



Coronado High School

Thunderbird Band
Handbook

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Terminology

A glossary of terms and acronyms is supplied near the end of this handbook.

Some terms and acronyms are used frequently and interchangeably throughout this handbook. These include:

- CTBBA - Coronado Thunderbird Band Booster Organization
- EPISD - El Paso Independent School District
- Band, Band Program, Coronado High School Band Program, T-Bird Band, Ensemble, Performance Unit, Marching Band
- Band Member, member, student

Preface

This handbook describes the Coronado High School Band Program (Band Program) and its policies, rules, and regulations. The high school band program includes grades 9-12 who are attending Coronado High School and signed up for a band class.

Band members are required to follow the policies, rules, and regulations of El Paso Independent School District and the Band Program. School rules and policies are in force at all times that a member is directly or indirectly involved in any activity sponsored by or in name of Coronado High School. School policy shall have priority over band policy in the event of any policy conflict.

The Band Directors shall have the authority to suspend or amend any band policy at any time deemed necessary in the best interest of the overall band program.

To Band Members

Band offers a wide variety of opportunities for the student. Band is one of the few classes where excellence is not only expected, but it is essential to our success. Imagine if your Math teacher graded everyone in the class on the weakest student! In band, everyone MUST perform at the highest level of excellence or a performance will sound terrible. One student making a grade of 60% will also be playing 40% wrong notes ... this will not sound good!

In addition to performance skills, band also teaches students to be active thinkers. For every note played, there are numerous considerations and instant decisions to make. How long or short? How fast or slow? How loud or soft? How does the note start? How does it end? Who else plays? Am I in-tune? Few other activities will demand this level of active thought.

Band teaches life skills. Communication is the main component of music. The rehearsal and performance schedule of the band demands planning and time management. Goal setting, problem solving, peer interaction.. all of these develop quickly as part of the band experience.

The Coronado Band has established itself as one of the finest bands in the country. Students here have enjoyed rich experiences and looked to their Coronado experience with great pride. Few other activities offer travel opportunities, the chance to meet and work with the best in music education, and the satisfaction of knowing that your time, talent, and effort have paid off through the highest levels of achievement. The Coronado Legacy is a national phenomenon and adjudicators across the country recognize the group for our excellence. The band truly is a place where you can "Realize your potential, Experience your Dreams."

To Parents

Welcome to one of the most exciting organizations available to your student! The band program at Coronado offers many varied performance opportunities and gives members the chance to learn with each other and grow closer to one another. We strive to offer the best available instruction and the widest array of events for our members.

We strongly believe that there is a place for everyone in the band. We have hundreds of success stories. Many times, members who thought that they were not interested have become some of the most dedicated members once they have been a part of the experience. If you choose to participate, you can reap a variety of rewards. In addition to all of this, you become a member of a very active, multifaceted family.

The band program at Coronado has established itself as one of the finest anywhere, with superb performing ensembles in marching, symphonic, chamber music, color guard and drum line activities.

We hope that you share our excitement in creating these phenomenal opportunities for the students. We encourage parents to be active supporters of our efforts through booster club participation (the Coronado Thunderbird Band Booster Association or CTBBA), assistance in fundraising, and through volunteer work such as chaperones, equipment crew, or as a parent leader. We also hope that you will be visible supporters of the students by attending as many performances as possible.

This handbook should help orient you and your student to the many different aspects of the band program. Attendance at band parent meetings is still advised. The band program produces a calendar kept on our website www.tbirdband.com; you'll want to keep it nearby. Feel free to call any director or CTBBA officer for help and remember to come to the meetings to get the latest information about each event.

Rarely do you see such a large group of students assembled in one organization with such a strong focus on achieving excellence. Take the opportunity to get to know the instructors, other parents, and the members who make our success a reality.

On behalf of all high school band directors and staff:

Mark Saenz
Director of Band, Coronado High School
"Realize your potential, Experience your Dreams."



Objectives of the Band Program

The Coronado High School Band forms an integral part of school life and is recognized as an all-school activity. Band is one of the largest and most active voluntary student organizations and its members form an active group.

The primary objectives of the band program are:

- **Cultural** - To foster the continued development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of the best in music.
- **Educational** - To develop interested and discriminating listeners, provide a well-rounded musical education and prepare members for musical activities beyond high school.
- **Service** - To lend color and atmosphere to certain school and community affairs while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of Coronado High School at all appearances.
- **Citizenship** - To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of the group, to enhance the member's ability to interact with others in a positive manner, and to develop the ability to function as a responsible member of the community.
- **Recreational** - To provide all members with the opportunity for worthy use of leisure time, an emotional outlet, and good social experiences.

Band Program Offerings



- Marching band:
 - Season runs from August - November
 - Rehearsals are held in the morning and on Tuesday nights. (4:30pm - 7:30pm)
 - All Students are enrolled in 2 band classes; a Zero period class and a Band Class (Periods 1-8)
 - All students participate in the Marching Band program
 - Membership is open to all intermediate and senior high students who are enrolled in band as a class.
- Concert bands:
 - Season runs from November - May
 - Students are placed into performance ensembles based on their playing experience and skills.
 - Rehearsals are held in the mornings during Zero Period after Marching Season has concluded. (Mid-November)
 - All students are required to participate in a Concert band
- Jazz ensemble:
 - Students may elect to enroll in jazz ensemble as a class (6th Period,) which meets during the normal school day. Students in jazz ensemble must first be enrolled in a concert band.
 - Rehearsals for the Jazz Program primarily take place in the morning, however some after school rehearsals may be called on an as needed basis.
 - Season runs from January - April

- Percussion ensemble:
 - All percussionist are required to participate in Percussion Ensembles
 - Rehearsals for these ensembles take place during class and after school during the season.
 - Season runs from November - May
- Guard (Legacy):
 - Students must audition to be part of the Legacy Color Guard
 - Membership in marching band may be obtained by auditioning for color guard or guard.
 - Guard members may also elect to participate in guard activities, which may take place separately from Coronado Band, as announced.
 - Color Guard members may also be enrolled in a concert ensemble class.

