

The Julius Chambers Marching Band Handbook



The JCMB Music Education Philosophy

The Julius Chambers Marching Band program here at Julius L. Chambers High School will add to a student's knowledge of music and dance and will also give new musical and artistic experiences. Through the marching band program, students will receive a new aspect of music education and dance performance, develop technical mastery of their instruments and dance ability, be able to play and dance to a variety of music and styles, and improve dance and music reading skills. The JCMB will take pride in performing and in the development of musicianship, artistry, and overall life skills within each student.

Explanation of Overall Instruction from Band Staff

The band staff consists of Mr. Wilson (Dir. of Bands), Mr. Dorian Beveridge (Perc. Inst. and Asst. Dir. of Bands), Ms. Briana Culp (High Brass Inst.), Ms. Lynne Osborne (Flag Inst.), Ms. Quantaja McInnis (Flag Inst.), Ms. Aliyah Walthall (Dance Inst.), and Ms. Briajah Knight (Asst. Flag and Dance Inst.) who are the individuals that teach and facilitate marching band. The band staff will teach and facilitate marching band similar to what a student would experience if they played a sport such as basketball or football for example because marching band is actually considered to be a sport contrary to what many may believe! Another example of what it's like to be in the Marching Band is also like having a part-time job or being in the military! Marching bands actually are derived from the military! Just like a part-time job, students will have to follow rules and meet expectations in order to accomplish a common goal. Marching band students must exemplify extreme discipline and be in top physical shape in order to perform a full halftime show, march full parades, and or participate in different types of performances which our students are asked to do. Also similar to sports, marching bands have to compete against other bands in order to win trophies to establish them as being superior to other bands which is what sports teams do as well.

Students will be held to a high standard and pushed consistently to correctly and effectively perform to their highest potential and level possible. Band staff will always be stern, but respectful to all students. Band staff will speak to your child in a stern, but respectful tone. Sternness from any band staff should never be taken as disrespect. It is impossible to effectively redirect or discipline an individual or group with a soft or nice tone all of the time. Again, this is similar to what a student would experience in any other sport including basketball and or football for example.

Band staff will also not use profanity or make any type of derogatory comments at any time while working with students. Mr. Wilson will discipline any staff member that uses profanity or does anything malicious while working with students. Discipline could range from being removed from the band for a particular amount of time to being removed completely if necessary.

Leadership Team Explanation and Expectations

(Drum Majors and Section Leaders)

Similar to any other sport like football and basketball for example, every team has captains and or leaders that help their coach manage the team. Band works the same way. Marching Bands have leadership positions such as the drum major in which their hierarchy is right under the adult staff followed by section leaders which manage their own section and help both the drum majors and band staff manage the band.

In order to become a drum major or section leader, students must be granted permission by Mr. Wilson and or staff to tryout for a leadership position. Students that are chosen to tryout for leadership positions must show their intent to tryout by turning in a signed letter to Mr. Wilson by a specific due date. After those students have turned in their signed intent letter on time, they are asked to participate in an interview to determine if they are able to move to the next level of tryouts. The final level of tryouts include the students trying out or auditioning for the leadership position during band camp. Students will be taught leadership skills throughout band camp and will be assessed on how well they learn and carry out those skills. Students that perform at a high level will be awarded the section leader position for the current school year.

Students that are chosen for leadership positions are students that consistently show the desire to lead, are consistently responsible, respectful, and also are present for a majority and or all of the scheduled rehearsals and or performances. Because of these stipulations, all students will not be given the opportunity to tryout to become a section leader! Only select students are given the opportunity to tryout to become a section leader.

These leadership positions help students develop their overall leadership skills within the band which also helps to prepare them for future leadership roles in their lives in other facets. The drum majors and section leaders are referred to as the Leadership Team. All drum majors and section leaders report to camp during the first week with the rookies to learn how to be an effective leader within the band.

Drum majors and section leaders have the authority to not only lead overall instruction within the marching band, but also give their peers specific instructions and to also help redirect them when they are doing something wrong. Drum majors and section leaders do not have the authority to make any student do any sort of physical activity unless Mr. Wilson and or staff gives permission to do so. Physical activity will mainly be given from band staff and minimally from the leadership team if designated by Mr. Wilson to do so.

