instruments exceed a \$2,000 value. Students failing to take care of their school-issued instrument will lose the privilege of using these instruments. Students selected for these instruments will be required to take weekly private lessons (music enrichment) for the duration of playing the instrument throughout the school year and the summer while attending Cheyenne Middle School.

A list of suggested instructors will be presented to you at the time of the instrument switch.

Care and maintenance of ALL instruments

Proper care and maintenance of your instrument will enhance your performance and will limit the number of trips your instrument will take to the repair shop. Following the guidelines below will help you to keep your instrument in good shape.

Checklist

1. Assemble/disassemble your instrument following proper guidelines.
2. When possible, clean your hands and brush your teeth before playing. Do not eat or drink anything but water while playing your instrument.
3. Keep your mouthpiece clean.
4. Do not store books or music inside the instrument case unless you have a compartment for these items.
5. Keep the instrument in the case when you are not using it.
6. Repairs should be made by a qualified repair person.
7. Write your instrument’s serial number in a safe place.
8. Instruments should visit a repair shop once a year for a “check-up”

Dental work

Please do not schedule dental/orthodontic work before a performance/contest/event. Anything done concerning the mouth can and will generally affect the ability to perform at the student's best.

Concerts and Contests - Performance Policies

Every band member plays a vital role in the success of the Cheyenne Band Program. All band

students are permitted and expected to participate in all school events in which the band participates. **Attendance by all members, at all performances, is required, and part of their grade, (not attending will negatively impact the student's grade).** Regardless, by the time we reach a performance date, students will not want to miss the thrill of performing in front of a live audience. **Notification of any absence must be made prior (at least 5 days) to the performance, verbally by the parent/guardian or with an email/note from a parent/guardian, the director will determine if it is an excused absence.** If transportation is an issue please contact your director so arrangements can be made ahead of time. Emergencies outside of human control will be considered on an individual basis.

Concerts are the culmination of all the learning that takes place in rehearsals due to band being a performance-based classroom. **Therefore, we ask that parents carefully review the concert/contest/performance schedule at the beginning of the year and mark the dates on the family calendar to prevent conflicts in scheduling.** Students must remain for the entire concert to support their band peers.

In setting up concert/performance dates, care has been taken to avoid any other school events. However, should a conflict arise, any school *event* will take precedence over a *practice or rehearsal*. Should two events occur simultaneously, the student may choose which event to attend, without penalty from band, but both organizations' instructors/coaches must be notified at least five (5) days in advance. **Without proper notification, the student will not be excused for the band event and grade penalties will be incurred. Non-school events are not considered an excused absence.**

Eligibility

In accordance with Edmond Public Schools and the State of Oklahoma OSSAA requirements, all instrumental music students must be academically eligible to travel and perform with the band at competitive events. **A student is considered eligible if they are passing all classes with at least a 60% by the end of the school day on the Wednesday before the week of the event.**

If a student becomes ineligible:

- They are placed on probation for one week to raise their grade(s) to passing.
- If they do not meet requirements within that week, they become ineligible to perform or travel.
- This applies to all performances, contests, and travel opportunities in the Cheyenne Band Program.

Directors are required to follow school procedures, regardless of whether the student or family

is aware of their grade status.

Ineligible students will not travel with the band and no refunds will be given. Students who are ineligible for a contest performance will also not be allowed to attend the spring band trip, if it occurs.

Every student matters, and maintaining eligibility is crucial for both individual success and the success of our band team. Following B.A.N.D. expectations includes being responsible for your academic success, which keeps our team strong and ready to grow together.

Be at the right place, at the right time, with the right attitude...and you will be successful.



Grades in Band

All materials are required in class every day. With the appropriate materials, it is possible for a student to fully participate.

. Various supplemental materials will be determined and provided as needed throughout the year that align with our curriculum (i.e. method studies, sheets of music, audio recordings, and video examples/YouTube). As a program, we will be teaching to meet the [Oklahoma state standards for Fine Arts in Secondary & or Ensemble Music Standards](#).

- **60% Performances and Tests (playing, written, concerts)**

If chair tests are administered, chair placement is at the complete discretion of the band teacher and is not always reflective of performance tests.

- **40% Practice and Participation (daily effort, prep work)**

A = 90–100% B = 80–89% C = 70–79% D = 60–69% F = 0–59%

6th Grade:

- 6th Grade Demonstration Concert
- 6th/7th Festival Concert
- Spring Concert (6/7/8 Combined)

7th & 8th Grade:

- Winter Concert
- 6th/7th Festival Concert (7th Grade)
- Edmond Chamber Music Festival
- Spring Concert (6/7/8 Combined)
- Other special performances & contests (director-approval required)

Performance attire: We ask that students follow the school dress code.