Concert Band

CONCERT SEASON

Because the marching band performs so often in public, concert season seems “forgotten”. This is far from being true. Concert season is the time when the majority of musical training takes place. Each band receives a performance rating when they participate in our local concert band and sight-reading contest.

Each band member will be placed in one or more band classes based on the number of members applying and the applicant’s playing ability. Tryouts are held in the fall semester and band selections are announced in November. Students schedules are not affected because they remain in their section classes during the day.

Concerts are presented at the Capshaw Fine Arts Auditorium and are open to the public. These are wonderful, well-attended concerts and you will hear challenging music. This is a great time to invite the grandparents, aunts and uncles and let them hear “what else the Coronado Bands can do”.

CONTESTS

UIL CONCERT & SIGHTREADING CONTEST

The UIL Concert Contests are held in late March or April. The concert bands travel to local high schools where they perform and are critiqued and scored by judges. Each band performs their concert music followed by the sight-reading portion of the contest. The band is given music they (or the directors) have never seen or heard and have approximately 8 – 10 minutes to talk their way through the piece. They then receive a “one-time-shot” at their performance. Even though performance times are sometimes inconvenient, parents are encouraged to come hear and applaud the bands.

SPRING CONCERT BAND TRIP

A spring trip is typically taken every other year. The location of the trip varies. The primary objective of this trip is to provide a ‘world class’ venue in which the bands can perform, and receive a clinic from nationally acclaimed adjudicators. Costs for the trip vary. A payment schedule will be announced.

As with all Coronado Band trips, plenty of adult supervision is available. Student conduct rules are strictly enforced and those not complying will be sent home at their parent's expense. You will receive complete details, which include cost, locations, times, and phone numbers prior to departure.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE CONTEST

These contests are sponsored by UIL. These contests give the band member and director a good idea of how each member is progressing musically. UIL Solo and Ensemble contest is usually held in February. Students receiving a Superior Rating at the Regional Contest qualify for the State Solo and Ensemble Contest in May. Students will be given plenty of time to prepare a solo or ensemble performance. All band members are strongly encouraged to participate.

TMEA ALL REGION, AREA, AND STATE CONCERT BANDS

Individual band members are strongly encouraged to tryout for these bands. Pre-selected tryout music is available to all students in late July and is announced on TMEA.org. The band All-Region tryouts are held in early December. The top chairs in each section then advance to the Area tryouts held in Midland, TX in January. Students who place in the top chairs then make it to the All-State convention. The convention is held in February. Making it to the All State level in the state of Texas is the highest individual honor a high school student can achieve.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons give the student a chance to progress at an accelerated rate towards the mastery of his/her instrument. The private instructor is able to work with the student on an individual level, gearing the lessons to fit the specific needs of the performer. The student is able to hear the improvement in playing almost immediately, unlike the full band setting where players can "hide" or cover their areas of inexperience by allowing stronger players to carry the weight of the section.

Our instructors are professional players who are approved by the Coronado Band Directors. Students with the benefits of private lessons have a history of becoming top players in the program (and sometimes become private lesson instructors themselves while in college). In some instances, financial aid may be available to assist families with lessons. If you need assistance please contact a Band Director.

The cost per lesson varies with the instructor, as does the location. Some teach at home, others at area music stores, and some at our neighboring universities. It is well worth the time and effort of scheduling lessons if the student can achieve higher ranking in his musical ensembles.

A list of private instructors will be provided through the Band Office as teacher schedules become available.

GRADUATION PERFORMANCES

Freshmen - Juniors will be expected to perform for these ceremonies. The ceremony is held at the Don Haskins Center. Transportation is the responsibility of the student. It is not necessary for parents to attend unless they desire.

SPRING LEADERSHIP AUDITIONS

The Spring semester is a very busy times for all band members. Tryouts for drum majors, color guard and drum line are all held during this time. Selection of section leaders and band officers also takes place. Your band member will be able to get information from the directors if they choose to tryout for any of these positions.

Marching Band

DESCRIPTION

The T-Bird Marching Band is a state-of-the-art competitive marching band. It explores the latest trends in competitive marching band. It is an extra-curricular activity for students of Coronado High School.

GOALS

The marching band provides an outlet for members interested in the realm of state-of-the-art design, performance, social, and competitive opportunities.

MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

Membership is required into this extra-curricular ensemble. The Color Guard and Percussion sections require a specialized audition. Members must audition for a marching spot based on their performance ability – both musically and visually. Freshman and Sophomore band members who do not initially get a marching spot will still perform as part of the secondary block.

SECTIONS

WINDS SECTION

The Coronado Band wind section consists of our brass and woodwind section. Students must still audition for the limited number of marching spots per section.

LEGACY GUARD

The Legacy Color Guard is a part of the Coronado Thunderbird Marching Band. The color guard is a non-musical section that provides additional visual aspects to the performance. The color guard interprets the music that the marching band is playing via the synchronized spinning of flags, sabers, mock rifles, or other pieces of equipment and through choreographed dance.

Guard Membership

- Legacy Color Guard membership is limited to students who will be in grades 9 – 12 at the time of their Color Guard participation.
- It is suggested that current Band Members who complete a successful audition and are selected into the Color Guard continue their enrollment in a Wind Band class concurrently with their Color Guard participation for the next school year.
- A Successful Audition is required to obtain Color Guard membership during each year of participation
- Training Sessions are provided prior to the performance based auditions that are held in the spring

PERCUSSION

The percussion section of the Marching Band consists among the following: Field Battery Instruments (Snare, Tenor Drum and Bass Drums) and the Front Ensemble (Grounded Percussion Instruments, Mallet Percussion, Timpani, Electronics, etc.). The percussion section is selected based on performance at the May Audition Camp as well as the musical audition. The specific instrumentation and instruments used in the percussion section will vary from year to year based on the demands of the overall show design.

DRUM MAJOR

Members are eligible to audition for Drum Major after completion of a full season in the Band and are entering their Junior or Senior year in school. Drum Majors audition in areas that demonstrate their skills in leadership, conducting, maturity, musicianship and marching ability. Several training sessions are held in April to prepare the interested students, followed by a three phased audition.

