



Clements High School Band Handbook

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COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

Our goal is to create a stronger band program, to include more students, parents, & community members, and to create a challenging and unique music experience for CHS and our community.

www.ClementsBand.org

Welcome to the Clements Band Program! You are now part of an organization with a long-standing tradition of excellence. This handbook is designed as a reference for you throughout your membership. It is important for parents and students to also refer to the band website (clementsband.org) and the Limestone County Student Handbook for additional policies pertaining to school organizations.

Band Auditions and Placement

All band students will participate in an audition process before registering for band classes each year. This will ensure that the student is placed in the appropriate band class. Auditions will consist of major scales, a prepared piece, and sight reading. All materials will be given to students well in advance so they may prepare. ***Students who are placed in Advanced Band will participate in marching band in the fall semester and concert band in the spring semester.*** Additional auditions will be held for placement on specific instruments within marching band. If a student does not want to participate in marching band, or is unable to participate in mandatory band camp, he/she will be placed in intermediate band for the school year.

Ensembles

Beginning Band is designed for the student who has not played a band instrument before. Membership is open to students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Students will present two concerts during the year.

Intermediate Band is made up of students who have had at least one year of band experience. Intermediate level playing skills and increased proficiency in reading music are stressed.

Clements High School Concert Band (Advanced Band) is the primary ensemble of the spring semester. The concert band rehearses each day during school, as well as one or more times a week in the afternoon. All students are required to audition for their placement in the concert band ensemble. ***Due to class scheduling, all students in Concert Band for spring semester, must also be participating in Marching Band during the fall.***

The Pride of Clements Marching Band performs a marching show in stadiums for football games and marching competitions each year. Along with the woodwinds, brass, and percussion, the marching band also consists of a color guard. The marching band begins rehearsal during July at a 2-week mandatory band camp. Dates will be given to the students in the spring of each year so that parents can plan accordingly. Students who are unable to participate in band camp, cannot be in the marching band. The marching band also rehearses each day during school, as well as after school three days a week during the season. Members consist of 8-12th grade students who have been enrolled at least two years in a band program. Members must also demonstrate adequate musical proficiency. Auditions for color guard, percussion placements, and all student leaders, including drum major, occur at the end of spring semester in preparation for summer and fall. ***Due to class scheduling, all students in Marching Band for fall semester, must also be participating in Concert Band during the spring.***

Percussion Ensemble is an after-school activity open to band students in grades 7 -12. The primary goal of this ensemble is to provide opportunities for percussion students to experience playing a variety of percussion instruments and a variety of musical styles they may not be exposed to in class. Students who play other instruments are also welcome in the percussion ensemble. This group will rehearse throughout the year and will perform at concerts and local events.

Jazz Band is an after-school ensemble open to 8th-12th grade students. The Jazz Band will learn traditional jazz music in an ensemble setting and will perform at school and community events.

Clements Band Merit & Demerit System

Merits

To recognize excellence, students will have the opportunity to earn merit awards which will be presented at the spring concert each year. Patches earned can be sewed on the band jacket. Students may earn the following Merit Awards:

- Rookie Award - 60
- Freshman Award - 65
- Sophomore Award - 70
- Junior Award - 75
- Year 5 Award - 80
- Excellence Award - 250
- Clements Band Leadership Award - 50

Merits will be issued by the band director for the following:

- Concert Band, per performance – 3
- Marching Band performance – 3
- Solo at Solo & Ensemble Auditions – 10
- Ensemble at Solo & Ensemble Auditions - 5
- Private Lessons (per year) – 10
- District Honor Band – 15
- All-State Honor Band - 20
- Limestone County Honor Band – 10
- College Honor Bands – 5
- Jazz Band – 5
- Percussion Ensemble – 5

The director may also issue merits, at his discretion, for other activities not listed above.

Merits for Leadership Award

- Drum Major -15
- Section Leader -15
- Middle School Lessons (per week) -1
- Classroom Student Aid -5
- Concessions help (per game) – 2

The director may also issue merits, at his discretion, for other activities or leadership opportunities not listed above. Leadership and Excellence Merits are accumulated from one year to the next.

Demerits

The demerit system will foster responsibility and accountability within our band program. Demerits are issued by the band director for behavior and attendance. They will be recorded in the demerit notebook by the band director or a student leader. Students may view the notebook at any time. Students will be notified of demerits as they receive them.

Behavior Demerits:

- Late for rehearsal – 1
- Failure to bring instrument or supplies to rehearsal – 1
- Improper care of school owned instrument – 1
- Late for call time for performance – 2
- Improper behavior at any rehearsal – 1
- Improper behavior at any performance – 2
- Improper care of uniform – 1
- Incorrect uniform requirements – 1
- Loss of music -1

Any class 2 or 3 Code of Conduct Violation from the LC Student Handbook will be reported to administration and handled accordingly.

