
Como-Pickton Junior High School

War Eagle Band



Student/Parent Handbook

Scott Thompson, Director of Bands
Ivan Calzada, Assistant Director / Head JH Director

Cassie Bland, Principal

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Welcome!

Welcome to Como-Pickton Junior High School Bands! We are very excited about the upcoming year and we expect great things from our program. The CPJH band program is a cornerstone of the community here at Como-Pickton Consolidated ISD, and we are glad you have decided to continue that tradition of excellence with us! This handbook is designed as a guide to provide specific details concerning all aspects of the band program to parents and students.

Thanks for taking the time to familiarize yourself with our policies. Please understand that this is not an all-inclusive list; individual situations will be assessed on a case by case basis, taking into consideration the overall good of the group and then its individual members. The following policies were drawn up not to punish anyone or restrict your personal freedoms, but rather to allow us to be aware of the rules necessary for keeping the CPJH Bands functioning in a smooth and positive manner, protecting the rich history and tradition of the War Eagle Band!

Upon completion of reading this handbook, the contract at the end of this document must be signed and returned to school, indicating your understanding of these guidelines and expectations. Please keep this document for reference throughout your career in the CPJH Band.

What is Band Really All About?

As a body of musicians, we desire to produce beautiful music together, but as you may know, band is much more than just a music class. As you identify and evaluate members of our community, you would be pleased to find that leaders in every field received their start, and often times credit their success, to the time they spent in their school band programs. Band is a unique experience which allows us to learn not ONLY music, but also the traits sought after by employers, universities, and your future spouses! Band teaches discipline, work ethic, responsibility, punctuality, communication skills, and leadership. If you were to poll recruiters at any major university, you would find that most, if not all, would tell you that being in band sets you apart from the rest. Recruiters seek out high achieving students who have given their time and energy to band because they know that these students will succeed amongst the rigors of university life.

So, "WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO ME," you ask? It means that if you can make it here, you can make it anywhere! Your hard work and dedication to our program makes you extremely desirable to potential employers and major universities. Above all else, band is designed to teach you the life leadership skills that will allow you to be successful in your future endeavors!

Faculty Contact Information

The directors encourage positive communication and are willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress in band with his/her parents.

Please understand that our communications to you – the parents – are a very high priority to us. If you are unclear about anything, please contact us for clarification on any concerns before they become major issues through email. If you have a small concern or question feel free to message us through Remind.

Symphonic Band Remind: Send the message @cpsymp to the number 81010

Concert Band Remind: Send the message@cpcon to the number 81010

Beginner Band: Send the message @cpbegi to the number 81010

Scott Thompson, Director of Bands

thompsons@cpcisd.net

(903) 488-3671 Ext. 3370

Ivan Calzada, Assistant Director

calzadai@cpcisd.net

(903) 488-3671 Ext. 3371

Find us on the web at CPCISD.net/110287_2

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter! @CPWarEagleBand

Course Overview

Beginning Band - This band is open to 6th grade students who are first-year band students. Beginning Band classes are taught by Mr. Thompson and Mr. Calzada, and are separated into instrument-like classes (ex. Woodwind Class, Brass class). The beginning band has two concerts and at least one contest throughout the year.

Concert Band - 7th and 8th grade students who range from second-year to third-year players. Concert Band members will perform a Christmas and Spring concert, and compete at UIL contest and festivals. They are also encouraged to compete in All-Region and Solo and Ensemble.

Goals and Objectives

- Organizational skills
- Practice techniques
- Mental and physical discipline
- Citizenship through group endeavors
- Cultural growth
- Value judgments
- Music theory
- Proper instrumental technique
- Creative self-expression
- Aural skills
- Teamwork/social skills
- Performance skills

- Music appreciation

Policies and Procedures

It is expected that band students show a high standard of self-discipline and self-control. Failure of any student to behave in such a manner causes a breakdown in the overall quality of work done by all students. Each student will be expected to demonstrate the following:

- Do not talk while a director is talking.
- Always maintain high standards of excellence in music studies, all academics, and your behavior.
- Always be on time and prepared for all rehearsals.