REHEARSALS

Coronado rehearsals are as follows, but not limited to:

- Summer Rehearsal: TBA announced to all members from Section Leaders
- Band Camp: Begins approx. 3 weeks before the first day of school for 8 hours per rehearsal day. (Usually in Late July, Early August)
- School Day rehearsals: M, T, TH & F - 7:15am - 8:15am; Tuesday Night - 4:30pm - 7:30pm; ***No Morning Rehearsals on Wednesday**
- Sectional Rehearsal: An additional rehearsal per week devoted to just the members particular section (i.e. Percussion, Guard, Horn line, etc.).
- Extra Rehearsals: Typically every other Saturday rehearsal in the months of September and October. Occasionally an evening rehearsal is substituted for an after school rehearsal.
- A Detailed calendar with all rehearsal dates and times will be posted on the internet at www.tbirdband.org

MAY CAMP (TRAINING CAMP) *New this year

Although the full band is required to attend. The older members are a tremendous help with the teaching process while building camaraderie with the new band members. The camp is traditionally held in May following school dismissal to prevent any disruptions in transportation plans. If you anticipate any problems with attendance, please contact one of the directors.

AUGUST CAMP (SUMMER BAND CAMP)

The end of July and August is the beginning of our busy marching season. Attendance at this camp is mandatory so plan vacations accordingly. Speak to the directors with any concerns.

The summer band camp will consist of the most concentrated rehearsal time for the entire season. During this time, we build fundamental skills and teach a large amount of the competitive marching show. As you can imagine, this puts important emphasis on this camp. The dates and times vary, but get ready for 8-hour days. Comfortable tennis shoes, light colored clothes, and a cap are the best type of attire. It also will be helpful to have a small water jug, sunscreen, and sunglasses. Have your band member check with their section leaders for other good advice.

Some of the things happening at this camp include:

- Final Marching tryouts
- Learning show music
- Learning drill
- Uniform distribution
- Learning "stand tunes" (music for football games and pep rallies)
- Collection of instrument fees
- Purchasing of any accessories that may apply to your specific section
- Lots & lots of bonding between old and new band members.
- Completion and collection of required forms, including their physical

"SCHOOL DAY" REHEARSALS

Once school starts, the practice schedule during marching season can be rather hectic. It will greatly aid your student to mark your calendar accordingly.

SECTIONALS

An additional rehearsal per week devoted to just the members particular section (i.e. Percussion, Guard, Horn line, etc.).

PERFORMANCES

The Coronado marching band performs at halftime of all home varsity football games as well as at pre-game of all away varsity football games (travel schedule permitting). The band also performs at all competitive contests and festivals; approx. five contests per season. The format of most contests varies from a festival format (One performance) to a prelim / finals format contest. The band also performs various community support appearances based on need and accessibility.

VARSITY FOOTBALL GAMES

Fridays and some Thursdays in the fall semester become pretty fast paced for the T-Bird Marching Band. The members will have a "dress-rehearsal" after school is dismissed, then the band will need to eat on campus. Following the dinner break, the members will have time to change into uniform and make necessary adjustments prior to the designated report time in the Band Room. Warm-ups and inspections will take place prior to marching to the field for home games or before loading the buses for an 'away' game.

CONTESTS

TOURNAMENT OF BANDS

Tournament of Bands - TOB is held in Las Cruces, NM in late October or early November, and hosted by New Mexico State University. The contest is a Prelims/ Finals format and offers many other awards and recognitions such as Outstanding Visual Performance, and Outstanding Musical Performance. The contest is structured similar to a Bands of America show. There are seven judges, four judging music and music general effect and three judges judging visual and visual general effect. The band travels to Las Cruces for the prelims performance eats after prelims and performs in Finals later that night. Plan to stay there for most of the day and late into the night. This is one of our most exciting contests of the year and on years we do not compete for UIL State this contest becomes our last contest of the season.

UIL STATE MARCHING BAND CONTEST

UIL State Marching Band Contest -SMBC is held every other year for 6A Texas High Schools. The band must place in the top 3 at the AREA Marching Band Contest held in Midland, TX to earn a spot to participate in the SMBC. The contest is held in the Alamodome in San Antonio, TX. This district funded trip is a wonderful opportunity for our band to see some of the other spectacular bands in the state. It is also an opportunity for our band to represent El Paso on a state level!!! This contest is usually held on the first week of November.

UIL MARCHING BAND CONTEST

University Interscholastic League Region 22 Marching Band Contest - UIL is a festival format contest (one performance) held in October. Students will be adjudicated by 3 judges and will receive a rating for their performance. Ratings range from 5 - Poor to 1 - Exceptional. On a 6A state year the band will be required to receive a 1 rating to advance to the Area Marching contest.

EPISD MARCHING BAND CONTEST

EPISD Marching Invitational - EPISD is a festival format contest held in October. The band will be adjudicated by 3 judges and will receive a rating for their performance. Ratings range from 5 - Poor to 1 - Exceptional. This contest is open to all High Schools in the region.

T-BIRD INVITATIONAL MARCHING BAND CONTEST

T-Bird Invitational Marching Band Contest - TBI is a contest hosted by our parent booster organization. This contest is a Prelims/ Finals format and offers many awards similar to TOB. The contest is adjudicated by 7 marching band professionals and is inspired by the Bands of America Marching Contest Format. Coronado High School band does not compete in this contest but still performs an exhibition performance in Finals. Students of the band are required to volunteer for a work shift on the day of the contest. Parents are asked to help with various jobs to help make the event a success.

This event has become one of our best fundraisers thanks to the hard work our amazing students and parents!!! More information on how you can help will be available every August.

SISD MARCH FEST

SISD March Fest - SISD is held every October at the Socorro Activities Complex on the east side. The contest is Prelims/ Finals format contest. The 7 judge panel give bands a numeric rating and ranked against other groups in same performance classification. Similar awards to TOB are given at this contest such as Outstanding Visual Performance and Outstanding General Effect. After the finals performance bands are ranked and a Grand Champion is chosen.

SISD typically is a midseason contest and serves the band well to prepare for TOB and/or the Area/ State Marching contest.

