

Central Cabarrus High School Bands

2011-2012 Handbook

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Welcome

It is with great pleasure that we officially welcome each of you to the 2010-2011 school year. The Central Cabarrus Band Program has a long and rich history of performing excellence. Current and past students have worked together to establish the traditions that will be carried out through the years. In my short time here, our level of performance has excelled and improved with each time in front of an audience. Excellence has now become the expectation not the goal. We look forward to continuing this progress this semester.

Freshman and new students may find our high school band to be very different from your previous band experiences. Band at Central will be about personal commitment, hard work, and mature behavior. These are the benchmarks by which we will measure our success. They will be the expectations of all members of the Central Cabarrus Bands.

This handbook contains a great deal of information about the Central Cabarrus High School Band Program. All band students and their families are asked to read and become familiar with the contents of this handbook. Keep this booklet in a safe location at home so that you and your parents may refer to it as needed.

Good luck to each and every one of us as this year gets under way. I am sure it holds many successes. Enjoy every moment.

Stephen M. Petrucci, Director of Bands

Young People Can!

- Young People can be responsible, honest, mature, dependable, polite, and committed.
- Young people should be taught that hard work is a good thing.
- Young people should be held accountable for their attitudes and actions. They should be praised quickly and punished fairly.
- Young people are capable of accomplishing much more than they are typically asked to do.
- Young people want to learn and grow and become better people. They trust adults to guide them in this endeavor.

My Philosophy

Band was a very special experience for me as a young person. Most of my friends were in band and a great deal of my time was spent involved in some aspect of the program. Band gave me a place to grow and succeed. My directors have been some of the most influential people in my life. I still see them and learn from them today just as I did a few years ago as a student in their classes. It is my desire to maintain a program at Central that will have the same positive impact on the students that I teach.

Purposes of the Central Band Program

- To provide each student with a comprehensive music education by teaching the skills and attitudes necessary to succeed as a young musician and as a young adult.
- To benefit the school and community through the public performance of quality music while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of Central Cabarrus High School.
- To foster the development of essential character qualities which we believe include: a strong work ethic; a respect for order and legitimate authority; a sense of personal integrity; a responsibility for one's actions; and a respect for the time, talents, abilities, and accomplishments of others.
- To provide each student with a positive emotional outlet, a good social experience, and a worthy use of leisure time.

Goals of the Central Band Program

1. **To Perform as Well as We Can**
2. **To Perform Better than the Last Time We Performed**
3. **To Have Fun**

Never underestimate the power of expectation

What We Expect

The expectations that follow are more than just a set of rules in this handbook; they are characteristics found in students from the best band programs across our country. Band students are typically some of the finest young people in our school community. You are expected to be such a person here at Central. Always remember who you are and what you represent.

What We Expect

Disciplined

Understand the need for practice and make time for it on a daily basis.

Punctual

Always be on time for class, rehearsals and performances.

Persistent

Understand that becoming a good musician is a process. It takes time. Work to improve on a daily basis.

Positive

Attitudes are contagious. Be sure yours is worth catching. Smile and be a part of the solution, not a part of the problem.

Honest

Admit your limitations and mistakes. Take full responsibility for your actions and attitudes. Do not lie, steal or cheat.

Responsible

You are young adults. Do not wait for me to tell you the obvious. Pick-up the trash, wipe your feet, and close the door.

Well-Behaved

Follow instructions the first time they are given. Be quiet, attentive and in control of yourself.

Prepared

Bring all materials to each class, rehearsal and performance.

Committed

Realize the impact that your individual attitudes, actions, and performances will have on the group. Think of the band first.

Polite

Talk to one another, teachers, parents, and administrators with courtesy and respect.

Mature

Think before you act.

Proud

Remember who you are and what you represent. Take pride in yourself, your school and your band. Celebrate success together.

What You Can Expect

Just as we have expectations for each of you, there are certain things that you rightfully should expect from me.

