



CLEAR FALLS HIGH SCHOOL
KNIGHTS BAND
STUDENT / PARENT HANDBOOK
2024-2025

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Introduction

Greetings!

Our mission, as a band, is to musically educate the members of the Clear Falls High School Band program. We provide students the opportunity to participate in a subject that develops all sides of student's personality including the intellect, physical, emotional, psychological, and social, as well as teaches the appreciation of music as an art form.

We strive to engage students in a group activity that teaches them to utilize their free time constructively, creates a sense of cultural/aesthetic awareness, and instills proper values among which are; responsibility, purpose, devotion to duty, spirit of cooperation, and sensitivity to beauty. It also develops proper work habits through the academic self-discipline of the curriculum, a daily practice routine, self-expression, and intelligent listening skills that foster greater communication.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide each member of the Knights Band a comprehensive overview of the rules, regulations, guidelines and procedures that will help students gain the most from their music education experience.

We strive to bond as a strong and diverse family, effectively utilizing the opportunities provided through music education to build and maintain a tradition of excellence and enjoyment through effective leadership, dedication and quality musical performances.

-The Knights Band Team-

Part I: Communication with the Directors

An open line of communication between the directors and both parents and students are a necessary component for any successful band program. As a staff, we understand your time is very valuable and that you may have questions or concerns that need immediate attention. We do ask that you extend us the courtesy of scheduling a time to visit either by phone or through e-mail and schedule a conference at least 24 hours in advance. Spontaneous parent conferences may not be accommodated. If you are unable to reach us directly and need to leave a message, please provide your contact information and our goal will be to respond to every correspondence in a timely manner.

Contact Information

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Valdez <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phone: 281-284-1192 ○ E-mail: nvaldez@ccisd.net 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Betancour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phone: 281-284-1191 ○ Email: vbet214@gmail.com

Director Responsibilities

- Below you will find a list of each director's visible responsibilities to which we attend. Please refer to this chart in order to know which director to submit your questions.

<u>Mr. Moreno</u>	<u>Mr. Phillips</u>	<u>Mr. Valdez</u>	<u>Ms. Betancour</u>
Marching Band	Marching Band	Marching Band	Color Guard
Wind Ensemble/Concert Band	Symphonic Band		Winter Guard
Private Lessons	Inventory	Percussion	
Band Booster Club	Forms	Locker Assignments	
Spring Trip	Full Orchestra	Uniforms	
Budget/Band Fees		Percussion Feeders Schools	

Part II: Entrance and Performance Ensembles

Entrance and participation parameters for the CFHS band program are at the discretion of the band directors. Guidelines for entrance include positive past participation in a CCISD band program, moving into the district having been affiliated with another band program or new membership with a private lesson agreement. Any member not in good standing from their Intermediate school or another school outside of CCISD may depend upon the decision of the band directors to gain entrance into the band. This includes instrument placement. The band program is a full year commitment and consideration for removal must go through the band directors and administration before removal is considered. All students must be enrolled in the band class in order to participate.

The Knights Band Program is comprised of different performance ensembles designed to provide students with a well-rounded music education experience. The directors reserve the right to reassign students within each ensemble according to student standing and compliance to course requirements at the semester break or during the year.

Marching Band

- During the fall semester, **ALL** members will participate in the Knights Marching Band. A physical education waiver is awarded to members of the marching band. Preparation takes place during class time, as well as after-school rehearsals. Performance opportunities include all Clear Falls High School football games, UIL Marching Contest, as well as other competitions, parades and contests in the Houston area and beyond.

Concert Ensembles

- The Clear Falls High School Band currently has four (4) concert ensembles: The three (3) competing bands are the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band. The Cadet Band is a non-competitive class. Placement is audition-based, and preparation takes place both during class time, as well as after-school rehearsals. All bands will prepare for several concerts throughout the concert season. Competing Bands will have the opportunity to compete at UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest. All Band Members may participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest, Graduation Ceremony performance, as well as audition for All-Region Band.

Jazz Ensemble

- The Clear Falls High School Jazz Ensemble is a performance-based ensemble. Placement is mostly volunteer-based, and preparation takes place during and after-school. The Jazz Ensemble performs numerous concerts throughout the school year and competes at various Jazz Festivals. In addition, members of the bands can compete at All-Region Jazz Band.

Part III: Universal Expectations

The following universal expectations will be in place throughout the year while participating in any activity associated with the Knights Band/Guard Program.

Goals and Objectives

- **Citizenship through Group Endeavors**
 - Students will be expected to demonstrate good citizenship through group endeavors with hopes of developing diligence, responsibility, the ability to cooperate with others, the ability to work as a team member and to gain a mutual respect for every member involved in the Knights Band/Guard Program.
- **Mental Discipline**
 - Students will be expected to develop a high-level of self and group mental discipline in order to maintain efficient rehearsals, memorize music and develop other techniques of preparation as they relate to group and individual performances.
- **Proper Instrumental Care and Techniques**
 - Students will be expected to demonstrate proper instrumental care, posture, and breathing techniques, as well as characteristic instrumental tone, embouchure, stick grip, hand position, and technical proficiency (fingering, articulation, rudiments, scales, etc.)
- **Critical Listening**
 - Students will be expected to develop the ability to make musical judgments through critical listening. The students will recognize quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation.
- **Music Theory**
 - Students will be expected to know and utilize note values, rests, key signatures, scales, musical terms, signs and symbols, as well as recognize and tune intervals and harmony through the development of ear-training and listening skills.
- **Cultural Growth**
 - Students will be provided opportunities to attain knowledge of music history through performance of various types of instrumental literature.
- **Creative Self-expression**
 - Each student will be provided the opportunity to express themselves in every performance experience.
- **Physical Conditioning**
 - Students will be expected to develop physical strength, stamina, endurance and coordination.
- **Rehearsal/Performance Attendance**
 - Rehearsal referred in these guidelines apply to afterschool and during the band class periods. Performances are the focus and will be the direct application of what is taught in rehearsals. All students must be ready to rehearse 5 minutes before the actual start time. Students **MUST** arrive earlier than this to prepare (stands/chairs/equipment/warming up)

Conduct

- Band members will observe all policies set forth by the Clear Creek Independent School District, the Clear Falls High School Code of Conduct as well as the following:
 - Students will demonstrate good behavior and proper frame of mind prior to and during rehearsals/performances.
 - Any unfavorable behavior as perceived by the directors may result in the excusal from the activity at hand and, possibly, the band program. This applies to the actions of students in rehearsals, on school property, public/private events, and includes social media posts. (per administration decision, any Knights Band online social media platforms are to be overseen by the directors). This also includes any type of communication that fosters an uncomfortable environment of negativity as perceived by the directors and/or administration.
 - Students will treat all property of others with the highest respect and care (music stands, walls, uniform etc.) This always includes making only the best quality sounds.
 - Since food and sugar could hinder an instruments ability to operate properly, **all** students will refrain from food, drinks or snacks in the band areas of the school unless otherwise directed.
 - Students will always be expected to conduct themselves properly. (Display of affection, profanity, temper, foul language, flagrant violation of rules, etc., will not be tolerated). Individual behavior reflects the group. Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area, warming up and ready to work, at least five (5) minutes prior to the set rehearsal time. (This includes the class time and tardies/grades may be affected as well)
 - ***No cell phone usage during all band rehearsals/performances unless usage is the director's instructions.*** All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that our time will be utilized wisely. No cell phones are allowed on stands. Any exceptions to this are to be cleared with the band directors before rehearsals.
 - Students will ask for permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged. Hand raise should be fully extended for noticeability.
 - When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal(s) in progress.
 - Students will not play or handle equipment they do not own without permission from a director. Any damages that incur from an infraction, the owning student will be responsible for any damages made by the other student.
 - Due to the competitive level of the band program, students will be expected to take their instrument, personal or school issued, home *daily for practice*. CCISD is not responsible for instruments left at school overnight.
 - Students **MUST** utilize the restrooms before or after rehearsals only. (This applies to class time as well) Please communicate any medical reasons to a director in advance.
 - The use of drugs, tobacco, or alcohol is strictly forbidden. This includes public and private events.
 - Dress code as define by CCISD and CFHS will be enforced. This includes policies regarding piercings. Appropriateness of dress during summer band and after school rehearsals will be handled at the discretion of the directors.
 - Students will not utilize director computers/telephones/copiers without approval.
 - Hazing as defined by CFHS or CCISD will not be tolerated!!!