SPECIAL EVENTS

From time to time, special events may arise in addition to school ball games, contests, parades, concerts, and other such appearances. Participation in special events not previously scheduled will be at the discretion of the band director and school officials after conferring with the band regarding the feasibility of the event. The band is not able to accept all invitations for obvious reasons and is not able to do instant performances. It is the policy of the band to cooperate as much as possible with special requests for performances.

PARADES

All parade performances are scheduled and required for all band members. This includes (but not limited to) the CHS Homecoming Parade, and on odd years the First Light Thanksgiving Day Parade. Failure to attend a parade results in a grade deduction in accordance with band grading policy. Parade performances are no less important than any contest performance, and most of our community values the parade participation with the utmost importance to community service.

TRIPS

The band takes several bus trips through the year. Charter buses are used for “big” trips while “yellows” (school buses) are used for Friday night football games and local contests. These bus trips are great fun for the band. Bus assignments are made according to seniority. Be assured that there will be adult chaperones on every bus.

Band members are usually permitted to bring snacks, videos, CD's, blankets, and pillows on the longer bus trips. Quite often band parents donate snacks and drinks for the trips in addition to items that students bring. You will be notified if spending money is needed for additional meals for longer trips. You will receive itineraries with times, locations, and phone numbers for longer bus trips.

BAND BANQUET

The Coronado Band holds an annual awards banquet in the spring. The purpose of the banquet is to reflect upon the year's accomplishments, to honor those who have realized special achievements, and to recognize graduating seniors for their years of service to the band. Participation certificates and outstanding achievement awards are also presented at the banquet as well. We strive to make the banquet a special evening for everyone and the format changes slightly from year to year. This special evening brings the band together one last time to review the year and wish the seniors a fond farewell.

The location varies from year to year but it is usually held at the El Paso Country Club Pool and dress code is semi-formal but bring a change of clothes to swim later that evening. Have your band member visit with older students on dress attire if you are uncertain on such details. Some students bring dates, but many prefer to come with their group of friends. A fee is collected to cover the cost of the event.

UNIFORMS

EPISD owned uniforms will be issued to all marching band members.

Coronado High School Band has a large stock of uniforms. They are inventoried, repaired, distributed, and collected by the CTBBA.

There are several personal accessory items that each marching band member is responsible for purchasing. For marching band, these include gloves, shoes, socks and a ball cap.

All members (excluding color guard) will wear the same 'member' T-shirt under their uniform at all times.

SPIRIT WEAR

Spirit wear is available for parents and other family members. We have many different types of shirts, sweatshirts, caps, etc. that are available throughout the fall season. You will have opportunities to view the products for sale at the band parent meetings, and at some football games. It is a great way to show your support for the band.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**MY FAIR SHARE**

Each Band member's costs and fees are based on but not limited to the following;

- Uniform Accessories: Each Winds Section and Percussion student purchases their uniform shoes, uniform T-shirt, ball cap and gloves. T-shirt and cap items are ordered as a group to achieve the lowest possible discount pricing to each student.
- Trip Food: The members are fed before every ballgame performance and at least twice at all contests.
- “Fair Share Amount.” This year's “Fair Share” amount is \$450. Discounts are available for families with multiple band members. Each student will pay a fee that in turn will help offset the cost of paying for design, production, equipment, adjunct technical staff, year round masterclasses, and other costs of running the program. More information on their “Fair Share Amount” will be provided in the Booster Handbook. Your participation in meeting your “fair share” is vital to the continued success of the Coronado Band. If you anticipate any difficulties meeting your commitment please contact a member of the booster board or a band director. Help is available for those families in need please do not hesitate to reach out.
- Color Guard Fees: Because of the continual evolution of the Color Guard program, it is difficult to foresee exact costs to guard members. A specific guard fee breakdown sheet will be provided every year for your student.
- Out-of-State Band Trips: Each member pays or fundraises their share of the overall cost for the Band to travel to an out-of-state event. This cost includes transportation, lodging, meals, entertainment, etc. for the entire trip.

However, typical costs include: Fair Share Amount, Uniform Accessories, Performance Shoes, and Specialized Equipment.



Satellite Ensembles

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

The Coronado Jazz Band meets during the school day. Admission to this group is based on tryout music mostly selected from the TMEA All Region Jazz Etudes. The jazz band performs at various events in the area and competes in jazz band contests. A concert is held near the end of the spring semester. Be sure to mark you calendar for this extraordinary performance.

WINTER GUARD

Winter guard performs a routine in the gym to recorded music. Not only is there an effort to perform well for winter guard, but this activity helps strengthen the color guard for the upcoming marching season.

CLARINET CHOIR

This ensemble features our clarinet section and is mostly student led. Students run rehearsals pick the music and sometimes book their gigs. They perform at local contests, community events, nursing homes, restaurant and store grand openings.

TUBA CHRISTMAS

This is an ensemble comprised of our amazing Low Brass section. These talented young men and women put together a special program every holiday season and meet up with other players from throughout the city to spread holiday cheer. This group only performs during the holidays.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

This group performs at various area contests and district events and features the Coronado High School Percussion Section. On some years the group puts on a concert that will feature talents of the high school and middle school percussionist. The students perform music that they have learned for Solo & Ensemble Contest and new pieces.

Procedures

1) Secondary Marchers:

- a) Some members of the marching band will be secondaries. Members become secondaries after evaluation of their marching and playing performance during summer band camp as well as continued monitoring throughout the season.
- b) Members who are secondaries will be assigned a permanent marching position two ways: as soon as one becomes available or through our challenge process. Positions become available as the members assigned to the position encounter attendance problems, eligibility problems, performance inadequacies, or physical injuries.
- c) Secondaries will be ranked by their scores as listed above and will be assigned to the open position. Instrumentation will be adhered to when possible.
- d) Challenge process includes several opportunities for secondary marchers to select a person to "challenge" for their marching spot. Students will be ranked based on their performance of specific marching skills and playing skills.
- e) Secondary performers will perform at every game as part of our secondary block. Secondary block will not perform at contests and may be asked to help with props or other duties to help the marching production. Other special circumstances may arise for secondaries sharing a marching spot. Every student will play an important role in the success of the Fall's marching production.

