

Cypress Creek High School



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

*Commitment to
Excellence*

Leonardo Lamos
Director of Bands
Michael Tabone
Associate Director Bands



Dear Cypress Creek Band Students and Band Boosters,

Welcome to the Cypress Creek High School Band family. The 2021-2022 school year gives us all the opportunity to carry on the outstanding tradition of excellence that is the trademark of the Cypress Creek Band Program. Congratulations on your decision to be a part of one of the finest organizations in the country. The Cypress Creek Band provides musical activities that encompass a wide scope and allows everyone a chance to reach their highest possible level of excellence.

The fall season emphasizes the excellence of our outstanding marching band. Our performances will include home and away football games as well as several competitions.

The Cypress Creek Band Program features two outstanding concert organizations, a jazz ensemble, chamber ensembles, and several percussion ensembles that have developed a reputation of musical excellence through concert and festival participation. The Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble, as well as the Jazz Ensemble and Percussion Ensembles will present several public concerts as well as assessments at the District and State levels by the Florida Bandmasters Association. These bands may also appear on occasion at national and regional concert band festivals around the country.

In addition to ensemble success, members of the Cypress Creek Band Program distinguish themselves through required 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.

Hard-working students, dedicated staff members, involved 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. Members of the Cypress Creek Band will develop musically, emotionally, mentally, and socially 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, but not limited to, this handbook. Remember, to have a great band, we must all maintain a strong *commitment to excellence!*

Sincerely,
Leonardo Lamos
Director of Bands
Michael Tabone
Associate Director of Bands

Organization Membership Requirements

Marching Band

To be a member of the Cypress Creek Marching Band, the student must be enrolled in the proper performance ensemble 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 is co-curricular and be a requirement of all students enrolled in High School band courses throughout Orange County Public Schools.

- A. Competitive Marching Band. The student agrees to attend summer rehearsals (exceptions through director approval) and is required to attend band camp, icebreakers, and mini-camp. Exceptions must be approved by the band director in advance. Each member must meet all financial obligations and must attend all rehearsals and performances (competitions and football games). Fund-raisers 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.

Concert Bands

To be a member of one of the concert bands, the student must be enrolled in the proper performance ensemble 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. Membership in the Wind Ensemble is through audition only.

Jazz Ensemble

The Jazz Ensemble 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.

Winter Guard

The Winter Guard is a winter/spring activity that is open to all members through audition. 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.

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, and chamber percussion bands. 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.

Individual Membership requirements

The Orange County Public Schools system provides basic support for their band programs. The majority of the responsibility for meeting the financial needs of our band program rest on the shoulders of the band members and band parents. Fund-raising 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. **Each parent is asked to give at least 12 hours of service each quarter; most give much more.**

Participation in marching band is a requirement of all students enrolled in High School band courses within 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

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

Marching Band is recognized as a significant part of the **curriculum** during the first semester by Orange County Public Schools. Although the Florida 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 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."

Band Fair Share

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. It is necessary to charge each student to cover band camp, band staff, show design, transportation, food, and numerous other expenses. Band Fair Share will be \$250 and will be due in three installments. These fees are extremely low when compared with band programs of similar performance level around the country. The following payment schedule has been adopted to aid in your planning. The following payment schedule has been provided for the students and parents in the event calendar (www.charmsoffice.com).

Fair Share - Fall \$250

See above

Concert Band Lab Fee - \$50

Covers registration for Music Performance Assessment and Solo and Ensemble

School Instrument Rental Fee - \$25 per Semester

Covers cleaning and maintenance of school owned instruments

Uniform Costs:

Viper Marching Shoes (1 pair) – \$40.00

Black Gloves (2 pair) - \$5.00

White Gloves (2 pair) - \$5.00

Packages:

Freshman/New Member Package #1 Viper Band Shoes, White Gloves and Black Gloves - \$49.00

Percussion Package – Viper Band Shoes - \$40.00

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 \$40.00

Color guard members will purchase their own special type of shoes, warm-up suit, and carry on bag. Approximate costs are \$40 These will also be ordered at band camp.

Winter Guards:

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

Fund Raising and Individual Accounts

Every attempt will be made to provide adequate fund raising activities to allow each family the opportunity to raise the necessary funds to meet the band fair share. Individual accounts will be established for each student. Money raised through fund-raising efforts may be used to pay for band trips, musical equipment, 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, it will automatically be deposited into the general fund. Money that was raised through fundraising are generated for the specific use of Cypress Creek High School Band Program and can not be refunded. 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).

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!

The due dates are not flexible. If you find yourself unable to make these dates for the Band Dues please contact Mr. Lamos or Mr. Tabone so an arrangement can be made. Trip Fees must be paid on time or you will not be allowed to attend the trip.

Financial Assistance

Students and parents who have financial difficulties will need to speak to the directors. Fund raisers 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.

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 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 leadership and instruction. 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.