As a representative group from CPJHS, all band members must adhere to the CPCISD Student Handbook, which will be in affect at all scheduled band events. Disrespectfulness toward any staff member, parent, volunteer or fellow student will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. The band directors reserve the right to exercise the authority to make the final decision regarding disciplinary action/removal from the band program.

Care of Facilities

- No gum, food or drinks are allowed in the band hall except when authorized by the directors.
- All trash is to be deposited in the wastebaskets provided.
- Acts of vandalism or the willful misuse of school property will be dealt with severely and appropriately. Every band member is responsible to help the directors monitor the facility and control vandalism, which includes but is not limited to writing or carving on walls, destroying music, or breaking school property.
- Please knock on office door; and, if you are invited in, you may enter. Otherwise, offices are off-limits to students.

Eligibility

Students must pass all academics with at least a 70% for eligibility purposes. A six (6) weeks failing grade in ANY subject will place the student on ACADEMIC PROBATION for the remainder of the school year. Continued infractions may result in suspension from band program. Students will be unable to participate in off-campus performances and athletic events until eligibility is regained by at least the three (3) week progress report.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA), University Interscholastic League (UIL), and CPCISD require that students maintain passing grades in ALL classes in order to be eligible for extracurricular activities.

School Owned Instruments

Personally owned instruments are the financial responsibility of the owner. Members must be able to provide the instrument of their focused studies (i.e. trumpet, saxophone, flute, etc.) at all times. An inability to provide this instrument will negatively impact the members ability to participate in musical studies.

Grading Policy

Daily Grades – 50% - This includes attendance and participation at rehearsals, bringing necessary supplies and equipment, and general knowledge of music.

Test Grades – 50% - This includes attendance and participation at ALL full band performances (games, concerts, and contests). In addition, music pass-off tests will be included. Inability to learn the music for performances may result in removal from performances and a “0” test grade. Furthermore, failure to attend any performance except for emergency situations or pre-approved excuses will result in the lowering of your overall score by a letter grade.

Financial Obligations

Students are obligated to provide for various supplies and uniform items. It is the philosophy of the CPJH Band that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact the directors.

Below is a list of items that students may be asked to provide for.

Band Shirt (6th Grade)

Band Shirt (7th – 8th Grade)

Method Book (Winds and Brass)

Method Book (Percussion)

Additional items may appear throughout the year

Band Events/Performances

ALL FULL BAND events (concerts and contests) are required and graded. Every individual must attend each event to be a band member. Missing a FULL BAND event will result in a “0” test grade and may result in removal from the band program.

All-Region Band Auditions

- All 7th/8th grade band students are encouraged to prepare for and audition if the preparation of their music is at a high performance level. Decisions to audition by these students will be on a case-by-case basis.
- Any person who is selected will attend all rehearsals and the performance of the All-Region Band. (Check your calendar for dates.)

It is quite an honor to be selected to the All-Region Band. Hundreds of students throughout the region will audition. Even if you are not selected, the experience you receive by preparing will strongly enhance your musical ability and education!

Dress Code

Formal uniform: **JH Concert Band only**

Ladies

Ladies are required to wear black slacks with black dress belt or knee length skirt, black shoes (no open-toed, no flip-flops, no tennis shoes, no cowboy boots), and the band polo.

Gentlemen

Gentlemen are required to wear black slacks with black dress belt, black shoes (no tennis shoes), and the band polo.

Informal uniform: **All Band Members** – Band shirt, blue jeans, and tennis shoes.

