
CANYON *RIDGE* MIDDLE SCHOOL

BAND

*Developing a life-long love for
music and strength of character
through excellence in performance.*



2011-12 HANDBOOK

GRADES SEVEN AND EIGHT

DIRECTORS

Amy Allison

Carter Matschek

Stephanie Lee

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Canyon Ridge Middle School Band Program! It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that we introduce our band program to you in a more detailed manner. The CRMS band program has established a wonderful tradition of excellence and we welcome you to be a part of it.

Your child's participation in our band program is beneficial in many ways. Band students are engaged daily in a highly creative performing art that stimulates growth in areas of the human brain that no other discipline can. This growth effortlessly transfers into your student's academic life and sets them ahead of their peers. In addition, our band students will develop traits such as teamwork, responsibility, dedication, self-discipline, social skills, confidence, leadership and dependability. Membership in our band program will give all a sense of accomplishment as well as pride and respect as the students develop musical and personal skills that will enrich their lives.

The purpose of this handbook is to outline the guidelines and expectations for making this year a success for all involved and to serve as a guide and resource for students and parents. Both students and their parents should take the time to thoroughly read this handbook. Upon completion, the contract that was passed out to your student during class should be signed and returned to school indicating your understanding of these guidelines and expectations.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The directors encourage positive communication and are willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress in band with his/her parents.

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Please visit our website at <http://www.crmsband.com> for important information for students and parents.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Organizational Skills
- Practice Techniques
- Mental and Physical Discipline
- Citizenship through Group Endeavor
- Physical Conditioning
- Cultural Growth
- Value Judgments
- Music Theory
- Proper Instrumental Technique
- Creative Self-Expression

BAND PLACEMENT

Yearly placement in each band and occasional changes are based on the following criteria:

- Instrumentation needs and limitations
- Eligibility status
- Overall performance and consistent progress
- Attendance at all band functions
- Attitude and behavior

Special Note – A student must pass band and have a director’s recommendation to be enrolled for the next semester.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

Band members will observe all procedures set forth by Leander ISD, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

- Any behavior, which is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the band program. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both public and private events.
- All students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Ten Ethical Principles at all times. Display of profanity, temper, flagrant violation of rules, etc., will not be tolerated. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection of the group.
- Students will follow directors’ instructions.
- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area ready to work at the set rehearsal time with all equipment, including music, pencil, instrument, and all supplies to rehearsals daily (see detailed supply list for each instrument).
- Students will keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.

- Students will not use or play on equipment they do not own without permission from a director.
- Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
- Students should request permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that time will be utilized wisely and as efficiently as possible.
- When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal in progress.
- Students will respect the property of others, and return their equipment to its proper storage place when not in use. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area, and keep said storage area clean and neat in appearance. Students who demonstrate great difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band hall.
- Students will not deface or mark on music stands, chairs, walls, etc.
- Students will not write on dry-erase board without permission from a director.
- Students will follow the private lesson room rules posted on the doors of the private lesson rooms.
- Percussionists will put all equipment back in the designated areas after every rehearsal/practice. Percussionists are responsible for the cost of repair or the cost of replacement for any percussion equipment they damage.
- Students will utilize their assigned storage slot/locker for instrument cases during rehearsals. Cases should not be brought into rehearsals unless requested by a director (exceptions: flute, clarinet, and oboe).

CARE OF FACILITIES

- No gum, food or drinks are allowed in the building except when authorized by the directors.
- All trash (paper, broken reeds/drum sticks, etc.) is to be deposited in the wastebaskets provided.
- Acts of vandalism or the willful misuse of school property will be dealt with severely and appropriately. Every band member is responsible to help the director's monitor the facility and control vandalism, which includes writing or carving on walls, destroying music, or breaking school property.
- Absolutely no student is allowed in the workroom without permission.
- Practice and ensemble rooms are designed for practicing, not social gatherings.
- Please knock on office doors, and if you are invited in, you may enter. Otherwise, they are off-limits to students. Students may not use directors' phones without permission.
- The telephone in the band hall is not available to non-band members and is not to be used for personal calls, but should be used to call parents for rides, etc. Students must ask permission to use the phone and all calls will be limited to 2 minutes.

ATTENDANCE

In order to have and maintain a high quality band program, attendance from all members is essential. While the CRMS band follows all school and district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the CRMS band. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held outside of the school day.

Excused Absence

Absences will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Appointments, tutorials etc. will not be an excuse for absence. Absence due to personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances (approved by director) may be considered for excused status. Students who are continually ill may be required to provide a doctor's note releasing them from participation in order to ensure the well being of the child and to reduce concerns of the band directors. If in doubt, an absence should be checked with a director.

