

Cougar Band



Membership Guide



Welcome Cougars!

Mission Statement

The mission of the Connally Band Program is to cultivate in all of our students, a lifelong interest in, and an appreciation of music while continually raising our standards of excellence through unified efforts, mutual respect, and common goals, building upon a new tradition of success.

Student Responsibility

Each individual contributes to the legacy of the program. Our program is the result of hundreds of individuals' efforts. While only you can take charge of your own development as a student and musician, your Directors and Band Family are always there to offer direction and support. As a member of the Cougar Band, you serve as the face of Connally High School. The way you carry yourself in and out of uniform reflects on our program and our school. Representation of the school is a privilege, and as such, membership may be denied by the Directors if a student does not positively represent their school or organization.

Parent Responsibility Statement

There is much more to a parent's role than investing time driving to-and-from events and attending performances, or investing financially in an instrument, fees, and lessons. Band Parents do more by investing wisdom through the busy times, and emotional support through the hard times. In return, their students grow to become exemplary young adults. The Boosters support the band program logistically and financially, but also offer a wealth of support for parents.

General Information

Covid-19 Statement

Due to Covid-19, dates and times will be updated, or moved to a digital format as needed.

Communications

Communication is vital in any organization. With over 600 students and parents, the Cougar Band uses a variety of tools to communicate. Joining our communication platforms will make your transition into the Cougars Band family a smooth one.



Website

Connallyband.com



Facebook

@ConnallyBands



Charms

School Code:
ConnallyHSBand

Why should my student take Band/Colorguard in high school?

Music is a place for everyone! The skills learned in band transfer to all aspects of life. Teamwork and leadership skills, time management and creative expression are just some of the reasons you may want your student to be in band. Life-long friendships, memories, and the band family are the reasons your student will want to stay in band.

Can my student participate in Band *and* other organizations on campus?

Of course! We share students with almost every organization on campus. Effective communication will be key. While we make our best efforts to avoid conflicts, some will inevitably arise. Communicating early will help your student successfully navigate participation in multiple organizations.

Fees

All members will be responsible for an annual membership fee. These fees will cover expenses outside of the funding provided by PfISD. Examples of expenditures may include, but are not limited to, marching show design (drill and music), hiring of marching technicians and clinicians, flip folders, water jugs, uniform accessories, etc. Students using school owned instruments will be responsible for an instrument maintenance fee. This fee helps to offset expected repairs and cleanings.

- \$150 Band Fee
- \$125 New Member Materials - Apparel, Marching Shoes, Water Jug, Flip folder and lyre
- \$75 Instrument Fee - Paid through "Payments" on connallyband.com
- \$150 Meal Deal - Our boosters provide meals for all Football games, Marching Contests, and other events throughout the year. These payments allow your student to receive a meal for all required band events without the need to pack or drop off a meal.

Helpful Payment Info

Student deposits collected in March help the staff to determine the number of members in the marching show. Students who have not paid their membership deposits by the due date are at risk of not being included in the beginning of the show design process. Student balances should be paid off by One Stop Shop.

Students with an unpaid balance after One Stop Shop are at risk of losing the ability to participate in band functions. If a financial conflict or emergency arises, please contact the Head Director before One Stop Shop in order to make payment arrangements. Students with unpaid balances will not receive their letterman jacket and/or diploma and may not purchase Homecoming or Prom Tickets. All band fees will need to be paid online through ConnallyBand.com, or by cash deposited with the Band Boosters.

Paying Band Fees

Visit Connallyband.com: on the homepage click the link for "Payments"

Visit payments directly: <https://www.connallyband.com/webstore>



Suggested Payment Schedule (New Members)

- March 15th** \$100 New Member Deposit
- April 15th** \$100 New Member Payment
- May 15th** \$100 New Member Payment
- June 15th** \$75 Instrument Fee*
- July 15th** \$125 New Member Materials
Purchased with TMF

*Paid through Revtrak accessed through
"Payments" on connallyband.com

Suggested Payment Schedule (Returning Members)

- March 15th** \$75 Deposit
- April 15th** \$75 Member Payment
- May 15th** \$75 Member Payment
- June 15th** \$75 Member Payment
- July 15th** \$75 Instrument Fee*
Plus any equipment

*Paid through Revtrak accessed through
"Payments" on connallyband.com



Suggested Colorguard Payment Schedule (\$150)*

- March 15th** \$100 Deposit
- April 15th** \$100 Colorguard Payment
- May 15th** \$100 Colorguard Payment
- June 15th** \$100 Colorguard Payment
- July 15th** \$50 Colorguard Payment
\$125 New Member Materials
Purchased with TMF
for new members only



Band Boosters

Congratulations on becoming a member of the Cougar Band family. We are so excited to have you and can't wait to meet you. By simply having a student in the Cougar Band you have become a Connally Band Booster!