Band Hall Policies

- The band hall is first and foremost a classroom on our campus. As such it must be treated as a classroom.
- Students will utilize their assigned storage locker/room for instrument cases. Cases should not be brought into rehearsals or left outside of lockers unless requested by a director. Lockers and the band hall floor should always remain clean.
- Non-Band Students should not enter the band hall without permission from a director.
- Students should not enter the band office without permission. Knock first, and wait to be invited in.
- Instruments should remain in cases, closed/latched correctly and locked in locker when not in use. Instruments picked up will be locked away and student consequences may be issued at the discretion of the directors.
- Lockers will be issued. They are to be kept clean and free from personal items. Marching attire may be kept in the locker if in a duffle bag or in a neatly stored manner. No food or drink is allowed in the locker. Any other items found in locker or on the floor will be discarded at the end of the day.
- Combination locks only are allowable for locker usage. The combination must be turned into Mr. Valdez before the lock maybe used on the locker. Key locks are not usable!
- Students will always keep up with their own band binder and music.
- Lockers must be clear at the end of the school day or rehearsal.
- Practice rooms are to be utilized for practice only. Misuse of a practice room will be reprimanded by the directors.
- Any damaged instruments must be repaired by the owner of the instrument (personal or school owned).
- The band department will not be responsible for any items left in the band hall, lockers, etc.
- Each student will be responsible for the locker and lock assigned to them. Failure to comply will be handled at the discretion of the band staff.
- No band students are allowed in unsupervised areas.
- Food and drink may be allowed in the band hall at the discretion of the band directors. Failure to properly maintain band hall cleanliness may result in the loss of privilege to eat/drink in the band hall.
- Before and after school band hall usage will be limited to homework and/or practice. Any other band hall events/activities shall be done at the discretion of the directors.
- DOORS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO BE PROPPED OPEN AT ANY TIME!
- **Instrument maintenance should be handled at the morning or after school time and not during rehearsal time.**
- Any negative communication about the program, the directors, situations, etc. as perceived by the directors is prohibited and will be handled at the director's discretion. Those conversations should be held outside of the band hall and out of the rehearsal atmosphere to not create an uncomfortable environment for other students.

Travel Guidelines

- Please understand that all performances, concerts, etc. start and conclude at the band hall. All students are required to travel with the band program to all events. As a member of the band, you are a representative of Clear Falls High School and while traveling, should always remain on your best behavior. Your conduct will be such so that it never casts a poor reflection on the school, the band, your home, yourself or the community. Other travel means can be considered and will be decided by the directors.
- Due to our extensive amount of travel, the following student expectations and conduct while on a bus, school or commercial, is mandatory.
 - Students will travel to and from events on the bus. Any student wishing to arrive or leave with his/her parent must notify a director via an Alternate Travel Permission Form *prior* to the event.
 - Students will have all necessary forms (including physicals) completed and returned to travel on any trip with the band.
 - Students will always show proper respect to all volunteers, bus drivers, and chaperones associated with the band program. All our adults associated with our program sacrifice their time for your safety and provide help in numerous ways. They are a great asset to the band program and deserve your respect.
 - Any special accommodations for travel must be discussed and approved by the band staff in advance of the trip.
 - Students will be allowed to sign up for seating at the beginning of the marching season. Seats will not be changed once the list is set, unless there are issues that administrators need notification. Please choose your seat partner carefully.
 - While on the bus, students will:
 - Always remain seated.
 - Sit properly in a forward position keeping the aisles clear.
 - Sit in assigned seat.
 - Keep the bus clear of food, drinks, and debris.
 - Keep all body parts inside the bus.
 - Use only approved type of headsets.
 - Remain silent when addressed by the person in charge on the bus.
 - Refrain from loud, boisterous talking, screaming, whistling, etc.
 - Refrain from any public displays of affection.
 - Be silent when entering parking areas.
 - All the CCISD, CFHS and Knights Band codes of conduct will always be enforced. All violations will be reported to campus administration. (see page 7)
 - Band students will be required gather all personal items and trash at the end of the bus rides.

Overnight Trips

The CFHS band may participate in events that require an overnight stay in other cities. (Spring Trip, State Marching Contest, etc.) For overnight trips chaperones and students must regard the following:

- The directors shall function as the designated administrator in charge for the activity when an administrator is not present. The directors will make all final decisions on the trip and all decisions must be adhered to by students and chaperones. Frequent meetings will be called by the directors that must be attended.
- All the CCISD, CFHS and Knights Band codes of conduct will always be enforced. All violations will be reported to campus administration or parents may be required to pick up student(s) and take them home during the trip pending decision by administration.
- The use of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol is prohibited. Any illegal student activity may result in detention by the authorities, parents shall have responsibility for all intervention, counsel and transportation. For any illegal chaperone activity, then the chaperone will assume individual responsibility for counsel and transportation.
- All student medications must be checked in with the directors who will oversee safekeeping and dispensing.
- Malicious or willful damage/theft of property by a student may result in the student being returned home. Parents will be contacted and assume full responsibilities for damages, financial costs, transportation home and other associated costs.
- All luggage may be subject to search by District officials at any time if they have reasonable suspicion that the luggage or personal items contain contraband.
- CCISD, CFHS or the Knights Directors will not be responsible for students/chaperones personal belongings.
- Please report all accidents, violations, or poor decisions by anyone on the trip immediately to a director.
- In the event of extreme illness, parents may be required to pick up their student at their own expense. This decision will be at the discretion of the director for the student's safety and the health of the other students on the trip.

Band Fees

The Clear Falls Knights Band program operates fiscally out of the Visual/Performing Arts Budgets, the school Activity Account and the Band Booster Funds.

In order to facilitate the best band/guard experiences possible we do charge each student a "Fair-Share" fee at the beginning of the marching season. The amount of the "Fair-Share" is determined by the band directors based on the foreseen needs for the year beginning in summer band camp to the last day of school. A deposit will be taken at the end of Mini-grade Marching Camp in May, and a portion will be retained as "Fair Share", the other portion could be used for purchasing necessary uniform components.

The students of the band will also need to order their equipment for the year as well. The equipment will be paid for by the students but ordered through the band boosters at the beginning of the year.

All fees will be collected by the Clear Falls Band Boosters (Fair-Share and Equipment) and all equipment will be ordered through them as well. The fees will be initially due at the Band Equipment Day on 7/20/24. In the event all fees cannot be paid, there will be a payment option available to pay off the total by 12/1/24 as designated by the band directors. Any extenuating circumstances must be communicated to Mr. Moreno in a timely fashion. The amount of the overall fees will be kept to a reasonable amount depending on the student's fundraising efforts and goals set by the directors. (Please see the section entitled "Fundraising")

***The band program will not deny a student membership into the band program due to funds but owing fees or not meeting payment deadlines could result in a student not allowed to perform or practice with the band program. Please stay in contact with Mr. Moreno in the event finances become a problem. Any lack of communication will be considered a violation. ***

****Please note that no amount of the fair share fees will be refunded in the event a student exits the program**** Students who do not pay any of the equipment may have their equipment held by the boosters until payment, which will prevent a student from performing at a football game or contest.

Fundraising

To keep the Fair Share fee to a reasonable amount, the program will set a goal of raising a minimum of \$30,000 this year. We will participate in a donation generating campaign that will take place in August and March to meet this amount. If a student wishes to sell something for the funds, we will try to meet the need accordingly. The band fees are kept to a minimum at the beginning of the year, so every student is expected (not required) to participate in this effort to meet the goal! Seniors fees are collected for this year's needs and not for future needs. (Marching show for the following year must be written during this year, thus making it a 2024-2025 expense. Same has been done as in year's past.)

Private Lesson Program

It is the goal of the Clear Falls High School Band Program to provide the very best learning experience for each student. One of these learning experiences is the opportunity for interested students to study privately with a professional instrumentalist and receive additional individual help in their musical training. This individual attention generally improves the performance level of the individual student and has a positive effect on the ensemble in which the student participates. This enrichment opportunity is available to all band students.

Lessons take place in the band hall before/after-school or during class. The lesson, also, consists of a fee for a thirty (30) minute lesson that will be paid directly to the teacher. Interested students must fill out information at the beginning of the year.

Please keep your teacher updated on ALL potential conflicts, including testing dates, field trips, etc., to make sure they are well notified about days they do not have to arrive for your lesson.

Driver's Education

High School is an exciting time where students may be able to gain their driver's license.

- Please seek classes offered at the latest time offered if possible.
- A rehearsal missed due to driver's education will be considered unexcused.
- The best times for completion of driver's education are in the months of June or July or from January-March months in the evening 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. These will usually not conflict with band rehearsals or performances.

Dental Work

Each student in our program depends on others for every rehearsal and performance throughout the year. If students require "significant" dental work (braces, retainers, wisdom teeth extraction) parents/students MUST communicate the timelines given by the dentist in a timely fashion to the directors. If possible, please avoid timelines that put the student receiving "significant" dental work close to or around contest dates. If we are notified in a timely manner, some performance dates and times can be altered in the concert season (spring only). The marching band contest dates in the fall are not adjustable.

Part IV: General Information

The following general information is essential for each student in order to have an effective and productive music education experience.

