
Connally High School Band

Handbook



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Dear Parents and Students,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that we introduce the Connally High School Cougar Band Handbook. Much thought and many hours have gone into the preparation of this handbook and we hope that you will always find it useful in explaining the policies and procedures for this school year. As always, if you need more information, please do not hesitate to call or email us.

After reading the material carefully, please be sure to **sign and return the required documents found at the end of this book by the last Friday in August**. The Band Calendar can be found on our web-site (www.connallyband.com) and on charmsoffice.com (login: connallyhsband), and each student will be responsible for knowing the dates and times of every rehearsal, activity and performance.

Respectfully,

CHS Band Staff

Connally Cougar Band

Course Syllabus

Course Goal:

To stimulate musical and personal growth in a safe and positive environment

Course Objectives:

- To learn advanced techniques of playing an instrument
- To learn advanced techniques of playing in an ensemble
- To learn advanced techniques of marching and body movement (Fall)
- To represent and serve the Connally community through quality musical performances
- To develop qualities of leadership, citizenship, and pride in performance

Course Requirements:

- Participate in all rehearsals
- Participate in extra rehearsals, concerts, contests, and other official class activities
- Follow all rules and director instructions at all times
- Respect and maintain the Band Hall area and all school-owned equipment
- Give your best effort at all times

Course Grading Policies:

Grading will adhere to the official PfISD grading policy (revised 2015).

Percentage weight of grades:

Major Grades 70%

1. Performance

To receive credit for this part of the grading policy, students must participate fully in all Cougar Band activities, unless otherwise agreed to by the director, student and parent. In addition, students must have all required supplies/materials **all** rehearsals and performances.

2. Instrument Technical Competency

Students will receive grades on the following:

a. Objectives

All band students will have playing tests based on the Region Audition Etudes (Honors/Wind Ensemble) or Instrumental Techniques. Honors Band students are required to participate in the Region Band Audition process. Wind Ensemble students are required to learn Region Band music and will have playing tests on portions of the etudes. Symphonic Band students will be tested on material selected by the directors.

b. Marching/Concert Music Pass-Offs

An official pass-off is a grade of 90 or higher. **Students may only attempt to pass-off for any director once a day.** If the student does not receive a grade of 90 or higher, they must wait until the next day to make another attempt. Once a student has completed their pass-off, they will receive a sticker to place next to their name on the Pass-Off Chart located in the Band Hall. Students who do not complete their pass-offs on time will not be able to use their instruments for that week's performances. If a student is continually behind on their pass-offs, they may be moved to a "B" spot. Dates for passoffs will be notified to students via verbal and electronic announcements. A similar process will be utilized during concert season.

Minor Grades 30%

1. Participation, Materials, Writing Exit Tickets

To receive credit for this part of the grading policy, students must participate fully in the Cougar Band. Students must attend all rehearsals and performance, unless prior arrangements have been made between the student and a director.

Students will be given periodic material checks during their band class. Each student must have the course materials listed below at all rehearsals:

Woodwinds/Brass:

Indoor Rehearsals - Instrument, 3 reeds (for WWs), music, flip folder, pencil, metronome/tuner, instrument cleaning and maintenance materials

Outdoor Rehearsals – instrument, coordinate sheet, 3 reeds (for WWs), sunglasses, hat, shorts, T-shirt, athletic tie shoes, water bottle, sunscreen,

Percussion: (depending on instrument) set of 4 marimba mallets in good condition, a pair of medium timpani mallets in good condition, a pair of snare drum sticks in good condition, music, shades, hat, shorts, T-shirt, athletic tie shoes, water bottle, sunscreen, coordinate sheet, pencil.

Concert Materials:

Instrument (in good working condition), 3 reeds (for WWs), concert music, pencil, scale and fundamental sheets, Foundations Book (Blue Book), Metronome/Tuner

Connally Color Guard Course Syllabus Fall/Spring

Course Goal:

To stimulate growth in the art of performance through the understanding of dance, acting, color, music, movement, and equipment

Course Objectives:

- To learn intermediate and advanced techniques involved in standard Color Guard equipment
- To learn techniques in different aspects of dance and movement
- To understand the aspect of performance within the individual as well as the group
- To develop qualities of leadership, citizenship, and pride in performance

Course Requirements:

- Participate in all rehearsals, without causing distractions and always having equipment properly taken care of and ready to use
- Participate in extra rehearsals, concerts, contests, and other official class activities
- Follow all rules and director instructions at all times
- Give your best effort at all times

Course Grading Policies:

Performance – 40%

To receive credit for this part of the grading policy, students must participate fully in all Cougar Band/Guard activities, unless otherwise agreed to by the director, student and parent. In addition, students must have all required supplies/materials **all** rehearsals and performances.

