

# Central High School Bands 2018-2019



## Student/Parent Handbook and Contract

Hans Snell, Director of Bands

[Hans.Snell@D51schools.org](mailto:Hans.Snell@D51schools.org)

(970)-254-6200 x 22160 (bands office)

[www.centralbands.org](http://www.centralbands.org)

[www.facebook.com/CentralHighSchoolBands](https://www.facebook.com/CentralHighSchoolBands)

### CHS Band Parent Organization

Please contact us at this email:

[CHSBandParentOrganization@gmail.com](mailto:CHSBandParentOrganization@gmail.com)

## **Mission Statement of CHS music department**

- The Music Department at Central High School provides the opportunity to perform in numerous ensembles at varying levels that challenges each student. Diverse types and styles of music are studied and performed to assist in the students' understanding of music. Through the study of music theory, the students' musicianship is continually challenged and refined to gain an enjoyment of music and become a lifelong musician and appreciator of music.

## **Mission Statement of CHS bands program**

- Pursuing excellence through superior performances, inspired rehearsals, and surpassing previously established goals to become a preeminent band program in the state of Colorado while striving for excellence and achieving a level of prestige.

## **Classes/Activities Offered**

- Symphonic Band (winds only)
- Wind Ensemble (winds only – by audition/approval of director)
- Percussion Class (all percussionists)
- Jazz I (Spectrum)
- Jazz II (Prism)
- Marching Warriors
- Music Theory
- Pep Band
- Winterguard
- Winter Percussion Ensemble
- Chamber ensembles
- Solo and Ensemble Festival
- Opportunities for district/collegiate/state honor bands

## **Objectives of the Instrumental Music Class**

- To educate in the core curriculum of the arts; most notably music, through the mastering of basic instrumental technique, fundamental knowledge of music, basic analysis of music, and the self-expression through performance in music.
- To understand and appreciate the cultural, historical, and artistic musical styles, genres, and values of music in our past, present, and future society.
- To provide a healthy, nurturing learning environment with numerous opportunities for public performance in order to instill self-discipline, pride, and teamwork within the instrumental music student community. The CHS bands program firmly believes that these character traits instilled through music are necessary for our students to become contributive and collaborative members of society.

## Communication

With the rigorous schedules of our students/families/staff, volume of students in the band program, and sheer amount of band activities scheduled throughout the year, open and efficient communication is required from the band director to students/parents/guardians **as well as from the students/parents/guardians to the band director**. I will try my best to communicate as clearly and efficiently through a variety of sources.

- **E-mail:** I can be reached at [Hans.Snell@D51schools.org](mailto:Hans.Snell@D51schools.org)
  - **I send frequent emails through ParentVue/Synergy—please ensure that you have an active e-mail address on file with the counseling department to receive these important emails.**
- **Telephone:** The bands office phone number is (970)-254-6200 x. 22160
- **Remind:** I will be using the free service “Remind” for all of my classes. This is a free texting service that allows me to text students without them seeing my phone number or being able to respond. We will set this up the first few days of class. Parents/guardians are welcome to subscribe to each class if they would like. “2018chsal”
- **Bulletin Board:** I will post calendars and various events information in the classroom/performing arts hallway. It is the responsibility of the students to routinely check for updates/new information.
- **Classroom Announcements:** I will announce information in class for the students. This information will also be available online and through classroom postings.
- **Website:** <http://www.centralbands.org>
  - This band website is separate from the CHS band page on the CHS music department website.
  - This band website will be used to post announcements, event information, and other information pertaining to the CHS bands program.
  - The main band calendar of events is also on the webpage.
  - \*\*\* I suggest bookmarking [www.centralbands.org](http://www.centralbands.org) and check it once a day for any updates/announcements \*\*\*
- **Facebook:** Please “like” us on Facebook! [www.facebook.com/CentralHighSchoolBands](http://www.facebook.com/CentralHighSchoolBands)
  - Please note that while Mr. Snell does operate the Facebook page, no communication between students/parents and Mr. Snell will occur through Facebook or any other social media. Communication to/from Mr. Snell will be through email/the band office phone/the CHS website.

## Our Calendar

Please find the 2018-2019 bands calendar under the “calendar” link on [www.centralbands.org](http://www.centralbands.org), as well as attached at the end of this handbook. It is the responsibility of the student/families to familiarize themselves with the calendar of events for the year. **No student will be excused from events due to lack of planning/unawareness of the schedule.**

Due to the sheer volume of events that occur in the bands program throughout the school year, **please expect dates on the calendar to be added/removed/changed.** Mr. Snell will communicate with students/families in advance about any calendar dates.