Unexcused Absence

Students with an unexcused absence from any required band activity will receive a zero in the grade book. Rehearsals, concerts, contests, and competitions cannot be made up. Students with an unexcused absence to a sectional rehearsal will be required to schedule a make up time with their band director within one week.

Concerts/Performances

Concerts and performances are an integral component of the band curriculum. Students should consult their schedules for dates and times. Each of the concert ensembles will perform at various times throughout the school year and are mandatory. Periodically, the schedule may change and updates will be communicated. Concerts are considered to have three parts: warm-up, performance, and listening. The concert begins for the student at the warm-up. Punctuality is essential. A concert concludes when the last group performs and directors have given permission for students to be dismissed. A general report time will be given for all students. In the event a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up all missed work!

Performances of the ensembles will include but are not limited to the following:

- Fall Concert
- Winter Concert
- Recording Sessions
- Band Festivals/Pre UIL Contest
- Pre UIL Concert
- UIL Contest
- Spring Trip Festival
- Spring Concert
- Others as needed

Special Note – Students absent from school for any reason, or are in alternative placement the day of a concert, contest, or competition may not participate.

SECTION REHEARSALS

All students will have at least one weekly Section Rehearsal with their band's section. The Sectional will be directed by the band director of the concert ensemble and will be primarily focused on music that the student's concert ensemble is preparing for future concerts and contests. Students are expected to be punctual and prepared on a weekly basis. Absence from section rehearsals must be in accordance with the attendance policy. Students must make every effort to attend. Section rehearsals are an extension of the classroom and are graded accordingly. Section rehearsal schedules may be found on the band web site or by contacting the student's director.

DAILY SUPPLIES

The following list is what each student should plan to bring to the appropriate rehearsal and/or performance. Other items may be added at the discretion of the directors.

- All issued music
- Pencil
- Instrument
- All supplies relative to their instrument
- Band Binder
- Metronome/tuner
- Korg Contact Microphone Pickup
- Other equipment as needed (could vary from year to year)

For supplies specific to your instrument, refer to <http://www.crmsband.com>.

UNIFORM GUIDELINES

We have two band uniforms at CRMS, formal and informal.

Formal:

- Girls: The approved black band dress, black close-toed flats (such as ballet flats)
- Boys: White band dress shirt, solid black tie, black dress pants/slacks, black socks, black dress shoes.

This uniform will be worn at all formal concerts and contests.

Informal:

- CRMS Band t-shirt, blue jeans, and tennis shoes

This uniform will be worn at pep rallies, informal contests, and other activities.

DISTRICT-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

LISD will provide a limited number of instruments for student use. These instruments include highly expensive instruments such as the bassoon, oboe, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, horn, euphonium, tuba, and general percussion equipment. This equipment is generally purchased by the school district for student use because of its extremely high expense. Thus, all district owned equipment must be handled with optimum care. Students failing to take proper care of their school-issued instrument may lose the privilege to use such instruments.

The following is a list of general procedures for district-owned instruments:

- If possible, students who play large instruments and are dependent upon LISD buses may be issued one instrument for home use and one for school use. This will be at the discretion of the directors and will be based on instrument availability and transportation needs.
- LISD does not provide insurance for individually owned or district-owned equipment. It is required of all students utilizing district-owned instruments to provide insurance coverage for the instrument that has been issued to them. Students will be held responsible for all district-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 checkout form before the student can use the instrument.
- Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition. Each issued instrument will be checked and cleaned prior to issue. Students are expected to maintain their issued instruments accordingly.
- The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him or her.
- All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.
- LISD will assess a fee for routine (end of year) cleaning and maintenance of district-owned instruments.

Special Note – District-owned instruments are not to be treated as "free" instruments. Basic supplies must still be purchased and repairs must still be made just like personally owned instruments. Please strive to treat these instruments as if they were your own. Most district-owned instruments exceed \$2,000 in value.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE AND IDENTIFICATION

Every student must have his/her name and phone number or Canyon Ridge Middle School's phone number fastened to the outside and/or inside of his/her instrument case. Also, be sure to keep a

record of the serial number of the instrument in the event it is stolen or lost.

School combination locks are provided for every band locker, and are required to be locked at all times when the student is not in the band hall. There is a \$10 fee for any lock that is damaged or lost. The band locks are custom-made to fit a main key the band directors have, and replacement locks must be made to fit this same key.

