

COOPER BAND HANDBOOK



Band Creed

*We the members of Cooper High School Mighty Maroon Band,
In order to become a more successful organization,
Shall strive to our very best to become a group that will not settle for second
best.*

*We are a group of honesty, dignity, strength, and pride;
Only through hard work shall we achieve our dreams.*

**NEW SEASON
SAME WINNING ATTITUDE
DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES
TO GO TO STATE?
2009-2010**

HANDBOOK CONFIRMATION

COOPER HIGH SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK 2009-2010

The following handbook is provided to help insure that the band program will be an enjoyable and rewarding educational experience for all its members. Clear expectations that are established at the beginning of each school year will help make that possible. This handbook contains information about general rules and regulations of the program along with academic rules, UIL rules for competition, school owned equipment, insurance, individual equipment, alternates, concert bands, private lessons, band hall policies, uniform procedures, and attendance policies. Please do not be overwhelmed by the following information, especially if you are new to varsity school band. The band experience should be a positive one, and this can be achieved through cooperative teamwork among directors, parents and band members.

parent signature

date

student signature

date

DISCLAIMER

The rules set forth by Federal Law, Texas State Law, Texas Education Agency, University Interscholastic League, Cooper ISD, Cooper High School (Middle School if in 8th grade or lower) supersede that of any polices in this handbook that are found to be in conflict.

PURPOSE

This handbook was written to serve as a guide to help students and parents understand policies that will be followed on a daily basis in the Cooper Band Program. Understand that it covers some policies already set forth in the CISD Handbooks and additional policies that are unique to the Cooper Band Program. Students are required to follow all guidelines within. Students are also expected to follow ALL rules and regulations set forth by the organizations listed in the “Disclaimer” section.

ORGANIZATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Cooper Band Students will learn the importance of dependability, teamwork, and music. By doing this, students will be prepared to become good citizens and future leaders in our society.

POLICIES BEHAVIOR

Students involved with the Cooper Band Program are looked at as “band students” even at times when they are not formally participating in a band activity. Because of this, these students are expected to be good examples to all other students in their classes and in the community. Students that are in severe conflict with this philosophy may be removed from band at the band director’s discretion.

Band members are expected to follow all Cooper Independent School District policies regarding appropriate student behavior. Violation of the following will be handled through existing school policy: boy/girl relationships, class cut, destruction of school property, disrespect, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, smoking, fighting, knives or weapons, profanity, sexual harassment, and stealing.

In the event a negative student behavior is not covered by existing school policy, that behavior will be evaluated by the band director and appropriate disciplinary action will be determined based on the severity of the incident and its impact on the band.

Discipline may include:

- lap around the football or practice field
- after school detention
- office write-up
- sitting out of one or more performances
- up to 15 point grade reduction for that six weeks grading period
- exclusion from a special band trip
- expulsion from band with loss of credit
- (if on trip) sent home at the parent’s expense or (if on trip) turned over to the local police

ATTENDANCE

The band competes and performs as a unit. If individuals are not present at rehearsals or performances, the entire group is affected. Because the schedule is given to the students prior to the completion of June, students are aware of the band schedule well in advance. Students are expected to make arrangements to attend ALL performances and rehearsals. (This includes pre-school rehearsals.)

An excused absence can only be granted with *prior* notification in writing or by a telephone call to the band director at home or school. Emergency situations require a phone call as soon as possible. Acceptable excused absences are as follows: personal illness, death in the family, school related performances, or a “once in a lifetime” event. The director will make the decision whether or not to excuse the absence in a case-by-case manner. Work, outside-of-school organizational activities, club meetings, and non-serious family member illnesses will not be excused and will result in the proper grade reduction. If a student is found to have an attendance problem (regardless of the nature), the student may be excluded from special activities or removed from the class.

