

Cypress Springs High School Panther Band

Handbook

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Cypress Springs Panther Band

Motto:

Pride, Respect, and Purpose

Introduction

Welcome to Cypress Springs High School! Being a member of the band will create life long memories, friends, and abilities that will last you the rest of your life. The handbook is put together to answer questions you might have about being in the band at Cypress Springs. As with any large group, there are rules and guidelines that must be adhered to, but the rewards are many and there are no limits to the success to be achieved as individuals and as an organization. You most likely have been involved in band activities throughout junior high and are well prepared for an awesome high school career. Many of the activities are similar to Middle School, but on a bigger scale. For instance, All-Region Band, Solo and Ensemble, Concert and Sightreading Contest are all activities that continue throughout high school. There are also some new experiences like Marching Band, Student Leadership, Jazz Ensemble, Chamber Music . . . These activities are included in the High School Experience as are other ample opportunities to enrich you as a musician and person. All that is required is desire, a good attitude, and determination. Once again, welcome to the Cypress Springs Panther Band, we know you will enjoy it!

II. Overall View

Purpose:

To become one of the strongest Band programs in the nation.
(positive, supportive, and competitive)

To become a vital part of the school's identity, spirit, and pride.

To foster and develop musicianship, cooperative skills, leadership skills, self-discipline, personal sense of responsibility, goal setting, time management and feelings of accomplishment.

To enhance the enjoyment of music for each student so that the intrinsic rewards of all music will become more meaningful, whether the student is performing, rehearsing, practicing or listening from the audience.

Vision:

The band program will teach continuous development, improvement and refinement of fundamental performance skills. These skills will be applied to the general of the band program. Every rehearsal or performance of any kind will be of the highest quality. Every member of the band bears equal responsibility to be present, punctual, prepared and positive. Each student will demonstrate an all out effort to achieve the goals set forth by the director in each rehearsal or performance.

Overall View cont.

Competition will be an integral part of the band program, but only a part. Through competition, individual performance should reach a higher level than might be achieved without the challenge of a competitor. Success will be determined by improvement rather than ranking. If each competitor's performance improves as a result of the competition, then everyone involved actually contributes to the success of those who are judged "best", and should share in the celebration. In this manner, every participant "wins" and receives benefit from the event. If competitors seek to win at any cost, then there can be only one "winner", and everyone involved runs the risk of becoming a "loser". This concept of one victor and many victims is destructive to the learning process and is to be avoided.

Although the policies and guidelines listed in this manual are subject to review and change at anytime by the director, this manual is intended to answer most questions that may arise. It is the intention of the director in every decision to be consistent and fair to all concerned. Each circumstance is different and some situations will be handled individually between the student, director, and parents.

III. Expectations

As directors of the Cypress Springs Band, we expect sincere effort. Rehearsal schedules are posted well in advance and streamlined as much as possible. We do not rehearse for the sake of rehearsal, we only rehearse so that improvement is the result. The band is a large team, and that team cannot achieve unless all members are present and extending their best effort. **Unavoidable absences will occur but are to be limited if at all possible. Scheduled absences (appointments) are to be avoided during stated rehearsal times to help the group move forward. Students involved in other activities are responsible for communicating their schedule conflicts to sponsors of both activities in advance to avoid conflicts. Absences must be communicated to directors in advance. Failing to report absences or not providing documentation for an absence can result in consequences. These can range from limited performance time to exclusion of student from the spring trip or potentially removal from the performing group. These consequences are at the discretion of the director. The directors will make every effort to be fair to all parties involved and consistent in judgement. Considerations will include reasonable circumstances, but will not include rank, positions of leadership, or chair order. When any absences occur, the student will be responsible for making up that time within 6 days.** Chair order or ability levels should not be used as leverage to miss rehearsals or take liberties within rehearsals. Such behavior is a bad example and an abuse of privileges bestowed by the directors and will be dealt with in a more severe manner. We, as directors, want band to be rewarding for all involved and will keep this goal in mind with every decision.

Band members will be expected to be exemplary students at all times in all classes. Academic performance, citizenship, attitude, and behavior are included in this expectation. We must meet this goal in order to establish the status and credibility necessary for school-wide support (pride) of the band. Students who are written up, receive DMC, or are suspended will face a consequence in band.

The band will develop an expectation of its members to insure and maintain academic eligibility. Being challenged by course work is normal. Failing grades are usually a result of not looking ahead or not taking appropriate corrective action, rather than an inability. There will be many resources within the band to help students through difficult situations, but the responsibility is on the students in need to ask for help.

IV. CSHS Band Mission Statement

“Our mission as members of the Cypress Springs Panther Band is to create and maintain healthy relationships through mutual respect while developing and applying skills to prepare us for every aspect of life.” - Leadership Class 2006

V. Audition Process

Spring/Summer Band for Fall Tryout Requirements (percussion included)

Major Scale Requirements

Symphonic *All 12 Full Range Score of 78 (six scales of 6 or higher and six of 7 or higher)

Non-Varsity *8 Major Scales of your choosing

Sub-Non Varsity *6 Major Scales of your choosing

* see scale score definitions (next page)

Scales will be played during a designated week in May at the convenience of the students and directors at the end of the Spring Semester. Students scoring higher than the minimum on each scale or performing more than the required number of scales will have a better chance of placing higher in each band. Students may perform arpeggios, scales in 3^{rds}, and Clarke studies for extra credit IF they have played the minimum requirements.

Chromatic Scale Requirements

Symphonic Score of 20 (Possible 30)

Non-Varsity Score of 15 (Possible 30)

Etude Requirements

Symphonic Only A short region band style etude will be passed out at the end of the Spring Semester. Students will perform this etude within the first week of Summer Band for placement within and chair placement in Symphonic Band for the Fall Semester.

Concert Bands – students will perform an excerpt from the upcoming marching show music.

Spring Semester/Concert Tryout Requirements

Etude Requirements

Symphonic Students will perform 9 cuts, plus one redo cut, over the length of the Fall semester. The 9 cuts are the 3 region band etudes divided into thirds. At the completion of the 9 cuts, students will be allowed to make up their lowest cut. This will REPLACE the lowest score, even if it is not a higher score. Students that are in Symphonic Band or Non-Varsity classes can audition for Symphonic Band for the Spring Semester. For students who do not earn a spot in Symphonic, their auditions will be taken into consideration for chair placement in Concert Band

Concert I Students will be required to play 8 Major Scales, a short region band style etude, and perform a sight-reading.