- Firm and Consistent in my expectations for each student and for the band. Will expect your best effort and behavior at all times.
- Fair in establishing and enforcing policies and procedures.
- Committed to helping each student grow and become his or her personal best.
- Worthy of your trust. I will continually work to become a better teacher by listening to and learning from my mentors.
- Honest when commenting on your performance and behavior. I will never tell you something is good when it is bad. I will never tell you something is bad when it is good.
- Interested in you as a person. I enjoy getting to know your families and friends. I like hearing about your other interests.

The Importance of Procedure

Policies and procedures are outlined in this handbook to ensure that all aspects of the band program run smoothly, and that each student has a safe, positive and successful experience here. Please do not ask for exceptions to rules. At times, unforeseen circumstances may warrant the modification of a policy. When these situations occur, modifications will be made on a case by case basis at the discretion of the director.

The Importance of Discipline

Because of the nature of the organization, band discipline must, of necessity be strict. Band students maintain a highly visible profile both at school and in the community. Poor performance or behavior can cast an unfavorable light on the entire band program. Students will be responsible for their actions, attitudes and performances.

The Importance of Commitment

Membership in our band program requires a major commitment from students and their families. Successful band programs require many hours of work from each student. Our goals include developing as an individual and an ensemble. These goals take no less than 100% effort from each individual. Therefore, it is important for students to understand the necessity of time management. Calendars are essential. Purchase one that suits your needs and write down all band dates as soon as they become available. Though it is admirable for students to become involved and well-rounded, students should take caution when becoming involved in multiple organizations and activities. Do not overbook yourself. It is wrong to expect any program to lower its standards because you have overcommitted yourself. Making wise choices based on your time, talents and interests is a vital part of becoming an adult. Budget your time wisely!

Financial Considerations

Band at times can be an expensive program. Students need the right equipment to have successful learning experiences. Faulty or inadequate equipment hinders the progress of the individual and lowers the performance quality of the band. Students must understand that making wise choices is part of becoming an adult. Movies, cool clothes and time with friends are important parts of being a teenager. Mouthpieces, mallets and class materials are an important part of being a band member. Budget your money wisely! Should a family be in hardship, please contact the Band Booster President in order to discuss alternate payment plans. We will be happy to work with your family as we are able to. Take advantage of ALL fundraising opportunities as they can help provide for your music education for all four years. We would like to include all students in all of our activities. There is a band class fee issued for all Cabarrus County Schools that needs to be paid by the end of each semester.

Curriculum Goals

Parents and students will find below a list of the curriculum goals for students enrolled in the Central Cabarrus High School Band Program. This list satisfies state curriculum requirements and surpasses them in several areas.

Individual Wind and Percussion Goals

- Hold the instrument (stick/mallet) correctly with good hand position.
- Demonstrate the correct posture to be used when playing the instrument.

- Form a correct embouchure or stick-grip for the instrument.
- Produce a characteristic, controlled sound on the instrument.
- Perform clean articulations on the instrument
- Demonstrate the ability to care, maintain, store and transport the instrument.

Ensemble (Group) Goals

- Explain and demonstrate with the band, the pyramid balance concept.
- Demonstrate the ability to tune the instrument and play in tune with the band.
- Explain and demonstrate with the band, the concept of staggered breathing.
- Perform the appropriate grade level of concert music with artistry and musical taste.
- Successfully sight-read the appropriate grade level of music with minimal errors.
- Perform music for the public with the band.

Music Theory Goals (for band)

- Identify any given pitch in treble and bass clef.
- Count, play and identify by ear common rhythmic figures.
- Count and play rhythms involving syncopation, ties and dots.
- Define basic Italian, French, German and Latin terms and symbols found in music.
- Name the keys on a piano.
- Construct half-steps and whole-steps above and below a given pitch.
- Write and play all major scales.
- Write and identify all major key signatures.
- Written and Aural Intervallic recognition.

Additional Percussion Goals

- Perform PAS standard drum rudiments to include: roll (double and orchestral), flams, paradiddles, drags, ruffs, and ratamacues.
- Demonstrate knowledge of suspended and crash cymbal technique.
- Demonstrate knowledge of chime technique
- Demonstrate knowledge of auxiliary percussion technique
- Demonstrate knowledge of concert bass drum technique.
- Demonstrate the ability to tune and play basic timpani parts.
- Demonstrate proper technique on mallet instruments.
- Demonstrate ability to read melodic notation.

