



**CYPRESS CREEK**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**  
**B A N D**

*2009-2010*  
*Handbook*



*Commitment to Excellence*

Dear Cypress Creek Band Students and Band Boosters,

Welcome to the Cypress Creek High School Band Family. Congratulations on your decision to be a part of one of the finest organizations in the country. The Cypress Creek Band provides a wide variety of musical opportunities that allows everyone a chance to reach their highest possible level of excellence and artistry.

The beginning of the school year starts with band camp, and the opportunity to hone your playing skills as well as begin the process of learning the show for our outstanding marching band. Our performances in marching band will include home and away football games, as well as several shows. These shows will include the FBA Marching Band Assessment, Timber Creek Marching Arts Festival, the Ancient City Presentation of Bands, and the Tarpon Springs Outdoor Music Festival.

The Cypress Creek Band Program features an emphasis on our concert organizations. These focus on a student's personal growth in developing their talents as an artist. Ensembles include a jazz big band, a percussion ensemble, and numerous wind band ensembles that have developed a reputation of musical excellence through concert and festival participation. The Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble, as well as the Big Bands and Percussion Ensemble will present several public concerts as well as assessments at the District and State levels by the Florida Bandmasters Association. Recently our Wind Ensemble was selected and played a concert at the National Band and Orchestra Festival at Carnegie Hall.

In addition to ensemble success, members of the Cypress Creek Band Program distinguish themselves through individual efforts in All-County, All-State, Solo and Ensemble Festival, and other Honor Band activities.

The Cypress Creek Winter Guard program is a nationally recognized group that offers activities to showcase the talents of our color guard members during the winter and spring months. These groups will compete and travel to local, regional, and national events. In 2008, our winterguard organization earned themselves 7<sup>th</sup> place in the World Scholastic A division at WGI World Championships and in 2009 placed first in State Championships.

**Hard-working students, dedicated staff members, involved and active parents, and a supportive administration and community** all combine to make it possible for the Cypress Creek Band Program to offer an outstanding array of musical opportunities. Our students are expected to set and reach high goals for themselves and their program. The rewards of meeting those expectations are immeasurable in the development of our students as well-rounded human beings and artists. Members of the Cypress Creek Band will develop musically, emotionally, mentally, socially, and physically during their time in the program.

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents, administrators, staff, and directors as a convenient source of information regarding the varied aspects of the Cypress Creek Band program. We have tried to cover as thoroughly as possible every facet of the program. Students and parents must read this handbook carefully and sign and return the agreement forms located in the back of this handbook. These forms along with other necessary information must be turned in as soon as possible. Band members will be expected to understand and abide by all rules and regulations set forth in this handbook. Remember, to have a great band, we must all maintain a strong commitment to excellence!

Sincerely,

Derek Shapiro  
Jeff Willis  
*Band Directors*

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# Tradition and Philosophy

The Cypress Creek Band has developed a proud tradition of excellence since the school opened in 1992. You, in becoming a member of this organization, assume the responsibility of continuing this proud tradition, which has been established by others like yourself through devotion and hard work.

The Cypress Creek High School Band Program is dedicated to provide educational and artistic opportunities for its students in the performing arts. All educational activities will take place in a professional atmosphere, which promotes social and artistic development of the students through creative and innovative programs, each based upon high quality instruction and leadership. In addition, it is our belief that “the process is just as important as the product.” This places the emphasis on the development and growth of each individual student, not on specific performances or placements.

*“Success is a journey – not a destination”*

## Attitude

Those students who have a positive attitude, regardless of their individual skills, will always have a place in the Cypress Creek High School Band. Regardless of your ability, if your attitude is not positive and you are not doing your personal best to make the group successful, you should not be a part of this organization. Almost all shortcomings can be overcome with the right attitude and perseverance.

Those who have pride in themselves will usually project a positive mental attitude. Characteristics of a positive mental attitude include a generally cheerful outlook towards rehearsals and performances, cooperation in the preparation and maintenance of equipment and facilities, and an eagerness to do whatever is necessary to be successful. The ideal band member is someone who will always give his or her best for the good of the organization.

## Organization Membership Requirements

### *I. Marching Band*

To be a member of the Cypress Creek Marching Band, the student must be enrolled in the proper band class and maintain a G.P.A. of at least a 2.0 (“C” avg.). Also Orange County Public Schools has adapted the policy that participation in marching band be a requirement of all students enrolled in High School band courses within the Orange County Public Schools.

- A. Competitive Marching Band. The student agrees to attend summer rehearsals whenever possible (exceptions through director approval) and is required to attend music camp and band camp. Exceptions must be approved by the band directors in advance. Each member must meet all financial obligations and must attend all rehearsals and performances (competitions and football games). Fundraisers will be available to help meet financial obligations. Additional information regarding the Marching Band may be located on page 5 of this handbook.

- B. *Alternate Status.* These students must meet all requirements of the competitive Marching Band. These students will rehearse and occasionally perform with the group possibly earning a permanent spot at any time when deemed appropriate by the directors. Alternates are considered full-fledged members of the Marching Band. Alternates are expected to attend all rehearsals as per the rehearsal policy. Alternates may be rotated in and out on a per performance basis in order to provide the opportunity for more students to perform. Alternates will travel on all trips with the Marching Band.

## *II. Concert Bands*

To be a member of one of the three concert bands, the student must be enrolled in the proper band class and participate in the Marching Band. Each student must comply with all rules and regulations for that particular organization. The student agrees to attend all after-school rehearsals, sectionals, and performances. (Exceptions through advance director approval only). Each member must be in good standing within the band program.