Required Daily Supplies

- All issued music
- Pencil
- Instrument (Director approved only!)
- Tuner with pick-up microphone
- All marching related equipment (during marching season)
 - Drill coordinates
 - Lyre/flip folder
 - All issued music
 - Other marching equipment as needed

Daily Supplies

Flutes

- Tuning rod
- Cleaning rod
- Cleaning cloth
- Key oil
- Screwdriver set
- Approved instrument

Oboe/Bassoon

- Three playable (brand approved) reeds
- Reed case
- Screwdriver
- Cleaning swab
- Cork Grease
- Approved instruments (school owned)

Saxes/Low Reeds

- Three playable Vandoren reeds
- Reed guard
- Ligature
- Mouthpiece (Selmer C star)
- Pad and neck saver
- Approved instrument

Clarinets

- Three playable Vandoren 3 or 3 ½ reeds
- Reed guard
- Ligature
- Mouthpiece (Vandoren 5 RV Lyre)
- Mouthpiece cap
- Key oil (Case storage)
- Bore Oil (Home Storage)
- Cleaning swab
- Approved instrument

Trumpets

- Valve oil
- Slide Grease
- Polishing cloth
- Approved Mouthpiece (Bach 3c)
- Approved Instrument

Trombone

- Slide-o-Mix
- Polishing Cloth
- Mouthpiece (Schilke 51D/Bach 5G)
- Approved instrument

French Horn

- Rotary oil (Concert horn)
- Valve oil (Marching horn)
- Polishing cloth
- Slide Grease
- Mouthpiece (Holton Farkas)
- Approved Instrument

Baritone/Euphonium

- Valve oil
- Polishing Cloth
- Mouthpiece (Schilke 51D)
- Slide Grease
- Approved Instrument

Tuba

- Rotary oil (Concert tuba)
- Valve oil (Sousaphone)
- Slide Grease
- Polishing cloth
- Mouthpiece (Conn Rose)
- Approved Instrument

Percussion

- Snare Sticks
- Xylophone Mallets
- Vibes/Marimba mallets
- Timpani Mallets
- Mallet bag

Color Guard

- Pole
- Flag
- Rifle (if applicable)
- Saber (if applicable)
- Electrical Tape
- Gloves

School-Issued Instruments

- All students will be issued a locker. All instruments are always to be placed in the locker and closed by the students.
- The Clear Creek Independent School District will provide a limited number of instruments for student use.
- Due to their extremely high value, all school owned equipment will need to be handled with optimum care.
- The school district requires a \$150 usage/\$75 per semester (not rental or maintenance) fee at the beginning of the year for instruments used by students.
The usage fee does not cover any maintenance incurred by the student
- Any damages, including but not limited to, such as dents, improper slide/valve function, major discoloration/corrosion, corks, etc. must be covered by the student if the director verifies these were not an issue upon checkout.
- The following is a list of general procedures for school owned instruments:
 - When possible, students will be issued one instrument for home use and one for school use. Order of distribution will be based on chair order.
 - Please understand that students will be held responsible for school owned instruments issued to them. This responsibility will include fire, theft, accidental damage, abuse and general maintenance not incurred through normal use.

- Students and parents must sign an instrument check-out form before the instrument can be used by the student.
- Students will be expected to maintain their issued instruments accordingly.
- Students will be financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials that are checked out to him or her.
- Students will keep all equipment and materials in their proper storage location when not in use.

Personally, Owned Instruments

- The band program, school or CCISD is not responsible for personally owned instruments. Any damage that might incur during rehearsals or any other time is the responsibility of the owner; therefore, it is highly recommended that students provide insurance coverage for their instrument.
- Although students are issued a locker, please remember that the instrument storage area is not secure. Again, we stress the importance of every instrument going home daily as CCISD is not responsible for instruments left at school overnight.

Step-up Instruments

- The quality of instrument will help determine the quality of performance for all students. Students will have the opportunity to purchase a step-up instrument to enhance their playing ability. This is strongly encouraged by the band staff, however, please consult with a band director **before** purchasing an instrument. This is for the protection of the purchaser and check that the student is getting a great quality instrument for the monetary funds spent.

Tuners

- The tuner is one of the tools to help our band sound the best that it can. All who use a school owned tuner will be assigned one at the beginning of the year. We will verify it is in working condition and the students will sign for it. If the tuner or any of its components (including mic clip) break it will be the financial responsibility of the student/parent to replace the tuner or component immediately. In the event a student does not have a fully functioning tuner and/or mic, they will not be allowed to fully participate in the given rehearsal/performance/etc. Tuner price is based on the rate given to us by Music and Arts according to the up to date price point. (this could fluctuate from date to date)

Uniform Guidelines

- **Issue, Return and Care**
 - Uniforms will be issued for marching and concert season during summer band camp and following the marching season.
 - Uniforms will be stored at school in the band hall uniform room.

- Students will be issued a uniform bag number. This number should be memorized or recorded in a readily accessible location. Students will use this number when picking up their uniform.
- Students will pick up their uniform from the uniform racks at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to inspection during marching season or report time during concert season.
- Students will follow the posted pick-up/return procedures. Students who fail to follow these guidelines may receive director assigned discipline.
- When returning the uniform, students will always hang the coat with the collar hooked and hang the pants by the crease in order to keep the uniforms in the best possible condition.
- Students will be required to pay for damaged articles. Please see the following:

Item	Cost
Marching Uniform	\$145
Bibber Pants (with Adjust-A-Hem)	\$60
Sheiko (Hat)	\$40
Plume	\$20
Sheiko Box	\$20
Concert Tuxedo Coat (Male)	\$110
Tuxedo Trousers (Male)	\$40
Dress (Female)	\$95

***totals are approximate!**

- **Donning the Uniform (Marching “Uniform”/Tux or Dress)**
 - Students will always wear and treat their uniform with pride. The uniform should always be worn as a complete unit when in public unless otherwise instructed by a director.
 - For all yearly events, students will wear their band show shirt and non-baggy athletic shorts under their uniform. These items will be part of pre-performance inspection.
 - Students will wear MTX marching shoes and full-length black socks with the marching uniform. Dress shoes/Marching for gentlemen during concert season and black flats for ladies in dresses.
 - Students will reduce the “visible” jewelry (including facial jewelry), bright-colored hair ribbons or nail polish, bracelets or wristbands, tattoos, etc., while in uniform. These items hinder the uniform appearance of the band. ***Condition of the piercing WILL NOT be an excuse for not following this rule.***
 - Students with long hair, both male and female, will need to put their hair up for the entire time while in uniform and not just for performances for the marching season. Directors reserve the right to select a specific hair style to be uniform for all involved. Hair maybe down for the concert season. The hair decision will be determined by the directors.

- Students will refrain from wearing unnatural hair-color treatment while in uniform.
- The consumption of food or drinks while in uniform will not be tolerated without permission from a director.
- Uniform alterations will be organized through the CFHS Band Booster Club. The cost of alterations maybe covered in the Fair Share Fee. Students or parents may NOT make any alterations to their assigned uniform without prior approval from the Band Directors or the Uniform Chairperson.
- *Students will refrain from cell phone usage while in performance. Cell phones may be taken up by a director and talk with a parent before phone is returned. Failure to comply will be failure to follow director instructions and may result in suspension from future rehearsals or performances.*
- Students may purchase necessary items in the following ways:

<u>Male Students</u>	<u>Purchase Options</u>
White Tuxedo Shirt	Purchased individually
Black Bow Tie	Purchased individually
Black Dress Shoes/Band shoes acceptable	Purchased individually
Long Black Socks	Purchased individually
<u>Female Students</u>	
Black Flats (closed toe)	Purchased individually

- *This year the band will utilize the usage the “Power-flex” shirt and “Shieko Wrap” for the upcoming on-field production. Maintenance and protection of these two items is CRITICAL as these are custom items that cannot be replaced at a moment’s notice. Please use discretion when washing/drying as well as during regular usage. Again, replacement items may not be attainable.*

Part V: Marching Band/Fall Guard Season

The Clear Falls High School Marching Band is the most visible organization of the instrumental music program. All members of our organization are expected to participate. Students who participate in school sponsored varsity level activities, such as cheerleading, drill team, football, etc. may be excused from participation at the discretion of the band staff. Students may also be excused for medical complications or physical disabilities.

Please note different solutions will be presented for varying situations. All exemptions will be at the discretion of the directors. The following information is marching band specific:

Physicals

- All students must have a physical on file with the CCISD Athletic Department BEFORE they are able to participate with the marching band. Physicals are a way we can ensure the safety of your student during marching rehearsals in the fall season.

Water Breaks

- Water breaks will be given frequently during the outside marching rehearsals in accordance to State Guidelines (7-10 ounces every 10-20 minutes). The band will have about 1 minute to run to the sidelines to drink water from their CFHS 64 oz. water jug. Any student that does not have their 64oz. water jug will not be allowed to rehearse with the CFHS band.