ELIGIBILITY

All LISD Bands adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and LISD. Some band activities are designated as extra-curricular. Students participating in these activities are governed by eligibility requirements. A student shall be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the six week period following a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than seventy in any class. Loss of eligibility does not take effect until seven days after the end of the reporting period. Ineligible students are not suspended from practice or rehearsal of extra-curricular activities. The student is not suspended from participation during the period in which school is recessed for the summer or any other vacation time.

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 third week of the affected grading period. Reinstatement of eligibility would occur seven days after the three-week progress report period (see TEA/UIIL Side by Side).

The eligibility law does not affect activities that are considered curricular components of any course. Examples of these activities are all rehearsals and performances that take place as a regular extension of classroom instruction. Any performance that is competitive in nature or for which admission is charged is deemed extra-curricular.

In addition to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA and LISD above, students are required to pass the 5th six-weeks and must not receive an ISS placement during the spring semester to attend the spring trip.

GRADING GUIDELINES

LISD band programs have instructional objectives that relate to the mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for grade level subjects or courses. These objectives are aligned to address the academic skills needed for successful performance in the next grade or next course in a sequence of courses. Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, and other instructional activities are designed so that the student's performance indicates the level of mastery of the instructional objectives. The student's mastery level of these objectives is a major factor in determining the grade for a subject or course.

Students will be expected to meet the responsibilities for each band class as determined by the director. Since band is an academic music class with some co-curricular and extra-curricular activities attached, the band student's grade will reflect achievement in curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular areas.

25% - Practice Sheets (based on punctuality and quality)

25% - Sectionals (based on punctuality and preparation of music)

25% - Hearing Time Grades and/or Tests (written and playing grades)

25% - Participation (bringing materials, effort, attendance at concerts and contests, proper uniform, etc.)

The following list is provided to give students and parents examples of items that can be subject to grading. Additional assignments may be given at the discretion of the director.

- The student will receive a grade for each before or after school sectional and rehearsal as well as co-curricular events on weekends during a grading period.
- The student will be on task and focused during all rehearsals.
- The student will have instrument, music, pencil, and supplies.
- The student will be prepared to play his/her part successfully.
- The student will mark music and take notes as needed.
- The student will be expected to improve individual music skills.
- The student's individual skill development will be evaluated through taped music tests, individual playing tests, scale tests, and/or written tests.
- The student will be evaluated on improvement of ensemble skills during daily rehearsals.
- The student will be expected to improve his/her performance fundamentals.
- The student will be evaluated for improvement of his/her music fundamentals through daily observation during the "basics" part of each rehearsal and during sectionals.
- The student will be expected to demonstrate correct posture, hand position, embouchure, air production, and articulation as monitored during rehearsals.
- The student will be expected to develop a historical knowledge of the literature relative to their respective instrument.
- The student will receive a grade for each performance during a grading period.

WEEKLY PRACTICE SHEETS

Students will keep a practice sheet every week that serves as 25% of the overall average. Practice sheets will be both goal and time-oriented. Students will write down the objectives for the coming week during class with their director and log the number of minutes per night they work towards meeting those objectives. The daily practice requirement is 30 minutes a day, six days a week, for a total of 180 minutes a week. Students will receive extra credit for practice beyond the required 180 minutes. Practice sheets are to be signed by a parent/guardian and turned in every Friday. **Practice**

Sheets will not be accepted without the required signature.

PRIVATE LESSON PROGRAM

This is a district wide program that provides a high quality enhancement to classroom instruction. Teachers are all specialists on their instruments. Most of our teachers are professional musicians in the Austin area and have advanced degrees in the performance of their instruments. Lessons are extremely valuable to the individual student and are highly encouraged.

- *ALL* students are *ENCOURAGED* to take individualized private instruction.
- Teachers are screened and interviewed by the district.
- Lessons will be given weekly during the band classes, before, and after school.
- If there is a need for before/after school lessons, every effort will be made to schedule private lessons at times that do not conflict with sectionals or other activities.
- Detailed information will be distributed on the private lesson program and can be found on the CRMS band website.

TRAVEL GUIDELINES

The band will frequently travel on either school buses or commercial buses. Student conduct is expected to be at the highest level on any trip.

Students must travel to events and return from events on the bus. Any student wishing to arrive or leave with his/her parent must notify a director in writing with parent signature, prior to the event. Permission will be granted or denied based on the circumstances of the occasion.

Students must have all necessary forms (Medical/Travel Release) completed and on file with the band office to travel on any trip with the band.

While on the bus students will:

- Remain seated at all times.
- Sit properly in a forward position.
- Keep the bus clear of food, drinks, and debris.
- Keep all body parts inside the bus.
- Use only approved type/headset radios (no audible speakers).
- Remain silent when addressed by an adult on the bus.
- Refrain from loud, boisterous talking, singing, screaming, whistling, inappropriate jokes, etc.
- No public displays of affection.