## *III. Big Band*

The Jazz Big Band is a select group with membership through audition only. Each student must be enrolled in a concert band class to be a member of the jazz band. The student agrees to attend all after-school rehearsals, sectionals, and performances. (Exceptions through advance director approval only). Each member must meet be in good standing within the band program.

## *IV. Color Guard/Winter Guard*

The Winter Guard is a select group with membership through audition only. Each student must comply with all rules and regulations for that particular organization. The student agrees to attend all after-school rehearsals, sectionals, and performances. (Exceptions through advance director approval only). Each member must be in good standing within the band program.

## *V. Percussion Ensemble*

The Percussion Ensemble is a group open to all members of the band program interested in learning, exploring, and performing on percussion instruments. This class will include, but not be limited to, marching band percussion section, all concert band percussion sections, concert, pop, and chamber percussion bands, and occasionally an indoor winter drum line performance unit. Each student must comply with all rules and regulations for that particular organization. The student agrees to attend all after-school rehearsals, sectionals, and performances. (Exceptions through advance director approval only). Each member must be in good standing within the band program.

** Any student who drops out of any of these organizations during the school year will be required to drop that specific class as soon as the administration deems possible. Any student who drops out will not be allowed to rejoin unless approved by the directors.
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# Individual Membership Requirements

The Orange County Public Schools system provides no financial support for this band program this year. The majority of the responsibility for meeting the financial needs of our band program rest on the shoulders of the band members and band boosters. Fundraising events are scheduled throughout the year to help each student offset these costs; those who need to make special arrangements will need to speak with the directors on an individual basis. **No one** will be denied participation because of financial hardship as long as steps are being taken to fulfill the obligations.

**It takes an immense amount of parent support for our band program to be successful. We would like to see about 20 hours of service from each parent, many parents give MUCH more than that.** To be successful it takes the talents of many parents helping our kids in every genre the Cypress Creek Band Program offers. Without parent support we cannot do many of the things we do.

Participation in marching band is a requirement of all students enrolled in High School band courses within the Orange County Public Schools. The following exemptions are available in the following categories:

- **Medical** conditions that preclude the student's ability to march, or participate in a non-marching role ( such as performing in the football stadium stands during a sporting event, or at a pep rally; performing in a wheelchair or sitting position in the "pit sideline ensemble")
- **Religious** conflicts with calendar holidays; or participation in marching band, or a marching event, that is a contradiction to the beliefs of the individual's, or family religion
- **Extraordinary Circumstances** which would prohibit the student from participation in marching band. These will be determined at the director's discretion.

The exemption requests must first be directed by students, and their parents, to the school band director. Should an appeal of the request be necessary, it would then be directed to the school principal.

Marching Band is a part of the **curriculum** during the first semester throughout the district. Although the Sunshine State Standards and National Standards are taught through all ensembles during the Fall (Marching Band, Concert Bands, Jazz Bands, Instrumental Techniques, etc.), the Marching Band is the ensemble required to perform at all football games, pep rallies, community parades and events, and adjudicated or competitive performances. In addition, it is an expectation of the school administration and community that the marching band represent the school community at these highly visible events. Due to a variety of factors, it is difficult to meet these expectations through the use of a volunteer marching band.

Band Courses in Orange County are co-curricular, not extracurricular, and music being performed is rehearsed primarily during class time. Students are assessed based on their ability to perform the literature in a satisfactory manner. Department of Education State Course Descriptions includes the following statement: "**Special Note: This course generally requires students to participate in extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day**". In addition, OCPS Course Descriptions for High School Band I through VI state the following: "**As a co-curricular performance oriented activity, attendance is required for rehearsals and performances beyond regular school hours.**"

Parents are an important part of the Cypress Creek Band program, and have a vital role to play. Without the assistance and cooperation of band parents, there would be no chance to reach the level of success that we aspire to. These are many things parents can do:

1. Attend monthly booster meetings held in the band room.
2. Volunteer for parent committees. There are many different tasks with which we need your assistance; everyone can find a niche that suits their expertise: chaperones, uniforms, transportation, equipment, sewing, meals, and publicity are a few of the many possibilities.
3. Be supportive of the band program and your child's participation by:
  - a. Assisting your child to be prepared and punctual for every rehearsal and performance.
  - b. Notifying directors if your child is to be absent or late for performances or rehearsals. This should be done in advance except in emergency situations.
  - c. Encouraging your child to practice at home and helping them find a quiet place to do so.
  - d. Showing your interest and support in your child's music study by enthusiastically attending every performance possible.
  - e. Discussing with directors and staff anything that will help them understand and better serve your child.

Arranging for private lessons for your child.

### **Online behavior**

With the advent of online social networking such as Facebook and MySpace and other online sources such as blogs, Twitter, and personal websites, it is important to note that all band members are expected to act appropriately online as well as in real life. You are to represent yourself and your organization with respect at all times. Posting inappropriate pictures, video and comments of any type is not acceptable and will result in disciplinary procedures up to and including removal from the band program.

## **Rehearsal Schedule**

### *Marching Band*

During Marching Season, the weekly schedule will be:

- Tuesdays: 5:00-9:00 pm – Full Band (1<sup>st</sup> rehearsal is Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>)
- Wednesdays: 3:30-7:00 pm – Guard & Percussion (Woodwinds and Brass will alternate weeks beginning with Brass from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.). (1<sup>st</sup> Sectional is 9/2 for percussion, 9/2 for brass, 9/9 for woodwinds, 9/2 for guard)
- Thursdays: 4:00-7:00 pm – Full Band

### *Concert Season*

There will be after school sectionals and rehearsals for the Concert Bands, Percussion Ensemble, and Jazz Bands. These will be assigned as needed during the course of the school year. Your students will always be given at least two weeks notice of any after school rehearsals or change in rehearsals.