2) Buses

- a) Seating
 - i) Band members may be required to sit in designated seats.
 - (1) Seating rules for some trips may be different from for other trips. Directors will notify band members of the process for each bus trip.
 - (2) On some trips band members will be permitted to sign up to request specific seats and seat mates on specific buses. Band members who fail to sign up will be assigned a seat and bus by the directors.
 - ii) Stay seated when requested to do so and when buses are in motion.

iii) Bus procedures are an important aspect of our band program. Please listen to all instruction given by student leaders, directors, and chaperones.

b) Chaperones

i) Chaperones ride on buses.

ii) Bus Procedures - For the safety of all on the bus, students are asked to be quiet until the bus reaches the interstate. Once on the interstate, students can converse quietly until the bus exits the interstate. Students then will be instructed to put on their uniform and await further instruction.

iii) Band members are expected to respond appropriately to directions given by student leaders, chaperones and directors.

iv) After a visiting game, students may be asked to get into "Battle Positions." This term is used to explain students getting their head down and put bus windows up. This procedure is used as a precaution to prevent any injuries leaving a visiting football game.

3) Rehearsals

a) Upon entering band rooms, take your assigned seat with necessary instruments, music, and equipment

b) Cease talking and making noise when the director steps in front of the ensemble.

c) Warm-up should take place per normal instruction of the director.

d) Return instruments, music, and equipment to storage upon dismissal by the director. Each member should store his or her own items.

4) Football games

a) Band report times will vary with the football schedule, and will be announced prior to the day of the game.

b) Members will change into FULL uniform in a facility on campus. Once dressed in uniform, all members will remain in FULL uniform for the entire event. NEVER wear a "partial" uniform, unless instructed by the directors.

c) Instrument cases will not be needed in the stands for a performance, except in the event of inclement weather.

d) All instruments and uniform parts should be CLEAN and in good condition. Instruments should be cleaned regularly to remove the excess dirt that accumulates when playing outdoors.

e) No band member is permitted to leave the organization in advance of group dismissal at any time, unless excused by the director PRIOR TO THE PERFORMANCE.

f) While seated in the stands, only band members are allowed in the ranks.

g) The band will always sit in assigned seats and sections.

h) Attention should be given to the Band Directors and Drum Majors when they are standing in front of the band.

i) We play only as a group in the stands. Solo performance is strictly prohibited.

j) No inappropriate cheers. Organized cheers, planned ahead of time, or done with the cheerleaders are permitted, once approved by a director prior to a ballgame.

k) Members should avoid jumping around in the stands, and should remain seated whenever possible in order to avoid accidental damage to the instruments.

l) In order to move from place to place in a rapid manner, we must be able to give instructions to the group in an organized manner. Everyone will give full attention to staff members, chaperones, or to the Drum Majors when instructions are being given.

m) Members will ride buses back to Coronado following away games (except members who have been released to their parents with director approval) and will be released after the announcements. It is requested that parents and friends DO NOT PARK in unmarked areas or on the curb, in order to prevent hazardous conditions involving the buses and equipment truck.

n) Members are personally responsible for loading and unloading their own equipment from trucks and buses.



5) Lettering in Band - Lyre Award

- a) **Letter Jackets:** Coronado Letter Jackets may be ordered from several companies in El Paso. Consider buying a larger size than the student's current size if your student decides to purchase a letter jacket as a freshman in order to allow for growing room. The cost of the jacket varies according to the materials and features ordered. Band letters ("lyre awards") are generally awarded in the Spring.
- b) Requirements to receive a Lyre Award students must:
- Remain eligible throughout the year.
 - Participate in all Marching Band games, contests, and parades.
 - Participate in Concert Band concerts, and contests.
 - Participate in the Solo and Ensemble.
 - Participate in all schedule band activities per their instrument.

Policies, Rules, Regulations

1) Observance of Policies, Rules, Regulations (Policies)

- a) Band members are expected to behave properly at all times.
- b) Misbehavior reflects poorly on the band, school, and community.
- c) Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge of the Policies of EPISD, Coronado High School, and the Band Program by their proper behavior.
- d) Professed ignorance of policies will not be accepted as an excuse for misbehavior.
- e) Every effort is made to provide policies. However, directors and chaperones may find it necessary to add to or alter policies. These may or may not be in writing as the situation allows.
- f) Policies and directions delivered verbally should be considered the same as a written Policy
- g) Consequences for failure to follow rules and policies may include the following dependent upon severity of infraction. We are fortunate to have students with the highest moral and character quality.
- i) Detention – band room service
 - ii) Suspension from performances
 - iii) Loss of Performing position
 - iv) Removal from band program
 - v) School / Administrator assigned consequences
 - vi) A Director's decision for punishment is final

2) Attendance & Absences

- a) School Attendance: Students may be temporarily excused from rehearsal under the following conditions:
- i) When personally ill and when attendance in school would endanger their health or the health of others. Documentation by a doctor's note is needed to excuse under this policy.
 - ii) On special and recognized religious holidays observed by their faith that is previously discussed with the band directors.
 - iii) Family Emergency that is communicated with the band staff.
 - iv) When mandated by order of governmental agencies (pre-induction physical examination of service in the armed forces or court order).
- b) Absences From Required Rehearsals Or Performances
- i) Attendance is mandatory for all scheduled rehearsals and performances.
 - ii) The following rules will govern authorized absences:
 - (1) Personal illness or Family Emergency
 - (a) The appropriate band director should be notified prior to the required rehearsal or performance.
 - (b) A written verification from the school attendance office is needed upon return to school.