Concert II Students should play as many scales as possible.

THE PLACEMENT OF ANY STUDENT IN ANY GROUP CAN ALSO BE AT DIRECTOR DISCRETION. REASONS WHICH COULD RESULT IN A STUDENT NOT BEING IN THE ENSEMBLE THEY AUDITIONED INTO COULD BE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, PERFORMANCE, BEHAVIOR, GRADES, OR COMPLIANCE.

Scale Score Definitions

1. wrong notes, stops, starts. . .
2. eventually right notes, stops, starts
3. some guessing but mainly right notes
4. mostly right notes, some slows (one wrong note)
5. all right notes, steady tempo, no slows or stops
6. right notes, steady tempo, and great sound, top to bottom
7. right notes, great sound, quicker tempo for your instrument
8. right notes, great sound, nearing top tempo for your instrument
9. Melodic in Nature
10. Incredible (you should tryout for the Houston Symphony)

Chromatic Scale Score Definitions

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1 - 5 | wrong notes, stops, starts. . . |
| 6 - 10 | eventually right notes, stops, starts |
| 11 - 15 | all right notes, steady tempo, no stops or re-starts |
| 16 - 20 | right notes, steady tempo, and great sound, top to bottom |
| 21 - 25 | right notes, great sound, quicker tempo for your instrument |
| 26 - 30 | Melodic in Nature |

What does my Region Cut Score mean?

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 0 | Student is reading the material |
| 1-10 | Wrong Notes, Wrong Rhythms, Poor Tone Quality
<i>Basic understanding of rhythm and notes are demonstrated</i> |
| 11 - 20 | Some Wrong Notes, Wrong Rhythms, segments of the auditions demonstrate steady pulse |
| 21 - 30 | Mostly correct notes, however rhythm is still unsteady and below tempo, and tone quality is questionable |
| 31 - 40 | Mostly correct notes, however rhythm is still unsteady at times and a majority of the segment is still below tempo, and tone quality is still questionable |
| 41 - 50 | Correct notes, Okay rhythm, Good tone quality but tempo is still below marked range. Articulation is not well defined. |
| 51 - 60 | Correct notes, Correct Rhythm, Good Tone Quality, Tempo nearing marked range. Articulation is rough but somewhat evident. |
| 61 - 70 | Everything is technically correct, some musical aspects present however overall performance was mechanical in nature |
| 71 - 80 | Musical aspects are evident most of the time (phrasing and dynamics!) |
| 81 - 90 | Keep the dates open for Region Band Clinic and Concert – with a performance equal to this one in the audition room, one stands a good chances of qualifying at the Region Level |
| 91 - 95 | Area Look-out |
| 96 - 99 | All-State Material |
| 100 | You are a perfect Human specimen |

VI. HOW TO PRACTICE!!!!!!!!!!!!

Follow these steps daily:

- A. Long Tones – *tone development***
1. Listen for resonance and stability
 2. Breathe deeply, calmly, and in tempo
 3. Posture must be correct as in performance.
- B. Flexibility / Range**
1. Brass slurs must be smooth and unstrained or restricted.
 - a. Maintain energy of sound with air consistency.
 - b. The sound quality must be consistent throughout exercise.
 2. Woodwinds cover the range of the instrument.
 - a. Stress the fundamental notes and cover upper register daily.
 - b. Upper register should result as calmly as the lower register.
- C. Technique / Scales**
1. All twelve major scales and arpeggios should be a part of every practice session. Practice scales at a controllable tempo to maintain resonant sound.
 2. “Clark” studies or other materials from your lesson teacher to develop finger / slide technique as well as tone.
 3. Instrumental specific skills should be included in this portion. Examples: Clarinets covering break, articulation, etc.
- D. Specific material Preparation**
1. This could include band part, audition music, or solo and ensemble music.
 - a. Set specific goals for areas or measures in the music to cover or improve.
 - b. Work these “goal” areas at reduced tempos to ensure accuracy.
 - c. Reduce the rhythmic figures to elementary levels to help understanding.
 2. After working specific areas:
 - a. Play through the passage in the music that includes the area of concentration. This will give you a better understanding of how the selection fits into the entire piece and assist you in assessing your practice effectiveness.
 - b. Do not cover all necessary material on everyday. Rotate selections and styles from day to day.
- E. Sightreading**
1. Sightreading is an essential skill for every student.
 2. Tempos and styles should vary from day to day. Tempo and range should also be included in this section.
- F. Warm-down**
1. Make sure tone is still desirable.
 2. Helps to massage any tension or soreness away from the vibration area.
 3. Enjoy playing your instrument!

VII. Membership

Membership is gained into the band by enrolling in a band class with the approval of the band director. To operate the band in a competitive manner, dues are charged for the class, by the Booster Club. These dues must be paid on a yearly basis, and students are subject to placement on the Fines and Fees List for not paying dues. All issues with dues should be discussed with the Director. The band will organize fundraising events to help keep dues as low as possible. Only band members are allowed in the bandhall. Friends must wait outside. All members of the band will be expected to participate in all functions in which the band participates. The only exceptions to this rule are: a conflict with another school activity(*which needs to be prearranged before the start of the school year*), a health issue, or a specific activity has been designated “not mandatory” by the director. These conflicts are to be arranged and all sponsors are to be notified as soon as the conflict becomes apparent. Failure to participate or communicate conflicts in all functions of the band may result in reassignment of an alternate band class on the student’s schedule or a penalty/suspension in performance privileges, at the discretion of the director. Membership is a privilege, not a right!