Choreographic Competency – 40%

Students will receive grades on the following:

- a. **Guard Fundamentals – 20%:** Students will perform, for the director, fundamentals including the 27 check points, spin exercise, carves, wrist rotations, etc.
- b. **Marching Show Pass-Offs – 20%:** Students will perform, for the director, their choreography memorized, with appropriate body underneath or foot movements. Each movement of the show will be graded separately. Completion of each section with minimal mistakes will result in a pass-off and a 100 for that section.

Course Materials:

- Equipment
- Tennis Shoes
- Pencil
- Formfitting clothing for dance
- Personal Water bottle
- Sunscreen
- Coordinate Sheet

Online Citizenship and Responsibilities

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that band member websites are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication such as Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, photo sharing, emailing, or texting, etc., appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Members are responsible for their personal websites and postings, as well as posting from or on other students' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include but are not limited to profane, foul, or disrespectful language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, references to alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, and postings (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening towards other CHS teaching staff or band members, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other bands. Any such incident will result in review by the principal (or designee) and may lead to probation or dismissal from the band. Band members that violate the above guidelines shall be subject to the following:

- Upon confirmation of a first violation, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the website(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal, directors, and band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior.
- Upon confirmation of a second offense, the member will be asked to remove any offensive items from the website(s) and will be asked to give an apology and plan of action to deter this behavior to the principal, directors, and band members. Parents/guardians will be contacted and made aware of the offensive behavior. In addition, the student will be suspended from all Band activities for a period no less than 3 school days.
- Upon confirmation of a third offense, the member will be removed from band.

ATTENDANCE

The following guidelines pertain to all marching band, concert band, winterguard, jazz band, and indoor drumline rehearsals, sectionals and performances.

In order to maintain a high quality program, attendance from ALL members is essential. While the CHS band follows all school and district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the CHS band program. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held outside the school day. Failure to participate in either rehearsals or performances may result in student removal from the organization at the discretion of the band directors.

Roll Check

Roll will be checked and documented promptly at the start of rehearsal.

Tardiness

Students not in their designated area at the appropriate time will be marked tardy. A tardy will be converted to a mark of absent 15 minutes after the rehearsal begins.

Excused Tardiness

Tardiness may be excused at the discretion of the directors. ***Tutorials, appointments etc. will not be an excuse for tardiness unless prior arrangements, with written documentation, are made and approved by a director.***

Excused Tardiness

Students who have more than one unexcused tardy shall make up missed time at a time to be arranged by the director and may be subject to one of the following consequences at the discretion of the band directors:

- Loss of spot as a primary marcher
- Loss of marching privilege (for one game) at a football game
- Requirement to stay after rehearsal or report early to next rehearsal to make up lost time
- Requirement to make up 15 minutes of fundamental marching with section leader

Absence

Student not present at the appropriate time may be marked absent.

Excused Absence

Absences will be excused at the discretion of the directors. ***Appointments, tutorials etc. will not be an excuse for an 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 will be required to provide a doctor's note releasing them from participation in order to ensure the well being of the child. If in doubt, an absence should be checked with a director.