Daily Procedure

- Students should be in their seat ready to begin no later than two minutes after the tardy bell has sounded. *Students will be considered tardy if they (a) are not in the band building when the tardy bell rings or (b) do not participate in the first downbeat of the rehearsal or verbal instructions.*

Tardy Consequences

CCHS Policy

The door to the band building will be shut and locked at the ringing of the tardy bell. Students who are not in the band building at that time will need to report to the Control Room in the main building.

- Students should store their book bags and cases along the office wall.
- Each student will have the necessary items, including music, pencil, instrument in proper playing condition, etc. at all rehearsals.
- The podium is a platform in more than just the literal sense of the word, for it is the only place in the rehearsal room from which gestures and suggestions can mold a group of individuals into an organization. Whenever the Director or any other person takes the podium, the group will give him/her complete attention. This means total silence and quick response to direction.
- No one is to talk or leave his or her seat during rehearsal without permission.
- The bell is not a signal for you to rush out of the room. The class will be dismissed by the Director. Do not stand in the band building hallway, while awaiting dismissal.
- Students should return all instruments, materials and equipment to their proper storage places at the conclusion each day. All cases should be closed and latched and labeled.
- Students should help keep the band building clean and neat at all times. Trash containers are placed throughout the building. If in doubt, pick it up, straighten it and wipe your feet!
- Food, drinks and gum are not allowed in the Band Building. Water will be accepted during rehearsal, if it is in a closed container.
- You should only use the storage room(s) to store your instrument, your music (in a

binder) and other band related materials. Please do not use it as a gym locker, a food storage room or a regular locker. *Any other materials found will be disposed of.*

Grading Policy

Students' quarter grades will be determined as follows:

Participation/Effort/Attitude	40%
Written/Playing Tests	25%
Homework	15%
Performances	20%

Class Participation Policy

Each student is given a class participation grade on a daily basis, accounting for 40% of his/her quarterly grade. Upon entering the classroom, each student has a "100". Deductions occur when

- A student does not bring the required materials to class
- A student does not participate fully in class
- A student performs below his/her potential
- A student exhibits poor posture, poor instrument care, or is talking during rehearsal
- A student demonstrates that the proper amount of practice is not being done.

"I don't feel good." If a student is sick and claims that he/she cannot play in class as a result, written documentation must be provided, signed by a parent or guardian, explaining the situation in order to possibly excuse the student from receiving a zero for that day. However, in general, if you are well enough to be at school, you are well enough to play.

"My horn is in the shop." If your instrument has been taken to the shop you must bring me a note, signed by a parent or guardian, with the following information included:

- The name of the shop doing the repair.
- The shop phone number.
- The date taken to the shop
- The projected pick up date.

Students must make up all work missed during a shop repair. Three days or more will also require the performance of a make-up contract to recover lost class time. Students who do not perform a make-up contract within five days of the completed repair will receive a grade of zero on all playing assignments missed during the repair period. If available, a student may be asked to check out a school owned instrument to use while hi/hers is in the shop.

Make-Up Policy

It is important for students to be in class each day and in attendance at all rehearsals and performances. Our success depends on the attendance and hard work of everyone. You are important and we cannot have a successful program without you. If you are absent follow these procedures:

Procedure for Absence from Class

1. Check with the class secretary's notebook or a friend to see what you missed (new dates, missed assignments, missed playing grades).
2. If playing or written assignment has been missed, schedule a time with the Director for make-up.
3. If your absence is for more than three days, see the Director for a make-up contract. You will have two days for each day absent to make up the work.

***Remember Who You Are
and
What You Represent***

Procedures for Absence from an After-School Rehearsal or Performance

1. A parent should contact the Director via email or phone immediately upon becoming aware of the conflict.
2. After-School Rehearsals count as Test Grades. Unexcused absences will result in a "zero" grade and must be made up with the make-up contract for a grade no higher than a 70.
3. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Director to arrange a make-up contract immediately upon returning to rehearsals. A make-up contract is required to earn the points whether the absence was excused or not.

