

2018-2019

Panther Band Handbook



Band Students and Parents:

WELCOME to one of the most exciting experiences in which you can be a part—THE BAND! Now, more than ever, we have information to justify why we do this demanding, yet rewarding, activity. Experts have concluded that the study of music helps with spatial reasoning, test taking, and overall quality of life. Factor in social skills, emotional development, leadership training, group interaction, aesthetic perception, music making, and the discipline of being in a band program, and I don't know why anyone would not want to be involved in a successful band program like the one here at Clarksville! The ultimate goal is a lifelong understanding and appreciation for quality music and music making.

EVERYONE SHOULD READ THE INFORMATION IN THE HANDBOOK, even veteran returning students. Some of the information has changed, so make sure you're informed. For new folks, this is the "band bible" that keeps us running smoothly and efficiently. Most questions can be answered by consulting this handbook and policies will be adjusted from year to year as the need arises to clarify issues within the program. It is my hope that the information contained in this handbook will be both informative and helpful in your experience in becoming a great musician and contributing member of this band program.

The 2017-2018 school year was full of successes by our students and parents. Once again the Panther Band earned superior ratings from all three A.S.B.O.A marching contest judges. The Panther Band's performance at the A.S.B.O.A. Region VIII Concert Assessment also received the rating of superior as well as their performance at the World's of Fun Music Festival in Kansas City. A record number of beginners attended the Beginning Band Sign-up Night and the Eighth Grade Band is enjoying its largest enrollment ever!

The following handbook is designed to answer any questions you might have concerning the program. Please read all of the information and sign the form in the back of the book. We are honored to be your band directors and are looking forward to a great year!

Ralph Brody, Jr.
Kelci Cogan
Brittany Loudon
Directors of Bands
Clarksville Public Schools
(W) 705-3220 (H) Mr. Brody 479-221-7477
Ralph.Brody@csdar.org
Kelci.Cogan@csdar.org
Brittany.Loudon@csdar.org

STUDENT HANDBOOK
2018-2019
A STATEMENT OF POLICY

In order to assist band members and parents in understanding areas of responsibility, we issue the following statement of band policy and mission statement of the Clarksville Public Schools instrumental music department. Becoming familiar with this policy will enable each individual to make the most of this great opportunity to be a contributing member of the Clarksville Public Schools instrumental music department, becoming a better person and a better musician.

We firmly believe that the student should improve through regular practice. In the Clarksville band program we feel that when the student has lost the will to improve him/herself or make a better contribution to the band, he/she is wasting the time and efforts of his/her fellow members and the community by continuing in this program. The happiest student is the one who is improving through regular habits of practice and daily progress. He/she must not only know right from wrong, but must be able to stand for principles. He/she must develop a high sense of purpose toward which he/she is willing to work. RESPONSIBILITY is the focus behind any level of achievement within this program. We intend to conduct ourselves in a manner that will facilitate all students in learning and bettering themselves.

MISSION STATEMENT

The primary goal of the Clarksville Instrumental Music department is to provide young people with an experience in music that is both enjoyable and educational. The elements of music are taught through the exciting medium of performance and, through this medium, the student will learn discipline, work ethic, teamwork, and, above all, the aesthetic beauty of music.

OBJECTIVES OF THE BAND PROGRAM

- To teach music through performance
- To develop performance skills of the various winds and percussion instruments
- To provide for the musical needs of the school and community
- To develop discrimination with regards to the selection of music
- To provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of their time, a means for self expression, and a healthy social experience
- To foster leadership skills within each student.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

THE ONLY EXCUSEABLE ABSENCES ARE PRE-ARRANGED* SCHOOL CONFLICTS AND THOSE THAT WOULD BE EXCUSED BY THE SCHOOL FOR REGULAR ATTENDANCE RECORDS, I.E. ILLNESS, DEATH IN THE FAMILY, OR FAMILY EMERGENCY.

*Individual needs will be addressed as they occur. This system is subject to modification by the director.

