

# **Countryside High School Band and Guard Handbook**

## **PREFACE**

Music is one of the primary expressions of every culture. It is a functional art and a science. As such, it must be creatively cultivated, skillfully mastered, emotionally appreciated, and intellectually understood. A well-balanced music program will foster attitudes of cooperation, leadership, creativity, as well as self and group discipline.

It is the goal of the Countryside High School Bands to be a high quality marching, concert, and visual ensemble, capable and worthy of representing the school, the city of Clearwater, Pinellas County, and the State of Florida and place in the nation and even internationally. This is an energetic and idealistic goal. There is, obviously, a responsibility to continue a tradition of excellence and purpose through dedication, devotion, and hard work.

The Band Booster Organization exists to support the band program and does so by supplementing State and Federal Funds to fulfill the schedule of activities and needs of the band.

Behind every superior band is an active Band Booster group. Many of the good and necessary activities cannot be funded by State and Federal Funds. In order to be active enough to challenge and satisfy our students, we are compelled to supplement funding. Parents are expected to take an active part in the Band Booster Organization.

***All band members and parents are urged to read the entire handbook carefully to avoid conflicts with the policies and rules stated herein.***

## **ENSEMBLES**

### **Marching Band**

The Countryside High School Marching Band is comprised of the members from the Symphonic Band as well as the Color Guard and Percussion ensembles. The Marching unit meets at least two nights per week and members are evaluated on their participation in and performance of both rehearsals and performances. Contemporary marching band activities are emphasized. The activities give the student an opportunity to grow musically and personally through participation at football games, parades, competitions, festivals, etc. Although members are encouraged to participate, unless there is a physical problem, marching band is not mandatory. Attendance at out-of-school rehearsals and performances is required. Those students who choose to participate in a fall sport will be released from conflicting rehearsals at the discretion of the director only. In order to perform with the marching band, or any other interscholastic extracurricular student activity, you must maintain a GPA of at least a 2.0. Consult your Student Handbook for specific grade point averages. In addition to the above, all requirements of the Florida High School Activities Association must be met.

### **Symphonic Band**

Symphonic Band provides students with the study of band literature through rehearsal and performance. This course provides instruction to highly motivated and talented students who are capable of independent interpretation of medium to difficult music (grades III - VI). It offers development of musicianship, tone production, and performance techniques beyond the middle school level. The analysis of music theory, form, style, and history is included in the performance preparation of varied literature. Attendance at out-of-school rehearsals and performances is required.

### **Jazz Band**

Jazz Band is a select band of limited instrumentation, which performs a very diverse range of music. The band provides students with an understanding of styles, performance techniques and representative literature which includes contemporary popular music, big band, fusion, Dixieland, and jazz. This ensemble develops performance, improvisation, and stylistic interpretation skills through the study of a wide selection of literature. Attendance at out-of-school rehearsals and performances is required.

### **Indoor Percussion**

The Indoor Percussion provides those students who perform a percussion instrument an extensive exposure to quality percussion literature and basic skills needed in performance. Rehearsal will consist of, not only the percussion parts included within the ensemble, but rehearsal of literature unique to percussion instruments alone. Attendance at out-of-school rehearsals and performances is required.

### **Indoor Color guard**

The Indoor Color guard is open to all members who have auditioned. Auditions will be posted and open to all Countryside High School students. It will provide all members with the basics of flag, rifle, and saber skills along with an introduction and understanding of instrumental music. Attendance at out-of-school rehearsals and performances is required. Countryside has two units that both compete with the F.F.C.C. and the open division competing in the **Winter Guard International**.

## **Attendance**

Band is a very special organization. It is one of the most active organizations at Countryside High School and as such, demands members of special character. The band is a voluntary organization and no one is forced to join. Therefore, it must be your desire to participate in all rehearsals and performances (except in cases of extreme illness, death in the family, etc.). Failure to comply means you are no longer interested in remaining a member. A master schedule is available to all parents and students. Performances and rehearsals scheduled on less than a ten- (10) day notice are negotiable.

### **Excused Absences from Rehearsal**

In case of personal illness or severe illness or death in the family, students should call Countryside High School (725-7956) as early as possible. If you are absent from school the day of rehearsal, email Mr. Parrulli at [parrulliv@pcsb.org](mailto:parrulliv@pcsb.org) . It is imperative that your music be on hand for substitutes. Verification of an excused admit is all that is required to be excused. The

director and/or the administration will review appointments or personal problems. You should try to make appointments on days other than rehearsal and performance days.