VIII. Grading Policy

FALL SEMESTER

1 st SIX WEEKS:	25% memorization 25% playing assignments (region cuts and fundamentals)
2 nd SIX WEEKS:	50% Participation (prepared w/materials) 25% memorization 25% playing assignments (region cuts)
3 rd SIX WEEKS:	50% Participation (prepared w/materials) 25% Performance literature 25% playing assignments (technique) 50% Participation (prepared w/materials)

SPRING SEMESTER

4 th SIX WEEKS:	50% Participation (prepared w/materials) 25% Solo literature 25% Playing Performance literature
5 th SIX WEEKS:	50% Participation (prepared w/materials) 50% playing assignments (region cuts)
6 th SIX WEEKS:	50% Participation 30% Concert Literature 20% Playing Test (technique/Audition)

X. Private Lessons

1. All students are **strongly encouraged** to get involved with the private lesson program. Students may apply for private lesson scholarships through the Booster Club. Consideration for scholarship will include grades, work ethic, need, and attendance.
2. The directors take pride in the private lesson staff and strive to bring the most talented teachers available in the Houston area.
3. Private lessons occur once weekly for one-half hour or hour.
4. Private Lesson teachers are focusing on special needs of each individual student as well as assist in the preparation of Region Music, solos, ensembles etc.
5. Students benefit a great deal from the expertise and experience of our teachers and are challenged each lesson to reach the next level of playing.

MasterClasses

Through our fundraisers, we are able to offer students masterclasses with a professional teacher, free of charge. This small-group and instrument specific instruction is invaluable to our student's growth, and it is expected that all students attend these masterclasses. Masterclasses are designed to help student's grow on their instruments, as well as assist with Region Music, Solo and Ensemble, and concert literature.

Private Lesson Structure

(based on thirty minute time schedule)

I. Fundamentals (8-10 minutes)

A. Posture

1. Tall, straight, (UNRESTRICTED)
2. Feet Flat, (Methodical)

B. Air

1. Breathing (through nose effect)
2. Send air through instrument / not through embouchure

C. Embouchure

1. Evaluate efficiency of how the student is currently set up to play.
2. Student should focus on sound and feel
3. Everyone is different, but wrong is wrong. / **PLAY CORRECTLY!**

D. Hand Position is always correct, regardless of non-technical passages

E. Tone

1. Examples provided by teacher. Students gain by listening to teacher as well as being self-analytical
2. Teacher's goal is to improve student's tone every week by making the student more aware of characteristic tone quality.

II. Technique (12-15 minutes)

- A. Range - Flexibility
- B. Scale Studies
- C. Technical passages or tricky finger work involved in music or studies.

III. Prepared Material (10 minutes)

- A. Region / Band Music
- B. Solo and Ensemble
- C. Tryout Material

IV. Parent Involvement

- A. The teachers are asked to keep the parents involved in the following areas:
 1. concerns in playing – overall development of the student
 2. assignments

- B. The teachers are also requested to keep written records of what the students are covering during each lesson.

XI. Behavior / Discipline Expectations

1. Band students are expected to demonstrate model/exemplary behavior at all times while at Cypress Springs High School and while they are away as an organization representing our school.
2. Band students are to adhere to all school district guidelines (Code of Conduct) even during outside school day rehearsal or performance opportunities. Rehearsals, performances, and trips constitute an extension of the school day. Serious infractions, regardless of occurrence outside of the school day, will be referred to the front office personnel.
3. Students are to be prepared for rehearsal with all of the necessary materials. Instrument, music, mutes (if required for literature), and pencils are necessary for each student during the duration of each rehearsal. Water and proper attire for Marching Band.
4. Discipline during band rehearsal is more stringent than some other classroom situations because of the number of students involved. Conversation will not occur during rehearsal and will be considered a major offense. One person talking in a rehearsal prevents all members from concentrating on making required improvements.
5. Clothes during marching band need to facilitate the activity. A student wearing all black in August presents a health risk to his/herself and will not be allowed to participate in rehearsal. If the result is a loss of position in the marching band due to the missing of rehearsal time, this choice was made by the student and the student bears full responsibility. Also, shoes should be selected and worn that facilitate proper marching technique. Sandals, boots, flip flops, or shoes that do not allow or facilitate correct marching procedure, at the discretion of the director, will result in the student being asked to leave the rehearsal.
6. Clothes being worn to marching rehearsal need to be selected in good taste and judgment. Illegal substance t-shirts or adult product advertisements will not be permitted for rehearsal and these students will be asked to change or leave.
7. Severe discipline distractions could result in the student being removed from the performing ensembles, or the entire program, at the discretion of the director.
8. Bus travel behavior needs to allow for safe driving conditions for the driver. The allowance of the amount of sound is at the discretion of the driver and should be followed without question. All district bus travel guidelines apply during band trips. (No arms or body parts out of windows, stay seated in your seat . . .)
9. Students are never, at anytime, to adjust or relocate another individual's instrument or property. This will result in the strongest disciplinary action. Along these lines, it is **STRONGLY** recommended that **ALL** students get a combination lock for their locker in the Band Hall. **The band program and Cypress Springs High School are not responsible for items taken from a student's locker.**

XII. General Class Supplies

1. Students should be self reliant in obtaining all necessary materials. The phone numbers for several area music stores is available from the directors.
2. Brass players should have their own slide grease, valve oil, spray bottle (if required).
3. Woodwind players need to have no less than 3 well playing reeds. Cork grease, swabs, and all necessary care accessories should be available throughout class.
4. Percussionists should take the upmost care of instruments and mallets provided. Percussions should NEVER leave sticks, mallets, and accessory instruments out at the end of class.
5. PENCIL!
6. Each student is given their own copy of the music to practice at home and rehearse from at school. Students should NEVER share music.
7. A good attitude

XIII. Use of "School-Owned Instruments."

School owned instrument provided by the school are as follows: most Percussion instruments, Tubas, Baritones, Bass Trombones, French Horns, Baritone Saxophone, Tenor Saxophones, Bassoons, Specialty Clarinets (other than Bb), Oboes, and Piccolos.

1. Instruments will be checked out to students playing these instruments.
2. Professional line instruments will be issued to those students placing in higher chairs in the top groups at director's discretion.
3. General care of the instruments become the day to day responsibility of the individual checking them out.
4. Damage caused by the neglect or abuse of the individual will become the monetary responsibility of the individual checking out the instrument.
5. Normal wear and tear, chemical cleaning, and polishing will be the responsibility of the School District. Normal wear and tear or abuse / neglect will be the discretion of the director. Each individual agrees to this policy before the instrument is checked out.
6. Students are not to handle or play any instrument that is not checked out to them. The only exception to this policy are percussion students. Non-percussionist are not to touch, play, or handle percussion instruments unless instructed to do so by a director or are a member of an auxiliary group, such as the 'Indoor Drumline.' Strict disciplinary action will be taken on those individuals ignoring this policy.
7. Insurance on these instruments is the responsibility of the student. It is not required, but very highly recommended.