Removing Behavior Demerits

One hour of work, approved by the band director, can remove one demerit. Work may include anything that benefits the whole band program, such as cleaning the band room, helping another student, participating in after-school lessons, or other activities determined by the director. Demerits should be worked off as soon as possible after receiving them. Any demerit not worked off by the end of the grading period will lower a students' grade by 5 points per 1 demerit.

Attendance Demerits:

- Excused class rehearsal – 1
- Excused after school rehearsal – 1
- Excused missed performance – 4

- Unexcused missed school rehearsal - 2
- Unexcused missed after-school rehearsal – 2
- Unexcused missed performance - 8

*In accordance with the Limestone County Schools Student Handbook, student absences are classified as excused or unexcused. Assignments for excused absences may be made up if proper documentation is turned in within 3 days. **No make-up work is allowed for unexcused absences.** Please refer to the LCS Handbook for information.*

Removing Excused Attendance Demerits

One hour of extra practice alone or with another band member can remove one demerit. Students should turn in proof of the practice time to the director. Demerits should be worked off within one week. Any demerit not worked off by the end of the grading period will lower a students' grade by 5 points per 1 demerit.

Although some absences may be excused, prescheduled social events, doctor, dental appointments, etc. should be scheduled to avoid band rehearsals and performances, if at all possible, as those absences do very much affect the entire performing ensemble.

No Pass/No Play Extra-Curricular Activity Policy

As a student in the Clements High School Band, it is your responsibility to maintain passing grades in **all** classes. YOU represent the band and what we stand for. Failure to maintain a passing grade in a class may result in you not being able to perform with the band. Mr. House will help you communicate with teachers to find a solution to the problem. Any student not making successful academic progress will be dismissed from the band program.

According to the Limestone County School Student Handbook, students must maintain high academic standards in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. Students entering grades 10-12 must have passed 6 subjects with an average of 70 and must include the four core: English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Middle School – grades 8-9 must have passed 5 new subjects with an average of 70 in those five subjects.



Band Procedures

Professionalism:

As a performance-based organization, professionalism is paramount to our success. All members of the Clements High School Band will be expected to demonstrate the utmost respect and professionalism. Students should remember that at all times, in uniform and out, their behavior represents them, their family, this organization and this school.

Students will be expected to adhere to the following rules while in uniform, at all band functions and in the band room:

- No foul language- this is an educational institution, and we should be intelligent enough to find words to express our feelings without cursing.

- No PDA (public displays of affection)- In accordance with the Limestone County Board of Education policy, students will not be allowed to express public displays of affection, including but not limited to hugging, kissing, hand holding, etc..... this includes friends and members of the same sex.
- Bus rides: Boys and girls will not sit together. Band members will not touch each other. Blankets may not be shared. Students will be expected to maintain a reasonable volume so as not to distract the bus driver. If the director is not present, the head chaperone on the bus has ultimate authority. If he/she deems it necessary to require the students to be silent, the students will be expected to observe and respect their decision. Safety comes before fun.
- Good Sportsmanship: Students are expected to display proper etiquette on the field, at performance venues, in the stands, and in the band room at all times. Students will show good sportsmanship at all football games and competitions and will refrain from any activity that might tarnish the reputation of the Clements Band.
- Non-band members in football stands: Only band members, chaperones of the current event, instructors and the director may be in the stands with the students during a football game.

End of Performance/Rehearsal Procedures:

Before you do ANYTHING after the show or stage performance, you must change out of your uniform in the designated location and put your equipment away. Your uniform, shako and plume must be protected from damage. After the end of each rehearsal, instruments and equipment must be put in the designated location.

Student Pick Up:

Students must be picked up from rehearsals and performances no later than 15 minutes after the planned end of practice or performance. The director and section leader will wait with any student not picked up on time. To respect their time, parents should make every effort to pick up their band student on time. If you need help with rides, please email the director and he will reach out to other band parents to coordinate transportation.



Attire

Each student is responsible for his/her own appropriate attire (adhering to LC Board of Education Dress Code Policies) at all rehearsals and performances.

Marching Rehearsal Attire:

Marching Band is an athletic activity and students should be prepared accordingly for rehearsal. Every student should attend rehearsal prepared with the following:

- Athletic shorts/track pants/sweatpants
- Athletic tennis shoes/sneakers.

It is the responsibility of the student to choose clothing that is weather appropriate. Marching band is held outdoors during very hot and very cold weather. The student should plan accordingly and not wear clothing that will inhibit their performance.

Performance Attire – Marching and Concert Bands

In order for the Clements Band to be uniform in appearance and take pride in the way we look we will abide by the following rules while in uniform (note that the following applies to both young men and young ladies):

- a. Only clear fingernail polish will be allowed.
- b. Marching Band: Hair longer than the collar of the uniform must be pulled back in a bun completely and pinned up off the neck and away from the face.
- c. Marching and Concert Band: No unnatural hair colors or distracting hairstyles will be permitted.
- d. Marching and Concert Band: If a student chooses to wear facial hair, it MUST be groomed and well kept.
- e. Marching and Concert Band: Hair ties must be natural colors (black, white, brown) so as not so stick out, no bows, flowers, no neon colors, etc.
- f. No jewelry except small earrings may be worn while in uniform.
- g. Marching and Concert Band: Students should practice good hygiene and bathe before putting on the Clements High School Band uniform.