Wind Ensemble will meet from 2:30 – 3:45 p.m. every day of the week besides Wednesdays. Wednesdays are your designated day to make up all tests, quizzes and other school related issues. **Wind Ensemble is a class and is not optional. All doctors appointments and other activities must be scheduled around this 7<sup>th</sup> period class. Attendance will be taken every day.**

*Winter Guard Season*

Rehearsals will be determined as the season approaches.

## Rehearsal and Performance Attendance

Band practices and performances are mandatory. Any **request** for an exception must be submitted in writing and approved by the directors two weeks in advance of the conflicting date, except in emergencies. **Work is not an acceptable excuse for missing any band event.** Our schedule is always announced far enough in advance to avoid conflicts. Parents, please make every effort to schedule regular doctor's appointments around the band's schedule whenever possible.

If a change of schedule is necessary, a minimum of two weeks notice will be given.

Students are responsible for arriving at each rehearsal and performance **on time** and properly prepared (properly dressed, instrument ready, music ready). Parents are urged to see that their children take this responsibility seriously. If the excuse does not match the excusable absences below the student will lose the grade for that rehearsal/performance.

Excusable absences are:

- Sick from school
- Doctor's appt. (if this is a check-up, try to schedule around rehearsal)
- Death in the family
- Important family engagement (wedding, vacation/trip)
- Religious holiday

Non-Excusable absences are:

- Driving test
- Homework (you must learn to manage your time well)
- Attending a rock concert or pro-sporting event
- Birthday
- Work
- Trips that aren't given two weeks notice (for example, you know you are going to be at a wedding, and you don't tell us until the day before you leave)
- Didn't have a ride (your section leader can help you find a carpool within the band)

## Grading Policies

As mentioned earlier, the state and county have eligibility standards that affect band students. Like athletes, any student participating in school related activities must maintain a minimum GPA of at least 2.0 each grading period. This affects all marching

competitions first semester and all concert and winter guard sponsored events second semester. Band students should strive to maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0; this is easy to do if you attend school every day, sit near the front of your classes, stay awake and attentive, and turn in your homework on time. Everyone can maintain a 3.0 if you follow these guidelines. The band directors reserve the right to assign alternate status to anyone who shows the inability to maintain the minimum required GPA!

Each Semester is divided into 2 nine week periods. Each nine week period is worth 40% of the semester grade. The semester exam is worth 20%. Nine weeks (40%) + Nine weeks (40%) + Semester Exam (20%) = 100% final semester grade.

Each nine weeks (40%) will be divided as such:

- Daily Participation – 50%  
-This includes every after school rehearsal, every performance and trip, and every class.
- Daily Progress/Playing Tests/Tests/Homework – 50%  
-This includes individual practice, sight-reading, honor group auditions, excerpt playing.  
-Progress is shown through tone-quality, intonation, technique, phrasing, articulation, and music reading.  
-Your Musicianship Standards and weekly playing tests are a large part of this grade.

At the beginning of each 9 weeks, each student will start with 1000 total participation points. 100 points will be deducted for each unexcused absence to rehearsal. 50 will be deducted for being tardy. 300 points will be lost for missing a performance. Please see section on “Rehearsal and Performance Attendance” on page 11-12 for more details.

## **Band Fair Share and Costs**

### *Marching Band*

The band directors work to create a budget each year that is an estimation of the necessary operating expenses needed for the following school year. Very few if any of these expenses are covered through School Board contributions so it is necessary to charge each student to cover band camp, uniform rental and cleaning, band staff, band shirts, trips, newsletters, and numerous other expenses. Summer Fees for the fall Marching Band 2009 season will be \$195.00 per student. Band Fair Share will be \$300, and will be due in three installments. Students who require the use of school owned instruments or equipment will need to pay an additional \$40.00 Instrument Maintenance Lab Fee for each semester. These fees are extremely low when compared with band programs of similar performance level. The following payment schedule has been created to aid in your planning.

August 3, 2009	\$195.00 summer share
September 9, 2009	\$40 Equipment maintenance fee (for users of a school instrument)
September 15, 2009	\$100.00 band fair share, 1 <sup>st</sup> payment
October 15, 2009	\$100.00 band fair share 2 <sup>nd</sup> payment
October 31, 2009	\$100.00 band fair share 3 <sup>rd</sup> payment

### **Equipment Maintenance Lab Fee:**

If you are using school owned equipment at any point through the school year there is a \$40.00 per semester Instrument Maintenance Charge. Such equipment includes school owned instruments (Percussion, Tubas, Baritones, Mellophones, Bass Clarinets, Bari or Tenor Saxes, Guard Equipment, French Horns, etc.) Due by September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 for Fall and February 1, 2010 for Spring.

### **Individual Costs:**

Shoes will be measured and paid for during band camp. If you need details on this, please see Mr. Shapiro.

### **Trip Fees:**

Timber Creek Marching Arts Festival	TBA	Due September 18, 2009
Tarpon Springs Outdoor Music Festival	TBA	Due October 2, 2009
Ancient City Presentation of Bands	TBA	Due October 9, 2009
FBA MPA	TBA	Due October 23, 2009

\*Fees are subject to change due to changing prices in buses, hotel (if applicable), etc.

These fees will always have a list of what they cover such as food, lodging, tickets, and anything else deemed necessary. Make sure you understand what the travel fees include and what they do not include as conditions change from event to event.