XIV. Instrument Storage

Instrument Storage lockers will be assigned to each student. Locker location and size will be dictated by the number of slots available for each instrument, and the number of students requiring storage. Materials for school and band may be kept in storage slots if space permits. Grades will be taken regularly to ensure sanitary conditions are being kept in lockers. Students who are unable to keep lockers orderly will lose storage privileges for all items except their instrument and music. Slots will be assigned at the beginning of the year. All locker adjustments must be made with approval of the director. Your locker is your responsibility to keep orderly. If you allow other students to store items in your assigned locker, it is your responsibility to keep their belongs tidy. Excessive decorating may be a reason for suspension of storage privileges at the discretion of the director. Valuables other than your instrument should not be kept in lockers. All valuables such as cash or jewelry should be kept with each individual student to insure their security. The band or school does not take responsibility for items misplaced or stolen from lockers. Students are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to put a combination lock on their locker.

XV. Summer Band Camp

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. In order to be prepared for performance at the football game the first week of school, we must have rehearsal during August. All high school bands in Cy-Fair ISD have required summer rehearsal. We begin learning the performance show immediately in August, therefore attendance by all students is critical. Failure to attend or communicate conflicts for Summer Band Camp may result in a student losing their spot in the performance show. All students attending Summer Band are not guaranteed spots in the drill. They will have an improved chance of earning a spot, but evaluations will be handled by the directors and spots awarded accordingly.

Rehearsals

All general rehearsal guidelines apply. All students are expected to be on time and prepared to improve at each rehearsal. Any student not cooperating during rehearsals may be asked to leave the rehearsal.

Meal times

Students need to bring a sack lunch from home during Summer Band Camp. Students are required to stay on campus and eat their lunch, and are expected to act in a courteous manner and be respectful to others and the building. Students not behaving will be asked to leave the campus and not return for summer rehearsals.

XVI. Marching Band

1. Participation

- A. Marching Band is a required component of the “Band Course” in which you are enrolled. It is required that you perform with the marching band unless there is another school (not club sport etc.) activity that is in *direct* conflict and you made previous arrangements with the directors **before the beginning of the school year**. Health concerns should also be addressed with the directors prior to the beginning of the year. Every student in band is required to have a physical. Students must also either have a free ECG given by CFISD, or have parents sign a form stating they do not consent to their child having the ECG. Cy-Fair provides the ECG’s at no cost. Participation in another school activity that conflicts with marching band should be discussed privately with the Director. Not participating in marching band due to another school activity will result in the student not earning a P.E. credit.
- B. The marching drill is designed during the summer months prior to the beginning of school. Unlike athletic activities, the number of performer’s in the show is arranged by the director. We use our best guess to get as many students on the field as possible. Please be aware that during the summer months, students move away from and into our attendance zone. This movement causes the band’s total enrollment to move up and down during the summer months and even during the school year. Because of the uncertainty of the numbers, the drill is written to facilitate approximately 90% of eligible students to perform. The remaining 10% of students become alternates in the performance drill. Alternates may earn a spot in the show by being on-time to all rehearsals and being academically eligible. Students can lose spots in the show by missing rehearsal, having a bad attitude, or failing classes.

2. Alternates

Alternates are contributing members of the band. They are guaranteed to perform in all aspects of the band’s performances except halftime and marching competitions. Students will be issued a uniform / instrument, ride the bus to performances, play “stand tunes” in the stands at the football games, and participate fully in all pep-rallies. Students could become alternates if their music is not memorized and has not been “passed-off” to a director. Students may also become an alternate for failing to attend a rehearsal or having an attitude not “conducive to

success” during class or rehearsal, at the discretion of the director. Students will become an alternate if they fail any classes.

3. Attendance

Attendance is required for every rehearsal. Attendance also means having a positive attitude, which is the only acceptable way to attend rehearsal. Scheduling of appointments or other activities during stated rehearsal times is sometimes unavoidable. For an absence to be considered excused, the student and parent must communicate with the staff. Staff will determine if the conflict is excusable. For example, a religious function would be excused. Absences should be kept to a **minimum** for the benefit of the entire group. The marching band cannot successfully rehearse without all “spots” being covered on the field. If someone is not present, an “alternate” will be placed in this spot for the rehearsal. If this alternate’s credentials (attendance and music memory) are superior to the person that was replaced, the spot will be awarded to the alternate.

1. **Failure to participate** in the marching band or severe discipline issues during the “marching season” could result in a forfeiture of the student’s privileges regarding the “spring trip,” at the discretion of the director.

2. Required Materials

A. Rehearsals

1. music
2. coordinate sheet/dot book
3. water
4. instrument
5. appropriate dress (cool and light) (*hat and sunglasses suggested*)
6. good attitude

Guidelines, Policies and Rules relating to football games

General

1. The band is present at football games to provide support for the football team and to add energy and excitement to the event. WE ARE PERFORMERS, and have the responsibility for:
 - A. cheering with the cheerleaders
 - B. playing the fight song
 - C. entertaining the spectators with appropriate music
 - D. performing at half-time
2. Anyone who is with the band, in uniform or not, represents our band, our school, our school district, and our community. With this in mind, it is clear that special behavior is required:
 - A. the uniform must be worn properly (as stated by the director) at all times
 - B. the uniform must be clean, pressed and properly fitted
 - C. It is an act of disrespect toward an organization for its uniform to be worn sloppily, incorrectly, or incompletely.
 - D. Students must be present for inspection before boarding the bus to travel to the game. Students should be wearing the uniform for this inspection, unless the directors specify that uniforms may be in a garment bag. Instruments and music will also be checked at this time. Squad leaders will conduct this inspection and are accountable for accuracy.
3. **Chaperones are required at all school functions, and we are fortunate to have parent volunteers that go to great lengths to help make our band successful. Our chaperones are to be treated politely and with respect at all times. They are human. In the event of a disagreement, students should cooperate with the chaperone, no questions asked. We can discuss any problem in private when we return to school. Failure to cooperate with a chaperone is a very serious discipline issue, and will be dealt with harshly.**
4. Our Band Boosters will serve water for student’s jugs after each halftime. Students may not leave the band area to get food or drinks. Food or drinks may not be brought to the band section by friends or family for your consumption. THERE IS NO EATING IN UNIFORM.