Rehearsal/Performance Attendance

- The date commitment sheet will be handed out the semester before the next marching season that reflects all the dates for rehearsals. Any conflicts must be communicated before to directors to determine eligibility for a position in the competitive marching show.
- A monthly calendar will be handed out prior to the end of each month outlining our rehearsal/performance schedule. The marching rehearsal schedule may change from week to week, depending on the day of the football game, progress of the band, weather, etc. We will try to always adhere to the calendar sent out as we know accommodations need to be made in enough time.
- After school rehearsals will be held on Monday, Tuesdays, and Thursdays for most of the season. However, there will be times where there is no school on Monday (Labor Day, Columbus Day) we will need to rehearse on Wednesdays. We ask that appointments be made around these Wednesdays that are specific days to when there is no school.
- In order to promote the most success for all students involved in the program we ask that any vacations, trips, etc. not happen in the entirety of the marching season that begins in the last weeks of July through the 2nd week of November (state marching contest). Any trips that are prior planned must be communicated to the band staff before competitive spots are issued to see if there is a chance for this to work out. We will do all that we can to accommodate, but rehearsals/performances missed for vacations during the competition season will

not be considered an excused absence even if school is missed at the director's discretion.

- Students will be required to pass off parts of the show for a grade and to be able to perform during a rehearsal and, possibly, at a game/contest.
- Performances are defined by the Knights Band Team to be the following:
 - Football games
 - Marching Contests
 - Parent Showcase
 - Parades/Pep Rallies

Field Positions

- **Varsity Marchers**
 - Students who earn a position in the competitive field production will carry the designation of primary marcher. A primary marcher is a student who:
 - Attended all prerequisite rehearsals/performances from the 2023-2024 school year. (Middle school included)
 - Demonstrates high quality marching skills.
 - Is punctual and present for all report times, rehearsals and performances.
 - Academic eligibility for grading periods during 2023-2024 school year.
 - Demonstrates a determined work ethic and good attitude.
 - Must have all pass offs completed at an 85% score (100% grade-see Grading section) or may be removed from rehearsal with the band or performance. Rehearsal attendance is still required.
- **JV Marchers**
 - Secondary marchers are students who may be given the opportunity to substitute with certain primary marchers. Secondary Marchers will march as an extension of the Primary Marching spots during rehearsals and football games. Competitions will be required for the PE waiver; however, they will assist in moving equipment on and off the field for shows. (Ineligible students will not be counted in this)
 - Must have all pass offs completed at an 60% score (89% grade-see Grading section) or may be removed from rehearsal with the band or performance. Rehearsal attendance is still required.

Attendance Guidelines

- Due to the participatory nature of band, attendance is required for all rehearsals and performances. The quality of the Clear Falls Band Program is directly proportional to consistent attendance. Absences hurt the individual student and the overall team goal. The following guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the marching band: (All Summer Camps will be regarded as rehearsals) ***Please do not sign up for any school sponsored blood drives on the day or days immediately prior to rehearsals, games, or contests. (unexcused)***

- **Tardiness**
 - Attendance will be taken promptly at the beginning of rehearsal.
 - Students not in their correct spot at the appropriate time will be marked tardy.
 - Tutorials, appointments, homework, etc. will not be an excuse for tardiness unless **prior** approval from the directors. Students will be expected to communicate an excused tardy card at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the rehearsal. Tardiness will be excused at the discretion of the directors.
 - Students who have more than one unexcused tardy shall be subject to one of the following consequences issued at the discretion of the directors:
 - 2nd tardy loss of marching privilege at the week's football game.
 - 3rd tardy loss of attendance at the week's football game.
 - Frequent tardies- consideration for removal of primary marching position or loss of physical education waiver.
- **Absences**
 - A tardy will be converted to an absence fifteen (15) minutes after the start of rehearsal.
 - *If a student is present for more than half of the school day, they are expected to stay for all after-school rehearsals. If a student is absent for more than half the school day, they will be considered excused from rehearsals. Students must be present for a minimum half of the school day (4 hours) in order to perform with the band/guard. Any questions are to be brought to the directors immediately.*
 - With advance notice, absences may be excused at the discretion of the band directors. Tutorials, homework, appointments, work, driver's ed., notes/emails from parents etc. will **not** be an excuse for absence without advance approval from the directors. Personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family or other serious problems will be considered as an excused absence. Students who are continually ill will need to provide a doctor's note releasing them from participation in order to ensure the well-being of the student and to reduce director concerns. If in doubt, an absence should be checked with a director. **(For privacy, any doctor's notes should not state the condition, rather, just the parameters the student may operate)**
 - Students who have an unexcused absence from a performance may be considered for removal from a competing band class or from the band program.
 - SAT/ACT will not be an excuse for absence for a primary marcher. Please see the following acceptable dates to avoid the competition season.
 - SAT:**
 - a. Test Date: August 24th, 2024 (Registration Deadline 8/9/24)
 - b. Test Date: October 5th, 2024 **PLEASE DO NOT SIGN UP FOR THIS TEST!**

- c. Test Date: November 2nd, 2024 **PLEASE DO NOT SIGN UP FOR THIS TEST!**
- d. Test Date: December 7th, 2024 (Registration Deadline 11/22)
ACT:
Test Date: September 14th, 2024 (Registration Deadline 8/9: Late Deadline 8/25)
 - a. Test Date: October 26th, 2024 (Registration Deadline 9/20: Late Deadline 10/7)
 - b. Test Date: December 14th, 2024 (Registration Deadline 11/8: Late Deadline 11/22nd)
 - c. Test Date: February 8th, 2025 (Registration Deadline 1/3: Late Deadline 1/20)
- o Students who have unexcused absences from rehearsal(s) may be subject to one of the following consequences:
 - 1st absence in a week – loss of marching privilege for one game
 - 2nd absence in a week - loss of attendance privilege at one game.
 - 3rd absence or more in a week – Loss of marching spot as a primary marcher
 - Regular unexcused absences - Removal from the marching band.
Loss of Physical Education Waiver.

*Please note, even upon removal from the marching band students are still responsible for showing up to afterschool rehearsals (grade), learning the show music, and pass-offs.

Student Leadership Positions

Various students from the Clear Falls Band/Guard will be utilized as student leadership for the year. These students are selected by the band directors based on various requirements at the director's discretion. The positions for students to hold are the following:

- **Drum Major(s)(full year requirement)**
- **Captain(s) (full year requirement)**
- **Section Leaders (full year requirement)**

Please consult the Student Leadership Handbook for more details.

[Search results - Google Drive](#)

Social Officers (full year requirement)

The Knights Band/Guard students will have students represent them for the entire course of the year. These positions are the band social officers. Social officers are voted in by the band/guard students at the close of the previous school year. Social offices include: President and Vice-President, Historian, Public Relations Officer, Color Guard Social Officer and ***Freshman Representative***. The students are expected to remain in the band program for the entire year and fulfill their responsibilities for their office. These officers are responsible for group events, social events and overall morale of the band program. The social officers are also in charge of planning and preparing the end of the year band banquet. Beginning in January one member of the social officers may be required to attend the band booster meetings to plan for this event.

Performance Day Procedures

- All football games, pep rallies, parades and contests are viewed as major performances. Every aspect of each event, from arrival to dismissal, is considered part of the performance. Information for each performance will be disseminated to students via handouts, the Clear Falls Band Website, Charms and Skyward mass email and remind 101. ***The use of cell phones is prohibited during all performances.***
- Students will be expected to adhere to the following performance day procedures:
 - Students will arrive at the set report time. This will be the designated time at which all members should be at the high school or set location. Students should have on the required marching shoes prior to the report time.
 - Ten (10) minutes after arrival, students will be expected to be ready for a final rehearsal before departure.
 - The attendance guidelines and/or quality of performance at the run-through will determine a student's ability to perform on that given day at the director's discretion. Directors reserve the right to pull a student from the performance if the level of performance does not meet the standards to perform.
 - Upon completion of the rehearsal, students will have time to eat a meal paid for by the students in advance. If the meals were not purchased, students will need to provide food on their own (if applicable). ***Students will NOT be permitted to leave the campus on football game days for meals.*** Violation may result in students in discipline at the discretion of the band directors.
 - Students will meet for inspection by section leaders. At this time, students must meet the following requirements:
 - Students will be expected to display all music related to the field production.
 - Students will be expected to display a working flip folder with all required music and organized.
 - Students will be expected to display **64oz.** water jug with name.
 - Students will be expected to adhere to all uniform guidelines (See "Donning the Uniform," page 15)
 - Students who do not pass inspection will not be allowed to perform.
 - Students will only be in bibbers, band t-shirt, marching shoes and long black socks to travel to games.
 - Immediately following inspection, students will be dismissed for load time. This will be the designated time at which all members should on the appropriate bus with all equipment loaded (home/away). (All equipment will be checked by the section leaders)
 - Upon arrival at the performance area, students will don all uniform components and prepare equipment for unloading.
 - Students will unload buses when instructed to do so by a director or chaperone and must be in full uniform as designated by directors.