Unexcused Absence

Students who have an unexcused absence or students with a pattern of excused absences may be subject to one or more of the following consequences at the discretion of the directors:

- Make up missed time
- Loss of spot as a primary marcher
- Loss of marching privilege for one game
- Loss of attendance privilege for one game
- Loss of chair position
- Schedule change
- Removal from program

Parents will be notified immediately

Band Rehearsal Guidelines and Student Conduct

1. NO food, gum, or drinks are allowed in the Band Hall, Aux Hall or Instrument Room.
2. Enter the Band Hall facilities calmly and quietly.
3. Students should not enter the Band Hall unless a director is in the vicinity.
4. No unauthorized students or visitors allowed in the bandhall.
5. Bullying or hazing will not be tolerated.
6. Theft will result in removal from the organization.
7. Be seated with your instrument, music, and pencil two minutes after the tardy bell has rung.
8. Show good rehearsal etiquette by being a good team player. Remain on task at all times; do not talk or interrupt the focus of the rehearsal. Raise your hand and ask questions if you need individual help. Maintain proper posture at all times.
9. Cell phones are not to be seen or used during any rehearsals. If a director sees your phone out during a rehearsal, it will be collected and only a parent will be able to pick it up.
10. Be mindful and respectful of groups that are rehearsing in the Band Hall and do not disturb their rehearsal time.
11. Do not leave books, purses or other valuables unlocked in the band hall or in your instrument locker. The Band Department is not responsible for personal items stored anywhere in the Band Hall. Students are advised to lock all valuables in their assigned school locker.
12. Students are solely responsible for the care and maintenance of their assigned equipment. All instruments and equipment are to remain in their cases, with shut latches, when not in use. Students should have a nametag on their instrument case that is clearly visible. Be sure that your serial number, make and model of your instrument are written down at home. Students will be held responsible for any damage to the instrument or equipment, outside of the normal wear and tear.
13. Take proper care of your band uniform. All parts should be returned to their proper place and be hung correctly. Uniforms should **never** be laid on the ground! Uniforms are to remain stored in the Uniform Room when not in use.
14. Instrument cubbies shall remain clean. No food should be left in the cubby! Marching shoes and rehearsal clothes must be stored in your band bag during marching season. Any items left on the Instrument Room floor will be discarded at the end of the day.
15. The practice rooms are for the convenience of our private lesson staff and for instrument practice. They are not to be used by any other person or for any other reason besides practicing or music pass-offs. A maximum of two people should be in a practice room at a time, except for Practice Room #4, which may have up to 4 people practicing.
16. Students should not enter the directors' office without permission. Please knock and wait for a response. No student is to use the band office computers/phone/copier without permission.
17. Please be considerate of the directors' requests for assistance and/or performance of tasks around the band hall.
18. Band members serve as goodwill ambassadors for the school and the community. Polite and courteous behavior is a credit to the band organization, to the school, and to the parents. Be respectful at all times.
19. There will be NO CHANGING in ANY band facility. This includes practice rooms, band hall, aux hall, the cave, and guard room.
20. Follow all school and district rules. Any infraction of conduct, attitude, or responsibility will be dealt with in one or more of the following manners:

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- a. Conference with student
 - b. Conference with parent
 - c. Probationary contract
 - d. Expulsion from band program
 - e. Other (as designated by school administration)

Our goal as a staff is to ensure that all students are treated fairly. Please call one of our directors if you have any concerns. We will work with you to resolve problems. We are here to provide a quality music education for all our students.

The Connally Cougar Marching Band

The Cougar Marching Band is the largest organization on the Connally campus. It performs at all varsity football games, parades, contests and other public performances. The Cougar Marching Band is open to any student who has passed a proficiency audition or has director approval.

Marching Band Assignments

Once a student has been accepted into the marching band, he/she must pass a series of playing and marching evaluations and maintain passing grades in all courses. Since our marching band drills are pre-designed for a fixed instrumentation, it may be necessary to rotate some players in and out of a spot in the show from week to week. In order for a student to qualify for an "A" spot in our marching performances, they must demonstrate musical and marching mastery as determined by the directors. Students who do not meet the necessary criteria will be assigned to a "B" spot until the necessary criteria are met. Students will be evaluated based upon music pass-offs and marching fundamentals. Every effort will be made for every student to march in at least one football performance, provided the student has demonstrated proficiency on their music pass-offs, marching fundamentals and displays appropriate behavior in rehearsals.

Rehearsal Schedule and Attendance

Summer band rehearsals begin approximately three weeks before school starts. Throughout the football season, full marching band rehearsals will be held Mondays (5:45-8:15 PM), Tuesdays (5:45-8:15PM), Wednesdays (7:00am-8:30am), and Thursdays (7:00am-8:30am). As per UIL rule, we will practice up to one additional hour on performance days.

Please refer to the attendance section of this handbook for ALL attendance requirements and procedures.