Daily Supplies

Below is the list of necessary items for daily participation in band class:

- Approved Band Instrument & instrument accessories (swabs, lubricants, reeds, sticks, etc.)
- Classroom method book (purchased at McKay Music in Sulphur Springs)
- 3-ring 1-inch black binder
- 10 plastic sheet protectors
- A pencil (preferably mechanical) and multi-colored highlighters

Strongly suggested, is for each student to have a metronome and electronic tuner. Smart phone apps are a convenient way to get both of these. A good one that the school uses is Tonal Energy, which is available on both iOS (iPhone, iPad) and Android for a small amount.

Travel

Full instruction will be given before leaving for any destination. All band members will travel to and return from performances/trips on school approved transportation.

Step-Up Instrument Recommendations

Students are often encouraged to upgrade their instruments as their skill level develops past the capabilities of the instrument. For recommendations on instrument upgrades, please speak with a band director for suggestions.

Quality Music Stores in the Area

McKay Music Company

121 Gilmer St.
Sulphur Springs, TX 75482
(903) 885-0074

Music and Arts

5435 N Garland Ave #150
Garland, TX 75040
(972) 530-9083

Tatum Music Company

325 E Front St.
Tyler, TX 75702
(903) 595-4341

Award Music, Inc.

200 4th St.
Terrell, TX 75160
(972) 524-9995

Band Parent Volunteers

The quote below is from an article out of NAFME(National Association for Music Education) by Kathleen Heuer:

“Congratulations! Your child has decided to continue on as a music student. The program will be taking your child to the next level, and providing incredible opportunities. But with those opportunities come more responsibilities; not just for your child, but for the program as a whole. There’s way too much work for the teacher to handle, so the booster club supplies a stream of volunteers. That’s nice, you might think. But I’m way too busy for that. Think again. Your kid’s teacher isn’t the only one who benefits from this arrangement. So why SHOULD you make time to volunteer with the music booster group? Each moment a music educator spends on administrative tasks is a moment that educator could be spending with a student. YOUR student.

Because I value the hard work music educators do each day with hundreds of students and little to no administrative support, I’m happy to pitch in with tasks that I enjoy. Plus I’d bet I could do that task much

more quickly and easily than the teacher could; a ten-minute task for me could save her 30 minutes, or an hour. That time goes right back to the students, ensuring that my child gets a better experience.

Part of that experience may include more performance opportunities, which may in turn create more logistical wrangling. I'd much rather the logistics get turned over to parent volunteers, ensuring that the teacher has the time and energy to ensure that students are prepared to make the most of that opportunity.

Plus if you get involved with your kid's music booster group, you'll be in a perfect position to spend more time with your teenage child. Sometimes kids this age tend to get a bit prickly, but they still want to know you're there for them. Being indirectly involved with their music program is the perfect compromise. You'll be able to see their progress, and who they're hanging out with. You'll catch all their performances, and be the first to catch their triumphant smile after a powerful performance. What could be better than that?

Do it for your community

Music is singularly well positioned to build community. Local performance opportunities like concerts, football games, and parades rally a community around the shared experience of the music provided by your kid's ensemble. So many community events are enhanced by the addition of musical performances. A parade without a marching band? Lame. Adding carolers or small ensembles to holiday community events? Now THERE'S a reason to bundle up.

Everyone within earshot will be improved by your student's performance. Research says that "people who engage in the arts or watch others do so are more likely to be civically engaged, socially tolerant, and altruistic." Source

While the lion's share of the benefits go to the performers, even those who attend reap some benefit from the experience.

These community performances, by the way, are wonderful opportunities to engage in some stealth music education advocacy. Each pair of ears is likely attached to a voter. If they see your child's music program as a positive force in the community, next time a funding referendum happens, they'll be that much more likely to vote your way. Why should you care? It'll make your kid's experience better, it'll strengthen the school and the district, and will benefit students for years to come. Remember that bit about being civically engaged? That means these music students—for year to come— will leave the program to spend their lives making the world, much less your own community, a better place. And who doesn't want that?

