

Red Hawk Elementary School



Band Handbook

www.cedarspringsbands.org

6th Grade Brass and Percussion
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Introduction

The band handbook is written for students in our band department. This handbook is an effort to explain to every member what is expected of them in the band program and to outline as many of the procedures as practical that govern the operation of the band. A successful tradition starts with an attitude of success. As parents, band members and band director, all of our efforts need to be directed toward creating a positive experience for the young men and women in our band program. A positive experience must start with an understanding of the expectations for those who participate in the band. The following information explains these expectations.

Band is a unique place in the school curriculum. While it is an academic class in the sense of having a definite curriculum and expected competencies, there are some aspects of band membership that **require student participation outside of the normal school day.** Students and parents must understand that the success of the band program depends on every member performing their responsibilities to the group and that **participation is required.**

There are many benefits that students can realize by being a member of the band program. The intense concentration and training required to perform in band is the same kind of training that produces success in any field of study. Band invariably has a high percentage of the school's top-ranking academic students. Scholarship and musicianship go hand in hand.

Band is a year-long commitment. If you have questions about this, please contact the band director rather than the main school office. Should you contact the main office, they will direct you to speak with the band director.

Through the cooperation of every student, parent and teacher we can have many enjoyable experiences affording musical growth, a sense of accomplishment, and musical appreciation.

Attendance

Participation in a performing arts class necessitates attendance at all performances during and after school. Absences negatively influence the effectiveness of the entire group. Adherence to a strict attendance policy is necessary for the integrity of the ensemble. The following guidelines must be followed.

1. A student should submit a note from a parent on the date that he/she learns that they will not be able to attend an after school performance. Excuses must be in writing and must be thorough enough to clearly indicate the need for the absence.
2. Performances should only be missed in cases of illness or death in the family. Absences will not be excused for reasons such as transportation problems, conflicts with non-school activities such as work conflicts, parties, shopping or visiting relatives. If an emergency occurs, please call the band directors.

Calendar

2011-2012 Performance Schedule for 6th Grade Band

**Marching Spectacular and 6th grade Band Performance,
Tuesday, October 25, 2011, 7:00 PM High School Auditorium**

**6th Grade Concert, Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 7:00 PM,
Red Hawk Elementary Gymnasium**

**Spring Collage Concert, Sunday, May 20, 2012, at 2:00 PM,
High School Gymnasium**

Grading Procedure (follows the 80/20 Summative/Formative breakdown)

Preparation	30% Practice Charts (Summative)
Daily Practice	20% Daily Rehearsal Grade (Formative)
Assessments	50% Playing Tests/Performances (Summative)

Practice Cards

Students are expected to practice their instruments at least 10 minutes five times per week or a total of 50 minutes. A student who practices at least that amount of time will receive an “A” for their “Preparation” grade for the trimester.

Practice Cards need to be handed in on Friday of each week. Late Practice Cards are not accepted after one week. This is part of teaching students responsibility.

The Practice Card **must be signed by a parent or guardian to receive credit.**

Students may make up missed practice that was due to illness, vacations or if their instrument was in the shop for repair.

Daily Rehearsal Grade

This includes behavior, attitude, effort, and coming to class prepared. Students must have:

- Their instrument (sticks and mallets for percussionists)
- Sheet music and/or method book
- A pencil
- All necessary supplies
 - 3 working reeds and cork grease for saxophone and clarinet players (can be purchased for \$2.00 at school)
 - Valve or slide oil for brass players (can be purchased for \$1.00 at school)

If a student has a medical excuse **signed by a doctor** and cannot participate, they are still expected to pay attention during rehearsals and follow the music. Under no circumstances will students be permitted to do other work or go to the library during band class.

Assessments

Tests and quizzes may take the form of playing or written assessments. Playing tests will be based on scales, etudes and music being prepared for a performance.

Each required performance counts as one test grade provided the student was on time, prepared and in uniform for the performance.