Note: Only cases of extreme emergency will be excused from after-school rehearsals or performances. Take caution when "thinking" of being absent.

The only way of finding the limits of the possible is by going beyond them into the impossible.

Arthur C. Clarke

Required Class Materials

The following is a list of required materials for the student in the Central Cabarrus High School Band Program.

Parents are also *strongly* encouraged to purchase a step-up mouthpiece. Parents are encouraged to review the list of step-up mouthpieces on page 7 and purchase the suggested mouthpiece for your child.

Required Class Materials

- Percussionists – an Innovative Percussion Intermediate pack. (Purchase through band - \$70) or equivalent (see handout).
- Woodwind players – two working reeds, sizes 3 to 3.5; cleaning swab; mouthpiece cap; saxophone end plug; and a jewelers small screw driver.
- Brass players – valve oil and slide grease.
- Instruments should be in good playing condition. Cases are to be clean and labeled with the student's name.
- Provide a 1-inch 3 ring binder with clear protector sleeves with dividers. Please label the binder with your student's name.
- Band Method Book (winds only) – purchased on your own at an area music store. ***Foundations for Superior Performance*** by Richard Williams & Jeff King.
- A metronome and tuner is recommended for all students. It is Highly Encouraged for Honor Band Students to purchase.

All students will be required to have all class materials by the due dates according to the attached calendar as part of the class grade. There will also be periodic checks in class.

Parents are also strongly encouraged to purchase a step-up instrument for your child. Families interested in doing so should contact the Director for a list of recommended instruments.

School Owned Instruments

Those using school owned instruments must sign those instruments out with the Band Council President. All equipment issued or provided to a student immediately becomes that student's responsibility. Should damage occur to school owned property, or should that property be lost, the student will be responsible for repair or replacement.

Students using school owned instruments should not store any personal belongings or music in their instrument cases. Mouthpieces should not be stored in school owned cases. ***If you play a school owned instrument as your primary instrument, you must own your own mouthpiece.*** These instruments will need to be in use for many years to come in the future. Take extreme caution in dealing with these horns! Please respect the fortunate situation that you find yourself in.

Music

Each student will be issued one copy of each piece of music we perform. If the copy is from the original set, the cost for replacement or damage is \$1 per page. If a student needs to replace an actual copy of a piece of music, the cost is 10 cents per page.

Students will also be issued a method book on a rehearsal by rehearsal basis. Should damage occur to the book during the rehearsal, the student will be responsible for replacing the book.

Tardiness and Central Cabarrus Standard Time

Young people must realize that the world runs on a clock. There is nothing more detrimental to a smooth running organization than a tardy person. A band rehearsal or performance requires everyone to be present and on time. As such, the CCHS Bands will operate on what we refer to as a Central Cabarrus Standard Time.

Central Cabarrus Standard Time means:

- If you are early, you are on time
- If you are on time, you are late
- If you are late, you are in trouble!

Students who are tardy to class will receive the proper consequences. Students who are late for

their concert call time will receive the following consequences:

- 5 minutes late – 10 points deducted from the concert grade
- 10 minutes late – 20 points deducted from the concert grade
- 15 minutes late – 30 points deducted from the concert grade

Students are considered late if they are not properly attired and performing with the first downbeat.

Performance Etiquette

All members of the CCHS Bands are expected to conduct themselves with class and dignity at all times (whether on stage, waiting in the hall or seated as a member of the audience). Students should remember that concerts are our chance to make a positive impression upon our public. Your good behavior and best performance are critical to that goal.

Required Performance Attire

Students will be required to wear a standard outfit when performing with the CCHS Bands. When students dress alike it creates an atmosphere of class and dignity; this communicates a unified sense of purpose. Standard attire also prevents the occasional embarrassment caused when students have "unique" tastes in clothing. It is also standard practice for our students to not wear jewelry during a performance.

See the Performance Attire Handout for more information on what attire will be specifically required.

We will set up a day with the local formal wear company for these items to be ordered. We will also facilitate the process for ordering the ladies attire. This should help make this process easier for each family.

