

# Columbia High School Band

2023 - 2024 Handbook



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# Welcome

Welcome to the Columbia High School Roughneck Band! The Roughneck Band is a fun and exciting organization designed to provide a strong background in music through daily instruction and public performances. In addition to musical skill, each student develops skills in teamwork, citizenship, leadership, good sportsmanship, and responsibility. This is more than just a band class; the students come together and grow as a "family."

This handbook has been compiled to help orient students and their parents to the many different aspects of the band. This will help make the Columbia High School Band an organization of which the community and the students can be proud. Through all of this each student will have a sense of pride for themselves and their band program and an understanding that a sense of accomplishment comes with hard work.

The procedures and regulations in this handbook reflect those of the Columbia-Brazoria Independent School District and Columbia High School. All District and Campus rules apply to all band activities.

Please read all the information included in this handbook and then sign the statement of understanding included in the back of the handbook.

## SportsYou - Charms - Social Media

The CHS Roughneck Band uses the SportsYou app for weekly updates and announcements. You can find copies of necessary forms for trips and activities in the SportsYou or on the school website under band. In addition, there is general information about the band programs of all of the CBISD campuses. We also use *Charms* software at [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com), which is an online program to provide information to students and parents, and to organize the band program. To access Charms, please look under files on the SportsYou app. CBISD Bands uses Facebook and Instagram to celebrate our students and keep the public informed of our activities.

## Eligibility

If a student earns a grade of 69 or less in any subject (except AP, Calculus, PreCal, Honors, Dual Credit classes) on 1.) the first six-weeks of school year, or 2.) any nine-week report card, they are not allowed to participate in any activity that involves competition, out-of-district travel, and performing in pep rallies and parades. If a student is passing ALL classes in the following three week period they can regain their eligibility. This is state law. A seven calendar day grace and waiting period is always applicable.

## Participation

Students are expected to participate in all activities, rehearsals, competitions, and performances of the Columbia High School Band program. Students will be excused from participation for personal illness or immediate family emergency only. Students who cannot attend a performance or practice outside of school time must notify the Directors in advance and in writing through school email. Work is not considered a legitimate excuse for an absence. Students are asked to check the band calendar and note the required rehearsals and performances. Students who are absent from rehearsals, performances, and extra-curricular activities for un-excused reasons or due to ineligibility may at the director's discretion be moved to an alternate position and/or lower performing group. Students may be removed from the band program at the end of a semester if they are unable or unwilling to participate in rehearsals and curricular and/or extra-curricular activities. Directors will determine whether an absence is excused or unexcused.

## Grading Policy

Each semester a syllabus will be distributed to students listing assignments for the semester. Grades will come from a combination of after school rehearsal/sectional attendance, weekly playing assignments, playoff tests, class participation, special assigned projects, and participation in regular events. Students are required to attend all activities. It is the student's responsibility to check the calendar and make arrangements to attend all band activities. If a student becomes ineligible for a six weeks or has an excused absence from an event, alternative assignments will be available for the events they miss. These alternative assignments are due on the Monday following the missed event.

# The Mighty Roughneck Marching Band

The marching band is a very unique unit of a band program. Students get the experience of performing in front of an audience each week and the community gets to enjoy the entertainment the band provides.

The marching band serves two main purposes. First of all, it is instrumental in teaching a vital phase of music education that cannot be taught elsewhere. It teaches all the fundamentals that the concert band teaches plus adds an even greater emphasis on the development of coordination, rhythm, organized thinking, and self-discipline. It affords a great opportunity for the development of leadership qualities and abilities.

Secondly, the marching band is to serve as a public relations and entertainment medium by providing half-time programs at football games and performing for other school and community functions.

## Rules and Expectations for Marching Band

- Marching season for the Mighty Roughneck Band usually begins the last week of July with fundamental camp for freshmen and full band. Then each week day for the month of August the band rehearses in preparation for the marching season and the first football game on the first week of school. Summer Band is an extremely important time and all band members are expected to attend. Failure to attend Summer Band may result in loss of marching show position or removal from the program. If a student must miss summer band, the directors must be notified in writing before it starts.
- Once school begins, during marching season rehearsals will take place after school.
  - Monday from 6:15 - 8:30 (EVERYONE)
  - Tuesday from 3:15 - 5:00 (EVERYONE unless excused to another organization)
  - Wednesday from 3:15 - 5:00 (EVERYONE unless excused)
  - Thursday from 3:15 - 5:00 (EVERYONE unless excused)
- Students are expected to arrive at the CHS campus 10 minutes before the start call time. Rehearsals will start on time. If a student is to be late one of the directors must be notified in writing before the time of practice. If a student has unexcused tardies that student will serve 30 minutes time after school to make up for the tardies or the student can be removed from the show that week.