Drum majors and section leaders will speak to your children in a stern but respectful manner to help manage the band and also help control or manage situations where either a student or the band as a whole may not be doing what they're supposed to do at a given time. Sternness from any drum major or section leader should never be taken as disrespect. It is impossible to effectively redirect or discipline an individual or group with a soft or nice tone all the time. A stern but respectful tone will be used to help manage the band not only from the band staff but also from the Leadership Team.

If the staff feels that a drum major or section leader has been disrespectful to any adult or student, they will receive 1 strike per offense. If a 2nd strike is received, the student will lose their leadership position. If a drum major or section leader does something extreme, Mr. Wilson can immediately remove the member from the drum major or section leader position.

3 Strike Rule

(MR. WILSON AND STAFF WILL ENFORCE UTILIZING THE STRIKE SYSTEM AT THEIR DISCRETION!)

The JCMB will handle and monitor discipline using a "3 Strike Rule." This strategy is used to give students more than one opportunity to correct incorrect behavior if it happens to occur. If a student fails to meet any of the expectations listed in this handbook or has to be reprimanded for any reason, they will receive 1 strike. Students will also sign and date when they have received a strike and document the consequence they received a strike for. ***Once a student receives 3 strikes, they will be removed from the marching band for the remainder of the year. Students that are removed from the marching band will still have the opportunity to join the marching band the following year.***

Immediate Removal From Marching Band

If a student does something extreme such as but not limited to extreme disrespect towards an adult, fighting, or just something that the band staff finds to be extreme, ***the student will be removed immediately from the marching band for the remainder of the year. The student will be permitted to rejoin the following year.*** If the director also feels that a student's parent(s) or guardian(s) is being a detriment to the band or band staff for any extreme reason, the director also has the right to remove the parent from marching band functions as due to the actions of the student's parent(s) and or guardian(s) that's not conducive to the overall well being of the marching band program. Mr. Wilson as best as possible will follow due process for infractions by giving both students and parents a chance to correct and change behavior if possible, but if negative behavior persists, per CMS guidelines, students and or parents can be removed from performances and or organizations altogether.

Attendance Policy for SCHEDULED REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

Attendance is mandatory for all marching band students. Students are also required to be in attendance for the entire duration of a scheduled rehearsal and or performance. If a student needs to be absent for any scheduled rehearsal or performance or leave practice or an event early, ***it is suggested that notification be given as early as possible*** to Mr. Wilson. If something happens and you forget to notify Mr. Wilson of your absence or early dismissal before it occurs, you will have no later than the day after the absence or early dismissal to notify Mr. Wilson. This includes all students that may have a job and have to go to work on a day when marching band practice is scheduled. ***Work is not a valid excuse to miss rehearsals and performances! Notifications that are given 2 days after an absence or early dismissal will not be excused. A student will receive 1 strike for each unexcused absence or early dismissal! Ex. If an absence or early dismissal is on a Monday, notification of the absence or early dismissal must be given no later than Tuesday! If notification is given after Tuesday, the absence or early dismissal is recorded as unexcused!***

Students must also come to practice or performances with the correct attire and materials such as but not limited to instruments, sticks, mallets, and or straps. If a student does not have the correct attire or materials, they will be permitted to either go home and get what they need or have someone bring them what they need if possible. ***Students may not participate in rehearsals or performances if they do not have the correct attire and will also receive an unexcused absence which will result in 1 strike.***

Infractions for Improper Attendance

If a student has 1 or more unexcused absences during a week, they will not be permitted to perform at that week's football game or events.

If a student happens to miss 1 or more rehearsals due to an excused absence, the student can possibly still perform, but Mr. Wilson can still make the decision to keep the student from performing at a football game and or performance depended upon if Mr.

Wilson feels the student is unable to perform effectively because of the practice time they missed and or if the reason for the absence isn't a substantial one although the absence may be categorized as excused.

Students must wear JCMB and or JCHS attire for scheduled performances if they have to sit out. Students must also attend a football game or performance they have to sit out for before they will be permitted to participate in the next scheduled performance, but not including basketball games! During basketball season, students that miss the rehearsal before the game will NOT be permitted to perform. Students will NOT be permitted to attend basketball games with the band if they are in a situation where they had to sit out for not meeting an expectation or if they were absent for the rehearsal before the game.