Our calendar is available in two ways. Please find a Google Calendar with all of our events. You can sync this to your phone/Google Calendar and your calendar will update as Mr. Snell adds/edits events. There is also a word document calendar uploaded if that is easier for you. This is all on the website.

# **CHS Band Parents Organization**

The Central High School Band Parent Organization is the main parent/guardian organization that serves the students and staff of the CHS bands program. **All parents/guardians are encouraged to participate and be involved with the CHS Band Parent Organization.**

Duties of the CHS Band Parents include (but are not limited to):

- Volunteer at band events (concerts, festivals, trips)
- Volunteer at the summer band camp
- Assist with uniform fittings
- Help organize other fundraising opportunities for our program
- Organize necessary volunteers for events we host such as Colorado West Marching Festival, CBA Western Marching Regional, and Colorado West Music Festival in the spring.
- Assist with general work that helps support all aspects of the bands program.

The CHS Band Parents are under the direction of the Parent Board. These are individuals that volunteer a great deal of time to facilitate and organize the support that the boosters give to the CHS bands program. The listing of the booster board can be found on [www.centralbands.org](http://www.centralbands.org). Please contact any of these board members with information about the CHS Band Parents and how you can help! You may send a direct email to the parent board at: [CHSBandParentOrganization@gmail.com](mailto:CHSBandParentOrganization@gmail.com)

\*\*\* If you would like to volunteer, please check out our “volunteer” page on the website: [www.centralbands.com/volunteer](http://www.centralbands.com/volunteer)

\*\*\* If you would like to be added to a mailing list that comes directly from the Band Parent Board (not Mr. Snell), please put a correct email address on the portion of this handbook that you return to Mr. Snell.

## **Fundraising for the CHS bands program**

Fundraising is vital to the success of any high school music program. The amount of money that is required annually to effectively run the bands program and give our students the musical experience they deserve greatly exceeds the amount of money that is given to our program by School District 51. **Fundraising is required in order for us to do what we do on a daily basis.** Your student’s band fees and the cost of event/trip fees are greatly offset when more people participate in our fundraising.

The CHS band has a variety of other fundraisers that are implemented throughout the year. Stay in touch with the website and your band student for information regarding fundraising. Please feel free to contact Mr. Snell or the CHS Band Parents with any questions about fundraising. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

# Classroom Guidelines and Expectations

Our classroom is a place where we produce art on a daily basis. These rules, guidelines, and policies are not meant to restrict you in making music but assist you, your classmates, and me in facilitating the most conducive environment for your creative expression and musical improvement as an individual and as an ensemble.

1. Respect
  - Respect Mr. Snell, musical coaches, or any other school staff
  - Respect your classmates (and their instruments) at all times and in all situations
  - Respect your environment and materials (band room/locker room, lockers, instruments)
  - Respect our rules and procedures.
2. Responsibility
  - Take responsibility for your actions—don't make excuses or blame others.
3. Help out. If everyone does a little, no one does a lot.
4. Be on time. This means being in your seat and ready to play when the bell rings.
5. Be prepared. Have all of your music, pencils, and everything you need to play your instrument.
6. The use of cell phone greatly diminishes our musical experiences and cell phone use during active instruction is not acceptable. A cell phone may be confiscated if it is used during active instruction. Mr. Snell may provide "technology breaks" throughout a rehearsal.
7. No food, drinks, or gum in the music room.
8. Clean up after yourself.
9. Locker Room Policies:
  - Students will be issued a locker to store their instruments/music supplies. The priority for this locker is music related items, and if there is extra room a student may then store other items.
  - Students must use a lock issued by Mr. Snell— no student should use their own personal lock.
  - It is an expectation that band/orchestra students keep the locker room clean/orderly and respect other students' items/lockers. Any discipline problems in the locker room will be dealt with according to the CHS band discipline policies.

## Discipline Problems

Any disruptive behavior that makes it difficult for others to learn or hinders the teacher's ability to teach effectively is considered a discipline problem. This kind of behavior will not be tolerated and will be dealt with immediately.

- **First offense:** Student receives a warning from the teacher
- **Second offense:** Student is pulled aside and talked to about their behavior. Parents are notified.
- **Third offense:** A parent conference is requested to discuss solutions to the situation.
- **Fourth offense:** Administrative intervention will be used.

*Please note that students are expected to follow the CHS Student Handbook policies in band classes. Any policy not outlined above will be dealt with in accordance with the CHS Student Handbook.*

*Any student using or in possession of drugs or alcohol while at a CHS bands events will be dismissed from the program and the situation will be dealt with in accordance with the CHS Student Handbook.*

*All CHS bands and CHS student policies are in affect during any CHS bands trips/events.*

# Academic Grading

The hardest thing for a music director to do is to grade the students. Band classes are co-curricular classes, so students are evaluated by participation during the school day and outside of class time at dress rehearsals/concerts. Band classes are performance-based classes and grades are directly related to participation in rehearsals, performances, and festivals, as well as the preparation for these events and progress in class.