For ALL absences, the following procedures must be followed by the student and parent:

- Director must be notified in advance
- Absence from rehearsals scheduled outside of school hours whether full band or instrument classes will be excused only after receiving the notification of this absence by personal contact with the director. Those who are excused will make up the work as requested by the band director.
- For illness, a parent note or doctor's excuse must be submitted.
- Although cleared by the school office, absences from a band activity that same day must be cleared with the directors as well—please contact Mr. Brody directly.
- In extreme cases, a phone message may be left on the band answering machine or Mr. Brody's voice mail, with a follow-up personal call.
- Follow-up is the sole responsibility of the student!

Notification does not necessarily mean an absence may be excused. Only those absences within the boundaries of the above policy will be excused. Notification, however, must happen regardless.

CONFLICTS WITH BAND

Conflicts between band and other activities or events are the responsibility of the student. Rehearsal and performance schedules are given out in advance so that arrangements can be made. Students should not become involved with activities that may directly conflict with band activities. When outside activities create hardships concerning band, unless it is a rare and unusual situation that may only happen once, the student will need to consult with the director about alternatives that may be possible. Students should be aware of all band dates well ahead of schedule. It is the policy of the band to assist students when conflicts occur within the scope of band policy. Students are reminded that band is a very demanding activity and that involvement in outside activities should be limited to those that are compatible with the band schedule. All conflicts in regards to **performances** must be worked out in favor of the student's responsibility to band. **WORK IS NOT AN EXCUSE FOR MISSING ANY BAND ACTIVITY.**

GRADING POLICY

Instrumental music, a co-curricular subject, is guided by the curriculum outlined in the Arkansas Department of Education Curriculum Frameworks. Each student is expected to make a degree of progress each year in the instrumental program. For this reason, students will be given special assignments tailored to their musical needs so that they will continue their musical growth throughout their years in school.

Because musical growth and development is the primary objective of the Clarksville Band Program, membership in the Clarksville Band is maintained through each student's performance of the A.S.B.O.A. Scale Sheet. Each student must play each scale, from memory before the week of semester exams to maintain membership in the program.

Though other aspects of the band program – such as attendance – affect grades, preparation of assignments is the major determining factor in assigning grades.

Both the grading system and awards system of all bands are assigned to encourage students to continue their musical growth. If, however, the student falls behind, the band director will contact the parents of the student to discuss what may be done to help the student catch up.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENT POLICY

The Clarksville band program does own a limited number of instruments. These instruments are assigned to a student on the basis of need and ability.

Before receiving a school-owned instrument, the parent must sign the Instrument Check-out Form accepting the instrument and the responsibility for its care and maintenance. It is the responsibility of the parent to return the instrument in as good of condition as it was received excepting normal wear from use.

There will be a \$50.00 maintenance fee assessed for the cleaning, care, and maintenance of school-owned instruments. Parents will need to submit the \$50.00 maintenance fee no later than September 28. Along with the maintenance fee, parents assume all responsibility in the event the instrument is lost, stolen, or damaged through negligence. The maintenance fee DOES NOT cover repair costs accrued through negligence.

SUPPLIES

ALL band students will need a black, three ring binder with page protectors.

ALL band students will need pencils for rehearsals.

ALL band students will need a thumb drive (1GB).

ALL band students will need the maintenance supplies necessary for their instrument to perform in its optimum, working condition.

Flute:	Tuning rod, cleaning swab/cloth
Clarinet:	Swab, cork grease, reeds
Saxes:	Swab, reeds, neckstrap
Trumpets:	Valve oil, slide grease
Horns:	Valve oil, slide grease
Trombones:	Slide cream, small spray bottle, tuning slide grease
Tubas:	Valve oil, slide grease
Percussion:	Sticks/mallets/mallet bag

ALL band students will need concert black attire. Option one: black pants, black dress shirt (button up, not a polo), black socks, black shoes. Option two: black dress that extends below the knees when seated, school appropriate neckline, and black shoes.

ALL band students must wear tennis shoes for marching band rehearsals.

TRYOUTS

Tryouts or auditions are an integral part of the instrumental music world from the earliest stage of training to the highest level of performance. Competitive activities are strongly emphasized in the Clarksville instrumental music program. The Clarksville bands, therefore, maintain a system of competitive tryouts and challenges to further instrumental education and to evaluate work done by the individual student.

I. TRYOUTS

Tryouts imply a competitive hearing of a group larger than two students. Tryouts are called by the director and may or may not be called in advance. Tryouts will occur in sectionals or at various times throughout the school year. Tryout material will be selected by the director. Following a tryout, the players will be reseated by ability.

II. CHALLENGES

A challenge is a tryout between two students. A student may challenge the players ahead of him by following the procedure outlined below:

1. Each student/director selects one exercise from performance assignments.
2. Both students sign a challenge form and set the date for the challenge with the director- normally within a week of the challenge date.
3. In the event of a tie, sight-reading will be used.
4. The loser of the challenge must wait one week (five school days) before he/she may re-challenge for the position. During this time, he/she may be challenged by the players lower than them in the section.
5. The player challenged must respond to the challenge on the very day challenged, or he/she must forfeit the position to the challenger.
6. If a challenger loses to the same person three times, he/she may only challenge again upon receiving special approval from the director.
7. Challenges may be suspended by the directors during periods of contest or concert preparation

STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

Uniform care/maintenance:

Each student will be responsible for the proper care and maintenance of his/her uniform. Students will be taught the proper way in which they are to hang/store their uniform. Any deviation of this procedure will result in the loss of points of one letter grade per infraction.

Football game behavior/etiquette:

Band members will remain in their section ready to play at all football games. Students MAY NOT have food of any kind in the bleachers and the only drink permissible is water. Non-band members MAY NOT sit in the band section. The band uniform is to be worn COMPLETELY (minus the hat) throughout the entire evening.

Rehearsal etiquette:

ALL students are required to have their instrument, music, and pencil for all indoor rehearsals and must have their instrument and music (if required by director) and tennis shoes for outdoor rehearsals. Students who forget their instrument the day of a playing assignment will receive a zero for that assignment.

Performance etiquette:

High school band students will be assessed and graded according to four major criteria. **Failure to meet these objectives will result in the loss of one letter grade per infraction.**

Preparedness: Students must have their BAND SHIRT, BLACK SOCKS, BAND SHOES, and UNIFORM for each performance.

Equipment: Students must have their INSTRUMENT (flag) and MUSIC for each performance.

Punctuality: Students must be on time for the start of the fourth quarter at football games and must remain in their assigned section for the entire game.

Uniform: Students will be responsible for the proper care and maintenance of their band uniform. Students must turn in their uniform after each performance.

*Three tardies count as an unexcused absence.

*The award period begins the first day of the school year and ends each spring at the awards presentation program.

STAYING IN TOUCH WITH THE PANTHER BAND

It is imperative that directors, students, and parents communicate effectively. To help achieve this, the Panther Band Program has several avenues by which we may communicate effectively.

1. Facebook. We ask all parents and students to follow the Clarksville Panther Bands on Facebook.
2. Instagram. We ask all parents and students to follow the Clarksville Panther Bands on Instagram.
3. The Panther Band webpage. We ask all parents and students to visit the Panther Band webpage on www.chs.csdar.org. Click on "Activities," then select "Band."
4. Schoology. We ask all parents and students to check Schoology regularly for announcements and updates.
5. Remind. We ask all parents and students to use their smart phone/device to receive announcements via the Remind texting service.

To receive text notifications of the band's activities:

7th Grade Band	8th Grade Band	High School Band
Send text to: 81010	Send text to: 81010	Send text to: 81010
Message: @7e72h8	Message: @hk273	Message: @f272e4

LETTER OF MUTUAL CONSENT

I, the undersigned student, accept membership in the Clarksville Instrumental Music Program and I understand that I am responsible for all the policies set forth in the Band Handbook. I fully agree to carry out my responsibilities to the very best of my ability.

Student Signature

Date

I, the undersigned parent/guardian, have read and understand the policies as set forth in the Band Handbook. I also grant full permission for my child to be an active member of the Clarksville Instrumental Music Program. In addition, my child has full permission to attend all band functions. Furthermore, I understand that membership in the band program requires practice outside of school hours, both in called rehearsals and in individual practice my child must do at home.

Parent Signature

Date