



Churchill Charger Marching Band Handbook

2021-2022

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Description:

The Marching Band begins in August with Pre-Band Camp where the students learn and review the basics of marching technique. Pre-Band Camp is followed by a week at D-Bar-A Ranch where the students learn the show they will perform at football games. Pre-band Camp and Camp are required parts of the season.

Commitment:

Marching Band is a year-long commitment with the bulk of the commitment during the fall term. Students are expected to participate in all practices and performances. Lack of evident commitment to the marching band could jeopardize a student's letter and/or band award.

Marching Band Code of Conduct:

Students in marching band are expected to represent Churchill High School with professionalism, discipline, and spirit. These ideals should be exhibited at all marching band practices and events. Foul language, hazing, disrespect towards others, or undisciplined behavior is not tolerated. Students in leadership positions are expected to maintain good grades and school attendance to retain their leadership responsibilities.

Attendance Policy:

If a student needs to be excused from a practice a parent (not the student) must **fill out the Google absence form on the marching band webpage 24 hours in advance**. This form should be used for practices, you will only receive a response from Mr. Van Ham if the absence **can not** be considered excused. For conflicts with performances, please contact Mr. Van Ham directly via e-mail, note, or phone call with details of the conflict. Please only e-mail an absence if it is for a performance, use the form for everything else! Emergencies and illnesses that prohibit 24 hour notification will be handled on an individual basis. *If a student must miss all of the practices in one week he or she will not be allowed to march at the Friday game but will be expected to attend unless illness/injury prevents this.*

Students are expected to come prepared to practice. Instruments, chart books, dot books, and music are required at *all* practices. Students are expected to dress appropriately for weather and activity, flip-flops, dresses or skirts are not appropriate practice attire. A student that comes to practice w/o an instrument may be asked to sit on the sideline for the duration of the practice unless a loaner instrument is available. A student that comes to practice twice w/o an instrument will receive an unexcused absence on their attendance record unless there is a legitimate reason outlined in a parent note (i.e. instrument in the shop).

Unexcused absences:

- One unexcused absence from practice: Benched for one performance.
- Two unexcused absences from practice: student will not receive letter/award until following year.
- Three unexcused absences from practice: Student will be dropped from Marching Band and can enroll the next year on probation only. (Probationary students may not miss any practices).

Tardies:

- One-two unexcused tardy: warning and/or laps or extra clean up duty.
- Three-four unexcused tardies: parent notification.
- Each tardy after four will count as an unexcused absence.
- Students more than 20 minutes late to practice will take an absence.
- Students that need to make up tests in other classes after school are asked to schedule these for non-marching days. If this is impossible, and the student must be late to practice, a note from the teacher will excuse the tardy.
- 7th hour class students must get to practice 15 minutes after 7th hour ends to be considered on time.

Students are expected to arrange their work schedule around practice.

Students will not be allowed to leave practice early for work without penalty (considered same as a tardy). Occasionally a student must miss a performance for unavoidable reasons; as with the other performance ensembles, parents must notify Mr. Van Ham at least SEVEN DAYS prior to the performance for it to be considered an excused absence. An unexcused absence from a performance will be handled on an individual basis, but it may result in a student being benched or removal from the Marching Band for the remainder of the season and can jeopardize a student's letter. Unexcused absences are defined as any absence without proper parental

notification OR an absence without an acceptable excuse. In most cases jobs, sports, driver's education and social commitments will not be excused so please plan accordingly.

During the spring term there is only ONE performance: Music Fest. Because many Marching Band students participate in spring sports only ONE practice is scheduled before each performance. If a student has a game that conflicts with the practice, they will be excused from the practice with proper notification. However, attendance at the performance is important. An unexcused absence from the spring practice or performance can jeopardize a student's letter and can result in being dropped from the Marching Band.

Marching Band chore responsibilities:

- Clean up: If your section is responsible for clean up this means you must clean the band room before going home for the day. Expect to stay until 5:20. Clean up duty includes picking up the trash, storing the lost and found items, cleaning any spills and resetting the chairs and stands for rehearsal.
- Game Clean up: If you are on clean up duty after a game plan to stay an extra 20-30 minutes to straighten and clean the band room.
- Equipment Crew: 3-4 students will be selected for the equipment crew. This team of students will be exempt from all cleaning duties throughout the season (not including band camp). They will also be exempt from marching back to the school in block band after practices. The equipment crew will transport water, podiums, ladders, and sound equipment to and from the practice field for each practice. They will be required to start moving equipment 20 minutes prior to the start of practice, and will be allowed to return to the school without marching in block.
- Drumline and Guard equipment: It is the responsibility of the drum captain and guard captains to make sure equipment is properly stored after practices.