6th Grade:

- Current 2025–2026 Cheyenne band t-shirt
- Black pants – ankle-length
- No shorts, flip flops, slides, crocs
- District dress code applies

Wearing required concert attire is part of the performance grade.

7th Grade:

- “Professional” or “formal” dress
- No shorts, t-shirts, flip flops, slide, crocs
- All attire should be free from text or graphics
- District dress code applies

Wearing required contest/concert attire is part of the performance grade.

8th Grade:

- All students: a sleeved (short or long) solid black dress shirt/sweater, solid black dress slacks/skirt/dress (no jeans), solid black socks (if not a dress), solid black dress shoes (no flip flops/crocs or athletic style shoes). Must follow school dress code (must have sleeves/straps). Wearing the required contest/concert attire is part of the performance grade.
- **Must follow school dress code.**

Wearing required contest/concert attire is part of the performance grade.

BAND T-SHIRT

ALL band students need have this year’s band t-shirt. All shirts will be adult sizes.



Practice Expectations

We recommend 15–20 minutes a day, 5 days a week.

Parents can help by:

- Providing a quiet space
- Encouraging effort, not perfection
- **Reminding students to bring instruments home!**

Music Enrichment

An objective of any musician, beginner or professional, should be constant improvement.

Aside from discipline, and consistent practice, students can greatly accelerate their learning through music enrichment, available from numerous teachers in the metro area. Please contact Mrs. Mills (complete form on band website) for recommended teachers or you can contact local music stores and universities for other qualified private teachers. Music enrichment guarantees that you will be a better player than you are now.

Future Band Opportunities

CODA Honor Band (7th and 8th grade only)

The annual CODA honor band audition allows students to excel at the regional level, and if selected, to perform at a region-wide band clinic/concert. This year's audition is on Saturday, November 9, at Santa Fe High School. If interested in auditioning, please contact your student's band director before the entry deadline.

Edmond North High School Band

The Husky bands are comprised of 9th-12th graders. The school year is divided into two parts: Marching Band (August-early November) and Concert Band (November-May). The bands perform at football games, parades, concerts, and contests throughout the state and region. The high school bands also offer travel opportunities, such as a few of the past destinations, New York City, Washington D.C., London, California, Florida, Tennessee, and Chicago. All middle school band students should make plans to join one of the largest student groups on campus, with opportunities that will make their high school experience unforgettable!

We look forward to making many musical memories together. Thanks in advance for your dedication, hard work, and support!

District Digital Conversion Information

Digital Conversion, simply put, is about learning and not about technology. The projects will provide student mobile devices, digital content (curriculum, including textbooks), professional development, network infrastructure, and a Learning Management System.

Office of Civil Rights

The Edmond Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability in admission to its programs, services, or activities, in access to them, in treatment of individuals, or in any aspect of their operations. The Edmond Public School District also does not discriminate in its hiring or employment practices.

Band Contract/Signature Page - return this page - Read the handbook carefully on our band website, before signing.

As a member of the 2025-2026 Cheyenne Mustang Band, I agree to commit to the 2025-2026 expectations, the band handbook, and the band calendar. Please check yes on the student information form on the ([Cheyenne Band Website](#)) by **Friday, August 22, 2025**. This hard copy needs to be returned to your child’s band teacher.

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Parent Initials	Student's initials	Band student will:
		Hold himself/herself to the highest possible standard of behavior (band expectations) in my particular band classroom, at all performances, traveling band member, and as well as when I am participating as an audience member.
		I have read and acknowledged all performances/rehearsals/contests on the calendar and that they are part of my class grade in band. I will abide by the concert/contest attire expectations.
		Make it a goal to practice my instrument every day. I understand that band rehearsals are for putting together all the different parts, not to practice individual parts.
		I understand the policy for eligibility and how it affects my band participation. Do my best to maintain good grades in ALL of my classes. I will make-up any missed work immediately due to a band activity.
		I have read and acknowledge the information provided on the syllabus for my child’s band class for the school year 2025-2026.

We have read the band handbook and understand the commitment that being in the Cheyenne Middle School Bands represents. Sign that you have read and reviewed this handbook below.

Student Name (First and Last)

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

- Band Teacher