“Success is a journey – not a destination”

Attitude

Those students who have a positive mental 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. In fact, students who do not project an attitude that is positive and cooperative will be given the opportunity to either change their personal perspective or leave the organization. Characteristics of a positive mental attitude include a generally dedicated approach 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. In short, the ideal band member is someone who will always give his or her best for the good of the organization.

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 director. The telephone is off limits to students except in an emergency as determined by the directors. 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 do not hesitate to call or email Mr. Lamos at 407-852-3409 or leonardo.lamos@ocps.net or Mr. Tabone 407-852-3409 or Michael.Tabone@ocps.net. You will be contacted within 48 hours of receiving the email. To check for any dates (football games, trips, etc.) or student financial account, please use the student accounts on www.charmsoffice.com or Cypresscreekband.org

Rehearsal Schedule

Marching Band

During Marching Season, the weekly schedule will be:

Tuesdays: 4:00-8:00 pm – Full Band

Wednesdays:

 Full Band Sectionals (will alternate weeks) 2:30-4:30.

 Guard and Percussion 2:00-5:00pm.

Thursdays: 4:00-8:00 pm – Full Band

*rehearsals are subject to change baring events on campus. Email/Remind will be sent out prior to change

Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band Rehearsals

Monday's 3 - 5 Symphonic Band Rehearsal

Tuesday's 3 - 5 Wind Ensemble Rehearsal

Winter Guard Season

Rehearsals will be determined as the season approaches.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are strongly suggested for all band members especially members of the Wind Ensemble. The success and quality of our bands depend on individual refinement and instruction. Private lesson teachers should be contacted and compensated by the parents of the individual student.

Guest Clinician Workshops

Several guest teachers, conductors, performers, and composers from colleges, universities, and professional music organizations are invited to rehearse various ensembles throughout the year. On specific occasions, a fee from every student may be required to cover the cost of this unique experience and opportunity specifically catered for our students and members.

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! 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.

In-school and after school rehearsals and performances are co-curricular and are graded as such as recognized by the district of OCPS

Each nine weeks will be divided as such:

- In-class Performance/Rehearsals – 50%

This includes every after school and daily class rehearsal. This also includes bringing and playing your instrument in class/rehearsal daily, sight-reading, and excerpt playing. Progress is shown but not limited through tone-quality, intonation, technique, phrasing, articulation, and music reading.

- Quizzes/Tests – 20%

Quizzes and tests will be given throughout the year on scales, sight-reading, prepared pieces, music excerpts, and specific musical concepts and techniques.

- Homework – 10%

Homework will be given throughout the year and will consist of such things as individual practice logs, worksheets, book readings, and specific musical passage preparation.

- Performances – 20%

This includes but is not limited to performing at the fall, winter, MPA, and spring concerts. Also, each student will participate in the Florida Bandmasters Association Solo and Ensemble Festival, All-County audition, All-State audition, football games, and marching band competitions. Exemptions will be determined by the director.

The Common Final Exam will make up for 20% of your final grade.

CONCERT MAKEUP/ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENT

Alternative assignments are assigned in absence from a required rehearsal, dress rehearsal, or concert. To earn the points missed for the required rehearsal, dress rehearsal, or concert, the student must complete a written assignment/report given by the directors. Not completing the assignment will result in a zero grade. If it is determined that the student made an honest effort and did their best to make an accurate and interesting report, they will receive full credit for the concert grade.

Rehearsal and Performance Attendance

Band practices and performances are mandatory. Any **request** for an exemption must be submitted in writing and approved by the director two weeks in advance of the conflicting date, except in emergencies. **Work, not having a ride, or babysitting siblings, 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.

Change of schedule may be necessary due to unforeseen circumstances. Flexibility will be given for changes made with less than a week's notice.

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.

Excusable absences are:

Sick from school
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
Babysitting
Trips that are given with less than a week's 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)

Classroom Procedures

All students will be inside the band room before the tardy bell sounds. At two minutes after the bell, each student is expected to be in their seat, with instrument, stand, music, and necessary materials (i.e. pencil). There will be silence in the rehearsal when the conductor steps onto the podium.

Warm-up is a crucial time in each rehearsal. This is when we focus on the fundamentals of our playing so that we may improve both as a group and as individuals.

Brass players should have all necessary mutes and valve oil ready. Reed players should have at least one spare reed at their seat during rehearsal. Ideally, you should have four to five “good” reeds that you rotate from day to day. Your reeds will last longer and you will get better play from them if you do not use the same reed all the time.

Percussionists should each have a pair of concert snare drum sticks, xylophone and marimba mallets, and timpani mallets during concert band class. During marching band or Percussion Ensemble, make sure you have all of the required equipment needed to perform on your assigned instrument.

Cases should be left in the instrument storage room or around the walls of the rehearsal hall during rehearsal. They are unnecessary obstructions in the rehearsal area.

At the end of rehearsal, make sure you put all of your equipment away. Instruments should be put back into your locker in the instrument storage room until it is time to take them home for practice. All chairs and stands will be put away at the end of the day, everyday!