5. Students are to remain in columns throughout the entire game (seated or standing). The only exceptions will be to seek help (emergency) or to go to the restroom. (accompanied by a Band Booster)
6. **The band area will be reserved for band members and chaperones. Parents who need to speak to a band member should wait outside the band area while a chaperone finds the student, who can then go speak to his/her parents.**
7. Band Members should be careful to use appropriate language at all times. Vulgarity is never acceptable while representing the band.
8. Any band member who fails to follow these guidelines, policies and rules will be subject to disciplinary action.

Inspection

1. When asked, students will sit together in sections for inspection.
2. Squad leaders should see all parts of each person's uniform, instrument, and water jug. (Loading Crew is allowed to bring jacket and pants in their garment bag so they do not get dirty unloading.)
3. Squad leaders will inspect that student is not wearing makeup etc.
4. Squad leaders will report to a director on each person before each game.
5. You must bring a note from your parent before we leave school if you plan to leave with your parents from the game. The School District will allow you to leave with your parents, but not friends or other family members. Students will only be allowed to leave early for special reason.
6. Unacceptable items at inspection include: Jewelry, nail polish, face paint, decals, press on tattoos, decorations on instruments, flowers, mums (they always get messed up), brightly colored hair ribbons. (Some exceptions made for Homecoming Game and Pink Out Game)

Bus Travel to Stadium

1. All standard rules are enforced.
2. Bus captains will conduct roll call. Students should loudly verbally respond "present"
3. REMAIN SEATED, keep all body parts inside the bus and do not heckle people we pass on the street.
4. Keep voices down - no shouting, shrieking, etc.
5. Music may be played through headphones only.
6. Reserve the first few seats on each bus for chaperones and loading crew. The last seat on each bus should also be reserved for chaperones.
7. When chaperones or bus captains need to speak to you, for roll check or any other reason, everyone should be quiet immediately and stay silent until announcements are over.
8. At any railroad crossings, the bus will stop. Everyone must be absolutely quiet until the bus crosses the tracks.
9. When the bus turns onto the stadium parking lot, everyone should stop talking. No further talking should take place until the buses are parked and announcements are made.
10. The loading crew will establish the order in which instruments will be unloaded from the instrument bus. As soon as you have your instrument, line up for stadium seating.
11. Percussion are to unload instruments quickly and stack cases back by truck. Report to the gate as soon as possible in order to warm-up and troupe the band into the stands.

Entering the Stadium

1. As we enter the stadium, you will be in uniform, so put on your "game face"
2. Do not dance around on your way into the stands.
3. When you arrive at your seat, remain standing until you are given a signal to sit down.
4. Sit in a column, directly behind the person in front of you, and put your hatbox and instrument to your right.
5. Once seated, put away your hat and get ready to play.
6. Be alert so we can warm-up efficiently and be ready to play the Alma Mater and National Anthem.
7. Pay attention to the Good Sportsmanship League exchange midfield, announcing the names on the starting line-up, and introducing the home team cheerleaders.

Immediately after the moment of silence, the visiting band will play their school song, then the home band plays. The team will then enter the field while the bands play their fight songs. The national anthem is then played by the home band. We must sit/stand quietly and respectfully facing the other band while they play their school song. When we are visiting, we should stand and face the flag during the national anthem. *It is imperative that we be respectful during the performance of the "Star Spangled Banner."* Your hand moves to your heart at the first note of the national anthem. Singing along respectfully is appropriate.

In the Stadium

1. Stay in your assigned seat (do not stand on the seat)
2. Keep your instrument in your hand or have someone hold it briefly, do not set it down on the bleacher.
3. Stay involved with the activity on the field and be aware of events in the game.
4. When our team scores, you do not need to high five or cheer until you are hoarse, play the fight song.
5. Be prepared to play the fight song when our team moves into position to score.
6. We need to play several times during each quarter of the game. Be flexible with the order and as soon as you are informed of the next piece to play, get the music ready.
7. During the game we will demonstrate good sportsmanship by sending our officers to greet the other band. Cypress Springs representatives will be: Leaders, Officers, and Marchers of the Week. Marchers of the Week will go each week, Director will decide others.
8. WE MUST NOT START PLAYING while the cheerleaders are leading a cheer.
9. **WE WILL STOP PLAYING WHEN THERE IS AN INJURED PLAYER**
10. "Taps" is **NEVER** appropriate at a football game.
11. We will leave the stadium during the second quarter in order to prepare for our half-time performance.

Half-time

1. While on the field before half-time, we must look the same. Put on your "game face" and use correct posture.
2. If another band performs, we will watch respectfully without talking.
3. Move into "off the field" position of our entrance after the teams have left the sideline area.

Re-entering the stands

1. Get your water from the ice chests as you enter the stands.
2. Wait to open your drink until we are all in the stands and have taken off our hats together.
3. Uniforms are to stay on in their entirety unless you personally hear a director state differently.
4. During the third quarter, chaperones will take care of monitoring trips to the restroom.
5. We will be playing during the third quarter.
6. Toward the end of the game, we will ask for a trash pick up. You'll need to help clean up their own mess.
7. VISITORS WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE STANDS DURING THE 3RD QUARTER ONLY. CHAPERONES AND DIRECTORS MUST APPROVE ANY VISITORS (i.e. Alumni)

End of Game

1. At the end of the game, be prepared to play the Alma Mater and Fight Song with pride, win or lose).
2. Brass students need to do a proper warm-down.
3. We will exit the stands by rows, and we will not walk on the seats as we leave.

Bus Travel Home

1. Bus captains will conduct roll call, in accordance with state law, you must sit in your assigned spot
2. When the bus stops, listen for final instructions from the chaperones. You will be reminded to clean the bus and raise the windows.
3. **DO NOT EXIT THE BUS AND GET INTO A CAR TO LEAVE. ALL STUDENTS HELP UNLOAD. WE WILL DISMISS TOGETHER.**
4. Remember, we will group dismiss from the band hall when all the equipment is out of the buses or equipment trucks.
5. If we have a video tape of our performance, we will show it after we group dismiss.
6. Please arrange for a ride home *in advance* each week so that you do not have to call around to find someone to come get you and then wait even later for them to arrive at school.