### **CHECK YOUR CALENDAR!!!!!!**

Work and/or transportation should not result in absence from rehearsals and will not be approved as excused absences. The director will phone employers about conflicts when necessary. **If you know of an absence, a letter from the parent must be turned in to the Band Director one (1) week prior to the date in question.** If you work out problems in advance, you should never need to have an un-excused absence!!!

#### **Un-excused Absences from Rehearsal**

Any student receiving an un-excused absence from rehearsal will receive a zero for that rehearsal grade. Be responsible and take care of matters ahead of time; this is part of becoming an adult.

#### **Absences from Performances**

**Performances are exam grades.** The director must approve any absence in advance. Any absences which are not brought to the directors attention **one (1) week prior to the performance** will be considered un-excused (exceptions include health related emergencies). Un-excused count as zeros for a major exam grade. Written assignments may be given to reconcile an excused or un-excused absence.

STUDENTS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE TO MAKE UP REHEARSALS WHETHER THEY ARE EXCUSED OR NOT. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT OUR PERFORMANCE IS HURT WHETHER YOUR ABSENCE IS OR IS NOT EXCUSED. EITHER WAY, YOU HAVE MISSED IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THAT PERFORMANCE.

#### **Athletic Conflicts**

At Countryside, we believe that it is important for students to experience as many activities as possible during their high school career. So that both students and the school groups can be successful, the following guidelines must be observed. Students who participate in Countryside athletics are to split band rehearsals 50/50 with school sports practices. Both the coach and the Band Director should be aware of a student's location. If a conflict arises where there is a sports practice at the same time as a band performance, the student should perform with the band. If a game occurs at the same time as a band practice, the students should participate in the game. In cases where a band performance and a game coincide, the student may choose without penalty, the activity he or she wishes.

#### **Rehearsal Procedure**

Each musician is responsible for arriving at rehearsal in time to get all music and equipment ready for rehearsal, warm-up and time prior to the start time of rehearsal. The band room will be open a minimum of fifteen (15) minutes prior to the announced rehearsal or report time. You need to be early to be on-time!! The Drum Majors or Band Director may conduct warm-up. Regardless of who does it, the student has the same responsibility toward serious effort, careful tuning and submissive attitudes. When there is someone on the podium, you may not talk or cause a disturbance. When the director steps off the podium you may talk about music matters when directed to do so. Students are to remain in their seats and are not to get up and walk around. For after school rehearsals, breaks will be given at least every 15 - 30 minutes. Students are expected to be in formations ready to continue rehearsal at the appointed time. Students may

not leave school grounds during breaks. As rehearsal comes to an end, do not pack up your equipment until released. There is a need to remind the band of matters to be taken care of. These matters deserve your undivided attention.

## **Games and Performances**

Policies enforced at football games and all performances are designed for your safety, reputation, and good name of the Countryside High School Band.

- Before each game, you, your instrument, and your uniform are subject to an inspection. The director and the section leaders will do inspection.
- At home games, be prepared to go directly from inspection to the track.
- For away games, inspection will be held prior to our departure or after our arrival at performance sites. Deficiencies in items inspected will lower your grade for that performance. Items that will be checked for are: no visible jewelry, no facial hair, proper uniform items, black socks, drillmaster shoes and all items clean, instrument clean and lubricated.
- In the stands, we sit in sections, that is, according to instrument. Wait for signals from the Drum Major to be seated and remove your shako/hat.
- Cheers and fanfares must be rehearsed and approved by the director in advance of the game.
- Uniforms are to be worn properly at all times. Students may stand and cheer for touchdowns, however, you must be ready to play the fight song before and after the conversion.
- Cheer with the cheerleaders and avoid disorganized or section cheering. **Individual playing or beating percussion equipment in not permitted.**
- Attention should always be directed toward the drum majors or director when they stand in front of you.
- A break will take place during the third quarter of the game. The sooner you can return to the stands after half-time and be seated, the sooner you will be released. You must be back in place, ready to play at the directed time. There is the possibility that we might forego the break in some situations. If this happens, it is for your safety; take it in stride. Individuals not returning on time from break are choosing to forego the break at the following game. If you are not back in your section at the end of the prescribed break you will lose your privilege for the break at the following game or games.
- Treat the other bands, directors, and chaperones with respect and courtesy.

## **Uniforms**

Uniforms are to remain at the school, as they are the property of Countryside High School and the District School Board of Pinellas County. Students must handle their uniform with respect and care. We often see them being torn off hurriedly for whatever reason. Items obviously abused in this matter will be replaced at the student's expense. The approximate value of each uniform is \$470.00. Uniforms will be cleaned by the same cleaner at the same time. A portion of your band fees will be used for uniform cleaning. If additional cleaning monies are necessary, you will be notified.