Special Note

As a member of the band, you are a representative of your school. Always be on your best behavior. If you are in doubt about an action, do not do it! Your conduct at all times should be considered a good reflection on the school, the band, your home, yourself, and the community.

Chaperones

Adult chaperones are a great asset for the band program. Students will treat them as an extension of the band staff. Proper respect will be shown to all adults at all times.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

It is the philosophy of the Canyon Ridge Middle School Band that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact the director.

FUNDRAISING

We have one fundraiser planned for the school year. Participation in fundraisers is encouraged, but not required. Fundraisers will be used to defray the students' fees and trip expenses. Any other money raised will be used to purchase additional materials and equipment for the CRMS Band Program. Due to budget limitations, this has become a necessity. If the money is not fundraised, then any expenses will be paid to the band department from the family's own financial resources.

A portion of the fund-raiser profit (usually 10%) will go towards operating expenses for the band program. Operating expenses are defined as expenditures not covered by LISD budget. Our "wish-list" includes, but is not limited to: extra music for concerts, funds to bring in guest clinicians, supplies, technology, sound equipment for the band department, commissioned music, instrument accessories, fees and/or deposits for honor band entries and other competitions.

All money fundraised will belong to CRMS and LISD, and cannot be refunded to a student. If a student fundraises money and then is unable to attend a trip for any reason, the money the student raised becomes property of the CRMS activity account. As per LISD policy, the funds are good only for the academic year, and are not transferable for the students from year to year.

If a student leaves the CRMS Band program, all money goes back to the general CRMS account. Funds are not reimbursed or distributed to students or their families

Fundraised money can only be applied to the student's expenses. A student cannot fundraise for another student or chaperone.

Donations are accepted to help the program and are appreciated. Any funds donated to the CRMS band program are given to the school to be used for expenses outside of student fees and trip

expenses. These include, but are not limited to, instrument repair, replacement equipment, helping families in need, and unforeseen expenses that might occur.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP/LOADING CREW

The middle school band programs in Leander ISD provide many opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills with a variety of offerings. Students can audition and/or apply for both selected officer positions and elected officer positions. In this manner, students can not only serve their band program but also refine skills that they will be able to use in other school organizations, as well as in their future careers. An audition criterion is selected at the discretion of the directors and is communicated to the students. The directors evaluate all selected officer candidates based on their performance both during the audition and throughout the school year.

Student leaders are held to higher standards of performance and behavior than a general band student. They are expected to be positive role models for all band members at all times. Please see Conduct Expectation #1 pertaining to general conduct of students as well as student leadership positions.

ALL-REGION BAND/ORCHESTRA GUIDELINES

- All Honor, Symphonic, and select Concert Band students will audition for All-Region Band.
- All other band students are encouraged to audition if the preparation of the music is at a high enough performance level. Decisions to audition by these students will be on a case-by-case basis.
- Students will be graded on preparation for this event.
- Any person who is fortunate enough to be selected will attend all rehearsals and the performance of the All-Region Band. (Check your calendar for dates.)

It is quite an honor to be selected to the All-Region Band. Hundreds of students throughout the region will audition. Even if you are not selected, the experience you receive by preparing will enhance your musical ability and education!

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

All band members will prepare and perform a solo and an ensemble unless other permission is granted.

Grades will be issued for preparation and participation in the Solo and Ensemble process. Students may use an approved accompanist. The accompanist fee is set each year.

SAFETY

Due to the heavy student traffic going in and out of the band hall, and due to the possibility of theft of instruments, students not enrolled in the CRMS band are not allowed in the band hall at any time. Friends of the CRMS band members may wait outside the band hall to accompany their band friend to another location.

BAND HALL HOURS

The band hall normally opens for sectionals at approximately 7:15 a.m. every day, and closes at approximately 6:00 p.m. every day, except for Fridays or the day before a holiday – in which case the band hall will close at 4:30 p.m. The band hall will be open for private lessons, as needed by the private lesson teachers.

Sectionals will be held from 7:40 – 8:40 a.m. in the mornings, and from 4:15 – 5:15 p.m. after school.

During the few weeks in the year when no sectionals are held, the band hall will open at 8:00 a.m., and will close at 4:30 p.m.

Students are allowed to stay in the band hall during these times to attend sectionals, quietly work on homework, have their private lesson, or practice inside a practice room. Students are NOT allowed to be in the band hall during these times to socialize, eat, or act in a disorderly fashion.