Eligibility

Eligibility is determined by the State "UIL" rules. Students who are ineligible are still expected to attend practice to fulfill their "Physical Education Waiver" but will most likely be replaced by eligible students in the performance routine.

XVII. All-Region Auditions

Participation

All students are encouraged to participate in this activity. Students seeking leadership positions for the following year are required to audition. This can be an excellent way to earn points toward a letter jacket. Students who are unprepared for the audition will not be allowed to attend the audition at the discretion of the director. Students who attend the auditions only to fulfill the leadership requirement are not acting as leaders, and will not be treated as such. Members of the Symphonic Band are expected to participate fully.

Results

All students trying out for the All-Region / Area / State Organizations are to be commended. Many things can happen on the day of the auditions which are out of the student's control. Growth and maturity are certain to be derived from the hard work it requires to prepare the etudes. As long as improvement has occurred, the entire Region benefits from the experience of the audition. It is healthy to desire membership into these groups, but personal satisfaction of a "job well done" should be the goal.

XVIII. Solo and Ensemble

Participation

All students are encouraged to participate in this activity. Students seeking leadership positions for the following year are required to participate. This activity can be an excellent opportunity to earn points toward a letter jacket. All Band students will be required to play a solo or ensemble. If a student does not perform their solo or ensemble at UIL, it will be played for a grade in class. Students who are unprepared for UIL will not be allowed to attend at the discretion of the director. Students who are not prepared for auditions will still be responsible for the entry fees.

Results

Once again the growth and maturity obtained in the preparation are the goal to be kept in mind. Judges vary from room to room and sometimes are a bit more selective in their "first division" ratings than others. We will all celebrate with the students earning medals and jackets. Celebration must also occur for those students who did not earn a medal, but gained knowledge and skill through the process.

XIX. Concert Season

A. Participation

1. Concert Season is a required activity of the "Band Course" in which you are enrolled. It is required that you perform with the Concert groups unless there is another school activity that is a *direct* conflict that you arranged with the directors **before the beginning of the spring semester**. Trying out for another activity that will become a time conflict with the concert groups or its sectionals is not an excuse and could result in loss of "Fine Art" Credit or removal from the group, at the discretion of the director.
2. Each group will have required after school rehearsals. Symphonic Band will have sectionals weekly for each instrument that are 1 1/2 hour in length. The Symphonic

Band will also have a two ½ hour “full rehearsal” either in the evening or immediately following school. Concert Band I will have a minimum of a one hour sectional with occasional full rehearsals. Concert II band will have weekly sectionals. These rehearsals are mandatory. Every student will make up a missed sectional within 6 days. Failure to attend rehearsals could result in loss of “Fine Art” Credit or removal from the group, at the discretion of the director.

3. Tests may be given during classes or sectionals. Failure to complete these tests or “pass-offs” in an acceptable manner could result in the student not performing with the group at the discretion of the director. Severe situations could involve students not keeping up and falling behind in their material. These students may be asked to complete written assignments to earn their grade while also practicing individually during class time to catch up. These situations will be dealt with individually at the discretion of the director.

B. Performances

1. All students are required to attend and participate in all performance of his / her group. Failure to attend is reason for removal from the performing group at the discretion of the director.
2. Students are required to attend all performances with all required uniform parts, instruments, . . . Failure to arrive on time or without necessary materials are subject to the same consequences as though students not attending.

C. Eligibility

Eligibility is determined by the State “UIL” rules. Students who are ineligible are still expected to attend practice to fulfill their “Physical Education Waiver” but will most likely be replaced by eligible students in the performance routine.

D. Group Levels

Minimum requirements will be set in order to qualify for each ensemble. The ensembles will be Symphonic, Concert I, and Concert II. Meeting the minimum requirements for each group does not guarantee a position in any specific group. Other considerations such as instrumentation balance will influence the director’s decision as to which group they qualify. The minimum standards are a guideline to help students realize their current position and strive to improve. The minimum standard should be a “bench-mark” to begin success instead of a conclusion or arrival. All groups will strive to improve and challenge all members to higher levels of performance skills.

Cy-Fair ISD Letter Jacket Policy

To qualify for a jacket, a student must earn a minimum of ten (10) points in one year. These points must be earned in one area of activity (Band, Choir, or Orchestra). A student may earn only one (1) major letter award during his/her high school career. The student may earn additional letters in additional areas of activity and in subsequent years. This award will be a patch designed to denote the year and activity of the award.

Band, Choir and Orchestra members may earn points on the following basis:

3 points are awarded for gaining membership and performing with the All-Region Band, Choir, Orchestra or Jazz Band. Alternates must perform in order to receive points.

2 points are awarded for gaining membership and performing with the Freshman All-Region Band.

An additional 4 points are awarded for advancing to the Area Audition in Choir, Band or Orchestra.

An additional 5 points are awarded for gaining membership and performing with the All-State Band, Choir, or Orchestra.

3 points are awarded for earning a Superior (First Division) rating on a Class I, II or III Solo at the **UIL** Solo/Ensemble Contest. Non-UIL contests do not count.

2 points are awarded for earning an Excellent (Second Division) rating on a Class I, II or III Solo at the UIL Solo/Ensemble Contest. Non-UIL contests do not count.

3 points are awarded for earning a Superior (First Division) rating on a Class I, II or III Ensemble at the **UIL** Solo/Ensemble Contest. Non-UIL contests do not count.

2 points are awarded for earning an Excellent (Second Division) rating on a Class I, II or III Ensemble at the UIL Solo/Ensemble Contest. Non-UIL contests do not count.

Note: Medium Ensemble events may not be used to gain points.

Band, Choir and Orchestra members will earn points for participation in the following manner:

2 points are awarded at the end of the first year of satisfactory participation which includes participation in both curricular and extra-curricular performances and competitions. A student who is ineligible for UIL group activities during the year will forfeit these participation points.