Be on the lookout for our parent orientation where we will have our first chance to meet. Here you will meet the new Booster Board, veteran parents and hear about our first social and volunteer events of the year. We have all been in your shoes. As with any large family, meeting for the first time can be overwhelming. We are here to help! Don't hesitate to reach out to any of our boosters for advice. We will also pair you up with a veteran parent to help you navigate your first year. We are here for you and your student, don't be afraid to reach out!

It's a great day to be a Connally Cougar!



General Booster Information

Booster Meetings

Booster meetings will occur the Second Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm. During marching season this will coincide with marching rehearsal.

Fundraising

The Boosters put on a number of fundraisers throughout the year to support the Cougar Band. Football Game Concessions booth, Restaurant spirit nights, and hosting the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest are just some of the ways our booster help to financially support the band.



Social Events

Summer Band Blow Out, and Spirit Send-offs are just some of the ways our Boosters celebrate our Cougars. We are always looking for more fun ways to serve our students. Join in the conversation at our monthly booster meetings!



Volunteer Oportunities

Volunteer Expectations

We ask that each parent volunteer for at least two events during marching season. It takes a lot of work to move our band, and when everyone pitches in we can keep the workload down. Sign up early to make sure that you get a date that works for you.

Got A Special Skill?

We want to hear from you! Whether you can sew, craft, weld, drive a truck, or build websites, it truly takes a village. Let us know if you have any special skills you can contribute to the band.

How To Sign Up

Visit www.pfisd.net and click on the departments tab and select "Volunteer". Follow the on screen instructions and submit a background check. Once your request has been processed you will be able to volunteer.

Pit Crew

A group of parents that work behind the scenes unloading, building and moving percussion instruments and props. These parents are a vital part of the success of the marching band, and often have the most fun being behind the scenes!





Private Lessons

The quality of the musical ensembles at Connally High School is reflected by the quality of its members. Every student musician plays a vital role in the success of the program. We celebrate the work of your child and want to encourage you to make a small investment in their future.

One of the most important ways to improve as a musician is through private lessons. There is no substitute for weekly sessions of individualized instruction by an instrument specialist. Private lesson instructors serve as an ideal model and mentor to assist in your child's improvement in the areas of tone, technique and general musicianship. The helpful hints or minor adjustments suggested by the instructor can greatly improve your child's playing ability.

Private instrument lessons are a small investment that helps insure your child's success. Times are arranged convenient to your child's schedule and prices for instruction time are reasonable.

If you would like to sign up for private lessons, please fill out the Google form at this address:

<https://forms.gle/hK4idWvH3ivL6qbo6>



Spring Dates

*Specific dates and times can be found on the included calendar

New Member Camp

Occurs in April on Middle School Campuses

As summer approaches the anticipation for marching season begins to build. New Member camp marks the official start to marching season as we bring together all of our new members for marching band orientation. A chance to make new friends and meet the new leadership team. Please wear our rehearsal attire.

Spring Training

**Occurs in May
Connally High School**

Spring Training brings together all the new and returning members for rehearsals, filled with marching, music, and games.

The morning will consist of marching and visual exercises indoors. Although the marching will not be as strenuous as summer band, students are advised to eat breakfast to keep their energy up through lunch.

During lunch students will eat with their sections. Your section will quickly become an integral part of your band family.

The afternoon will be a music block. Students will be provided music during the rehearsal, but will need to bring a binder to keep their music together, and a pencil to make notes. Students who play Tuba, Baritone, or French Horn will need only their mouthpiece as they will be assigned marching instruments to play on. All other sections are expected to bring their personal instrument to marching rehearsals unless directed by the Band Directors.