- Rehearsal will end as a group. Anyone that must leave early must notify one of the directors in writing. If you have unexcused leaves in a week then the student will serve 30 minutes after school to make up for the leaves.
- If you have more than 2 unexcused absences or unexcused tardies in any given week then you may not march at half-time on the Friday night game.
- Students will have to play off the marching music for that week from memory to one of the directors. If the student does not pass the playoff by Thursday afternoon of that week then the student may not be allowed to march at the Friday night game.
- Students must change into their marching clothes, athletic shoes and socks and report with their instruments, flip folder with music and drill charts/coordinate sheets to the designated marching practice area before the start of rehearsal.
- Students are to have comfortable shoes for marching. Socks are required. Tennis shoes with laces are the required kind of marching shoe. No sandals, loafers, boots, street shoes, or bare feet are allowed. You will be asked to leave practice if inappropriate shoes are worn and it will be counted as one unexcused absence.
- Students need to bring water and sunscreen to rehearsals. Hats and sunglasses should also be worn at practice. It gets hot out there so please come prepared.
- Students can be removed from the marching show for failure to show, participate, learn their music, learn their drill or perform at the expected standard.

## Marching Band Show - Alternates & Excused Responsibilities

Alternates or also known as shadows, are members of the band who will learn a spot behind someone else in the show. They are competing for this spot in the marching band show. They will march at least one home game if they are an alternate. Students who are alternates need more time to develop marching skills. They are not marching a spot in the show unless they beat out the person ahead of them, or they are needed to fill another spot in the show. Alternates will also be needed to move props during the show.

### Excused Responsibilities

In order to be excused from the marching show you must fall under the following guidelines

- Medical excuse from a doctor. This can result in you being in the front ensemble or excused from the marching show all together depending on the doctor's guidelines
- Varsity/Leadership responsibilities
  - If a student is a Varsity football player, Varsity Volleyball player, Cheer captain, Dancing Doll leader or part of an

organization that requires more attention, a student can be excused from marching band responsibilities if a contract agreement is written and signed between the band director, student, parent and other leader of the organization in which they are participating.

- Students are only eligible for a contract their Junior and Senior year unless there is a special circumstance.
- Students must still play their instrument in class and come to Monday rehearsals to assist fellow band members in improving. They may be excused from this if the band director allows.
- If a student would like to stay in the marching band show and be in their Varsity sport/activity, then the band director, student and the leader of the other organization will work together to make it possible for the student to do both as long as the student is committed to both.

## Football Games

The band has an important part to play at football games. Because the band is there to perform and support the football team, students need to act accordingly. From the time we start inspections in the band hall until the time we dismiss the students from the band hall the band is always performing. The full band uniform will be worn at all times unless authorized otherwise by the director. Food and Gum will not be allowed in the band setting. Water is the only drink allowed in the band setting. Football games are required events. If a student is to miss a football game, they must turn in a written alternate assignment by the following Tuesday after the game. All School and Band rules apply at all the Football Games.

- Rules are presented later in this handbook

## Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band & Concert Band

These are the band organizations for the late Fall and Spring. Auditions will be in May of the previous year for the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic and Concert Band. All bands work on fundamentals of playing their instruments and participation in an ensemble. Both bands present a concert in December and May, and participate in the UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest in March or April. There will be some evening rehearsals and clinics, as well as a Pre-UIL concert planned in preparation for these events.

Once students are placed in a band, they are expected to follow the expectations of that class. Students who fail to meet the standard and follow all rules can be moved down to another band. Students must audition for band placements. If a student fails to audition, the band director will place the student where they believe the student will be most successful.

# Roughneck Jazz Band

The Roughneck Jazz Band meets after school during the school year. In this group students learn about the history, theory, and practice of America's only original art form. The Jazz Band performs regularly throughout the year for lunches, school concerts, and local organizations.