Marching Rehearsal Safety

Students' attire for all marching band rehearsals includes shorts, T-shirt, tennis shoes, and socks. Sunglasses, hats and the use of sunscreen are also strongly encouraged. Water bottles will be kept close, and frequent water breaks will be taken. Students should let a director know if they feel dizzy or weak. During rehearsals, the directors will constantly monitor the weather conditions and make adjustments as necessary for the safety of the students.

Band Uniforms

The band uniform should always be worn with pride! The uniform must never be worn incorrectly. These uniforms are in good condition, and they must be kept that way. Band uniforms are stored in the band hall and will not be issued to take home. They must be returned in the condition they were found after each performance. Each band member will be issued:

- Marching jacket
- Bibbers
- Shako (plumes are handed out for performance)
- Gauntlets

It is the responsibility of each band member to provide the following for every performance:

- Black MTX marching shoes
- Knee high black socks (no patterns or other colors)
- White gloves
- Show Shirt

Uniform Pride: Uniforms must be worn with pride. All students will wear the uniform the same way either all on or all off. There will be NO RUNNING in uniform. There will be no eating in uniform, unless approved by a director. There will be no profanity or disrespectful behavior or horseplay in uniform.

Football Game and Marching Contest Procedures

Expectations are for Band and Colorguard

1. FRIDAY AFTERNOONS:

Here is the typical schedule for a Friday night home game:

- After School - Rehearsal at Stadium
- Dinner
- Inspection
- Load Buses
- Report to Stands
- Halftime
- Depart Stadium
- Arrive Back to CHS

You will have little time between dinner and inspection, so you will need to come to school that morning with everything you need for the football game. It's a good idea to pack a sack lunch and a drink. Some parents also choose to bring their students something to eat before inspection. Choose the plan that best suits your schedule, but whichever you do, be sure to eat something before inspection. **REMEMBER: THERE IS TO BE NO EATING IN THE BAND HALL – USE THE CAFETERIA!**

Make sure you have everything you need for the game before you come to school on Friday:

- Band:**
 - black marching shoes and long black socks
 - show/rehearsal shirt for under your uniform
 - flip folder, lyre and music
 - instrument
- Guard:**
 - uniform
 - gloves
 - all equipment
 - tape
 - shoes
 - performance make-up

2. **UNIFORMS:** All uniforms will remain in the uniform closet except when in use. Arrive at the Band Hall early enough on game and contest days so that you have time to get your uniform and everything else you need for a performance. Band hall chairs will be set up prior to performances. Find a seat and keep your belongings there. You will need compression shorts and show shirt underneath your uniform at each performance. **Keep track of YOUR hanger!!!** Each hanger has a number that corresponds to your uniform number, so that you don't get yours mixed up. Leave your hanger on your assigned spot on the uniform rack so that it does not get lost.

After the game, make sure your bibbers are properly hung on the hanger and placed on the rack.

3. **INSPECTION:** When inspection is held, students will be inspected for the following:
- a. All necessary uniform parts (socks, shoes, gloves, etc.)
 - b. Condition of equipment
 - Brass: horns polished
 - Woodwinds: horns polished, at least three good reeds
 - Percussion: sticks/mallets (taped correctly); drum cleaned
 - Color Guard: all equipment properly taped; all silks checked for wear and tear
 - c. Flip folder in good condition, properly labeled, with all of the necessary music in the correct order
 - d. No exposed jewelry or face piercings (with the exception of guard costume pieces)
 - e. No distracting makeup (basic neutral facial makeup allowed)
 - f. Facial hair must meet PfISD dress code.
 - g. No fingernail polish or visible pen/marker markings on hands or elsewhere
 - h. All hair should be neatly kept so that it does not reach the collar of the uniform

Consequences:

First Offense - If a student is late for inspection, or fails inspection by not meeting one or more of the criteria above, they will not be allowed to play in the stands that evening during the first half of the same. They will sit with the band director for the first half.

Second Offense – The same as above, but the student will also not be allowed to march at halftime.