Percussion equipment is to be put away at the end of rehearsal unless another band class is to follow that uses the same equipment. At the end of the day all percussion equipment will be put away in its proper storage area and properly covered

Problems of an individual nature (missing music, 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 during rehearsals should be kept to a minimum. Any necessary talking should be about the music being studied and should never be a distraction to the conductor or other students. When the conductor is on the podium there is no talking.

During class students are permitted to use the restroom, no more than one student at a time, pass will be located at the back of the room. **Please do not disrupt rehearsal**

Inspections

Uniform and instrument inspections will be held prior to each uniformed performance. The drum majors, with assistance from section leaders, will be responsible for the inspections and will report directly to the band director. All problems noted during inspection will be reported to the director, 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 buy items from the uniform room if they are available. These items must be promptly returned following the performance.

Instrument and Equipment 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. At the end of the year all school owned instruments will be inspected for damage.

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.

****If damage is done to the instrument based on neglect, the student is required to cover the cost of repairs****

Band Awards Banquet

The CCHS Band Awards banquet will be held annually in May to recognize the achievements of the band, its members, boosters, and administration. A slide show highlighting the year's activities, special senior tributes, naming the following year's officers, and a great meal will help us celebrate another successful year together. The band banquet is funded through ticket sales that may be purchased with money from student accounts. Account monies can only be used for individual student(s).

Uniform Information

The uniform parents will issue marching band uniforms. The guard parents will handle guard uniforms and shoes. Uniform fitting will take place during the summer and at band camp beginning 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 by parent volunteers.

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.
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.
16. Leave areas cleaner than when you used them.

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 occasionally lodging. Individual students will be responsible for providing funds for their own meals.

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 the Director's 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 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 director. (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.
11. Attention should be given to the Band Director 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 Director, 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. Chaperones should check over each bus before anything is loaded, and relay any problems or damage to the driver and band director.
2. 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.
3. Students must ride the same bus in which you are assigned. DO NOT change buses!
4. Students are not to put anything on or under a bus until instructed to do so.
5. Buses will load by class; students may not save seats for students in other classes.
6. Roll must be checked before the bus moves and after every stop at which everyone gets off.
7. The bus driver must be treated with respect. Different drivers have different standards; whatever they say goes.
8. 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.
9. Normal conversation is appropriate; shouting or screaming is not.
10. 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.
11. To avoid problems, school bus windows stay up as we enter or leave another school campus.
12. 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.
13. Public display of affection between students is not allowed on any bus at any time.
14. Be courteous and thank the drivers and chaperones when we return.
15. Students are not permitted to change out of uniform unless instructed to do so by the band directors. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Contests 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 bands 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 the Director may assist in the selection process. There will be an entry fee assessed for each event entered. Members of the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band are required to perform at least one solo or ensemble at District Solo and Ensemble festival each year of their membership.

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 student 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 Director 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. Students in the Wind Ensemble must take private lessons.

Student Leaders

Section Leaders/Guard Captains/Drum Captains/Brass and Woodwind Captains

The directors and staff select these leaders on the basis of musical/marching ability, service, dedication, loyalty, and leadership qualities select these leaders. 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 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.

Parent Volunteers

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. 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.
2. 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.
 - f. Arranging for private lessons for your child.

Calendar

All events and volunteering opportunities can be found on our website

Cypresscreekband.org

Please note: There are many performances this year on the marching band calendar. As a family, please try to make the necessary arrangements to ensure that your child is able to attend all of these performances and rehearsals. We strongly urge you to read carefully the attendance policy and how it can affect your child's grade.

Updates will be sent out with the monthly newsletter. Operating a band program on this level takes extreme dedication for the students and their families. We can only reach our goals if each student is willing to make the commitment to the band. *Absences are the #1 downfall of any group related activity.*

**Orange County Public Schools
Contract Agreement for Music Students**

The success of any music program is dependent on teamwork, with each student completing his/her assigned task. With that understanding, all students who enroll in the Band Program, and their parents, are to sign this contract.

The following is a quote from the Orange County Public Schools course descriptions for performance-oriented classes: “As a co-curricular performance-oriented activity, attendance is required for rehearsals and performances beyond regular school hours”. These include but are not limited to:

- Festivals/evaluations competitions
- Honor Band auditions/Solo & Ensemble
- Concerts
- Performances for Community, schools, etc...
- Football games
- Parades

It is understood that attendance at these functions is mandatory, and an unexcused absence may result in lowering a student’s grade and/or placing them on alternate status if the absence applies to the Cypress Creek Band Program. Exceptions to this policy are:

- Religious holidays
- Handicapped students whose handicap prohibits participation
- Documented illness
- Family emergencies (approval by School Administration or designee)

Please check Calendars in advanced for conflicts

I understand the requirements and responsibilities for my son/daughter to be a member of the Cypress Creek High School Band Program. I have read through and understand the rules and regulations covered in this Handbook.

Parent Signature

Student Signature