### *Band Shoes*

*New students are expected to buy “rolled heel” marching shoes before the first football game. (Orders will be taken at band camp) Approximate cost is \$35 to \$40 depending on the package selected. **Band shoes are NOT to be worn outside of marching band. They are not acceptable footwear for concert attire.***

Color guard members will purchase their own special type of shoes, warm-up suit, and carry on bag. Details to be announced.

### *Concert Bands*

Second semester participation in a concert organization requires a \$20.00 concert band fair share due by February 1, 2009. This helps us cover clinicians and other expenses.

### *Winter Guard*

Winter Guard fees will be determined each year based on the amount of students participating and the shows entered.

### *Fundraising and Individuals Accounts*

There will be more than adequate fund raising activities to allow each family the opportunity to raise the necessary funds. Individual accounts will be established for each student. Money raised through fundraising efforts may be used to pay for band trips, band banquet, or any other items deemed appropriate by the directors. All remaining money left in each student’s account at the end of the school year will automatically roll over

into the next school year. If there is any money remaining in a student account at the end of four years of service, the student may request a refund of remaining money paid by check or cash by the student or family. Monies that were raised through fundraising are generated for the specific use of Cypress Creek High School Band Program and can not be refunded or transferred to another student outside of ones own family upon graduation. When determined, fundraising money will be used first then the student or family paid monies will be used last to cover band needs determined at the end of each semester for the following semester. The money may also be transferred to another family member who may be continuing in the band program. There will be a \$25 per student discount applied for siblings who are in the band program as well.

There will be a need to do fundraising for our band general account. This account maintains our daily operation of the program to cover things that student generated funds can not cover.

There are several Fundraisers that will be made available for you to participate in (both student and parent). Past fundraisers have been:

Entertainment Books  
Rehears-a-thon  
WGI Color Guard Regional Hosts  
Beg-a-thon

Amway Arena  
Gift Wrap  
Cheesecakes and cookie dough  
Candy Sales

The best thing to do is get involved in the fundraisers! It is possible to have all of your fees paid for completely by fundraisers; it just takes some effort on your part! There is no reason you should have to pay a penny from your own pocket for band fees!

The due dates are not flexible. If you find yourself unable to make these dates for the band dues please contact Mr. Shapiro so an arrangement can be made. When trip fees are not paid on time, it endangers our ability to go on the trip due to us having to pay for buses, etc.

### *Financial Assistance*

Students and parents who have financial difficulties will need to speak to the director. Fundraisers and payment plans will be available to ensure that ALL STUDENTS who wish to participate in the Cypress Creek Band program will be given the opportunity to do so. While we understand that some families will have a financial struggle we expect all students to participate in fundraisers to earn the money.

## **Band Office**

The band office at Cypress Creek High School is the business office of the CCHS Band directors and band boosters. Students are not to be in the band office without permission of the directors. The telephone is off limits to students except in an emergency and after a rehearsal. All rehearsal times are published well in advance; parents should not need a phone call to verify that we have dismissed on time. On occasions where the band is arriving back at an unspecified time, the phone will be made available for student use. If there are any questions regarding the band program, please don't hesitate to call the band office at 407-852-3409 and leave a message on voice mail for either director. Your call will be returned as soon as possible. As an alternate means of communication, the band

has a site on the internet. Our web address is [www.cypresscreekband.org](http://www.cypresscreekband.org), or e-mail the Mr. Shapiro at [derek.shapiro@ocps.net](mailto:derek.shapiro@ocps.net) or Mr. Willis at [jeffrey.willis@ocps.net](mailto:jeffrey.willis@ocps.net). Due to the nature of our jobs, email is the fastest way to get in touch with us.

## Charms

Charms ([www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com)) is an online service that allows you to login and get information quickly and frequently. It is also the most effective communications tool we have to offer our students and parents. Charms can give you access to your students ledger balance, personal information, calendars, and other very important information regarding the band. Please make sure your information is always kept up to date so that you get emails and information from the band directors. If you need more information about Charms such as how to login, please email Mr. Shapiro.

## Band Staff

Paid professionals, technical assistants, and guest artists are a vital part of the band program. Without their help the CCHS Band would not be able to achieve the standard to which we aspire. They must have the respect of all students and parents. Staff members are chosen by the directors and are directly responsible for them. Students should give these staff members the same respect they would give any member of the CCHS faculty. Any problems should be brought directly to the directors; do not confront a staff member directly.

## Classroom Procedures

At the beginning of class:

- 1) BE ON TIME!
- 2) Set up your stand and chair
- 3) Take out your instrument and everything else you need. Cases larger than a clarinet case stay in the locker room
- 4) Be prepared so that you do not have to get up and get something during rehearsal. This includes bringing all mutes, extra reeds (at least one extra) and valve/slide oil to your seat EVERYDAY even if you think we will not be using it. (It may help to put all these materials in a small bag so that it is easy to find everyday.)
- 5) You will be ready for class to begin at **two minutes** after the bell sounds.

At the end of class:

- 1) Put your instrument away and lock your locker
- 2) Chairs, stands and folders go in the appropriate places
- 3) Make sure the room is left cleaner than when you found it.

Percussionists should each have all the necessary mallets, beaters and materials during concert band rehearsals. During marching band or percussion ensemble, make sure you have all of the required equipment needed to perform on your assigned instrument.

**Problems of an individual nature (music missing, instrument problems, etc.) should not take class time. These issues should be dealt with either before school, after school, or just before class as a last resort.**

Talking is not acceptable during a rehearsal. Excessive talking will result in disciplinary action.