5 points are awarded at the end of the second year of satisfactory participation which includes participation in both curricular and extra-curricular performances and competitions. A student who is ineligible for UIL group activities during the year will forfeit these participation points.

10 points are awarded at the end of the third year of participation. This will allow juniors who have participated for 3 years to order their jacket at the end of their 3rd year.

Color Guard members may earn points in the following way:

5 points are awarded each season of participation beginning the second year in the program. A season includes summer rehearsals, practices and performances each semester which includes winter guard season. To earn points during winter guard season, the member must have participated in the fall season with the marching band. A student who is ineligible for any extra-curricular activities during the year will forfeit these participation points. This policy allows color guard members to receive their jackets at the beginning of their junior year.

Spring Trip

A. General notes

1. The Spring trip is considered a privilege, not a right.
2. The purpose of the Spring trip is to perform. The students will strive to improve their performances to be competitive on a national level and also appreciate groups performing at all levels.
3. Students who are unable to meet behavioral standards addressed earlier in any aspect of the school year will not be allowed to participate in the spring trip, and will be at the discretion of the director regardless of prior warning or subsequent documentation. This behavioral exception could also apply to issues addressed below, pertaining to refunds. The entire burden of this exception rests upon the student and their parents.
4. Students not maintaining their eligibility in accordance with the rules of UIL will also not be allowed to participate and will not receive a refund from the booster

club, the directors, or any entity pertaining to Cypress Fairbanks Independent School District. Once the bill for the trip has been paid the money will be assumed lost in the event the student becomes or remains ineligible.

B. Student Guidelines for Band Trips

1. School policies pertaining to school trips and functions will apply throughout this trip. We want this trip to be fun, but good judgment must be used by everyone so our travel and recreation time will be safe. School policies prohibit possession of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or firearms by any student. School policies prohibit use of inappropriate language, inappropriate clothing, and public display of affection. As always, we must follow standards of behavior that are clearly above the norm.
2. Students will need clothing for travel and sight-seeing that conforms to school dress code. Concert uniforms will be worn for the performances. Students will need their own shoes, black socks, and tuxedo shirts. Please have shorts to wear under your uniform (no jeans). Girls will need black dress, shoes, and black pantyhose. Please pack these things in a separate bag to carry to the performance site.
3. Students who need to take medication on the trip should bring the medication with their name on it and give it to the designated First Aide Chaperone. This applies to prescription and non-prescription drugs.
4. Students may bring electronics. However, students must assume responsibility for the security of their belongings. CFISD is not liable for lost/stolen items.
5. Individual students may be restricted to their room on the first incidence of inappropriate or disruptive behavior, at the discretion of the chaperone. Chaperones will ask the student to remain in his/her room regardless of the stated curfew. Further disruption will result in director involvement and automatic discipline referral after returning to Cypress Springs. In cases of severe behavior infractions, students will be sent home AT PARENT'S EXPENSE.
6. Do not congregate in the hallway at the hotel / condo. This disrupts other paying guests. Meet in the lobby or pool area for card games, etc. Students must remain in their own rooms after curfew. Curfew will be

Spring Trip cont.

determined by the director for the entire group. There will be two times to note. The first stated time will be "in room curfew" and the second time will be "lights out". Television privileges may or may not be extended by the director at the time curfews are given. If a separate issue is not made, the television is to be turned off at "lights out" time.

7. Girls may not visit boys' rooms and boys may not visit girls' rooms AT ANY TIME - FOR ANY REASON. Not even to help carry in luggage. This is probably the most serious mistake in judgment that could possibly be made.
8. Students will not be allowed to make long distance calls from their rooms. They will need to use CELL PHONES. No phone calls will be allowed after curfew except to call a chaperone for assistance. No other exceptions!
9. Students must have at least one other person (student) with them in order to go to the pool. Students may only swim when a chaperone is also at the pool. Single infractions involving water (pool or hot tub) will result in all pool privileges being suspended.

10. "Beach Rules:" Students may not go in the water on the beach. There will be chaperones posted at opposite ends of the beach. You may not venture past these chaperones. If a chaperone is not on the beach during a "beach time" you may not go on the beach. You may only go on the beach during stated ""beach times". We will do our best to make sure the beach is available to you, but it is not guaranteed. A single infraction of "beach rules" will result in beach privileges being removed for the entire group.
11. Couples who are misbehaving during the trip, may be asked to not associate for the duration of the trip. Couples are allowed to "hold hands". Anything other than "holding hands" will be considered "PDA" and deemed inappropriate. This policy applies to every aspect of our trip: traveling, performing, audience . . .
12. Students are to follow the request of the chaperones without question. Failure to comply immediately with a chaperone request is a serious discipline issue and will be dealt with harshly. If a chaperone is not being fair, follow the requests as stated and we will solve any misunderstandings upon arrival back at Cypress Springs.
13. Students who are unable to follow rules may have their room assignment changed, parents notified, and possibly find themselves returning to Houston immediately, AT PARENT'S EXPENSE.

Leadership Requirements

Each Student Leadership position is an opportunity to serve the band program and its members. The responsibilities are to be taken seriously, and earning a position either by election or audition begins your responsibility for the year. All elected officers are expected to:

ELIGIBILITY Students must maintain all eligibility requirements during the term of his or her office. If eligibility is not maintained, the student could be removed from office at the discretion of the director. Students involved in serious discipline issues can be prohibited to run for office at the discretion of the director. Students seeking positions of leadership must have completed a full year of academic eligibility prior to the election or audition. Students who have completed a full year of academic eligibility are permitted to run for an office or audition, regardless of "track history". Students must meet the requirements concerning grade level designated for each office or position.

ATTENDANCE Students must attend and participate in all events that include the band. Excused absences may include severe illness, family tragedy, or events beyond the control of the student and/or parents. These absences will be determined excused or non-excused at the discretion of the director. Failure to uphold the attendance requirement will result in removal from the group or office.

FULFILLMENT OF DUTIES Students must fulfill their duties assigned in a timely and efficient manner. Failure to complete tasks assigned or perform routine responsibilities could result in removal from office, at the discretion of the director.

ELECTION OR TRYOUT PROCEDURES Students who desire to run for office or tryout for squad leader or drum major positions need to have met the eligibility requirements. These students must also have teachers complete evaluation forms (5 each for Drum major and Officers) (3 each for squad leader candidates).