- (2) Conflicts with other school activities.
 - (a) Notify your band director well in advance of the date of conflict.
 - (b) Written verification is needed to describe the problem and resolution.
 - (c) Every effort will be made to coordinate with the conflicting school activity to accommodate participation with the other sponsors in both activities.
- (3) Religious observance
 - (a) The appropriate band director should be notified prior to the required rehearsal or performance.
- (4) Special circumstances please contact a director as soon as possible.
- (5) An absence for any other reason will be considered unauthorized. (unexcused)

iii) Consequences of unauthorized absences

- (1) An unauthorized absence will result in a reduction of students activity grade for the grading period
- (2) Process of Removal from their Starting Position (marching spot, chair placement, ensemble placement) due to unexcused absences from rehearsals
 - (a) First absence: Student and Director conference.
 - (b) Second absence: Student is placed on probationary status by Directors.
 - (c) Third absence: Student will lose his/her position in the performing group and become an alternate performer to the main performing group.
 - (i) If the student is already an alternate and obtains more than the allowed number of absences, his/her grade will be affected.
 - (ii) If a secondary is not available at the time the student is removed from the performing group, the student will not perform in two consecutive performances. Thereafter, the student may return to his/her position. This procedure is followed so that the performance ability of the group is not further jeopardized. The student's grade may be affected.
 - (iii) Starting positions or chairs can be forfeited during the marching competition season. After the last contest, rehearsals are still mandatory.
 - (iv) Students may then have their grade lowered for unauthorized absences.

c) Tardy: marching band

- i) A student will be deemed tardy if he/she is not in his/her assigned position when roll is taken. Roll will be taken as soon as "set" is called by the instructor directing the daily stretch. On regular before school rehearsals, the time for stretch is 7:15 a.m. For evening rehearsals, the start time will be 4:30 pm and will be the time used for Roll call.
- ii) Band members should attempt to avoid conflicts between band and other school activities. Directors will help resolve conflicts. Members must resolve conflicts in advance of the date of the conflict.
- iii) Tardies will be counted until the member reaches three unauthorized tardies at which time the three tardies will constitute one unauthorized absence. The policy for Absences from Rehearsals and Performances will be followed.

3) Band room(s), practice facilities, rehearsals

- a) Access to band rooms, practice facilities, and rehearsals is limited to band members unless authorized by a director.
- b) Food or drink is not permitted in band rooms, practice facilities, and rehearsals unless authorized by a director. Students are allowed to eat in band room during lunch. Everyone must pick up after themselves. Directors reserve the right to change this policy dependent on student clean up participation.
- c) Instrument storage lockers
 - i) Members are assigned a specific cabinet for storage of instruments/accessories. Use the cabinet assigned to you.
 - ii) Cabinets must be kept clean and clear of personal items.
- d) Personal items - Hallway lockers only
 - i) Students must place all personal belongings in hallway lockers only.
 - ii) EPISD, CHS and the band are not responsible for personal items left in the band room or on campus.
 - iii) You CAN store personally owned instruments in instrument lockers.
 - iv) Absolutely NO personal items in Instrument Lockers even if you have room in your instrument locker.

e) Practice

- i) Band members may practice in the band room(s) and practice facilities before and after school, or during lunch.
- ii) Directors will issue permission for use of practice rooms.
- iii) Practice rooms are for personal or ensemble practice or study only.

4) Appearance

a) It is recognized that the Coronado Marching Band, Concert Bands and Jazz Bands maintain a conservative personal appearance in which limitations are placed on individual grooming and attire.

- i) All females must be able to place all collar length (or longer) hair neatly up so as to fit inside their band shako (hat).

ii) Gentlemen must maintain a modest haircut appearance.

- (1) Haircuts must be maintained throughout the season and shall be groomed to the expectations of the organization and the band staff

iii) Jewelry

- (1) No visible jewelry shall be worn while in uniform

- (2) Facial / tongue jewelry is not permitted in uniform

- (3) Make up should not worn when wearing the marching uniform. Students must make every effort to take off your make up prior to putting on the uniform. Failure to comply will result in the student paying for any extra dry cleaning uniform expenses.

iv) Visible fingernail polish is not permitted in Uniform unless it is deemed as part of the costuming needs for that show, season or performance.

5) Rehearsals

a) Band members are required to be prepared for rehearsals including having required equipment and supplies. The requirements for various bands, ensembles, and marching bands will vary.

6) School Provided Transportation / Completion of Rehearsal or Performance

a) Directors are responsible for band members until events are completed.

b) Remain with the band or ensemble until dismissed following all events.

c) Band members and their parents should arrange for transportation prior to dismissal from events. Members may choose to notify parents that events are completed using personal phones or pay phones.

d) All members must ride school provided transportation to and from performance events. Any deviation from this must be approved by the Band Director.

7) Eligibility

a) All members must be eligible to compete according to guidelines set by EPISD, CHS and the University Interscholastic League.

b) Eligibility is defined as passing (70% or better) in all classes.

i) A member that is reported failing by a teacher will be designated to a PROBATIONARY STATUS for the following week of school activities.

ii) A member who is reported failing in two or more consecutive weeks (regardless of course) will designated to an INELIGIBLE STATUS for the following week of school activities.

c) Ineligible members may not compete nor travel with the group in any capacity. In order to maintain the integrity of the group, the directors have the responsibility to replace or reassign positions as needed to cover the absence of ineligible members.

8) Hazing, Initiation

- a) Hazing or initiating is prohibited.

9) Internet Etiquette

a) Background

i) There are an abundance of Social Media used and visited by band members and parents.

ii) Though entertaining, these places are littered with posts, which reflect poorly on individuals and organizations. It's obvious that many people either don't realize or don't care that their personal thoughts, when subjective or inflammatory, reflect negatively on themselves and the entire group.

iii) Unfortunately, we've had incidents where someone posted something they thought innocent, but it upset others when taken a certain way and drew criticism. Even when not intended, this is embarrassing.

b) Policy: Please do not post comments about the band on related social media, blogs, newsgroups and bulletin boards.

i) The safest way to avoid criticism or scrutiny is NOT to post.

ii) This policy applies to all members and parents.

10) Medications on trips

a) The CTBBA Chaperone policy has very specific policies on student administration of medications on band trips.

b) All medications must be given to the chaperone. When students need to take medications they must see their assigned chaperone.