- At the conclusion of all performances, students will load busses quickly and efficiently.
- Upon return to the band hall, students will ensure that all personal items, uniform and instruments are placed in the proper storage areas. Once everything is put away, and then students may leave.
- The following procedures are football game specific:
 - Students will report to assigned seating area.
 - Students will always remain in the individual assigned seat during the game. All students must be sitting in an upright position during the entirety of the game as this is a performance aspect of the game.
 - Students will be expected to refrain from moving about freely during the game.
 - Water bottle refills will be provided by the band boosters. Students will refrain from accepting food or drinks from parents, relatives, or friends.
 - Students needing a restroom breaks will be sent by the directors at certain times during the game. Restroom breaks will not be granted in the second quarter.
 - Non chaperone parents will not be allowed in the band setup at any time during the game.
 - Students will be expected to listen for and watch the directors and drum majors during the game at all time in order to be prepared to perform. Please do not miss the downbeat!
 - Students will be expected to refrain from playing their instruments on an individual basis.
 - Before halftime, the band will be dismissed by the drum majors from the stands for the half-time performance. At this time, the band must move quickly, quietly and efficiently to the appropriate area. Students will need to be focused on the directors and drum majors for instructions.
 - At the conclusion of the half-time performance, students will return to the stands in order to complete the remainder of the games stand performance.
 - All students will be an attentive and polite audience during another band's performance.
 - During the 3rd quarter, we may participate in the good sportsmanship procedures of the student leader introductions.
 - DO NOT VOLUNTEER FOR BLOOD DRIVE ON GAME DAYS OR DAYS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE GAME DAY!!
- The following procedures are pep-rally specific:
 - After being dismissed from class, students will immediately report to the band hall.
 - Students not in band shirt will not be allowed to attend.
 - Students will gather all appropriate materials, tuck in their **band shirt** and report to pep rally formation.
 - Once in formation, we will move, quietly, from the band hall to the gymnasium.

- While the directors want students to have a good time, we expect them to behave professionally in order to maximize our performance.

CFHS Percussionists:

During the Marching Band Season, the Clear Falls High School Percussionists will either be in our Marching Competitive Drumline or the Front Ensemble. Both the Front Ensemble and the Drumline are vital to the success of the Knights Marching Band.

The Drumline and Front Ensemble placement is determined by audition, past performance and past behavior at the director's discretion. All Percussionists will adhere to the following:

- All criteria of as a Varsity Marcher in the Knights Band.
- Perform at various concerts, local performances and exhibitions.
- Required to prepare and attend the Region 17 Region Band contest
- Required to perform a Solo and an Ensemble
- The following procedures are percussionist specific:
 - Percussionists do not have "carte blanche" license to play with any school-owned sticks/mallets or play on any school-owned instruments. They may do so only with the expressed permission of a band director.
 - Percussionists are not allowed to bang on percussion instruments (school-owned or privately-owned) mindlessly. They can warm-up and practice appropriately on an instrument at the discretion of a band director. Percussionists are not to use other student's sticks/mallets without permission.
 - Students must have participated in Region Band Audition for the previous year to be considered for the drum line for the next school year. Extenuating circumstances may be at the discretion of the band directors. (All auditioning students will be assigned selections on snare, timpani and marimba using each students' PERSONAL sticks and mallets)
 - Immediately after marching season, the percussion will be working on their Percussion Concert (November-end February). After the completion of the Percussion Concert, they will follow the band of placement's calendar for the remainder of the year. (March-May)
 - Percussionists must be prepared musically on their UIL band music for once they return to the band class following the Percussion concert. This means that preparations will need to happen in addition to the Percussion Concert preparation from November-end of February.

Region Band Music and Auditions:

- Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band members will be *required* to learn the entire TMEA Region 17 etudes. They may attend the Region 17 Band Audition in December. Concert band students will be required to learn the freshman cuts of the region etudes to test. Wind Ensemble students are *required* to attend Region

Band Auditions in December. Symphonic Band students may “test out” of attending.

- Student will also test three times (once in August, once in September and the final test in October) for a band director during the fall season for their chair test and test grades. Final scores will determine band placement for the Spring Semester. Symphonic Band students scoring a “Letter A” (85 and above) average all three tests may test out of attending the Region 17 auditions in December.
- All students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons for help on this music if they are to maintain status in the Wind Ensemble or Symphonic Band.

Part VI: Concert Season

All bands are required to fulfill the marching aspects of the band curriculum in the fall season. However, once marching season concludes, the focus of the Clear Falls Band Program will be on our concert ensembles. Each ensemble is designed to give students a learning experience in music that is commensurate with their experience, musical proficiency and level of commitment. Bands are determined by audition; however, the directors reserve the right to immediately reassign students within each ensemble according to conduct, region test rankings (pg. 23), and compliance to course requirements. The following is concert season specific:

Ensemble Requirements

- **Wind Ensemble**
 - Considered the top competing ensemble in the band program, Wind Ensemble is open to all students who demonstrate the highest level of musical maturity, technical proficiency, as well as commitment to performances, conduct, rehearsals, practice time and private lessons.
 - Students will seriously pursue individual and group goals including but not limited to preparing for UIL Concert and Sight-reading contest, the Honor Band Process, auditioning for All-Region Band and performing either a solo or ensemble in the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest.
 - Students are required to participate in region band and perform either a solo or ensemble and are highly encouraged to do both (**see pg. 23 regarding the region band etude requirements**)
 - Due to the considerable playing demands required for this class, it is highly recommended that each student take individual private lessons in order to maintain the technical demands of the course. The Wind Ensemble will play college and professional level literature during the year.
- **Symphonic Band**
 - Considered the second competing ensemble in our band program. The Symphonic Band is comprised of students who demonstrate a high level of musical maturity, technical proficiency and commitment to performances, rehearsals and practice time.
 - Students will seriously pursue individual and group goals including but not limited to preparing for UIL Concert and Sight-reading contest, preparing for All-Region Band and performing either a solo or ensemble in the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest.
 - Students may “test out” of participating in region band (see pg. 23). However Symphonic Band students are required to perform either a solo or ensemble and are highly encouraged to do both.
 - It is strongly encouraged that students take individual private lessons. The Symphonic Band will play literature at the high school and college level.

- **Concert Band**
 - Considered the third competing ensemble in our band program, Concert Band is comprised of students who will strive to reach a high of musical maturity, technical proficiency and commitment to performances, rehearsals and practice time.
 - Students are required to perform either a solo or ensemble and are highly encouraged to do both, as well as diligently prepare the scale requirements to move into a competing ensemble. It is highly encouraged that students take individual private lessons.
 - It is highly encouraged that students take individual private lessons to aid in the one on one time needed for further development in fundamental skills.
- **Cadet Band**
 - Considered the 4th band class in our band program. The Cadet Band is comprised of students who will need individual aid to reach a basic level of musical maturity, technical proficiency and commitment to performances, rehearsals, practice time and eligibility requirements.
 - Student will be required to attend afterschool band rehearsals for marching season.
 - Students may be given class time for academic success in other classes.
 - Once a quality level of performance or eligibility is achieved the students will be allowed a chance to move up at semester or year breaks.
- **Jazz Band**
 - The jazz band will be comprised of students from all our band classes.
 - The jazz band is one of the faces of our program that the community will see, we need full participation in this ensemble.
 - The jazz band will meet as a class all year long. Commitment is critical to the success of the jazz band.
 - Auditions may be required for this group. Instrumentation includes saxophone, trombone, trumpet, drum set, bass guitar, piano, guitar, vocals
 - Students must be enrolled in a band class in order to be enrolled in the jazz band class. (exceptions would be for specialized instruments: piano, bass, guitar)

Rehearsal Schedule

- A monthly calendar will be handed out prior to the end of each month outlining each ensemble's rehearsal schedule.
- Beginning in the fall (at the conclusion of marching season) and continuing throughout the school year, students will be expected to attend a weekly section rehearsal to develop fundamentals of instrument technique, as well as prepare for All-Region and Solo & Ensemble.

- Section rehearsals specific for each concert ensemble and may begin at the conclusion of the marching band season at the director's discretion.
- Section rehearsals will be conducted to test on our "project selection" in each ensemble (Concert, Symphonic, Wind Ensemble) and to present the material in the next tested portion of the selection. (2 graded portions of the sectionals)
- After the last test given for the project selection, if students have earned a grade (not score) of 100 (see Grading Policies section) on each selection, these students will not be required to attend future individual or group sectionals. All students will resume attendance once the after school FULL BAND rehearsals begin in March.
- Students that have not passed off all the selection may be removed from the ensemble during class to remedy the missing pass off. They may join once the pass off(s) are completed.
- Percussion will have their own calendar and expectations that may not reflect what is stated for the ensembles regarding testing out of attending rehearsals.
- Students will be expected to be punctual and prepared for each section rehearsal.