## **Bus and Travel Policies**

Each student must have, on file, a copy of the parent permission form as well as the other mandated paperwork in order to travel with the band.

- You are expected to conduct yourself as an adult at all railroad crossings.

- You must remain in your seats while the bus is in motion. Nothing is to be thrown from the windows.
- Do not shout to passing motorists from the band bus.
- **All music players must be used with headphones at all times.**
- Emergency exit doors and windows are **NEVER** to be opened. These exits are for emergencies only and must not be tampered with.
- Wait for instructions before disembarking.
- You must act professional at all times when traveling with the band.
- Observe all safety rules while riding buses.
- Students will be asked to sign up for bus seating and/or room lists at announced time. Any student failing to sign the lists will be assigned a bus/room. Do not sign for someone else. Consider carefully the first time; do not change your name from list to list. Once the lists have established, students will not be allowed to change buses or rooms without permission from the director.
- Officers are responsible for calling role. Students are to remain seated while role is being called. No bus should leave stop until role has been called. Report that you are ready to move to the director.
- All students must travel to and from performances in buses with the band and must remain with the group unless you have special permission from the director. Any student who needs to depart a performance with his or her parent must submit a note signed by the parent to the director prior to the trip. Please make arrangements to have someone return your uniform and/or instrument to school.
- When departing the bus, band members must be in proper dress; that is whatever the director says is appropriate for the time.
- Conduct of students in a restaurant should be subdued and courteous. All members are responsible for leaving the restaurant in clean condition. Officers will check to make sure this is done.

### **Booster Organization**

PLEASE BE AN ACTIVE BAND BOOSTER!!!!

We know that in many cases both parents work. Everyone can do something during the year to help the group. If every family assists in at least one activity per year the band will benefit tremendously. Booster meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 P.M. In the band wing. We need 100% participation on events and fundraisers.

### **Music and Folders**

Music distributed to you is similar to checking out a book in the media center. It is expected that you will take proper care of the music and return it in good condition. Write comments on your music in pencil. **DO NOT** fold it. Keep the music in the folders and folio cabinets provided for you. **Not the instrumental storage area.** Keep marching music together on a flip folder. See the librarians for music you do not have. We will provide you with initial copies of music. If you lose it, there will be a replacement charge. If an officer finds your music carelessly abandoned, there will be a charge for you to retrieve it.

### **Financial Obligation**

Part of our budget is funded by the school system. The remaining portion of the budget comes in the form of fund raising and user fees. For this reason, it is very important that all the members of the ensembles pull their own weight financially by participating in fund raising activities and by paying their band fees on time. See the director about any problems, which will be held in confidence.

### **Band Camp**

All students that participate in the marching band are required to attend Band Camp to prepare for the upcoming marching season. Students who are on the rosters but fail to show up for camp will be placed as an alternate. Newly transferred students who have no knowledge of the scheduled activities, will be worked into the band if there is space. Otherwise, they will become alternates until there becomes space in the formations. Fees collected at Band Camp will be used for items essential for participating in the performances. Items such as clinicians, T-shirt, cleaning, etc. are covered with this initial fee.

### **School Instruments**

School owned instruments may be used with the permission of the director. They may be used as long as the user is a responsible, participating band member. Pinellas County rental charges are \$35.00 for a semester and \$60.00 for the school year. The user will be responsible for any damage that is not considered normal wear. You must fill out a instrumental rental form for these instruments before you take them from the band room.

### **Grading Policy**

Grades are based on a combination of rehearsal/performance, attendance, completion of course objectives, progress of an individual on his or her instrument, written and performance exams and attitude and cooperation.

### **Illegal Behavior**

**Students found using illegal substances such as; drugs/alcohol/tobacco on school grounds or school/band trips will be removed from band for their remaining stay at Countryside High School with further discipline initiated by the administration.**

### **Officers**

Band officers will consist of, but not limited to, a Band President, Vice-President, Quartermaster, Secretary, Historian, Librarian and Drum Major. Officers may be elected or appointed by the director depending on the quality and availability of candidates and demands of the position.

**The director may remove officers from office if they are not an asset to the program.**

## **Parent and Student Acknowledgement**

This handbook has been written so the students and parents know what behavior is expected and prohibited at band and band related activities. It is also helpful if the parents are aware of the band rules and expectations to help support the students from home. Failure to return this acknowledgement will not relieve a student or the parent(s) from the responsibility for the knowledge for the contents of the handbook.

I have read and understand the contents of this handbook and what is expected of me as a student and parent.

**Parent/Guardian's Signature**

**Date**

**Student's Signature**

**Date**

**(Print) Student's Name**

Please print this page and have your child return to Mr. Parrulli after signing the acknowledgement.