Required Community Service Learning (New 2011)

All CCHS Band Students regardless of class and instrument will be required to perform as part of two pep bands at selected home basketball games. Each student is required to perform at one basketball game evening per semester. Only CCHS Band basketball students may be excused.

Award Opportunities

Awards will be presented each year at the Band Banquet held in May. Students are rewarded for demonstrating the highest levels of performance, pride, maturity, respect, commitment, work ethic and responsibility. The following is a list of award opportunities for members of the CCHS Bands.

The John Phillip Sousa Award. This award is typically given to a student who displays the highest level of artistic proficiency on his/her instrument. Other consideration includes personal character, commitment to the band, scholarship and service.

Director's Award. This award is typically given to a student who goes above and beyond the call of duty in all of their dealings with the CCHS Band Program. This student always gives the extra effort in putting in extra time working for the band.

Pride of Central Cabarrus Band Award. This award is voted upon by the members of CCHS Bands and is given to a student who exhibits the qualities of the student image that we are attempting to achieve in the CCHS Bands.

Extra Effort Award. This student-given award is designed to recognize a student who has put forth the extra-effort in order to raise his/her personal performance levels.

Outstanding Performer Award. This student-given award recognizes a student who demonstrated the highest level of performance, dedication, leadership, pride and service for the CCHS Bands.

Outstanding Section Award. This student-given award is given to the section whose effort, attitude, work ethic and performance level was consistently high from every member of the section.

Instrumental Achievement Award. This award is given to students who exhibit extraordinary growth, achievement or performance on their instrument.

Take Your Horn Home

Students are required to practice for three hours a week. To make this easier, **take your instrument home.** Your participation/effort/attitude grade will reflect your practice schedule. Never store your instrument in a school locker. Numerous thefts have occurred at other schools as a result of this practice.

Step-Up Mouthpieces

All students are encouraged to purchase step-up mouthpieces for their instrument. They cause a noticeable improvement in the quality of sound produced by the player. A beginner instrument with a step-up mouthpiece will often sound like a professional horn. A professional instrument with a beginner mouthpiece will often sound like a beginner horn. A complete list of recommended mouthpieces is given below.

Suggested Step-Up Mouthpieces

Clarinet

Vandoren B-45 (with Rovner Ligature) or Vandoren 5RVL/ M13L (with Rovner Ligature)

Bass Clarinet

Vandoren B45 (with Rovner Ligature)

Alto Sax

Selmer S-80 (C*) or Vandoren AL4 (with Rovner Ligature)

Tenor Sax

Selmer S-80 (C**) or Vandoren TL4 (with Rovner Ligature)

Baritone Sax

Selmer S-80 (C**) or Vandoren BL4 (with Rovner Ligature)

Trumpet-

Bach 1 ½ C or 3C or Schilke 15

French Horn

King H2 or Conn H2 or Farkas MDC or Schilke 29

Trombone and Euphonium

Schilke 51D or Bach 6 ½ AL (check shank size)

Tuba

Conn Hellenburg or Schilke 66

Music Stores

A listing of area music stores and their contact information is on the last page of the handbook.

Private Teachers and Lessons

A good private teacher is perhaps the most valuable investments a parent can make for a child. Band directors are trained in the instruction of every orchestral instrument, but that knowledge cannot compare to that of a professional musician who makes a living playing one instrument. The entire idea can be likened to specialists in the medical profession.

Private teachers are excellent for the serious student who wishes to grow faster or for the average student who is having isolated problems which would benefit from the knowledge of specialist. A list of possible tutors is posted in the Band Room. CCHS Bands offers the *CCHS Music Academy* for inexpensive and convenient private lessons. All CMA teachers are highly qualified and have agreed to teach at a reduced price. Please see Mr. Petrucci for more details.

Students who play double reed instruments must take private lessons.

Facilities

All band activities at CCHS originate in the Band Building. We are fortunate to have our own building. The facility includes rehearsal space, director's office, uniform storage, music library, percussion storage, and instrument storage. We must take special care of the space. Please keep it clean and treat it with respect!

Special Equipment

Large concert percussion instruments are located throughout the building. Only percussion students should touch these instruments. Percussion students are not to play these instruments without the correct stick/mallet or indicated implement. Percussion students should see that all auxiliary equipment, sticks, mallets are stored properly at all times.