PARENT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

Parents must make accommodations for transportation of their children to and from sectionals, and to and from the band hall during trips and special events. Lack of transportation will not be an accepted excuse for missing a band function. To ensure the safety of their children, parents are encouraged to have a plan for drop-off and pick-up of students in a timely manner from band events. Directors will only be at the band hall during the times listed above for sectionals, and during trips for the times listed in the itinerary.

For the safety of all involved, students must go home after the band hall closes. Parents, please be aware that the main office will be closed before sectionals end. Going home right after sectionals through family transportation, car pools or walking home are ways to help your child get home safely and in a timely manner.

BAND PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Our middle school band does not have a booster program of its own, but if you have the desire and time, we do have band parent volunteers who assist the students and directors with various tasks. Some areas of need are fundraising tabulation and collection, computer data entry, check deposit computer entry, chaperone recruiting, news and public relations, and other tasks. All band volunteers must fill out the LISD district volunteer form and be approved by the school district. On the form, please indicate that you would like to help the band program. You may complete the application on line at <http://www.leanderisd.org> and click on the community involvement heading, then volunteer program. Thank you for your help ahead of time!

HANDBOOK SIGNATURE PAGE

Please read and sign below as indicated:

Students,

I have read the Canyon Ridge Middle School Band Handbook and understand the requirements for being a band member of this quality organization. I realize it takes full cooperation and dedication (100% from me) to help make our band meet its potential. I also realize that my failure to follow policies and directions could result in disciplinary action, which could lead to placement in another band or dismissal from the band program.

As a member of the Canyon Ridge Middle School Band, I acknowledge the following as responsibilities I must fulfill if I wish to remain a member. I will:

- Be punctual and prepared for weekly sectionals and hearing times
- Practice with a purpose and turn in weekly practice sheets
- Demonstrate my best on playing assignments and written theory tests
- Attend all concerts, clinics, band-a-thons, rehearsals and contests
- Treat my peers and teachers with respect, and maintain appropriate conduct
- Maintain my grades for eligibility and self-achievement
- Have a high standard for improvement in class and on my own

Student Signature

Date

Parents,

I have read the Canyon Ridge Middle School Band Handbook and want to support it and my child. I have also received a copy of the CRMS band calendar for the 2011-2012 school year and am aware there is a copy of it on the band website at "crmsband.com".

Parent Signature

Date

Phone #

****The CRMS 7th/8th Grade handbook can be found on our website at crmsband.com***



Leander ISD Student Travel Guidelines



**Parent Waiver and Release of Claims and
Consent for Medical Treatment for Student Travel**

I, the undersigned parent or guardian, hereby give permission for my child or ward, _____, to participate in band trips occurring within the 2011-2012 school year and involving travel by the Canyon Ridge Middle School Band.

I am aware that, should the world situation make it necessary for the administration of the LISD to cancel student travel, or if my child becomes ineligible to participate in the trip, the school district assumes no financial responsibility for any monies lost due to this action.

In regards to the above trip/activity, I release and discharge the Leander Independent School District, its employees, officers, agents and assigns from all claims which I may have or which my heirs, administrators, or assigns may have or claim to have against Leander ISD, its employees, officers, agents and assigns for all personal or property injuries caused by or arising out of the above-described trip/activity.

For the same consideration, I recognize that student participation in this trip is voluntary, and I hereby expressly assume all risk of personal injury to participant and loss or damage to property of participant or any other loss of every nature.

I acknowledge that my child or ward understands that the activity involves possible inherent risks of physical harm because of the nature of the activity itself and/or the physical environment of the location(s) wherein the activity is conducted and that it is participant's responsibility to use special care and caution, including but not limited to, appropriate protective apparel and/or equipment, to avoid risk of injury.

Finally, I authorize the sponsor(s) to consent to medical treatment of my child or ward, _____ in the event of medical emergency on the above-described trip.

I have read this Waiver and Release of Claims and Consent for Medical Treatment and understand all of its terms and conditions. I execute this Waiver and Release of Claims and Consent for Medical Treatment voluntarily and with full knowledge of its significance.

Date: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Address and Phone Number of Parent or Guardian

Please complete the Medical Information on the next page.



Leander ISD Student Travel Guidelines



Student Medical Information

Student Name: _____

Student Birthday: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Emergency Contact Phone: _____

Alternate Emergency Contact Name: _____

Alternate Emergency Contact Phone: _____

Physician Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Important Medical Information (drug or food allergies, special medical conditions, medications, etc.):

Insurance Information (optional)

Insurance Plan Name: _____ Insured's Name: _____

Insurance Phone Number: _____

Group Name: _____ Group Number: _____

Member Number: _____ I.D. Number: _____

Plan Number: _____ Additional Information: _____