## **Inspections**

Uniform and instrument inspections will be held prior to each uniformed performance. The drum majors and captains, with assistance from section leaders, will be responsible for the inspections and will report directly to the band directors. All problems noted during inspection will be reported to the directors, who will determine whether or not the student will be allowed to perform. If a student is not allowed to perform, the student will receive no credit for that performance and make-up will not be permitted. After the inspection, students may borrow or rent items from the uniform room if they are available. These items must be promptly returned following the performance.

## **Instruments and Equipment**

### *Maintenance Lab Fee*

Most band members are expected to provide their own instruments. In special cases such as percussion, color guard, low brass, or other larger instruments, school owned equipment may be available; Our Equipment Maintenance Donation is \$40 per semester or \$80 per year. Students who play more than one rented instrument in a semester pay only one rental fee. The fee may be waived if the family can demonstrate severe financial hardship or if the student is playing a secondary instrument at the specific request of the directors to help the band's instrumentation. An instrument rental form is located at the end of this handbook.

### *Care*

School owned instruments and equipment become the responsibility of the student to who they are assigned. Any damage other than normal wear and tear will need to be repaired at the student's expense.

Individual instruments must always be maintained in top playing condition. Always show the director your instrument before taking it in for repairs.

Remember that horseplay can cause damage to instruments and equipment. Be careful with your own instrument, place it out of harm's way if it is necessary for you to put it down, and never play around with or play on anyone else's instrument.

## **Locker Room Policy**

Band lockers are issued as a privilege to students who are members of the band or guard. You will be assigned a locker at the beginning of the year. It is your responsibility to

maintain this locker and keep it clean. You may not hang things on the wall or block the view of the inside of the locker. Once assigned a locker, you must complete a **CCHS Band Locker Sign Out Form**. This sheet will include the combination of your lock that you are using. **ONLY STANDARD COMBINATION LOCKS MAY BE USED, NO KEYS!** You may not change or share lockers with anyone without the consent of the director. **DO NOT** leave anything valuable in your band locker as the band is not responsible for anything that is lost or stolen. You also may not have anything in your locker that does not relate to school. All lockers are property of Orange County Public Schools and are subject to search at the discretion of an administrator or your band directors.

**“The Orange County School System does not have insurance or any plan that will cover damage, theft, or loss of privately owned equipment. If that equipment is to be covered, it must be through the parents’ personal insurance, such as homeowner’s policy, etc.”**

## Personal Instruments

For instruments that the school does not provide, students are required to provide their own. Sharing is not recommended. An instrument is an expensive and delicate item and can be damaged easily. By limiting use to their owners, problems with people breaking others instruments are kept to a minimum. **All student musicians are expected to keep their instruments in playable shape which requires regular maintenance on a yearly to bi-yearly basis.**

## Uniform Information

The uniform parents will issue marching band uniforms. The guard parents will handle guard uniforms and shoes. Uniform fitting will begin during the summer and at band camp starting with seniors and returning marchers. “Rolled heel” marching shoes will be ordered at Band Camp for all new marchers. The uniforms will be kept at school in the uniform room. Uniforms will be washed often and dry-cleaned two or three times during the season. **Members are expected to use their marching band shoes ONLY for marching band and not for dress shoes throughout the year.** Band directors reserve the right to require students to buy new shoes if current ones do not meet inspection.

## General Band Rules

1. Shoes and socks **MUST BE** worn at all rehearsals.
2. Chewing gum is **NOT PERMITTED** during any rehearsal.
3. **NO** food or drink is allowed inside the band room.
4. A band member must **RESPECT** his/her uniform at all times.
5. There will be **NO HAZING** of rookies allowed.
6. Be in your seat, warmed up, and ready to begin **ON TIME**.
7. Insubordination **WILL NOT** be tolerated.
8. **RESPECT** other peoples’ property.
9. Public display of affection **IS NOT** allowed while on “band time.” Remember, this is a band function – not a date!

10. A band member will wear no jewelry, fingernail polish, or excessive make-up while in uniform. Leave expensive jewelry at home.
11. NEVER disrespect another band or its members, EVER!
12. Remember to always CHEER for other bands. (continued)
13. Show RESPECT to all directors, administrators, teachers, band staff, and parents at all times.
14. Keep your language CLEAN! You never know who might be listening.
15. Remember you are a CLASS ACT. Do not do anything that would have to be explained. Always conduct yourselves as ladies and gentlemen.

## **Travel**

The Cypress Creek Band travels frequently during the year, in county, out-of-county, and out-of-state. Trip Fees pay the cost of transportation and lodging. Individual students will be responsible for providing funds for their own meals. Typically the marching band will travel to one overnight destination each year and two to five other “day” trips.

In the event of an overnight trip, an itinerary will be distributed to all students and parents. Remember that all county, school, and band rules are in effect for the duration of the trip. We are representing the Cypress Creek Band, Cypress Creek High School, the City of Orlando, Orange County, and the State of Florida whenever we perform; we will all do our best to maintain these standards to the highest degree.

### *Band Traveling Rules*

1. Possession/consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or non-prescription drugs will not be tolerated. Administrative action will occur with the possibility of dismissal from the band program and suspension or expulsion from school.
2. Smoking, chewing or dipping of tobacco will not be tolerated.
3. Students are expected to behave at all times in the hotel. Anyone deemed guilty of gross misbehavior will be dealt with by the directors and may be sent home.
4. Band members are not permitted in any other rooms after hours on away trips. No unauthorized persons will be allowed to visit.
5. Parents and students will be held responsible for any property damage and lost room keys.
6. Shirts and shoes are to be worn at all times.
7. Rooms are to be locked at all times.
8. Courtesy is expected in the dining facility. Other groups use these facilities as well; don't forget common courtesy.
9. No food, glasses, dishes, or signs are to be taken from the dining facility.
10. Please refrain from the playing of instruments in the rooms.
11. All school rules must be strictly enforced. Any infraction of these rules will be dealt with by the band department and school administration.
12. No one is allowed to leave the hotel premises without permission from the Directors. Any student found doing so will be dealt with severely.
13. Profanity is not a part of the Cypress Creek Band Program. Make sure that your language is never offensive while with the band.
14. Follow all instructions of Directors and Chaperones at all times. If you don't understand, ask.