JCMB Expectations

(NOT MEETING THESE EXPECTATIONS WILL RESULT IN RECEIVING 1 STRIKE PER EACH OFFENSE! IT IS POSSIBLE TO RECEIVE MORE THAN 1 STRIKE IN 1 DAY! MR. WILSON AND STAFF WILL ENFORCE UTILIZING THE STRIKE SYSTEM AT THEIR DISCRETION!)

- Attend all rehearsals and performances for the entire duration of the rehearsal and or performance
- Wind instrumentalists are to be seated while dancers and percussionists are to be in their correct area or position with percussion instruments strapped up at **3:00 p.m. or the designated time** for all rehearsals.
- Properly perform physical exercises such as but not limited to running, push-ups, etc. when asked to do so.
- To move to transitions with a sense of urgency. (Ex. *Going from a break back to rehearsal*)
- Proper use of the JCMB Uniform, Flag and Dance Squad School Uniforms, and School Owned Instruments and Equipment.
- All drum majors and section leaders give respect to all adults and students.
- All drum majors and section leaders help Mr. Wilson and band staff manage both the band and their musical sections.
- All students behave and give respect to all students, adults, drum majors, and section leaders.
- Refrain from using any type of profanity and or derogatory comments.
- Follow directions given by adults, drum majors, and section leaders.
- Constantly show spirit and pride at rehearsals and performances.
- Keep up with and also have personal items available for use for rehearsals and performances such as but not limited to music, music notebooks, instruments, drumsticks, mallets, and straps. Students are not to leave their belongings in the band room or hallway. Students may leave their belongings in the storage room, but only if they leave it in their personal cubbie or locker. Personal items are not permitted to be left out on the floor or on top of tables or anything like that in the storage room.
- To wear the required clothing and colors for both rehearsals and performances. Black shorts and **PLAIN WHITE SHIRTS** are the required clothing for rehearsals. For students that gain full JCMB status, those individuals will be allowed to wear a specific color shirt to rehearsal. These students must wear the requested or specified color for the specified rehearsal. A white shirt that has writing on it can also be worn, but it must be turned inside out to represent being a plain white shirt.
- Maintain at least a C average or 2.0 GPA.
- To not have multiple trips to ISS or be given multiple out of school suspensions.
- To show consistency in marching, dancing, flagwork, and music performance.
- Practice music and dancing at home on a regular basis.
- Use the Band app for information and communication

Academic Responsibility

The JCMB will also utilize Academic Responsibility similar to what our athletic program does here at JCHS. All students will participate in a Study Hall session before rehearsal starts each day. Students will be asked to complete work and or study during this time, but it is still a student's discretion if they choose not to study and do what staff asks them to do! All students are required to maintain at least a 2.0 GPA which is what is currently required of all athletes. Students will be required to get signatures each quarter for JCMB Progress Reports and JCMB Report Cards. Any student that does not maintain a 2.0 GPA nor turns in the JCMB Progress Report and JCMB Report Card Sheet will not be permitted to perform until that student's GPA increases and or once the JCMB Progress Report and or Report Card Sheet has been turned in with all proper signatures. The student must still attend all rehearsals though to maintain their skills.

JCMB Checkoffs

In an effort to ensure that we're promoting the best product that we can, the JCMB will go through checkoffs before each performance. Checkoffs are when students display what they know before performances. A "3 check" system is used for checkoffs where if a student messes up 3 times during checkoffs, they are not permitted to perform. Mess ups can include not knowing sections of entire songs or dances, consistently making musical mistakes or incorrect movements with dance routines, and or if a student refuses to perform due to not knowing a particular song or routine, etc. **CRITERIA NEEDED TO PASS CHECKOFFS CAN ALSO CHANGE AT ANYTIME DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION AND ALSO ACCORDING TO WHAT STAFF IS LOOKING FOR IN A PARTICULAR WEEK AND OR PERFORMANCE! THIS CRITERIA WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO STUDENTS BEFORE CHECKOFFS TAKE PLACE! PARENTS CAN ALSO CHECK IN WITH STAFF TO DETERMINE WHAT THE CRITERIA IS FOR CHECKOFFS FOR A PARTICULAR WEEK!** Students that fail checkoffs must wear JCMB or JCHS attire for the upcoming performance and sit and observe the band perform in order to see and experience what's expected of all JCMB members

for performances. These students are not permitted to walk around, talk to other students, or act as if they're a spectator for the game or event. These students must observe the band performing and also help staff carry items or run errands for that particular event or performance. If a student misses a performance that they have to sit out for, they won't be permitted to perform until they sit out a performance!