## General Rules for the Roughneck Bands

1. Be prepared! Be in assigned seat with instrument, music folder, and pencil ready to play before the tardy bell rings or before the time assigned by the director
2. Listen to the directors and band leaders by following directions and instructions, and not talking during rehearsals.
3. Take care of our home and equipment...No gum, food, candy, or beverages (except bottled water) are allowed in the band hall! Help keep the band area clean. Take the proper care of all equipment and facilities.
4. Respect your directors and classmates and work with a positive attitude at all times.
5. The school code of conduct and dress code will be followed at all times during the school year.

### General Conduct / Expectations

Band members will observe all policies set forth by the Columbia Brazoria Independent School District, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the musical setting.

1. All students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times. Displays of profanity, bad temper, flagrant violation of rules, etc., will not be tolerated. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection of the group and CBISD band program. Any behavior that does not represent the band program in a proper manner may result in the student's dismissal from the activity as well as the band program.
2. Students will follow the director's instructions at all times.

3. Students will be in their assigned places and ready to work (with all required material) at the time assigned by the director at the beginning of the school year.
4. Students will bring all equipment, music, instrument, pencil, book, and all supplies to rehearsal daily.
5. Students will keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.
6. Students will maintain a high level of good and acceptable behavior.
7. Food, drinks, candy, or gum are not allowed in the band hall.
8. Students will not play on equipment they do not own or have permission from a director to use. Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
9. Students should ask for permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be silent, so that our time is used wisely.
10. The band hall is used for rehearsals, lessons, and practice after school. If you stay before or after school, you must be participating in one of these activities unless you are given permission by a director.
11. Students will respect the property of others and return their equipment to its proper storage area when not in use. Each student is assigned a locker and must keep their locker clean.
12. Students will not enter the director's office without permission.
13. Students will not deface or mark on music stands, walls, etc.
14. Stealing, vandalizing, bullying or sexual harassment of any kind inside or outside of the band program can result in the removal of the student from the CBISD Band Program at the directors discretion. This will automatically go to the consequences of the 5th offense as stated later in the band book.

### Bus Etiquette

The band makes trips to compete and to have some fun. Students will not only be representing themselves, but the band, the school, and school district.

1. Students will be respectful of the director, the bus driver, and any adult supervisor.
2. Seating will be assigned and will not be boy / girl. Once your seat has been assigned, there are no changing seats. This is school district policy.
3. Food is not to be brought onto the bus. The only beverage allowed by the district is water.
4. Students will not make sounds so loud that it distracts others or the bus driver. This is a safety concern.
5. No one is allowed to stand on the bus while it is moving. This is a state law.
6. Trash needs to be picked up after the trip is over.



## Consequences of Breaking the Rules

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Verbal Warning (This will be your only warning.)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Documented conference with the student.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Documented parent conference call.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Offense: Write up and Office Consequence
- 5<sup>th</sup> Offense: Removal from the CBISD Band Program

Severe discipline problems will mandate immediate removal from class and may result in removal from the band program upon the band director's discretion. Students behavior outside of the band program is a reflection of the band so all behavior and disciplinary issues will affect a students participation in band. Failure to follow rules in band, and rules presented by CBISD will result in the student being suspended from games, trips, contests and concerts at the director's discretion.

## CBISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct/Discipline Continuum

The Roughneck Band follows the CBISD Code of Conduct/Discipline Continuum. [Please click here to read the document.](#) A hard copy is available upon request.

## ATSSB Region, Area, and State Bands

The Roughneck Band is a member of ATSSB – Association of Texas Small School Bands – which sponsors Region, Area, and State Band competitions each year for concert and jazz bands. Students compete against band students from schools across the state. Music is distributed at the beginning of the school year and is learned by all students. They then have the opportunity to sign-up for the first round of auditions for Region Band in December. For those who qualify, the second level is the Area Band auditions in January to determine the All-State Band members. The ultimate experience is the ATSSB All-State Band, where students spend several days in February in San Antonio preparing and performing a concert for music educators from across the state.

# UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest

Students have the opportunity to participate in the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest in February. Students choose to prepare a solo with piano accompaniment and/or participate in a small ensemble of like instruments. They prepare the music and then play for a judge who critiques their performance and gives them a rating. Those who receive a Superior or I rating on an ensemble or memorized solo have the opportunity to participate in the UIL State Solo and Ensemble Contest at the end of May.

## School Instruments and Uniforms

Since the Columbia-Brazoria Independent School District provides the best possible instruments and uniforms available, extra care must be taken to insure that they are kept in good condition.