REMEMBER: Young adults do not roughhouse or damage property. As CCHS Band members you reflect not only the values you learn at CCHS, but those of your community as well. **BAND MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE AT THE RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME, WITH THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT---READY TO GO!!!**

The band directors reserve the right to dismiss and send home any student who disobeys the rules and whose general conduct and attitude towards the trip and its participants is determined to be detrimental to the rest of the group.

### *Football Game Procedures*

1. Our home football games will be played at the Cypress Creek High School stadium.
2. All games will begin at 7:30\* with band report time posted for each game. (\*Subject to change.)
3. Students will check out their uniform for each performance.
4. Woodwind cases and ponchos will be taken into the stadium when there is a threat of rain.
5. Plumes will be issued before a show and picked up after the performance.
6. Percussionists, color guard, tubas, and other large equipment need to be ready to load early for an away game.
7. All band instruments and equipment must be sparkling and “ready to go” for inspection.
8. No band member is permitted to leave the organization in advance of group dismissal at any time, unless excused by the directors. (A note from parents is needed.)
9. While seated in the stands, only band members are allowed in the ranks. Alumni who may return from time to time and are always welcome, but will not be allowed to sit in with the ranks of the band while in the stands.
10. While seated in the stands, the band will always sit in sections, according to the seating chart.
11. Attention should be given to the band directors or drum majors when they are standing in front of the band.
12. We will play only as a group while in the stands. Solo performance is strictly forbidden.
13. No inappropriate cheers are allowed.
14. Musicians should avoid jumping as the team scores a touchdown. We appreciate the enthusiasm, but instruments may become damaged in the stands.
15. In order to move in an organized fashion, we must be able to give instructions in a rapid manner. Everyone will listen to the band directors, band staff, and drum majors when instructions are being given.
16. Weekly details will be assigned on a rotating basis to help load for away games and help clean the band room after games.
17. The band will march to the stadium and back from the stadium at all home games. Once we have returned to the band room, students will wait at attention for dismissal by the band directors.
18. All performances are mandatory. If you are unable to attend a performance, you must provide a written excuse in advance. Personal illness, death in the family,

weddings, and religious holidays are usually the only legitimate excuses for missing rehearsals or performances.

### *Standards for Behavior on Buses*

1. Reread the Band Rules (pg. 13) and Band Traveling rules (pg. 14).
2. Chaperones should check over each bus before anything is loaded, and relay any problems or damage to the driver and band director.
3. Chaperones should load before students and spread out through the bus. The front seats on both sides of the aisle are reserved for directors and staff.
4. Students must ride the same bus in which you are assigned. **DO NOT** change buses!
5. Students are not to put anything on or under a bus until instructed to do so.
6. Buses will load by class; students may not save seats for students in other classes.
7. Roll must be checked before the bus moves and after every stop at which everyone gets off.
8. The bus driver must be treated with respect. Different drivers have different standards; whatever they say goes.
9. Nothing is to ever protrude out of the bus windows (heads, arms, instruments, etc.) nor should any item ever be thrown or dropped out of a window.
10. Normal conversation is appropriate; shouting or screaming is not. Singing may or may not be OK depending on the driver, content, and musicality. Good singing may be acceptable; bad singing never is.
11. Radios are not permitted on school buses. On longer trips involving charter buses, radios with headphones are generally OK as long as no one hears the music besides the person wearing the headphones.
12. Chaperones may reassign seats if they deem it necessary; students may also be assigned to a different bus at any time at the directors' discretion.
13. To avoid problems, school bus windows stay up as we enter or leave another school campus.
14. All students are to keep the bus clean at all times. At the end of a trip, every student should check the area around which he/she was sitting, including the floor and overhead storage. The bus captain will remain on the bus to ensure that it is left in proper condition, or see that it is corrected.
15. Public display of affection between students is not allowed on any bus at any time.
16. Be courteous and thank the drivers and chaperones when we return.
17. The directors reserve the right to ride different buses over the course of the year.
18. Students are not permitted to change out of uniform unless instructed to do so by the band directors. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

## **Competitions and Festivals**

Contests, festivals, and other adjudicated activities are important features of the Cypress Creek Band program. It is through these activities that we obtain valuable feedback about our progress as individuals and as a program. Although we never “live or die” by any one judge’s or panel’s opinion of our performance, it is important that we learn the value of giving maximum effort and standing by the results as our best possible effort of the day.

Competitive performances are packed with emotion. Because of the amount of time, work, and discipline required to produce award-winning performances, we develop great camaraderie within the organization. We share hardship, discomfort, fatigue, oppressive heat, cold, long bus rides, disappointment, tears, success, and joy. Along with these emotions goes a high level of tension, which often causes students to react immaturely. We learn to avoid these normal pitfalls and to channel our energy and attention toward the goal of performance excellence and the ultimate success that will follow.

The Cypress Creek Band will stand with silent pride as scores are announced and graciously accept the results, regardless of outcome. We show our respect for others and appreciate their performance. We know “winning” is the state of every individual having endured the hardships, taken the chance of competing, and having done their personal best in their own “commitment to excellence.”