Third Offense – Parent conference

4. **LOADING:** For those whose instruments are loaded onto the equipment truck, be at the school at the designated time to have your instrument packed and at the loading area. Instruments are to be placed at the designated area in the Band Hall. The loading crew's responsibility is to load the equipment that is placed in the loading area, not to come get your instrument for you. Upon return to the school after the game or contest, you are to pick up your instrument from the loading area. It is your responsibility to put your instrument away in your cubby. The following instruments are **not** to be loaded onto the equipment truck: Flutes, Clarinets, Trumpets and Alto Saxes. These are to be loaded on the buses.

5. **BUS RIDES:** All transportation to games and competitions (with the exception of some contests) will be on school busses. The bus driver is the one in charge and we are to do whatever they say, PERIOD. Remember that some drivers are less tolerant than others. Here are some general rules to follow regarding bus transportation:

Only private ipods and MP3 players with headphones are permitted. Those that have external speakers are not.

Remain seated at all times

Talking is to be kept at a reasonable level. Screaming, yelling, etc. is not acceptable.

Keep all parts of the body inside the bus at all times

Bus lists will be made prior to the first game and you must remain on your assigned bus

No talking until the bus reaches Howard Lane or Lamar Blvd

All trash must be picked up each time you exit the bus

6. **ALTERNATE TRANSPORTATION:** If for some reason you need to ride with your parents either to or from a band-sponsored event, you are **required** to give a completed One Way Form to Director of Bands **AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED EVENT**. This should only be used in situations where no other transportation alternative is available. This policy may seem strict, but it is enforced to protect our students. Only an adult driver has permission to take you to or from an event. Student drivers holding a valid driver's license **MAY NOT** transport any student other than themselves. When leaving the event with parents, it is imperative that you let the band directors know you are leaving, so that we can be certain you have left with your parents. You must either take your instrument with you or see to it that someone will bring it in from the loading area for you.

7. **ARRIVAL AT THE STADIUM:** The first people to get off the buses are the directors. Everyone else is to remain on board until instructed to unload. Once everything is unloaded, you are to quickly line up for stadium entry. **You must be completely dressed in uniform by the time we line up. No unzipped bibbers or jackets!** In general, we line up in the order that we sit in the stadium from top to bottom, beginning with tubas and low brass, followed by horns and trumpets. The Color Guard generally has the first two rows, depending on the stadium. As we march into the stadium, we will do so in a dignified manner, and everyone will remain standing in their places in the stands until instructed to sit down. Water will be distributed immediately after the game begins.

8. **IN THE STANDS:**

Once in the stadium, you are to remain in your designated place **IN YOUR SECTION** until time to leave for half-time or depart from the game. Non-band members are **NOT ALLOWED** in the band seating area at any time.

All students must have their music in a flip folder. Always have your instrument ready and watch closely for cut-offs in the music, as the band will sometimes stop playing in the middle of a song.

No food, drink or gum is allowed during games

You must have permission from the drum majors to use the restroom. Never go to the restroom alone - always go with at least one other person. Return quickly from the restroom so that others may go. Students are not allowed to visit the concession stand.

Do not play your instrument unless the entire band is performing.

NO cellphones allowed in stands. In the case of emergency contact a director.

Students are responsible for maintaining vertical lines.

9. **CONDUCT:** You must remember that from the moment we are off the busses, we are performing. You are expected to act in a dignified manner. During pre-game, we will stand while the other school's alma mater is being played. We will also stand respectfully while the National Anthem is being played. While we are on the sideline waiting for the half-time performance, you are expected to stand quietly. After the half-time performance, we will either proceed in an orderly manner back to the stands, or you will stand quietly in a relaxed parade rest while the home band performs.

You are part of a fine organization and are expected to act accordingly. At no time should anyone do anything or say anything that could reflect negatively on the group in general. Remember that these events are school-sponsored activities and general rules of conduct will apply, but because we are in uniform, you are expected to conduct yourself better than the average student.

POST Game – POST Performances

1. Students will be responsible for putting up all items including instrument and uniform.
2. After most performances we will meet for announcements or to watch video. Please find a seat.
3. After wrap up please put up all chairs.

Concert Season and Trip Information

School Instruments

Certain instruments are available through PISD for rental for the school year. The cost of rental is \$60.00 for the school year. Any damage to an instrument beyond the normal wear and tear will be charged to the student/parent.