Students can make up missed activities only if they have an excused absence. Excused absences must be cleared with Mr. Snell **a minimum of one week in advance**. Students and parents must email Mr. Snell stating the absence. If you wait until the last minute to get it cleared, it will be counted as an unexcused absence.

Unexcused absences cannot be made up. **It is the student's responsibility** to contact Mr. Snell if they have to make up work. Generally, Mr. Snell requires students to practice 20 minutes per class day missed, and do a write-up detailing what was practiced. The work needs to be made up no later than 1 week after the absence. If a student has an excused absence and fails to make up the work, it will count the same as an unexcused absence.

**Letter grades in band classes will be determined by using this scale:**

A.....100% - 90% B.....89% - 80% C.....79% - 70% D.....69% - 60% F.....59% and under

**Students earn points toward their grade for the following:**

- Playing Tests
  - Smaller playing quizzes (scales, music selections, warm up exercises)
  - Larger playing exams (midterm playing exam, end of the semester performance exam)
- Writing assignments
  - Performance reflections
  - Listening assignments/music theory assignments
  - Returning the signed handbook
- Ensemble Development (attendance... participation... preparation... attitude...)
  - This includes punctuality at rehearsals (being in seat and ready to play when bell rings)
  - Students receive classroom points each week for attendance. If you are absent/tardy, you will lose points. However, if the tardy/absence is **excused** and you do the work to make up the tardy/absence, you will get your points. **There is no way to make up unexcused tardy/absence.**
    - Excused Absences: Must be a viable reason and excused with Mr. Snell more than two weeks in advance of the event. Emergencies/illness must be excused as soon as possible.
    - Unexcused Absences: Mr. Snell cannot excuse students for work, vacation, babysitting, etc. Also, Mr. Snell cannot excuse students after an event occurs—please plan ahead!
- Performances
  - Band is a performance based class. Performances are our summative assessments in band, and are required for all students. Each performance is worth 100 points in the gradebook. The classroom absence policy is the same for evening/outside of school performances.
  - Students who have an 80% or lower in a band class, or who have more than 5 unexcused absences, will not perform on the next concert for that ensemble, since they have not done the work to positively contribute to the ensemble. These students will be given a responsibility at the concert (help hand out programs, help keep the doors shut in the auditorium, etc.) in order to receive partial credit for their concert grade.

**Grades in band classes will be broken down using the following weighted grades:**

**45%** -- Ensemble Development   **30%** -- Performances   **15%** -- Assignments/Quizzes   **10%** -- Final Exam

*I cannot stress enough the importance of attendance at each and every music rehearsal and performance. Our musical classes develop quickly and missing just one rehearsal can hold the entire ensemble back. Missing a performance negatively affects the entire ensemble. Attendance will influence your grade. Please plan ahead and familiarize yourself with the bands schedule.*

## Supplies Required for Band Classes

Specific instrumental supplies required will be discussed in each class. Here is a general list of materials students should be prepared with on a daily basis:

- **All students:**
  - Pencils (plural!)
  - Music for each class (music distribution will be determined at the start of the school year)
    - Students are not to share music.
    - Music is the property of CHS and students are expected to treat it with care.
    - Students will receive music from Mr. Snell. If music is lost/damaged, students are charged \$5 through their student account.
  - Instrument in good working condition – a good time to get instruments repaired is during breaks.
- **Woodwind students:**
  - Cork grease, cleaning supplies (swab, brushes, etc.)
  - At least **three** playable reeds at all times. I do not sell reeds to students.
    - The cheapest reeds do not produce the best quality sound and won't set up woodwind students for greatest success. Wood reeds are better than plastic reeds for concert band.
- **Brass students:**
  - Valve oil/slide treatment supplies, cleaning supplies (brushes, cloths)
- **Percussion students:**
  - 1 pair of CONCERT snare sticks, size 2B or Vic Firth Generals, and a basic pair of yarn mallets.
  - As percussionists progress we will discuss other supplies they may purchase.
  - Black hand towel
- **Jazz rhythm students:**
  - CHS will provide instrument/instrument accessories (piano, amplifier, drum set) but you will need to provide smaller accessories (drum sticks, guitar picks, cable for amplifier, etc.)
- **Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band students** will be using the method book *Foundations for Superior Performance* by Richard Williams and Jeff King. There is a limited amount of CHS books to loan to students for the year. Students also can buy their own book and can use this book all four years while in the concert bands at CHS. Other supplemental materials may be passed out in class.
- If students use a CHS method book, it is expected that they return the book at the end of the year in good condition. If the book is not returned or returned in poor condition, the student will be expected to replace the book. Students will fill out a method book check out contract.