Rehearsal Attire

A white T-shirt, athletic shorts, and athletic (closed-toed) shoes are required components of the rehearsal uniform.

Parent Orientation

Occurs in May
Connally High School

Parents gather to learn what is in store for the upcoming marching season. New parents get a chance to meet veteran members, and veteran members reunite to prepare for the new season. You will receive information on all of the events for marching season, hear about fundraisers, and volunteer opportunities, and meet the new Booster Board members.

At the end of this meeting parents will be treated to the Cougar Band's first performance of the new season.



Registration Day

Occurs in Late July
Connally High School

On One Stop Shop students will register for the band, pick up their summer uniform, performance attire, and supplies, as well as be fitted for their marching uniform.

This is the time to make final payments on student fees. If you have trouble making this payment, please contact the head director before arriving for One Stop Shop.

All students need to attend this day so that they may be included in the band roster, and start the season with all of their supplies.



Summer Dates

*Specific dates and times can be found on the included calendar

Percussion Camp

2nd to last week in July

Connally High School
Monday - Friday
9:00am-5:00pm
Percussion Students only

Colorguard Camp

2nd to last week in July

Connally High School
Monday - Friday
7:00am-5:00pm
Color Guard Students only

Summer Band

Begins the last week in July
Monday - Friday

Connally High School
7:00am-5:00pm

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 7:00am - 11:00am | Visual Rehearsal (Outside) |
| 11:00am - 12:00pm | Lunch |
| 12:00pm - 1:00pm | Masterclasses (Inside) |
| 1:00pm - 2:30pm | Sub Sectionals (Inside) |
| 2:30pm - 3:30pm | Sectionals (Inside) |
| 3:30pm - 4:00pm | Snack and Transition |
| 4:00pm - 5:00pm | Marching Ensemble (Outside) |

*Times are subject to change

Rehearsal Equipment

Instrument with mouthpiece
All accessories
Water Jug filled with water
Sunscreen
Hat, sunglasses, Sunscreen
Binder with all music and a pencil
Percussionists will need to bring their
stick bag with all mallets and sticks

Rehearsal Attire

White T-shirt
Athletic shorts
Athletic (closed-toed) shoes
*No Converse or Vans

Summer Band

Summer band comprises half of the rehearsal time allotted for the marching season. Your attendance, and subsequently health are vital to the success of the band program.

Rehearsals during summer band will be split between indoor and outdoor time. Students should plan to spend time outdoors acclimating to the weather prior to summer band as well as preparing their diet and hydration. Should a student become ill due to dehydration/heat, that student will be monitored and appropriate measures will be taken. Students with an extended illness may be asked to return home for the day to be cared for by the parent. Continual illness may require a conference with the parents to discuss the students diet and daily routine. The Connally Band will provide ample water breaks and additional water to assist students with the Texas heat.

The mornings will consist of marching and visual exercises outdoors. Students are advised to eat a healthy breakfast to keep their energy up through to lunch. During lunch, students will eat with their sections and will need to pack a lunch.

The afternoon block will consist of sectionals, masterclasses, and ensemble rehearsals. Students will receive specialized instruction on their instruments during sectionals and masterclasses. Guest teachers will assist the band staff during these rehearsals. For ensemble all students will get back together to combine the work that was done in sectionals, and masterclasses. Parents are encouraged to arrive ten minutes early to the end of each rehearsal to see the work their student has put in during the day. During the school year the last ten minutes of rehearsal are a chance for your student to run through the show. We refer to these as “Parent Performances” so drop by a little early for a special show!

At the end of each rehearsal students will need some time to help teardown rehearsal equipment (we need everyone’s help!), pack, and walk to be picked up. The marching arts require a significant amount of equipment and for that reason we ask that all students help put up equipment after rehearsal. Please expect 10-15 minutes for your student to assist with clean up before being ready for pick up. Parents are welcome to come into the band hall to meet the directors during this time.

Football Games

First Half

The first half of each football game, students cheer and support the team while mentally preparing for halftime (Showtime). During the second quarter the band will move to the track to warm up and prepare to put on a show. During this time only parents who are assisting with set-up are allowed with the band, but feel free to watch from a distance.