The band's image is based on each individual. Our public reputation is based upon our appearance, our actions, and our projection of pride. It is the responsibility of each band member to ensure that we present the best possible image at all times.

## **Solo and Ensemble Festival**

Florida Bandmasters Association Solo and Ensemble festival is held in February each year. This event gives students an opportunity to excel individually or in small groups. Students may select their own music or Directors may assist in the selection process. There will be an entry fee assessed for each event entered. All members are expected to participate in solo and ensemble. Musicians are responsible for hiring a pianist if the music requires it. Band directors will be responsible for finding the accompanist.

## **Honor Bands**

Auditions are held each year for the Florida All-State Bands and Orchestra. Cypress Creek Band students are encouraged to audition each year. Typically these auditions are held in September or October each year with the actual All-State festival being held in Tampa each January. Wind Ensemble members are required to audition for All-County and All-State Band each year of their membership.

Other “Honor Band” opportunities may be available to Cypress Creek band students during the school year, whether based on audition or application. These events include the University of South Florida’s Festival of Winds, Florida State University’s Tri-State Band Festival, and the University of Miami’s Honor Band Festival. Students will be notified of these events at the appropriate times.

## **Private Lessons**

Private lessons are the key to developing an outstanding musical organization. Students who privately study with a professional tend to show rapid improvement in individual musicianship. As these students improve, their excitement towards practicing increases, and they become a stronger contributor to the overall success of the band. The directors will assist you, if needed, in selecting a private instructor. Private lessons are the key to excellence on your instrument, so start as soon as possible. All Wind Ensemble members are required to take private lessons. Every other student is highly recommended to take lessons as it is the single best way to improve as a musician.

## **Student Leaders**

*Drum Majors/Horn Captains/Guard Captain/Percussion Captain/Section Leaders*

The directors and staff select these leaders on the basis of musical/marching ability, service, dedication, loyalty, and leadership qualities. They must have completed the Leadership Training Workshop. The number of section leaders/captains will vary from section to section and year to year.

All student leaders will carry out the policies of the band, band directors, school, and administration to the best of their abilities. Anytime you question or disagree with specific instructions from a student leader, please avoid confrontation and discuss the problem with the captains, drum majors, or ultimately the band directors at your earliest convenience. Student leaders cannot give you permission to miss a rehearsal or performance, be tardy, or leave early. Student leaders should be positive and work in the best interest of the Cypress Creek Band at all times.

## **Band Letters and Awards**

At the end of the year awards banquet, students are recognized for their contributions to the band. In addition to the band awards (Best Marcher, Most Improved Musician, etc.) students also get personal awards for their participation in a full year of band. These awards can be put on the band jacket or displayed any way you see fit. A full year includes Fall **and** Spring ensembles (i.e. Marching Band and Concert Band). Below you will find out the awards for each year.

First Year:	Band letter & Grad Year	Third Year:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Chevron
Second Year:	Band Chevron	Fourth Year:	Senior participation plaque 3 <sup>rd</sup> Chevron

In the year of your graduation, it is traditional for high school graduates to wear cords to signify your participation in any activities or organizations you were a part of. Cords are color ropes you hang around your neck that accompany your gown. Band cords are black and silver and can be purchased at the end of the senior year from the band. In order to qualify for a band cord, you must have been a member of both the fall and spring semesters for two years. If you transfer from another band program, the years you spend in those programs count also. Band directors reserve the right to award band cords at their discretion. This two year rule will also apply to FMBC medals should the band decide to go that year.

# CYPRESS CREEK BAND EVENT CALENDAR

## 2009 - 10

Date	Time	Event	Location
July 27-31	4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Percussion Camp (mandatory)	CCHS
July 28-30	4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Color Guard Camp (mandatory)	CCHS
July 28	5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Full Hornline Rehearsal	CCHS
July 30	5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Full Hornline Rehearsal	CCHS
August 3 - 7	12:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Band Camp Week #1	CCHS
August 03		Balance Due from \$195 Summer Fee	Band Office
August 10-14	12:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Band Camp Week #2	CCHS
August 18	4:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Full Band Rehearsal	CCHS
August 20	4:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Full Band Rehearsal	CCHS
August 24		First Day of School	
August 29	9:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.	All-State Prep Clinic (FREE!)	UCF
September 04	7:30 p.m.	Football vs. Colonial	CCHS Stadium
September 09		\$40 Equipment Maintenance Fee Due	Band Office
September 11	7:30 p.m.	Football vs. University	CCHS Stadium
September 12	9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Rehearsathon and Parent Show	CCHS
September 15		Fair Share #1 Due (\$100)	Band Office
September 18	7:30 p.m.	Football vs. East River	East River High School
September 19		All-State Auditions	Ocoee High School
September 25	7:30 p.m.	Football vs. Dr. Phillips	Dr. Phillips High School
October 02	7:30 p.m.	Football vs. Winter Park	CCHS Stadium
October 03	All Day	Timber Creek Marching Arts Festival	Timber Creek High School
October 09	7:30 p.m.	Football vs. Oak Ridge (HOMECOMING)	CCHS Stadium
October 15		Fair Share #2 Due (\$100)	Band Office
October 16	9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Rehearsathon II (BYE week, no football game)	CCHS
October 17	All Day	Tarpon Springs Outdoor Music Festival	Tarpon Springs High School
October 23	7:30 p.m.	Football vs. Gateway	CCHS Stadium
October 24	All Day	Ancient City Presentation of Bands (prelims/finals)	St. Augustine High School
October 29	7:00 p.m.	CCHS Band Fall Concert	CCHS PAC
October 30	7:30 p.m.	Football vs. Freedom	Freedom High School
October 31		Fair Share #3 Due (\$100)	Band Office
November 06	7:30 p.m.	Football vs. Boone	CCHS Stadium
November 07	All Day	FBA District 8 Marching MPA	Citrus Bowl
November 13	7:30 p.m.	Football vs. Timber Creek	Timber Creek High School
December 10	7:00 p.m.	CCHS Band Winter Concert	CCHS PAC
December 19 - January 3		Winter Break	
January 21	7:00 p.m.	All-County Sectionals/Rehearsal	TBA
January 28	7:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m.	All County Rehearsal	TBA
January 28	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	All County Rehearsal	TBA
January 30	TBA	All-County Dress Rehearsal and Concert	TBA
February 01		\$40 Equipment Maintenance Fee Due	Band Office
February 11	All Day	High School Jazz MPAs	TBA
February 12 - 13		Solo and Ensemble Festival	TBA
February 16	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Wind Ensemble Rehearsal with Clinicians	CCHS
February 18	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Wind Ensemble Rehearsal with Guest Artist	CCHS PAC
February 19	7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	All Day Rehearsal with Guest Artist	CCHS PAC
February 20	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Dress Rehearsal with guest artist	CCHS PAC
February 20	6:00 p.m.	Pre-MPA Concert	CCHS PAC
March 4 - 6		High School Concert MPAs	TBA
March 29 - April 2		Spring Break	
April 29 - May 1		CCHS Spring Musical	CCHS PAC
May 06	7:00 p.m.	CCHS Band Spring Concert	CCHS PAC
May 26	5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Night of Percussion Rehearsal	CCHS PAC
May 27	7:00 p.m.	Night of Percussion Concert	CCHS PAC
June 09		Last Day of School	