11) Misbehavior / General Conduct

Reasons for dismissal from the Marching Band and/or the band program, dismissal from the activity with no credit, and/or suspension from performances are set by the Band Directors. Additional penalties are at the discretion of the band directors and could be imposed for the following violations:

- a) Consumption of alcohol, drugs, smoking, chewing, dipping
 - i) Drinking alcohol, taking drugs, smoking, chewing tobacco, or dipping is not permitted.
 - ii) Violation of this policy may result in immediate dismissal.
 - (1) Violation of this policy at an event, which requires overnight travel, may result in being sent home in advance of the conclusion of the event.
 - (a) All costs associated with being sent home in advance will become the responsibility of the member and/or his family. This will include the cost of transportation for the member and a chaperone.
- b) Destruction or damaging of property
 - i) Clearly apparent attempts, whether successful or not, to damage or destroy property, are not permitted
 - ii) This policy applies to any property, whether personal, school, or private.
 - iii) Band members and/or their parent(s) will be financially responsible for costs associated with restoring or replacing damaged or destroyed property.
 - iv) If required, band members who are suspected of violating this policy may be reported to appropriate civil authorities.
- c) Using Profanity towards Directors, Parents or other students
- d) Conduct detrimental to the organization
 - i) Students that cannot get along with other members of the organization.
 - ii) Students causing disruption through actions either inside and/or outside of the rehearsal.
- e) Willful Disobedience

12) Obedience

- a) Band members should show respect for each other, directors, chaperones, and parent volunteers.

13) School owned property

- a) All property
 - i) Band members must properly care for school owned property.
 - ii) Band members may be financially responsible to repair or replace school owned property, which is not properly cared for.
- b) Instruments and related equipment
 - i) A user fee of \$45 per semester is required for use of school owned instruments (percussion included).
 - ii) If school owned property appears to require repair, notify a director prior to attempting to repair or hire such repair.
- c) Uniforms
 - i) Never wear the uniform to events other than those designated by the director. Always wear the entire uniform with all accessories. Never wear any jewelry (including watches) or make-up while in uniform.
 - ii) You are responsible for the EXACT NUMBERED UNIFORM ITEM that you receive.
- d) Most marching band members will be issued a uniform (owned by EPISD).
- e) Members may be required to pay for some parts of their uniform (e.g. shoes, socks, gloves). Directors will identify which parts must be purchased and which must be purchased from designated sources.
- f) Uniforms are inspected before every performance. Everything must be clean and in good condition. Failure to comply with this policy may lead to being excluded from performing.
- g) EPISD owned uniforms will be stored at school and may not be taken home without written permission.

14) Trips

- a) Bands take trips for contests and performances.
- b) Code Of Conduct
 - i) As members of the Coronado High School Instrumental Music Department you will be highly visible, not only as a musical organization, but as representatives of our school, community, and state. That responsibility and opportunity carries with it an obligation to project and maintain the absolute highest moral and musical integrity. Many of those who come into contact with us as we perform and travel will form their opinions of Coronado based upon the impressions we create, both in close proximity and from a distance. Therefore, the rules of El Paso Independent School district and individual campus program rules and regulations apply at all times. As in any situation, good judgment must always prevail.
 - ii) All rules and expectations are set forth to help you enjoy your trips to the fullest and to avoid the embarrassment and inconvenience which momentary lapses in judgment may bring about. It is the goal of the Coronado Instrumental Music Program, that upon our return

home to Coronado, you will have acquired an even greater sense of pride as a T-Bird Band member and as a Coronado High School musical ambassador.

iii) Punctuality is essential in adhering to our busy trip schedule. Be early for everything and help each other stay organized. When enjoying free time and during sightseeing excursions, always stay in groups of three or more members. This is for your safety. There should not be any deviation.

iv) School dress code is required on all trips. In swimming pool areas, keep attire modest. When in concert attire, remain in full concert attire. It is unprofessional to have shirttails out, to wear athletic shoes while in formal attire, to chew gum, etc. The loading of equipment may necessitate adjustments to these expectations. Follow the instructions of the chaperone or adult sponsor in charge.

v) Mixed company in hotel rooms is prohibited.

vi) While staying in hotels we will share facilities with other student groups and individuals from other schools and programs. Some of these groups and individuals may be unsupervised at times and may engage in behavior that would violate this Code of Conduct. Do not be influenced nor persuaded to engage in any behavior that is in conflict with the spirit of this Code of Conduct.

vii) Members must remain reasonably quiet at all times when in hotel facilities. Curfews will be strictly observed. Any personal needs, which might require leaving your room after curfew, must be arranged in advance with a chaperone or director.

viii) Band members are responsible for all their own equipment and personal items (triple check for uniform parts, extra reeds, valve oil, mutes, music, etc.) However, we all must share in the logistical responsibilities of the trip. We will all participate as equipment movers, sanitation engineers, stagehands, etc. Please perform the duties asked of you.

ix) There will be times when changes to our plans become necessary. Look for solutions to problems and avoid complaining. Concerns should be expressed at an appropriate time and in an appropriate manner. Suggestion: Never complain to anyone who cannot solve your problem. See a director.

15) Grading

- a) Band members receive a grade on their report of progress and their permanent transcript. Grades fall under the guidelines of the campus and district policy for Fine Arts.

Glossary of Terms

ALL REGION

A concert event for the best players from the El Paso and surrounding districts: a predecessor to Area competition along the road to All State

ALL STATE BAND

A concert event held in February each year at the San Antonio convention of the Texas Music Educators Association, where the best players from across the State of Texas earn the right to play through a series of auditions, beginning with All Region followed by Pre-Area then Area.

BAND TIME

This means being on location, ready to rehearse, perform, run through, etc., at least 15 minutes before the announced time for the event. Suggestion: To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, and to be late is to be sorry!!

CTBBA

The Coronado Thunderbird Band Booster Association. This is a Texas non-profit corporation that is integral to the activities and success of the T-Bird Band. As per the Associations By-Laws, "the people eligible to become members of this corporation shall be the parents, guardians or other adult family members of students who belong to the Coronado High School Band. Each family is entitled to have two registered members of the corporation. An eligible person becomes a member of this corporation upon completion of a Coronado Thunderbird Band Booster Association Registration Form and is eligible to vote immediately."

CHAPERONES

Parent volunteers who accompany the T-Bird Band to all of its performances, including in-town and out-of-town trips. Chaperones are assigned to buses in which the band travels, carry medication for the students, dispense drinks and food, enforce school policy and rules, dispense discipline, and otherwise care for the students who are in their charge. Many chaperones are needed and all parents are encouraged to volunteer often to help with this important task at least once per year.

CONTESTS

Competitions for Marching Band, Drum Line, Legacy Guard and Concert Band, held locally or out of El Paso, for rating (first division, second division, etc) or ranking (grand champion, first place, second place, etc.), e.g., contests sponsored by EPISD, Socorro ISD, NMSU, Band of America and others.

DIRECTORS

Mark Saenz, Jessica Shin, and Katy Andrade responsible for all aspects of the T-Bird Band.

EPISD

The El Paso Independent School District, and its Fine Arts Department, which is headed by Mr. Micheal Phillips, and assisted by Julio Castillo has jurisdiction over all band activities in the elementary, middle and high schools in El Paso Independent School District.

LEGACY COLOR GUARD

The Legacy Color Guard, consisting of 15 to 30 members who perform intricate and complex dance/drill routines with flags, sabers, rifles or other props, integrated with the band marching program and music. This unit practices with the entire band, and has additional practices on its own, with local or out of town instructors. Drill for Legacy is written professionally to coordinate with performance of the entire Band on the field. During the spring this group performs independently as our Winterguard.

LYRE AWARDS

These are the big 'Lyre' letters awarded to students who meet the requirements to letter in band, which usually include remaining academically eligible for and participating in all games, contests, concerts, parades and other performances, and participating in the Solo and Ensemble Contests.

MARCHING SEASON

The Fall Football and Contest performance period, stretching from the beginning of Summer Band in August until the final contest or football game, usually in mid November. An amazing time for all Band students Directors and Parents alike.

NO-PASS NO PLAY

All students must have a 70 or higher average in all courses to participate in the T-Bird Band. Enforced with no exceptions.

PIT/ FRONT ENSEMBLE

The non-marching Percussion Section members of the T-Bird Band who play marimbas, xylophones, chimes, gongs, trap sets, and other percussion instruments during football games and contests.

PROPS

Equipment designed, manufactured and managed by members of the Equipment Committee, for placement on the football field during marching performance.

REHEARSALS

During Marching Season and Concert Season. Schedules announced by the Directors and Section Leaders.

SECTIONS/ SECTION LEADERS

The basic units of instrument organization in the T-Bird Band. There are sections for each group of instruments. Each section has one or more "section leaders" chosen from the senior or more experienced players by the Directors. The section leaders are responsible for designing and delivering the "section shirt" that is unique to each section, for calling section members when information about meetings, performances, or any other band activities needs to be given, for maintaining discipline and esprit de corps within the section and for leading section rehearsals.

SECTIONALS

Special Rehearsals held weekly by each Section throughout the academic year, and, in the case of the Drum Line and the Flag Line during the summer as well, to work on aspects of the music, marching Drill etc., with or without the Directors or Drum Majors being present. Attendance is mandatory unless excused by the director.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

The individual and small group performance contests sponsored by UIL and the local school districts in January or February of each year. Students must participate in these contests in order to Letter in Band.

T-BIRD BAND

The premier high school band in El Paso for many, many, many years. Tradition, ritual, outstanding leadership, sustained and focused effort, discipline, respect for themselves and others, responsibility, work ethics, accountability, teamwork, cooperation, punctuality, mental and physical conditioning, fiscal training and active parent boosters are part of the tradition of excellence.

TROOP (TROOPING)

The Marching formation the Band strikes as they prepare to move from practice field to the stadium at home football games and Contests during Marching Season. Be ready for whoops and hollers as the Band troops around the gymnasium before entering the CHS stadium.

UIL

The Texas University Interscholastic League. The governing body of all high school competition in Texas, in athletics, fine arts, speech and drama, etc. The T-Bird Band must follow all UIL rules, including fund-raising and booster activity rules.

UNIFORMS

The Marching and Concert uniforms worn by the T-Bird Band. The Band students are issued their uniform in August. They are issued before each game or appearance, and worn over the uniform shirt and shorts. The uniforms are replaced by EPISD every eight to ten years; therefore, great care must be taken with them. NEVER EVER CUT A UNIFORM TO MAKE ALTERATIONS! Uniforms include hats and hat boxes, marching gloves, and marching shoes. The students are required to take their gloves and shoes home with them and bring to every performance. Flag Line uniforms vary from year to year.

UNIFORM MOMS

The CTBBA parent members responsible for all aspects of the Uniform including fitting, repairing, maintaining, replacing, etc. These Band Parents have spare socks, hats, safety pins, needle and thread. They hand out and collect plumes for the Marching hats before and after the band takes the field.

UNIFORM SHIRTS

Formally known as our "Yea" shirt, students will need to purchase our uniform shirt currently being redesigned. Uniform shirts are worn with their uniform. The shirt will cost each student between \$8 - \$15, so be sure your student takes good care of it. Extra shirts will be available to purchase

YELLOW/NAVY BAND SHIRTS

The yellow/navy polo-style shirts that are the uniform of the day for all chaperones and for any band parents who want to be closely associated with the band at its public performances. They are available at most BBA meetings for about \$30.



2017-2018
Coronado High School
Band Handbook

Available for download on TBirdBand.org

Acknowledgement Form

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY

My son/daughter, a member of the **CORONADO HIGH SCHOOL BAND**, and I acknowledge that we have reviewed the above Band Handbook and accept and agree to abide by **its provisions**. It is understood that this is not a comprehensive set of expectations and that additional directives from the band directors are to be followed. We also acknowledge we have reviewed the Code of Conduct, and accept and abide by all rules and conditions. It is further understood by us that any violation of this agreement will result in administrative intervention and may result in my son/daughter's dismissal from the group and early transport home at my expense as applicable to the event.

Student's Printed Name _____

Student's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent's Printed Name _____

Parent's Signature _____ **Date** _____