Responsibilities for Games:

Uniforms:

Students will not be allowed to march a performance unless they are wearing the proper uniform.

- Solid black socks.
- Solid black shoes. NO designs on shoes in any color other than black, including on the side of the sole. You may order special marching band shoes for under \$30 from www.bandshoppe.com or similar websites.
- Busby hat for the band proper (provided by band), berets for percussion and sousaphones (students must purchase).

- Do not wear long pants under your bibbers, they will be seen under the hem.
- Long hair must be pulled up under hats.
- Uniform inspection will be performed in block band in the parking lot at exactly 6:20pm on game nights. If you arrive to block after 6:20 you will take a tardy.
- If you need to get uniform parts from the uniform Moms you need to arrive in time to do so and still get to block band on time.

Game procedures:

- The band marches from the parking lot directly to the field and you will be in block band or on the sideline at attention or parade rest until you step on the field for pre-game.
- After pregame the band sits together in the stands in sections for pep band music. Please watch your drum majors for signals to play pep music during time outs.
- You will not be allowed to leave the stands without permission. Students will be allowed to use the restroom one at a time only, so please make sure you visit the restroom before the game!
- Friends or family members not in the marching band will not be allowed to sit with the band during the game.
- Friends or family members may bring food or drink to you from concessions, you will not be allowed to visit concessions. Snacks and water are handed out after pre-game.
- Uniforms stay on and buttoned/zipped in the stands, but hats may be removed. If the weather is warm, you will be allowed to unbutton your coat if you are wearing a red or black shirt underneath.
- Never leave your instrument or hat unattended in the stands. If you need to use the restroom, leave your instrument and hat with a friend.
- Take care of instruments in stands, and hold on to them the entire time. Do not rest them on the bench or hold them with your feet by the bell (i.e. mello and trumpets). These actions can cause hundreds of dollars of damage to the instrument.

Field Trips:

There are several outreach field trips throughout the year. Due to the size of the band we can not take everyone unless the field trip occurs after school hours.

- After school field trips are open to everyone (unless bus restrictions)
- For field trips that occur during school hours, a sign up will be posted and a “travel group” will be selected to perform. Travel groups need to have a complete drumline, at least one drum major, and appropriate representation from each section of the band and guard. They are limited to 50-125 students depending on the nature of the field trip.

Uniforms:

Uniforms will be checked out to each student at the beginning of the season and students are expected to return them DRY CLEANED at the end of the season. Failure to do so will result in cap and gown, or fall schedules being held until the uniform is returned or a fine is paid. The uniforms are expected to be returned in good condition with all parts intact, any damage beyond normal wear and tear and any missing parts will be billed to the student. All students are expected to provide their own black shoes and may purchase black marching shoes if desired. Students that show up to a performance without the proper uniform will not be allowed to march.

- Uniforms should never be left at school!
- Store uniforms at home on a sturdy hanger.
- Allow uniforms to air out if they get wet.
- Never cut uniforms, if you need to hem do this without cutting.
- Never wash a uniform in the washing machine, they must be dry cleaned only. (Belts may be washed).

Music:

Each marching band member needs to purchase a marching lyre, and flip book, and page protectors for their dot book. The marching music will be checked out to each student and does not have to be returned. If you lose your music, please print a new copy from the band website.

Communication:

With the many events and deadlines within the band and orchestra department, as well as other activities your student may be involved with, it is very important that communications from the department are received by your family. Newsletters are sent every week with important dates and specific information for the following week, you may sign up to receive these on the main page of the CHS Band website. There is a music department website which includes important information, dates, performance videos, frequently requested documents, and useful links. There is also a band facebook page for quick announcements, PR, and photos of our activities.

www.churchillbands.org

Parents, please submit your digital “signature” abiding by the policies within this handbook by submitting the Google form that can be found on the Marching Band handbook page of the band website.

[Submit Digital Signature Here](#)