### Instruments

- All students using school instruments will complete a School Instrument Agreement.
- Any student seen intentionally misusing any school instrument will pay for the damage of that instrument and be removed from the band program.
- Students are responsible for any damage done to the instrument while in the students care, aside from normal wear and tear.
- Proper accessories reeds, oils, mouthpieces, etc. must be purchased by all students in order to keep the instrument in proper playing condition.

### Uniforms

- The cost for cleaning is part of the band budget. The school takes care of sending uniforms to cleaners when needed.
- After every game students are to hang the uniforms back up properly and return the uniforms to their proper place.
- Students are responsible for any damage done to the uniform besides normal wear and tear.
- Students are responsible for any items of the uniform if they are lost while the uniform is in their care.
- If the uniform gets dirty the students are then responsible for paying to have that uniform dry cleaned other than scheduled cleanings.
- In addition to the uniform provided by the school, students are to purchase the following:
  - Black Marching shoes (these are ordered through the school)
  - Mid-calf length solid black socks

- o Solid black long basketball type shorts (these are ordered through the school)
- o Maroon band shirt and show shirt (these are ordered through the school)
- o For colder weather, any coats, sweatshirts, hoodies, etc. that are worn must be maroon or black and match uniform colors.
- o No jewelry of any kind is to be worn with the uniform.
- o Students will be given specific instructions regarding hair at football games and contests.
- o Students will also need khaki shorts for parades and other events. Shorts need to be knee length.

#### Band Supply Purchase list

Band students are required to have the following items. These are for the CHS uniform.

- Maroon Band Compression Shirt
- Maroon Band Polo
- Band Juggcuzzi
- Band Shoes (Black, model #)
- Long Black Socks
- Lyre
- Flipfolder

## Color Guard

Color Guard members are an essential part of the Columbia Band Program. Band is always first with this organization. The sponsor for this organization helps the director by teaching the fundamentals needed to be proficient in their performances. Being part of the band the band director has full control of the functioning and happenings of this group. Columbia High School Color Guard Guidelines are available as separate documents both online and on request. There must be an audition process in order to participate in Color Guard members must follow all Band rules.

# Drum Major

The Drum Majors are a vital part of the band. The drum major is a person that has the responsibility to aid the band director during marching rehearsals. The drum major also conducts the band during the half-time shows and also in the stands during the games. The drum major is a person in the band that the other band members in the band respect. Tryouts for drum major take place during the spring.

## Requirements for Drum Major

- Leader in the band.
- Has not failed any six weeks during the previous year.
- Must have completed at least a full year of band in the CHS Band
- Has to show good musicianship within the band.
- Has to have been in the band the previous year.
- Attend a leadership/Drum Major camp at the expense of the student

Tryouts will consist of the following:

- Teaching
- Vocal Commands
- Conducting of time and prepared piece
- Marching routine execution
- Interview and director's score

# Leadership

## Requirements for Leadership

- Leads by example in the band.
- Has not failed any six weeks during the previous year.
- Must have completed at least a full year of band in the CHS Band
- Has to show good musicianship within the band.
- Has to have been in the band the previous year.

There will be an application and an interview process for leadership positions.

# Letter Jackets

Band letter jackets will be awarded to students who have made the ATSSB Region 13 Band or have completed 2 full years in the CHS Band program.

For those who have completed the requirements, letter jackets will be ordered in the spring and delivered the following semester. To receive the jackets, students must be enrolled in band during the school year they are delivered.

## Required Forms

The following forms are filled out and submitted through the Rank One website at <https://columbiabrazoria.rankonesport.com/>

- *Physical Form* - a current physical must be on file for students to participate in band. Physicals are offered by the school district each spring.
- *Medical History Form* - medical information for physical
- *Emergency Information Form*
- *UIL Steroid Form*
- *Random Drug Testing Form*
- *Handbook Form*: It says athletics but it works for us too.

The following forms are available on the "Handbook and Forms" page on the Roughneck Band website at [bands.cbisd.com](https://bands.cbisd.com). Enrollment in the CHS Band program acknowledges that you are in agreement with the CHS rules and procedures.

*Parent/Student UIL Marching Band Acknowledgement Form*: This is to verify that the band has followed the UIL rules for marching band. We will be very careful to stay within the rehearsal guidelines for the year. Please sign and return.