Marching Uniform and Instrument Performance Procedure:

BEFORE each performance, students' uniform and instrument will be inspected. All students, especially brass players, will be required to clean/polish their instrument before EVERY performance. Students are expected to wear clean, un-torn gloves (marching) and polished shoes at every performance. Students are expected to complete all that is necessary to abide by these guidelines BEFORE performance time. If a student forgets to polish their horn, wear clean gloves, etc. and as a result, is late to a performance or call time, this constitutes as tardiness and the student will receive a demerit.

AFTER each performance, students will report to their section leader so their uniform may be checked for needed repairs or cleaning. Section leaders will give any uniforms needing mending or washing to a designated band parent.

Under Marching Uniform Apparel:

Each member of the *Marching Band* will need to have the following uniform accessories:

- Yearly Issued Band T-shirt
- Solid gray or black gym shorts
- Tall solid black socks (NO ANKLE SOCKS)
- Solid white cotton gloves in good condition.
- Marching shoes

Each member of the *Concert Band* will need to have the following attire:

- Black dress shoes
- Solid Black button up shirt.
- Solid Black dress pants.
- Black belt



Respect

Students are expected to show respect for each other, themselves, their music, their uniform, and their musical instruments.

Respect for the marching uniform:

Each uniform is custom fitted at the beginning of the season for each student to appear professional and clean. The students will be instructed and shown how to wear each part of their uniform, including proper pant length, cleanliness of shoes and gloves, gauntlets, etc.

- All students will remain in full, assembled uniform in public, except as listed below.
- Food/Drink in Uniform: Due to the high cost of uniform cleaning and maintenance, students are not permitted to eat while in full uniform. At games and performances, students may visit the concession stand in uniform, then remove their jacket to eat in the band bleachers.

Respect for Musical Instruments- all students will be required to show the utmost respect for all musical instruments, regardless of whether the instrument is their own, someone else's or school-owned.

- School owned instruments: any student needing to use a school-owned instrument may do so by signing and agreeing to the terms of a rental contract.
- Students should NEVER touch instruments that do not belong to them- too many damages occur because of mistakes made due to inexperience and carelessness.
- As a part of this course, students will be expected to play instruments that are in good condition. To be conducive to the student's musical advancement, all musical instruments will be required to be traditional in appearance, i.e. (non-traditional colors will not be allowed).

Respect for Music- students will be expected to keep track of the music they are given and to care for it as they do their instrument. Many weeks of hard work will go into writing, customizing, and printing the music for the Clements Band each year.

Respect for self and others- This organization is as much about building up its members as it is about instilling discipline and value for hard work. At no time in this organization will we allow students to treat each other, instructors, or teachers with disrespect.



Communication

Our main form of communication from director to parents and students will be through our webpage, clementsband.org. Here you can find the calendar of events, announcements, information about fundraisers, band booster information, and a weekly update. Students and parents should check the website often.

Announcements and important dates will be listed on the board in the bandroom. Students should pay close attention to those announcements in class. Section leaders will also communicate important announcements to members of their sections. Students may contact their section leaders if they have specific questions not answered in class or on the website.

Communication with the band director should primarily be through email when possible. That will be the best way to get your questions answered most quickly.

If an important announcement must be made on short notice, an email list for students and parents will be used.

Parent or Guardian Responsibilities

The best way for parents to support their student's success in band is to get involved! Parents are encouraged to join the Band Booster organization, attend meetings, and participate in the many needs the band program. Band Booster meetings are held once a month in the band room. Dates and times will be listed on the calendar.

- ***Each band member must have a parent or guardian work two concession stand slots during marching season.*** The concession stand is our biggest fundraiser and we cannot make it work without the support of our parents.
- ***Band fees of \$100 per year are required by each band member in accordance with the school handbook.*** These fees help cover needed materials, transportation, equipment, instruments, and much more.

PLEASE KEEP ALL PREVIOUS PAGES FOR YOUR REFERENCE AND DETATCH THIS FINAL PAGE, SIGN, AND RETURN TO MR. HOUSE.

I have thoroughly read the requirements of the Clements High School Band and hereby state my understanding of all rules, policies, procedures, and consequences. I agree to abide by all contents mentioned in this syllabus and understand that other policies, procedures, and expectations not included in this text will be communicated otherwise, will carry the same weight as the criteria and will only be introduced or applied so as to provide equal opportunity and fairness among members of the band.

STUDENT PRINTED NAME

STUDENT SIGNATURE

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE