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PERFORMANCES

Students may be asked to sit out of a performance for any of the following reasons:

- if they do not have all proper uniform items
- the uniform looks unkempt, stained, or wrinkled due to poor care
- shoes are not properly cleaned and polished
- do not know their music or drill (routine for colorguard)
- fail to complete and return medical/permission forms
- behavior infractions
- do not have all of the items they need to perform
- unprepared due to extended absence

TRAVEL

TRAVEL RULES / BUS CONDUCT - All previously mentioned rules and regulations apply to conduct on the bus, during travel and on trips.

1. It is not only the policy of the Cooper Marching Band but of the Cooper ISD that all members ride the bus to and from the performances and may not drive. Exceptions may be made at the Band Director’s discretion assuming the following conditions:
 - a. Parents must give prior written notice to the Director for a parent or family member to pick up the student from any band event. Students are not permitted to leave with friends.
 - b. Only under extreme cases as deemed necessary by the Band Director may a student be excused from a game or competition. Prior written arrangements from the parents must be

made with the Band Director to pick up the student after the band performs (i.e. immediately after half-time). This notification should be made one week in advance if possible.

2. **Students must always be courteous and respectful to staff, chaperones, bus drivers and parents.**
3. Radios and tape players are not allowed to be played without headphones.
4. Loud and obnoxious behavior will not be tolerated.
5. Use of profanity of any kind will not be tolerated.
6. Keep hands, arms, objects, equipment etc. inside the bus at all times.
7. Never throw anything out of a bus window.
8. No standing or walking around while the bus is in motion.
9. The bus should be left in better condition than it was upon entering it. Remove all garbage and personal items. Close all windows before exiting. Bus Captains will be responsible for ensuring the bus is left clean.
10. Sign-ups for buses will occur at the beginning of the season. Changing buses will not be permitted unless a re-sign-up occurs later in the season. Roll will be taken each time prior to departure from school or a performance site.
11. Appropriate clothing must be worn under uniform for discretion while changing. (shorts and band t-shirts)
12. Food is not allowed on the bus unless expressly permitted by the Band Director for special circumstances.
13. No horseplay.
14. Take responsibility for your belongings. Label personal items.

GRADING

The following grading policy will be in affect for the band for each nine weeks period:

Everyone starts with a 100 in each six weeks. Deductions or additions will be made to tabulate your nine-weeks grade.

missed rehearsal minus 10pts.

missed performance minus 15pts.

late 1-5 school days passing-off music minus 5pts.

late 6 or more school days passing-off music minus 10pts.

music not passed-off before contest minus 15pts.

untidy uniform at inspection minus 1-5pts.

15min. or more late to rehearsal minus 5pts.

15min. or more late to performance minus 10pts.

missing required supplies for rehearsal minus 3pts.

missing required supplies for performance minus 10pts.

Not participating minus 3pts.

STUDENT LEADERS

Student leadership within the band program is extremely important and will affect the degree of success which we will achieve. Student leaders in the band are expected to assume a large amount of responsibility which pertains specifically to their position. (Responsibility should not be confused with authority. Authority is a legal entity that must remain in the hands of the professionals.) These student leaders are expected to carry out their duties in a professional and positive manner and will be held to the highest standards, as they are role models for the rest of the band. Students not in leadership positions are not to question these leaders if instructed to do something, provided it does not endanger

themselves or others and is not in violation of any laws or band policies. If a problem arises with the way a student leader is conducting his or her office, it should be reported to the band director at the first available opportunity. Just as there will be no tolerance for lack of respect for students in leadership positions, there will be no tolerance for the abuse of any of those positions.

Leadership positions include:

- Drum Major
- Section Leader/Captain
- Officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary/History, Librarian
- Bus Captain(s)

PERFORMANCES

The following procedures and policies will be in affect for marching band performances:

Students must be at the band hall at the designated time. The designated time will almost always be at least 30 minutes before performance time if it is at home.

Students will be given instructions to where they will change into uniform when they arrive at the destination.

Students are to wear the uniform in the appropriate manner unless otherwise noted by the director. Students are not allowed to go about as they please. They must be in the appropriate place at the appropriate time.

If the band stops to eat, students must go to the restaurant(s) designated by the director.

FOOTBALL GAMES

The following guidelines pertain to the standards which will be enforced for all members of the marching program as they represent Cooper at football games, competitions and affiliated events. As the Cooper Marching Band is most visible in uniform, members must constantly strive to make a good impression.

1. Do not remove any part of the uniform without permission of a staff member.
2. Improper conduct will never be tolerated.
3. Profanity of any kind is forbidden.
4. Public displays of affection are not allowed in uniform.
5. Riding the bus to a performance is required. Driving is not permitted.
6. Participation in stands performances as well as structured cheers is required of all members. **IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY.**
7. Always be prepared to play. Flip folders and lyres must be with you at all times in the stands.
8. Remain in assigned seats while in the stands. Moving around is not permitted.
9. Do not leave the stands unless you are given permission by a staff member and you have a buddy with you.
10. The third quarter of football games is “free time” for food and socialization. Be in the stands by the end of the third quarter or lose the “free time” privilege at the next game - no excuses.
11. No food or drink is allowed in the stands at any time. This includes candy. The staff will provide water in the stands if necessary. Do not have anyone bring food to you in the stands at any time.
12. Non marching friends or relatives are not permitted to sit with you and/or the band in the stands. Please use third quarter for visiting.
13. Show respect for all other bands performing, as they have worked just as hard as you. Rude comments are inappropriate and immature.
14. At the conclusion of the game, the band will play the Fight Song and the School Song.
15. The band will be given further instructions on how to either return to the band hall or busses.

MARCHING CONTEST

Students are expected to be quiet and concentrating on the business of putting on a good performance. While not performing, students must sit together in the designated area.

Students are allowed to go to the concession stand or the restroom between the performances of the other bands.

Students must follow the itinerary given to them by the director.

BAND BOOSTERS

The Cooper Band Boosters is the support organization for the Cooper ISD Band Program. All parents of band students are automatically Cooper Band Boosters. The Cooper Band Boosters are involved in raising money for band trips, uniforms, summer band camps, and other financial needs of the band.

They raise the majority of their money through football concessions. It is impossible for this organization to function as it was intended without the support from all of the band parents. Each parent that has a child in band (6-12) is asked to help the organization in any way that they can throughout the year. Others members in the community that do not have children in the band are also welcomed.

REHEARSALS

Tardiness *will not* be tolerated. If you are late for any reason there will be consequences such as running laps, push ups, sit ups, etc. Students must report directly to the appropriate staff member when arriving late.

The following procedures and policies will be in affect for marching band rehearsals:

Band rehearsal **MUST** start on time. Students that are late will run 1 lap per 5 minutes late.

The order of the marching rehearsal will be as follows: fundamentals, warm-up, work on drill, and run-through.

Students found to be talking in rehearsal will be asked to run 1 lap.

Students will be given a break in the middle of rehearsal to get water. Students that return late will run 1 lap.

Students are not allowed to leave rehearsal until the band director has dismissed them.

Students are required to wear athletic shoes to practice. Students that do not have the proper foot attire will be required to wear band shoes.

Letter Jacket for Band

1. Students are eligible to be fitted for an award jacket upon completion of one of the following criteria:
(students must be in 8th grade to be fitted)

a. Audition and be selected to the All-Region Band

b. Earn a Division I on a solo at the UIL Texas State Solo Contest

c. Participate in 2 UIL Marching Band Contests and 2 UIL Concert & Sight-reading Contests
(winter guard state championship may be substituted for Colorguard)

d. Complete six (6) semesters in band.

2. Students receiving an award jacket must be a member of the organization at the time that the jacket is presented.

**TO BE EARLY IS TO BE “ON TIME,”
TO BE ON TIME IS TO BE “LATE,”
TO BE LATE IS “UNACCEPTABLE.”**