Chairs and Stands. Do not lean on, prop on, lie on, write on, stand on or abuse the chairs and stands.

Remember, if you break it, you buy it!

How Parents Can Help

- Support the goals, policies and procedures of the director. Your child succeeds when the program succeeds.
- Require practicing at home on a daily basis. Provide a regular time and place where your child can practice every day.

- Ask your child to play for you. Encourage performance.
- Teach your child to be punctual by helping them to be on time.
- Enthusiastically attend all band functions to show your support. Get involved.
- Help keep your child's instrument in good playing condition
- Read and respond to all emails that concern your student.

CCHS Band Boosters

Parents are strongly encouraged to become active members of the CCHS Band Boosters. It takes a great deal of time to operate a successful band program. Without your help our students will not have the quality experience that make high school band so rewarding.

The structure of our Booster program has been set so that the organization can properly support our students. It is very important that each of you jump in and help wherever and whenever possible. You are just as important as your child to our success!

Contact: Lori Earnhardt Booster President
cchsbandboosterpresident@gmail.com

In Closing

Young people in today's society need positive direction in their lives. I have often heard older folks refer to the "good old days" and sometime wonder where they have gone. We live in a world where everyone seems to know their rights. Few people, however, are truly aware of the responsibilities that accompany those rights.

Young people must understand that their lives, their attitudes and actions, will have a tremendous impact on the lives of others. The nature of the impact, be it good or bad, is up to the individual.

I teach because it is a chance to positively influence young lives. We as educators have a tremendous responsibility to our young people. The doctors, lawyers, teachers, business and political leaders of tomorrow's world sit in the classrooms of today. High school presents us with the final opportunity to focus the minds of the young on the important issues in our world: hard work, integrity, honor, responsibility, self-sacrifice, commitment and perseverance.

Parents, remind your child when the challenge becomes tough, that teachers just like parents set high standards because we care. Many thanks for

your support and encouragement. Best wishes for a safe and happy semester.

“Train up a child in the way that he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

How to Practice

Daily practice time is essential for a student’s success in a music program. All CCHS Band members should spend three hours per week practicing individual (at the minimum). Daily practice time is homework for band. The guidelines below will help organize your practice time. Remember, practice time is to be spent practicing, not watching the clock!

- Practice in the same place each day. Be sure there are no distractions.
- Begin with long tones (5 mins.). Concentrate on producing a pleasing sound. Think about your breathing. Produce a steady and controlled air stream. Use a mirror to check your embouchure, hand position and posture.
- Spend time on scales (5mins.). Play them slowly and in tune at first and then work for speed.
- Work out of your method book and using the daily routine and scale exercises at each practice session (7 mins.).
- Practice your music (10mins.). **Work on the parts that you cannot play.** Practice them slowly at first and then increase the speed. Work one measure at a time. Work using cellular practice. Once you are able to play a measure or a combination five times without mistakes then you can increase the tempo.
- Pay careful attention to details: correct notes and fingerings, rhythms, key signatures and accidentals, signs and symbols, dynamics and articulations.
- Finally play something just for fun (3 mins.).
- Swab woodwinds thoroughly, empty water from brasses and return instruments safely to case.

***Practice the Way You Want to Perform
and
You Will Perform the Way You Practiced***

Music Stores

The following is a partial list of the music stores in our area:

Music & More
706 Church St.
Concord
704-782-6013

The Music Center
940 E. Franklin
Gastonia
704-861-1037

Schoolhouse Band Inst.
(Great for Repairs)
Norwood, NC 28128
865-382-3107

Important Contact Information

Central Cabarrus HS
704-786-0125

Central Cabarrus Band Room
704-920-7160

Central Cabarrus HS Fax
704-920-7164

Director’s Email

Stephen.petrucci@cabarrus.k12.nc.us

Band Web Page

www.centralcabarrusband.org

Band Booster President, Ms. Lori Earnhardt

cchsbandboosterpresident@gmail.com

Thank you to all directors and band programs with their help in creating this handbook.