Second Half

Students have fun and enjoy the football game experience. Students will play the fight song from the track as the football team re-enters the field and then file back into the stands. Please refrain from visiting with your student during this time as it interrupts the logistics of getting the band ready to play.

Halftime

Showtime! This is the parents' chance to show their support. Some like to move to the center of the stands under the pressbox for a better view. Be loud and show our students how much you appreciate their hard work.

A Few Notes

Only Chaperones are allowed into the band section during a game. This is for the safety of your child and the instruments they have with them.

No food or drinks (besides water). Food and sugary drinks can stain or damage the uniforms and equipment.

Photo buttons are a great way to show your support and help match parents to students.





Marching Competitions

Marching competitions are a unique experience. A chance to perform for a crowd of people who love band. The marching contest experience is very different from the Football performance.

Double check the list on the website/itinerary of what is needed for the contests. Anything extra that makes those bus rides more comfortable is appreciated (like those neck pillows to help with all of those bus naps, or snacks to hold them over until meals).

It truly takes a village! Hundreds of students, instruments, uniforms, and meals need to move as one. Our students can never have too much support during marching contests. Whether you feel most useful providing food and water, watching over students, mending uniforms, loading a truck, or hauling gear we could use your help. Keep an eye out for volunteer sign-ups for a chance to be a part of our Cougar Band!

Keep an eye on the email list, website, Facebook postings, notes coming home with your student, etc. as lots of fun stuff will be happening this month! Watch those grades, be extra certain you are getting enough sleep and studying when you can. Enjoy the chances to show off what you've been learning.



Additional Information

Weekly Marching Rehearsals

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| Monday | 5:00pm - 7:30pm |
| Tuesday | 5:00pm - 7:30pm |
| Thursday | 5:00pm - 7:30pm |
| Friday | 4:30pm - 5:20pm |
| Saturday | 7:00am - 5:00pm thru 8/29 |

*Times are subject to change

Student Pick Up

For the safety of all students please pick up your student in the student pick up lane in front of the Performing Arts Center. Do not pick up your student behind campus. There will be students unloading buses, equipment, and our trailer. Cars in the back can hold up the band.



Band Sibling Program

Coordinated by our Band Student President, all new members will receive a band sibling. This is your students go to for advice as they navigate their first year as a Connally Cougar. Parents are encouraged to meet the parents of their students Band Sibling. Veteran parents help tremendously when navigating your first year.

Spirit Send Off

Celebrate your students' work by meeting with other parents to send our students off on contest days. Signs, bells, horns, and voices all cheering for our students as they depart for marching contests. Park across from campus to take part in a Spirit Send Off.



Marching Uniform Guide

Marching Band uniforms will be sized before summer band camp. Band uniforms will be stored at school in the uniform storage area.

Students will be held financially responsible for the uniform(s) and all components.

Students will **pick up uniforms from the storage room or Z rack at least 15 minutes prior to report time** for any event. Students should follow the posted pick up/return guidelines. Students not properly hanging the uniform will receive a community service assignment.

Always wear and treat your uniform with pride. **The uniform should be worn as a complete unit at all times** when in public. The only exception to this will be when a director instructs you that you may remove your hat and/or coat. Loading crews may be exempt from wearing the uniform during loading/unloading procedures.

No horseplay or running in uniforms. Do not run while in uniform! Inappropriate language should NEVER occur while in uniform.

The black band performance shirt, shorts, black band shoes and black socks are to be worn under your uniform. This will be part of pre-performance inspections.

Wash your hands and neck before wearing uniform. **Jewelry, hair ribbons, make-up and nail polish are unacceptable** while in uniform (exception- ladies wear a blue ribbon with the summer band uniform). These items hinder the uniform appearance of the band.

Band students with **long hair will need to put it up before loading the bus**. Hair must not touch the collar of the jacket and must be above the top of the ear or pulled behind it. No visible hair on forehead. **No hairspray, perfume, spray deodorant, febreze, etc. around uniforms.** This should be taken care of prior to putting on the uniform.

No consumption of food and drinks (other than H₂O) while in uniform without permission.

Do not touch the plumes, and when necessary, manipulate the shakos by the brim.

Be wary of where you lean or sit, and what it will do (i.e. rough surfaces, dirty walls or handrails).