Attendance Guidelines

- Due to the participatory nature of band/guard, attendance is required for all rehearsals, full band and sectionals, and performances. The quality of the Clear Falls Band Program is directly proportional to consistent attendance. Absences hurt the individual student and the overall team goal. The following guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies during concert season:
 - **Tardiness**
 - Attendance will be taken promptly at the beginning of rehearsals.
 - Students not seated at the appropriate time will be marked tardy.
 - Tutorials, appointments etc. will not be an excuse for tardiness unless prior arrangements are made and approved.
 - Students who have more than one unexcused tardy will be expected make up missed time with a director later.
 - Excessive tardiness may result in a student's placement in a lower concert ensemble.
 - **Absences**
 - A tardy will be converted to an absence fifteen (10) minutes after the start of rehearsal.
 - *If a student is present at school during the day, they are expected to stay for all after-school rehearsals. If a student is absent from the entire school day, they will be considered excused from rehearsals.*
 - Most weeks, students will have only one after-school commitment during concert season. Therefore, students should schedule tutorials, appointments and routine professional visits on days they are not required to attend rehearsals.

- Please communicate schedules for other activities in order to maximize time and planning with both coaches/directors.
- In November, before sectionals start, students are to communicate with the directors to set an appropriate sectional schedule. All after school conflicts must be presented BEFORE the rehearsal schedules are made. Lack of communicating schedule conflicts may cause unexcused absences for events such as UIL sports, clubs, private lessons, etc. All of these will be considered unexcused once the calendar is set, so students/parents must communicate possible conflicts.
- With advance notice, absences may be excused at the discretion of the band directors. Tutorials, appointments, work, driver's ed., notes from parents etc. will not be an excuse for absence. Personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, or other serious problems will be considered as an excused absence. Students who are continually ill will need to provide a doctor's note releasing them from participation in order to ensure the wellbeing of the student and to reduce director concerns. If in doubt, an absence should be checked with a director.
- Students who have an unexcused absence will be expected to make up missed time with a director later.
- Along with ability and attitude, the directors reserve the right to reassign students within each ensemble based on attendance.
- Students who have an unexcused absence from a performance may be considered for removal from the competing band class or from the band program.
- ***Students are to refrain from school sponsored blood drives on days of after school rehearsals and performances during the UIL season.***

Performance Expectations

- All concerts and contests are viewed as major performances. Every aspect of each event, from arrival to departure, is considered part of the performance. Our performances include, but are not limited to, the Holiday Concert, Pre-UIL, UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest, Honor Band recordings, Guard contests, parades and the Spring Concerts. Information for each performance will be disseminated to students via handouts. ***The use or possession of cell phones is prohibited during all performances.***
- Please note that all performances are the result of the hard work done in the weeks/months of preparation and all students must be in attendance to ensure the highest level of performance quality. Therefore, student attendance is mandatory.
- Students will be expected to adhere to the following performance expectations:
 - Students will be required to attend the entirety of all concerts in support of their fellow band members unless otherwise stated by a band director.
 - Students will arrive at the set report time. This will be the designated time at which all members should be at the high school or set location. Students

should have all attire and necessary items for the designated performance prior to the report time.

- Students will be expected to adhere to all uniform guidelines (See “Donning the Uniform,” page 15)
 - Students will be responsible for and expected to make up all missed work in the event a performance causes a student to miss another class.
 - A concert concludes when the last group performs, the stage is cleared, and the directors have given permission for students to be dismissed.
- During performances, please adhere to the following concert etiquette guidelines:
 - Audience members will be expected to remain seated and quiet when the performance is in progress. If it is necessary to arrive late or leave before the concert is over, please do so between musical selections.
 - The appropriate way to show appreciation for the performance is through applause.
 - Parents will be expected to keep small children seated with them and not allow them to move around during the concert. If very young children become restless and disrupt others’ ability to listen, we ask that you please take them from the performance area until they are quiet.
 - Please keep a careful eye on the conductor when the music stops to decide whether to applaud. Some musical works have extended endings, several parts or multiple movements and the audience will be expected to applaud only after all movements have been performed.
 - Please be sure that all cellular phones and any other electronic devices are turned off as they can disrupt a performance.

All-Region Band

- The All-Region Band audition is designed to improve the individual playing level of the students. Students will prepare three (3) assigned etudes as wind player, four (4) assigned etudes as a percussionist, to perform for a blind judging panel and be ranked competitively against other students from Clear Falls and the other 6A high schools in UIL Region 17. Preparations will begin during Summer Marching Camp.
- The students of the program will provide the entry fees. Directors may assess individual preparation before entrance into the contest and give a suggestion on attendance to the audition.
- Students will be required to test on portions of each selection for a grade and may determine band and chair placement for the Spring Semester.
- Once entering the contest, students will be required to attend the audition performance. Failure to do so will result in consequences issued at the discretion of the directors and may as have an adverse effect on a student’s band placement for the spring semester. All handbook rules regarding conduct apply to region band.

- Students placing in the top spots in the All-Region Band audition may be certified to audition at the All-Area audition for advancement to the All-State Band. Transportation will be provided for all events, each of which is part of the lettering process.
- Students gaining All-Region and All-State honors will be expected to participate in the subsequent clinics and concerts. Failure to do so will result in consequences issued at the discretion of the directors and have an adverse effect on student's band placement.
- Detailed information will be distributed closer to the event.

Solo & Ensemble Contest

- Solo & Ensemble Contest is designed to improve the individual playing and small group performance level of the students. Students will perform a solo or ensemble of appropriate difficulty for a judge and receive an individual rating at either the UIL or Clear Falls Solo and Ensemble Contest. Preparations will begin no later than November.
- Students will be responsible for purchasing their solo/ensemble, as well as entry and accompanist fees for UIL. Clear Falls contest will be free to all students, however if a student is unable to pay a piano player, they will be required to play in an ensemble. Other circumstances must be approved by a director. **ALL ORIGINALS ARE DUE BEFORE WE LEAVE FOR THE WINTER BREAK!!**
- Students may elect to use an accompanist of their own; however, they will need to cover all costs, scheduling listening, and request times for the day of UIL.
- ***Students may be required to play-off their music for a director in order to attend the performance.***
- Once entering the contest, students will be required to attend the performance. UIL students must pay for the entry fees and accompanist fees regardless if attending (includes dropping out of the contest). Fees will due to all mentioned even if they decide to not attend after the entry is made for UIL by the directors. Failure to pay the fees will result in consequences issued at the discretion of the directors. Same applies to accompanist fees for those involved.
- Wind Ensemble members will be required to perform a Solo and Ensemble. These events can be completed at either/or/both contests.
- Students must be academically eligible to attend UIL Solo and Ensemble or the judged portion of the CFHS Solo and Ensemble (Q2-nine weeks grade, not semester). Students that are ineligible will be required to perform their solo/ensemble outside of the contest times on the CFHS Solo and Ensemble, either on the day of the contest (before or after the judges arrive/leave) or at another time at the director's discretion.
- Detailed information will be distributed closer to the event regarding scheduling of piano listening and UIL performance times.
- It is the student's responsibility to a) verify the solo is on the UIL PML and b) obtain the piano part and solo. **ALL ORIGINALS ARE DUE BEFORE WE LEAVE FOR THE WINTER BREAK!!**. Any piano parts obtained later may not

guarantee a piano player will be secured by the directors. If a student is assigned a solo by a private teacher, it will be the responsibility of the student and the teacher to find the piano part/original.

- Students utilizing a piano player MUST pay the pianist on the day of their 1st listening.
- Students that qualify for UIL and Texas State Solo and Ensemble. The district will pay all fees; however, students may have to provide their own transportation to and from these contests. CFHS will provide a piano player for the region level however students will be responsible for acquiring a player and coordinating schedule with them for the State Level.

Please verify that your solo is still in print and can be ordered before committing to play it

Spring Trip

- The spring trip is scheduled annually to give students an opportunity to perform their UIL concert music at a major national festival or in a professional setting. It is intended as a reward for a year of hard work in class, after-school rehearsals and sectionals.
- The quality of our performances is dependent upon participation by the entire membership of each concert ensemble. Attendance is critical for the success of each group.
- The directors work to keep the cost of our spring trip in a range that all students will hopefully be able to meet. Depending on where we travel will determine the final total cost, which will cover transportation, rooms, contest entry fees and other expenses.
- Due to the structure of the agreements made between the trip companies and their clients, any individuals that commit to the trip must pay for their spot entirely. The initial deposit will be for the travel fee and will be non-refundable as to not have other students having to pay for the difference in the event a student is unable to attend the trip.
- This year our band will be, tentatively, traveling to Los Angeles, CA for our spring trip, the cost per student will be approx. \$1,700 per student. There will be an education portion of the trip that may include a clinic, performance or workshop. This will be determined by the directors. Students must have paid for all their equipment/fair share fees before signing up for the Spring Trip unless cleared by a director.

Part VII: Grading Policies

As a member of the Clear Falls High School Band/Guard Program students will regularly receive grades for having their required daily supplies/participation/attendance (outlined in the sections regarding Marching Season and Concert Season) (20%), Individual playing assignments (pass offs) (20%), Major playing tests (20%) and Performance Rehearsals/Playing Tests, (30%), Sight-reading Assignments (5%), and a Writing Assignment (5%). Semester Exams (20% of Semester grade) will be spread into 3 parts: 1) earned at the Winter concert (Fall) and the Spring Concert (Spring), 2. Attending the final exam class to read UIL/Marching Show Music/Locker Clean Out 3. Playing audition in the spring (24-25 seniors only exempt). Students must still be present for the school dates of final exams dates/times, unless exempt, to receive full credit for the course.