Uniforms

6th grade students do not have uniforms for performances. They are expected to be dressed in their "Sunday best." Students must also comply with the dress code for Red Hawk Elementary.

Instruments

Do not leave instruments unattended at any time. Also, please have a nametag on your case.

Privately owned instruments should be insured with your home owners' or renters' insurance policy.

Keep a record of your instrument's serial number in a safe place at home.

When not in use, instruments must be placed in their proper case, which should be closed, latched and locked in your assigned storage area. The school provides a combination lock for each student. Lost combination locks are \$5.00.

Music

Method books will be provided for each student to use. Replacement cost is \$9.00 for each lost book.

Sheet music is not disposable. Students will be expected to pay ten cents for each lost piece of sheet music.

Books and folders should not be stored inside instruments cases. Most cases cannot accommodate these items which could damage instruments.

Fundraising

The 6th grade band will be participating in two fundraisers this year. All of the bands will be selling pies throughout the month of November and the beginning of December. The pies are made fresh on December 10th and then distributed. The pies will be either apple or blueberry. The pies can be baked or frozen. Very delicious!

The other fundraiser for the 6th grade band is the “World’s Finest Chocolate Bar” sale. This sale starts in mid-January and finishes by mid-February. All fundraising is optional but it is encouraged.

The Cedar Springs Music Boosters maintain student accounts for all band students. A portion of fundraisers goes directly into student accounts. The money that is accumulated over the years of band participation can be used to pay for trips and high school band camp. This is an excellent way to pay for your child’s band experiences

Rules and Discipline

Band class is considered large group instruction. To be a contributing member of a large musical ensemble takes a very disciplined person.

1. Respect others and their property.
2. Keep the band room and storage areas neat and tidy.
3. No horse play or running in the band room.
4. Gum, pop, food, candy are not allowed in the band room.
5. Be in your seat with all materials and ready for rehearsal at the start of class. Do not play your instruments until directed to do so.
6. Instrument cases need to be stored in your assigned locker during rehearsals.
7. Combination locks should be locked during rehearsals.
8. Keep your music in a folder when not in use and stored with your instrument.
9. All instruments should be tagged with your first and last name.
10. Backpacks and other bags do not belong in the band setup area.
11. Do not talk during rehearsals unless you are called upon.
12. Follow directions the first time.
13. Come to class prepared and on time.
14. Follow all school policies in the Red Hawk Elementary School Handbook.

How Parents Can Help

1. Show an interest in the music study of your child.
2. Arrange a regular time and place for your child to practice. Providing a straight back chair and a music stand will help tremendously.
3. Find a quiet place where he/she can practice without interruption.
4. Help the student keep a daily record of practicing.
5. Reward students for daily practice.
6. Keep your child’s instrument in good playing condition.
7. Be extra careful with school-owned instruments. Repair costs are high!
8. Encourage your child to be prepared and on time.
9. Provide private lessons.
10. Make faithful and punctual attendance at all band activities important.
11. Keep the Handbook in a safe place and go over it with your child.
12. Help your child to remember to bring their instrument and music to school each day.
13. Attend parent teacher conferences, and concerts.
14. Take your child to musical events in the area.

Parent and Student Behavioral, Commitment and Agreement Form

Please thoroughly read and discuss this handbook in its entirety before signing.

As a **Parent/Guardian**, I have read, understood and agree to comply with the information presented in this handbook. I have received a copy of the performance calendar for the year and understand that my child is expected to attend all required events. I understand that my child will be given monthly updates to bring home regarding performance details expectations and/or changes.

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date

Parent email address

As a **Student** in the Red Hawk Elementary School Band, I have read, understood and agree to comply with all information stated in this handbook. I acknowledge all expectations, rules and consequences stated in this handbook and I agree to comply. I have received a performance calendar for the year and understand that I will be expected to attend all events listed. I will be responsible for taking home a monthly update regarding performance details expectations and/or changes.

Student Signature

Date

**Please sign and return this page to Mr. Borst or Mr. Shaw
by Friday, September 16, 2011**

Thank You!