Band Auditions

There will be one major audition each year to place students in band classes and/or to assign chair placement within each ensemble. Students will audition in May for both Fall and Spring, with an opportunity to move up based on performance assessments. Student chair placement within a band may change during the semester at the director's discretion based on performance, attitude, or Region Band audition results. Students not in the Honors band that earn a position in the region band may be given an opportunity to challenge for a position. A position in a region band does not automatically guarantee a higher position in band.

Sectionals

All students will be required to attend an 45 min to 1 hour sectional each week. Attendance responsibilities are outlined on the attendance section of this handbook.

All District/All Region/Area/All State Band

All Varsity Band members are required to participate in the Region Band audition process. JV and Symphonic Band members are highly encouraged to participate in this process as well. Region Auditions take place during the first week of December.

Extracurricular Trip Rules for Students

The sponsor shall function as the designated administrator in charge of the activity when an administrator is not present. Any violation of rules may result in penalties provided under the Connally High School Code of Student Conduct, the Connally Cougar Band Handbook and/or the student being returned to Pflugerville ISD or the nearest available transportation terminal at the parent's expense.

All district and respective campus rules apply as well as the rules of the Connally Cougar Band.

Use or possession of tobacco, alcohol or any illegal drugs will result in notification of proper authorities and possible immediate return of the student to the District at the parent's expense. If illegal activity results in detention by authorities, parents shall have responsibility for all intervention, counsel and transportation.

Curfew will be established nightly and adhered to strictly by all students.

Students must stay in assigned rooms. No sexual or other improper activity is tolerated from students on overnight trips. No students are allowed in rooms of the opposite sex. Only participating PISD students are allowed in PISD rooms. Students must notify sponsor/chaperone of their whereabouts at all times if they are in a location other than their assigned room.

No phone calls are allowed between rooms after curfew. No long distance calls are to be made from hotel rooms.

No pay-per-view is allowed.

The sponsor will conduct a mandatory meeting with parents/chaperones prior to the trip. Failure of the parent to attend the meeting may result in the student and parent not participating in the activity.

Malicious or willful damage/theft of property by a student shall result in the student being returned to the District. Parents and students shall assume full financial responsibility for damages, transportation and any other associated costs.

Luggage and personal items are subject to search shall result being returned to the District officials and/or chaperones have reasonable suspicion that the luggage or personal items contain illegal items.

Connally High School Band Department Courses

Honors Band (1st Period A/B)

Prerequisite: Audition and approval by Director

Honors Band is a performance-based class for students who demonstrate advanced musical development. Students will perform musical compositions, which are designed for concert performances. The Honors Band performs at UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contests, and various state and national festivals when possible. There are opportunities for individual achievement through auditions for District, Region, Area, and All-State Band, and through our Chamber Music Festival. All Honors Band students are required to participate in District band contest and chamber music festival. Students not participating may be placed in a different band class. Students in the Honors Band must be enrolled in both A and B day class period and must participate in marching band. Students with scheduling conflicts will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Wind Ensemble (2nd Period A/B)

Prerequisite: Audition and approval by Director

JV Band is a performance-based class for students who demonstrate intermediate musical development. Students will perform musical compositions, which are designed for concert performances. The JV Band performs at UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contests, and various state and national festivals when possible. All Wind Ensemble students are required to learn District band music and participate at the chamber music festival. Students not participating may be placed in a different band class. Students in the Wind Ensemble must be enrolled in both A and B day class period and must participate in marching band. Students with scheduling conflicts will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Symphonic Band (4th Period A/B)

Prerequisite: Audition and approval by Director

Symphonic Band is a performance-based class for students who are developing their musical abilities. Students will perform musical compositions, which are designed for concert performances. The Symphonic Band may perform at UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest, and various state and national festivals when possible. District band music is optional for this class but must participate at the chamber music festival. Students must be enrolled in both A and B day class period. Students with scheduling conflicts will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Color Guard (4th Period A/B)

Prerequisite: Audition and approval by director

Color Guard students will study intermediate and advanced forms of dance, choreography, color, and equipment. Equipment includes flag, saber, and rifle. Students will learn body movement and dance. During the fall semester, the Color Guard performs at football games and contests with the marching band. In the spring semester, the Color Guard members participate in Winter Guard. The Color Guard/Winter Guard will compete in local, state, and national competitions. Students must be enrolled in both A and B day class period. Students with scheduling conflicts will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Marching Band (0 hour)

Prerequisite: Audition and approval by director

Marching Band is the musical and visual production involving all band and guard members in the fall semester. Students will perform at the high school football games and local, state, and national competitions. Students will learn the basics of marching & maneuvering, and musicianship. Marching Band meets before and after school. All Band students must sign up for Zero Hour Marching Band.