Below you will find the standards and expectations to which students will be held for their playing test and the grading rubrics that will be used to determine their score. This will be followed by a chart explaining how each grading rubric relates to the letter-grade a student will receive for their performance. The Performance score may be used for the purposes of audition, the letter grade will be used as a scoring for progress report/report card grades.

Music Performance Standards (100 point scale)

- 100-85 (*Letter Grade A-100*)
 - There are no distractions and the technical execution of the piece is perceived as mastery. Articulation and tone quality are clear and never a distraction. This performance would be considered as a Superior Rating as designated in the UIL Marching and Concert Rubric. <http://www.uiltexas.org/files/music/band-concert-rubric.pdf>
- 84-60 (*Letter Grade B-89*)
 - The performer executes all the technical demands of the piece fluently. Minor inconsistencies in articulation phrase direction, and tone quality in extreme ranges and at extreme dynamic levels may be present but is rare. Moments of true artistic expression are frequent as all elements of a well-prepared performance are in place. This performance would be considered as an Excellent Rating as designated in the UIL Marching and Concert Rubric. <http://www.uiltexas.org/files/music/band-concert-rubric.pdf>
- 59-40 (*Letter Grade C-79*)
 - Notes, rhythms, articulations, dynamics, and phrasing are correct and performed confidently. Tonal errors (if they occur) are handled without stopping but are not controlled. Tempos are appropriate for the etude and for the skill and musicianship of the performer. There are many discernible flaws and causes distractions. The performance would receive an Average Rating by UIL standards. <http://www.uiltexas.org/files/music/band-concert-rubric.pdf>

- 39-20 (*Letter Grade F-69*)
 - Comprehension is demonstrated, as note and rhythmic errors are frequent. Stops (if any) are minor and recovered from quickly. Rhythms are performed correctly but may be uneven or tend to change tempo. Dynamic contrast is present and convincing. Correct articulation is present although it is inconsistent. Tone quality is uncharacteristic throughout most of the excerpt but especially in more technical passages. Phrasing has not been addressed and carefully worked out and is not fully refined. The performance would be considered a Below Average Rating by UIL standards. <http://www.uiltexas.org/files/music/band-concert-rubric.pdf>
- 19-0 (*Letter Grade F-Zero Must Retake!!*)
 - An awareness of the key is present, though frequent errors may occur in notes and rhythms. Tone quality is very poor for the instrument. Tempos are not constant but may be significantly below those required. There is no dynamic contrast. Frequent or occasional stops prevent any meaningful musical communication. The performance would be considered a Poor Rating by the UIL standards. <http://www.uiltexas.org/files/music/band-concert-rubric.pdf>
 - Student did not attempt to play or played only a few of the notes in each passage.

Scale Performance Standards (10 point scale)

- Ten (10) **Letter Grade A-100**
 - There are no discernible flaws to the most discriminating listener. The presentation takes on all positive characteristics of a professional performance.
- Nine (9) **Letter Grade A- 100**
 - Maximum tempo is used for the instrument. The scale is well in tune and the performance is perceived as effortless. The performer plays the scale melodically with proper phrase direction, shape and tonal energy. All elements of musicality are present.
- Eight (8) **Letter Grade B-89**
 - Tempos are approaching maximum for the instrument. Tone quality is consistent and well-developed over all ranges. Vibrato is refined and mature. Inconsistencies in pitch in extreme ranges may exist to a small degree. Articulation is clear over the range of the scale and does not cause distraction.
- Seven (7) **Letter Grade B-80**
 - Takes on all positive characteristics of a “6” but at a faster tempo. There is melodic direction and the scale begins to take on a refined feeling.

- Six (6) **Letter Grade C-79**
 - Starts and articulation are clear and tone quality is characteristic. Technique is even and there is no smearing. The scale is not perceived as slow. Rhythm is totally accurate regarding relation of quarter note and eighth notes: The scale does not rush or drag on the key notes. Octave tuning has been addressed though inconsistencies may exist in the extreme ranges. Vibrato is present on long notes and the last note finishes the phrase musically.

- Five (5) **Letter Grade C-70**
 - **All notes are correct.** Tone is developing properly but may be inconsistent in the extreme ranges. Rhythm is even or very close and the correct range was performed. Vibrato may or may not be present. Articulation is consistent but may be in need of further attention.

- Four (4) **Letter Grade F-69**
 - Most notes are correct, but rhythm may be uneven, or the scale was played too fast for accuracy. Tone quality may not be refined but would not be considered poor. Correct range was attempted but may not have been completed.

- Three (3) **Letter Grade F-45**
 - Some of the notes are correct. Tone quality may be poor, and the correct range may not have been performed.

- Two (2) **Letter Grade F-20**
 - Tone quality may be poor and many of the notes are wrong, or the student did not finish the scale.

- One (1) **Letter Grade F-10**
 - The student attempted to play the scale, but it is unrecognizable.

Part VIII: Eligibility

Please read the following rules and regulations regarding academic eligibility as it pertains to participation in the CFHS Band Program:

- Many activities associated with music education are designated by the state as extra-curricular including, but not limited to, football games, parades, pep rallies, UIL Marching Contest and UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest and Winter Guard contests. These activities are therefore governed by the state laws regarding participation.
- The state law is such that a student shall be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the nine-week grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than seventy (70) in any one class. However, the student may not be suspended from participation during the period in which school is recessed for the summer or spring break. Also, students are not suspended from regular practice or rehearsal of extra-curricular activities.
- Students may regain eligibility under certain circumstances. If a student has been suspended as a result of failing, he/she may regain eligibility by passing ALL courses in the progress reports of the affected grading period. Thus, he/she may regain eligibility at the conclusion of the following week of the grading period.
- A few music education activities are designated by the state as co-curricular. These activities are those which occur on campus and are a natural extension of the learning taken place in the classroom. An example of this type of activity is the public concerts, pre-uil, UIL Concert and Sight-reading, holiday concerts, and spring concerts which are held at Clear Falls High School. These activities are not governed by the state eligibility law.
- Because the marching season has many hours of preparation and affect so many of our students and resources, the Clear Falls Band will implement a weekly grade check policy during marching season. We will view the student's grades with them on Friday, game day. In the event, a student has a failing grade(s) they will receive a warning, parents will be notified, the student will be issued a Tutorial Verification Form and Grade Progress Verification Sheet and will be required to report to a band director for after school study hall the following week and/or Knight Quest daily. On the next week grade check if the grade(s) has not been fixed by the student, they may not be able to march at the game at the discretion of the directors in addition to being considered for removal from the competitive show to a JV spot. We understand there maybe grading errors by the teachers and the band staff will take these situations into account, but students and parents must be in communication with these teachers to ensure all are involved for updated grades.
****Students must turn in all school/homework on time so teachers can grade in a timely manner***.**
- In the event students are not present at school, they are allotted the number of days they missed for school to make up assignments. In addition, students are only allowed 2 school days to make up any late work. All assignments must be turned in by the late dates. The band directors may not count grades entered in passed the late due date as consideration to return to a passing grade.
- Students that are not eligible at the first 6 week and 9 weeks grade checks will lose their spot in the competitive marching show for the remainder of the competitive season.

**The main goal for the Clear Falls High School Band/Guard is that all students are always eligible. However, there are certain courses deemed by CCISD that allow students to participate despite having a failing grade. These courses are considered "waivable courses". In order to obtain a waiver, a district waiver form must be completed and signed by the student, parent, teacher of failed class, and band directors. Under certain circumstances directors reserve the right to not sign the waiver at their discretion.

Part IX: Letter Jacket Requirements

You may qualify for a letter or jacket in the following way:

o District Band	5 points
o Region Band/Orchestra	10 points
o U.I.L. Solo (Class 1, Div 1)	3 points
o U.I.L. Solo (Class 2, Div 1)	2 points
o U.I.L. Ensemble (Div 1)	2 points
o One Completed Year of Band	10 points
o One Completed semester of Color Guard	5 points

20 Total Points = Awards Jacket

- Students must have 20 points to be considered and sized for Awards Jacket.
- Students that do not have enough awards points may not be sized for their awards jacket. These students will have to fulfill the 20-point requirement and wait to be sized until the next letter jacket sizing opportunity during the school year.

A student may receive only one major award for combined activities during his/her four years in high school and no more than one award per year for participation in the same organization.

* These points count only for students who have not received an award by their senior year. They may not be used to receive a second award letter.

*The directors will send out the information regarding obtaining a packet for ordering their jacket and set a deadline. Students who miss this deadline will not be allowed to participate in the fitting corresponding to the dates provided to obtain the packet.