Transportation

Parents are asked to drop off and pick up their child or children in a timely manner whenever rehearsals and performances have been scheduled. Students are encouraged to not attend rehearsals or performances if they cannot arrive or be picked up in a timely manner. Per CMS rules, it is not an educator's responsibility nor are they encouraged to wait for long periods of time after hours to wait on parents to pick up their child or children or take students home in their personal vehicles. CMS does encourage employees that work after hours to call the CMPD to pick up and take students home if they have been waiting for a long time or if they don't have a ride home.

Adult Code of Conduct

(Parents, VCMB, and JCMB Alumni)

All adults that affiliate themselves with the JCMB are asked to adhere to following guidelines to help the band maintain uniformity and order. These requests and guidelines are not made to micromanage or to treat anyone less than an adult, but again to assure that our band is in decency and order when we have alumni and or adults participating with the band in any facet.

Guidelines

-If any alumni is going to participate in the band, please wear band paraphernalia and try to be in uniform with the band as much as possible. If you need JCMB paraphernalia just in case you don't have any VCMB or JCMB paraphernalia, we can get you some! Shirts are \$15.00

-Alumni that plan on going through the stadium gate with the band have the option to either march in with the band or walk in behind the band. Alumni and adults are not permitted to walk in the gate before or in front of the band when the band enters the stadium.

-Any alumni that are not in uniform will not be permitted to perform with the band!

-Alumni will be permitted to perform periodically with the band but not for every event! Mr. Wilson will use his discretion for this on a case by case basis.

-At all band related events, I ask that all alumni and adults conduct themselves properly and refrain from anything or any action that could bring negative attention to the band.

-We also ask that all alumni and adults be compliant with any directions or requests that are given from Mr. Wilson or any Band Booster while attending band events and performances.

-During football games, all alumni and adults are asked to be in and to remain in designated seating. No alumni, adults, or children are permitted to be in the front of the band in the stands where Mr. Wilson and the staff members work during football games.

VCMB/JCMB Alumni

Per tradition, alumni are encouraged to both interact and help work with the band in order to foster a positive relationship between the JCMB and alumni. Alumni are not encouraged or allowed to disrespect or belittle any JCMB member in any fashion! Alumni can also ***ONLY*** participate with JCMB students if staff are present! ***VCMB/JCMB AUXILIARY ALUMNI CAN ONLY PARTICIPATE WITH AUXILIARY IF MR. WILSON GIVES PERMISSION TO DO SO!*** Any alumni that does not align with Mr. Wilson and or the band staff requests will be asked to disassociate with the band program and will be placed on notice with the school to not participate with the band in any fashion.

Alumni can also perform with the band, but not consistently. If alumni are trying to consistently perform with the band, they will be notified so that they understand that they can't perform consistently with the band.

Gameday Procedures

On game days, students are asked to eat food if they wish before 4:00 p.m. if possible. If students aren't able to get or eat their food before 4:00 p.m., students may have a small window of opportunity to eat after 5:00 p.m., but it's not guaranteed! Students will usually go outside afterschool. until about 4:00 p.m. if needed to practice over their halftime show and any gameday logistics for that night's football game. The JCMB Booster Org. will usually provide food for all students for gamedays, but if a majority of the students are bringing and or purchasing their own food, the booster organization will cease providing meals on gamedays!

Band App

In order to communicate effectively and to also effectively inform both students and parents of anything related to marching band, the JCMB family uses an app called "Band." Mr. Wilson asks that all marching band students and parents download the app on their phones so that everyone receives all information needed for the marching band concerning events or anything that may need to be discussed.

All staff members are also on the app with the students to of course give directions or instructions, videos, pictures, audio clips, or sometimes just something encouraging or even funny to fully communicate with both students and parents.

It is imperative that all students and parents download the app and also use the app to receive all information that may be needed. This also includes emergencies when things have to be abruptly canceled or anything like that.

No student or adult is permitted to do anything malicious while using the Band app. This includes but is not limited to profanity, bullying, anything explicit or sexual in nature, disrespect, belittling individuals, etc. All app activity is monitored by the band staff and will always be handled accordingly depending upon the offense. Students can also receive 1 strike or even be removed from the marching band depending upon the severity of the offense. Band staff can also be reprimanded for any inappropriate actions while using the Band app.