Each student must then complete the Cy-Springs Band Leadership Application and create a resume. Students will have an interview with Band Director(s) upon turning in their application and resume. Officers will be elected by the band and color guard classes at the end of Summer Band. Results will not be available for public review. A winner of each office or a run-off will be announced. Students will retain their office until the director sets the next election date. (usually in May) (thus: term of office is from August until May of the next year)

Section/Squad leader tryouts will consist of 4 parts: (1) There will be a written test that each candidate must master within a stated time period. (2) "Coordinate" Location / Explanation Test. (3) Leadership Test (4) Marching Competency Test.

Drum Major candidates must first qualify as a squad leader. Each candidate will then participate in an additional audition which will include 3 parts: (1) Conducting (2) Salutes and Commands (3) interview. Each candidate **must** agree to attend a summer instructional camp (at their own cost) if awarded a drum major position.

Cypress Springs Officers

Each office is an opportunity to serve the band program and its members. Opportunities to help the band are numerous and it is counted on that the officers search these needs out and assist the directors in obtaining. The responsibilities of each office are to be taken seriously, and being elected to a position begins your responsibility for the year. All elected officers are expected to:

President

- A. Senior or junior (band or color guard member)
- B. Meet and uphold leadership requirements.
- C. Presides over Band Council meetings:
- D. Makes sure meetings take place at appropriate intervals.
- E. Organize all agenda for meetings.
- F. Keeps meetings on task.
- G. Responsible for student leadership activity/productivity/Banquet.
- H. Ensure all Officers are fulfilling their offices.

Vice president

- A. Senior or Junior (band or color guard member)
- B. Meet and uphold leadership requirements.
- C. Assist the President in fulfilling his/her responsibilities.
- D. Keep written minutes and records of meetings.

- E. Fill in positions that are vacated or not fulfilled.
- F. Attends all Band Council Meetings.

Historian

- A. Senior, Junior, or Sophomore (band or color guard member)
- B. Meet and uphold leadership requirements.
- C. Compiles band video, to be presented at banquet
- D. Collects photographs from marching band, Region band, Solo and Ensemble, UIL, and Spring Trip.
- E. Collects programs from each performance of the band.
- F. Collects news clippings about the band.
- G. Record data regarding awards earned as individuals and as a group. Maintain running files of awards earned but also of participation.
- H. Updates bulletin boards
- I. Writes "script" for school-wide announcements to publicize band events and accomplishments and attends all Band Council Meetings.
- J. Attends all Band Council Meetings.

Librarian

- A. Senior, Junior, or Sophomore (band member)
- B. Meet and uphold leadership requirements
- C. Responsible for filing and maintaining music library.
- D. Responsible for sorting and copying new material for students of all bands.
- E. Attends all Band Council Meetings.

Spirit Officer

- A. Senior, Junior, or Sophomore (band or color guard member)
- B. Meet and uphold leadership requirements.
- C. Attends all Band Council Meetings.
- D. Provide leadership in organizing campus spirit from the band.
- E. Posters for other student organizations.
- F. Cards for individuals who are sick, etc.
- G. Plan and Organize the Band Banquet.

Media Officer

- A. Senior, Junior, Sophomore (band or guard)
- B. Meet and uphold leadership requirements.
- C. Attends all Band Council meetings.
- D. Create and maintain the cyspringsband.com website
- E. Assist in the distribution of information to the band
- F. Get positive press about the Panther Band out!

Leadership Requirements

Required Points

Work 2 events that we host (UIL, Gymkana)	1pt.
Attend <i>minimum</i> 2 director approved work details.	1pt.
Fulfill your student leader requirements as stated in handbook As decided by directors.	1pt.
Must do <i>minimum</i> 4 hours community service time for band	1pt.

Extra Points

Every hour extra community service for band (clean etc.)	1pt. per hour
Make Region Band	2pts.
Make Area Band	4pts.
Make All-State	6pts.
Hear/See Concert, Theatre, Houston Symphony etc.	2pts.
Hear any high school band performance (on your own time)	2pts.
Work extra events	1pt.
Loading Crew	3pts.
Extra Musical Activities (perform in church, jazz etc.)	2pts.
Bring 2 tissue boxes	1pt.
All A's for whole semester	1pt.

Consistent unexcused absences or tardies will result in not fulfilling your student leader responsibilities.

Total Points Needed	12
Required	4
Extra	8

YOU are responsible for keeping track of points you have earned. You must record and provide any possible documentation for all leadership points earned on your application and resume.

If you are found to have falsified any information on your application or resume, you will not be allowed to audition for any leadership position.

Auxiliary Groups

WINTER GUARD / JAZZ ENSEMBLE / MUSICAL ORCHESTRA / GUARD FLOOR CREW
/ TROMBONE CHOIR / FULL ORCHESTRA / CHAMBER GROUPS / PERCSSION ENS.

These groups are vital to the well being of the band program at Cypress Springs High School. Membership in these groups will be gained by audition or appointment by a director and include multiple performance opportunities. Performance in these groups is optional and may not be available to certain students who are unable to fulfill their primary band or Guard responsibilities. Membership in these groups can be granted , denied, or removed at the discretion of the director for behavioral issues on or off campus with or without the band's involvement. The student could possibly be removed for the inability of each student to fulfill coursework in band or any other subject area. The guidelines of the groups are to be "inline" with the guidelines of the band. Consequences of inappropriate behavior or actions within these groups can jeopardize "good standing" status within the band classes. Results for this loss can range from loss of leadership positions, or the ability to run or tryout for an office, to disqualification for Spring Trip, at the discretion of the director.

GO SPRINGS GO!!!

Student and Parent Acknowledgement and Agreement with Band Policies

I, _____ (student), and I, _____ (parent) have read and understand all policies set forth in the band handbook. I agree to follow all rules and policies, and will accept any consequence if I breach the handbook. By signing below, I am agreeing to a full commitment to the responsibilities of the Cypress Springs Panther Band.

Student (print)_____ Date_____

Student (signature)_____ Date_____

Parent (print)_____ Date_____

Parent (signature)_____ Date_____

**Please read, sign, and return to your Band Director (HS or MS) by:
May 30, 2014**

Go Springs Go!!!!