**A student who earns enough letter jacket points and misses the fitting during their time in band/guard may not receive a jacket in the event they do not continue in the program in following years.*

*Students who earn their total points based on yearly participation may only receive a packet on the very last fitting in May. (Sophomores, etc.)

Part X: Band Social Events/Communication/Social Media/Booster Club

Band Social Events:

At various times during the year the band will have social events that are used to build the morale of our program and to allow the students a reward for their hard work. These activities are all regarded as band functions and proper conduct, dress code and rules will be followed by the students. Students may be required to gain parent signatures for the event, and students may be required to stay for the entire duration of the event; other circumstances will be communicated by the directors. At any time, band students, and other persons, may not be allowed to attend any or all social events during the year at the discretion of the band directors. This may also include any special privileges that are attributed to the event at hand. Social events include lock-ins, band sporting events, band banquet, etc.

Calendars:

It is the directors' desires to keep the students informed of all events that the band is responsible for attending in a timely manner. The student's will be given a yearly calendar that has all MAJOR performances as well as some rehearsals for the school year. In addition to the yearly calendar, the students are given a monthly calendar to remind them of dates from the yearly calendar as well as detailed listing of rehearsal times and locations. Please note that there may be slight changes to the dates, times or locations on occasion. When this happens, the directors will attempt to notify students during class time and notify parents via mass district call outs or mass parent emails. It is, ultimately, the student's responsibility to communicate all band events to parents/guardians once informed by the directors. The 2024-2025 yearly events calendar may be found on pg. 36.

Band App:

The Clear Falls Band/Guard program utilizes an online system called Band App as another way to keep in communication to parents and students. We ask that parents enroll in the app with current phone/email credentials so that we may send out any and all information to all at one time.

Band App link: <https://band.us/n/a6a1A5d5gdq8h>

Websites:

The Knights Band will also post information, calendars, forms, paperwork, materials, handouts, etc. on the Clear Falls Band Booster and Clear Falls Band websites. The websites are:

www.clearfallsband.org

or

www.clearfalls.ccisd.net/knight_life/fine_arts/band

Band Hall/Social Media:

The Clear Falls High School Band utilizes social media to keep parents, students, and the general public informed about upcoming events and special recognitions for our students. While there are pages that have “chatting” ability, we ask that all please adhere to the following regarding pages related to the Clear Falls Knights Band:

- Please refrain from using foul language.
- Please be respectful.
- Please be mindful of other people and their feelings.
- Please do not speak about/post negative things about other people- if you have a problem with someone in band or directors, please do not make a post about them, but rather, work out any problems in person.
- Please keep posts appropriate and band/ band member oriented.
- If you do not like a post or comment, please bring it to a director/page admin.
- Directors will be the administrators over any social media accounts associated with our program.
- Lastly, have fun. Go Knights!

Clear Falls Band Booster Organization:

Clear Falls High School Band Boosters, Inc. is a non-profit organization providing support for the Knights Band and Color Guard through volunteer service and financial assistance. To achieve this goal, it takes many dedicated volunteers all working together as a team throughout the year. The help of each band and color guard member’s family is needed to provide the necessary support for a successful band program. Financial assistance is needed to cover items not typically included in the Clear Creek ISD budget or the Band Activity Account. Each year (usually in May), the Booster Membership approves a budget which helps support the band many areas.

The Knights Band Booster Club **Our Mission, Our Vision, Our Values**

Mission: To provide the resources and support that allows the Clear Falls High School Band and Color Guard students and Directors to achieve their objective to “Achieve Excellence”.

Vision: We will share more of our students’ lives. We will be the most respected Band Booster Club in the nation and a credit to our community and to CCISD. Other clubs and organizations will seek to emulate the model we create.

Values:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Caring | It’s all about the kids! |
| 2. Teamwork | Working together; inclusive of ALL volunteers |
| 3. Can do attitude | No task is too big or complex |
| 4. Apolitical | Unobtrusive background player |
| 5. Community | Provide environment where students realize their potential.
Assist other CCISD booster clubs to be successful |

Clear Falls High School Band
Performance Calendar 2024-2025

- July 15th - 19th - Summer Percussion Camp/Guard Camp Times: TBD
- July 16th-19th- Leadership Workdays (8 am to 5 pm)
- July 20th - Equipment Day: Seniors 9-10 am, Juniors 10-11 am, Sophomores 11-noon, 9th grade noon-1pm/ Leadership Training 1 pm to 10 pm; Dinner Provided/Retreat!
- July 22nd - August 2nd - All Day Summer Band Camp 7:00-noon am, 1:00-6:30 pm. Lunch noon to 1:00 pm
- August 5th-8th - Summer Band Evening Rehearsals 4:00 pm-7:00 pm
- August 9th - Band Lock-In @ CFHS 5-10 pm.
- August 13th - Pep Rally for CFHS; during school day. Times: TBA
- August 16th - Parent Showcase @ CFHS Practice Lot/CFHS Auditorium (rain) 7 pm
- September 23rd- Tentative Drumline Contest @ Katy & Clear Creek HS
- September 28th - Alvin Invitational Marching Contest @ Alvin Freedom Stadium, (Prelims Only)
- October 5th - Galena Park Marching Contest @ Galena Park ISD Stadium (Prelims Only)
- October 10th - UIL Marching Contest @ Alvin Freedom Stadium (one show only)
- October 12th - Channelview Marching Contest (Prelims and Finals)
- October 26th - Gulf Coast Marching Contest @ Challenger Stadium (Prelims and Finals)
- November 2nd - Area Marching Contest @ Alvin Freedom Stadium (Prelims and Finals)
- November 11th and 12th - UIL State Marching Contest
- November 14th - CFHS Jazz Concert @ CFHS
- December 3rd-CFHS Winter Concert 6:30 PM in Commons
- December 6th, 7th, 9th- All-Region Band Auditions @ Clear Creek HS
- December 7th- League City Holiday in the Park Parade; Downtown League City, Call Time: 4 pm.
- December 13th-14th -All-Region Band Clinic and Concert @ Clear Lake HS
- January 11th - Area Auditions @ Clements HS
- February 8nd - UIL Solo and Ensemble @ Clear Lake
- February 22nd - CFHS Solo and Ensemble @ CFHS
- February 24th - Percussion Dress Rehearsal; Times: 1-6 pm
- February 26th: Percussion Concert at CFHS; Time: 7 pm.
- March 10th and 12th: Option 2 for Percussion Concert; Pending conflicts with February 26th
- March ??- Concert/Symphonic Band Pre-UIL @ TBD
- March ??- Wind Ensemble Pre-UIL @ TBD
- March 29th- "Jazz Fest at the Falls" @ CFHS/Kemah Boardwalk
- April 11th-12th - UIL Concert and Sight reading @ Clear Lake HS (RESERVE BOTH DAYS!!)
- May 5th - CFHS Spring Concert @ CFHS 6:30 pm
- May 10th- Band Banquet, 7:00 PM @ TBD (Tentative)
- May 12th, 13th, 14th - Mini grade Marching Camp 5-7:30 pm @ CFHS
- May 14th- 8th grade parent meeting 7 pm @ CFHS Band Hall
- May 15th - Percussion Recital; CFHS Auditorium 7 pm
- May 27th-30th - Percussion Fundamentals Camp; 8 am - 5 pm
- May/June- CFHS Graduation Performance! (REQUIRED for the 2024-2025 9th-11th students)

****2025-2026 TENTATIVE Dates****:

- Projected Dates 1: July 14th-18th- Summer Percussion/Knights Guard Camp (All Day)
- July 19th- Uniform Fitting/Equipment Day (All Day)
- July 21st- August 1st - All Day Summer Band Camp!! (physicals)

(Once the District Calendar is released, we will set the options accordingly)

*****dates are subject to change*****

Handbook Signature Form:

I have received, reviewed and understand the rules, regulations, guidelines, *events calendar for the year* and procedures governing my/my student's participation in the Clear Falls High School Band provided in the 2024/2025 handbook. Realizing that my best performance and contribution to my school and my band will result from my following the policies, I hereby accept my personal responsibility to the Clear Falls High School Band Program and further will abide by the policies set forth. I also understand by not signing the handbook I am denying any and all participation and enrollment with the Clear Falls High School Band Program. (electronic signatures click link above)

Student Name: _____

(print)

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Grade: _____

I have also reviewed the grading policies for the class and reviewed dates for the required summer camp for the 2025-2026 school year and will attempt to will do all possible for my student's attendance at the entire camp if my student continues in the band program. I also acknowledge that lack of attendance at the camps could affect my student's full participation in the competitive show for that season.

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please check one of the following regarding private lessons:

_____ I will commit to be a part of the private lesson program. I understand that I am financially responsible to pay the teachers. I also understand that the quality of the program is directly tied to the number of students that are enrolled and prepared for the lessons program.

_____ I am unable to commit to the private lesson program. I do understand that the quality of the program is directly tied to the number of students that are enrolled and prepare for the lessons program and will seek to enroll later in the future.