THE BAND APP IS THE MAIN RESOURCE USED IN THE MARCHING BAND PROGRAM FOR INFORMATION! IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO JOIN THE BAND APP OR RECEIVE OR READ IT'S NOTIFICATIONS, THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THAT YOU WILL NOT BE AWARE OF ANYTHING CONCERNING THE JCMB!

Band Awards Banquet

Usually near the end of every school year, the JCMB hosts a Band Awards Banquet to reward parents, students, and even band boosters for their hard work throughout the year. ***If a student is removed from the band because of receiving 3 strikes or is immediately removed from the band for inappropriate behavior, the student will not be recognized at the Band Awards Banquet. This also includes graduating seniors. Also Mr. Wilson has the discretion to not do a Band Awards Banquet due to any substantial reasons including but not limited to funding, lack of resources, and or the overall climate of the band.***

Marching Band Awards

The awards listed below are awards that Marching Band students and sections in the band can win if a Band Awards Banquet is planned for the current year.

I Dare You Award: This award highlights the top leader of the leadership team in the band. Criteria for this award include consistency with leading the appropriate way, maintaining a high standard in performance, exceptional behavior and dependability, etc.

The Patrick S. Gilmore Award: The Patrick S. Gilmore Band Award was introduced in 1994 in honor of the legendary bandmaster and impresario of the Civil War. This award **honors outstanding high school band students and their achievements and commitment to the band.** It is presented annually to the runner-up to the Sousa Award.

The John Philip Sousa Award: The John Philip Sousa Award recognizes a musician that displays superior musicianship, leadership, dependability, loyalty, cooperation, and other qualities of conduct which school instrumental music programs strive to impart.

The Director's Award: This award honors an outstanding junior or senior student in the band.

The Esprit Des Corps Award: This award highlights a student that consistently has a high spirit and regard for the band and also exudes a positive devotion to the band.

Most Outstanding Student: Given by classification (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior)

Bandsman/Bandswoman of the Year: An award given to the top overall male and female for the marching band. Criteria includes musical and or dance skill/ability, behavior, attendance, dependability, etc.

Best Section of the Year: Same criteria as the bandsman/bandswoman but refers to a section of the band rather than an individual.

The Royal Elegance Member of the Year: An award given to the most outstanding auxiliary member. Things that go into consideration are ability, behavior, dependability, consistency, respect, etc.

Band and Uniform Fees and Financial Obligations

The purpose of a Marching Band and Uniform Fee is so that students can purchase all of the items necessary to participate in marching band which range from items such as clothing, instrumental tools, beauty supplies, etc. Band fees also help give the band the opportunity to travel and participate in events outside of school. If a student's band and uniform fee is not paid by a scheduled due date given by the JCMB Booster Assoc., ***they will be unable to perform for performances by not being in uniform by not purchasing the requested items set by the band! Students will also be reported to CMS as having outstanding fees which must be paid before the student graduates! CMS WILL NOT ALLOW STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN GRADUATION NOR RECEIVE THEIR DIPLOMA IF THEY HAVE OUTSTANDING FEES!***

Also paying for all fees does not guarantee that your child will perform for all performances! There are many factors that can contribute to your child not performing for performances such as but not limited to attendance, checkoffs, and behavior!

If your child moves to another school, is removed from the marching band, and or quits the marching band during the season, they will still be obligated to pay their fees depending on the situation! It is up to the band director's discretion to determine whether fees will be paid or not from someone who moves to a different school, is removed, and or quits the marching band!



STUDENT/PARENT CONTRACT

I have read the JCMB Handbook and understand the rules contained therein.

I agree to abide by the rules and regulations established by this handbook and Director of Bands. I understand that infractions are punishable by the methods prescribed within this document.

I also agree to fulfill all obligations to the band program including but not limited to performances, rehearsals, fundraising and financial matters.

Finally, I agree to be a proud and productive member of the Julius Chambers Marching Band and a proud JCMB Parent!

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date



STAFF CONTRACT

I have read the JCMB Handbook and understand the rules contained therein.

I agree to abide by the rules and regulations established by this handbook and Director of Bands. I understand that infractions are punishable by the methods prescribed within this document.

I also agree to fulfill all obligations to the band program including but not limited to performances, rehearsals, fundraising and financial matters.

Finally, I agree to be a proud and productive staff member of the Julius Chambers Marching Band!

Staff Signature

Date