## Instrument Rentals

CHS has a **limited** supply of instruments to rent for use in the bands program. More about instrument rentals will be discussed in class. The fee for primary instruments is \$75. The fee for secondary instruments (marching, a secondary jazz instrument) is \$40. Percussion students will be charged \$75 for the year. Students are expected to help maintain the quality of these instruments and will be held responsible for any repairs due to negligence. The fees will be applied to the SBA account of each student and paid through the CHS budget office.

## Fees

- All students will pay \$15 for **each** band class in which they are enrolled. This fee helps pay for music purchases and general purchases required to maintain a successful bands program.
- **Percussion students** will pay a \$75 fee for the year. This fee will help offset the cost of percussion equipment purchases that are required for each student. Percussion instruments/accessories need to be replaced more often than wind instruments. This fee allows us to maintain our instruments for students.
- There is a uniform fee for each class which helps offset the cost of new uniforms/uniform cleaning.
- All fees will be paid through student accounts.

## Concert Dress Requirements for Performances

Each ensemble will have a different uniform. This includes concert band, jazz band, pep band, and marching band. Having every ensemble member in uniform is part of the overall impression we give our audience at every single performance. Students will not perform if they are not in the correct ensemble uniform.

- **Marching Warriors:** Uniform guidelines are distributed to students during uniform fittings
- **Symphonic Band/Wind Ensemble/Percussion Class:**

*Men:* White tuxedo shirt/black bow tie (package can be purchased through CHS for \$18), black tuxedo jacket (can be rented through CHS for a \$15 cleaning fee), black belt, black slacks, black dress shoes/socks.

\*\*\* If men already have a black tuxedo, they may wear their own for events.

*Ladies:* Ladies can choose between a black pant suit, black dress, or a combination of black slacks/skirt/blouse. Ladies must follow the CHS dress code. Skirts/dresses must be below the knees *when sitting down*, and tops must not be low cut. Shoulders need to be covered.

- **Prism Jazz:** Black dress shirt, colorful tie, black belt, black pants/skirt, black shoes/socks.
- **Spectrum Jazz:** Black dress shirt, red tie, black belt, black pants/skirt, black shoes/socks.
- **Pep Band:** Central High School music shirt/Central High School colors.

\*\*\*\*\* For Symphonic Band/Wind Ensemble/Percussion Class/Jazz Bands: Black tennis shoes/sneakers are not acceptable – students must have black dress shoes. Mr. Snell can help you find shoes if necessary.

Please let Mr. Snell know if there are any issues acquiring the required ensemble uniform. If I do not hear from anyone, I will assume there are no issues in acquiring the uniform.

## Private Lessons

The best way for a music student to excel on their instrument is through private lessons. Students who study privately are able to make great strides in their musicianship through one-on-one sessions with an expert on their specific instrument. All band students at CHS are encouraged to take private lessons if possible.

Students who take private lessons have a greater chance of:

- Being accepted into the top groups at CHS
- Being accepted into honor groups such as Best of the West, the Select Band, and the Colorado All State Honor Band (among others)
- Earning superior ratings at the District 51 Solo and Ensemble.
- Being accepted into the music school at a college/university.
- Even if you are not going to major in music, you can still play in the ensembles at a college/university as a non-music major. However, many of these ensembles still require an audition.
- Students who perform well on their instrument are more likely to get a college music scholarship. These scholarships are occasionally available even to students who are not music majors!

There are a number of private teachers in the Grand Junction area. Please contact Mr. Snell if you need help finding a private teacher. *There is currently a listing of private teachers on the CHS band website*

Students and Parents/Guardians: Please discuss this handbook together and return to Mr. Snell by **Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**.

**Returning this form on time and signed will be a grade in the grade book.**

- ✓ We have read and discussed the CHS band student/parent handbook.
- ✓ We understand all aspects of the handbook and agree to abide by the handbook.
- ✓ We have reviewed the calendar of events for the 2018-2019 school year.
- ✓ We acknowledge that if we have questions it is our responsibility to ask Mr. Snell.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian E-Mail(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Classes in which student is enrolled:

- Symphonic Band
- Wind Ensemble
- Percussion Class
- Jazz Band
- Marching Band

\_\_\_\_\_ We are interested in learning more about private lessons for our student. Mr. Snell will reach out to you with more information.

\_\_\_\_\_ We are interested in learning more about upgrading to an intermediate/professional instrument in band. Mr. Snell will reach out to you with more information.

\_\_\_\_\_ We are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities for the CHS band program.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date this form was signed: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

(For the Director) Date this form was returned: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_