Beyond Marching Season

As marching season draws to a close we have numerous performance opportunities for our students. Whether you have a student performing or you are just looking for a family night out. Come experience all the Connally Band has to offer.



Region Band

Similar to the All-District process your student experienced in middle school, the All-Region process starts in summer band and culminates in a contest held during November. Students audition independently for spots in the All-Region Band.



Percussion Ensemble

The Concert Percussion Ensemble is made up of all percussionists and pianists who perform some of the finest percussion ensemble literature written. The members of this ensemble have the opportunity to explore numerous percussive instruments and various styles

and techniques. Students in the Percussion Ensemble study under the direction of dedicated percussion instructors. The Connally Band is privileged to have a variety of traditional and nontraditional percussion and mallet instruments on which the students learn and perform.



Winter Guard

The indoor competing wing of the Color Guard. Students perform in gymnasiums across the state. Containing all of the pageantry of a marching show packed into a five minute show. Guard students get up close and personal to show off the skills they have learned.



Jazz Band

Improvisation and swing charts are the heart of the Connally Jazz program. Jazz students all learn to solo. This is a gigging ensemble, look for them across the district as they perform for our community.

Solo and Ensemble

Competition for solo and ensemble, both regional and state, is sponsored by UIL. This event is required for all Wind Ensemble members and encouraged for all band students. Solos and Ensembles should be selected in November at the end of marching season. Students may perform in up to two events, either two solos on different instruments, two ensembles, or one of each. The regional competition is held in February. Each student receives a handout prior to registering that outlines the responsibilities of the student. Upon signing this, the student agrees to uphold these responsibilities. Most solos will require students perform with a professional accompanist. Accompanists are provided through the school and begin rehearsal in January.



Concert Uniform Guide

Tuxedos and Dresses

Students will be held financially responsible for the uniform(s) and all components.

Concert Uniforms will be issued in November to students in the Wind Ensemble.

Concert uniforms will be stored at school in the uniform storage area.

Boys will be responsible for their own shoes, prescribed tuxedo shirt (wingtip collar, pleats, and no ruffles), studs and cufflinks (optional).



Alterations

The band boosters and uniform team will perform the initial uniform alterations. Never attempt to alter the uniform yourself.

Keep the jacket zipped while hanging to retain the shape of the coat.

Always hang the pants by the crease, careful to avoid wrinkles, and lock the dowel into the metal catch to keep the pants secure.

Label your uniform garment bag. Uniform crew may label these for you. All marching uniforms are cleaned at the same time to prevent unequal discoloration and fading.

Concert Black

Solid Black, full length dress pants or slacks (please no leggings or denim)

Solid Black, long sleeve dress shirt or solid black, long sleeve, "opaque" blouse.

Black Dress Shoes, or Marching Shoes w/long black socks. Ladies, flats are acceptable, however, please do not wear open toe shoes or heels.

No colored nail polish.

Only jewelry should be stud type earrings.

Concert Etiquette

Please turn off or silence all **electronic devices** and remove hats upon entering the concert hall. We have a remarkable facilities. Please help preserve our facilities for future generations by not bringing **food or drink** into the concert hall.

Clapping is the appropriate way to show your appreciation. When the conductor and performers enter, and at the conclusion of a piece please refrain from yelling, or whistling.

All performances are professionally recorded, please **remain in your seat** and **wait to enter or exit** the hall between pieces while the audience is clapping (our concert hall doors can be very loud). Moving around the hall, standing, or opening the doors distracts the performers and audience.

Watch the conductor when the music stops. If they do not lower their hands, or step off the podium, the piece may not be over. Some musical works have several parts or movements. To help students maintain their focus between movements please wait to applaud until all movements have been performed.

Parents should keep **small children** seated with them. If children become restless please move them to the outer hallway. Everyone would love to hear their children's performances free from nearby talking and distractions. If you need to have a conversation with someone, please feel free to do so outside in the lobby.

Online Etiquette

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 Instagram, Facebook, photo sharing, emailing, 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 PflSD teaching staff or band members, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other bands. Such incidents will result in review by the principal (or administrator) and may lead to probation or dismissal from the band at the discretion of the director.



ConnallyBand.com