Attendance for Rehearsals and Performances (Marching, Concert and Colorguard)

Students must be present at all rehearsals and performances. SAT/ACT dates that occur on marching band performances and graduation must be avoided. Please refer to the attendance section (page 7 & 8) of this handbook for attendance responsibilities.

Eligibility

Students will be required to be academically eligible in order to perform or attend at any contests, public performances, trips, TCGC, WGI, UIL, football games and zero hour rehearsals. Students who become academically ineligible at the beginning of marching/football season will not be allowed to return for the duration of the season, regardless of regaining eligibility. Students eligible for a waiver, must complete the steps required at the appropriate time.

Re-enrolling in band/colorguard

Students who are removed from band/colorguard or quit will NOT be allowed to return. Transfer students or students who have music experience and have not been enrolled in band may be evaluated for participation on a case-by-case basis. Transfer students will be required to audition prior to being assigned a band class.

Private Lessons

Connally High School offers a full staff of private lesson instructors. These highly qualified teachers are specialists on their particular instruments. Private Lessons offer the students the opportunity to study at their own pace. If they need extra assistance on fundamentals, the private lesson instructors help to supplement their daily assignments. If the student feels they would like to push forward to upper level studies, the instructors will help in this process. In either case, individual instruction can only help! If there is a financial hardship, please speak with Director of Bands. We do not want money to be a barrier to any student getting the instruction they desire.

Private lessons are usually 25-30 minutes long, once a week. Most lessons are scheduled during band class period although some lessons will be before school or after school. If a student is unable to attend a lesson, they are expected to communicate with the private instructor 24 hours in advance. If advanced notice is not given and the student does not show up for the lesson, payment for that lesson is still required.

REQUIREMENTS FOR LETTERING IN BAND

Students may earn a letter jacket when they have met either of the following criteria:

- **The student has completed three years of band/colorguard and is enrolled in band/colorguard their senior year.**
- **The student is an underclassman that earns a position in the Area Band or All-State Band.**
- **The student is enrolled as a senior in colorguard and has participated in any combination of three winter guard or marching band seasons.**
- **The student is an underclassman, and has fulfilled the following requirements:**

You must successfully complete items 1 through 4 to earn a letter in band before their Senior year:

1. Make the Region Band/Jazz two years in a row.
2. Never been ineligible.
3. Has enrolled in private lessons without scholarship for at least two years in high school.

A student may be deemed **ineligible** by the band director to earn a letter if students do not meet other CHS band expectations as stated in this handbook

Letter jackets are no longer paid for by the school district. Once a student has earned their jacket, they will be given permission to purchase their jacket. Fittings will be done in September of each year. Payment is due at the time of the fitting. Jackets are traditionally presented to students the following in late Fall.

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

for the Connally High School Band Handbook

******Due Last Friday in August******

It is the intention of the Band Directors to provide a safe and positive musical experience for every band student. Some behaviors, which include but are not limited to theft, sexual misconduct, possession of tobacco, illegal drugs or alcohol would constitute immediate removal from the Band program.

In the event of other inappropriate behaviors (such as flagrant and/or repeated insubordination or persistent student misconduct in or around the Band Hall, or at band events), the directors will follow the guidelines below.

1. Director- student conference
2. Director- parent conference (with or without the student)
3. Student behavioral contract
4. Removal of student from Band Program

Please check one the following regarding Connally Band publication and media release information:

_____ I give permission to use my child's image on the Connally Band webpage or any CHS band media.

_____ I do not give permission.

I/We have read and understand all of the information from the Connally High School Band Handbook and agree to abide by the stated policies.

Student's Printed Name:

(Last) _____ (First) _____

Band/Guard Class Periods _____

Student Signature: _____ Date _____

Parent(s) Signature(s): _____ Date _____