### Member Contract

Personal Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Welcome and thank you for your interest in the Cypress Creek High School Band. You have demonstrated that you possess the dedication and motivation to become the best musician possible while contributing your talents to our program.

In order to participate in the Cypress Creek High School Band, you must agree to certain conditions, including but not limited to: paying band fair share and trip fees, participating in all rehearsals, and having band/color guard in your school schedule. The following outlines your responsibilities:

- You must attend all scheduled rehearsals for the band. Absences from rehearsals will only be excused by the director and only in emergency situations. Examples of these conditions would be: medical emergency/illness, death or severe illness in the family, or other school related activities where a grade is involved. Sports team conflicts are handled on a 50%-50% time-shared basis. Continued rehearsal conflicts for any reason will result in your place in the show being filled with an alternate band member.
- You must attend all scheduled performances for the band. Performances are the main reason we exist; therefore excused absences from performances are rarely given. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a two letter grades drop from the nine weeks grade, replacement with an alternate and a consultation with parents and student as to continued membership in the band.
- You must have band class in your schedule. Guidance will work out your schedule to accommodate this. As per Orange County Public School Policy, all members of the Cypress Creek High School Band Program will participate in the marching band. Only documented medical conditions signed by a physician will warrant an exception to this policy. Band is also a **YEAR LONG CLASS**. You are required to remain in the class for the entire school year. If you drop the class at any point, you will not receive credit for ANY PART of the course (no 1/2 credit for a semester). You will be assigned to an ensemble based on your ability level and instrument needs of the ensemble and will participate in a concert band in the winter and spring. You may not play in a concert group and not be in marching band and vice versa.
- You will be expected to pay band fair share in the amounts previously explained. These fair share payments pay for marching show design, instructional costs, transportation to shows, and other miscellaneous operating costs. The payment schedule is as follows:

August 3, 2009	\$195.00 summer share
September 9, 2009	\$40 Equipment maintenance fee (for users of a school instrument)
September 15, 2009	\$100.00 band fair share, 1 <sup>st</sup> payment
October 15, 2009	\$100.00 band fair share 2 <sup>nd</sup> payment
October 31, 2009	\$100.00 band fair share 3 <sup>rd</sup> payment

Trip Fees – will be assessed when dates become closer and bus information becomes available. Typical trip fee ranges from \$15.00 – \$55.00 depending on length of trip and distance covered.

- You will be required to read and abide by all the band rules and regulations found in the Band Handbook.

The schedule of performances for the Band is found attached to this handbook. It will constitute a part of this contract and agreement.

**GRADING POLICY** - Grades will be determined using the following criteria as listed on page 9:

- Daily Participation – 50%  
-This includes every after school rehearsal, every performance and trip, and every class.
- Daily Progress/Playing Tests/Tests/Homework – 50%  
-This includes individual practice, sight-reading, honor group auditions, excerpt playing.  
-Progress is shown through tone-quality, intonation, technique, phrasing, articulation, and music reading.
- Your Musicianship Standards and weekly playing tests are a large part of this grade.

In addition, there will be a mid-term and final examination that will count as 20% of your total grade. This usually consists of an audition-type test. You will be expected to maintain a high standard of musicianship while participating in the Cypress Creek High School Band. Constant improvement in your performance abilities will be expected. Private lessons are available on all instruments and are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED**.

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BY SIGNING BELOW, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND ALL OF THE CONDITIONS FOR ACCEPTANCE INTO THE CYPRESS CREEK HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM LISTED ABOVE AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY ALL RULES AND PROCEDURES SET FORTH BY THE DIRECTOR OF BANDS.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**DIRECTOR USE ONLY**

Accepted for membership

Not Accepted

If not accepted, state reason(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Director Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_