Do it for yourself

You'll get something out of volunteering for your child's music program, too! Research shows that volunteers benefit in so many ways.

Volunteering for a group like a music booster group will strengthen your network personally and professionally. Those connections will come in handy someday, whether it's in your career or your social life. And though the concept of making friends sounds trite, it's really not. Many people have trouble making friends after college.

“As external conditions change, it becomes tougher to meet the three conditions that sociologists since the 1950s have considered crucial to making close friends: proximity; repeated, unplanned interactions; and a setting that encourages people to let their guard down and confide in each other....” Source

Volunteering for a music booster group sure increases the possibility of increasing those interactions. As one veteran music parent in my program puts it each year to freshman band parents, “Look around. Your new best friend may be in this room.” The veteran parents nod—he’s right.

Consider using a music booster group as a laboratory you can use to pick up new hands-on skills. From organizational skills to bookkeeping to logistics to communication to technology, there are so many important tasks to be done, and likely a shortage of people to do them. Due to the nature of the beast, there are almost always outgoing parents who are actively looking to teach someone the skills they’ve learned working for the organization. And it’s a volunteer position, after all. If you mess up, what are they going to do—fire you?

Studies show that volunteers are happier. This article sums it up nicely.

- Being generous leads us to perceive others more compassionately; we typically find good qualities in people to whom we are kind
- Being kind promotes a sense of connection and community with others, which is one of the strongest factors in increasing happiness
- Being generous helps us appreciate and feel grateful for our own good fortune
- Being generous boosts our self-image; it helps us feel useful and gives us a way to use our strengths and talents in a meaningful way
- Being kind can start a chain reaction of positivity; being kind to others may lead them to be grateful and generous to others, who in turn are grateful and kind to others

Your commitment as a volunteer also helps protect your health. Research indicates that volunteering can decrease the social isolation that often accompanies depression, as well as improve conditions like heart disease and chronic pain.

And perhaps the number one reason to volunteer is because it’s FUN! Most everyone involved with a music program is in it for the right reasons, and it shows. The students have a blast, and that positive energy radiates through the program. The experiences shared by everyone involved make happy memories for years to come.

Consider giving a hand to your child’s music program. Any way you look at it, your child’s music program is a force for good: for students, the school, the community and beyond.

With a bit of luck, in a few years a healthier, happier you (and several new friends!) will wonder why you ever hesitated.”

We will establish the 6th-12th Grade Band Booster program on a later date. Keep an eye out for more information in the following weeks.

Items Not Covered in this Document

Every year, a new situation arises that the director has not encountered before. When something occurs that is not in the handbook, the director will follow the principles of the handbook. Using these, common sense and open communication with administrators and parents, we will come to a decision in the best interests of

all involved. It is reality that this handbook cannot anticipate all situations that may arise, but just because it is not in the handbook does not mean the principles behind the handbook do not apply.

Como-Pickton JH Band Handbook Acknowledgement Form

Name of Member

Address

City

State

Zip

Mailing Address (If Different)

Parent/Guardian Name

Employer

Home Phone

Work Phone

Cell Phone

"I have read this band handbook, and I agree with the philosophies and policies of the band director and agree to adhere to them to the best of my ability.

I further understand that I will be held accountable for the information in this handbook in cases where conflicts arise with band activities. Not reading the handbook will not be accepted as an excuse.

I also give permission for photos of my child to be used on the Band Webpage and other promotional materials for the band.

I agree that neither UIL, Como-Pickton CISD, Band Director nor Sponsor assumes any responsibility in case an accident or emergency occurs.

I understand that a successful band is made up of committed students who are willing to work together with the band staff toward common goals. The sole purpose of these rules is to ensure a great experience for all members of the Como-Pickton Band without being subjected to those who would prohibit learning from taking place."

(Member's Signature)

(Date)

(Parent or Guardian Signature)

(Date)

This Form must be signed and on file with the Band Directors for Member participation.